



# MAD RIVER VALLEY RECREATION DISTRICT

## 2021 Grant Results 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.” MRVRD is funded by the towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren. In 2021, The MRVRD received more than \$85,000 in requests for recreation funds through their Grant Program and was able to grant \$46,458 to 12 worthy organizations including \$8,500 for Mad River Park. Here is a recap of what was accomplished:

### 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 the pavilion rental, please call (802) 496-3737.

### Bill Koch League (BKL): \$2,000

The Mad River Valley BKL serves Kindergarteners through 8th graders to support the growth of Nordic (cross country) skiing in the Mad River Valley. The BKL program strives to maintain low participation fees so grant funds were used to purchase new skis, boots and poles as part of its annual equipment replacement plan.

### Mad River Path Association: \$5,960

Mad River Path staff and volunteers used grant money to complete a new crushed slate path section at Irasville Common with an adjacent rain garden, made improvements along Fiddler’s Walk, created a new one-mile trail on the hillside behind Yestermorrow, and constructed a split-rail fence in downtown Waitsfield to better delineate the path and protect the adjacent private property. Grant funds also allowed for six months of vegetation management across the Mad River Path system.

### Mad River Riders: \$4,600

Grant funds were used for the Mad River Rippers weekly kids and families group rides at Blueberry Lake and Moretown Elementary School. More than 100 kids signed up for rides on trails with local, professional coaches. The season culminated with a short track race and party at the Mad River Barn. Some of the youngest Rippers hiked and ran along with the older Mt. bikers.

### Mad River Ridge Runners: \$4,598

In 2021, the Ridge Runners used grant funds for signage on trails; groomer tire replacement, service and maintenance; and trail debrushing work necessary on the Belknap Loop. Mad River Ridge Runners is a chapter of the statewide Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST).

### Mad River Soccer: \$2,000

Mad River Soccer used its grant funds to purchase a full sized soccer goal and made needed net replacements. The Mad River Soccer League offers fall and spring soccer to youth ages Pre-K to 6th grade.

Mad River Valley Little League: \$2,200

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. Due to supply chain issues they were unable to purchase and install a new scoreboard for Couples Field, but they hope to do that in 2022.

Skatium: \$2,000

The Skatium has reopened for the 2021- 2022 season and has been providing ice skating in the MRV since 1992. Due to COVID the Skatium was unable to open for the 2020/2021 season, but used their grant money to make needed repairs.

Warren Skate Park: \$5,000

Improvements at Warren Skate Park, located at the Warren Elementary School, were strong in 2021 and they used 80% of their grant. Volunteers were able to replace 2000 square feet of asphalt with concrete, and pour the decks around the ramps completed in 2018. The Skate Park took a big step forward by being approved for non-profit status as the Vermont Skatepark Advocate Corporation.

Wilderness First Aid: \$1,000

Grant funds were used for Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training sessions in May 2021. WFA was a two-day course designed to teach critical first aid skills to people who participate in outdoor recreation activities. Having more people trained in Wilderness First Aid makes our entire community safer. It is defined as any intervention that takes place either 1 mile or 1 hour outside of traditional medical responses.

Mad Marathon: \$5,000

Mad Valley Sports, Inc. (the non-profit now hosting the Mad Marathon, Half and Relays) was awarded \$5,000 in sponsorship. Due to the pandemic, the Marathon was moved to September to increase attendance. While 850 runners registered, 300 deferred to 2022, 200 canceled and 350 ran. Despite a smaller field of runners, the Marathon was very successful and drew runners from around the world while stimulating the Mad River Valley economy. As part of this sponsorship MRVRD was the official sponsor of the Mad Marathon Relays.

Brooks Field: \$600

Volunteers of the Mad River Valley Co-Ed Softball League were granted funds to get the fields at Brooks Field, located at Warren Elementary School, ready for the season.

MRVRD thanks the towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren for making these grants possible. In late January 2022 the MRVRD will announce grants for the new year. Fifteen organizations, including Mad River Park, requested more than \$80,000 for use in 2022. To learn more about the MRVRD go to [www.mrvrd.org](http://www.mrvrd.org) or contact MRVRD Executive Director, Laura Arnesen, [laura@mrvrd.org](mailto:laura@mrvrd.org).