

# NORTHWOODS

## STEWARDSHIP CENTER



## NorthWoods Trail Report

February 19, 2016

Call 802.723.6551 for more information

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### **Holding our Breath**

I apologize for the 3-week hiatus in trails reporting. The conditions haven't exactly been inspiring (a major understatement) and we have been holding our breath to see if conditions improve. Unfortunately, the short answer is 'no.'

Despite a deceptively high 8-inch reading at our snow gauge, there are widespread bare spots interspersed with a solid icepack. The joke around NorthWoods has been 'it's a great year for ice skating!' Unfortunately, unless we get more snow our trails are closed until further notice.

On the positive side, the trails at Mt. Hor in Willoughby State Forest have been surprisingly resilient. Conditions continue to be good despite the ice, rain, freezing cold and thaws we have received. All of the Willoughby Trails have been groomed with the notable exception of the Connector Trail--which links the CCC and Bartlett Mountain Roads.

Next week, NorthWoods hosts our annual Winter Day Camp for local school kids and we are looking forward to discovering animal tracks, learning about winter ecology and tending campfires in the snow. In addition to Winter Camp, our Education staff has announced dates for our 2016 Summer Camp programs. [Click here](#) for more information.

For up to date conditions updates, visit 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).

Be safe out there.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NorthWoods Trails Update

Unfortunately due to the poor conditions our trails are closed until further notice... sorry. The ice on our pond is great.

### Willoughby State Forest

The Willoughby ski trails are in great shape despite this strange winter weather. You find maps at the trailhead kiosk and access to roughly 12 kilometers of groomed classic and skate skiing. It is one of the very few quality places to ski this winter.

Think Snow!

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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

**\*\*CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE\*\***

### 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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**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****February 19, 2016**

New snow this week: 6.0"

Trail base: 8.0"

Trails groomed: 11.0 kilometers

Conditions: powder, packed powder; tracks set, some thin cover

**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.

<b>Trail</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Notes</b>
CCC Road	2.75K	open, groomed	packed powder, tracks set
Bartlett Mtn Loop	1.5K	open, backcountry	packed powder
Connector	1.0K	closed	
Bartlett Mtn Road	2.5K	open, groomed	packed powder, tracks set
Small Loop	1.5K	open	packed powder
Middle Loop	2.75K	open	packed powder
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.0K</b>		<b>11 K groomed</b>

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Until Next Time, Take Care!

Luke O'Brien

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