

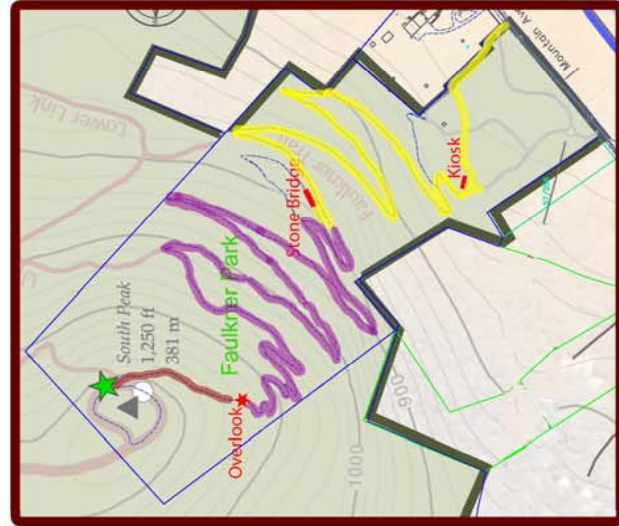


Reinventing Mrs. Faulkner's Trail: A Historic Trail Becomes Accessible

It was 1935, and Marianne Faulkner started building her trail. It rose from her backyard on Mountain Ave. in Woodstock, Vermont, ascending the rocky south slope of Mount Tom in 14 gentle switchbacks to a beautiful view overlooking the village.

Her beloved husband Edward had died nearly 10 years earlier of complications from rheumatoid arthritis, and the trail, open to everyone, was built in his memory. Marianne modeled her trail after the "cardiac rehabilitation trails" in the spa town of Baden-Baden, Germany, where she and Edward went to seek respite for his pain. The Faulkner Trail became a local treasure.

But eight decades later the Faulkner Trail has deteriorated, becoming less accessible, more damaged and eroded and more difficult for some local residents to use - and far from the smooth, walkable trail Mrs. Faulkner had built.



Yellow - accessible
Purple/Brown - hiking



Before



During



Completed!

The trail's historic "switchback" design offered a perfect opportunity to enhance the trail and meet new standards for outdoor accessibility.



What's helped us to restore the trail?

- ◆ Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships - Faulkner Trust, Town of Woodstock, youth corps, National Park Service
- ◆ A detailed, multi-year Plan, and a Budget, developed with a trail specialist in outdoor accessible trails
- ◆ A "hybrid" construction approach - pairing a trail contractor with youth crews
- ◆ Events to highlight and to celebrate
- ◆ Funding from many sources - transportation, youth, community health, universal access, public lands access



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