Poultney profiles

Slate Valley Trails is always building and maintaining

Slate Valley Trails is a volunteer community group founded in 2015 as a chapter of the Vermont Mountain Biking Association. Its mission is to build, maintain and promote foot and bicycling trails in the Slate Valley region of southwestern Vermont.

Through partnering with local landowners, communities and state parks, the group identifies and develops multipurpose trails in which community members and visitors can hike, bike,

Slate Valley Trails encourages active and healthy lifestyles and offers seasonal group rides and hikes in which locals, neighbors and visitors gather to enjoy the outdoors. For those who wish to venture on their own, the Slate Valley Trails website offers detailed descriptions of hiking and bike options. The group engages volunteers in a variety of trail maintenance and trailbuilding opportunities throughout the spring and summer.

If you like to hike and ride, want to play a role in

snowshoe and cross-country ski. In 2016, Slate Valley Trails won the Biggest Local Impact Award from the Vermont Mountain Biking Association for its trail work.

Thanks to the generosity of local landowners and the support of volunteers, Slate Valley Trails builds and maintains trails throughout the area. The Endless Brook network in Poultney offers seven miles of hiking and biking. In 2018, the group added another 12+

miles of hiking and biking trails at the Fairgrounds network in East Poultney. Howe Hill in East Poultney features 2.5 miles of hiking trails off Thrall Road. Delaney Woods on East Delaney Cross Road in Wells has three miles of new hiking and biking trails. Members have also worked on trails near Castleton University. A fun and flat walking biking trail is the Rail and River Trail around the village of Poultney.

Slate Valley Trails is active in building community among local individuals, organizations and businesses. Slate Valley Trails works to support the local economy by promoting the region as a place to visit for great hiking and biking. In return, the group has received much support from local businesses. including Brown's Auto Salvage, New England Slate, Stewart's, Williams Hardware and Otto's Cones Point General Store.



Slate Valley Trails offers many hiking and biking options.

advocating for recreational opportunities, help with new trail projects, lead group rides and hikes and work with enthusiastic members of your community, join Slate Valley Trails. Membership, event, volun-

teer and trail information is available at www.slatevalleytrails.org, and on the group's Facebook page.