

PUTNEY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION

Summer 2024



RIDGELINE REROUTE

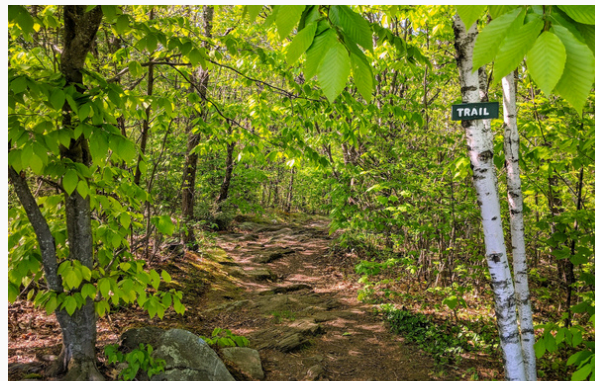
Our paramount project this summer is rerouting a section of the well-loved Ridgeline Trail that connects the parking area on Putney Mountain Road to the Summit. One section of trail passes near a wetland and has been an ongoing challenge: hikers are forced through muddy areas, and sensitive wildlife habitats are disturbed. After careful review, the Stewardship Committee decided to reroute the trail.

This project is no small undertaking. The reroute spans about one-sixth of a mile on our most popular hiking trail. It involves removing duff and soil and then installing crushed stone surfacing, stone turnpikes, and culverts. Thanks to a grant from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, we have hired a professional trail builder to oversee this complex operation. After the new section is complete, the existing trail will be decommissioned and brushed in so that the forest may return to its natural state.

The Town of Putney, which owns the parking lot and much of the main trail to the Summit, has given us permission to undertake this project. We appreciate the continuing collaboration between Putney Mountain Association and the Town of Putney in stewarding this forest.

Work on the trail has just begun. Once complete, visitors can anticipate a mud-free amble on the mountain, knowing that the wetter parts of the slope will enjoy a welcome break.

If you are interested in helping, please reach out to us at putmta@gmail.com



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Why Join PMA?

"I joined PMA because I believe that people behave better when they love the same thing. Loving the forest, loving the streams doesn't just help the environment, it helps each one of us to be slightly better human beings."

Meg



"Ever since I first encountered the buckthorn-grazing rams while hiking on Putney Mountain I have wanted to participate in this wonderful organization that seeks to conserve and share a very special corner of Vermont wilderness."

Bennett



"I've always recognized PMA's work as a significant gift to the community and to the landscape itself. I am only beginning to appreciate the level of effort and dedication in keeping it all going... and growing."

Kathryn



"Putney Mountain is a special place that has given me so much over the years, joining the board gives me a chance to give back."

Amy



Putney Mountain Association
PO Box 953
Putney VT 05346

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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

The Rams Are Back on the Summit

Every summer a small band of hungry rams moves to the top of Putney Mountain, where they attack the invasive buckthorn and savor the different grasses. With the sheep comes a larger band of shepherds, who carry supplies to the summit and move electric fences for paddocks.



Many thanks to David Major for volunteering the rams, and to the members of the Grazing Committee who have worked hard to set up the fencing, water supply, supplemental grain, etc.

If you would like to be part of Team Shepherd, please contact Bennett Jackson (bennettjacksonmusic@gmail.com).

Completion of the Missing Link Trail

After 40 years of working to connect the Windmill Ridgeline Trail from Grafton, VT to Prospect Hill in Dummerston, Putney Mountain Association will open the final trail segment on August 24, 2024! Champion trailblazer Roger Haydock will guide us over 3 miles of the newly-completed Missing Link Trail with views to the West River valley and a visit to Vermont's co-champion ash tree.

Come Help Us Celebrate!

What: Hike the newly-completed Missing Link trail

When: Saturday, August 24, 10am

Where: The turn-around at the end of Holland Hill Rd

Who: Open to the public. All are welcome!

Please RSVP for the hike by [visiting our website](http://www.putneymountain.org).

SUPPORT PMA TODAY!

Join our team today to help with trail work, shepherding, invasives control, fundraising, and more! Please visit our site to read about our latest opportunities to get outdoors.

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