



To Our Valued Funders, Volunteers, and Community Partners,

On behalf of the Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative (MRRTC), I am proud to share our 2025 Annual Report. This document is more than a summary of projects—it's a celebration of what's possible when community, public institutions, and private generosity, come together to build something enduring.

In 2025, over 1,000 volunteer hours supported improvements across **40 miles of rail trail**, spanning **10 towns** and **four rail trails**. From the redecking of bridges and restoring trail surfaces to successful public events and expansion of funding, we're making real progress toward a year-round, multi-use regional rail trail system.

Your support makes this possible.

In the following pages, you'll find the tangible results of your generosity—and a vision for 2026 that's equally ambitious. From trail rehabilitation in Fitzwilliam and Swanzey to the running of the 2nd annual Rail Trail Challenge, every project aligns with our mission: to connect communities, promote outdoor access, and stimulate local economies through a high-quality rail trail infrastructure.

We invite you to explore this report not just as a retrospective, but as an invitation. Whether you are a funder, partner, business, individual donor, or volunteer, your continued investment is vital to turning vision into reality.

Thank you for believing in the rail trails and the communities they serve.

With appreciation,

President, Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative

Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative

2025 Annual Report

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mike@monadnockrailtrails.org

January 2026

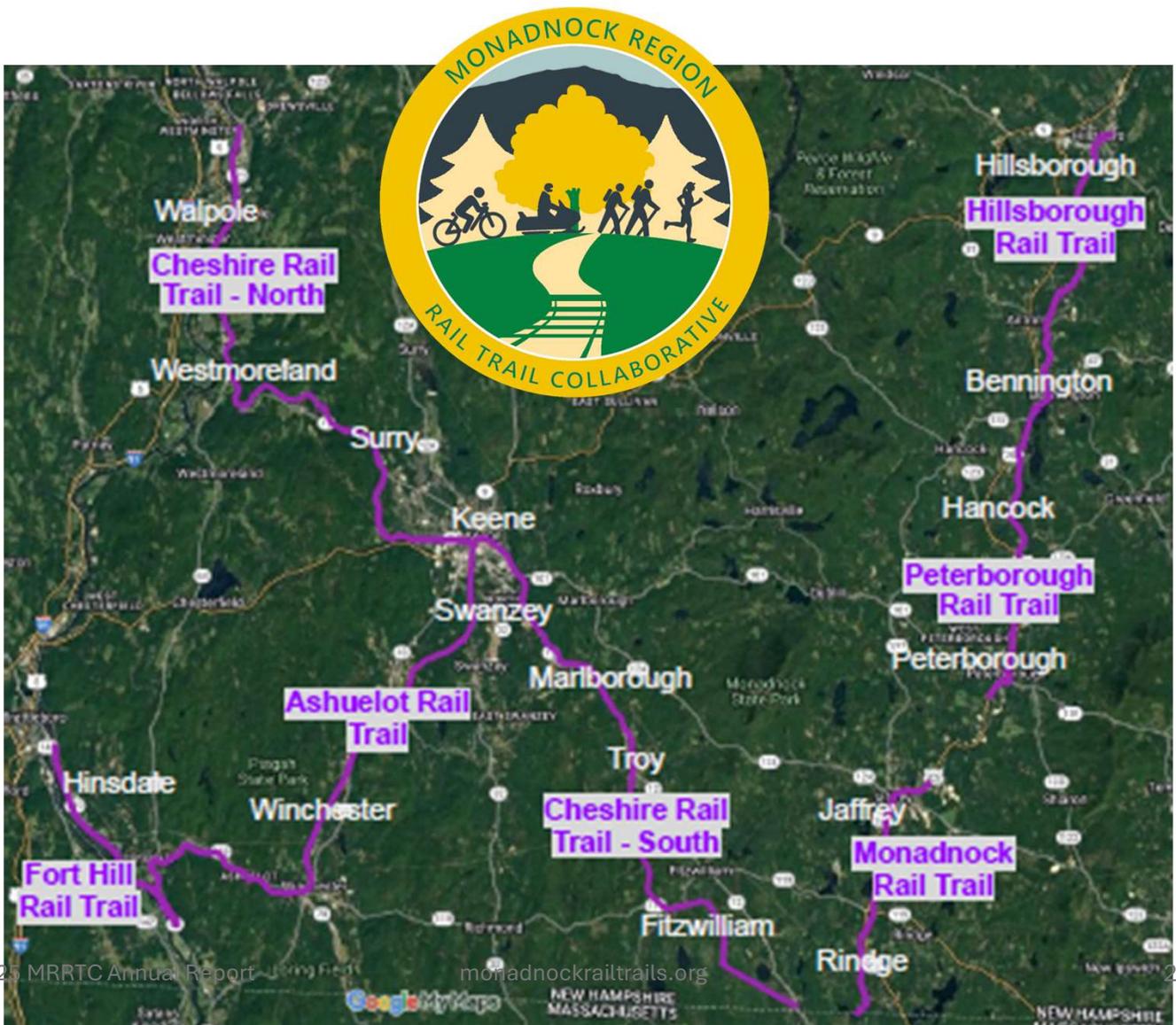


Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
2026 Work Plan	5
2025 Grant Activity	6
2026 Grant Writing Plans	7
2025 Donors	8
2025 Volunteers	9
2025 Rail Trail Challenge	10
Rail Trail Map	14
Fitzwilliam	15
Hinsdale	17
Jaffrey	19
Keene-Northwest	21
Marlborough	23
Rindge	25
Surry	27
Swanzey	29
Troy	31
Westmoreland	37

Executive Summary

Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative's (MRRTC) mission is to transform the Monadnock region rail trail network, to one 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 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 all the rail trail work completed into one summary.

2025 Rail Trails Impacted

- 40 Miles
- 10 Towns
- 4 Rail Trails
- 6 Bridges
- >1000 Volunteer Hours

2026 Work Plan

1. Roll out the 2026 Monadnock Rail Trail Challenge
 - Repeat the challenge similar to 2025
 - Update the rewards
 - Improve the marketing vs 2025
2. Project Implementation
 - Cheshire Rail Trail-Fitzwilliam, RTP funded
 - Ashuelot Rail Trail-Westport Village, Swanzey Rail Trail Advisory Group funded
 - Ashuelot Rail Trail-Swanzey, Bridge Installation near Pine St, NHDOT/Swanzey funded
 - Ashuelot Rail Trail-Swanzey, Flashing Crossing installation, MAST funded
 - Regular maintenance throughout the region: mowing, culvert clearing, remove fallen trees
3. Projects-Pursue Funding
 - Fort Hill Rail Trail-Hinsdale, RTP
 - Tractor/Brush Hog/Side Mower, Sno-Moles, RTP
 - Cheshire Rail Trail –Westmoreland,
 - CRT/MRT Connector Trail-RTP
 - Monadnock Rail Trail-Jaffrey, RTP
4. Fund Raising
 - Cheshire Rail Trail, Keene, Swanzey Factory Rd Bridge
 - Kiosks
5. Other Activities
 - Signage design and installation
 - Kiosk location identification and installation
 - Refine ArcGIS for railroad valuation and project definition
 - Kiosk map design and installation

2025 Grant Activity

Suzanne Bansley, Cheshire County Grant Manager

State of NH Recreational Trails Program \$80,000 for rehab of Cheshire Rail Trail from Westmoreland-Surry line to Walpole line — written in 2023, awarded in 2024, and project completed between Aug 2024 and Aug 2025. Written and sponsored by Cheshire County.

State of NH Recreational Trails Program \$80,000 for rehab of Cheshire Rail Trail that runs through town of Marlborough — written in 2023, awarded in 2024, and project completed between Aug 2024 and Aug 2025. Written by Cheshire County and sponsored by Town of Marlborough.

State of NH Recreational Trails Program \$80,000 for rehab of Cheshire Rail Trail that runs through town of Troy — written in 2024, awarded and project completed in 2025. Written and sponsored by Cheshire County.

American Trails Capacity Program \$9,350.00 for Cheshire Rail Trail North-Northwest Keene Maintenance — written, awarded, and project completed in 2025. Written and sponsored by Cheshire County.

State of NH Recreational Trails Program \$80,000 for rehab of Cheshire Rail Trail that runs through town of Fitzwilliam — written in 2025, award pending and project expected to be completed in 2026. Written and sponsored by Cheshire County.

2026 Grant Writing Plans

State of NH Recreational Trails Program \$80,000 for rehab of a trail segment to be determined — to be written in 2026 and if awarded, to be implemented in 2027. To be written and sponsored by Cheshire County.

State of NH Recreational Trails Program \$80,000 for trail maintenance equipment purchase for Sno-Moles — to be written in 2026 and if awarded, to be implemented in 2027. To be written by Cheshire County and sponsored by the Sno-Moles.

State of NH Recreational Trails Program \$80,000 for rehab of Fort Hill Rail Trail that runs through town of Hinsdale — to be written in 2026 and if awarded, to be implemented in 2027. To be written and sponsored by Town of Hinsdale.

2025 Donors

A big thank you goes out to MRRTC 2025 donors. It is the generosity of our donors that keeps the organization running and trail projects successful.

American Trails
C&S Wholesale Grocers
Edward & Deborah Madigan
Gene Friedman
Greater Monadnock Collaborative
Hutter Construction
Karen Countryman
Marilyn Griska
Microspec Corporation
M&T Bank
NH Horse Council
Richard Cowan
Sage Wheeler
Savings Bank of Walpole
Tom & Lisa Mignault

MRRTC Board Members

Henry Underwood
Jeremy Evans
Mike Kowalczyk
Richard Pendleton
Robert Meissner
Suzanne Bansley
Wendy Grossman
John Hayes

2025 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,
Greater Monadnock Collaborative,
Holman Contracting,
JDK Pavement LLC,
Jeff Watson,
Keene SnoRiders,
Lukeman Excavation LLC,
Mark & Mary Peterburs,
Monadnock Sno-Moles,
MRRTC Board
NH Bureau of Trails,
NH Department of Transportation,
NHRTC,

Pathways For Keene,
Pisgah Mountain Trailriders,
Senator Donovan Fenton,
Southwest Region 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.

2025 Rail Trail Challenge



With marketing and financial support from the Great Monadnock Collaborative, 2025 was the first year for the Monadnock Rail Trail Challenge. The challenge invited rail trail enthusiasts to embark on a self-paced adventure across the scenic Monadnock rail trail network using any method of travel—whether biking, hiking, running, or horseback riding. Participants had until December 31st to complete their journey, encouraging exploration at your own pace while embracing the great outdoors.

Every check-in at a participating local businesses marks a milestone on the adventure and earns reward points. These points not only track your progress but also unlock access to an exclusive rewards store, where redeemer can claim exciting prizes.

2025 Rail Trail Challenge

Participating Businesses/Check-In Locations



A1 Pizza and Grill
987 Brattleboro Rd, Hinsdale, NH 03451, USA



Cheshire Rail Trail South End



Aesop's Tables & Events
12 Depot St, Peterborough, NH 03458, USA



Diamond Pizza
417 Main St, Walpole, NH 03608, USA



Ashuelot River Campground
152 Pine St, Swanzey, NH 03446, USA



Elmwood Junction



Ashuelot/Fort Hill Southern End



Emma's 321 Pub & Kitchen
377 US-202, Rindge, NH 03461, USA



Bacon Me Crazy
6 Main St, Hinsdale, NH 03451, USA



Fort Hill Rail Trail North End



Bagel Mill
145 Grove St, Peterborough, NH 03458, USA



Frisky Cow Gelato
80 Krif Rd, Keene, NH 03431, USA



Barn and Thistle
784 NH-63, Westmoreland, NH 03467, USA



Granita Enoteca
51 Railroad St, Keene, NH 03431, USA



Beeze Tees Screen Printing
117 Main St, Keene, NH 03431, USA



Hillsborough Rail Trail South End



Bulldog Design
147 Winchester St, Keene, NH 03431, USA



Historic Fitzwilliam Passenger Rail Depot
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447, USA



Cheshire Rail Trail North End



Jaffrey Pizza Barn
6 Blake St, Jaffrey, NH 03452, USA

2025 Rail Trail Challenge

Participating Businesses/Check-In Locations



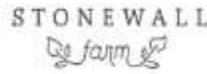
Jingles Christmas Shop
1024 NH-12, Westmoreland, NH 03467



Shadow and Soul Emporium & Tea Lounge
20 Main St, Keene, NH 03431, USA



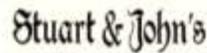
Madame Sherri's Lounge & Cabaret
82 Main St, Keene, NH 03431, USA



Stonewall Farm
242 Chesterfield Rd, Keene, NH 03431, USA



Modestman Brewing
100 Main St, Keene, NH 03431, USA



Stuart & John's Sugar House
31 NH-63, Westmoreland, NH 03467, USA



Monadnock Country Cafe
80 Peterborough St, Jaffrey, NH 03452



Summit Winery
719 NH-12, Westmoreland, NH 03467, USA



Monadnock Rail Trail South End



Taco Beyondo
53 Henniker St, Hillsborough, NH 03244, USA



New England Sweetwater Farm & Distillery
136 Main St, Winchester, NH 03470, USA



Ted's Shoe & Sport
115 Main St, Keene, NH 03431, USA



Pelletier's Sports Shop
105 Peterborough St, Jaffrey, NH 03452



The Arlington Inn & Tavern
71 Main St, Winchester, NH 03470, USA



Phoenix Smokehouse
242 US-202, Rindge, NH 03461, USA



The Bridges Inn at Whitcomb House
27 Main St, Swanzey, NH 03446, USA



Prime Roast Coffee Co
16 Main St, Keene, NH 03431, USA



The Hungry Diner
9 Edwards Ln, Walpole, NH 03608, USA



Sandwich Master
19 Sonja Drive, Rindge, NH 03461, USA



The Ice Cream Bar
5 W Main St suite b, Hillsborough, NH 03244

2025 Rail Trail Challenge

Participating Businesses/Check-In Locations



The Monadnock Center for History and Culture
19 Grove St, Peterborough, NH 03458, USA



The Village Art Cafe
17 W Main St, Hillsborough, NH 03244, USA



TNT Fireworks Supercenter - Hinsdale
963 Brattleboro Rd, Hinsdale, NH 03451, USA



Troy B&M Railroad Depot
24-54 Water St, Troy, NH 03465, USA



Troy Deli And Marketplace
33 Central Square, Troy, NH 03465, USA



Yellow Bell Cafe
45 Main St, Keene, NH 03431, USA

2025 Monadnock Region/Keene Rail Trail Map

Outdoor enthusiasts, walkers, runners, and cyclists have a new way to explore the region's scenic pathways with the release of the *Monadnock Region / Keene Rail Trail Map*. Available both in print and available for download, the map highlights almost 100 miles of converted rail corridors that now serve as accessible, year-round trails for recreation and transportation.

The map features Southwest NH, including all of Cheshire County and the eastern part of Hillsborough County as well as neighboring communities in Massachusetts and Vermont. The City of Keene is featured in detail. The map covers rail trails owned by the State of New Hampshire, such as the Cheshire Rail Trail as well as locally or privately managed rail trails. Designed for locals and visitors, each side offers detailed route information, access points, and connections to other trail systems. The map also features information about trail surface condition, parking locations, distances and a variety of other information like other recreational trails, permitted users (for State-owned sections), and more.

The collaboration between five local organizations to complete the map of the region's rail trails was no small feat. The work was made possible through the contributions of many organizations and individuals from start to finish. The idea to create a new printed map of the region's rail trails first came about in 2024 when the City set out to develop an updated map for kiosks around the City. Pathways for Keene saw an opportunity to expand this vision. A 2002 map of rail trails and bike routes produced by Pathways for Keene needed an update and was limited to Cheshire County. After connecting with Southwest Region Planning Commission, the Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative and the Monadnock Conservancy, representatives of the five organizations regularly met to sketch out a new map which would feature both a greater amount of detail and larger area compared to previous efforts.

The printed map is available in Keene at Norm's Ski and Bike Shop Alpine Bike Works and the Greater Monadnock Collaborative regional chamber of commerce.

The online version can be accessed at the SWRPC website: www.swrpc.org/rail-trail-map or the following QR code. Browse at home, take it with you on your phone, or to your favorite printer.



Fitzwilliam

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

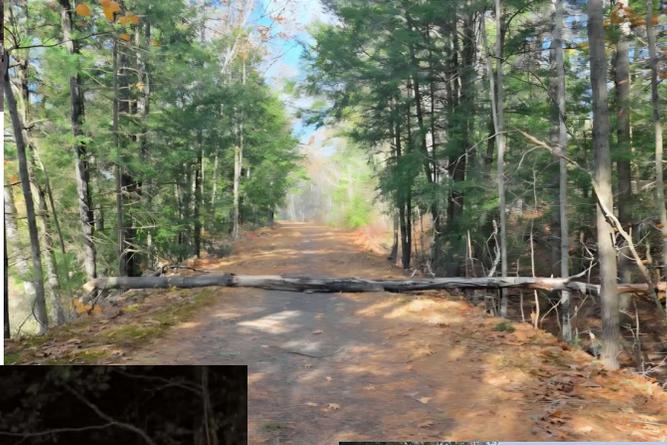
2025 Activities:

- The SnoMoles performed much trail maintenance in the form of surface mowing, tree removal, ledge removal.

2026 Plans:

- Via an RTP grant secured by Cheshire County, ~4.0 miles will be rehabilitated.
- Surface mowing-SnoMoles
- Tree removal-SnoMoles

Fitzwilliam



Picture provided by Chris Silvia & Tony Pilat

Hinsdale

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

2025 Activities:

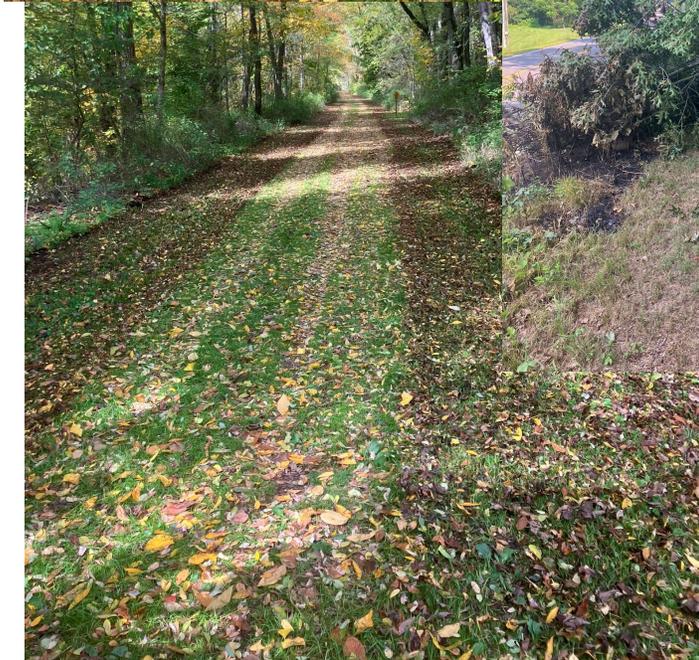
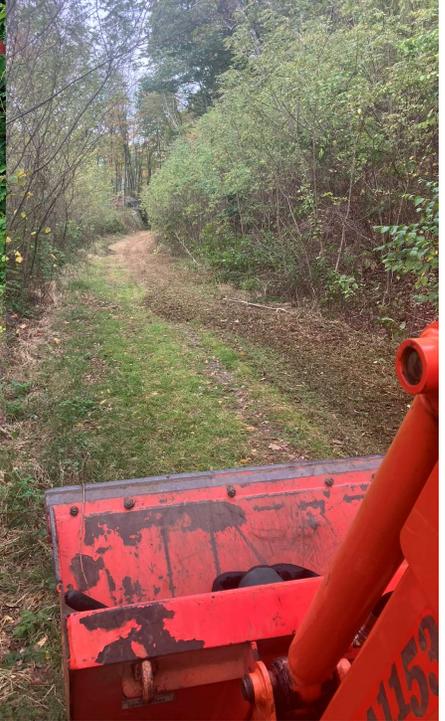
- Mowing-Pisgah Mt TrailRiders
- Tree removal-Pisgah Mt TrailRiders

2026 Plans:

- Town of Hinsdale apply for the RTP grant to rehabilitate the Fort Hill Rail Trail. If awarded, construction would occur in 2027.
- The MRRTC apply for the Grant-in-Aid grant to remove trees and canopy mow the Fort Hill Rail Trail
- Mowing

Hinsdale

The Forst Hill Rail Trail-Mowing & Tree Removal



Picture provided by Buck Rogers

Jaffrey

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

2025 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.
- Installation of four benches-MRRTC, Town of Jaffrey
- Removal of protruding roots-SnoMoles

2026 Plans:

- Mow
- Apply for an RTP grant to rehabilitate the Monadnock Rail Trail from Webster St to Hadley Rd. This will be phase 1 of a multi-phase plan expected to take 3 years to complete.
- Relocate benches and affix appreciation plaque.
- Seek to raise \$10k to purchase a rickshaw-type e-bike to transport 2 passengers with limited mobility for trail outings.

Jaffrey



Jaffrey River Fest



Making use of the newly installed benches

Picture provided by Bob Meissner

Keene-Northwest

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Cheshire County, American Trails, Keene SnoRides, NHBOT
- Length: 1.5 miles
- Funding: American Trails, GIA grant (FY25, C&E 2025-24)

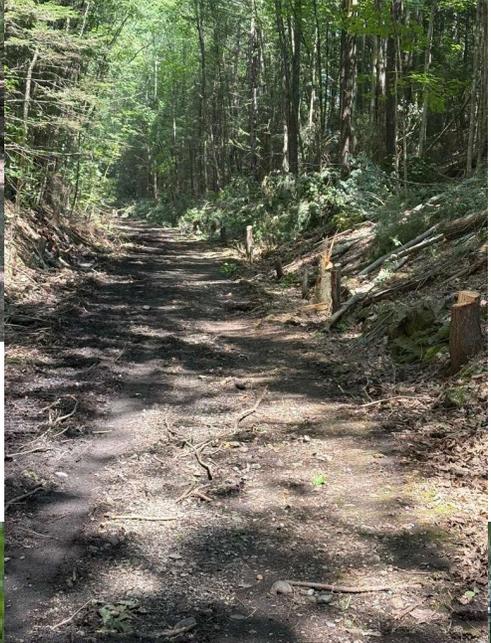
2025 Activities:

- Tree removal, mowing, ditch clearing, culvert resetting, culvert clearing, and culvert installation on the section of the Cheshire Rail Trail from the Aimee Brown header trail to the Keene/Surry town line-Cheshire County, Keene SnoRiders, MRRTC
- At the very south end of the granite cut in Surry, raised the bridge to prevent debris from building up under the bridge and cause flooding of the trail-Cheshire County, Keene SnoRiders, MRRTC
- Removed the wearr strips off the bridge just south of the Keene landfill-MRRTC

2026 Plans:

- Keene SnoRiders to apply new wear strips to the bridge just south of the Keene recycle center.

Keene-Northwest



Raised bridge



Clearing the trail

Picture provided by Mary & Mark Peterburs

Marlborough

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Cheshire County, Town of Marlborough, Lukeman Excavation, NHBOT
- Length: 2.3 miles
- Funding: Recreational Trails Program Grant, FY24, 24-13, CRT Marlborough-Phase 1)

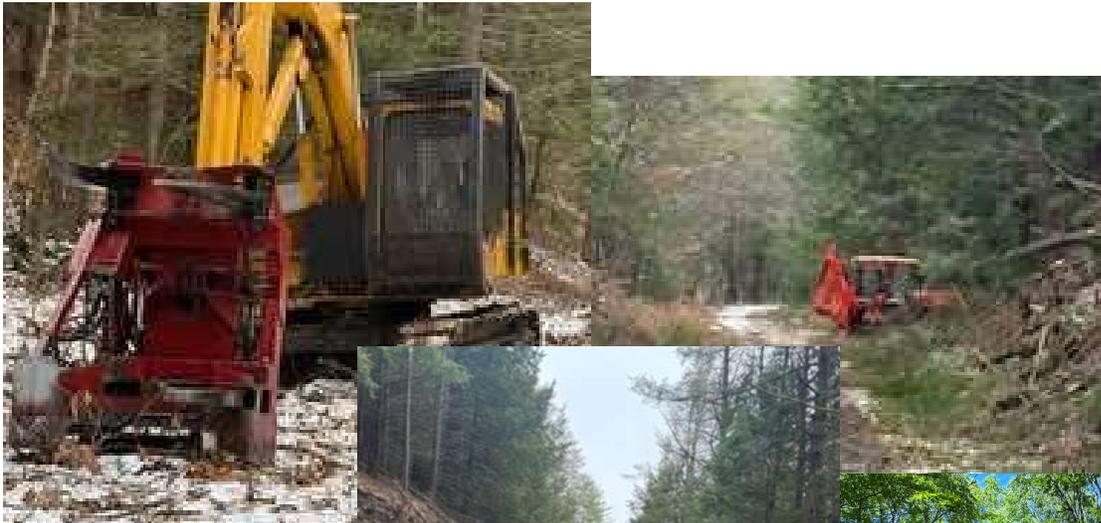
2025 Activities:

- Tree removal, mowing, ditch clearing, culvert resetting, culvert clearing, and culvert installation on the section of the Cheshire Rail Trail from the Marlborough/Swanzey town line to the Marlborough/Troy town line. Applied 304.7 hard pack material, graded, rolled- Town of Marlborough, MRRTC, Lukeman Excavation

2026 Plans:

- Mowing

Marlborough



Tree removal
& final trail
surface



Pictures provided by Mary & Mark Peterburs

Rindge

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

2025 Activities:

- Canopy and surface mowing-SnoMoles
- Clear trees-SnoMoles
- Grade surface-SnoMoles
- Remove trash-SnoMoles
- Installation of a bench-Town of Jaffrey, MRRTC

2026 Plans:

- Mow
- Apply for RTP grant to enhance the Monadnock RT to Cheshire Rail Trail connector trail.
- The Sno-Moles plan to redeck the bridge just south of West Main St.
- Relocate a bench and affix appreciation plaque.

Rindge

The Sno-Moles were very busy on the Monadnock Rail Trail in Rindge clearing trees, mowing, grading sections of the trail surface.



Pictures provided by Tony Pilat & Chris Silvia

Surry

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Keene SnoRiders, NHBOT
- Length: 1 mile
- Funders: American Trails

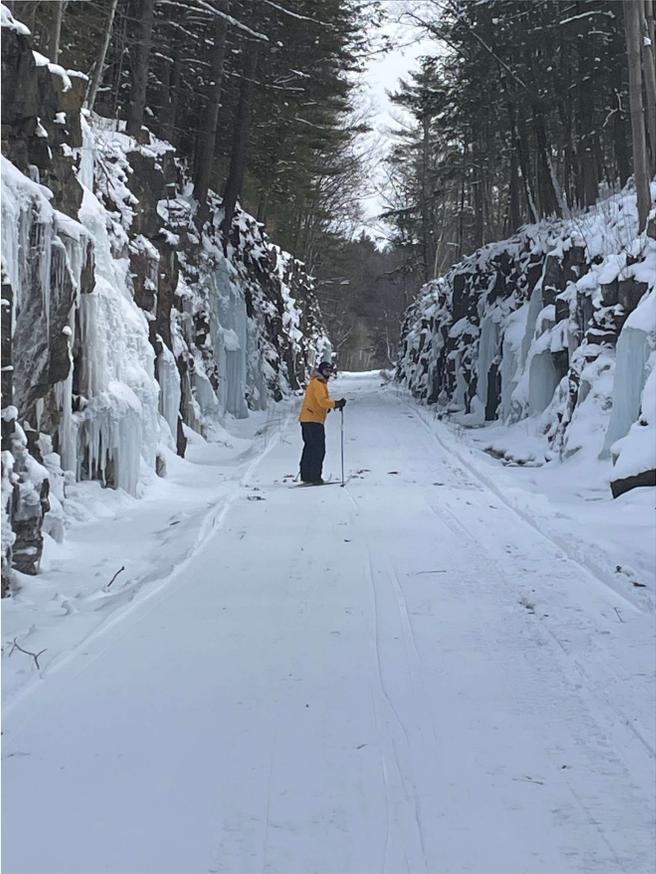
2025 Activities:

- Cheshire Rail Trail:
 - Mowed-Volunteers
 - Installed a couple of culverts to better manage the water in the cut

2026 Plans:

- Cheshire Rail Trail:
 - Mow, remove fallen trees, remove leaves
 - Add signage

Surry



Pictures provided by Mary & Mark Peterburs

Swanzey

- Rail Trail(s): Ashuelot & Cheshire
- Partners: Town of Swanzey, Cheshire County, Keene SnoRiders, NHBOT
- Length: 7 miles & 3.5 miles
- Funders: The Swanzey Rail Trail Advisory Committee, NHBOT RTP Grant (FY25, 25-15, CRT-Swanzey), NHBOT GIA

2025 Activities:

- Cheshire Rail Trail:
 - Mowed-Volunteers
 - Major work was completed by the Swanzey Department of Public Works. Leaves removed, fill applied where appropriated, organic material removed, hardpack applied.
- Ashuelot Rail Trail:
 - Mowed-Volunteers
 - The two most northern washouts fix via the Keene SnoRiders and NHBOT GIA grant
 - The Swanzey DPW helped with:
 - Added detour sign to guide users around the 5 remaining washouts
 - Fixed three rusted culverts therefore preventing a future trail washout. Many thanks!!

2026 Plans:

- Cheshire Rail Trail:
 - Mow, remove fallen trees, remove leaves
 - Add signage
- Ashuelot Rail Trail:
 - Mow, remove fallen trees, remove leaves
 - Fix washout near the Eversource substation
 - From the south Holbrook Rd crossing to RT10, mow, clear ditches, apply hardpack material
 - New deck, wear strips, and handrails on Ash Swamp Brook bridge

Swanzey



Detour signs installed around the Ashuelot Rail Trail washouts



Fix 3 rusted culverts and rail bed on the Ashuelot Rail Trail

Pictures provided by Mary & Mark Peterburs

Troy

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Kim Chaffe, Troy Depot Day Coordinator, SnoMoles, Holman Contracting & Landscape Materials, Cheshire County, NHBOT
- Length: 3.9 miles
- Funders: Troy Conservation Commission, NHBOT RTP Grant (FY25, 25-19, CRT Troy), NHBOT GIA Grant (FY25, C&E 2025-32)
- Volunteers: SnoMoles Members

2025 Activities:

- Major trail work completed from the Marlborough/Troy town line to the Troy Depot (2.0 miles). The work included tree removal, mowing, ditch clearing, culvert clearing, culvert fixing, apply fill material, apply hardpack material- Holman Contracting, Cheshire County, the SnoMoles, MRRTC.
- Redeck two bridges, both near Lawerance Rd, Troy. Many thanks to the SnoMoles, NHBOT, and Troy Conservation Commission.

2026 Plans:

- Mow and remove fallen trees
- Install signage
- Install a kiosk near the Troy Depot

Troy



Before: 7/14/2025
72.8445861, -72.18648945

After: 10/21/2025
42.8441989, -72.18805



Compiled by Jennifer Robinson, Cheshire County Grant Specialist.

Troy



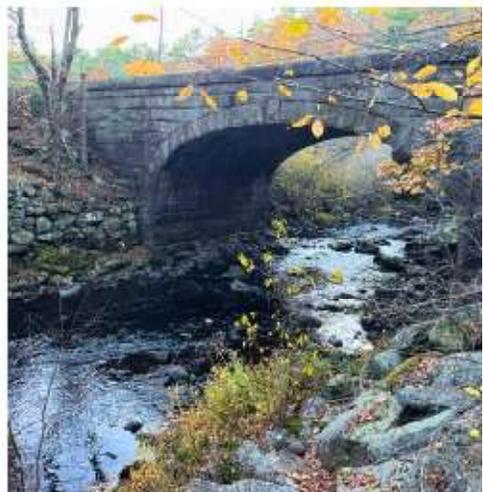
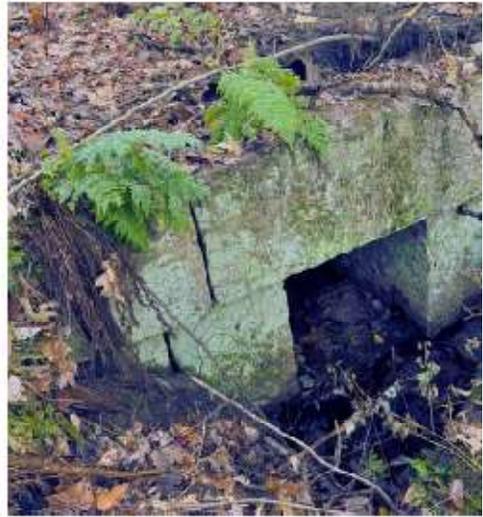
Before: 8/24/2025
42.8521361, -72.194289

After: 10/21/2025
42.8521472, -72.194429



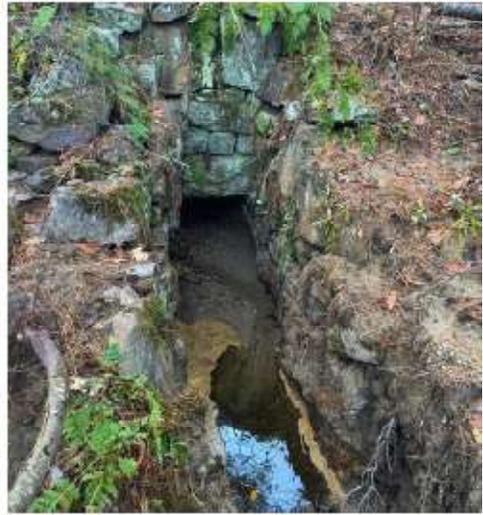
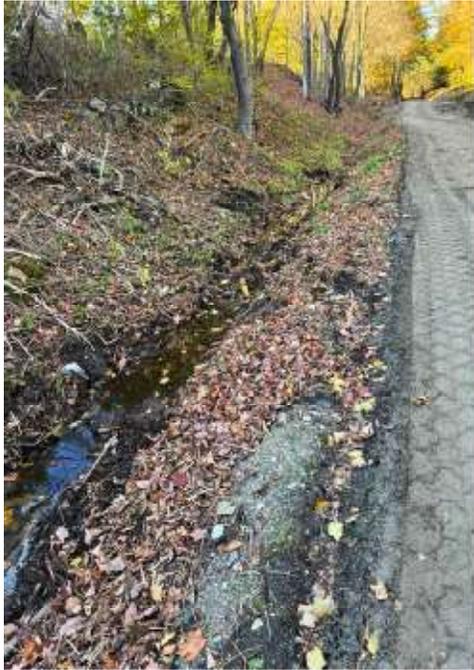
Compiled by Jennifer Robinson, Cheshire County Grant Specialist.

Troy



Compiled by Jennifer Robinson, Cheshire County Grant Specialist.

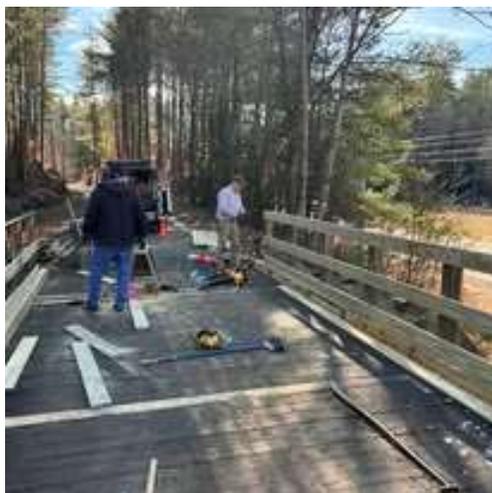
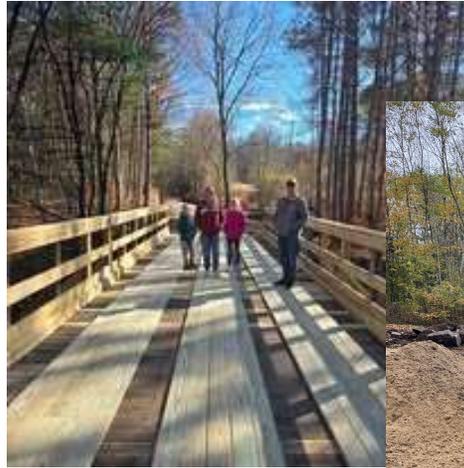
Troy



Compiled by Jennifer Robinson, Cheshire County Grant Specialist.

Troy

The Sno-Moles redecked two Cheshire Rail Trail bridges in Troy. Many folks attended. Both bridges look great and will be safe to travel for years to come



Pictures provided by Tony Pilat, Sno-Moles

Westmoreland

- Rail Trail(s): Cheshire
- Partners: Cheshire County, Westmoreland Snobelters, Pat Rawson Construction, NHBOT
- Length: 7.5 miles
- Funders: Recreational Trail Program (FY24, 24-15, CRT Surry/Westmoreland –Phase 2), GIA grant (FY25, C&E 2025-62)
- Volunteers: Hundreds of volunteer hours and several pieces of volunteer equipment

2025 Activities:

- Completed the RTP project through Westmoreland which included encroaching tree removal, canopy mowing, ditch clearing, culvert clearing, adding a culvert, grading the trail surface, adding surface material-Cheshire County, Westmoreland Snobelters, Pat Rawson , MRRTC.
- Trail mowed twice- Westmoreland Snobelters
- Painted the picnic table located a little west of Mt Gilboa-Westmoreland Snobelters
- The Sno Belters added wear strips on the bridge just south of Aldrich Rd to prevent bike tires from getting caught between wear strips.

2026 Plans:

- Westmoreland created a trail committee
- Apply trail surface material where appropriate
- Grade and roll

Westmoreland



Pictures provided by Mary & Mark Peterburs

The Cheshire Rail Trail project through Westmoreland wrapped up in 2025. The wetspot north of Depot Rd was fixed. Surface material added.