

You can help! Volunteers are needed to:

- *document trails and lands
- *map trails
- * maintain trails and lands
- * mark conservation area boundaries
- * become “land stewards”

The State Conservation Committee has approved a grant to Atkinson to document, improve, and publicize the existing town trails and conservation lands. The grant of \$3780 comes from the state “Moose Plate” license plate program, and the project must be completed by April 2003.

Atkinson has many conservation areas with walking and moderate hiking trails, including the Ruth Stickney Town Forest, Marshall Lands, Sawyer Land and Trails, Sawmill Swamp, Pope Town Forest, Trinity House Camp, to name just a few. Current maintenance is done by volunteers such as the boy scouts and girl scouts. This grant will be used

“Raise awareness of the public of Atkinson’s natural resources, public lands, and trails. Encourage use through publication of an authoritative pamphlet or booklet on Atkinson’s conservation lands, trails, and outdoor recreation resources. Increase volunteerism through publicizing information on outdoor resources.”

Atkinson has a grant from the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee to fund these goals. This bulletin was prepared and mailed through this grant, and represents how the project will be managed and run in all phases. That is, (1) some state funding seeds a kickoff phase, (2) startup work is managed and done by Conservation Commission members, and (3) Atkinson volunteers contribute their time and talents to bring the project to fruition.

Raise awareness of the public of Atkinson’s natural resources, public lands, and trails. You may not be aware that Atkinson has a number of parks and land reserves for moderate hiking. Some trail lands are. Trails exist on all these lands largely due to efforts of the Atkinson Boy and Girl Scouts, some private individuals, and the Atkinson Garden Club. At any time of year (even during mud season!), these trails are only minutes away; in some cases they may be right in you

Encourage use through publication of an authoritative pamphlet or booklet on Atkinson’s conservation lands, trails, and outdoor recreation resources. Although Atkinson has many reserves and trails, very few have been mapped. Producing a single source will give you the locations and trails of all public lands in the town. *Increase volunteerism through publicizing information on outdoor resources.*

Atkinson trails and lands are maintained only through the efforts of private citizens. Scouting groups have done most of the trail maintenance, with some assistance from other town groups, the Conservation Commission, and individual volunteers. It is hoped that this effort to publicize the trails available in the town will encourage more volunteers—such as yourself—to come forward and help maintain and improve Atkinson’s heritage.

The Conservation Commission needs you! For more information on town trails and what you can do, contact Pete McVay at 362-5288 or pmcvay@tiac.net.