

South Hero Recreation Park Boardwalk Revitalization Project

The South Hero Recreation Park is home to South Hero's only ADA accessible trail. The 400 ft boardwalk, which was built by local students as part of an Eagle Scout Project in 2008-9, plays a key role in allowing access to the wetlands, forest, and pond in the park. The boardwalk is very popular and is used by Folsom classes, after-school clubs, and summer camps, as well as groups from the Champlain Islands Parent Child Center and individual families and community members.

Over the past 4 years the boardwalk has begun to degrade significantly, making it impassable to many users, and unsafe for all. Since there is still a fair amount of usable lumber, at this time we are not advocating for a total reconstruction. Instead, we are proposing to repair and upgrade wherever possible, and replace when necessary. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the boardwalk will last another 15 years or more of good use.

Additionally, while the boardwalk was built to ADA standards, none of the three entrances/exits of the boardwalk are currently accessible, so our proposal also includes upgrading each entrance/exit to the same standards as the rest of the boardwalk itself, so that everyone, regardless of their mobility level, can enjoy the boardwalk. This will include a shallow-step staircase at the basketball court entrance accessible by someone with a walker, a wooden walkway extending to the parking lot at the main entrance accessible by a wheelchair, and a packed gravel path from the back end that will connect to the larger trail ADA network.

South Hero Land Trust is also applying to funds from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to assist with costs of the project, which will also include funds for establishing an outdoor classroom near the pond with signage, a covered area, and other infrastructure to make the space more educational and enjoyable for teachers and community members.

South Hero Land Trust is willing to manage the project and would work closely with the Recreation Commission to create and edit the engineering design and plan, select subcontractors, oversee the project, and involve the community through volunteer opportunities. We also plan to reach out to the original builders of the boardwalk, as well as Folsom teachers, to see if they are interested in being involved.

Labor: \$17,250 (two weeks of a VYCC Construction Crew, SHLT staff time to manage project)
Materials: \$26,600 (Lumber for deck, stringers, joists, and piers; hardware; gravel; stone; landscape fabric; and miscellaneous other materials as needed)

Total Budget: \$43,850*

LCBP Grant (Pending): \$31,850 (this portion of the funding covers boardwalk repairs)
ARPA (Pending): \$12,000

* In lieu of full funding we will pick the most necessary things to do first, as we search for additional funding to cover the rest in a phased manner.

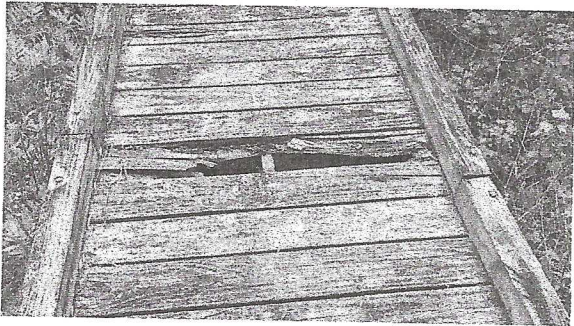
Boardwalk Main Entrance - note that wheelchair users would have to cross approximately 50 ft of uneven, grassy lawn, which is not ADA accessible



Boardwalk School Entrance - Slope is eroding due to water runoff and persistent foot traffic; not ADA accessible or easy for anyone.



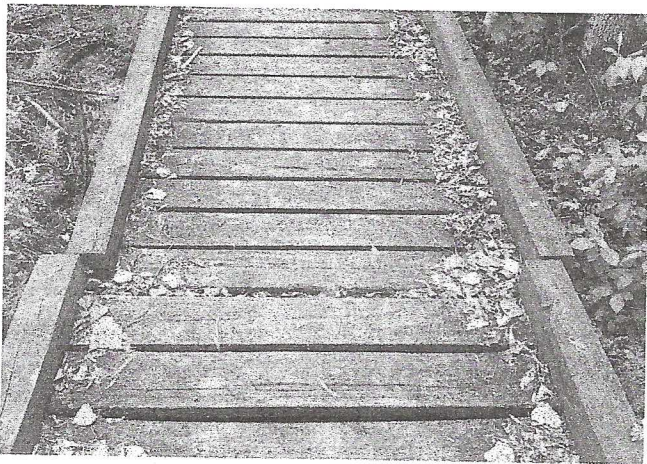
Rotting Decking - Replacements as needed to ensure safety and longevity of the boardwalk going forward



Sills were placed on top of soft soil, and are sinking into the wetland, causing the entire boardwalk to sag and become unstable.



Side Rails need to be raised on blocks to allow water drainage and expulsion of leafy material to prevent rot



Boardwalk Back Entrance - Not ADA accessible

