

★ Celebrating **20** Years ★

Shoreline Greenway Trail  
Summer 2022 Newsletter



*SUMMER 2022*



## Letter from Shoreline Greenway Trail Board Chair, Judy Miller

Come Celebrate with Us!

By the time this newsletter reaches you, you should have received a Save the Date announcement of the celebration of Shoreline Greenway Trail's 20th year: Sunday, September 25, from 2:00 until 5:00 at Meigs Point of Hammonasset Beach State Park. We are all very excited about what looks to be a fun, upbeat day.

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Katie Dykes will be our guest speaker. This is especially appropriate because DEEP has been such a helpful funder of the Shoreline Greenway Trail through its Recreational Trails program. A section of DEEP, the Connecticut Greenways Council, supervises Connecticut's growing greenway trail system, and the Shoreline Greenway Trail, the only multi-use trail along Connecticut's shoreline, is a key official part of that system.

We have worked to keep the price of attending down to \$20.00 — a dollar for each year of our existence. Your ticket will entitle you to food, drink (beer, wine, and soft drinks) and a chance to win a fully equipped bicycle from Zane's Cycles in Branford. But most of all, your ticket entitles you to spend time with old friends and new, to have fun and celebrate something positive, forward-looking, and successful — the Shoreline Greenway Trail!

This day is about **YOU**: our members, volunteers, supporters of all kinds. The Shoreline Greenway Trail would not have become a reality without you!

Yours for the trail,



Judy Miller



## Letter from Shoreline Greenway Trail Executive Director, Aziz Dehkan

It has been a long hot, dry summer in Connecticut, and Shoreline Greenway Trail has been a perfect place to walk, ride your bike and enjoy the many vistas the trail has to offer.

There have been so many fun things that have happened this summer. We were finally able to officially dedicate the REI water fountain. As a sure sign of growth, Shoreline Greenway Trail brought on Reese Berman as our first intern, and outgrew our old storage unit, moving to the U-Haul facility in Guilford. You will find more about all of this in this newsletter.

As the banner says, Shoreline Greenway Trail is celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To celebrate, we are planning a celebration at Hammonasset State Park on September 25<sup>th</sup> to honor those who were our founding members, volunteers and friends like you.

I know it's a cliché, but we could not have done any of this without you. Your support and continuing commitment to the idea of a multi-use trail has made Shoreline Greenway Trail a tremendous success. I hope to not only see you on the trail, but to celebrate the past and future 20 years of Shoreline Greenway Trail together.

Thanks - Aziz Dehkan

**SHORELINE GREENWAY TRAIL**  
A better way from here to there

**20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**  
Sunday, September 25, 2022  
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Hammonasset State Park

Keynote Address by Katie Dykes, Commissioner  
Connecticut Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)

**Tickets:**  
\$20 per person  
\$50 for a family

**FREE RAFFLE  
FOR A ZANE'S  
BIKE**

Food, Wine & Beer Included  
Visit our website:  
<https://shorelinegreenwaytrail.org/>



## **Celebrating Shoreline Greenway Trail's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

We invite you to join us in sponsoring and celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shoreline Greenway Trail, which will bring together the four towns, (East Haven, Branford, Guilford and Madison), founding members, volunteers, and supporters. The current Shoreline Greenway Trail is a collection of wooded, multi-use off-road trails and public roads connecting to each of the town greens, restaurants, and breweries, with beautiful water views along the way.

Twenty years later, more sections are in the design phase, granting phase, or approved for construction. The project of the non-profit Shoreline Greenway Trail and its membership is a vital addition to the eastern coast and community.

All this takes place on September 25, 2022 at Hammonasset State Park. As a sponsor, you are contributing to the important work of Shoreline Greenway Trail by and with people like you.

The project was initiated when Joe Marshall, a Guilford resident, saw a greenway trail in Rhode Island and came back asking: "Why can't we have a trail along the shoreline?" He organized a meeting of interested individuals in his living room, and Shoreline Greenway Trail was born, with Chip Angle becoming its founding Chair.

The rest is history...long hours putting together by-laws, applying for non-profit status as a 501(C)(3), applying to the Connecticut Greenways Council to become an officially recognized Connecticut Greenway, and building, building, building: membership, town support, and trail.

The Connecticut Shoreline is a great place to explore, and the Shoreline Greenway Trail is the perfect way for bicyclists to explore it!





**SPONSOR/PROGRAM FORM**  
**Shoreline Greenway Trail 20th Anniversary Celebration**



**As a sponsor, you are contributing to the important work  
of Shoreline Greenway Trail by and with people like you.**

**Please check the size of ad below  
attaching the ad copy or email  
in JPEG, PNG, PDF or WORD format to [aziz@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](mailto:aziz@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org)**

**YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BE A SPONSOR AND PLACE AN AD IN THE EVENT PROGRAM**

- Event Sponsor** (\$1,000) - INSIDE cover page ad in the program.
- Enthusiast** (\$550) - FULL PAGE ad in the program.
- Supporter** (\$350) - 1/2 PAGE ad in the program.
- Advocate** (\$250) - 1/4 PAGE ad in the program.
- Friend** (\$150) - 1/8 PAGE ad in the program.
- Well-Wisher** (\$50) – List your name in the program.

**Deadline for sponsorship and program ads is September 15th 2022**

Please complete all the information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT PLEDGED (\$):** \_\_\_\_\_

*Your sponsorship and/or ad donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.*

**Please complete all the information above & return this form with your check  
or go to [www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](http://www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org) and press the donate button.**

**Checks should be made out to:  
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Inc.  
P.O. Box 148, Branford, CT 06405**

***Inquiries: email [aziz@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](mailto:aziz@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org) or call 860.390.1412***

# ★ Celebrating 20 Years ★

## Your Donations at Work

Those of us who volunteer with Shoreline Greenway Trail get excited whenever a new trail section reaches the stage of construction and opening. It takes years of planning, with many partners coming together, to make that happen. But once the trail section is built, that's not the end of it. Trails need to be maintained and sometimes repaired. That's where your contributions are crucial. Even though volunteers help, the cost of materials can be significant.

This past year has seen repair on three trail sections. The Hammonasset SGT section is used by thousands of people each year. Its beautiful Stony Creek granite surface helps to create a peaceful, bucolic feeling to the trail. Yet a packed stone trail can be susceptible to erosion if water finds its way across the trail, especially on hills. This was the circumstance this past year, when heavier than usual rains pelted the trail and soaked the surrounding area. SGT volunteer and chief trail manager Perry Reinhard ordered some of the special mix of granite from the Stony Creek Quarry and set to work, correcting the problem, and leveling the trail so that once again walkers and bicyclists can travel safely.

In Branford, the boards on two of the three bridges over the culverts on the SGT section between Pine Orchard Road and Birch Road had become weakened. These bridges were installed about fifteen years ago according to a design by long-time volunteer Pete Person and under the supervision of trail engineer Jack Wood. It was time for them to be renewed. The rotting boards presented a hazard to walkers and bicyclists. In this case, Branford's Public Works did the job of replacing the wood on the bridges using materials purchased by SGT.



The result is beautiful!

The Farm River section in East Haven also came in for its share of needed repair. The slope down from the entrance on Route 142 that leads to the trail head on the corner of Mansfield Grove Road and Hoop Pole Lane is steep. The firm hired by SGT to design and build the trail did extensive regrading to diminish the slope, and carefully built the sides so that water would be absorbed before crossing the trail. However, heavier than usual rains once again caused erosion across the trail. In this case, it is necessary to hire heavy equipment and a professional to mend the erosion and grade the surrounding area to avoid run-off. So next time you enjoy one of SGT's trails, pat yourself on the back for contributing the funds necessary to keep the trail in good order. It couldn't be done without you!



## Madison Trail News

The Madison team finally celebrated the installation of the water station at the trailhead in Hammonasset with a festive ribbon-cutting June 18 to recognize the generous contribution of REI, the sporting goods company. Special guests from REI were Neil Johnson, Milford Store Manager and Ed Kirk, who managed the grant-making process.

The event, which was delayed for more than a year due to COVID, featured Gaston Pepin who attended with his master, Chef Jacques Pepin. Gaston, a tres beau French poodle, gave his nod of approval to the water station's special dish for dogs while his master joined in the ribbon cutting.



Shoreline Greenway Trail was delighted to thank not only REI for their magnificent contribution but also the Hammonasset Beach State Park management team for providing the cement landing pad and the water hook-up. Volunteer Perry Rianhard oversaw the project for the trail. Following the festivities, attendees filled their water bottles and went off to hike the trail led by SGT co-chair Dan Buckley, who arranged this event.

Dan put together an event in early June for a group of Guilford Girl Scouts to walk the Hammonasset trail and learn about invasive vines and other environmental issues from science teacher Hollyanne Morriarty. He also organized a great Bike Safety Rodeo for kids 8 and under, sponsored by the Madison Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and co-sponsored by Shoreline Greenway Trail. The riders had a wonderful time riding the slalom course over and over while their helmets were checked for proper fit and their bikes were checked for safety.

Madison First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons was on hand to sign the certificates of completion. While the kids enjoyed the biking events, the adults who accompanied them enjoyed a fascinating antique bike display.

***Ginny Raff, Chairwoman, Madison Remembers.... We have made a lot of progress in Madison, but we still have a long way to go. The dedication of my trail colleagues and the outstanding volunteers who have helped us get this far has been amazing. Actually there is a cast of thousands who have made this happen: the generous individual and institutional donors, DEEP trail staff, DEEP wetlands staff, Hammonasset Beach State Park staff, the vendors who gave us a break on hauling stone and pushing dirt around, the state archeologist, and even the Army Corps of Engineers. To name them all would takes pages and pages but they know who they are, and I hope they get as much joy as I do out of seeing the trail used and treasured as much as it is.***



## East Haven Trail News

Trail development continues to move forward. On June 29, the town opened submitted bids and selected a qualified applicant — B&W Paving Company — to extend Shoreline Greenway Trail off Elliot Street 1.85 miles by means of sidewalks and shared lanes to Cosey Beach Avenue, the shoreline.

This project will utilize both federal grant funds and town funds. We look forward to construction beginning soon. The East Haven town team is grateful to Mayor Carfora for his support, and town engineer, Jonathan Bodwell, for guiding this project forward.

East Haven Rotary selected East Haven Shoreline Greenway Trail for their Community Service Day Project. We met on May 21 to perform assorted trail maintenance tasks. In addition, the President of Rotary presented the new impressive East Haven Shoreline Greenway Trail Interpretive trail brochure.

On June 4, Branford and East Haven town teams and Shore Line Trolley Museum once again celebrated CT Trails Day with a trolley ride and walk. Approximately 60 enthusiastic people participated in this very popular event.

East Haven Public Schools Wellness Committee held a walk and talk meeting on the trail on June 8. While enjoying the walk, we discussed the physical, educational and mental health benefits of the trail. The committee looks forward to continuing and increasingly utilizing the trail for physical ed, athletics, and field trips.

Matt Lieber is taking a lead role to move the East Haven Complete Street Initiative forward. With Mayor Carfora's support, a core group is being formed, which will engage stakeholders and town leaders to collect input, identify priorities, and build support.

The March 5th trail walk and Shoreline Greenway Trail innovative Master Series Program was a great success. Approximately 50 enthusiastic people and some well-behaved four-legged friends attended. Our master speaker was Chris Ozyck, well known for his environmental and trail initiatives. Chris's inspiring presentation and demonstration regarding canopy stewardship and de-vining was a great learning experience.

***Barbara Brow, Chairwoman East Haven Remembers....Believing in the mission of Shoreline Greenway Trail, I gladly accepted the invitation in 2002 to serve on the board of directors and to organize the East Haven town team of Shoreline Greenway Trail. My 20-year journey taught me the meaning of patience and perseverance, and afforded me the opportunity to meet, work with, and befriend many amazing people. Here's to the next 20 years!***



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## **Branford Trail News**

Since our last newsletter, the Shoreline Greenway Trail in Branford has been a busy place. Branford team members Leo Cristofar, Judy Miller, and Sue Smith led Walsh Middle School fifth graders and their teachers on walks at Tabor, taking them up to Ecology Park to enjoy the views and walking the Branford Labyrinth. We stopped at the Community Gardens, where volunteers told the students about the Seed, Weed, and Feed section that all gardens work on to send organic produce to the Community Dining Room and the Food Pantry. The students are always a delight, with their boundless energy, good spirits, and intelligent questions.



On Saturday, June 4th, Connecticut Trails Day, the Branford team co-hosted a trolley ride, peninsula walk, and museum tour with the East Haven SGT team and the Shoreline Trolley Museum. This is always a popular event, and we had around sixty visitors who were in great spirits and clearly enjoyed themselves.



# ★ Celebrating 20 Years ★

## Branford Trail News

On June 11th, the Shoreline Greenway Trail was part of New Haven's Arts and Ideas event when Paul Proulx led a bike ride from New Haven to Branford along completed and projected sections of the trail. They were met at Tabor with cold water and a brief explanation of our project, including the pollinator garden at Tabor.



The Branford team had a good turnout at the Branford Festival on Saturday, June 18th. Hundreds of people stopped by our booth to pick up maps and brochures. It was gratifying to hear many of them talk about walking the Tabor trail section and expressing appreciation for what we're doing!



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## **Branford Trail News**

Branford's Public Works continues to do a great job of maintaining the Tabor Trail. See the article on Your Donations at Work for a discussion of bridge improvements on the trail. In addition, Public Works had added another bench to the trail, this one dedicated to George Ustansky, a neighbor who enjoyed walking the trail.



In late August, volunteers Steve Zaehring, Tracey Brooks, Sue Smith, Brian Begley, and Judy Miller weeded and cleaned up the pollinator garden at the Tabor parking lot. The garden has made great strides this year, and the butterflies, monarchs, and bees have been busy enjoying the flowers.





## Guilford Trail News

Guilford team leaders Pam Simonds and Brad Kronstat have been busy building the Guilford team and encouraging the engagement of Shoreline Greenway Trail's many Guilford supporters.

On July 12, they held a meeting at the Guilford Community House and were encouraged by participants' interest in and support for our project. They held a follow-up meeting in late August.

Despite the intense heat, almost 20 bicycle riders showed up for the Guilford ride in Hammonasset Park on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, including a husband and wife on a tandem bike.

We rode from the Shoreline Greenway Trail parking lot. Biking a short way through the campgrounds we followed the paved path towards Meigs Point. We turned off the path and visited the viewing platform on Cedar Island, overlooking the marsh towards Clinton and a marina. Afterwards, we visited Willards Island with its own views of the marshlands.

Returning to the paved path, we retraced our path back near the beginning where the SGT trail started. While several people had to leave at this point, most continued biking our trail to its temporary end point at Liberty Street. At this point some people turned around to head back to the parking lot. A hardy few continued on to Middle Beach Road with beautiful views of Long Island Sound heading to downtown Madison to avoid the busy traffic of US1.

No one wanted coffee, or even a cold drink at this point, so we abandoned our original plan of visiting the Madison Coffee House and returned to the SGT parking lot, tired, but happy with our ride.

Come join us again on December 3rd at 10am for our First Saturday Walk.

***Guilford Town Chairwoman Pam Simonds Remembers.....Because I loved biking, right after I retired in the summer 2001, a friend asked me to go to a meeting at Joe Marshall's house in Guilford because a few folks were talking about building a bike trail in the shoreline, and that was my dream!! From that day, I was hooked with the fantastic dream and the major challenges to build a bike trail. And the Guilford Preservation Alliance gave us a boost with a check!***

***We argued over trail surfaces... and the beauty of the local Stony Creek pink granite won out, crushed and mixed to be a firm surface good for bikes, but not for roller blades, a gentle color to enhance the surroundings, a product with local history and regional fame.***





## SHORELINE GREENWAY TRAIL FIRST SATURDAY EVENTS, Fall 2022

**Branford \* Madison \* East Haven \* Guilford**

### **Branford First Saturday Walk, September 3rd, 2022 10AM**

Come celebrate Labor Day weekend with a refreshing walk! We'll start from the Tabor parking lot with its pollinator garden and walk along Chet's Pond, taking a turn through the labyrinth. Crossing over Pine Orchard Road, we'll take the SGT trail to Birch Road, passing the remnants of Nature's Garden. Crossing Birch Road, we'll continue on the Shoreline Greenway Trail into Young's Pond Park, walk around the pond, returning by way of the Branford Trail and the public works road past Branford's solar farm.

Distance: about 3 miles. Easy to moderate terrain. Wear good walking shoes. Dogs on leashes welcome!

Time: 10:00 a.m. Duration: 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Parking: Tabor parking lot, Tabor Drive, Branford. GPS use Tabor Lutheran Church. Parking lot is on left shortly after passing the church. Contact: Judy Miller, 203-589-8335.

### **Madison First Saturday Walk, Oct. 1, 2022 10AM**

We will walk the trail in Hammonasset Park and enjoy the colors as autumn settles on the salt marsh and forest. 2.5 miles roundtrip. Modest hills. Wear comfortable shoes. The REI water station will still be open so bring your water bottle and fill it up. There is a water dish for dogs too. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Meet at the trail parking lot: I 95 exit 62, south to the traffic light, left onto Route One, the first right into the parking lot.

### **East Haven, First Saturday Walk, November 5, 2022 10AM**

November is an awesome time to enjoy the intrinsic beauty of the trail in East Haven. We'll start from the Elliot Street parking area, bear right and hike on a walking trail to enjoy a panoramic view of tidal wetlands at the Bradford Preserve. We'll backtrack onto the main granite-topped trail through picturesque woods with glacial outcroppings, mountain laurel, hickory and tulip trees. We will then head east on Pevetty Drive to the trail in Farm River State Park. In the park you can see natural cave formations and spectacular water views of Farm River. Easy walk, two inclines. Approximately 1.5 miles in 1.5 hours. Directions: from Rt. 142 West left onto Mansfield Grove Road to stop sign, right onto Hoop Pole Lane to second school parking area on left. From Coe Avenue take a left to Myrtle Street, right at stop sign, quick left onto Elliot Street and right to parking area. Questions call Barbara 203-469-9127.

### **Guilford First Saturday Walk, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 10AM**

Join us for a walk in Guilford's Bittner Park, 1450 Durham Rd (Rt 77) on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM. Meet in the upper parking lot. We will explore some of the trails of Bittner Park. Wear good hiking shoes – mostly easy walking surfaces. Wear a hat & bring water.



**Thanks to Shoreline Greenway Trail's Intern — Reese Berman**



Reese was the Shoreline Greenway Trail's first ever intern. He started this summer and did an outstanding job of fulfilling his internship, well into his 3 program responsibilities. Reese is a senior at Virginia Tech, majoring in Environmental Policy and Planning with an interest in Active Transportation. He'll soon be pursuing a Master's in Urban & Regional Planning. We were lucky to be sharing him with a co-internship with the Guilford Safe Streets Taskforce.

You may have seen him out on the trail as he gathered info on his various initiatives including:

- 1. Trail Census Program:** Conducted manual counts in each town for selected sections in alignment with our participation with the CT Census program in the Hammonasset section. Compiled all the information for a final report that we will use for targeting initiatives and supporting grant requests.
- 2. Trail Mapping and Documentation:** Mapped out the trail to allow us to help users know where all the goodies are, such as closest Ice Cream shops, Mass Transit, Bathrooms, and the like.
- 3. Kiosk Updating Program:** Worked with the Signage Committee to update and spruce up our 7 kiosks along the trail.

Before his internship ended, Reese presented two detailed reports to the Shoreline Greenway Board which can be found on our website.



## **Farewell and Hello**

Our 20th anniversary has been a good time to reassess ways of doing things, and our attention focused on storage issues.

For years, Shoreline Greenway Trail has benefitted from the generosity of Walter Maguire of Madison Polymeric Engineering, who has allowed us to store materials in a closet that is part of his office building on West Main Street in Branford.

Walter, known to us as Terry, has been a great host, making us feel very welcome. However, the space had some limitations: it was only available during business hours, and the closet was not secure, along with being shared with others.

So, the Board asked Executive Director Aziz Dehkan to locate a storage area that would always be accessible and secure. He found an excellent, brand-new facility somewhat centrally located for all four towns represented in SGT: the U-Haul facility in Guilford at 301 Boston Post Road.

Since moving in, Dan Buckley has led a task force that has been busy organizing materials and files from all four towns. Accessibility will be much improved!

**Farewell to an old friend.....!**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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***Executive Director***

Aziz Dehkan

Shoreline Greenway Trail Inc.,  
P.O. Box 148, Branford, CT 06405  
[www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](http://www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org)

★ Celebrating 20 Years ★



**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**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.

Watch for our Winter Newsletter!

