

northwest dairyland

**six loops of the lake champlain bikeways
network in franklin county, vermont**

lake champlain bikeways
northwest dairyland
franklin county, vermont



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Disclaimer: Users assume all risks, inherent and not inherent, in the use of materials recommending routes of the Lake Champlain Bikeways network and all affiliated organizations, and individuals disclaim any and all liability on their part for damages or injuries to persons or property should they occur. Routes are chosen, designated and/or signed because: they are popular, or are preferred, or provide continuous routes to destinations, or are lightly traveled, or are scenic, or have more room for cars and bikes, or possess a combination of these attributes.

Credits: cover - Dan Moriarty & Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council; inside cover - Karen Bresnahan, St. Albans for the Future

franklin county

Located on the east shore of Lake Champlain and the south side of the Canadian Border, Franklin County is diverse in a wide variety of characteristics. The shoreline of the lake quickly becomes expansive farms as one moves east and then transitions to larger and larger hills until the Green Mountains are encountered on the county's eastern edge. Scattered throughout the county are several lakes and ponds as well as the Missisquoi and Lamoille Rivers which flow from the mountains westward into Lake Champlain.

The varied topography has resulted in a rich culture which supports strong dairy farming and maple sugar industry, a long standing railroad history and multiple mid-size industrial and commercial businesses. St. Albans City is the commercial center of the county and there are over 30 other smaller towns and villages. Each has its unique history to tell as well as its current function serving as a community center.



Franklin County Regional Chamber of Commerce

lake champlain bikeways

















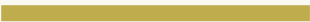


1,636 total
network miles

northern adirondack coast bikeways
adirondack coast bikeways
northwest dairyland
champlain islands bikeways
town & county rides
heart of vermont bikeways

49 interpretive
theme loops

map legend

Federal Lands			State Lands
Municipal Lands			International Crossing
Public Recreation			Point of Interest
Public Camping			Police
Public Swimming			Hospital
Public Fishing			Fish Hatchery
Wildlife Viewing			Covered Bridge
Underwater Park			Welcome Center
Bicycle Loop			

Maps and legend produced by Northern Cartographic. North is up on all maps.

temp & precipitation

average temperature in degrees fahrenheit

	j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d
hi	27	30	40	54	67	76	80	78	69	57	45	33
lo	05	07	19	33	44	54	58	56	48	37	28	14

average precipitation in inches

j	f	m	a	m	j	j	a	s	o	n	d
2.4	1.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.8	3.9	4.7	4.4	3.5	3.5	2.5

international affairs - 26.8 miles

moderate

mile

0.0

● Start: Highgate Center (services) - parking available 0.2 west or north of the intersection of Routes 78 and 207.

0.0

North on VT Route 207.

6.4

Continue straight at sign to Moses Line and Canadian border.

10.4

R on Route 238 into Franklin.

10.7

Franklin (store) continue south on Route 120.

15.0

R on Route 105 at North Sheldon. An option exists to take the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail which parallels Route 105. Be sure to exit on Route 105 at Sheldon Springs (Sheldon Mini Mart is up the hill to the left).

20.7

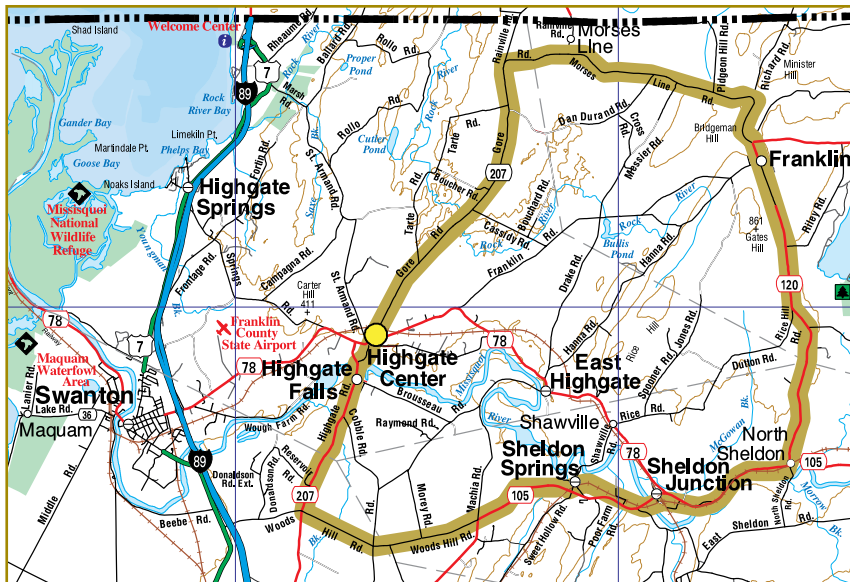
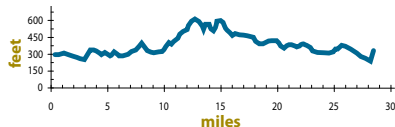
R on Woods Hill Rd. at Sally Ann's Country Cupboard.

23.8

R on Route 207 at STOP sign.

26.8

Highgate Center - did you see the creemee stand when you started?



route description

Armed conflict, smuggling and 200 years of international influences greet the observant cyclist along **“international affairs”**. Warren Austin, the first US Ambassador to the United Nations, was born in Highgate. Look for names that highlight our French-Canadian heritage on rural mailboxes; unique, flat brick “French Arches” detail windows in Franklin; and historic plaques relating to details of the Fenian Raids in Sheldon Junction. Fenian is a term used since the 1850’s for Irish nationalists who oppose British rule in Ireland. In 1866 and again in 1870 Fenians attempted to invade Canada and force Britain to negotiate the independence of Ireland.

This ride contains several challenging climbs but they are not real long and the broad vistas beautify a well earned rest at the top before the joy of a long scenic downhill run. The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail parallels Route 105 and the Missisquoi River and offers a relaxing environment and picnic tables to enjoy the river away from traffic.



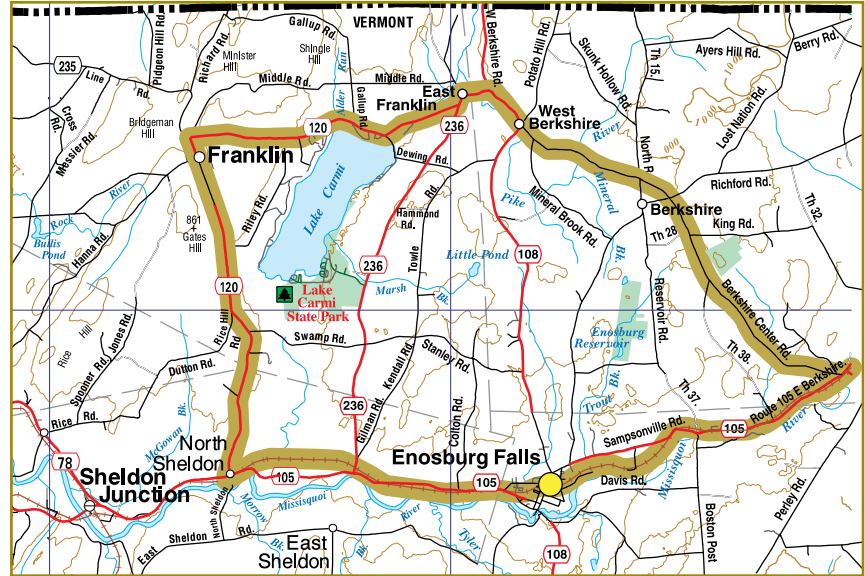
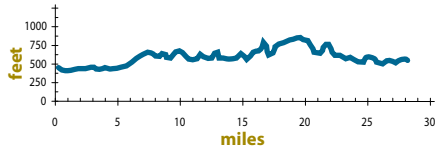
Dan Moriarty & Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council

lake carmi dairy circuit - 28.6 miles

moderate

mile

- 0.0 ● Start: Lincoln Park in Enosburg Falls.
0.0 West on Route 105 or the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail.
5.1 R on Route 120 at North Sheldon to Franklin (store).
10.7 R following Route 120 past East Franklin (store).
13.1 Lake Carmi.
15.7 R on Route 108 to West Berkshire.
16.5 Straight on Route 118 (Berkshire Center Road) past the school to East Berkshire.
23.2 R on Route 105 or the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail (store).
28.6 Enosburg Falls (services).



route description

The “Dairy Center of the World”, Enosburg Falls hosts the annual “June Dairy Days” festival during the first weekend in June to celebrate its dairy heritage. Dairy farms, both modern and historic, fill the landscape. A cream cheese factory and other local businesses support the dairy industry. Cyclists can follow the path of the former “Milk Train” along the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail for a portion of the ride.

This ride offers many options without causing concern for getting lost. The loop can be shortened by taking either Route 108 or Route 236 or lengthened by going back and forth. Lake Carmi State Park makes a wonderful place to stop for a swim or picnic on a warm day and all of the roads in the area have less traffic than Route 105. The entrance to the park does require a significant climb from either Route 105 or Route 120.



Colleen Pratt, Northern Forest Canoe Trail & National Park Service Arts & Community Landscapes Program, Northern Forest Artist Residency

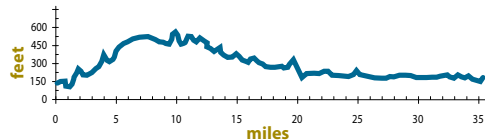
champlain coast caper - 35.8 miles

8

easy

mile

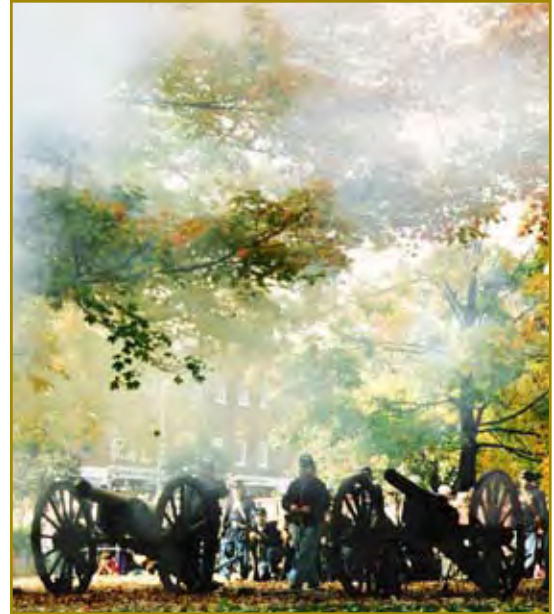
- 0.0 ● Start: Taylor Park, center of St Albans (services).
0.0 South on Route 7.
6.1 R on Georgia Plains Rd. at Georgia Center (store).
6.7 Bear L on Georgia Plains Rd.
8.7 R on Georgia Shore Rd. at church and follow Champlain Bikeway signs to Swanton.
16.1 St. Albans Bay (store and restaurant)
Continue around bay on Route 36 West which becomes Maquam Shore Rd.
25.2 Bear right at Swanton Town Beach onto Route 36, Lake St.
26.7 L on South River St.
26.8 R on Route 78 and cross bridge into Swanton (services).
27.0 Keep Village Green on your left and continue south (straight) on Route 7 to St. Albans.
35.8 Taylor Park – St. Albans.



route description

The soils of Highgate and Swanton provide some of the best farmland in Vermont. 100 years of changing farm technology is found on modern and historic farms as cyclists pass by fields, silos, ground bunkers and plastic wrapped hay bales. Brick and clapboard farmhouses along with an architectural progression of barns tell the ever-changing story.

Wednesday, October 19, 1864 brought the Civil War to Franklin County as 20 Confederate Raiders robbed banks in St. Albans and escaped to Canada. The ensuing chase nearly dragged England into the War on the side of the Confederacy. The fiery story of the raid is told on a historic marker on a village bridge in Sheldon (see International Affairs, page 4). Learn more about this northern most battle of the Civil War and the county's unique history at the St. Albans Historical Museum, located on the east side of Taylor Park in St. Albans.




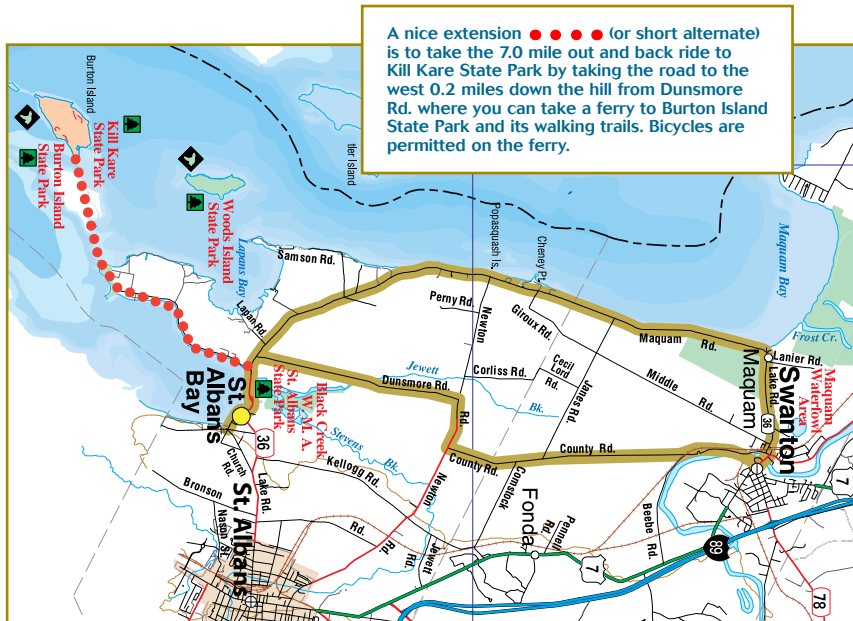
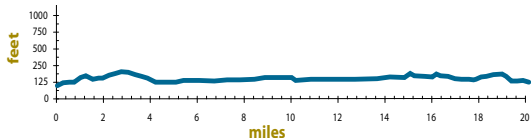
Civil War Reenactment/Karen Bresnahan, St. Albans for the Future

ship to shore - 20.4 miles

easy

mile

- 0.0  Start: St. Albans Bay Town Park.
- 0.0 L onto VT Route 36 - Maquam Shore Rd.
- 9.2 Bear right at entrance to Swanton Town Beach on Lake St.
- 11.0 R on Route 36 - S. River Rd. - Swanton Village Green is ½ mile away if you turn L on S. River Rd. and then R on Route 78 crossing bridge.
- 12.1 Straight at railroad and Beebe Rd. - S. River Rd. becomes County Rd.
- 15.6 R on Route 38 – Northwest State Correctional Facility is on the SW corner.
- 16.5 L on Dunsmore Rd.
- 19.6 L on Maquam Shore Rd.
- 20.4 St Albans Bay Town Park.



route description

This short version of the Champlain Coast Caper reminds us that before good roads were built, travelers and settlers found it easier to travel by lake than over land. “Ship to Shore” swings along Lake Champlain, a historic transportation corridor that linked to land through steamship docks, railroad stations and Native American canoe routes. Today’s Lake has traded its massive steamship docks and resort hotels for wheeled wooden boat docks and vacation cottages, but the lake-side scenery remains outstanding.

There are several possible north-south routes on country roads in the area. All are nice and well worth exploring. The winds are generally from the north or south so if they are strong at least one way will really be nice. It should be noted that the only places for food and services along the route are Swanton and St. Albans Bay.



Ferry to Burton Island/Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation

pedal power panoramas - 33.2 miles

12

challenging

mile

0.0

● Start: Collins Perley Sports Arena, St. Albans (on Rte. 104 south of Rte. 36) - the ride starts here rather than the Park & Ride Lot to the north to allow some warm up prior to climbing the first major hill.

0.0

North on Route 104.

0.9

R on Route 36, Fairfield Street an up hill -12% for 0.4 miles - 10% average.

2.1

Top of hill.

7.5

R on South Road in Fairfield.

17.3

R on Fairfax Road at 3 way stop in Fletcher.

18.1

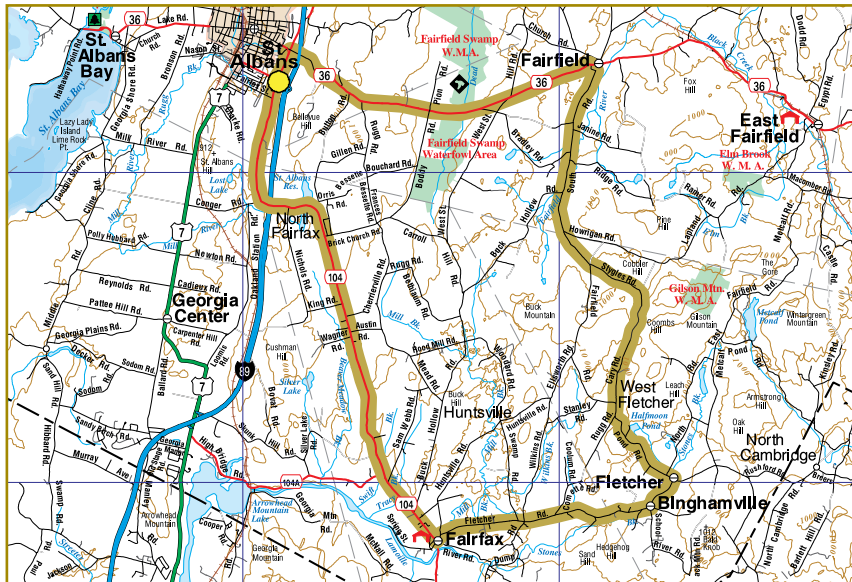
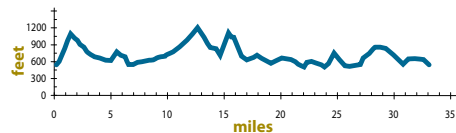
R on Fairfax Road at 4 way stop in Binghamville (store).

22.7

R on Route 104 in Fairfax.

33.2

Collins Perley Sports Arena.



route description

This route is designed for the pedal power enthusiast who enjoys serious uphill challenges and the fun of long effortless downhill glides. Your work will be rewarded with panoramic views of the Lamoille River Valley, and the Adirondack and Green Mountains. Time your visit right and you can stop in at local churches for their special Bean-Hole-Bean, Chicken Pie, and Potluck suppers. At other times food is limited except in St. Albans and Fairfax.

The direction of this trip is clockwise for several reasons. The major reason is so that the most difficult hill is tackled at the very beginning of the ride. The starting point has been selected so that a reasonable warm up distance is provided. This hill should not be assumed to be the only significant hill. If the route is ridden in the opposite direction care needs to be taken on the decent into St. Albans.



Jay Peak in Air and Water/Ann Hull & Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council

mountains of maple - 35.0 miles

14

challenging

mile

0.0

● Start: Fairfield Recreation Park (at the Elementary School west of intersection). East on Route 36 toward East Fairfield. Covered bridge on right. East Fairfield. Covered bridge on right. Straight on Route 36 in East Fairfield. R on Route 108 at Bakersfield (store). R on Route 15 in Jeffersonville (store)—shoulder is narrow. Two covered bridges are within a mile of Jeffersonville. 20.6 R on Pumpkin Harbor Rd. before bridge into Cambridge. R on Cambridge Rd. 25.1 R (straight) on Fairfield Rd. at 3 way stop in Fletcher. 35.0 Fairfield.

0.0

4.9

5.2

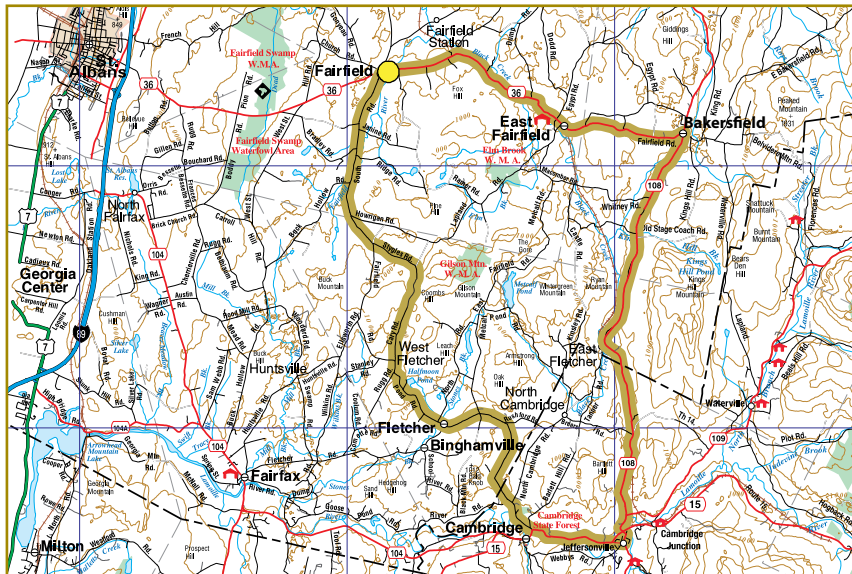
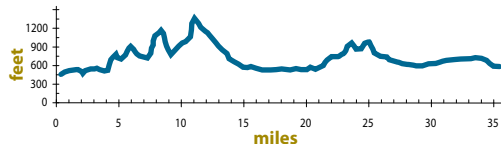
8.1

18.2

20.6

25.1

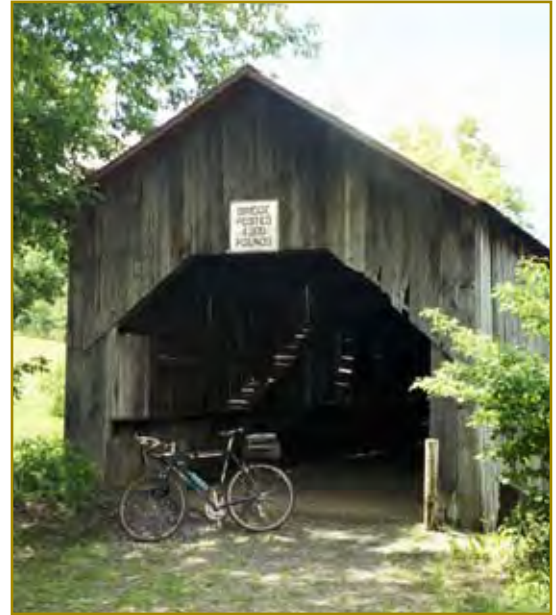
35.0



route description

Discover the places and faces that make Franklin County a top maple syrup producer in the United States. “Mountains of Maples” surrounds the maple-forested hills of Fairfield and Fletcher where the familiar sights of blue and orange plastic tubing, sugar houses and silver storage tanks can be found in all seasons. Farmhouse syrup is available for purchase anywhere a “Pure Vermont Maple Syrup” sign is displayed.

Shortly after leaving Fairfield the route parallels an abandoned railroad which is being developed as the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT). It crosses the LVRT again prior to entering Jeffersonville. The route has several climbs that can challenge the average rider but they are not excessively long and the descents will make it all worthwhile. For a greater challenge take an 8-mile, 1500 ft. climb from Jeffersonville on Route 108 to Smugglers Notch towards Stowe. This side trip is rewarded by the opportunity to explore a unique historical and geological area.



East Fairfield Bridge/Lou Bresee

the lake champlain region at a glance

16

- Lake Champlain: 120 miles long, 12 miles wide, 580 miles of shoreline, and the most historic body of fresh water in North America
- a 363-mile route around the entire Lake called the "Champlain Bikeway"
- 1636 miles of theme loops ranging from 10 to 60 miles along a vast network of quiet back roads
- Adirondack Mountains to the west—Green Mountains to the east
- Taconic Mountains to the south—Richelieu River to the north
- agricultural landscapes, historic hamlets, and picturesque villages
- gently rolling terrain to undeniably hilly

- scenic Lake crossings by way of ferry system
- museums, forts, and historic attractions
- within a few hours drive from Boston, Montreal, and New York City
- accessible via plane, train, bus, car, and, of course, bicycle!



Lake Champlain/Gary Randorf

**an interconnected, international network of
bicycle routes around Lake Champlain
in New York, Vermont and Quebec.**

visitor information and bicycle services

If you are planning a bicycling trip to Franklin County, take advantage of accommodations as well as fine dining throughout the county. Lodging ranges from State Park campgrounds to B&Bs to comfortable inns. Restaurant fare ranges from home cooking to gourmet fine dining, pizza to deli sandwiches, home made ice cream to maple creemees. Register at one of the Vermont State Parks and get free day admission to all.

For information on where to eat and stay, call the Franklin County Regional Chamber of Commerce at 802-524-2444. Check the website for listings and a calendar of area events: www.stalbanschamber.com.

Bicycles are available for rental, as well as repair, equipment and amenities.

First Trax

1372 Mountain Road,
Montgomery Center, VT 05471
802-527-2181

Porter's Bike Shop

116 Grand Avenue, Swanton,
VT 05488
802-868-7417

White's Green Mountain Bicycle Shop

Route 7, Georgia, VT 05478
802-524-4496

Bicycles are permitted on local public transit buses as space allows and on the Island Runner Ferry to Burton Island State Park.



Cynthia Scott, Northwest
Vermont Rail Trail Council

vermont islands and farms regional attractions

The Islands and Farms Region, Vermont's northwest gateway, borders on Canada to the north and Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks to the west. It stretches east through Franklin County to the mountains of Jay Peak. Regional attractions in Franklin County include:

Parks

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
Lake Carmi State Park
St. Albans Taylor Park
St. Albans Bay Town Park
President Chester Arthur State
Historic Site
Burton Island State Park
Kill Kare State Park
Woods Island State Park

Sites

Abenaki Tribal Museum
Fairfield Pond
Covered Bridges
Arrowhead Mountain Lake
Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail
Hard'ack Recreation Center



Ann Hull & Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council

For more information on bicycling in the islands and farms region:

Islands and Farms Regional Marketing Program, PO
Box 213, North Hero, Vermont 05474, 800-262-5226;
802-372-8400, islandfun@champlainislands.com;
www.islandsandfarms.com; www.champlainislands.com
or visit the Franklin County Regional Chamber of
Commerce, 2 North Main Street, St. Albans, Vermont.

making connections

Cyclists enjoying Franklin County can explore other cycling destinations through day trips.

The **Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail** winds its way through 26.4 miles of pastoral farm lands in Franklin County from St. Albans east to Richford, paralleling the Missisquoi River for much of its length. Visitor amenities are available in St. Albans, Sheldon, Enosburg Falls, East Berkshire and Richford. For more visitor information, contact the Franklin County Regional Chamber of Commerce at 802-524-2444 or visit www.mvrailtrail.com.

Promoters of the **Island Line Trail** envision a trail connecting downtown Burlington, the Champlain Islands' orchards and vineyard, Quebec's Valley of the Forts, and Montreal. Currently, the trail includes 1.5 miles from Martin Road to Lake Champlain in South Hero and 13 miles from Oakledge Park in Burlington to Causeway Park in Colchester. The trail segments are linked on August weekends when a bicycle ferry operates across "The Cut". For more information, contact Local Motion at 802-652-2453.

The **Stowe Bike Path** is an internationally recognized 5.5 mile greenway with numerous picnic and swimming areas. The path is open for bicycling, hiking, strolling and skiing 365 days a year. The paved trail starts in Stowe Village, next to the Stowe Congregational Church. It winds its way through woods and meadows and crosses the West Branch River 11 times on arched wooden bridges. Numerous shops, lodges, and restaurants are accessible from the path. For information and a map, visit www.stowevillage.com/BikePath/index.

Connect with **La Route Verte** (the Green Route), Canada's 4,000-kilometer bicycle network from the Richford customs station on Route 139. This portion of the route features a hint of New England, many of the best inns in the county, menus that are tasteful as they are tasty, enchanting villages, vineyards that produce increasingly notable wines and irresistibly charming country roads. La Route Verte can also be reached by crossing the Missisquoi Bay Bridge on Route 78 in Swanton and heading west to the Rouses Point, NY custom station.

safety guidelines

Scenic roads are traveled by both motorists and bicyclists. Use extra caution on sections of narrow, winding or unpaved roadway. When trail riding, yield to the slowest user, (including animals please!). Bicycle routes do not indicate a level of safety. As a bicyclist, follow traffic laws and ride in a safe and controlled manner. Bicycles are considered vehicles by law and have the right to use public roads. You are ultimately responsible for operating your bicycle under all conditions.

when cycling, please follow these guidelines:

source: *Mad about Cycling*

1. WEAR A HELMET.
2. Ride with the flow of traffic.
3. When using travel lanes, follow motor vehicle laws.
Obey all traffic signs and signals. Do not cut corners.
4. Use clear hand signals when making turns or stopping.
5. Ride in a straight line at least 3 feet from parked cars or curbs.
6. If you must ride at night, use lights and reflectors.
7. Ride defensively! Be aware of motorists' actions.
8. Be aware of train tracks and other road conditions.
9. Ride single file.
10. Carry items in panniers or a handle-bar pack.
11. Wear cycling gloves.



Cyclists touring the Champlain Bikeway/Gary Randorf

about lake champlain bikeways

Lake Champlain Bikeways promotes bicycling throughout the Lake Champlain regions of New York, Vermont and Québec for the purposes of increasing opportunities for bicycle recreation and transportation, improving the quality of life, enhancing the economic vitality, advocating for sustainable communities, encouraging healthy lifestyles and raising public awareness and appreciation of inherent scenic, historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources throughout the area.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Bikeways depends on contributions from individuals, businesses and organizations to carry out our mission. We are proud to be able to provide helpful information and brochures for cyclists who come to the Champlain Valley to enjoy our beautiful countryside, vistas and hospitality. We currently provide this information at no charge when

requested through our Clearinghouse at www.champlainbikeways.org. If we are to continue to provide this service and pursue our other goals of encouraging bicycling in the basin, we need the support of like-minded bicyclists.

Be a part of the movement! Please contribute via credit card at [PayPal.com](https://www.paypal.com) (payable to "join@champlainbikeways.org"), or send your check to: Lake Champlain Bikeways, c/o Local Motion Trailside Center, 1 Steele Street #103, Burlington, VT 05401. Your donation is tax deductible.

A variety of Lake Champlain Bikeways publications, as well as other regional bicycling information, is available through our web site at www.champlainbikeways.org or by phone at 802-652-BIKE (2453).

acknowledgements

Northwest Dairyland was developed through a partnership among Lake Champlain Bikeways, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Lake Champlain Byways Council, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, and local bike enthusiasts. The Lake Champlain Basin Program and Vermont Department of Tourism provided financial assistance. The partners of this brochure support the efforts of Lake Champlain Bikeways. We are proud to be included in their 1,636-mile network.

