

During the 2021 season, VYCC worked with students from Spaulding Educational Alternatives School to improve the access to Steven's Branch next to Rotary Park in Barre, VT. Over five weeks, fifteen students from the school came out ~2 days/week to work on the project. The project focused on improving the access by brushing out woody vegetation, widening the trail tread, improving the drainage, and building a handful of bridge puncheon to elevate the trail above several muddy sections.

The students were led by two VYCC Crew Leaders, Laura and Katie, who managed the project and the crew. The students were from Barre and several students had visited the river access before so they were extra motivated to help improve the trail. The students learned about trail construction, trail maintenance, and how to use different hand tools. They also learned how to work efficiently as a team and how to communicate with each other. It was rewarding for the students to work on a meaningful project in the area that they live that many people in the community will now be able to enjoy.

This marks the 12th year that VYCC has completed conservation project work in Barre. It was fantastic to provide opportunities for young people in Barre to work on a local project in their community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ~1,200 feet trail improved
- ~100 feet of trail benched
- 3 climbing turns constructed
- 5 drainages installed
- 6 puncheon constructed



SEVERAL STUDENTS GET READY TO WORK ON THE PROJECT



ABOVE: SEVERAL OF THE NEW PUNCHEON INSTALLED TO CROSS OVER A MUDDY SECTION OF TRAIL



ABOVE: PICTURE OF THE IMPROVED TREAD THAT IS BRUSHED OUT AND LEVELED WITH CONSISTENT OUTSLOPE FOR IMPROVED DRAINAGE