



Shoreline Greenway Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 148, Branford, CT 06405 • www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org

Dear Friends –

Each spring as I collect my thoughts for the annual report, I think it's not possible to outdo the previous year's progress. And each spring I am amazed at how much more we have, indeed, accomplished. We have made contact and negotiated with more landowners, cleared the way for more trail segments, finished more sections, achieved more political support, raised more money and engaged more people than ever in our mission to build a 25-mile trail between Lighthouse Point and Hammonasset Beach.

Our progress this year was driven by the preliminary engineering study undertaken by Stantec Inc., under the auspices of the South Central Regional Council of Governments. The Stantec study will define much of our 25-mile route and will recommend which sections should be constructed using the federal funds we were awarded several years ago. In their research, the Stantec team walked every inch of our proposed route, as well as numerous alternative segments. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who prepared for and accompanied the Stantec representatives, and, specifically, Jack Wood, our trail development chairman, for so ably overseeing it all.

In addition to defining the trail, our ability to make it happen was boosted in the past year by the challenge of a Matching Fund Campaign. A few devoted members have pooled their resources to create a *Double Your Money Fund*, that will match all gifts, up to a total of \$35,000. The deadline has been extended through June 30. This is a tremendous opportunity to stretch the value of your dollar further than ever, and I encourage you to take advantage of it now.

Our First Saturday Walks have established a dedicated following and draw new people each month, as well. And not to be left out, the cyclists among us have launched the "Cyber Bike Club" to track their many miles. Our membership continues to grow, and our volunteer ranks continue to expand.

In the coming year, we will receive and begin to implement the recommendations of the preliminary engineering study; we will raise the funds to complete more sections of our trail; we will celebrate our shared love of the outdoors on Connecticut Trails Day; and we will walk and pedal our way closer to achieving our vision of a glorious recreation path that will connect the places and people of the shoreline.

I know that as I collect my thoughts a year from now, I will again be amazed by our progress. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of the Shoreline Greenway Trail.

Sincerely,

Chip Angle,
Chairman

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Glenn Formica



Board of Directors present at April 2010 meeting (seated from left: Kristi Nordgaard, Regina Romero, Terry Maguire, Terry McGuire; Back row: Ginny Raff, Jack Wood, Glenn Gaffield, Pam Simonds, Chip Angle, Joe Marshall, Val Murray, Pete Peterson, Judy Miller, Peggy Wood, Barbara Goetsch)

Photo Credit: Pam Bisbee-Simonds, Guilford

BUILDING THE TRAIL

Preliminary Engineering Study Nears Completion

Stantec Inc., the firm engaged by Shoreline Greenway Trail and the South Central Regional Council of Governments to conduct a preliminary engineering study of the proposed 25-mile route, is nearing completion of its study and report. After months of physical examination and countless hours of personal contact with landowners and interested parties, the Hamden-based firm is expected to produce a report detailing the benefits and challenges of the route (whether they be logistical, financial or physical) and their recommendations.

Stantec representatives have literally explored every inch of the proposed route with representatives of SGT's trail development team and town engineering departments. They met with each town team to discuss known and potentially unknown obstacles, the proposed routes and some alternatives. And they held open meetings with "stakeholders" who have a vested interest in the trail, and with specific landowners to ask and answer questions, explain possibilities and explore different options.



Photo Credit: Pam Bisbee-Simonds, Guilford

By mid-May, Stantec will hold public meetings in each town to present its proposals, answer questions and seek public input. The culmination of the work will include a final presentation of the details of their report in the late spring of 2010.

Double Your Dollars

A group of devoted members, conscious of the economic stress many are facing, have established a Matching Fund and launched a campaign to make your contribution worth twice as much. The Matching Fund will double your contribution to Shoreline Greenway Trail, up to \$35,000. It is the ideal time to contribute, as gifts may also be combined with federal funds which require \$1 raised locally for every \$4 of federal funding. Thus, a \$100 gift would be doubled to \$200 by the Matching Fund, and could be matched by federal dollars to provide \$1,000 toward the construction of the trail.

No amount is too small, and the deadline has been extended to June 30, so please consider sending your donation now to Shoreline Greenway Trail Inc., PO Box 148, Branford, CT 06405. Thank you for supporting the Trail!



Photo Credit: Pat Anderson, Madison



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Trail Members Keep It Moving Every First Saturday

SGT's First Saturday Walks have become a standard for some, and an occasional adventure for many others. Walkers of all ages and tempos came out to explore trail sections in each of the towns. Holidays and nasty weather reduced the number to about a dozen walkers, while "regular" conditions and exciting locales brought out as many as a hundred. We're looking forward to our Spring and Summer walks and hope to see you there!

- Saturday, May 1, 10 am* Branford - Western Boundary of Branford to the Farm River
- Saturday, June 5, 10 am* East Haven - East Haven's Hidden Treasure - The Farm River State Park
- Saturday, July 3, 10 am* Madison - co-sponsored with the Madison Land Conservation Trust at Ironwoods Trail
- Saturday, August 7, 10 am* Guilford – Indian Cove to Sachem's Head

Connecticut Trails Day Tradition Continues

June 5, 2010 at 10 a.m.

Shoreline Greenway Trail will once again join the statewide celebration of Connecticut Trails Day, this year with a ribbon cutting in East Haven. Boy Scouts from Troop 401, who have helped build much of the trail in the neighborhood of DC Moore School, will lead the hike through picturesque woods to an overview of the Bradford Preserve tidal wetlands and backtrack into the peaceful and pristine Farm River State Park. It is an easy, pleasant walk with one small steep (optional) section in the Park.

A ribbon cutting by local officials will celebrate the opening of the newest finished trail section within the boundaries of the Farm River State Park. The hike will feature a photography tour for camera buffs wishing to document the extraordinary "Hidden Treasures" in the Farm River State Park. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the walk.

The hike, on June 5, at 10 a.m. is approximately one and a half miles, about an hour and a half. Meet at DC Moore School on Elliot Street, the western parking lot.



Photo Credit: George Kenyon, East Haven



Cyber Bike Club Takes Off

Everything is cyber these days, so why not a bike club? The Trail launched the SGT Cyber Bike Club™ at the end of 2009 to motivate our biking members to get out and ride more. It's very simple – no meetings, no dues, no hassle. All you need is a bike, a water bottle, and a helmet. A bike computer to record mileage is useful, too.

To join, you need to email some basic information to the club coordinator at cyberbiker@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org: your cyber biker handle (a nickname that will let you be anonymous on the SGT website), your gender, your age, and your personal goal for the year (the number of miles you want to ride). By committing to a goal you are more likely to challenge yourself to meet it.

At the end of each month, the Cyber Bike Club coordinator reminds members to report miles ridden that month. These miles are added to a chart on the Shoreline Greenway Trail website to show each cyber biker's progress through the year. Members who like competition can compare their progress to others in the same gender and age group. Some members are counting only miles ridden outside while others include indoor bike miles logged too. We encourage members to do whatever makes them bike more.

Learn more about the bike club, as well as suggestions for great places to ride, on the SGT website, www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org (click on Cyber Bike Club).



BUILDING MOMENTUM

Celebrate our Progress — Come to Our 8th Annual Meeting

Join us to celebrate a year of accomplishments and to help direct the course of the next year! The Annual Meeting of Shoreline Greenway, hosted by the Guilford Town Team, will be held Tuesday, May 11th at the Guilford Free Library. The 6:15 p.m. meeting includes a brief report on the year, election of town representatives and board members, and is followed by a 7:00 program presented by Judy Preston on “Nature and Health – How Nature Sustains Us.” Preston is Long Island Sound Outreach Coordinator for UConn’s Connecticut Sea Grant, founder and first president of the Old Saybrook Land Trust, and founder of the Tidewater Institute, a community-based non-profit conservation organization striving to implement collaborative resource protection and management in the Connecticut River estuary region. She will speak on the connection between nature and health, the effects of living a ‘wired’ lifestyle, and how to connect to nature in simple ways. Refreshments will be served.



Photo Credit: Betsy Regan, Branford

Donate a Bike for Haiti May 11th Before the Annual Meeting

If you have a “gently used” bike to donate, please bring it to the top of the Guilford Green on May 11 between 5:30 and 6:15, before the Annual Meeting. Look for our SGT sign near a pick-up truck. Bikes for Kids coordinator, Dave Fowler, will be there to receive your bike. The Old Lyme organization has rehabilitated and donated thousands of bicycles to kids in need across the state over the past 20 years. Now they are conducting a “Bikes for Haiti” campaign to provide affordable, reliable transportation to residents of the island country devastated by the earthquake earlier this year. Dave needs to know how many bikes to expect, so please call 203-453-2271 and leave your name, telephone, with message “donate bike” or email info@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org with same info. And thank you!!



Photo Credit: Pat Anderson, Madison

Website Gets Upgrade

Last month local web designer Cathi Bosco was hired to help us add more ‘bells and whistles’ and create a new look and feel for our website. The upgraded site - slated for launch in May – will be more user-friendly and informative. Just as importantly, it will better reflect our vision of making the pleasures of being outdoors easily accessible while preserving the landscape and beauty of our shoreline communities. Stay tuned for the launch announcement, or simply visit www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org in May to start seeing the changes! Last Call: if you’d like to be part of the select group of individuals who are providing feedback to us prior to going ‘live’ with the new site, please contact us at info@shorelinegreenwaytrail.com and put “website revision” in subject.



TOWN TEAM REPORTS

Madison

With the generous support of Anthem Blue Cross, the Madison Newcomers Club, the Madison Jaycees, and many individuals, trail construction got underway in Madison. Trail Chair Perry Rianhard supervised the installation of an 1,800-foot fence and 1,800 feet of trail in the Hammonasset section. This section of the trail, even though unfinished, is being used extensively by walkers, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers.

In addition, two students from the Yale School of Forestry, Abigail Adams and Emily Alcott, worked largely with the Madison team on a project that surveyed trail progress to date, outlined coming challenges, and offered extensive research on what other trails have done to overcome some of the obstacles.



Photo Credit: Pat Anderson, Madison



Photo Credit: Pat Anderson, Madison

Guilford

Much of the year in Guilford was spent on building land owner relationships, and engaging new and enthusiastic volunteers. Because the preliminary engineering study involved making contact with each landowner, it required extensive GPS mapping, photography and identification which were undertaken by Sam Gertz. The team is currently negotiating an easement with one landowner, and continuing to work with Amtrak and the State of Connecticut to ease concerns about liability on three sections of railroad property.

The Guilford team also began working with the Southern Connecticut State University geography department, which has the equipment and database expertise to provide in-depth information, including maintenance schedules, geological and botanical and species data and other pertinent facts.



Branford

In June, the Branford Team unveiled the first trailhead sign and opened a new trail section, including the first easement with a private landowner granted to SGT. The event was marked by local political leaders coincident with Connecticut Trails Day, and by the family and friends of Bradley Roth, who erected the sign for his Eagle Scout project under the guidance of Pete Peterson. The structure features a large map, a roof overhang, an information/brochure rack, and a bench for resting or meeting up with friends. It is located at the Birch Road parking area. The Connecticut Trails Day hike proceeded through the new section of trail behind the Pine Orchard Association building, across the road into the Tabor Drive property where the term “unfinished trail” belies the effort that has gone

into making it walkable. The Branford team also did a great deal of physical work on areas in the west end of town, as part of the preliminary engineering study, and in Pine Orchard to connect the trail between Young Park and the Stony Creek Trolley Trail.



Photo Credit: Pam Bisbee-Simonds, Guilford



Photo Credit: George Kenyon, East Haven

East Haven

The East Haven team partnered with the East Haven Garden Club and the Family Resource Center at DC Moore School to plant a garden. Funding for the garden was made available through a Connecticut Department of Education Youth Service Grant. This garden will be used as an open classroom for the children at DC Moore School. Boy Scouts from Troop 401, under the direction of Gino Appi, constructed four benches in the area.

In addition, the Town of East Haven created a parking area nearby at the corner of Hoop Pole and Mansfield Groove roads. Heading east, volunteers cleared a trail through the Farm River State Park and will celebrate this accomplishment in 2010 in conjunction with Connecticut Trails Day in June.



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2009 Annual Report



Outstanding Volunteers 2008

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