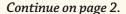


This summer, walk, run, bike along our Trail.

Come enjoy our fantastic, newly completed 1-mile section of Shoreline Greenway Trail at Hammonasset Beach State Park.

This, our first significant finished section, is a real Shoreline Greenway Trail showcase with so many elements to be proud of, such as the carefully engineered surface of local Stony Creek crushed pink granite, the bench clearing with tranquil views over marsh grass, and our unique ramp and boardwalk crossing a small marsh and stream.

This Trail section represents the culmination of twelve years of hard work by so many people like you, who embrace the vision of our 25-mile Trail along the shoreline, who have supported our all-volunteer organization with your donations and ideas, and with your invaluable time and commitment.





New peninsula section of our Trail at Hammonasset Beach State Park.

Now, continue your hike along the **Hammonasset Trail with us...** park in our own

parking lot, designed by Town Engineer Mike Ott on his own time, and bordered by a post-and-rail fence. The landscape design to be installed this spring includes a water garden and uses local plant species, and was contributed by local landscape designer Barbara Yaeger. Easy to find, the parking lot is in the meadow just east of the main Park entrance, on the south side of Route 1.

From there, our proposed path will lead you across the Park entrance road to the bench vista area created by Eagle Scout Eric Marsh, onto our unique 220 foot boardwalk, built by a crew of dedicated volunteers with Thru-Flo™ hi tech composite material to allow sunlight and rain to penetrate to the marsh. Helical piers were installed to support the boardwalk because of their minimal impact



on the marsh. And the good news is, this spring the marsh grass under the boardwalk is healthier than ever!

Continue over the boardwalk onto the finished Trail...

Meander through woods and marshes with many spectacular vistas to the Sound, and observe shore birds and the owl's nest high up in a tree. You may even spot 'Greenway', our resident owl!

Tour around the completed Peninsula section, never before open to the public. This is a delightful, easy twomile round trip walk, and long enough for a short bike ride -- especially perfect for young bicyclists.

Enjoy the outdoors this summer and discover our Trail!



Message from Our Chair

May 2014

As this Annual Report makes clear, our dedicated, hard-working volunteers and generous donors are doing a fantastic job in building our Shoreline Greenway Trail for bikers, walkers and



everyone else -- changing our shoreline forever.

Their work never stops, and now, in the Trail's 12th year, they are at work on major new design and construction projects in all four towns to get the Trail built all the way from Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison to Lighthouse Point on New Haven Harbor.

In East Haven, work is underway on the design and construction of the approach and crossing of the long and lovely Bradford Preserve to the Town beach.

Branford is working on the design for construction on the Totoket section that connects the Stony Creek Trolley Trail and the recently completed Tilcon section to Young's Park.

In Guilford, the Town is generously donating their expertise to provide the design of a new section alongside Route 1 for the better part of a mile from Madison and the East River Bridge to Boston Street.

And in Madison, work is nearly complete on the trailhead parking lot and Trail section leading from there to the newly-completed, glorious two-mile round-trip section in Hammonasset Beach State Park with gorgeous views across marsh grass to Long Island Sound. If you have not yet visited this section, I urge you to do so. It is our first truly substantial, completed section, the first one long enough to really bike on, and it vividly demonstrates what the Trail can be--and will be--in all our Towns.

My congratulations to all of you who have so generously contributed your time and treasure to make so much progress possible. Without you there would be no Shoreline Greenway Trail. With your continued help, it will be completed sooner than any of us had dared to hope.

Chip Angle

Our Town Teams at Work

Branford – Collaborations and Outreach

Judy Miller, Co-Chair



3rd graders cleaning the trail.

In addition to our primary goal of building trail, the Branford Team had two special goals this year: to work with other groups in our community, and to increase the number of active members. Our Kids' Bicycle Rodeo was a successful collaboration with several other local groups, and such fun, we plan to make it an

annual event. And once again, we had a table at Zane's annual bicycle sale on April 5th, where we stressed safe family biking as we showed visitors the maps of our trail and shared our plans for trail building.

The Branford team also reached out to the community with our first Town Meeting, held in the Blackstone Library on March 1st. Over 35 people watched a presentation illustrating Branford's Trail sections in various phases of development, and many participants signed up to help us with outreach, trail management, funding, and other activities. Several people indicated an interest in becoming Trail stewards. And one entire family of four signed up to help!

When these activities are added to our school walks, including our second annual post-Christmas getthe-children-outside walk and our participation at town events such as the Branford Festival, we've been very busy! But we have not lost our focus on our primary objective: building Trail. Branford is in the design phase of implementing the federal and state grants on Totoket Road; we're in the process of finalizing the Tilcon and Pine Orchard Birch Road sections, and we're making great progress in getting permits for our joint effort with East Haven on the Farm River Bridge. All in all, it's been a successful year!

East Haven - Bridges and Boardwalks

Barbara Brow, East Haven Chair

This year our Town Team has made great progress with the challenges of crossing rivers and marshes with our planned Trail route, i.e., building bridges and boardwalks! Our Team's planning efforts over the past couple years to extend our Trail south across the Land Trust's Bradford Preserve from our first one-third mile of completed Trail section at D.C. Moore School are finally coming to fruition. We are implementing the design phase with federal and state funds for a boardwalk on this new half-mile section over the Bradford Preserve to the East Haven Town beach area - and Splash Pad Park! And at the Farm River, the boundary between East Haven and Branford, we are working closely with the Branford Team to determine how to cross the river. We are collaborating on all fronts. Together our two Teams have also planned a fun event on June 7th, CT. Trails Day, with the Shoreline Trolley Museum in East Haven to show folks the beauty of the planned Trail path to the "old dyke', site of our proposed bridge across to Meadow Street in East Haven.



Hearth at Gardenside resident Reine Miessau and friend on East Haven Trail

The D. C. Moore School section is getting a lot of use now that it is fully complete—even by people in wheelchairs. How satisfying to see that the vision of Shoreline Greenway Trail to create a multi-use Trail accessible for all is being realized!

Guilford – First Trail Section Design!

Milton Charlton, Guilford Trail Development

The preliminary design for the very first segment of our Trail in Guilford from the East River at the Madison border is currently under review by the State Department of Transportation. And it passed a professional survey of the archaeological resources along the planned pathway, which turned up no evidence of relics meriting protection.

The proposed three-quarter-mile section is adjacent to Route 1, completely separate from the road. It will lead to Boston Street on the State's right-of-way,

and will link Madison to Route 146 in Guilford. Once we gain approval by the State and the Town, construction will begin with funds from our federal and state grants. Shoreline Greenway Trail is grateful to Guilford First Selectman Joe Mazza, Town Engineer Jim Portley and Assistant Town Engineer Mark Damiani for contributing the design work at no cost to the Trail. Keep tuned!

Madison – Ribbon Cutting on the Boardwalk Ginny Raff, Chair

Our ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open our unique 220-foot ramp and boardwalk at Hammonasset Beach State Park was a festive occasion on Thursday, August 22nd. Many enthusiastic folks attended – State and local officials, Park staff, our intrepid Trail volunteer builders and our Madison SGT Team, our volunteer Boy Scouts, and the DEEP's 'Sojourn' bike riders on their 169-mile journey to celebrate CT parks. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Dan Esty praised Shoreline Greenway Trail for our dedication to create our recreational resource for the



DEEP Commissioner Dan Esty with Chip Angle.

public. He noted that we have enhanced the State Park at the same time! He also predicted it would help boost economic vitality in our area. Just as he finished, the skies opened up with teeming rain, yet no spirits were dampened!

Boy Scouts Volunteer On The Trail



Eric at bench vista with parents Cathleen and Rockwell Marsh.

Several Scouting troops have generously helped us on our Trail building projects in East Haven, Branford, and Madison, and this year, Madison Boy Scout Eric Marsh volunteered to create a picturesque viewing area near the Hammonasset SGT boardwalk for his Troop 491 Eagle Scout project. He cleared the land and built two benches there. In addition, he built the frame for a Trail sign honoring organizations that donated funds to build the Hammonasset Trail.

Our 12th Annual Celebration

On May 3rd, almost 100 folks gathered at Hammonasset to celebrate this newly finished Trail section, as well as the impressive accomplishments in our other three shoreline towns this past year, reported by our chair, Chip Angle. There are finished and open Shoreline Greenway Trail sections for your enjoyment in East Haven and Branford as well, including the lovely one-third mile finished woods section at D.C. Moore School in East Haven that connects to their cleared Trail in Farm River State Park; and, in Branford, you can enjoy several open and almost finished Trail sections.



Leading the Walk, Board member John Paulson, our new Trail Development chair, describes boardwalk construction.

Kids Love Our Trail!

Promoting Safe Family Biking

Recognizing that safe off-road biking is an important part of our mission, on April 27 the Branford Team co-sponsored a Bicycle Rodeo for children with five other local groups: the Branford Recreation Center, Branford Early Childhood Collaborative, Branford Police and Fire Departments and Zane's Cycle. At the Branford Community Center, children learned how to wear their helmets, had their bikes checked for safety, and learned the rules of the road, and then, most fun of all, they rode through an obstacle course! Bike decorating, a raffle for free helmets, buttons and free popcorn added to the festive atmosphere. They received a Safe Biking certificates. It was such fun, we will make it an annual event.



Happy Hunting Along The Trail



Geocaching is spreading across the country, and we are excited to report we now have two caches hidden along the Hammonasset Park section of the

To get started, go to geocaching. com and search for "Shoreline Greenway - Which Way?" Instructions on how to sign up for a free account, locate, log and hide caches are on the site. Be sure to check out our geocache story on www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org.

Bike Safety Bookmarks

We are thrilled with our SGT bookmark listing bike safety tips, and grateful to designer Anna Raff who volunteered her talent. Daughter of our Madison Town Team chair Ginny Raff, Anna is a NY freelance children's book illustrator and designer.



BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

Obey traffic signs and signals

Ride single file. Ride on the right. Motorists may not see you coming from the wrong direction.

Warn bikers and walkers

Never pass a biker on the right.

Use hand signals when you turn or stop.

Look behind you before turning or changing lanes.

Don't turn left from a

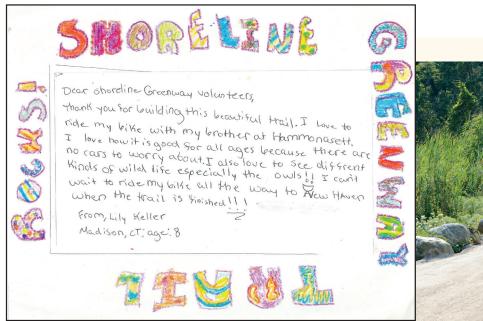
Don't go straight in a turn-only lane.

Make eye contact with drivers in your lane at stop signs and traffic lights.

Look out for sewer grates, low branches, gravel, ice, sand, debris.

Wear a snug-fitting helmet and bright-colored clothing. Never ride with headphones.

shorelinegreenwaytrail.org





Eight year-old Lily bikes on the Trail all the time with her brother Henry and parents, Matt and Lydia Williams-Keller; or they walk with their dog. Here is the delightful note she sent to us.

Your Working Board of Directors

We honor all our dedicated Board members, some who have been serving since we incorporated in 2003! Their tireless commitment of many thousands of hours this past year is testament to how important our Trail is to our community.



Several Board members at a recent meeting: Back row, L to R: Milton Charlton, Brad Kronstat, John Paulson, Mike Gambardella, Peggy Thomas, Pam Bisbee Simonds. Front row, L to R: Chip Angle, Ginny Raff, July Miller, Joe Marshall.

2013-14 Board of Directors

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Branford

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Milton Charlton, 2012

Ted Braun, 2003 *Madison*Virginia Raff, 2007

John Paulson, 2011 Steve Horner, 2012



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Regina Bejnerowicz, 2011 John Cox, 2010 Larry Dowler, 2003 Glenn Gaffield, 2009 Barbara Goetsch, 2007 Terry Maguire, 2009 Joe Marshall, 2003 Craig Mullett, 2003 Peg Stamp, 2012 Karen Stark, 2010



Thank You, Jack

Jack Wood was first elected as an Advisory Director eleven years ago. In 2005 he became the new Vice Chair of the Board, and agreed to chair the new Trail Development Team, a major responsibility

for a supposedly retired professional engineer! For the past nine years, he has overseen all the design and construction of Trail sections in East Haven, Madison and especially in his own town of Branford, working closely with each Town's volunteer engineers and builders.

Always a wise voice on the Board, Jack has been extraordinarily diligent in applying his considerable engineering expertise to the building of the Trail. We have Jack to thank for the carefully engineered and lovely crushed pink granite surface of our finished Trail. He spent four years with experts researching and developing a hardened Trail surface that packs well and is good for both walkers and bicyclists. He helped us save transportation costs for material, add value to our local economy, and weave the fame of Stony Creek granite into our Trail's story. We honor his commitment to our mission and know even now in his 'new retirement,' he is somewhere on the Trail in Branford. maintaining what he built, and dreaming of the next section!



2013 Shoreline Greenway Trail Donors

Thank you for your generosity that enables us to build our vision.

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Saartje Engel

Glenda Esposito

William & Gail Etter

Dick & Gail Evarts

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Diane Foberg

Glenn Forest

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Lisa Fahey

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ANNUAL REPORT - MAY 2014

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Kenneth & Barbara Munro

Patrick Murphy Susanne Murphy

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David Nelson Lorie Nicholas

Stephen Nikituk Joanna & Lawrence Nobel Lawrence & Joanna Noble

George & Brenda Nousiainen David Nowak

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Paul & Carolyn Ober Ernest & Joanne Obrig Ed & Priscilla Ochman

Elizabeth & Michael O'Connell

John & Jean O'Connor

Anne O'Connor Michael O'Connor Paul & Polly Odegaard Paul Odegard

Eugene & Gail O'Leary Miriam Olsen

Seán O'Murray

Elizabeth & Rodney Oppel

Robert Oppel Edna Orlins Mary Anne Osborn Bob & Sally O'Such Marge Ottenbreit Karen Owen

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Karen & James Piscitelli

Joan Platner

Alan Plattus & Nancy Berliner

Philip Polihrom Ashley Polverari Mary Polverari

Louise Pompane Karen Pompano Diane Popolizio

Laura Porretta William & Maureen Porter

Elizabeth & Charles Possidente



Barbara & Frank Post Judy Postemsky Sam & Rena Powell Marilyn Proto Sarah Prown & John Coleman Tom & Babe Pugh Glenda & Giovanni Raccuglia * Pamela Rackliffe Eleanor & Richard Radune Kathrine & Richard Rae Kristina Rath & Todd Constable Kathy Rausch Rav Řauth Randolph Reinhold & Rita Berkson Joan & Peter Remaly

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Christa Rice & Gail Erickson

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Nancy Ruther Shirley & Walter Sabine Anthony & Alice Salzano

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Sharon Schmidt Divinna Schmitt Karen Schneider

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* Barbara Waggoner

** Cameron Brown

*** Glenn Arbonies

**** Bob McHenry

***** Paula Schiller

Giving Levels

Trailblazer \$500+ Leaders \$100-\$499 \$50 - \$99 Guide Other Contributors Under \$50

For many of the photographs used in this Annual Report, we thank photographer, artist, author and friend Michael Weymouth, and organizer Hilary Weekes, for donating their time and talent.



Upcoming 'First Saturday' Events

Check our Summer First Saturdays schedule for hikes in May through August, and check our website for Summer Bike Rides to be announced.

June 7, 10AM: 'First Saturday' Walk & Free Trolley Ride on CT Trails Day

Something different! An adventure! Our East Haven and Branford Teams of Shoreline Greenway Trail and the Shoreline Trolley Museum are again co-sponsoring a wonderful event, a repeat of last year's successful walk - a two-mile walk and trolley ride in celebration of Connecticut Trails Day weekend. We will start at the Shore Line



Trolley Museum (17 River Street, East Haven), which houses nearly 100 vintage transit vehicles. A museum volunteer will lead a brief tour before we take a trolley trip along their scenic track. Participants will disembark for an easy walk to see the proposed route of Shoreline Greenway Trail to the Farm River, and the area's history. The trolley will return the group back to the museum at a somewhat flexible end time. PRE-REGISTRATION IS RECOMMENDED. No dogs are permitted. Questions, rain plan, and to register: **Contact leader** Judith Miller, (203) 481-3870, j.miller@snet.net.

September 1, 10AM: First Saturday 'En Plein Air' Art Stroll along Hammonasset Trail

Award-winning artists from the Madison Art Society will set up their easels all along our Hammonasset Shoreline Greenway Trail for the day, and create works of art while we stroll by or stop to watch and chat. Later in the fall there will be a special reception to view the art and purchase your favorite scene. The walk will start at 10AM at the eastern SGT Trailhead parking lot, just east of the entrance to Hammonasset.

Check www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org for more details.

Sunday, September 28 - Third Annual "Run The Gauntlet" at Hammonasset

A seriously fun 5K-obstacle race that raises funds to benefit Shoreline Greenway Trail! Participants face tires, hay bales, high walls, water, cargo nets and more - while running 3-plus miles along the course set on the beautiful shores of Hammonasset beach.

Check www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org later for more info. Save the date!

'First Saturday' Hikes and Bike Rides Our monthly First Saturday hikes have been very popular, with many people enjoying the hikes each month, bringing children, grandchildren, friends, dogs. We have explored our Trail sections in each town, visited other trails, and enjoyed the leisure and the fresh air.

And, since summer of 2012, we have also organized occasional First Saturday bike rides on scenic roads and past historic sites in our towns, with more than 20 riders usually showing up. As more of our Trail sections are finished and connected, we will be able to lead longer bike rides on our Trail, not just on local roads. The good news is that right now, we have a finished short bikeable section – our two-mile, round trip Shoreline Greenway Trail at Hammonasset. Finally, shoreline bikers can have a leisurely, safe short ride on our Trail! It is just the first of several new sections now being completed that will extend the options for multi-use enjoyment on our Trail.

'First Saturday' Bike Ride with Police Escort Last October, Madison's Shoreline Greenway Trail Team partnered with Madison's cycling police officers Joe Race, assisted by Joe Guion, for a leisurely bike ride on a beautiful day. Race, an avid cyclist, volunteered his time to lead the ride and he controlled traffic at the same time. Thirty



bicyclists enjoyed the 15mile ride 'First Saturday Bike Ride', cycling across the completed walkway at Hammonasset Park and through Salt Meadow Park, site of the former Griswold Airport, Madison's newest recreational site.

