

**For Immediate Release**

For more information, contact  
Stephen Griffin, 497-8990, ext 117

**Public Invited to Help Design Rails to Trails Conversion**

Goffstown – The Goffstown Rails to Trails conversion, an alternative transportation and recreational trail to be developed along the abandoned railbed that runs parallel to Route 114 and the Piscataquog River, will be the subject of a public forum, Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Villa Augustina School's Rosary Hall on Mast Road, Goffstown. The forum will be held in a design charrette format, according to Ron Johnson, Vice Chairman of the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee, sponsor of the event. The charrette process takes input from the public and blends the ideas proposed with design principles offered by industry professionals to create preliminary designs for projects where the public has a stake in the outcome.

“The Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee looks forward to working with Goffstown to develop a vision for the rail trail,” said Johnson. “The corridor follows the river from Manchester into Goffstown and is a great community asset for recreation and natural resource protection.” The charrette schedule includes opportunities for the public to give opinions on such topics as the assets along the trail, relationships to the neighborhoods through which the trail runs, as well as technical and safety standards for the design of the trail.

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"This will be a great opportunity for stakeholders of the Rails to Trails conversion, abutters and users, to weigh-in on what would make this an asset that Goffstown will be proud of," noted Dan Reidy, Office Administrator & Community Development Educator for UNH Cooperative Extension, Hillsborough County. Reidy will be serving as the lead facilitator of the charrette.

The charrette is open to the public, and invitations have been sent out to a variety of private organizations whose members may have a stake in the completion of the trail. For more information about the design charrette, contact the Goffstown Planning Office, 497-8990, ext 117.

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