

A Note From Our Executive Director

At the CTA, we often talk about the big impact of our small organization. Never has that felt more true than this last year! From the trail and backcountry zones to youth programs and events, we saw growth and expansion in nearly every CTA program. The CTA was inducted into the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in recognition of its community impact, and it was all capped off by a March for the books and one of the better spring skiing seasons in recent memory.

Thanks to the support of our members, donors, and volunteers, approximately 4.8 miles of the Catamount Trail were permanently conserved last year, while additional trail projects and reroutes improved the ski experience and climate resiliency of over five miles of the Catamount Trail near Readsboro, Middlebury, and Huntington. Among the projects completed was a long-envisioned reroute through Camels Hump State Forest that was over ten years and three Executive Directors in the making. A record 1,350 youth participated in CTA youth programs this winter, including through new programs in the Northeast Kingdom and Northern Vermont. We welcomed our eighth backcountry chapter, the Western Massachusetts Backcountry Alliance, and saw expansions at the Brandon Gap and Dutch Hill zones. We released new maps to better support skiers on the trail, and this spring we released the long-awaited Vermont Backcountry Ski Handbook in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and the US Forest Service. The first guide of its kind for backcountry ski management in the country, the Backcountry Handbook will set the rules for future backcountry zone development across Vermont, and hopefully open up more opportunities for managed ski terrain on public land for CTA chapters.

And there is more ahead. This summer, drainage work and trail improvements on Sections 1, 2, and 4 will kick off a three-year effort to make large parts of Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 more climate resilient, skiable in low snow conditions, and open to year-round use. These sections will be collocated with the Velomont trail, which will bring invaluable support to the project while giving us the opportunity to partner on future maintenance and stewardship needs. This collaboration represents a historic investment in the Catamount Trail, and will result in over 30 miles of the trail between Massachusetts and Weston being improved by 2025.

Additional projects this summer include a major bridge replacement in Fayston, a reroute near Widows Clearing in collaboration with the Forest Service, and parking improvements on Sections 21 and 22. We are also working to build on this year's trail protection success, and have several projects moving forward. We anticipate further youth programs growth in the year ahead, and, to top it all off we'll be celebrating the CTA's 40th anniversary next winter, highlighted by an end-to-end ski by Catamount Trail founders Steve Bushey, Ben Rose, Paul Jarris, and others.

Thank you for making the CTA's work possible. Here's to a great year ahead and to snowy days in the mountains with friends.



Matt Williams - Executive Director

Join - Volunteer - Donate

Our Mission

The Catamount Trail Association's mission is to expand access to Vermont's backcountry and expand equitable access to skiing. Through building trails, community, and opportunity we connect people to Vermont's mountain landscape.

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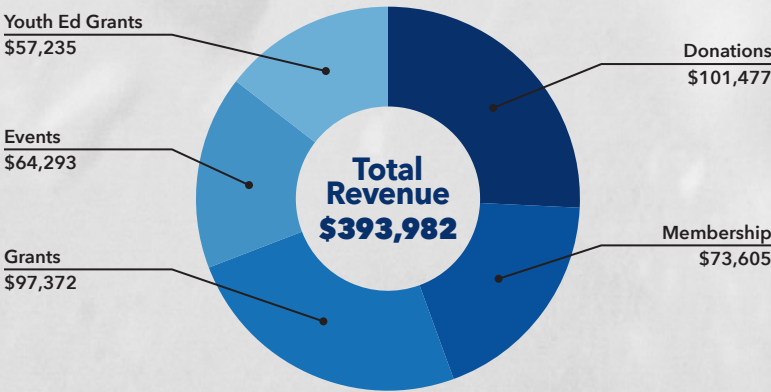


Annual Report 2023 Season

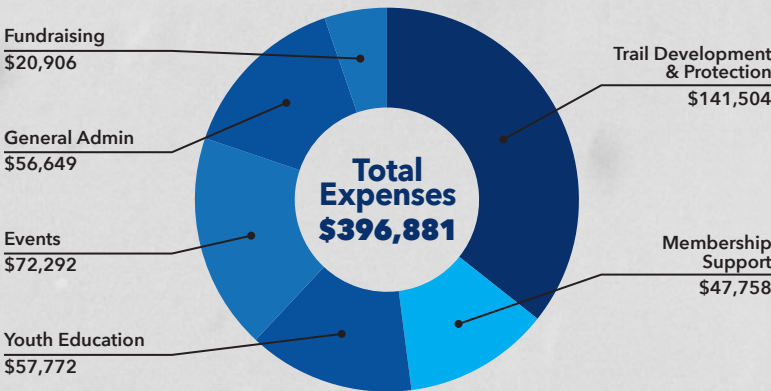


2022 Year In Review

Organization Revenue



Organization Expenses



2479 Total Membership



New Chapter - West Mass BC Alliance

This past season the Western Massachusetts Backcountry Alliance (WMBA) joined the CTA family becoming our 7th backcountry chapter. You can learn more about WMBA, the work they are doing, and find out how to get involved at www.wmassbcalliance.org.



Last season, after a decade of development, the CTA put the finishing touches on a significant reroute of Sections 19 & 20. The project included construction of a sizeable bridge by Hermit Woods Trailbuilders in December 2021. Then, this past fall, CTA volunteers and staff invested over 500 hours, during 17 work days, to clear 4.8 miles of new trail. The new route protects 2.2 miles of the Catamount Trail by relocating it onto State forest land, and will enhance skiing conditions, and extend the ski season, due to being located at higher elevation.

Trails & Conservation



The Vermont Backcountry Ski Handbook provides detailed guidance for public and private land managers seeking to develop sustainable backcountry zones. It provides a common language we hope will promote greater understanding between stakeholders, and lead to stronger, more cooperative, relationships. You can download a copy of the handbook for free at www.catamounttrail.org.

Tours & Events

102
Tours
Offered

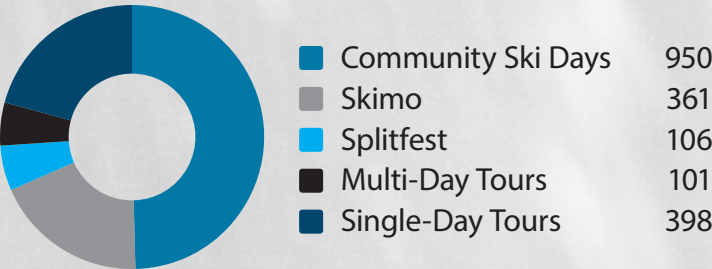
56
XCD/Nordic BC

46
AT/Split

Skiing all 317 miles of the Catamount Trail (plus a few more due to some missed turns, oops!) will no doubt go down as one of my favorite adventures! The landscape and uniqueness of the trail makes it special, but the people are what made my experience truly unforgettable. Next fall, we plan to release a film about my journey on the trail to help encourage everyone to fight to protect places like it.

Torey Brooks - 2023 End-To-End

1916 Total Skier Days - Tours/Events



2500

Volunteer
Trail Work Hours

4.8

Miles Of Newly
Protected Trail

253

Private Land
Partners

Youth Programs



Our Saturday Ski Cubs Program, which serves primarily BIPOC and multilingual students, saw a record 75 participants in 2023.

1350 Youth Program Participants
from underserved communities
from across Vermont

32

Partner
Schools

77%

First-Time
Skiers

6

Program Days
Per Student

"I absolutely love volunteering for ski cubs! It's a great way for new skiers to get exposure to a sport they may not otherwise have access to and I love seeing how their skills and confidence grow over the course of a day, a season and across the years. But mostly it's just fun to get out on snow with a crew of kids and other volunteers."

Sam Gaulty - Ski Cubs Volunteer Since 2013