

## **Gateway Community “Readiness” Factors**

Below are factors that predispose for success in a gateway project. Taken as a whole, these factors can help in assessing the presence of an engaged citizenry in a community and the extent to which a community uses proactive approaches in addressing issues and concerns. The specific indicators listed for each factor have particular relevance for community outreach and community relationships with the AT and ATC (some indicators relate to more than one factor). They are a preliminary list and are intended to stimulate additional thinking and dialogue on the subject.

### **1. History of community action that indicates a sense of commitment and community cohesiveness**

- Active conservation commission
- Wildlife tracking program
- Supportive zoning ordinance and town master plan
- Open space plan in place
- Large number of active community organizations who have a history of working together

### **2. Existing relationships and/or cross-sector collaboration that can be helpful to a community outreach effort**

- Previous successful interaction between ATC/Club and community
- Active working relationships with organizations or agencies from a particular region or community
- Active Clubs that are located in the adjacent community (as opposed to a longer distance), as Club members are more likely to have existing relationships in place

### **3. Opportunities to partner that have relevance to gateway concerns**

- Local businesses that cater to hikers
- School curriculum that uses the AT
- Local environmental or conservation organization working within the community
- Active local club members living in the community
- Willing to (and/ or history of) engage diverse players and work openly and inclusively

### **4. AT access or infrastructure related to recreation**

- AT trailhead within the community
- Local businesses that cater to hikers
- Connector trail(s) or trail proposals
- Access to other recreational resources (lakes, rivers, etc.)

### **5. Other things going on that provide connections and/or resources that could be tapped**

- Publication(s) that spotlight the town and/or the AT
- Adjoining/nearby town with good relations with ATC or AT (could serve as a model)
- Connector trail or trail proposals
- Local publication (newsletter, email list, etc.)
- Existing festivals and other community events
- Upcoming anniversaries (i.e., 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the -----) or other events of recognition