

# The Mystery of Sand on the Rail Trails



## A New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition "Nugget" Presentation

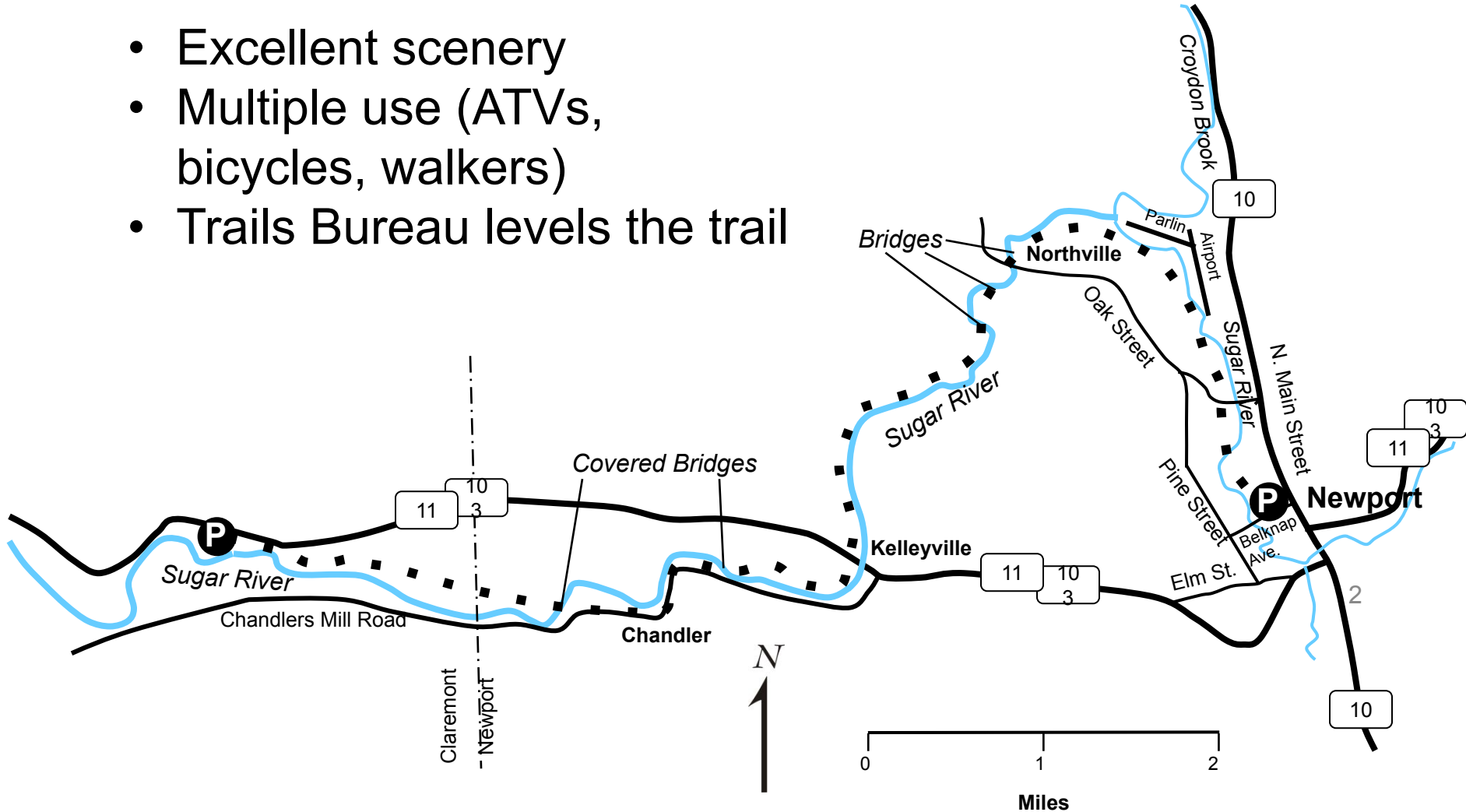
Presented by Charles Martin



*Fremont Branch  
Rail Trail*

# Sugar River Rail Trail is multiple use.

- Excellent scenery
- Multiple use (ATVs, bicycles, walkers)
- Trails Bureau levels the trail





# Sugar River Rail Trail Scenery



June 9, 2020

Sand on the trails



In the mid-1990s the complaints started.



Why is this trail so difficult for bicycles riders?  
Where does the sand come from?

# Fremont Branch

OHRVs are allowed from Route 28 in Derry to Route 107 in Fremont.



Inches of sand require walking bikes for *miles*!



# Fremont Branch



Scenery is great!

Bicycling is difficult.





# Farmington Rail Trail



June 9, 2020

Sand on the trails

# Mystery Solved!

ATVs on a soft (stonedust or dirt) trail pick up sand from under the trail surface.

An individual ATV does not have much effect.

Over time, the collective impact of many ATV riders is deep sand.



# Can anything be done?

Remove the sand?

Use a binding material to create a harder surface?

Mix the sand with cement?

*Apparently, ATV/trail bike and bicycle uses cannot co-exist.*

# Would you like to share a nugget?

If so, we'd like to help you work out an NHRTC white paper.

Contact us at [INFO@NHRTC.org](mailto:INFO@NHRTC.org) and we'll be happy to work out the idea with you.

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