

WAYS YOU CAN HELP TO PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED

Pathways: forest roads, trails, and driveways

Properly maintain private roads, paths, and driveways to protect local waterways from sedimentation and ensure safe travel



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There are over 1.6 million miles of dirt roads across the country!

A well designed and maintained road will be free of ruts, potholes, washboards, and pooling. When these signs of erosion are present, they reveal an unsustainable pattern of runoff and eventual sedimentation of surrounding waterbodies.

Tips:

- Prioritize well-made roads and paths with adequate crowns and proper slope to limit channelization-- channelized runoff moves quickly, pulling more sediment (and nutrients) with it. Aim for sheet-flow.
- Limit path size to ensure the least amount of exposed soil
- Surround path or road with well-vegetated buffer. Prioritize native options and ensure that your buffer width is appropriate for the slope of the area. Greater slope = wider buffer.
- Lay out trails to avoid waterbodies (and their associated forest buffers), wet spots, seeps, and the bases of slopes
- Avoid steep slopes (greater than 20%) and utilize switchbacks to reduce the drainage area of each section of pathway.



Learn More!

Road Maintenance

- Find "Camp Road Maintenance" under the *Take Action* Tab at awwatershed.org
- Search: "2024 Better Roads" at vtrans.vermont.gov
- Search "EMS Field Guide" at dirtandgravel.psu.edu

Pathways

- Search: "Pathways" or "Infiltration Steps" at DEC.Vermont.gov

Buffers

- Search: "Riparian Forest Buffer" at www.vsu.edu
- Search: "DIY Buffer" at ausableriver.org

