

## Mad River Valley Recreation District Announces 2024 Recreation Grant Awards

This year, the Mad River Valley Recreation District (MRVRD) received 13 grant applications seeking a total of \$58,153 in funding. In addition to operating the grant program, MRVRD continues to manage Mad River Park and lead other initiatives like Conservation Recreation Visioning, a component of the VOREC grant. With careful consideration for the best use of its limited funds the MRVRD will spend \$49,023 on grants in 2024, up from \$45,400 awarded in 2023. MRVRD owns and operates Mad River Park and continues to focus on projects that will promote community vitality, physical fitness, appreciation for the outdoors and a high quality of life in the Mad River Valley. The Board of the MRVRD (a Union Municipal District formed in 1994) meets with leaders from organizations that are applying, reviews applications and awards grants to advance new initiatives, support essential maintenance, and continue funding programs and facilities that are vital to community recreation.

MRVRD is pleased to support the following organizations with Recreation Grants in 2024:

- **Bill Koch League (BKL)** was awarded \$3,000 to support the purchase of equipment.
- **Couples Club** was awarded \$3,300 for mowing and maintenance of Couples' Field.
- **Fayston PTO** was awarded \$4,700 for an outside basketball hoop.
- **Harwood Youth Basketball** was awarded \$5,000 for equipment.
- **Mad River Little League** was awarded \$5,000 for safety and facility improvements.
- **Mad River Path** was awarded \$4,000 for signs to change the behavior of dog owners.
- **Mad River Ridge Runners** was awarded \$3,185 for safety equipment (\$815), purchase of new track belt (\$1,370) and frame welding (\$1,000).
- **Mad River Co-Ed Softball** was awarded \$3,500 for clay and field maintenance.
- **Mad Valley Sports (the non-profit hosting the Mad Marathon, Mad Half & Relays)** was awarded \$5,000 for Sponsorship of the event.
- **Seniors in the Sunshine**, a program sponsored by Evergreen Place, was awarded \$483 for raised beds, seeds and gardening equipment.
- **Skatium** was awarded \$4,070 toward materials and ice quality improvements.
- **Warren Recreation Committee** was awarded \$2,785 to build a cover for portalets at Brooks Field.
- **Warren Skatepark** was awarded \$5,000 for materials.

Annual support from Waitsfield, Warren and Fayston provides crucial funding for recreation programs, fields and trails which are vital to the quality of life and the economy of the Mad River Valley. As the popularity of outdoor recreation expands and evolves in the Valley, the MRVRD is addressing challenges and opportunities and facilitating a long-standing tradition of citizen engagement and collaboration. To learn more about the MRVRD and the Recreation Grant Program, visit [mrvrd.org](http://mrvrd.org) or contact Laura Arnesen, MRVRD Ex. Director, [laura@mrvrd.org](mailto:laura@mrvrd.org).

NOTE: MRVRD is hosting a Community Learning Session, Thurs., Dec. 7, 6 - 8 pm at Valley Players Theater. Two regional experts, Gus Goodwin, Senior Conservation Planner for the VT Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and Drew Pollak-Bruce, President of the National Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals will present. They will help us build a shared foundation as we move forward with developing a set of maps, shared goals, guiding principles, and best practices that together will provide a well-supported vision for balancing ecological integrity with recreation and trails across the Valley.