



Friends
of the

Goffstown Rail Trail

A quiet, healthy, safe walking and bike path connecting Pinardville, Grasmere and Goffstown Village.

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, see www.GoffstownRailTrail.org

Newest Goffstown Rail Trail Segment Now Open

Goffstown, NH

The Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail are pleased to announce that a new rail trail segment, which runs between East Union Street and Shirley Park Road, is now available for use. This trail segment had not been previously usable due to a 16-foot deep and 70-foot wide gully that was originally spanned by a small railroad trestle, but was washed out many years ago. Closing this gap removes the only major physical impediment along the village section of the trail corridor (about 1.5 miles), which connects Main Street, two schools, a town park, the town Parks & Recreation facility, and abutting neighborhoods.

The work began with volunteers, who first cleared trees, brush, and debris from the area. Under a town contract, the local firm John E. Neville Excavating performed the construction work. A 5-foot diameter culvert was installed to ensure adequate flow capacity during heavy storms. This size pipe also allowed the bottom to be filled with stone to create a flat natural surface important for wildlife migration. Due to a relatively narrow construction zone, just over 100 large concrete blocks were used to build upstream and downstream embankment retaining walls. The new path surface dips slightly as it approaches the culvert site from both directions, but is within grades required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A nitpack gravel trail surface has been installed in the immediate project area. Though the remainder of this new segment will not have its surface upgraded until future funding can be obtained, the existing surface is usable by walkers, runners, and cyclists.

Construction of this project was funded primarily by a \$25,000 Recreational Trails Program grant in 2009 from the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails. Matching funds were provided from the town's recreation impact fee fund, and an in-kind match provided by volunteer labor.

The 5-1/2 mile Goffstown Rail Trail follows the former Boston & Maine railroad right-of-way from the Piscataquog River near Main Street in Goffstown village, through Grasmere and Pinardville, to the Manchester city line. The trail provides a quiet, healthy, and safe non-motorized connection between many nearby neighborhoods, community facilities, and natural areas. Trail segments are being constructed as funding allows. More information on the Goffstown Rail Trail and the Friends of the Goffstown Rail Trail is available at www.GoffstownRailTrail.org.



Before



After