



On the Calendar

- Oct. 2: FGRT Fall Foliage Tour
- Oct. 16-17: Giant Pumpkin Weighoff/Regatta
- Oct. 26: FGRT Meeting, Parks & Rec Bldg., 7PM
- Nov. 6: Ski & Skate Sale
- Nov. 23: FGRT Meeting, Parks & Rec Bldg., 7PM

Be a friend of the trail..
**Join FGRT!**
Individual Membership \$20
Family Membership \$40
(Tax-deductible!)
GoffstownRailTrail.org



The 18th Annual **Goffstown Ski & Skate Sale** will be sponsored again this year by the

FGRT! Consignments will be received at the Parks and Recreation Bldg. at 155 S. Mast Road, Saturday Nov. 6th, 7AM to 9:30 AM. Sales of new equipment, and new/used consignments, will be from 10AM to 2PM the same day.

Volunteers are needed to support this fund-raising event. Jobs are in 2-hour blocks.

If you're able to help, please contact Dave Pierce at 497-8278. Thanks for your support!



Noticed Your Rail Trail Lately? 2010's Improvements Making an Impact

The rail trail's presence in Goffstown is more evident thanks to a new bulletin board built adjacent to the Parks and Recreation building at 155 S. Mast Rd.

The bulletin board and the accompanying footbridge were built as an Eagle Scout project by Henry MacGibbon, a member of Goffstown's local Troop 99. This is now the third Eagle Scout project sponsored by the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail. As with the previous projects,

the proposed donation was presented to the Board of Selectmen, who then voted to accept the donation.

The bulletin board followed a design used by the NH Fish and Game Department, also utilized at two other town locations: the Glen Lake Waterfront, and the end of Mountain Base Road. The footbridge is an near-exact replica of the bridge installed in 2008 just 300 yards down the trail, except this one is 4 feet wide; the other bridge is 12 feet in width.



The FGRT continues to seek Eagle Scout projects. Such projects are a win-win situation for the scout, his troop, and the greater community.

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Manchester Trail Link Pending Trestle Study

Selectmen Talk With Mayor Gatsas

On August 6th Goffstown Selectmen David Pierce and Steve Fournier met with Mayor Ted Gatsas to discuss plans to rehab the former Boston and Maine railroad trestle. When completed, the updated bridge over the Piscataquog River will provide the final link connecting Manchester's trail to the Goffstown Rail Trail.

The Selectmen's message was: Manchester should consider a bridge substructure with no piers, or less piers, than those at the site at the present time. This was because early engineering studies indicated the existing piers would be

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Goffstown Community Rail Trail Day Exceeds Expectations

Nearly 100 Attend 1st Annual Trail Day

On Saturday July 24th, the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail held the first annual Goffstown Community Rail Trail Day, to encourage the public to come and experience the rail trail. Volunteers were set up at two different start points along the trail to welcome attendees and host guided walks.

Participants had a choice of walking/bicycling 1.5 miles to a midpoint and returning (3 miles total), or taking an optional free shuttle ride back to the start. Supplied with complimentary route maps, some traveled on their own, others took advantage of the guided walks.

It was a hot and humid July day, but attendees appeared to enjoy themselves, including walkers, bicyclists, dog-walkers, as well as families pushing little ones in strollers. Several Board of Selectmen members and other town officials also joined the walk. Response from the event was extremely positive, leading to the planning of the FGRT's Fall Foliage Tour (see sidebar).



Fall Foliage Tour October 2nd

Based partly on the positive response to the July Goffstown Community Rail Trail day event, the FGRT is holding the first annual Fall Foliage Tour to enjoy trailside autumn colors. Scheduled for Saturday Oct 2nd (with a rain date of Oct 3rd), the planned route includes beautiful foliage views.

The Fall Foliage Tour starts at 10:00 AM at the public parking lot at the Hillsborough County Complex, 329 Mast Road in Goffstown. A detailed map will be handed out, and an optional free shuttle back to the start will be available at the tour midpoint. Refreshments will be available for sale, including apple cider and baked goods.





Towards a More Perfect Trail Gully, Other Issues Striving for ADA Compliance

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, the 13-foot-deep gully 100 yards west of Shirley Park Road is ready for repair work. Using funding provided by a 2009 NH Trails Bureau "Recreational Trails Program" grant, and matching funds from the town's Recreation Impact Fee Fund, the Department of Public Works has obtained a 5-foot diameter culvert now awaiting installation. Also, more than 100 large concrete blocks (serving as the culvert headwalls) are being fabricated. The Department of Public Works has asked three local firms to bid on an installation contract; completion is planned before the end of October.

Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as a trail design goal is being met by this and other trail repair projects, including:

- The embankment east of Tatro Drive (using the former Goffstown Trolley line)
- The embankment to the east of Morgan Circle
- A 23-foot deep gully (a former railroad bridgeway) near Magoo's restaurant

The latter issue is addressed through a Federal Transportation Enhancement grant, expected to begin in coming months. The other two await funding to upgrade trail sections, most likely using an annual grant from the NH Trails Bureau.

Noticed Your Rail Trail? *cont.*

Occasionally, first-time trail visitors, not seeing a nitpack path straight ahead, have asked "In what direction does the rail trail go from here?" The non-90-degree junctions with Rt. 114 are challenging; the brief detour onto the parallel trolley line was confusing. Others ask, "How do I detour around the deep gully east of Magoo's? Are trail users really permitted to walk so close to the state prison fence?"

The recent installation of several rail trail guideposts (see photo) should help alleviate such concerns. All posts have the trail logo set into the top, below which is either a directional arrow, or a note about the trail ahead.

The plastic logos and rectangular text plaques were donated by Crown Trophy of 1 Alice Ave. in Hooksett. The owner, a Goffstown resident, volunteered the solution. It is another example of the community working together to establish new recreational opportunities, not only for town residents, but also for out-of-town visitors seeking rail trail experiences.



Ski & Skate Sale Set for Sat. Nov. 6th

Following on last year's success, the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail are holding the 18th annual Ski and Skate Sale November 6th at the Parks & Rec Building at 155 S. Mast Rd.—but there's so much more than skis and skates! Gear for downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding, as well as the latest (and "nicely seasoned") ski apparel can be found at great prices. Some brand new equipment is scheduled to be available. Got stuff you don't need or want anymore? Bring it to the sale for consignment 7-9:30AM; the sale itself runs 10AM to 2PM. See you there, rain/snow or shine!



Trail Upgrade/Access in Pinardville East End of Rail Trail Getting Fixups in 2011

Through a 2010 Recreational Trail Program grant from the NH Trails Bureau, 300 yards of rail trail surface are slated for improvement at the Manchester city line, in addition to the installation of access gates in fences at the Sarette Recreation Complex. However actual construction is likely to be delayed due to the unstable embankment 400 yards west of the project site.

The town's sewer line, just a

few feet under the trail in this section, was exposed in 2006 when part of the embankment slid towards Namaske Lake. The potential of a future landslide risks a broken sewer line and resultant environmental issues. A slope-stabilization project will start in October, with a second phase in spring/summer of 2011. This will need to be completed prior to the trail surface and access gate projects.

FGRT wishes to thank Crown Trophy of Hooksett NH (603-645-1022) for their generous donation of logo/text plaques, volunteer badges, and time!

**Thinking about Spring 2011 yet?
Advertise in the next FGRT Newsletter!
Inquire at info@GoffstownRailTrail.org**

Trestle Study *cont.*

utilized and a simple deck structure placed on top for the rail trail. Some in Goffstown believe that the existing piers, due to their relative close spacing, can act as a barrier during floods: trees and brush lodged at the piers cause the flood level in Namaske Lake to be higher than it would otherwise be.

The solution awaits further engineering studies into the piers, an evaluation of their historical significance, and costs of the replacement bridge. This Manchester project is already approved to receive a \$466,000 Transportation Enhancement grant, with the city requiring a 20 percent match be met by private donations.

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