



# Northwest Regional Planning Commission

155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: 802-524-5958/800-564-5958 Fax: 802-527-2948 [www.nrpcvt.com](http://www.nrpcvt.com)

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## Grand Isle Participated In State-Wide Drill

Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), local emergency response agencies from around the state, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted a large-scale exercise on Saturday, May 30th to practice Commodity Points of Distribution (C-POD) operations. This was the first statewide C-POD drill held nationally. C-PODs are pre-established areas where emergency supplies are given to the public following a major disaster. For the drill, C-PODS were established in four different locations around the state including Knight Point State Park in North Hero. VEM and the state's 13 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) have identified more than 40 C-PODs.

Volunteers from the Grand Isle Community Emergency Response Team (GI-CERT) managed the site at Knight Point. Other participants who played vital roles included The Vermont National Guard, Grand Isle Rescue, Grand Isle Sheriff's Office, Grand Isle Mutual Aid Association, LEPC #13, Boys Scouts, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, American Red Cross and Grand Isle Fire. Food and water were trucked in by FEMA prior to the exercise. Stalled cars and medical emergencies were also simulated.

This exercise will help organizers plan for a catastrophic event like a flood, ice storm, or other natural or manmade disaster and identify areas for improvement. A full evaluation and improvement plan will be developed in the near future.

The food that was used for this practice distribution was provided by FEMA and has been donated to the Vermont Food Bank. The water was returned to the regional FEMA stockpile.

For further information, contact Shaun Coleman at 524-5958 or [scoleman@nrpcvt.com](mailto:scoleman@nrpcvt.com).



## Bicycling the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail

In celebration of Lake Champlain's Quadricentennial, the Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council invites you to join a bicycle trip on the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. Saturday, July 11, meet at the Rail Trail parking area in St. Albans (entrance off Route 7 just north of Route 105 intersection), leaving promptly at 8 am. Distance: 22 miles round trip. Duration: approx. 4 hours.

The following day, Sunday, July 12, meet at The Abbey parking area on Route 105 in Sheldon; leaving promptly at 8 am. Distance: 30 miles round trip. Duration: approx. 4.5 hours.

Level of difficulty: easy. Trail surface: crushed limestone (not suitable for narrow or racing tires). Bring your own bicycle/helmet, lunch/refreshments. RSVP/info: Cynthia (802) 933-8851.

# Taking on Invasive Species

*Catherine Dimitruk*



Norway Maple Leaf,  
John M. Randall, TNC

Two interesting looking maple trees were growing very close together in my yard and we thought it would be a great idea to move the smaller of the two to an empty spot that needed some shade. We knew they were not sugar or red maples; after consulting my tree guide we identified them as Norway Maples. Since I didn't know much about this tree I decided to look up more information. I was chagrined to learn that the Norway Maple is on the invasive species watch list in Vermont.

According to the Vermont Invasive Exotic Plant Committee (VIEPC), most species introduced to Vermont have remained an asset in our yards, gardens, agricultural lands and developed areas. Yet "among the many thousands of species intentionally introduced, a few have aggressive growth habits that result in their invasion into wild, unmanaged areas such as wetlands and woodlands. Once established, these invasive exotic plants can significantly disrupt habitats. As a result, the plants can run rampant, out-competing native plants for space, sunlight, and nutrients."

I was surprised to find some familiar landscaping plants on the invasive species watch list, including the ubiquitous burning bush and Japanese barberry. There are many alternatives to these choices, including beautiful native plants that help support Vermont's food chain and wildlife.

Many state, federal, nonprofit and volunteer groups are working to stop the spread of invasive, exotic species, and in fact state law prohibits the distribution of the worst offenders. We can all do something to support these efforts. The websites and contact information listed below provide more information and action ideas for individuals, volunteers and property owners large and small.

Municipalities can take action and serve as a role model. For example, ensure that all municipal landscaping projects use non-invasive, preferably native plants, and look to replace invasive plants over time. Planning Commissions and Development Review Boards can insert a standard condition during site plan review encouraging the planting of native species and prohibiting the planting of species on the VIEPC watch list. Local groups can sponsor education programs on invasive species and native alternatives for the landscape.

As for our Norway Maples? Nancy Patch, the County Forester was a great source of information. She explained that the problem with the tree was their incredible seed survival and subsequent displacement of native maples. Clearly my trees had to go. One is cut down already; the other is coming down in a few weeks after our newly planted Hawthorne takes root.



Japanese Barberry. Britt Slattery,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Bugwood.org

## ***For more information:***

Vermont Invasive Exotic Plant Committee, including a 'Gallery of Invaders'  
<http://www.vtinvasiveplants.org/index.php>

Nature Conservancy Wise on Weeds Program, lists of species, contact information for presenters [www.nature.org/vermont/weeds](http://www.nature.org/vermont/weeds)

VT Agency of Natural Resources booklet Sources of Native Plant Materials in Vermont call (802-241-3770) or online  
[http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/wetlands/docs/wl\\_nativeplants.pdf](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/wetlands/docs/wl_nativeplants.pdf)

Audubon Vermont, Managing Your Forest for Vermont's Birds: <http://vt.audubon.org/PDFs/FBResourceList.pdf>

Vermont Land Trust Invasive Species Information <http://www.vlt.org/invasives/index.html>

Native Trees for the Landscape, UVM Extension <http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/nattree.htm>

# What is Smart Growth?

Smart growth describes a pattern of land development that uses land efficiently, reinforces community vitality and protects natural resources. Smart Growth is about promoting development that is good for the economy, community and the environment. Key benefits of smart growth include the creation of diverse housing options; protection of farm and forest land; diverse transportation options and less dependence on the automobile; greater social interaction with neighbors; lower cost for public services resulting in reduced taxes; and a higher quality of life.

## Smart Growth Principles

1. Plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside.
2. Promote the health and vitality of Vermont communities through economic and residential growth that is targeted to compact, mixed use centers, including resort centers, at a scale convenient and accessible for pedestrians and appropriate for the community.
3. Enable choice in the mode of transportation available and insure that transportation options are integrated and consistent with land use objectives.
4. Protect and preserve environmental quality and important natural and historic features of Vermont, including natural areas, water resources, air quality, scenic resources, and historic sites and districts.
5. Provide the public with access to formal and informal open spaces, including parks, playgrounds, public greens, water bodies, forests and mountains.
6. Encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest enterprises and minimize conflicts of development with these businesses.
7. Provide for housing that meets the needs of a diversity of social and income groups in each Vermont community, but especially in communities that are most rapidly growing.
8. Support a diversity of viable business enterprises in downtowns and villages, including locally-owned businesses, and a diversity of agricultural and forestry enterprises in the countryside.
9. Balance growth with the availability of economic and efficient public utilities and services and through the investment of public funds consistent with these principles.
10. Accomplish goals and strategies for smart growth through coalitions with stakeholders and engagement of the public.



How smart is your town growing?

This article is an excerpt from the Smart Growth Vermont website at [www.smartgrowthvermont.org](http://www.smartgrowthvermont.org).

## Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners

Alburgh Town:	Terry Tatro One Vacant Seat
Alburgh Village:	Andrea Beaderstadt One Vacant Seat
Bakersfield:	Nancy Hunt Dennis DeBevec
Berkshire:	Claude Charron One Vacant Seat
Enosburg Falls:	Raymond Larose Richard Roberge
Enosburgh:	Ronald Duso Lloyd Touchette
Fairfax:	Randy Devine Colleen Steen
Fairfield:	William Kittell Marilyn Savoy
Fletcher:	Bruce Douglas One Vacant Seat
Franklin:	Doug Clark Dan Larivee
Georgia:	Jerry Baitz Kirk Waite
Grand Isle:	Edwin Gelinias David Borthwick-Leslie
Highgate:	Pete Paquette Richard Trombley
Isle La Motte:	Sylvia Jensen Robin Gutierrez
Montgomery:	Barry Kade Darlene Marrier
North Hero:	Pete Johnson John Lambert
Richford:	Melissa Wells Ann Lavery
St Albans City:	David Peirce Lazarus Scangas
St Albans Town:	Bob Johnson Paul Larner
Sheldon:	Richard Brouillette Patrick Howrigan
South Hero:	Michael Quernsey Glen Wright
Swanton Town:	Harold Garrett Robert Manning
Swanton Village:	Christopher Leach Neal Speer

## NRPC JULY CALENDAR

July 8, 5:30pm, Policy/Project Review Meeting, NRPC Conference Room

July 9, 7:00pm, TAC Meeting, NRPC Conference Room

July 29, 7:00pm, NRPC Board Meeting, WIB Site, Robin Hood Dr, Swanton

## Fairfax Recreation Path StoryWalk

A StoryWalk has been organized for the Fairfax Recreation Path, which is located across from the school, near the school's ball fields. The Recreation Path is a beautiful trail used by many students and Fairfax residents.

The StoryWalk project provides consecutive pages from a children's book laminated and mounted on stakes that are spaced along the Recreation Path. StoryWalk allows a child to read and experience a wonderful book while surrounded by the beauty of nature. Children in Fairfax will now be able to combine the joy of being outside with opportunities to develop literacy and physical fitness thanks to a grant through the Safe Routes to School Program, which is funded through Vermont Agency of Transportation and administered through Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Bellows Free Academy-Fairfax was one of the two schools to participate in the Safe Routes to School agreement, which started in 2006.

The first story featured on the StoryWalk in Fairfax is "Too Many Frogs," by Sandy Asher. Some of the upcoming stories will be "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie," by Laura Joffe Numeroff, and "Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type," by Doreen Cronin. Please share your comments or suggestions with the Fairfax Recreation Department or the Fairfax Safe Routes to School Team if you have an opportunity to enjoy the StoryWalk.

The StoryWalk project for the Bellows Free Academy-Fairfax will continue until August at that time the grant will end for the School and for Northwest Regional Planning Commission. The School may choose to continue the project with the help of volunteers after the grant closes.

The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. For more information contact Amy Adams at 524-5958 or [aadams@nrpcvt.com](mailto:aadams@nrpcvt.com).



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