



MAD RIVER VALLEY RECREATION DISTRICT

2020 Grant Award Summary

The mission of The Mad River Valley Recreation District is to “Facilitate, enhance, and create recreational opportunities throughout the Mad River Valley that promote community vitality, physical fitness, appreciation for the outdoors, and a high quality of life.” The MRVRD is funded by the towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren. To learn more about the MRVRD go to www.mrvrd.org or contact Laura Arnesen, MRVRD Coordinator at laura@mrvrd.org. In 2020, the MRVRD received more than \$85,000 in requests for recreation funds through their Grant Program and was able to grant \$47,424 to 14 worthy organizations. Here is a recap of what was accomplished:

Brooks Field: \$2,920

The lighted Brooks Field, located at the Warren Elementary School, is used by many recreational groups including softball, Ultimate Frisbee and of course, activities related to the school. Funds were used to revitalize the infield area of that field.

Couples Club: \$3,000

MRVRD supports this great privately owned facility with all its donated labor to increase and diversify community opportunities, including bocce, baseball, softball, Little League, and river access for fishing and swimming. Funding was used for maintenance of the parking lot and operating expenses. For information regarding pavilion rental, please call (802) 496-3737.



Mad River Youth Lacrosse: \$2,878

With growing interest in lacrosse, funds were used to purchase equipment for first timers including: sticks, balls, helmets, gloves and full pads. Funds were also used to purchase a backstop, nets, and goalie equipment.

Mad River Valley Path Association: \$6,000

MRVPA utilized funds to improve the Mill Brook Trail, build a new path at Yestermorrow, manage vegetation across all path sections, control erosion on the Warren Path, make improvements and build new bridges in the Heart of the Valley and Riverside Park, repair the gazebo on the Sugarbush Snowmaking Pond, and snow clearing between Post Office Rd. and Carroll Rd.



Mad River Riders: \$6,000

The Riders used funds to support construction of a new trail and boardwalk linking the Revolution Trail at American Flatbread to the Local Folk Smokehouse.

This project links the largest portion of their trail network directly into Irasville. Carlton Cummiskey led the design and construction of the boardwalk for his Eagle Scout service project.



Mad River Ridge Runners: \$4,100

The Ridge Runners used funds for a variety of things including: signage, replacing wood stakes, conforming to VAST requirements to sign road intersections with 911 locations, groomer safety and recovery equipment including a GPS phone and winch straps, and payments toward purchasing the groomer and its maintenance.



Mad River Valley Little League: \$2,040

Mad River Valley Little League is a volunteer-led youth baseball and softball organization offered to Valley children between the ages of 5 and 12. Enhancements were made to the field clay to improve the drainage on the softball field and resurfacing of the River Field. Due to the pandemic, the board held off on installing a new scoreboard since it is a community-wide project with major financial implications.



Waitsfield Elementary School Pump Track: \$4,000

The pump track was built to serve the valley community and was funded primarily through a MRVRD grant with additional funding from the Waitsfield PTA and Red Hen Baking Company. Bicycle pump tracks are a series of dirt rollers and berms that are fun and challenging for riders of all ages and help transition to trail riding.



Skatium: \$3,324

Funds were used for LED rink lights so that skaters are able to take advantage of the early evening and night time public skating and stick-time hours. The Skatium has been providing ice skating to the MRV since 1992.



Warren Skatepark: \$4,545

Construction was slower than usual in 2020 due to COVID, but improvements to the Warren Skatepark located at the Warren Elementary School continued. The Skatepark took a big step forward when they applied for non-profit status as the Vermont Skatepark Advocate Corporation.



Reflective Vests: \$1,000

The MRVRD welcomes citizen initiatives and we are excited to respond to new community needs when identified. This year, Waitsfield resident Kathleen Cosentino wanted to help increase the safety of walkers and runners seeking outdoor recreation on our community roads. With funding from MRVRD, she spearheaded an effort to purchase and distribute free reflective vests for local residents.



Three other groups were awarded funds, but due to the pandemic were not able to implement their plans. The MRVRD is the owner and manager of Mad River Park.