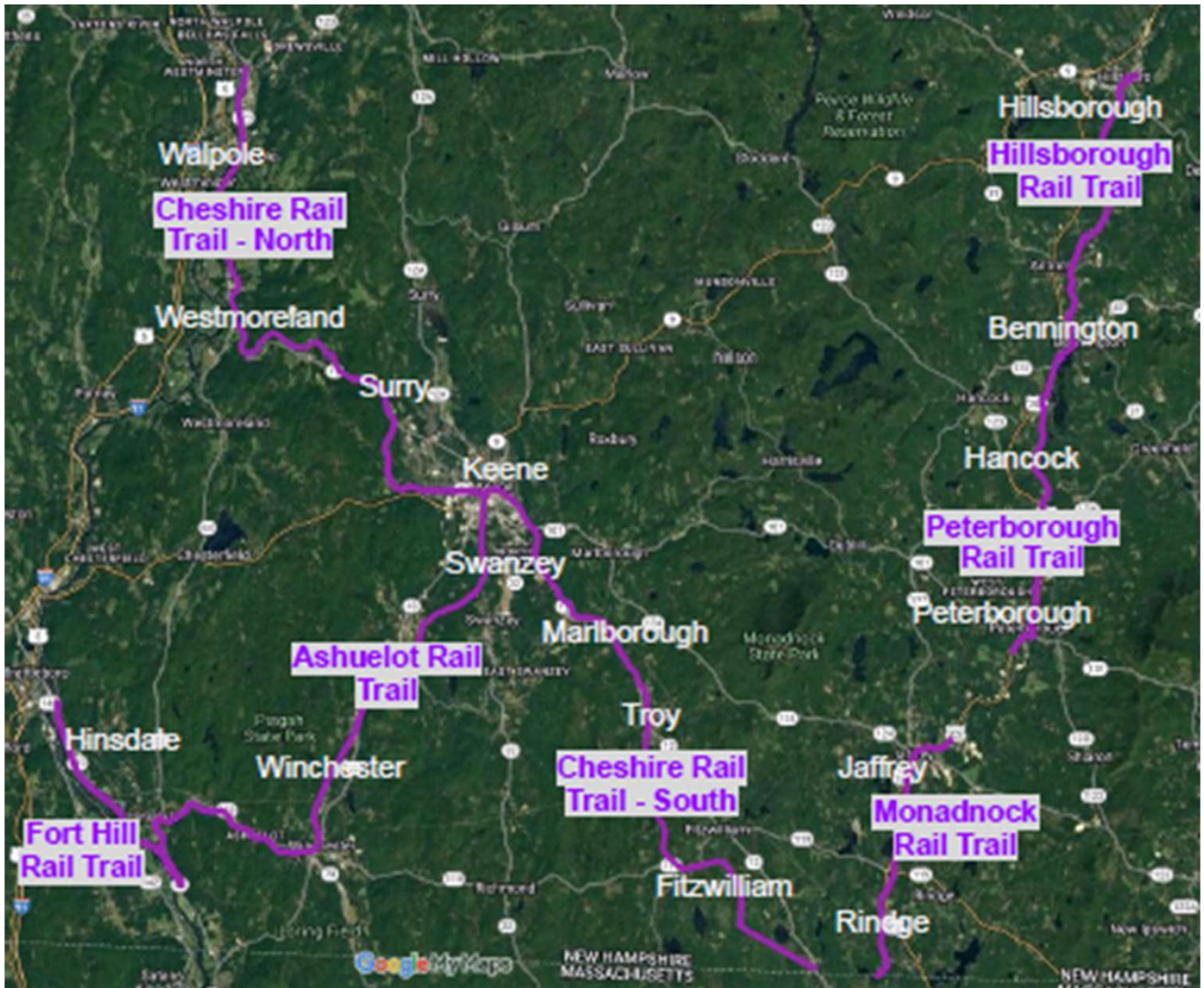


Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative

2024 Annual Report

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Executive Summary

Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative's (MRRTC) mission is to create a rail trail network, within the Monadnock region, that is suitable for year-round use by all permitted user types. The MRRTC convenes rail trail advocates and volunteers, provides technical assistance with project planning and coordination, and advocates for greater awareness of the many local and regional benefits to improving rail trails.

All the accomplishments you will read within this annual report were due to efforts of many individuals and organizations. The MRRTC's level of each project involvement ranged from full engagement to no involvement and everything in-between. This report is an attempt to compile work done by the MRRTC and others into one summary.

2024 Rail Trails Impacted

- 65 Miles
- 10 Towns
- 5 Rail Trails
- 5 Bridges
- >1000 Volunteer Hours

2025 Plans

- Roll out the Monadnock Rail Trail Challenge
- Hold the Monadnock Rail Trail Bike Event
- Implementation of five funded rail trail projects
- Secure funding via federal and state grants, rail trail advocacy groups, and the local community for the 5 additional rail trail projects

2024 Donors

A big thank you goes out to MRRTC 2024 donors. It is the generosity of our donors that keeps the organization running and trail projects successful.

Apollo Steel LLC

Belletetes, Jaffrey

Bob Meissner

Cogswell Benevolent Trust

Depot Day Fun Run Donation

Edward Jones

Eversource Energy Foundation

Henry Underwood

Jeremy Evans

M&T Charitable Foundation

Mike Kowalczyk

Richard Pendleton

Seppala Construction Co, Inc.

Suzanne Bansley

Tieger Realty Co, Inc

Walter Silver

Wendy Grossman

Winchester Trail Riders

2024 Volunteers

Improving the region's rail trail network requires many skills and talents such as project planning, mapping, permitting, artifact identification, grant writing, fundraising, project management, and equipment operation. Many volunteer hours are needed. If not for the numerous people and organizations volunteering their time and equipment, the rail trails would not be as accessible as they are today.

I would like to thank the following for generously offering their time and/or equipment:

202 Trucking and Equipment,
Bruce Clement,
Cheshire County,
City of Keene,
Dave Genest,
Greater Monadnock Collaborative,
Holman Contracting,
JDK Pavement LLC,
Jeff Watson,
Keene SnoRiders,
Lukeman Excavation LLC,
Mark & Mary Peterburs,
Monadnock Sno-Moles,
NH Bureau of Trails,
NH Department of Transportation,

Pathways For Keene,
Pisgah Mountain Trailriders,
Senator Donovan Fenton,
Southwest Regional Planning
Commission,
Town of Jaffrey,
Town of Marlborough,
Town of Peterborough,
Town of Swanzey,
Troy Conservation Committee,
Walpole Trail Committee
with community volunteers,
Westmoreland SnoBelters,
Winchester Trailriders.

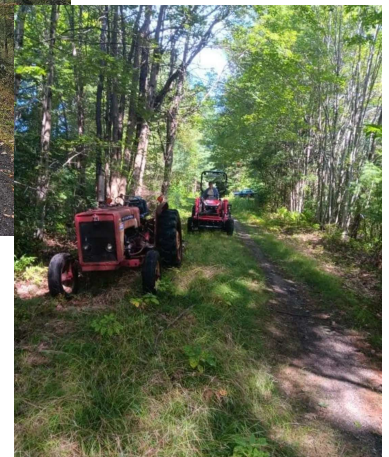
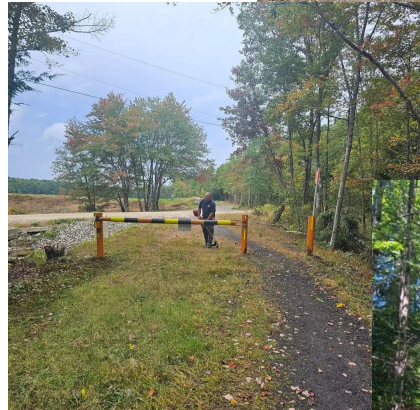
Fitzwilliam

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Monadnock Sno-Moles
- Length: 9.3 miles
- Funders: NHSA Raffle, Motorcycle poker run
- Volunteers: Sno-Moles. Many volunteer hours



2024 Activities:

- Surface mowing
- Tree removal



2025 Plans:

- Surface mowing
- Tree removal



Hinsdale

- Rail Trail(s): Fort Hill, Ashuelot
- Partners: Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders
- Length: 12miles
- Funders: Holt Fund
- Volunteers: Hundreds of volunteer hours and several pieces of volunteer equipment

2024 Activities:

- Lots of removal of downed trees
- Repair a washout area on the Fort Hill just south of the Connecticut river
- Mowing



2025 Plans:

- Tree removal
- Surface mowing
- Drainage ditch clearing
- Culvert clearing
- Canopy mowing
- Purchase a boom flail mower

Jaffrey

- Rail Trail(s): Monadnock
- Partners: Sno-Moles
- Length: 7 miles
- Donors: Belletetes, The Sno-Moles, Seppala Construction, Marc Tieger, and Apollo Steel



2024 Activities:

- The Monadnock rail trail is generally in good shape through Jaffrey.
- The Sno-Moles snowmobile club has been diligent in cutting back brush, mowing, and filling in soft spots. Bridges are in good shape as is signage.
- Five benches were acquired in 2024. Four donated by Belletetes of Jaffrey and one earned from recycling 1.000 lbs of plastic. Unfortunately, the benches have not been installed pending state approval, site locations, and volunteer work crew coordination. All five benches are being stored courtesy of the Jaffrey DPW. Placques recognizing the donors are ready to be affixed once the benches are installed.



2025 Plans:

- Install benches
- Mow
- Continue to interface with the town of Jaffrey to determine a) when the bridge opposite Cheshire Pond can be planned and b) once the W.W. Cross site is remediated, when the trail north of Webster St. will be eligible for development.

Rindge

- Rail Trail(s): Monadnock Rail Trail
- Partners: Monadnock Sno-Moles, 202 Trucking & Equipment
- Length: 5.4 miles
- Funders: NHSA Raffle, Motorcycle peler run
- Volunteers: Many volunteer hours

2024 Activities:

- Canopy and surface mowing
- Reset culvert
- Apply final trail surface material
- Ditch clearing
- Grading
- Cleanup trash

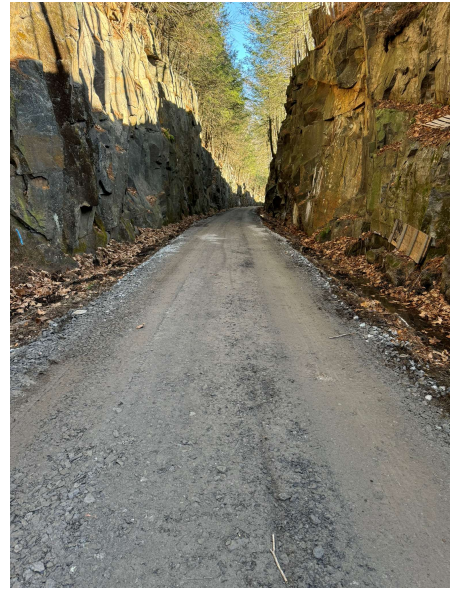


2025 Plans:

- Mow

Surry

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Keene Sno-Riders
- Length: 1 mile
- Funders: Grant-In-Aid grant
- Volunteers: Many volunteer hours



2024 Activities:

- Clear drainage ditches
- Reset culvert
- Apply final trail surface material

2025 Plans:

- Open up the south bridge to allow more water to flow
- Clear drainage ditches
- Mow

Swanzey

- Rail Trail(s): Ashuelot & Cheshire
- Partners: Town of Swanzey, Cheshire County
- Length: 7 miles & 3.5 miles
- Funders: The Swanzey Rail Trail Advisory Committee

2024 Activities:

- Cheshire Rail Trail:
 - Mowed trail 3 times throughout the year
 - Clear drainage ditches and culverts
 - Removed leaves from rail trail surface and drainage ditches
 - Unfortunate event: The excavator was vandalized. Two windows were smashed in.
 - Fix parking area at Mt Huggins Dr
- Ashuelot Rail Trail:
 - Mowed the trail once
 - Completed Ashuelot River truss bridge redecking project
 - Repaired the Ash Swamp Brook bridge
 - Removed leaves from the rail trail surface and drainage ditches
 - Added surface material, graded, and rolled the trail from the south Holbrook Rd crossing to RT10.



2025 Plans:

- Cheshire Rail Trail:
 - Apply final trail surface material
 - Grade & roll trail
 - Mow & remove leaves
- Ashuelot Rail Trail:
 - Mow & remove leaves
 - Drainage ditch and culver clear
 - Hold Bike Event



Troy

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Kim Chaffe, Troy Depot Days Coordinator, SnoMoles, Lukeman Excavation
- Length: 3.9 miles
- Funders:
- Volunteers:

2024 Activities:

- Mowed the trail twice
- Cleaned up fallen trees

2025 Plans:

- Submit a Grant-In-Aid application to remove trees and mow from the Marlborough/Troy town line to the Troy Depot.
- Implement the RTP grant. Fix the trail from the Marlborough/Troy town line to the Troy Depot. This includes
 - Redecking two bridges
 - Ditch clearing
 - Culvert clearing
 - Add surface fill material
 - Add final surface material

Walpole

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Walpole Trail Committee
- Length: 7+ miles
- Funders: Town of Walpole
- Volunteers:

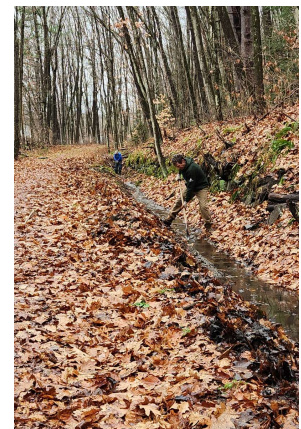


2024 Activities:

- The combined benefits of the ongoing summer brush hogging program and the 2023 drainage improvements led to greatly increased use of the Cheshire Rail Trail in Walpole by pedestrians and bicyclists in 2024. Work during the past year focused on maintaining the rail trail in its improved condition and beginning to plan for future improvements:
 - Brush hogged the mostly grassy surface of the entire 7-mile rail trail twice in the summer.
 - Cut and cleared many trees and branches blocking the trail. Also cut back encroaching vegetation.
 - Cleared silt, leaves and debris from drainage ditches, culverts and water bars. Thirteen volunteers participated in a late autumn trail work day to help maintain the 2023 drainage improvements.
 - Gave two presentations to Walpole audiences about options for future development of the Cheshire Rail Trail in Walpole.

2025 Plans:

- Make incremental improvemets



Westmoreland

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Cheshire County, Westmoreland Snobelters
- Length: 7.5 miles
- Funders: Recreational Trail Program grant
- Volunteers: Hundreds of volunteer hours and several pieces of volunteer equipment

2024 Activities:

- Tree removal
- Drainage ditch clearing
- Culvert clearing
- York rake trail surface
- Canopy mowing
- Trash pickup



2025 Plans:

- Continue tree removal
- Continue drainage ditch clearing
- Continue culvert clearing
- Continue york rake trail surface
- Continue canopy mowing
- Apply trail surface material where appropriate
- Grade and roll



Winchester

- Rail Trail(s): Ashuelot Rail Trail
- Partners:
- Length:
- Funders:
- Volunteers:

2024 Activities:

- Mow
- Cut back trees

2025 Plans:

- Mow
- Cut back trees