

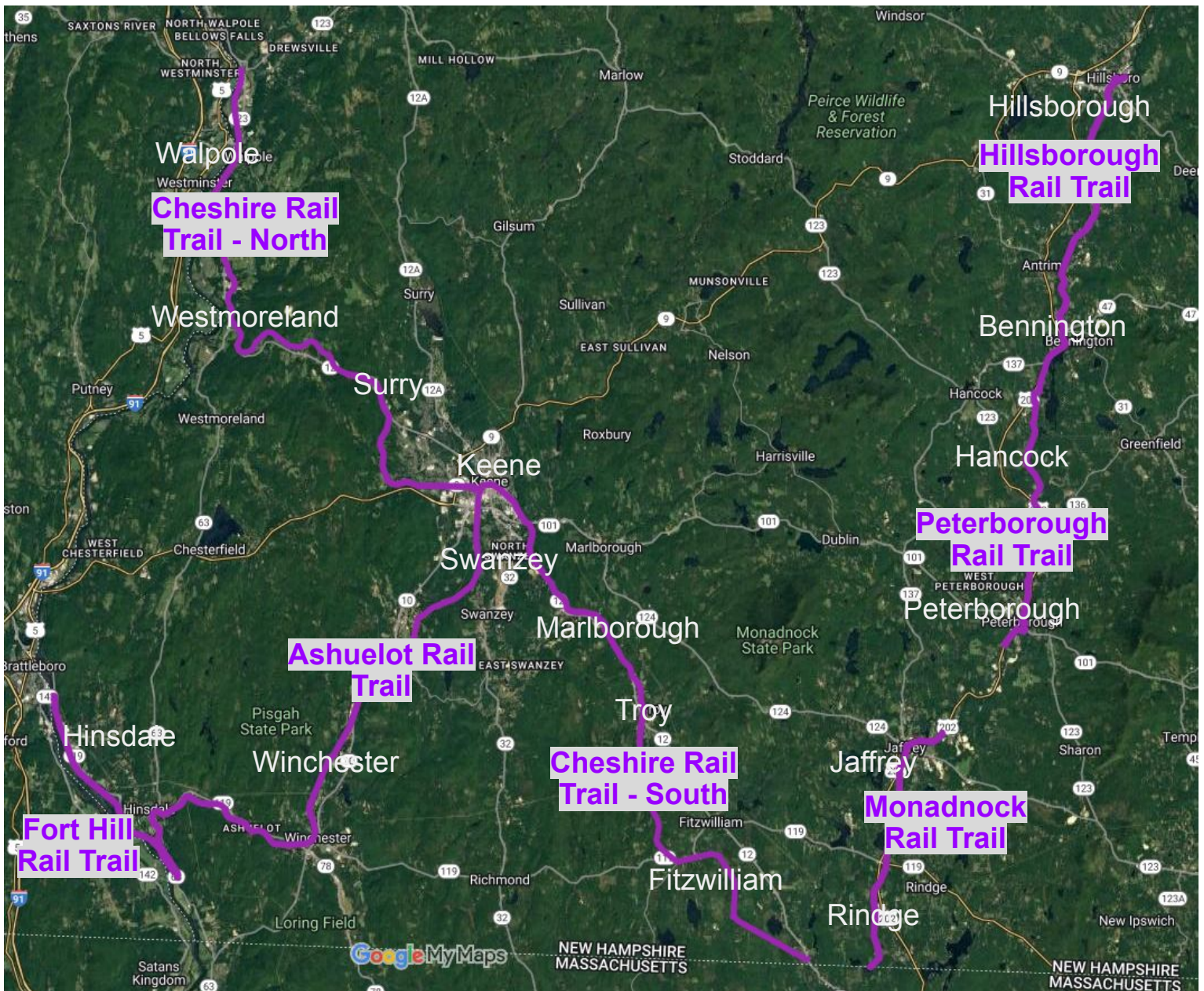
Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative

Annual Report 2023

Executive Summary

2023 Rail Trail Reach:

- 80 Miles
- 10 Towns
- 6 Rail Trails
- 5 Bridges
- 1829 Volunteer Hours



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Ashuelot, Cheshire & Monadnock Rail Trail - Extensive Storm Damage

- **Town:** Swanzey, Fitzwilliam, Troy, Rindge and Jaffrey
- **Partners:** Monadnock Sno-Moles, Keene SnoRiders, Swanzey Rail Trail Advisory Committee, Cheshire County, FEMA, NH Homeland Security & Emergency Services, NH Bureau of Trails, NH Department of Transportation, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Eversource
- **Length:** 30 miles
- **Time:** +/-300 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** No materials. Volunteer provided meals, equipment, and labor.



2023 Activities: January and March Storm Damage

- Extensive damage to trees in early 2023 from heavy wet snow and ice accumulation. Two storms. Rail Beds were blocked by tree fall throughout the Region. No use possible.
- The Sno-Moles coordinated work parties every weekend and some weekdays until access was restored (Cheshire Rail Trail-South & Monadnock Rail Trail)
- Tree removal, brush clearing and cleanup.
- July flood damage. Seven washouts along the Ashuelot Rail Trail in Swanzey. Working with Federal and State agencies to resolve.



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

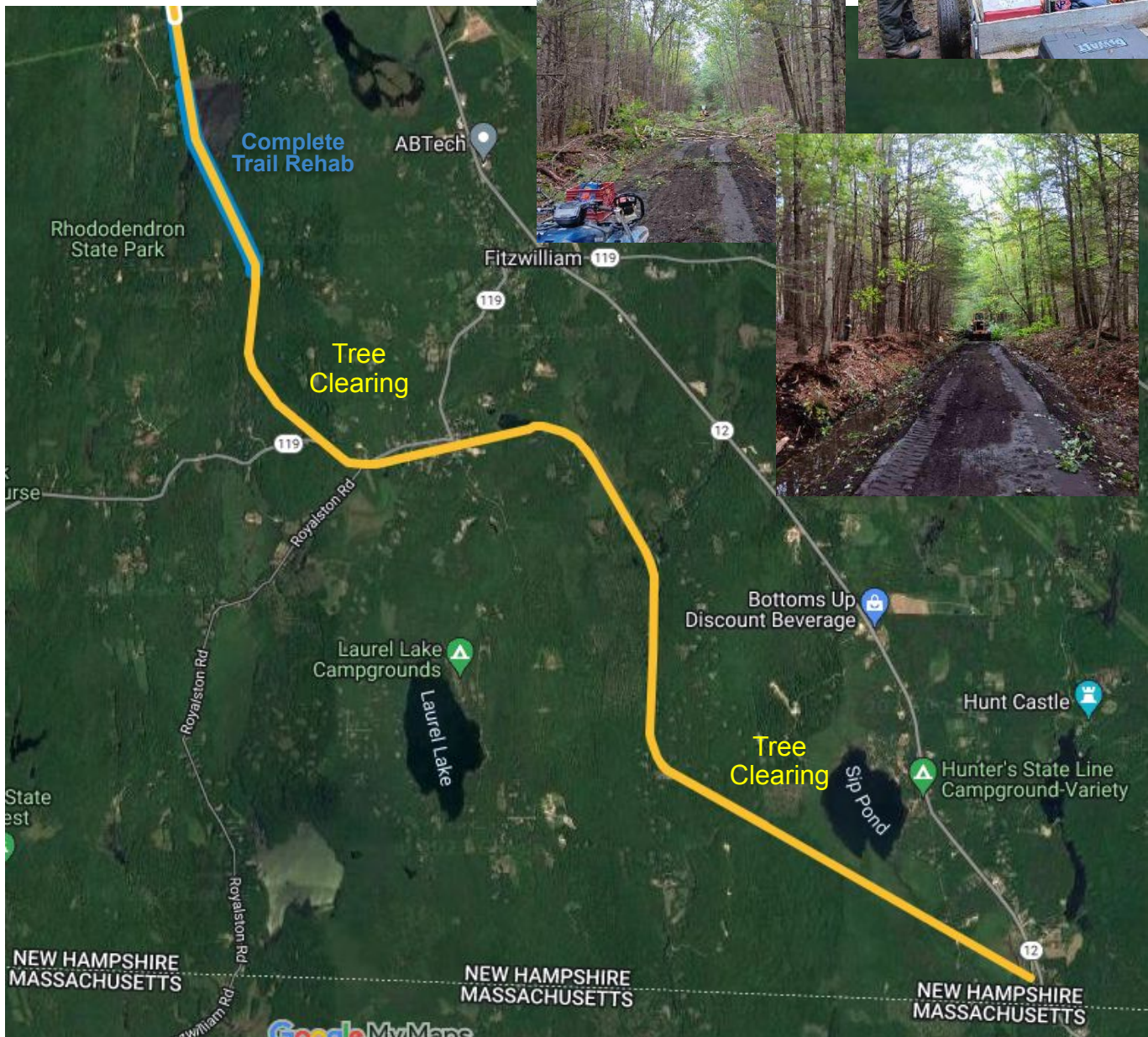
Cheshire Rail Trail

- **Town:** Fitzwilliam
- **Partners:** Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Monadnock Sno-Moles
- **Length:** 9 miles
- **Time:** 220 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Monadnock Sno-Moles, Timken, Mascoma Bank



2023 Activities:

- Trail reconstruction north of Rockwood Pond to Troy/Fitzwilliam town line
- Trail reconstruction south of Rockwood Pond to Rhododendron Rd.
- South of Rhododendron Rd widen trail to Trail Standards, dig drainage swales and drainage improvements
- Tree clearing



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Monadnock Rail Trail

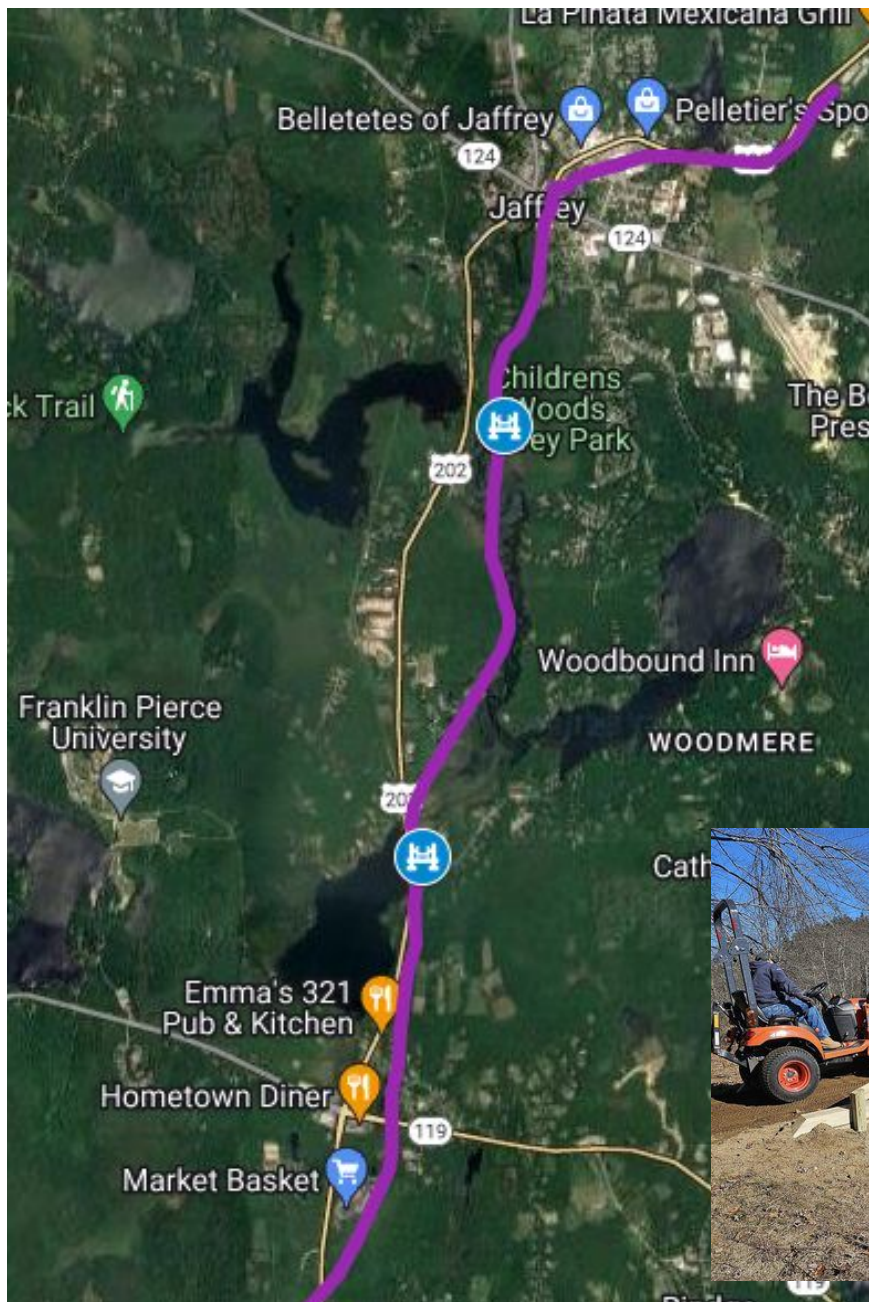
- **Town:** Jaffrey
- **Partners:** Monadnock Sno-Moles
- **Length:** 0.3 miles
- **Time:** 85 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Grant In-Aid, In-Kind Equipment

2023 Activities:

- Repair Bridge adjacent to S. Woodbound Road
- Repair Bridge at Contookcook Dam to allow connector trail access.

2024 Plans:

- Monadnock Trail access ends in Jaffrey. Access north of Jaffrey and through Peterborough to Dublin needed.
- Additional bridges and earthwork required to access north of Jaffrey and through Peterborough



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Cheshire Rail Trail

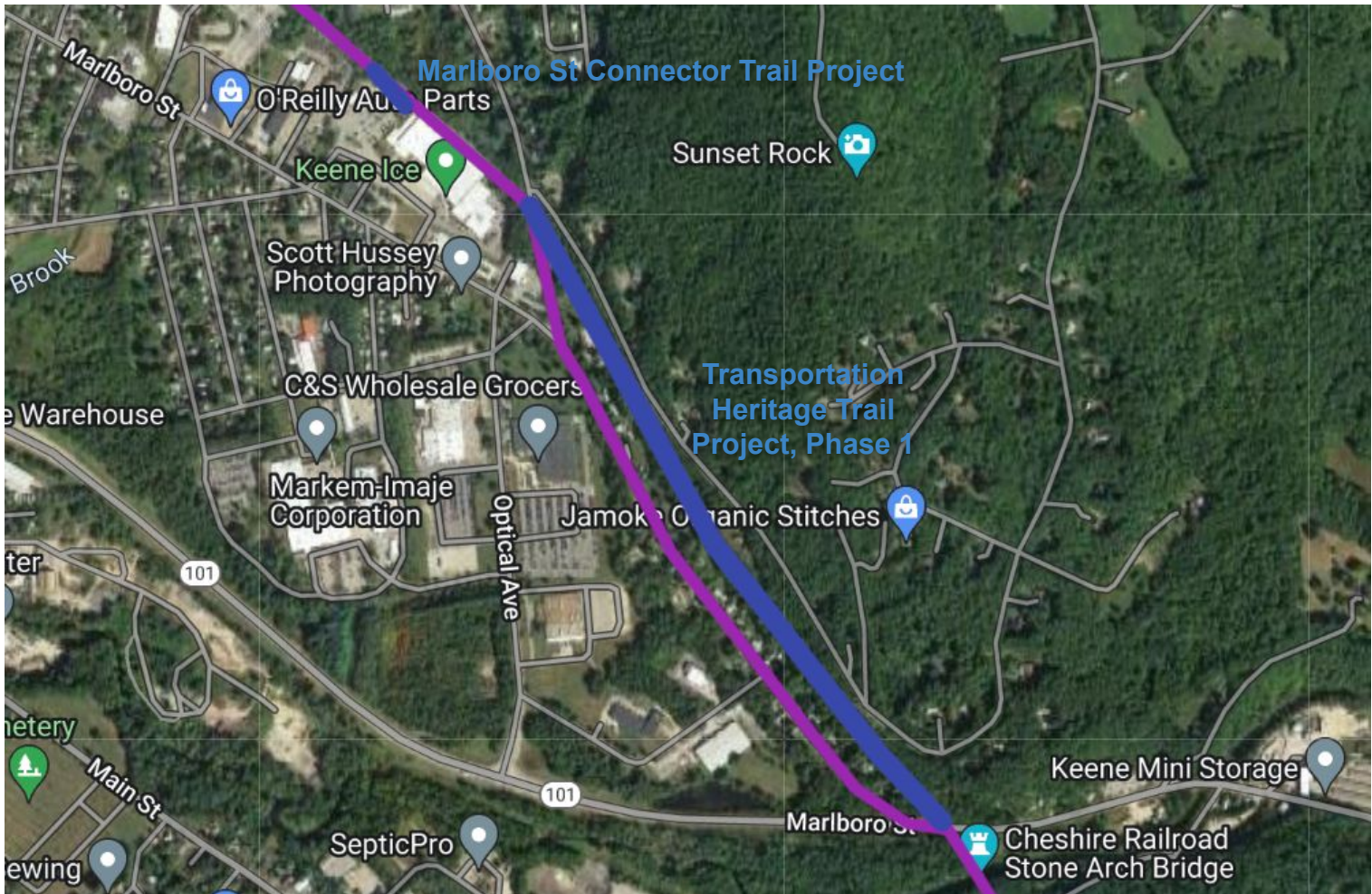
- **Town:** Keene
- **Partners:** Keene Parks & Recreation, Keene Bicycle & Pedestrian Pathways Advisory Committee, Pathways for Keene
- **Length:** 3 miles
- **Funders:** Transportation Alternatives Program Grant, City of Keene, Pathways for Keene

2023 Activities:

- Transportation Heritage Trail Project planning and public input.
- Twice a year trail cleanup (Cheshire & Ashuelot Rail Trails)

2024 Plans:

- Marlborough Street/Cheshire Rail Trail connector access implementation.
- Transportation Heritage Trail Project engineering and design (See <https://keenenh.gov/public-works/projects/transportation-heritage-trail>)



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Ashuelot Rail Trail

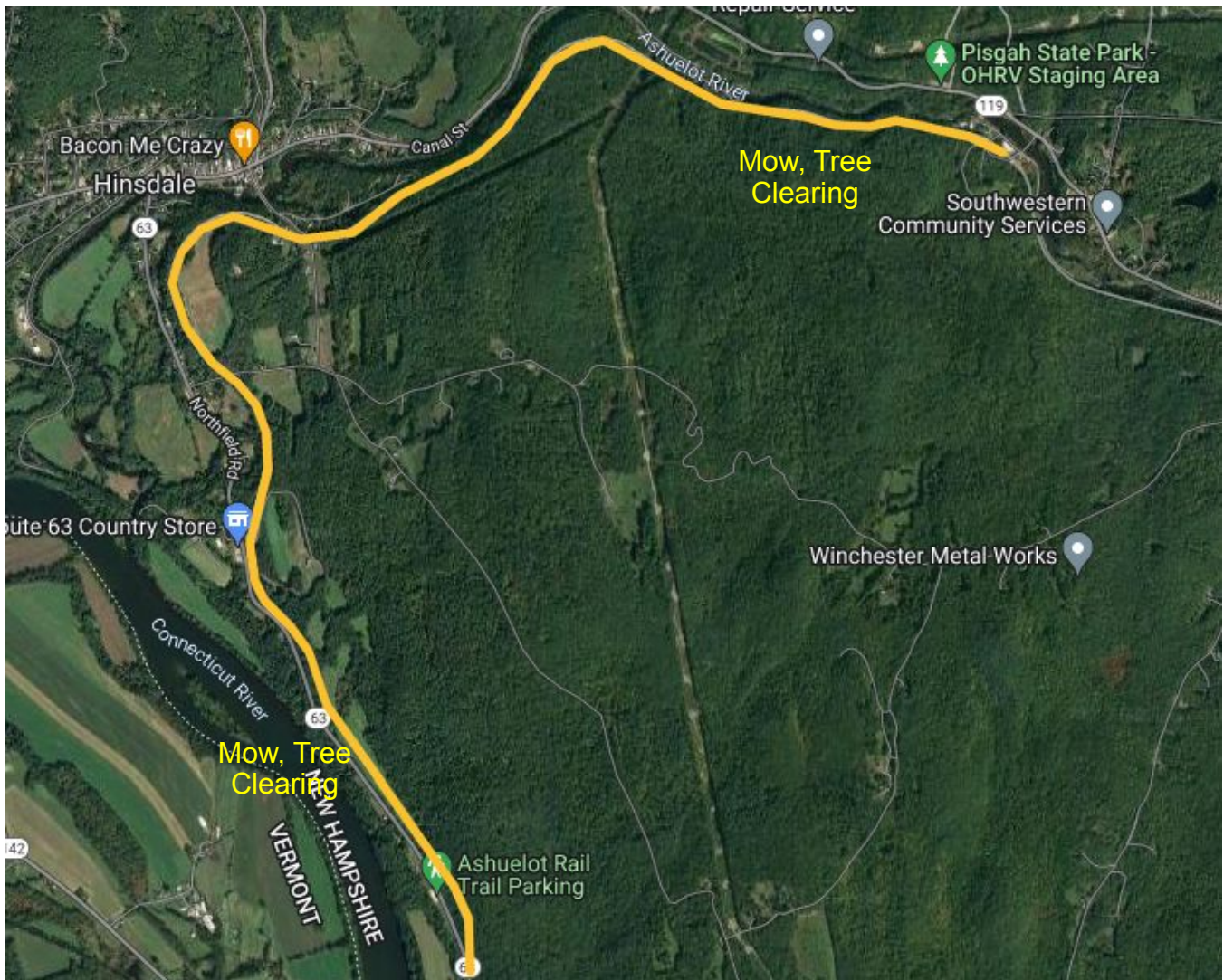
- **Town:** Hinsdale
- **Partners:** Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders
- **Length:** 4.7 miles
- **Time:** 6 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders

2023 Activities:

- Mowing and tree removal

2024 Plans:

- Mow and remove trees as needed



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Fort Hill Rail Trail

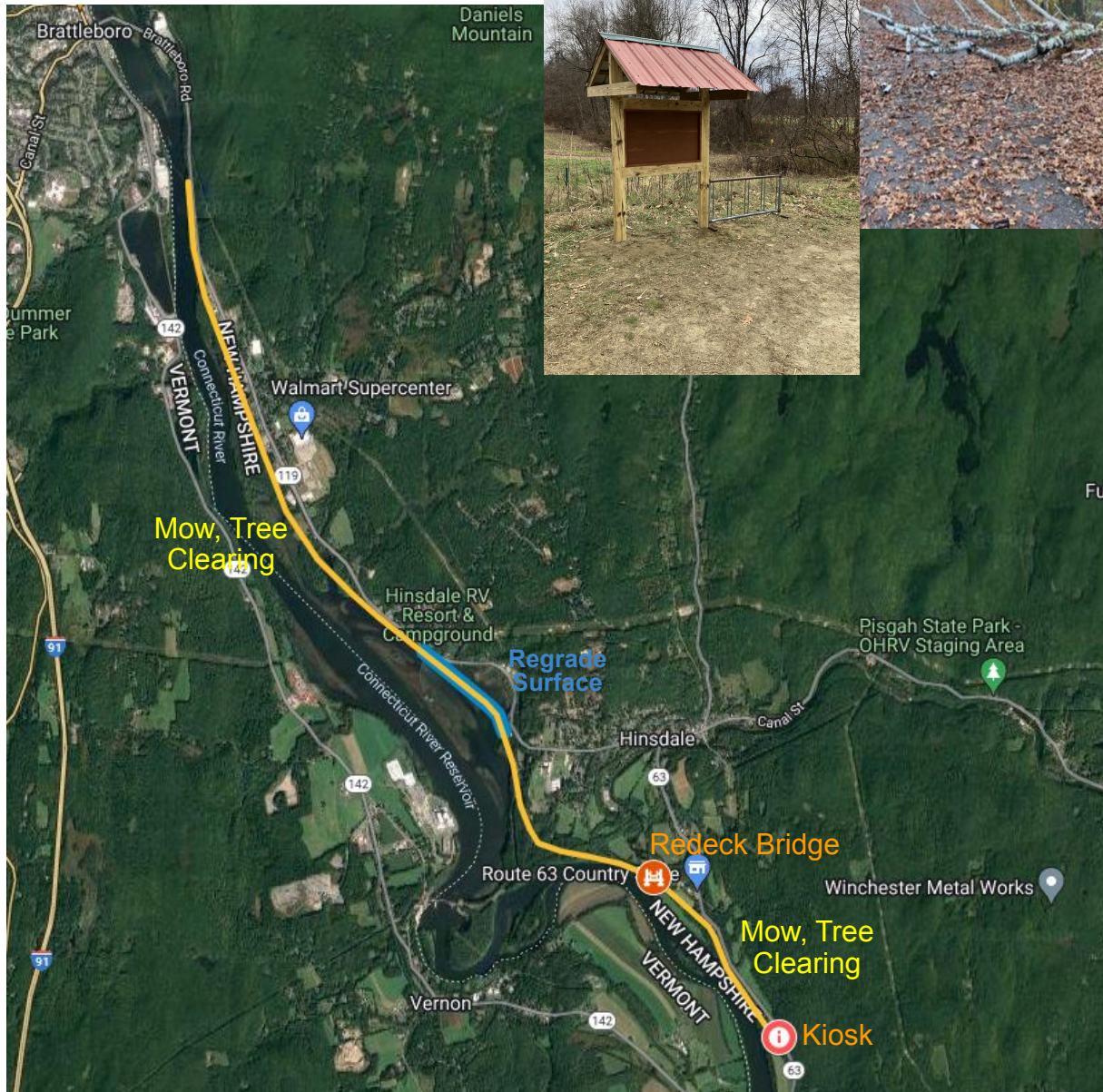
- **Town:** Hinsdale
- **Partners:** Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders
- **Length:** 7.2 miles
- **Time:** 115 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** NH Bureau of Trails, Grant-in-Aid, Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders

2023 Activities:

- Mowing and tree removal
- Redecked the Ashuelot River bridge.
- Install Kiosk at Dole Junction including bench and bike rack
- Causeway trail surface regrading

2024 Plans:

- Clean out culverts.



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Peterborough Rail Trail (a.k.a. Old Railroad Trail)

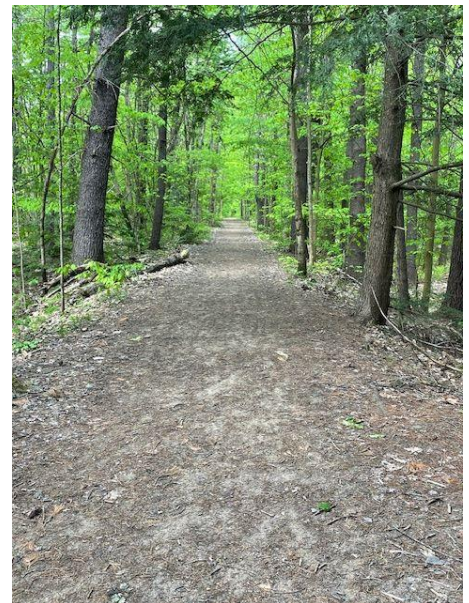
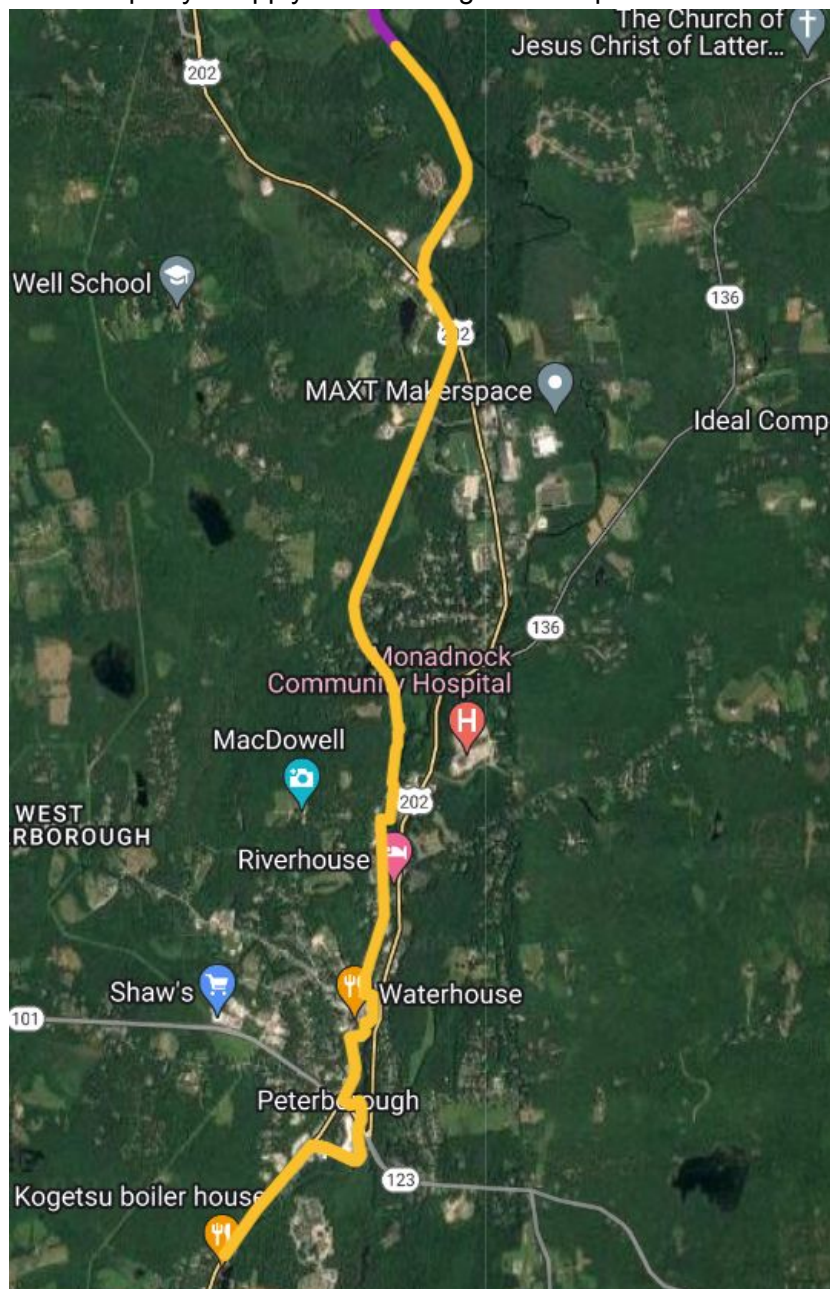
- **Town:** Peterborough
- **Partners:** Peterborough DPW & Monadnock Outdoors (formerly Peterborough Hiking)
- **Length:** 6.5 miles
- **Funders:** Town of Peterborough

2023 Activities:

- The Community Way Path through Peterborough is maintained on a regular basis by the Peterborough DPW. The trail is kept clear and mowing is performed as needed. Volunteers from Monadnock Outdoors assists with maintenance.

2024 Plans:

- RTP grant was awarded to rehabilitate the trail from the recycle center to the Hancock/Peterborough town line.
- Monadnock Outdoors is working with Hancock residents and municipality to apply for an RTP grant to improve the trail in Hancock.



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Monadnock/Cheshire Rail Trail Connector Trail

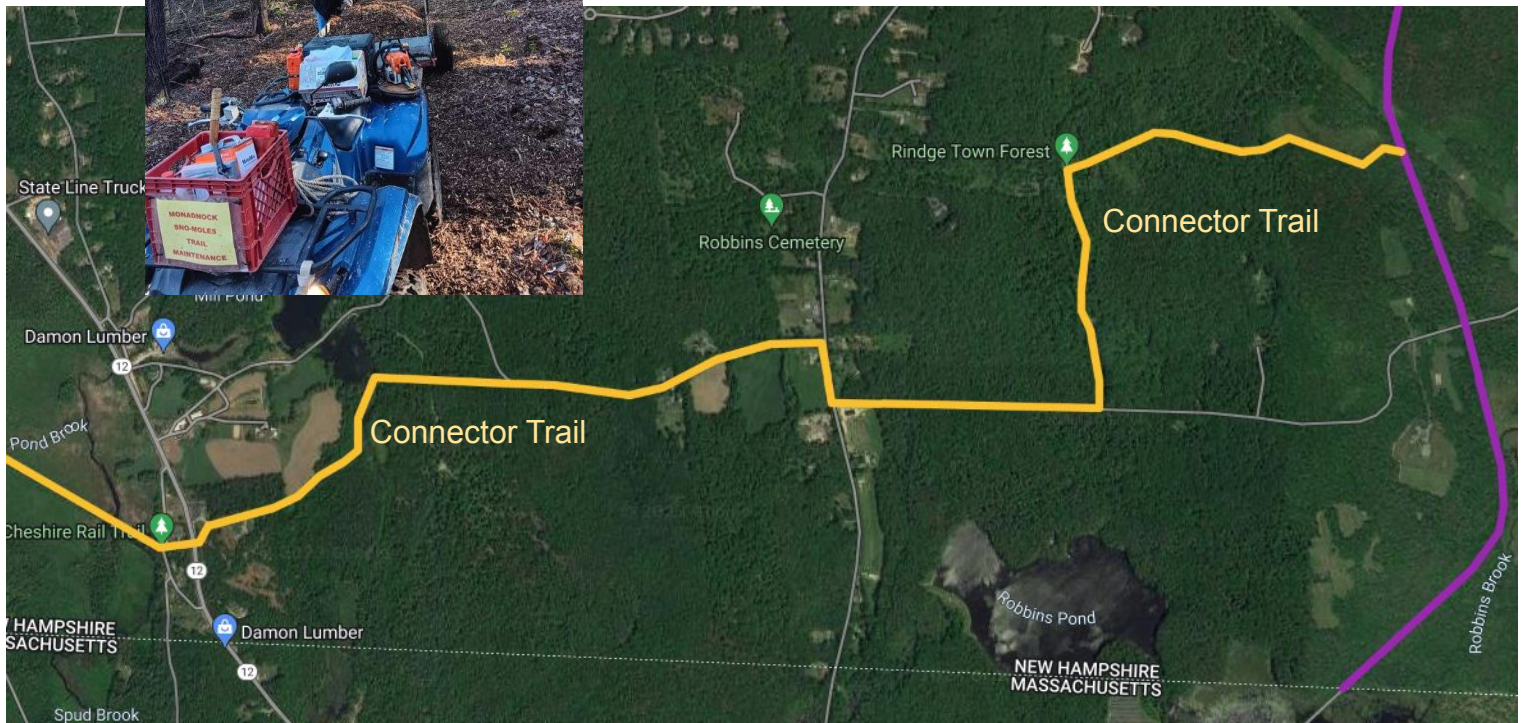
- **Town:** Rindge/Fitzwilliam
- **Partners:** Monadnock Sno-Moles, Town of Rindge Conservation Commission
- **Length:** 0.8 miles
- **Time:** 340 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Grant-In-Aid

2023 Activities:

- Built new trail from Rand Rd. to Tetreat Park to work on Public Access connector trail between Monadnock Branch and Cheshire Branch

2024 Plans:

- Continue working with landowners and Town of Rindge and Jaffrey to establish connector trail between both Rail Trails.
- Allows access for Snowmobiles to avoid crossing into Massachusetts to connect trail systems.
- Allows hikers and bikers to connect trail systems north of Winchendon.



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Cheshire Rail Trail

- **Town:** Surry
- **Partners:** Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Keene Sno-Moles, Cheshire County
- **Length:** 1 mile
- **Time:** 130 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** NH Bureau of Trails, Recreational Trails Program, Putnam Foundation

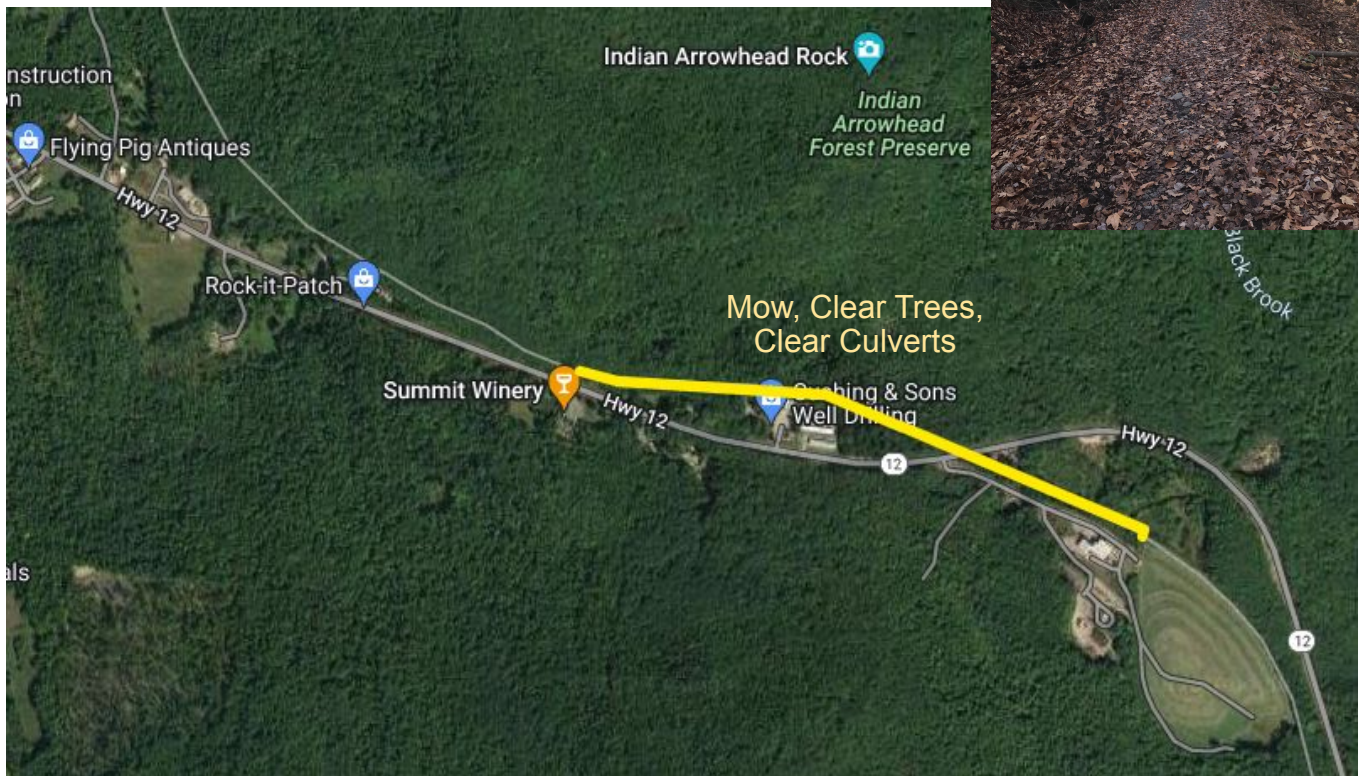


2023 Activities:

- Mow, remove trees, clear drainage ditches
- Reposition and clear culverts
- Remove two large boulders

2024 Plans:

- Lay down fill material and final top-surface material



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Ashuelot Rail Trail

- **Town:** Swanzey
- **Partners:** Swanzey Rail Trail Advisory Committee, Keene SnoRide, Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative
- **Length:** 4.2 miles
- **Time:** 405 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** NH Bureau of Trails, Recreational Trails Program grant and Grant-in-Aid



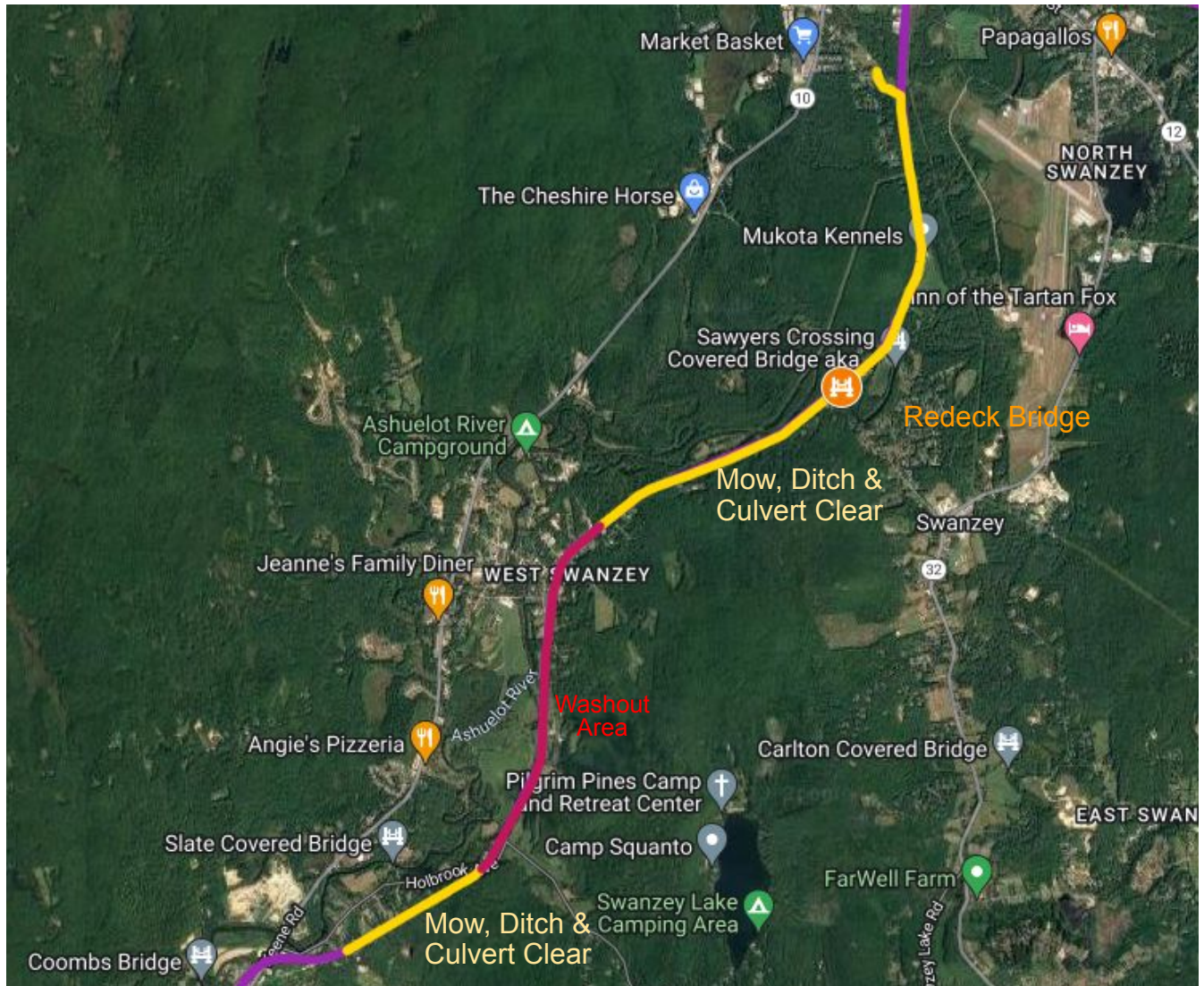
2023 Activities:

- Mow, clear ditches, clear culverts from Riley Conservation Area to Tower Lane, Westport.
- Surveyed with Federal and State agencies several washouts from Eversource substation near Pine Street to the south Holbrook Avenue crossing.
- Redecked the Ashuelot River bridge just south of Sawyers Crossing Road.
- Replaced damaged decking board on the Ash Brook bridge



2024 Plans:

- Laydown final top-surface over one mile of trail in the Westport area.



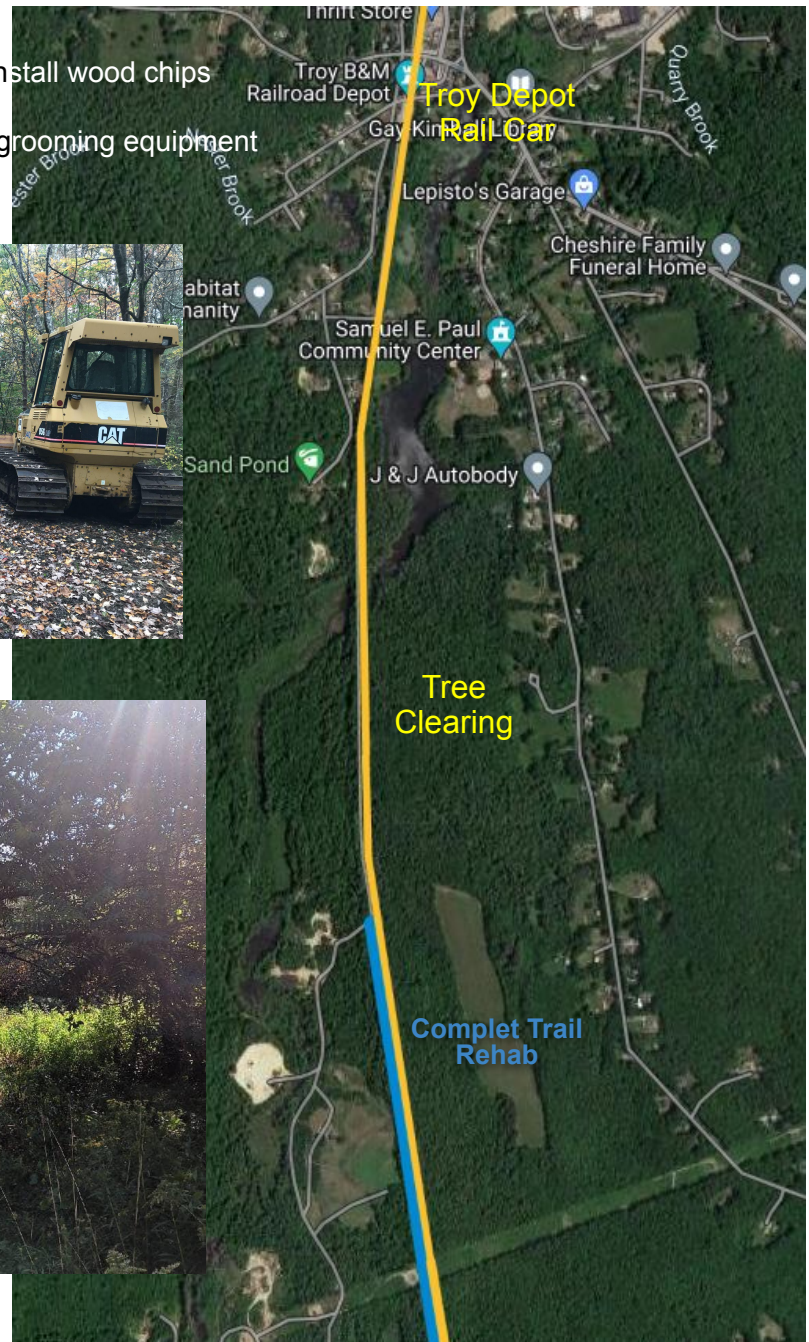
Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Cheshire Rail Trail

- **Town:** Troy
- **Partners:** Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Keene Sno-Moles, Cheshire County, Troy Railroad Depot Committee
- **Length:** 4 miles
- **Time:** 90 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Timken Foundation, Mascoma Foundation, In-Kind Equipment

2023 Activities:

- Trail Cleanup Work:
 - Repaired Washout from Flood Damage to restore Trail Access
 - Tree and brush cleanup from winter storms
- Trail Rehabilitate Work:
 - Mow, remove trees, clear drainage ditches
 - Grade surface
 - Apply hardpack material
- Troy Depot Rail Car Work:
 - Clear brush, earthwork and grading, install wood chips
 - Prepare for grand opening.
 - Attend opening event with display of grooming equipment and Trail Maintenance activities



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Cheshire Rail Trail

- **Town:** Westmoreland
- **Partners:** Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Westmoreland Snobelters
- **Length:** 6.5 miles
- **Time:** 71 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Savings Bank of Walpole, Westmoreland Snobelters

2023 Activities:

- Mow from Summit to Depot Rd
- Cleared trees, brush, and leaf build up
- Cleared ditches north and south of the Westmoreland Depot, and just north of Aldrich Rd.
- Graded sections of the trail to keep water in the drainage ditches

2024 Plans:

- Awarded the Recreational Trails Program grant. Plans to ditch clear, culvert clear, and mow the entire 7 miles plus provide some trail surface material.



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Ashuelot Rail Trail

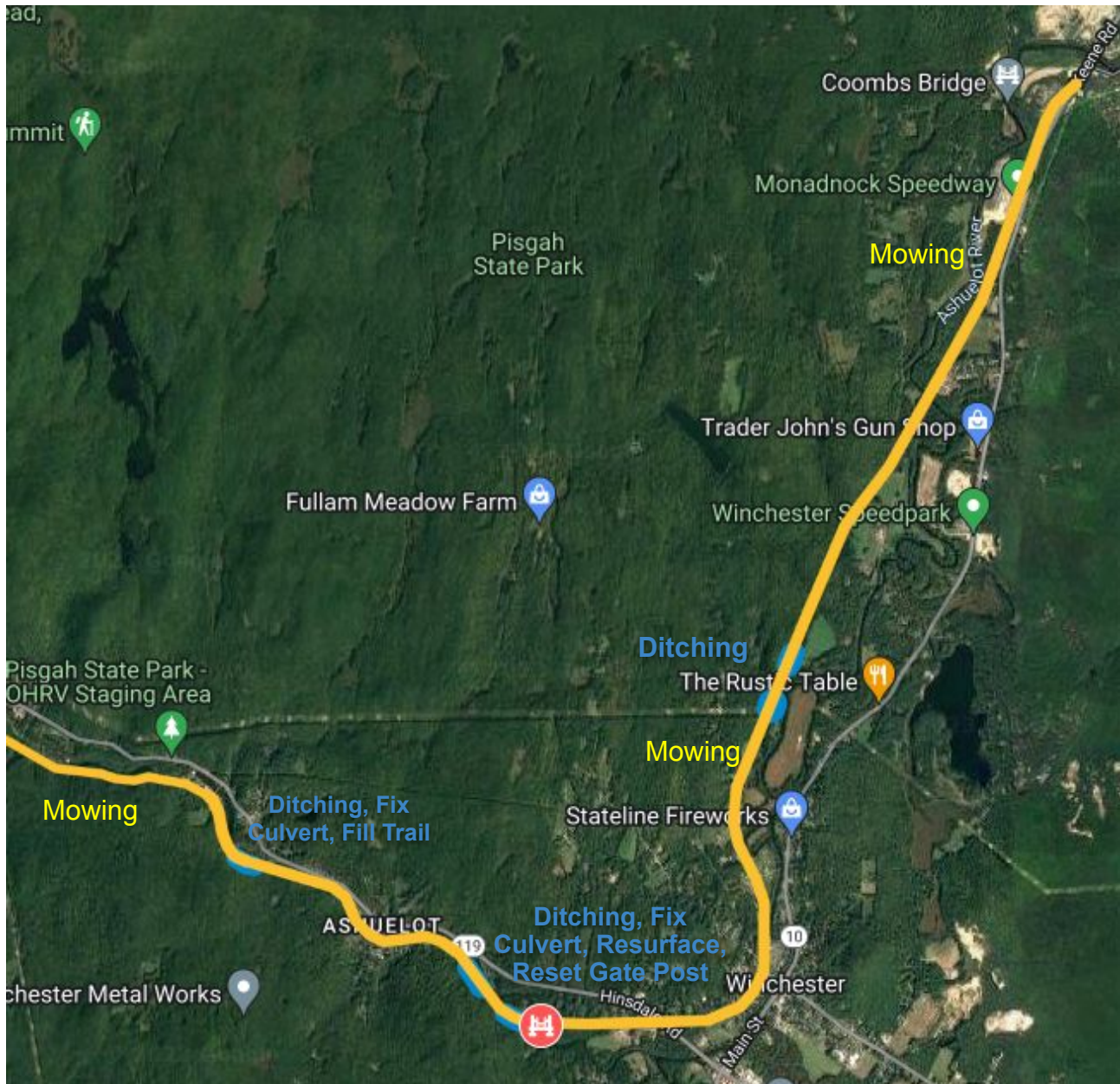
- **Town:** Winchester
- **Partners:** Winchester Trailriders, Town of Winchester
- **Length:** 8 miles
- **Time:** 68 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** NH Bureau of Trails, Recreational Trails Program, USDA

2023 Activities:

- South Bridge Rebuild
- Ditch clearing, culvert clearing, resurfacing
- Mowing

2024 Plans:

- Ditch clearing, culvert clearing, resurfacing from Monadnock Speedway to Coombs Bridge.



Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Community Outreach

- **Events:** 6
- **Volunteers:** 80 hours
- **Partners:** Keene Sno-Moles, Pathways For Keene, NH Rail Trail Coalition, Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative

Events Attended:

1. Events Attended:
2. Keene Earth Day
3. Jaffrey Riverfest
4. Troy Depot Rail Car
5. Winchester Picklefest
6. Ashuelot Bridger Dinner
7. NHRTC Conference

