

# NORTHWOODS

## STEWARDSHIP CENTER



## NorthWoods Trail Report

### January 8, 2016

Call 802.723.6551 for more information

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### Slow and Steady?

This winter is off to a really slow start and I am sorry to report that not much has changed since our last update. In fact, it's possible that the trail conditions this week are actually a little worse than last. With a warm-up predicted for this weekend (with a possible wintry mix), things aren't looking so good.

Nevertheless, we are working hard to get the NorthWoods Trails in shape with brushing, new signs, maps and markers. And in Westmore, we are hoping to get the Willoughby State Forest Trails groomed next week.

We have done a little rolling of the trails in Westmore and, as of this morning, the conditions were actually quite nice. I was pleasantly surprised. Still, especially if you are looking for wide groomed skate lanes, you may be disappointed. There have been a number of mechanical issues with the WSF groomer and drag and we are working to get them resolved as quickly as possible so that we will be ready when some more white stuff hits.

You can find maps for the NorthWoods and Willoughby State Forest trails on our website or by stopping by the respective outdoor kiosks (for a paper copy).

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

Keep the faith.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NorthWoods Trails Update

We noted last week that the **Leadership Trail is temporarily CLOSED** and that is still the case, we will be re-decking two critical bridges next week and look forward to opening up as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we are working to bring back the popular Echo Lake Loop--a 6 kilometer trail that crosses a diversity of environments on its way out towards Echo and back to NorthWoods. The Echo Loop will in all likelihood remain a backcountry trail this winter, with at least one notable exception and that is our intent to have it groomed for our Winter Open House coming up in February (February 13 to be exact).

Meanwhile, we have set up a new outdoor registration in our information kiosk where you will find ski and snowshoe information, maps, register box, 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 also be available (on a weekly basis) on our [website](#). 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

As we mentioned last week, NorthWoods is partnering with Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (VT FPR) to maintain and groom the Nordic ski trail system near Mt Hor. The Willoughby Trails are located off of the CCC Road in Westmore--just south of Lake Willoughby on Vermont Route 5A. There are large parking lots on either side of the road at the base of the CCC Road and an information kiosk where skiers and snowshoers can learn more.

Currently, the trails are un groomed but in good condition. Once both the groomer and drag are operating properly (and we have enough snow), we will get on a regular grooming schedule--probably 3 days a week. 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

Again, we wait.

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.

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## 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 targetted 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](http://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.

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**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!**

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**SNOW REPORT: NorthWoods Nordic Trails**

**January 8, 2016**

New snow this week: 0.0"  
At the Stake: 6.0"  
Trail base: minimal  
Trails groomed: 0.0 kilometers  
Conditions: early season but white

**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	closed	all trails are currently un-groomed
Tamarack Island	1.5K	open, wet	
Up and Away	0.5K	open	

Meadow Loop	1.0K	open
Lower Clyde	1.5K	open
Shed Trail	0.25K	closed
Pond Loop	0.25K	open
Tripp Hill Connector	1.5K	closed
Above and Beyond	1.0K	closed
Echo Lake Trail	1.5K	closed
Olympic	0.5K	closed
<b>Total</b>	<b>12K</b>	

### NorthWoods Snowshoe Trails

Trail	Length	Condition	Notes
Lang Brook Trail	1.0K	open	all trails are open but may have thin cover
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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.0K</b>		

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### 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 and 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](http://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!**

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**SNOW REPORT: Willoughby State Forest Nordic Trails****January 8, 2016**

New snow this week: 0"

Trail base: 2"

Trails groomed: 1.0 kilometers

Conditions: early season snow with some thin cover and wet areas

**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.

<b>Trail</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Notes</b>
CCC Road	2.75K	open	lower portion packed with roller
Bartlett Mtn Loop	1.5K	open	
Connector	1.0K	closed	very wet, not recommended
Bartlett Mtn Road	2.5K	closed	
Small Loop	1.5K	open	packed with roller
Middle Loop	2.75K	open	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.0K</b>		

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**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](mailto: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

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Until Next Time, Take Care!

Luke O'Brien

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