



## **WESTFORD ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM**

This handout is designed to be a guide for those people who choose to "adopt" a Westford town trail. The work of a trail adopter is not difficult - with your help, the Westford Conservation Commission (WCC) will bring a trail "up to snuff" and then we ask the trail adopter to keep an eye on the trail, perform simple maintenance and keep in touch with the Conservation Commission.

### **Role of the Trail Adopter:**

1. (With WCC) Initially clear and open your trail and thereafter provide routine maintenance: clear blow downs, brush out sides and overhead to allow passage of pedestrians, bikers, horseback riders, and skiers.
2. Walk through the Trail periodically (at least once in fall and once in spring) to assess conditions and needs.
3. If there are bridges or other structures on your trail, inspect them annually to be sure they are safe and usable.
4. Communicate with the WCC to let them know trail conditions, where you may need help with trail maintenance, and status of any structures.
5. Build a list of volunteers who can be called upon to help you maintain the trail.

### **How to Maintain Your Trail:**

1. Have an annual Trail Maintenance Work Day. The WCC can publicize it for you and may be able to provide some tools. Call all your friends and sign them up to help. Keep it short (2 to 3 hours) and fun (bring good snacks or have a potluck after).
2. If there is not too much to do, you might just want to do the work yourself or with a friend.

If there are major needs, like a huge amount of clearing, drainage work, bridges or erosion control, let the WCC know and together we can make plans and garner resources to get the work done.