



# 2018

ANNUAL REPORT



*A better way from here to there.*



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**COVER PHOTO**  
Local teenagers walk safely off-road on the Hammonasset section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail next to Route 1 in Madison. Right, sharrows painted on Whitfield Street call attention to the need to share the lane in Guilford.

**PHOTO CREDITS**  
Thank you to everyone who contributed images to this year’s annual report: Sandy Connolly, Kristen D’Souza, Rohan D’Souza, Peter Hawes, Jennifer Higham Photography, Irene Liebler and Judy Miller.

## *The Year in Review: 2017*

The action moved westward on the Shoreline Greenway Trail in 2017, with exciting progress in East Haven, where the Farm River State Park section had its official opening, and Branford, where as of this writing the Tabor segment awaited its final surfacing. In New Haven, Mayor Toni Harp has made a strong commitment to bike/pedestrian infrastructure on the east side of the city, including plans to connect with the Shoreline Greenway Trail in East Haven.

Hopes for developing the first trail in Guilford suffered a setback when selectmen voted to turn back \$800,000 in grant money for a Route 1 section of trail; the good news is that we believe the majority of the funds can be reallocated to SGT projects in East Haven or Branford. Madison, meanwhile, saw no new trail, but a full-fledged section from the SGT Hammonasset parking lot to the trail within the park, across the main entrance drive, will result from work being done to replace underground utilities in the park.

As we evolve into a more visible role as a bike/pedestrian advocate, the towns of Branford, Guilford and Madison—with our strong encouragement—have taken steps to create bike/pedestrian advisory committees. Their aim, like ours, is to make Shoreline communities safer and more accessible for walkers and cyclists. We applaud these efforts, as they recognize that cyclist and pedestrian safety is a legitimate issue on the



*The new Tabor section in Branford.*

Shoreline and that communities derive significant health, economic and quality-of-life benefits from becoming more bike- and pedestrian-friendly.

Finally, we were saddened by the loss of two SGT legends, Pete Peterson and Joe Marshall, who recently passed away. Joe, a spark and founder of SGT, was active in the project for more than 16 years, almost until his death this January. Pete, who died in March 2017, was also an SGT founder and pioneer, and we will miss his just-get-it-done spirit along with his great work building trail, benches, kiosks and bridges. We carry on our work in their memory.



*Peaceful fall walk in the new East Haven section.*

## Message from the Chair

### Getting Serious About Walking and Biking

By Judith Miller, SGT Chair



Bicycle/pedestrian advisory committees (BPACs) are springing up along the Shoreline, as towns realize the many benefits of improving safety, access and connectivity for walkers and cyclists. We at Shoreline Greenway Trail are very pleased with this trend; in fact, many

of us have been urging our town leaders to create these committees. BPACs have either formed or are planned in the SGT towns of Madison, Guilford and Branford, as well as in neighboring Clinton.

What do BPACs have to do with the Shoreline Greenway Trail? A lot! It's true that we're working with towns to help them develop the Shoreline Greenway Trail as a bicycle/pedestrian route that can link towns, especially for those who want a long, safe stretch for exercise, recreation and commuting. But we've always envisioned bicycle/pedestrian connections within towns as well, linking important destinations with one another, with town centers and with the Shoreline Greenway Trail.

Imagine being able to ride your bike to your local railroad station, parking it there or taking it on the train with you. Imagine your children having a safe route to walk or ride to school. Imagine hopping on your bicycle and riding safely to shop at a local merchant, or visit a restaurant, museum or town beach. This is happening all over Connecticut, and we're helping to make it happen here. Every time you choose to walk or bike instead of traveling by car, you make an amazing contribution to the quality of life for yourself, for others and for the

entire community. Safer roads for active travelers, better fitness and health, less stress, cleaner air and less gas consumption, plus reduced highway congestion—all can result from your town's decision to support safe biking and walking.

There's another reason town leaders are creating BPACs: bicycles mean business. The state of Michigan estimated in 2014 that bicycling provided \$668 million per year in economic benefit to the state's economy. Closer to home, the Farmington River Trail has energized businesses all along its length, bringing tourists to restaurants and local sites of interest along the trail. The Shoreline Greenway Trail can have a similar impact.

A study done for the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG), which is being developed in Litchfield and New Haven counties, shows the overall economic and health benefits of a project like this: between 2016 and 2031, NRG trail users are projected to spend \$626 million in the 11 trail-adjacent communities, and at least 1,400 jobs will be created. The monetized health benefits are projected to reach or exceed \$500 million, and 138 premature deaths will be avoided. Our towns can experience these benefits, too, via the Shoreline Greenway Trail and more extensive bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

We assume you've been supporting the Shoreline Greenway Trail not only because you want the trail but also because of your interest in safe walking and bicycling, and the health and economic gains they foster. Keep your eyes out for the development of a BPAC in your town, and think about joining it. Support its work as you support the work of SGT. SGT and BPACs are a natural connection, both working for a Better Way from Here to There.

*Judy*

## Volunteers Needed!

Your financial support is essential to Shoreline Greenway Trail, but volunteers are our lifeblood. As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on dedicated people working behind the scenes and in the field to keep SGT functioning; to design, build and maintain trail; to organize walks, bike rides and other events; raise money; and keep our technology humming and people like you informed.



East Haven trail cleanup crew.



Guilford's Kristen D'Souza briefs riders.

If you're a financial supporter, you can make your contribution even more meaningful by volunteering some time and energy. If you'd like to support the trail but aren't in a position to donate money, lend us your mind and body! We have plenty for you to do! Every time you use a section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail, you'll feel a sense of ownership and pride in being part of something that benefits the entire Shoreline.



Kim Schmid, left, and Jo Zaehring at the Hammonasset Festival.

## Ways to Support the Trail

About one-quarter of the funds we've raised over the years has come from members and other supporters like you, enabling us to build and maintain trail and to leverage large amounts of federal, state and foundation money through matching grants.

There are many ways for you to help: make a one-time gift via our website or sign up for monthly giving, respond to one of our fund-raising solicitations, take advantage of an employer's matching-gifts program, make Shoreline Greenway Trail a beneficiary of a bequest or planned gift, or donate appreciated stock.

Taking part in an event like New Haven's Rock to Rock bike ride is a great way to support us, as is contributing through the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven's Great Give. A portion of sales benefits Shoreline Greenway Trail when you use AmazonSmile to buy goods.

For more information on how to financially support us, contact Judith Miller, our chairperson, at: [chair@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](mailto:chair@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org) or 203-481-3870.

### Interested?

Here are links to the online resources mentioned above:

#### [shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](http://shorelinegreenwaytrail.org)

Look for the "Get Involved" link on our new website and click "Donate" or "Volunteer." Or both!

#### [rocktorock.donordrive.com](http://rocktorock.donordrive.com)

Look for the "Get Involved" link, make your choice and name Shoreline Greenway Trail as the team you want to join or support.

#### [thegreatgive.org](http://thegreatgive.org)

Enter "Shoreline Greenway Trail" in "Find an Organization."

#### [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

Enter "Shoreline Greenway Trail" in the "Pick a Charitable Organization" field and click "Select" to designate us.



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## East Haven

### **With Two Trail Sections Open, Town Looks West**

Like the picturesque Shoreline Greenway Trail at the former site of the D.C. Moore School, the new section in Farm River State Park is very popular with hikers and bicyclists. The section opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May 2017, featuring remarks by Mayor Joseph Maturo Jr.; Laurie Giannotti, coordinator of the Trails and Greenways Program for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP); and Barbara Brow, head of SGT's East Haven team.

The Farm River State Park segment, completed in November 2016, was funded by \$94,000 in recreational trails funding from the DEEP. With that section complete, East Haven Town Engineer Kevin White and Director of Administration and Management Sal Brancati have been working with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to access grant funds to extend the Shoreline Greenway Trail westward toward New Haven. New Haven has been looking eastward for future bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and is developing plans to connect to the Shoreline Greenway Trail in East Haven, most likely through the East Shore neighborhood.



*Bridge in Farm River State Park section.*

Our partnership with East Haven Public Schools, in which the trail is used for school-centered education and recreation, entered its third year.

Many thanks to our East Haven volunteers Sylvia Brewster, Barbara Brow, Jim Comiskey, John Cox, Kirsten Dudley, Barbara Esposito, Mike Gambardella, Lara Miner, Peggy Thomas, Don Thomas, MaryJane Toomey and Sue Turner. Every year, they dedicate countless hours to SGT's mission and to developing and maintaining the trail. We couldn't do what we do without them!



*View of the Farm River from East Haven trail.*

# Branford

## Tabor Section to Open in Early 2018

This past year has been a great one for the Shoreline Greenway Trail in Branford. The most exciting news is that the Tabor section, 7/10 mile long, has been completed. The final chip-seal surface was scheduled to be applied and the Pine Orchard Road crossing



Tabor section under construction.

made safe in the spring, and with those finishing touches, the trail will be open for business.

Branford has jumped onto the bike/ped bandwagon with enthusiasm. A recent Transit Oriented Development study includes extensive plans for bike/ped facilities, including a possible boardwalk along the Branford River and connection to the Shoreline Greenway Trail. The 2018-2019 Plan of Conservation and Development includes

bike/ped connectivity between the town center, key places such as schools, the harbor and other shoreline areas, and formation of a bicycle/pedestrian committee. There is also talk of developing a two-mile loop, starting at the new Tabor trail parking lot; it would include SGT segments, the Branford Trail and Ecology Park.

The Branford team has been active in its outreach activities, making sure that people in town know what we're up to. We held a public meeting in March at the Blackstone Library, where we updated attendees on SGT developments and promoted creation of a bicycle/pedestrian committee. We followed up with a display at the Blackstone Library.

Our team collaborated with SGT's East Haven team in June for the annual Connecticut Trails Day ride and walk at the Shoreline Trolley Museum. About 80 people from all over Connecticut joined us. Our booth at the Branford Festival, in June, was well attended. We've also continued our tradition of leading Walsh Intermediate School students on an annual walk from the Birch Road trailhead to Chet's pond on the Tabor property.

Thanks to our Branford team members for another great year on the trail and in the back office: Regina Bejnerowicz, Chet Blomquist, Tracey Brooks, Leo Criotofar, Bimmie Herget, Judy Miller, Jack Wood and Jo Zaehring.





## Guilford

### **Focus on Bike/Ped Advocacy as Town Returns Route 1 Money**

The Board of Selectmen voted in December to surrender more than \$800,000 in state and federal money allocated for the Route 1 East section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail. Naturally, this was disappointing to those of us who have been working to put some trail in Guilford. Although Guilford appears to have lost the benefit of the funds, we believe a significant portion of the money can be transferred to SGT projects in Branford or East Haven, so that's a silver lining for the project overall.

Looking ahead, we're encouraged that selectmen recognize the importance of bike/ped safety and have created a Safe Streets Mobility Task Force. They're hoping for recommendations from the panel by fall on townwide mobility, including bike, pedestrian and motor vehicle travel.

Meanwhile, SGT will keep advocating for safer and better facilities for bicyclists, pedestrians and others who use non-motorized transportation in Guilford—including off-road trail, bike lanes coupled with sidewalks, marked shared lanes and traffic calming as appropriate. One example of such an effort was the installation in July of shared-lane markings, or "sharrows," on Whitfield Street. This was possible thanks to a generous grant to the town from the Guilford Foundation, which we facilitated.



Sharrows on Whitfield Street.

In addition to working on the trail project in 2017, SGT's Guilford team joined in New Haven's Earth Day Rock to Rock bike ride in April—fielding a team of riders and managing a rest stop for metric century riders coming through Guilford. We organized and staffed a booth at the Hammonasset Festival, held at the Guilford Fairgrounds because of construction at Hammonasset Beach State Park. Unfortunately our two First Saturday walks were rained out, but we did manage a lovely bike ride in early November from Guilford Harbor to Madison's Circle Beach and back.

We couldn't have done any of the above without these Guilford volunteers in 2017: Chelsea Anderson, Chip Angle, Pam Bisbee-Simonds, Ted Braun, Christi Burton, Milton Charlton, Larry Dowler, Kristen D'Souza, Sam Gerritz, Peter Hawes, Brad Kronstat, Mike Meisel, Jerry Meyer, Kim Schmid and Greg Teschendorf.



Bundled up for a fall First Saturday ride.

## Madison

### Full-fledged Trail Will Cross Hammonasset Drive

Shoreline Greenway Trail participated in the Connecticut Trail Census project, which showed that the Hammonasset Beach State Park section of the SGT was consistently among the most used trails in the state in 2017. An electronic counter was installed on the trail, and its findings were bolstered by in-person surveys of trail users; the state is using the information to assess the health and economic benefits that trails such as ours bring the community. A big thank-you to the SGT volunteers who put in more than 50 hours of time on the project.

Construction to replace underground utilities at Hammonasset disrupted the trail for short periods, and we appreciate everyone's patience with that. The good news is that when the utilities project is finished this summer, there will be a real trail from the SGT parking lot all the way across the Hammonasset entrance road.

The Garden Club of Madison placed a bench near the SGT kiosk at Webster Point Road to honor a deceased past president of the club, Margaret Brady. There was a dedication ceremony at which Margaret's husband, Bob, and others spoke about Margaret's love of nature and the outdoors.

This January, in an effort to make Madison more pedestrian- and bike-friendly, the Board of Selectmen formed Bike Walk Madison, a citizen committee that will develop a long-term master

plan for Madison and advise selectmen on funding, projects and policies to make walking and cycling safer and to promote these active modes of travel for transportation, recreation and fitness. Nine Madison



Trail census counter at Hammonasset.

residents were named to the panel. There has been considerable interest among townspeople to get involved.

Speaking of getting involved, no summary of the year would be complete without acknowledging the tremendous contributions of SGT volunteers from Madison: Maria Derblom, Dick Fagan, Dan Goddard, Steve Horner, Lydia Keller, Dave Kelley, Steve Mack, Patty McKeon, John Paulson, Ken Punzelt, Ginny and Ted Raff, Perry Rianhard, Bill Renda, Yasu Ueda and Barbara Yaeger.



Enjoying the Hammonasset trail.

## 2017 Shoreline Greenway Trail Donors

(includes donations from first quarter 2018)

Thank you for your generosity in helping us complete your trail



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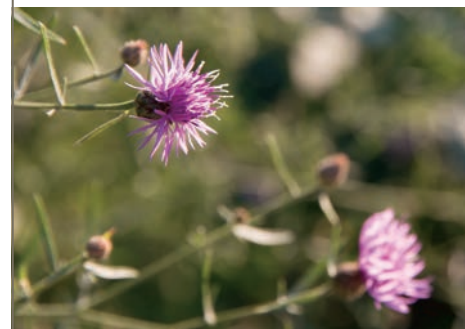
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 Susan & Ned Phipps  
 Jane Polley  
 Mileysa Ponce Rios  
 Jim Powell  
 Ken & Jan Punzelt  
 Ginny & Ted Raff  
 Ines & Terry Reardon  
 Norman Redlich  
 Joe & MaryLou Regan  
 Bob & Marilyn Regan  
 John Riley & Sallie Gouverneur  
 David & Janet Rimm  
 David & Susan Rood  
 Robert & Denise Ross  
 Roslyn Rubinstein & Allison Alkire  
 Diane Russo  
 Ann Rutherford & Bruce Lively  
 Francis & Cheryl Ryan  
 Wendy Sabol & Robert Low  
 Jay & Diane Savastano  
 Lee Schacter  
 Eugene Schiller  
 George Schmeizl & Peggy Carter

Kimberly & Gerard Schmid  
 Cynthia & Michael Schneider  
 David Scranton, Scranton Financial  
 Group  
 Peter Scranton & Sher Walton  
 Edwin & Deborah Selden  
 Nathan Silverstein  
 Sue Smith  
 Robert Soule  
 Peter & Jeanne Stein  
 Blaire & Bowen Steven  
 Diane & Lee Stewart  
 Lynn Stone  
 Shepard & Marlene Stone



Ned & Bonnie Taylor  
 Ian & Christine Taylor  
 Bob Tosiello  
 Howard & Peg Tuttle  
 Janie Umbricht  
 Jan Sola Walzer & David P. Etzel  
 Jacqueline Ward  
 Ellen & Woodie Weiss  
 Robert & Kathleen White  
 Craig Whitehouse  
 Robert Wierzel  
 Bonnie & Thomas Williams  
 Jonathan Wimbish  
 Jeffrey Wolfson  
 Carol & Fred Wright  
 Jane Wylie Marshall  
 Peter & Judith Young

**TRAILBLAZER**

Kathleen Akgun & Paige Brennan  
 Ayden, Phoebe & Eli Brennan

Julie & Anthony Broom  
 Lenny & JoAnn Goldberg  
 David & Amy Jaffe  
 Henry & Judith Kramer  
 Carl & Nora Lund  
 Craig & Jennifer Mullett  
 Eva Peterson  
 Neal & Katherine Thomas  
 Louis & Cynthia Ursini

**TRAIL BUILDER**

Chip & Barbara Angle  
 Charles Barr  
 Sara K. Benedetto  
 Susan Byck  
 Michael & Dudley DelBalso  
 Ann Falsey  
 Lee & George Haines  
 Peter & Maureen Herbert  
 Mike & Ann Johnson  
 David Knapp  
 Jack Linville  
 Bruce & Renee McIntyre  
 Judy Miller & Ron Heiferman  
 Richard & Ina Montelius  
 Douglas A. Shomo  
 Pam & Bruce Simonds

**ORGANIZATION**

Aquatic Pool & Spa Service  
 Beebe Dock & Mooring Systems, LLC  
 Connecticut Department of Energy &  
 Environmental Protection  
 Frances Walsh Intermediate School  
 Garden Club of Madison  
 giveGreater.Org  
 The Guilford Savings Bank  
 Network for Good  
 New Haven Ecology Project Inc.  
 Pfizer Foundation  
 Town of East Haven  
 Traveler's Cyber Grants  
 Truist  
 United Technologies  
 Wafios Machinery Corporation  
 YourCause LLC



First Saturday walk in Branford.

## Calendar of Events

Check out our online calendar at: [shorelinegreenwaytrail.org/calendar](http://shorelinegreenwaytrail.org/calendar) for details on these events and up-to-date information on other SGT programs!

**APRIL 28:** Rock to Rock Earth Day Ride, New Haven. Visit [rocktorock.donordrive.com](http://rocktorock.donordrive.com).

**JUNE 2:** SGT trolley ride and walk to celebrate Connecticut Trails Day, East Haven, Shoreline Trolley Museum.

**JUNE 9-23:** International Festival of Arts Ideas Trex walks and bike rides, New Haven. Visit [artidea.org](http://artidea.org) for a schedule of events and locations.

**JUNE 15-17:** Branford Festival. Visit SGT's booth on the Branford Town Green. Details at [branfordfestival.com](http://branfordfestival.com).

**JULY 7:** SGT Walk, Branford. Take a walk on the new Tabor section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail.

**AUGUST 4:** SGT Walk, Madison. Walk with us on the Shoreline Greenway Trail and check out the park's new Beach Utility Recreation Trail.

**SEPTEMBER 1:** SGT Walk, East Haven. Details TBA.

**OCTOBER 6:** SGT Family Bike Ride, Hammonasset Beach State Park. Details TBA.

## Contact us!

Website: [shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](http://shorelinegreenwaytrail.org)

Email: [info@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](mailto:info@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org)



Arts & Ideas festival ride, East Haven.