

Jay Community Recreational Centre

Cross Road, Jay, Vermont

www.jaycommunityrecreationalcentre.org



The Jay Community Recreational Centre (JCRC) is 240+ acres of trails and meadows, featuring a brook with a bridge, and was formerly a Christmas Tree Farm and forested land, located on the Cross Road in Jay. Our trails offer a number of activity options for non-motorized recreation with a dedicated picnic area and meadow. Offering paths for joggers, walkers, bike paths, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, the JCRC is an all year round recreational centre. You can bike, hike, stroll, and ski on it, 365 days a year.



OUR MISSION

JCRC is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of the community of Jay through the protection and conservation of forest resources, wildlife habitat, low cost recreational and educational opportunities, and other natural resources on the protected property for present and future generations. To guide our work and respond to the challenges before us, our Management Plan articulates four specific goals:



STEWARDSHIP: JCRC properties are sustainably managed to maintain and enhance their conservation values. JCRC properties are town owned, and we encourage their use and enjoyment by the community. Caring for conserved land is a forever job—one which we take very seriously and enjoy.



FUNDRAISING: JCRC seeks sufficient funds to meet its trail and trailhead development goals, respond to community recreational needs, fulfill its perpetual stewardship obligations, and support annual operations.



SOLID COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION: Effective collaborative efforts with people and systems throughout the community provide direction, resources, opportunities for learning, cooperation, interaction and follow-through to implement JCRC's mission. These efforts safeguard that our trails and activities located on the property be non-motorized, 4-season and multi-use.



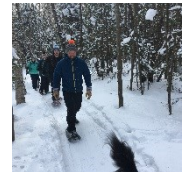
DEDICATION: Our plan is dedicated to the greater Jay community and the generous supporters of the JCRC. Conserved lands and the activities they offer, are the snap shots community members and visitors alike choose as their "take-home message."



TRAIL NETWORKING: Protect and establish connections between existing trail networks and recreational hubs. Critical corridors include: between the Catamount Trail and the JCRC, Jay Peak and the JCRC, including the linkage to Montgomery.



EDUCATION & COLLABORATION: Community education and collaboration to ensure present and future stewardship of the beautiful natural resources of the JCRC and beyond.



OUR VISION

The Jay Community Recreational Centre seeks to protect and enhance outdoor recreational activities and Jay's landscape forever, and for the benefit of all. Our vision for the future is—Jay is a beautiful and healthy place with exceptional free recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Cultivating an outdoor space will assure authentic experiences to the natural world and embrace elements that surround us in the community.

In 2017 we began to implement the **"NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE" INITIATIVE**—the goal of which is to be able to provide the teachers and students of the Jay/Westfield Elementary School an "outdoor learning area." This project and method of teaching is an award winning and nationally recognized environmental education program for teachers. Besides learning how to engage students in nature study and stewardship, the program enhances critical thinking, problem solving, and effective decision making skills. It is where *"curiosity is encouraged."*

There are many aspects of this program: **Growing Up Wild**—A nature based early childhood program for 3-7 year olds. This curriculum connects young children through developmentally appropriate activities that include cognitive, as well as physical, social and emotional aspects. The **"Growing Up Wild"** curriculum provides for a multidisciplinary approach and flexibility.

PROJECT—Jay Westfield Elementary School “Outdoor Learning Areas — NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE ”
“The widest classroom & the richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky” — Margaret McMillan

Some of those sections include a “Take Me Outside”, “Home Connections”, “Math Connections” and “Language and Literacy Connections.” All these activities promote play, scientific inquiry, healthy kids and creativity.

Project Highlights include:

- A “classroom” gathering area with log seats where students engage in music and reading.
- A mud kitchen where students practice vocabulary, creativity and collaboration as they “cook” with forest ingredients.
- A moldering privy to meet sanitation needs and ensure health and safety of humans, flora and fauna
- A gazebo as a gathering area protected from the weather.
- Trail maintenance, signage, mapping and development to meet the needs of the students’ programs.
- Community trail maintenance day with over 120 volunteers including 40+ students.
- A mountain bike pump track and skills park where the Pre-K students practice balance and biking skills on strider bikes and older students mountain bike for physical fitness as part of their after school and summer programs.
- Collaborative “fun”draining efforts such as a full school scavenger hunts; family friendly harvest walks and bonfires; egg hunts, races, exploration walks.
- School district-wide (11 schools) Forest Pre-School Day during which over 120 students participated in learning activities in the JCRC forest including: hiking, forest story time, animal tracking, prey and predator games, fairy house construction, math measurement games and strider bike practice. Vermont Public radio came and reported on this special day.
- Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1 Forest Days which happen weekly, in all weather (with the exception of hunting season) during which children, teachers and parents participate in physical and social learning activities. Through local support, all students have appropriate rain gear, backpacks and winter wear.



TESTIMONIALS

“We are really proud of our collaboration with the Jay Westfield School. Julie Ste. Marie, Pre-K teacher, has not only moved our local school and community into Outdoor Learning Action, but she has motivated our entire school district with her eyes on the entire state, when she presents at a statewide Kindergarten conference this spring!” -Sally Rivard, JCRC Chair

“The JCRC has inspired, thrilled and stimulated my preschool students time and time again. No matter the season or the weather or the purpose of the trip, we leave feeling exhilarated and satisfied. There’s no better place in the entire world to laugh, live and learn!” - Julie Ste. Marie, JWES Teacher

“The Jay Community Rec Center holds a special place in my heart. It is where we cultivated a love of the outdoors within our children and watch as their confidence grows. On these trails, we taught our daughters to mountain bike, we snowshoed as a family under full moons, and it is on these trails our youngest took her first hiking steps and learned a love of the outdoors. We as a family, are able to teach the value of giving back to our community through volunteer work. I will forever cherish the year my youngest spent a portion of her pre-school hours learning in the outdoor classroom—they were among her favorite days. The JCRC is a special place.” – Emilie Smith, Parent



“Our family feels so fortunate to be able to use the Jay Rec Trails located practically in our own backyard! Riley who is 4 years old, learned to ride her strider bike, Benjamin who is 1 year old enjoys hiking around in our backpack. Riley loves using the pump track. Her self-confidence sky rocketed each time she practiced! The trails are extremely friendly, and it’s such a bonus that there are bathrooms, and BBQ’s to grill dinner!” Emily Jankowski, Community Member

Support and Sponsorship

In order to continue to provide and expand on the educational needs of our children and support taking learning outside the classroom, please consider a monetary donation to the JCRC. No matter how large or small your donation may be, every bit counts and will be appropriately acknowledged.

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2019 JCRC—OUTDOOR LEARNING AREA "NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE" FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Regardless of size, all gifts will be appropriately recognized!

YES, I/We _____ (please insert your/corporation's name) would like to contribute to the JCRC—NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE INITIATIVE. Enclosed is my/our contribution of \$ _____. **Please mail your payment with this form to the Jay Community Recreational Centre.** (All checks are to be made payable to the JAY COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL CENTRE).

| 2019 JCRC—"NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE" FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$400 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "In-Kind" Donation of: | | |

Donations can be made via PayPal at: <https://www.jaycommunityrecreationalcentre.org/support-our-projects.html>

Please complete the appropriate information below

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| Credit Card/Payment Type: | | <i>Must be in U.S. funds, drawn on a U.S. bank.</i> | |
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| BY: (Please Print Name) _____ | | TITLE: _____ | |

Contacts:

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Contributions to the Jay Community Recreational Centre may be deductible as a charitable contribution under Federal Income Tax purposes. Please consult your tax advisor.