

NORTHWOODS

STEWARDSHIP CENTER



NorthWoods Trail Report

January 19, 2016

Call 802.723.6551 for more information

Things are looking up!

The past holiday weekend offered a variety of weather (cold, wet, sticky, powder) but the end result this morning (and over the next 24 hours) is a shot of fresh snow. It's finally starting to look like winter out there.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to work out the kinks on our local trails. The Willoughby State Forest Trails at Bartlett Mountain and Mt Hor are finally up and running and we will be grooming throughout the week and continuing regular grooming through March, weather permitting.

After a slow start at NorthWoods, we finally have a sufficient base to start grooming a number of our trails, although some wet spots and shallow cover are to be expected.

Due to the high number of inquiries, we will be providing frequent trail and snow conditions updates on our website. The reports may not be as detailed as below but we will endeavor to update them daily (or as needed, depending on conditions). Check our [winter programs](#) page for details. Here you will also find maps for the NorthWoods and Willoughby State Forest trails. (Or you can stop NorthWoods for a paper copy).

So keep your fingers crossed for more snow and hopefully we will see you on the trails.

Keep the faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NorthWoods Trails Update

Last week, the final planking was installed on two new bridges on the Leadership Trail. (Check that off the list.) We will be out today (Tuesday) and tomorrow grooming our most popular trails but expect backcountry conditions on a number of our more remote routes. We may stand by for another shot of snow before we groom Leadership, Up and Away and some of our other 'rougher' trails.

We continue to update signage and maps and you will find an updated [NorthWoods Trail Map](#) on our website. We have also set up a new registration area in our outdoor information kiosk where you will find ski and snowshoe information, maps, sign in sheets, program information, donation can, etc. Or, if you arrive during business hours (8-4, M-F), you can talk to our staff to pick up a map, get some recommendations and make a donation.

Our snow report will continue throughout the winter months and will be archived on our [winter programs](#) page. You can also check in for daily updates. Once we have a sufficient base, we expect to groom 2-3 times each week and will report on trail conditions accordingly.

Willoughby State Forest

We have had many inquiries about the ski trails at Willoughby State Forest. The trails are open and groomed and we will continue grooming through the winter months, as weather permits. NorthWoods is partnering with Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (VT FPR) to maintain and groom the Nordic ski trail system around the CCC Road and Mt Hor. The trails feature roughly 12 kilometers of terrain for both classic and skate skiing. There are also some opportunities for backcountry skiing as well. Access is by donation and all funds support trail maintenance operations.

A note to walkers and dog owners: there has been much debate in the past about whether/not to allow dogs on the Willoughby ski trails due to the tendency to 'track up' and poop in the ski trails. NorthWoods welcomes dogs and walkers but asks that--per Westmore Town Ordinance--dogs be kept on a leash and owners dispose of any waste. In general, hikers, walkers, snowshoers and dogs should stay to one side of the trail to preserve the groomed ski trails. Thank you for cooperating and spreading the word!

Q Burke

Still waiting...

NorthWoods is teaming up with Q Burke Mountain Resort to provide a variety of winter programs this year. Once the new Hotel is complete, NorthWoods will staff a recreation kiosk, offer ski and snowshoe rentals, and provide personal lessons and tours. We will use the Dashney Farm Trails (a short distance down the road) where Q Burke grooms roughly 12-15 kilometers of Nordic trail.

NorthWoods will provide daily 11am group Nordic Ski Lessons Thursday- Sunday as well as Snowshoe Ecology Tours Thursdays and Saturdays at 2pm. Friday evenings, NorthWoods will lead an evening Snowshoe Tour at 5pm.

For more information on our Q Burke programming, check our [website](#) or go to the [Q Burke](#) website.

Stay tuned.

TRAIL REPORT UPDATES

One of our goals at NorthWoods is to provide a variety of educational content to as many people as we can. The Trail Report provides us with a targeted audience with a particular interest in conservation, outdoor recreation, trails and seasonal goings-on. Together with our program mailings and our frequently updated website (www.northwoodscenter.org), the Trail Report provides a (mostly) weekly reminder about what is going on at and around NorthWoods.

New this year, NorthWoods will provide weekly updates on the Willoughby State Forest Nordic Trails in Westmore and, to a lesser extent, the programs and happenings at Q Burke Mountain Resort where NorthWoods is offering a variety of Nordic ski and snowshoe lessons and naturalist programs.

Let me know what you think. Email [Luke](#) with comments and suggestions.

NORTHWOODS NORDIC TRAILS **Ten Mile Square Road, East Charleston, Vt**

Winter Details

We are open for skiing and snowshoeing during business hours, Monday-Friday, and offer a variety of terrain and trails. Staff is on-hand to provide rentals, answer questions, distribute maps and lead guided programs (see our [website](#) for a complete list of winter activities). Trails are groomed twice weekly (generally Fridays and Mondays), weather permitting. Maps and information are available at the Lodge and at selected trail locations. Trail donations are collected on the honor system and help pay for grooming and trail maintenance expenses. For after hours and weekend use, check-in at our back entry.

NorthWoods Business Hours: Mon - Fri 8am- 4:30pm

Trail use: \$5/person/day (suggested donation)

Ski and Snowshoe Rentals: \$5/day

Weekend and after hours Rentals are by appointment

Maps and Sign-in at rear entrance.

We are dog-friendly! *(Please clean up after your pet)*

PLEASE SKI SAFELY! AND HAVE FUN!

SNOW REPORT: NorthWoods Nordic Trails

January 19, 2016

New snow this week: 11.5"

At the Stake: 10.0"

Trail base: 3.5

Trails groomed: 5.0 kilometers

Conditions: powder, packed powder

PLEASE NOTE: NorthWoods trails have 'early season conditions', meaning there may be hazards on the trails, including thin cover, some wet crossings and shallow-depth rocks, stumps and branches. Please us caution.

Trail Name	Length	Status/condition	Notes
Leadership Trail	2.5K	open, backcountry	
Tamarack Island	1.5K	open, early season	groomed, packed powder
Up and Away	0.5K	closed	
Meadow Loop	1.0K	open	groomed, packed powder
Lower Clyde	1.5K	open, backcountry	
Shed Trail	0.25K	open, early season	groomed, packed powder

Pond Loop	0.25K	open	groomed, packed powder
Tripp Hill Connector	1.5K	closed	
Above and Beyond	1.0K	closed	
Echo Lake Trail	1.5K	open to glacial erratic	groomed, packed powder
Echo Lake Loop (via Hopkins Hill)	6K	closed	
Olympic	0.5K	open	groomed, packed powder
Total	18K		5K groomed

NorthWoods Snowshoe Trails

Trail	Length	Condition	Notes
Lang Brook Trail	1.0K	open	all trails are open
Gardner Path	0.75K	open	
Lower Clyde	1.5K	open	
Echo Lake Shore Trail	0.5K	open	
Wolcott Homestead Trail	0.75K	open	
Tripp Hill West	2.5K	open	
Beaver Meadow Trail	0.5K	open	
Total	8.0K		

WILLOUGHBY STATE FOREST NORDIC TRAILS VT Route 5A, Westmore, Vt

Winter Details

NorthWoods is partnering with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (VT FPR) to maintain and groom the winter ski trails in Willoughby State Forest. Access is available from the CCC Road parking lot on Vermont Route 5A in Westmore, just south of Lake Willoughby. Trails are open to the public seven days a week on a self-serve basis. Trail donations are collected on the honor system ad help pay for grooming and trail maintenance expenses. Donations can be made at the trailhead kiosk or sent to NorthWoods PO Box 220 East Charleston, VT 05833.

PLEASE NOTE: Trails are groomed for classic skiing (with set tracks) and skate skiing. All other uses, including snowshoeing, walking, crampons, etc. should avoid the groomed lanes and keep to one side. There is no ski patrol or afternoon sweep on the trails system and visitors use the trails at their own risk. Trails are groomed 2-3 days per week, weather permitting. Maps and information are available at the trailhead and at www.northwoodscenter.org.

DOGS: Dog can significantly impact the quality of groomed trails--particularly for skate skiing--by leaving weaving and wandering tracks. In addition, many visitors--particularly children--are not comfortable around dogs. Hikers and dog walkers are encouraged to use other trails in the Willoughby area. If you choose to use the groomed trails, **visitors MUST keep all dogs on a leash! Please clean up after your dog on the groomed trails and in the parking area.**

PLEASE SKI SAFELY! AND HAVE FUN!

SNOW REPORT: Willoughby State Forest Nordic Trails**January 19, 2016**

New snow this week: 11.5"

Trail base: 4.0"

Trails groomed: 7.0 kilometers

Conditions: powder, packed powder, wind blown; early season snow with some thin cover and wet areas

PLEASE NOTE: Trails may have 'early season conditions', meaning there may be hazards on the trails, including thin cover, some wet crossings and shallow-depth rocks, stumps and branches. Please us caution.

Trail	Length	Condition	Notes
CCC Road	2.75K	open	rolled, packed powder
Bartlett Mtn Loop	1.5K	open, backcountry	powder
Connector	1.0K	closed	wet, not recommended
Bartlett Mtn Road	2.5K	open, backcountry	
Small Loop	1.5K	open	rolled, packed powder
Middle Loop	2.75K	open	rolled, packed powder
Total	12.0K		7 K groomed

Q BURKE MOUNTAIN RESORT
Dashney Road, East Burke, Vt**Winter Details**

NorthWoods is partnering with Q Burke Mountain Resort to offer Nordic ski and snowshoe rentals, lessons and guided programs. When completed, NorthWoods will staff a recreation kiosk in the new Q Burke Hotel and Conference Center. A shuttle bus will run between the Hotel and Dashney Nordic Center where Q Burke will be grooming roughly 10 kilometers of Nordic terrain.

For more information on the Q Burke Nordic Center, including snow and trail conditions, visit:

<http://qburke.com/skiing-and-riding/more/q-burke-nordic-centre/>

With a tentative January Hotel opening date, NorthWoods will provide Nordic services Thursday through Sunday. A detailed schedule of activities is listed below. Check the [Q Burke](#) and [NorthWoods](#) websites for the latest updates or email ski@northwoodscenter.org.

Nordic Ski Lessons

Thursday through Sunday at 11am

NorthWoods will teach the beginner progression, helping you improve efficiency and enjoyment on skis.

Group lessons offered daily; private lessons by appointment

Group: Junior (6-18) \$25, Adult (19+) \$30

Private: Junior (6-18) \$40, Adult (19+) \$50

Winter Ecology Snowshoe Tours

Thursdays and Saturdays, 2-4pm

Approximate 1-mile outing with tips on tracking, winter tree identification, and natural history

Snowshoes provided; appropriate for all ages (children accompanied by an adult)

Cost: Adult/Junior: \$25/\$15

Moonlit Snowshoe Tours

Fridays 5-7pm

Approximate 1-mile outing with tips on winter ecology and night time wildlife

Cocoa and campfire to follow at QBurke Hotel

Cost: Adult/Junior:\$29/\$19

Until Next Time, Take Care!

Luke O'Brien

NorthWoods Stewardship Center

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802-723-6551 x304

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www.northwoodscenter.org

