

Shoreline Greenway Trail
Summer 2021 Newsletter
Volume 1 #2



JULY 2021



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summer of '21 has a special meaning this year. The pandemic has subsided and we are getting out and about more. The Shoreline Greenway Trail is buzzing with people, bikes and pets.

Speaking of buzzing, take a look at what Branford is doing with pollinator gardens. It's exciting to see the eager and generous volunteers working to create this beautiful space.

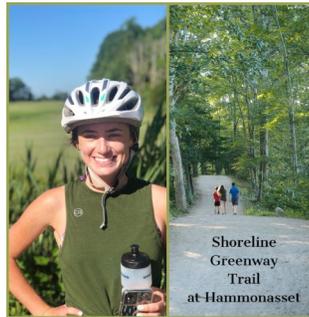
I hope this newsletter keeps you informed and connected. See you on the trail.

Aziz Dehkan



MADISON
TOWN TEAM CHAIR, VIRGINIA RAFF

On June 5th, the Madison trail team hosted a First Saturday walk at the trail section at Hammonasset Beach State Park. Those attending came from a broad area, including Avon, Sherman, and Westchester County. It's nice to see that awareness of the trail is reaching such a wide audience. Several dogs joined the walk, and they enjoyed the new watering bowl installed through an REI grant.



Hammonasset continues to be one of the most popular state parks in Connecticut, and the Shoreline Greenway Trail is used by visitors and townspeople alike. This section of the trail is participating in the Connecticut Trail Census. You may have noticed a census counter like the one pictured below along the trail. If you use the trail, please take the survey and tell us about your visit. You can access the survey through the Q Code on the census sign at the kiosk or online at https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.jfe/form/SV_b4ujWE9KtQcx8yO. Your survey response will help to encourage more trail development.



GUILFORD
TOWN TEAM CHAIR, PAM BISBEE-SIMONDS

In April, the Guilford Team reached out to the Guilford Safe Streets Task Force, using the opportunity to introduce our new Executive Director to them, and explore how SGT could be helpful. Team Chairs Pam Simonds and Brad Kronstat sent out an email to our Guilford members urging them to attend the three virtual public workshops held the last week of April.



On May 5, SGT representatives met virtually with the Safe Streets consulting firm, Schmidt Design Group. Our goal was to find out how we can support their work, and how we can be a positive influence. Since community input is vital to the success of the Task Force, we will continue to solicit our members to participate, both in their public workshops, and to add comments on the Task Force's interactive community map on their website.



Safe Streets Workshops Drill Down on Specific Solutions

By Jesse Williams/zip06.com • 05/04/2021

Following is a summary of an article featured in....

As the town moves forward with its latest plans to improve traffic and pedestrian safety, it's clear some lessons learned the hard way have stuck.

In 2021, a consulting firm has been hired to help improve Guilford's streets and a task force convened in the wake of the 2017 fiasco is investing a tremendous amount of time and resources to produce solutions drawn from the direct input of residents before any decisions are made on pathways, sidewalks, bike lanes, streets, and intersections.

"It became apparent that the way we have been addressing issues...was problematic," said First Selectman Matt Hoey. "The most important [aspect] was engaging with the community—novel concept, eh?"

Three days totaling somewhere around eight hours of work last week mixed concerned residents with Safe Streets Task Force members and half a dozen professional consultants from Milford-based Schmidt Design Group, with consultants drawing up specific, technical solutions to various issues around town, hearing concerns, and communicating what the next steps would be.

For more information on the Guilford Safe Streets Task Force and the ongoing work, visit www.guilfordsafestreets.org/home

Guilford's SGT's First Saturday walk will be on Saturday, August 7 at 9 AM in Guilford's East River Preserve. Town historian Joel Helander will give a brief talk on the fascinating history of the "Kuttawoo" land before we start the 1 1/2- 2 hour walk thru trails in the woods and across the spacious meadow.

EAST HAVEN
TOWN TEAM CHAIR, BARBARA BROW

We are pleased to report the East Haven Public School District and EHS GT renewed our partnership to utilize EHS GT as an educational and extracurricular resource. The schools will utilize the trail for field trips to learn about the natural habitat and environment, for hiking and exercise, and to fulfill community service hours by assisting with trail maintenance.

SGT continues to be excited about the expansion of the Shoreline Greenway Trail west from the D.C.Moore School trail. East Haven Public Works Department, under the direction of the town engineer, recently resumed extending the trail 400 ft. to Elliot Street. On April 6, at a public hearing, BL Companies presented the preliminary design to extend the trail via sidewalks and sharrows 1.85 miles to Cosey Beach Avenue (East Haven Shoreline). The design was well presented and well received. Mayor Carfora is very supportive of the trail effort and directed BL Companies to complete the design phase, which will be completed in the Fall, with construction beginning in the Spring of 2022. The design is on the town's website. [Town of East Haven CT |](#)

The East Haven team held a trail maintenance session on April 24. They installed directional signs at Farm River State Park and at East Haven SGT trailhead. East Haven town team members will plant butterfly bushes and Spring bulbs in the Fall.



East Haven Town Chair Barbara Brow was featured in ZIP06.com.
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Barbara Brow: A Picture of Patience and Perseverance

Melissa Johnson/ ZIP06.COM • 04/21/2021

Barbara Brow of East Haven has been involved with the Shoreline Greenway Trail (SGT) since the group behind it formed in 2002.

“I was a younger person then,” she says with a chuckle.

But it seems age has proven no obstacle to Barbara’s involvement with her town’s section of the trail, or its ongoing reach and expansion. She serves as the chair of the 15-member East Haven town team of the Shoreline Greenway Trail Committee, which she says is looking forward to a trail maintenance session on Saturday, April 24, in honor of Earth Day.

“I really appreciate their effort,” she says of the team. “Some have been involved as long as I, or close to as long as I, and the good thing is we do always recruit new people that move into town or just started hearing about the Greenway Trail, so it’s a good effort.”



Barbara Brow (part 2)

And on July 3, it's East Haven's turn to host the SGT's First Saturday Walk or Ride. These monthly events bring walkers and bicyclists to experience the scenic, multi-use trail, whose expansion is funded by federal and state grants.

"The trail is a collaborative effort between East Haven, Branford, Guilford, and Madison to, whenever possible, connect our trail," Barbara says.

With Earth Day on her mind, Barbara says she's grateful to be part of a Town Green beautification project organized by Mayor Joseph Carfora.

"He wants to make the Town Green a more focal point," she says. "It is listed on our National Register of Historic Places. He has the vision—and I agree—to make it more of a meeting place."

With the town's help, Barbara says, "we are making great trail progress. The Public Works Department is extending our multi-use trail at the former site of the D.C. Moore school 400 feet to Elliot Street, and the administration interviewed five different companies and selected BL Companies, based out of Meriden, to extend the trail approximately 1.85 miles to Cosey Beach Avenue by means of sidewalks. That presentation was on April 6 and it was well received, so we're looking forward to getting that underway probably next year sometime. They have to complete the design and then construction will begin."

At the end of March, Barbara and Superintendent of Schools Erica Forti renewed the partnership between East Haven Shoreline Greenway Trail and the East Haven Public School District.

"It serves as an educational and an extracurricular activity for the students because we want to hopefully have some young people become stewards of greenways and the environment in the future," Barbara explains. "Also, we're going to invite the upper grades to fill community service hours with us by cleaning and clearing the trail."

Barbara Brow (part 3)

The extracurricular activities include cross-country, a kids' challenge, and hiking for the students.

"I think it's so important because we're teaching our young students from the get-go to be proactive about their health and to use the trails," she says. "With the pandemic and what it has caused, the trails are even more popular than ever, and so it's a good way to get the students out and outdoors in a safe environment."

Barbara is retired but worked as a per diem dental assistant for many years. She has been married to her husband, Fred, for 55 years. Fred worked for the town fire and police departments. They have two daughters, Andrea and Michelle. Michelle passed away in 2009. Andrea manages Century Silhouette Farm in Northford, which boards horses.

"We put her on a horse at two years old and she hasn't gotten off." Barbara's great-grandson, Steven, is 7 "and he lights up our life," Barbara says.

When she's not practicing yoga or walking the trail she helped build, Barbara creates her own nature in the form of paintings she hangs around her house. One is a large daisy and another is a scene from Italy.

Barbara shares one final reflection about the SGT group.

"Throughout our whole tenure since we organized in 2002, it's just been a pleasure," she says. "It teaches you to be patient and to persevere, but we're getting there."



BRANFORD
TOWN TEAM CHAIR, JUDITH MILLER

Public Works has opened a link between the Shoreline Greenway Trail at Tabor and the Branford Trail. This will allow users of the Branford Trail to use the Shoreline Greenway Trail to connect to the Pond Orchard crossing to the Birch Road trail section. They have also created a new parking lot at the Pine Orchard Road end of the Tabor Trail. These two additions will make an already popular trail even more attractive.

Branford's First Saturday walk on Saturday, May 1, was a great success. We celebrated World Labyrinth Day at 1:00 p.m. to coordinate with labyrinths throughout the world where people were walking for peace. Bill Ludwig, the Tabor labyrinth designer, gave us interesting information about the history and function of labyrinths. The walkers continued onto the Branford Trail and a proposed loop trail, including Ecology Park. Ending back at the parking lot off of Tabor Drive, leaders showed walkers the site of the proposed pollinator garden.

In that same area, SGT will place a bench and plant a tree, in honor of Josh Word, Branford volunteer. Shaded by the tree, visitors will be able to sit on the bench and enjoy watching the bees and butterflies in the pollinator garden. We are grateful for the donations that have made these additions possible.



Shoreline Greenway Trail Pollinator Gardens

When is a greenway trail a pollinator pathway? When groups plant native pollinator gardens along the trail. That's the idea behind two pollinator gardens being developed along the Shoreline Greenway Trail In Branford. These pollinator gardens are becoming an important aid in supporting bee and butterfly populations throughout the Northeast.

The first garden is at the edge of the parking lot off of Tabor Drive. The slope facing southeast seemed a natural. It has been heavily mulched for years by Branford's Department of Public Works, but had become infested with bindweed. Branford's Shoreline Greenway Trail has been busy ripping out the bindweed and planting native pollinator plants in the expectation that they will eventually spread via seeds and root systems.

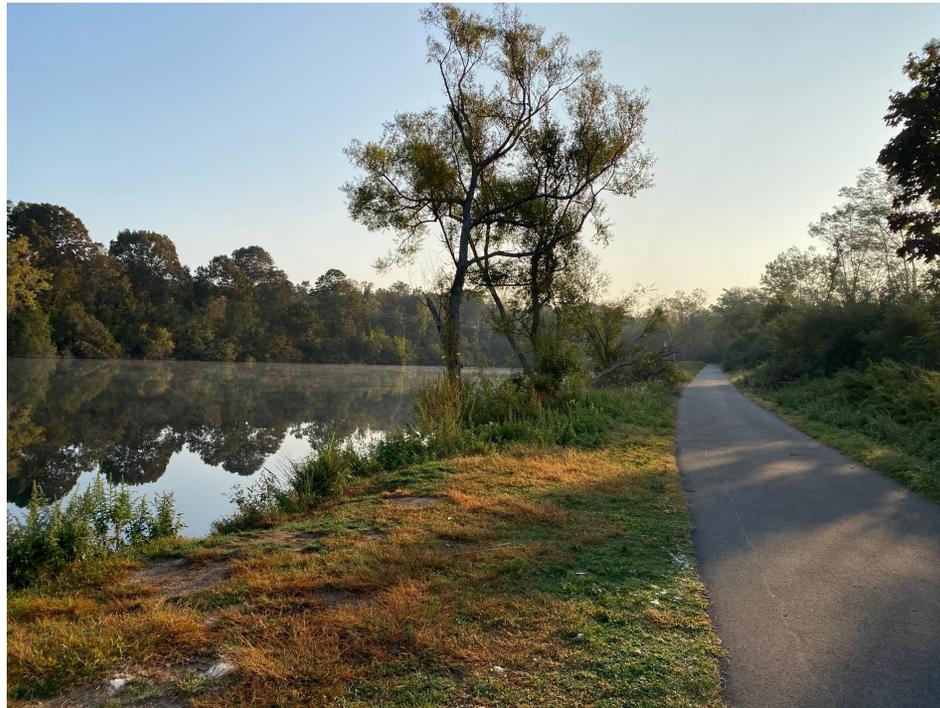


The second native pollinator area is on the Shoreline Greenway Trail between Pine Orchard Road and Birch Road, in an area known as Nature's Garden. Branford's Conservation Commission is using a process known as solarization to kill noxious weeds such as the rampant mugwort before spreading the area with seeds of native pollinator plants. In a nearby field, Director of Public Works Gary Zielinski has marked off a section where dozens of common milkweed plants are thriving. Common Milkweed is prized as a host for the eggs of the monarch butterfly, whose larvae feast on the milkweed leaves.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE ANNOUCEMENT
OF OUR ANNUAL MEETING
IN OCTOBER WHICH WILL BE HELD
IN GUILFORD THIS YEAR

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the
Shoreline Greenway Trail Newsletter.





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