



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Report from the Chair

by Dan Buckley

Folks, its hard to believe it's been another year. Shoreline Greenway Trail has been very busy and I'm proud to start off this Annual Report with a couple of highlights and perspective.

One piece of exciting news is the extension of the Shoreline Greenway Trail into the City of New Haven, thanks to a 2022 Federal Award for Trail Development, and State bonding. A group of our New Haven members has been joining our board meetings and is in the process of forming a New Haven town team to become our 5th town team.

We also had the excitement of opening another long section of trail in East Haven from Elliot Street to Cosey Beach Avenue. This leaves East Haven with only one section to go before it can connect to the New Haven Shoreline Greenway Trail and be the first town with a completed trail.

The trail sections continue to see a lot of usage by members, frequent users, and visitors to the area. The counter on the Hammonasset West section in Madison counted over 84,000 counts: up slightly from 2023 data. Other trail sections in East Haven and Branford have also experienced increased usage.

We have been happy to see so many of you at our community activities, such as our popular First Saturday events, our Masters series, and our 3rd annual SGT30 Bike ride from New Haven Union Station to Madison and Clinton Station.

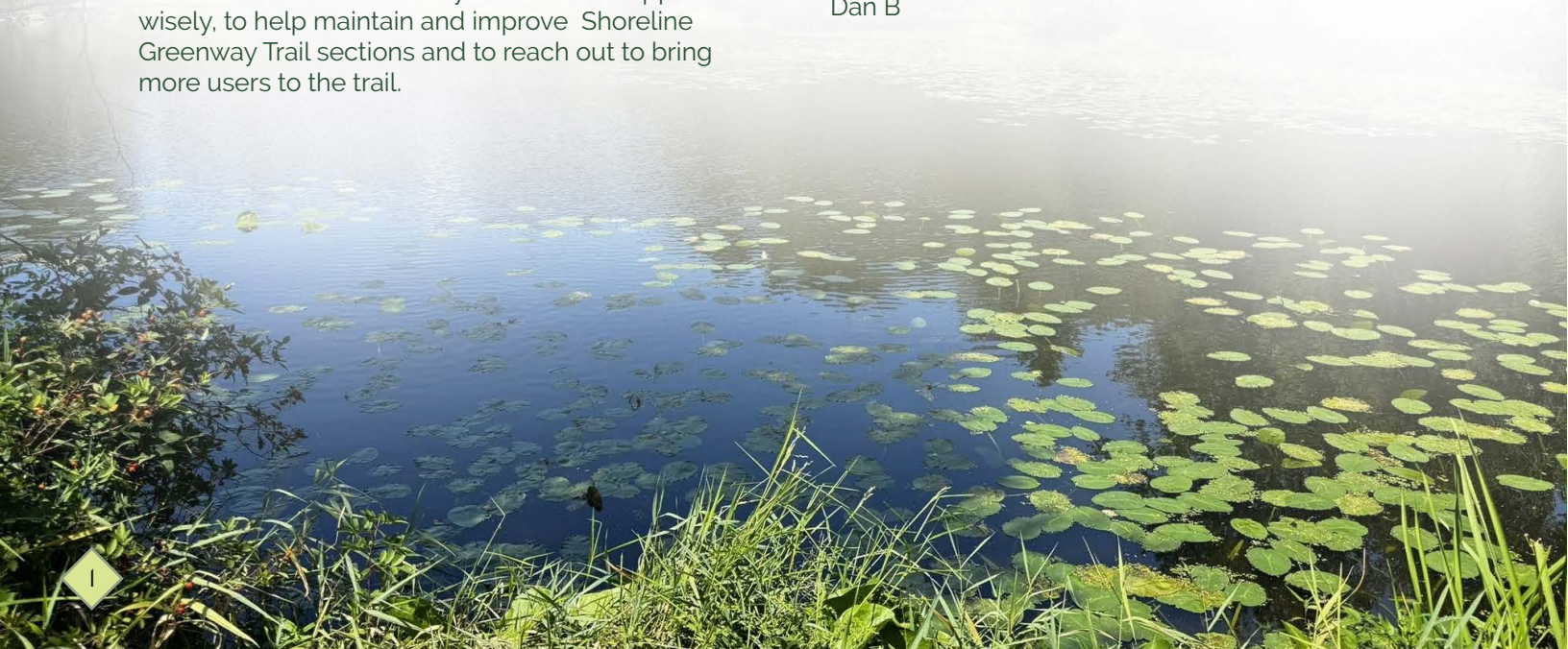
All in all, a great year for Shoreline Greenway Trail. We have tried to use your financial support wisely, to help maintain and improve Shoreline Greenway Trail sections and to reach out to bring more users to the trail.



You support Shoreline Greenway Trail because you believe in this unique multi-use trail from New Haven through Madison that will provide safe biking and walking for shoreline residents. We'll need your help and support more than ever as the trail grows in the coming years

Thanks so much.
Good Stuff

Dan B



2024 SGT30 Ride

For the third year, Shoreline Greenway Trail celebrated the trail in the process of becoming a reality by bicycling the entire route. Fifteen riders started out from Union Station in New Haven at mid-morning. They rode the existing and proposed routes for the Shoreline Greenway Trail. A little over 3 hours later, they completed the entire 30 miles to the Madison/Clinton town lines.

These waypoints included beautiful views and vistas of Long Island Sound, our beautiful State Parks, Stony Creek Brewery and scenic routes on shared roadways in Branford and Guilford.

Following the 4-hour ride, all who finished celebrated at Donahue's Beach Grill before biking the final 1 mile to the Clinton Station for their return.



Many participants took advantage of favorable train schedules on the Shoreline East train line to meet up at Union Station.

Following the end of the ride, several took the return train back to their starting point along the shoreline or back home to New Haven or to get the car!

The ride was expanded this year to 30 miles to recognize the inclusion of New Haven and the recent Shoreline Greenway Trail grant and planning work to make safe bike and pedestrian paths from downtown New Haven to the East Haven connection at Morris Creek.

This was a terrific social event and a very positive adventure along existing and proposed trail.



Much has been done to realize **"A better way from here to there!"**

We hope to continue to see more and more people coming together to create yet more positive developments for our shoreline trail!



Riding as a group, we followed the map (*Get on the Trail - Shoreline Greenway Trail*) and stopped at several waypoints to let everyone catch up.



Trolleys & Trails Series

The Shore Line Trolley Museum and the Shoreline Greenway Trail partnered this past summer in a series of talks and walks along the historic Connecticut Trolley system as it winds along sections of the Shoreline Greenway Trail.

This series brought speakers Wayne Sanford and Tom Laurenson from the Shore Line Trolley Museum visiting Shoreline Greenway Trail sections and describing the fascinating history of the trolley system of area. This once popular, multi-section trolley system serviced shoreline communities in the early 1900's.

Participants also enjoyed a walk along sections of the Shoreline Greenway Trail in East Haven, Branford, Madison and Guilford.

This was a very popular series that melded eye-opening local history and an opportunity to enjoy sections of the Shoreline Greenway Trail.



Summer Interns.

2024 marked the 3rd year of Shoreline Greenway Trail's summer intern program, funded this year by a generous grant from the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

This grant allowed us to bring on two paid interns to help with programs designed to build awareness and support for building more trail.

From a strong pool of excellent candidates our Internship Program team chose Megan McNamara (Loyola-Marymount '25) and Carter Ganino Southern Connecticut State University '26, who came on board in mid-May. Megan and Carter immediately had a profound impact our organization, helping us build



awareness and support for the Shoreline Greenway Trail in areas such as

Support SGT



Carter Ganino



Megan McNamara

social media & younger demographic outreach, public health outreach, membership support, trail census, trail signage, event support, trail service mapping, and pathways program development.

As they returned to their studies after 13 weeks of work they provided final reports that prided a grateful board with valuable information on which to build.

Look for the 2025 Program to kick off in March and If you have or know anyone who might be interested, please reach out to:

INFO@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org



Financials

Shoreline Greenway Trail had a good year and ended similarly to last year. Given that several of our initiatives for Trail Development & Maintenance will require our financial support, the need is still great for your contributions.

Shoreline Greenway Trail, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position - Cash Basis
As of September 30, 2024 and 2023

ASSETS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash & Equivalents	\$549,256	\$524,139
Fixed Assets, net of depreciation	—	—
TOTAL ASSETS	\$549,256	\$524,139

NET ASSETS

Net assets without donor restrictions	289,242	244,115
Net assets with donor restrictions	260,014	280,024
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$549,256	\$524,139



Donate to SGT

New Haven Update

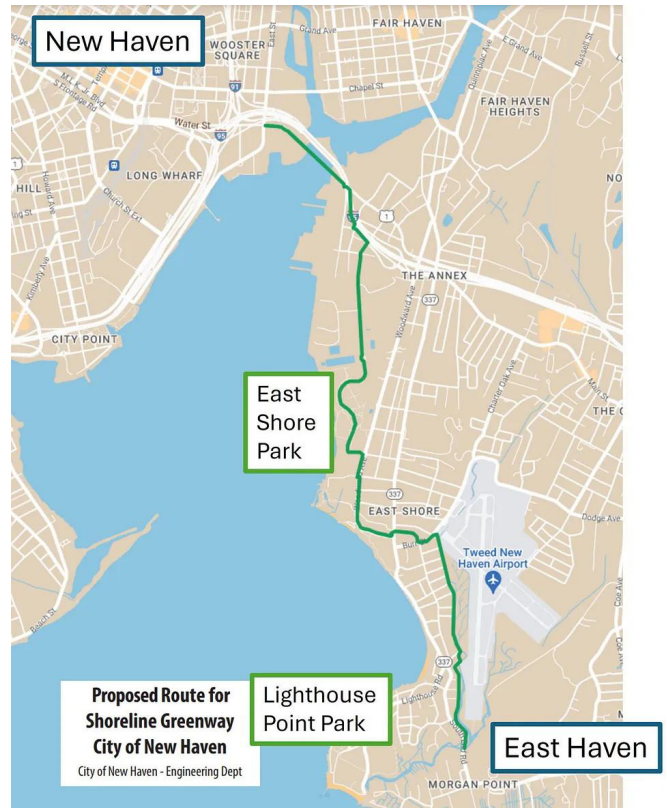
Doug Hausladen, Town Chair

The New Haven Team has made significant strides in extending the Shoreline Greenway Trail by over 4 miles from East Haven to downtown New Haven, with connections to the regional trail network. Over the past year, New Haven has focused on route planning and securing critical funding, including a \$9 million allocation that brings this trail closer to completion. Key community events, such as public meetings and organized walks with advocates Aaron Goode and Chris Oyzck, have strengthened support for creating safe, green pathways linking our parks, neighborhoods, and beyond.

This year's accomplishments include ongoing progress in the City's design of the \$9 million section, which will connect Fort Hale Park, Morris Creek in East Haven, Tweed Airport, and the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. This new trail will create a safe, protected pathway across the Tomlinson Bridge and along Woodward Avenue before reaching Fort Hale Park and Burr and Dean Streets. The final leg will pass Tweed Airport, connecting to East Haven at Morris Creek.

We remain dedicated to completing this crucial segment, enhancing recreational opportunities and promoting sustainable, non-motorized commuting options that will serve our city for generations. The project underscores the city's commitment to reducing pollution through active transportation.

Future efforts will focus on further stakeholder engagement, expanding volunteer initiatives,



and securing additional grants to ensure the trail's completion. We look forward to continued collaboration with the City of New Haven and neighboring towns to realize our vision of a connected and accessible shoreline. Once completed, the extended trail will link New Haven with Hammonasset Beach State Park and Northampton, MA, offering nearly 100 miles of continuous, safe, and scenic trail routes.



East Haven Update

Barbara Brow, Town Chair.

2024 has been a productive and rewarding time for Shoreline Greenway Trail in East Haven. On a pleasant April 30 day, Mayor Carfora hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the official opening of



Shoreline Greenway Trail's extension from Elliot Street to Bradford Avenue and Coe Avenue, I welcomed the opportunity to thank Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro for her continuous support of the trail and for securing Federal/State grant funds to build this section. EHS GT two-mile contiguous trail from Bradford Avenue and Coe Avenue meets the trail off Elliot Street, proceeds to connecting road Pevetty Drive onto Shoreline Greenway Trail in Farm River State Park.

With town approval SGT directional signs were recently installed on Pevetty Drive. Our community partnership (22 years) with Scout Master Ned Taylor and Boy Scout Troop 401 continues. Boy Scout Jacob Fowler is constructing a kiosk to be placed at Bradford Avenue and Coe Avenue. Our focus going forward is to place signage on the trail extension from Bradford Avenue and Coe Avenue to Elliot Street. And to seek grant funds for the planning phase to extend the trail 1.3 miles from Bradford Avenue and Coe Avenue to meet New Haven's section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail at the East Haven/New Haven town line at South End Road.

Heavy rains caused overgrowth of vegetation and erosion on the trail. Mike Gambardella leads our trail maintenance crew. With the help of the crew and an East Haven contractor overgrowth of weeds and erosion was addressed. Thanks to their efforts, the trail is in good condition.

Our outreach efforts continue. I am working with EHHS Assistant Principal, Sal Vollero and Ken Engleman, Community Volunteers United to host a Community Service Fair at the high school in November. The team has enjoyed hosting first Saturday walks, master series walks and the Trolleys and Trail series. Masters series specialists have included Farm River State Park Ranger Jill Scheibenpflug and master gardener, horticulturist and former Madison Tree Warden Bob Kuchta. The East Haven Chamber of Commerce on May 18th organized a meet and greet for non profit members on Shoreline Greenway Trail. Nonprofits shared literature and information about their organizations and a podcast was created. For the 13th year East Haven and Branford town teams cosponsored with Shore Line Trolley Museum a trolley ride and walk to celebrate CT. Trails Day. August 24th was a pleasant day for East Haven to host Shoreline Greenway's Trail popular trolleys and trails series. Finally, on October 5th, EH town team member Mike Gambardella led the 4-mile round trip



walk from Bradford Avenue and Coe Avenue to the wooded and picturesque trails off Elliot Street and in Farm River State Park, rounding out a busy year of activities on the East Haven section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail

A well deserved thank you to present and past members of East Haven town team for their dedication to Shoreline Greenway Trail, Joan Adamczyk, John Cox, Kirsten Dudley, Mike Gambardella, Steve Koss, Gloria Luzzatto, Matt Lieber, Lara Miner, Bill Richardson, MaryJane Toomey, Peggy Thomas and the late Don Thomas and Jim Comiskey.

Branford Update

Judith Miller, Town Chair

The Town of Branford and Shoreline Greenway Trail were delighted to be the recipients of an award from the Connecticut Recreational Trails fund for \$400,000 to protect the historic iron bridge on the Stony Creek Trolley Trail and to develop the area around the bridge for recreational use. This bridge is on one of the most popular sections of the Shoreline Greenway Trail, and its refurbishment has been long awaited.

Branford started the year with its annual New Year's Day walk at Tabor. This walk, which includes hot chocolate and donut holes is a perennial favorite, especially for families. On April 27 Branford Shoreline Greenway Trail was represented at Branford's Earth Day on the Green. This fair gives groups an opportunity to share our environmental message to those who attend. It was a great day with excellent turnout!

The New Year's Day walk was the first of several First Saturday walks throughout the year in Tabor and through Young's Pond Park and on the Stony Creek Trolley Trail section. Branford was also the host of a fascinating Master's Walk on June 22 at Young's Pond park led by Karen Monger of the 3 Foragers. We didn't have to travel far to find dozens of edible wild plants. The group was fascinated.



Branford continued its tradition of leading Walsh Intermediate School Fifth graders on a walk from the Birch Road kiosk through the Tabor loop trail up to Ecology Park and then back along Chet's Pond and the Branford labyrinth. This is a great walk to acquaint Branford's youth with nature. It includes a look at Branford's large solar array.

A highlight of the Branford Shoreline Greenway Trail team's year is the Branford Festival, and this year was no exception. Our volunteers helped to set up and break down our exhibit and shared their enthusiasm



for the trail during the day with passersby. Children were especially drawn to the door decorated as a map of Tabor, while adults were excited to see the new Tabor map drawn with professional detail by volunteer Christopher Calkins. *(This map will soon be available on our website).* We were joined this year by summer intern Megan McNamara



Shoreline Greenway Trail has emphasized youth outreach this year, and we have benefitted from help from interns Megan McNamara and Carter Gianino. Megan organized a wellness walk at Tabor, and Carter performed census work and enhanced our social media

presence. We also benefitted from the help of Branford High School junior Jim Bush, who helped blaze the Tabor Loop Trail and clean up the pollinator garden.

The Branford team continues to encourage further development of the Shoreline Greenway Trail in our town. Plans are in place for a section of the trail to go through the new mixed use development to be built at the old Atlantic Wire site. This trail section will continue west along Meadow Street and will connect to the walk across the Branford River on South Montowese.

Thanks to the Branford Shoreline Greenway Trail volunteers for their hard work this past year: Tracey Brookes, Christopher Calkins, Jean Connal, Leo Cristofar, Suzanne Smith, Chris Willems, and Jo Zaehring.



Guilford Update

Brad Kronstat and Pam Simonds, Town Co-Chairs

The Guilford Team's three leaders, Brad Kronstat, Pam Simonds and Wendy Sabol have been very busy his past year working with several town departments and organizations and holding many events in Guilford to promote safe walking and biking in Guilford.



In September 2023, we hosted a rest stop for riders on SGT's annual 25-mile bike ride through our four towns. And we hosted a popular SGT Master's Walk featuring shrubs and trees led by Bob Kuchta, former Madison Tree Warden, at Hammonasset State Park.

October 2023 – Over 100 children came to our SGT booth for Halloween trinkets as we spoke to their families about SGT at the Guilford's Police Night Out event on the Guilford Green

Feb 2024 – Fifty enthusiastic people joined our hike into Bittner Park from Baldwin Middle School on a beautiful sunny and chilly day.

April 2024 - On Earth Day, many people stopped by our SGT table on the Guilford Green

May 2024 - Guilford Police Department joined us to co-host a children's bike rodeo at Guilford High School [photo]

October 2024 – Guilford Police Night Out on the Green. Our booth was staffed by several enthusiastic high school volunteers recruited by Guilford High School student Lucas Scafidi. He is now a vital member of our Team, reaching out to the young residents of Guilford through the High School's School Engagement Program.

We continue to meet with Guilford's administration and the Safe Streets Task Force to encourage the creation of safe off-road paths, whether sidewalks or multi-use trail.

Last fall we met with Anne Hartjen, the new Guilford Town Planner, and this summer, we met with Janice Plaziak, Town Engineer and Michael Ciacciarella, Assistant Town Engineer to discuss plans for new 5' wide sidewalks along Route One to the East River on the Madison town line.



We have offered to help Park and Rec with their goal to build a bike trail in Bittner Park, a plan conceived by now retired Director Rick Maynard, and a line item in their budget.

More Fall '24 Events: Guilford Trolley Walk & Talk on October 26. SGT First Saturday hike in East River Preserve on November 2nd.

Madison Update

Virginia Raff, Town Chair.

Late in 2023, the Madison team was awarded two generous grants to plan and design "Hammonasset East," an extension of the Shoreline Greenway Trail in Hammonasset Beach State Park that will head eastward through an undeveloped section of the park toward the town's Salt Meadow Park. The grants came from the Recreational Trails Program of DEEP and the town's American Rescue Plan funds.

Aris Land Studios, LLC. has been hired to design the new section. The project manager is Barbara Yaeger, a landscape architect who lives in Madison and has done several pro bono projects for the trail as well as volunteered to help with the initial clearing for the Hammonasset section. She and our Trailmeister, Perry Rianhard staked out several proposed routes for the trail to be considered by various departments at DEEP. Because the path goes through substantial areas

friends we hadn't seen in years followed walking, riding bikes and wheelchairs, pushing strollers, and pulling wagons while volunteers handed out trail stickers to children along the way. There was an outpouring of enthusiasm for the trail as the parade moved along. One person shouted, "More trails, more sidewalks!" The parade with the trail in the lead was featured on WTNH news. We are deeply grateful to the Madison Exchange Club for bestowing this honor on the trail.

The regular Madison maintenance crew continued its efforts to maintain the trail in good condition. The walkway on the existing trail experienced more broken tiles that make up the decking. Perry Rianhard, Ted Raff, and Steve Mack were joined by intern Carter Ganino to replace the tiles. The replacement process revealed the walkway is showing its age, and at least part of it may have to be rebuilt soon.

Over the winter, four stalwart young men from Guilford High School devoted a Saturday afternoon to work on



of wetlands, environmental concerns for plants and creatures that may be impacted must be addressed before construction can begin.

Shoreline Greenway Trail was chosen by the Exchange Club to be the "Grand Marshall" of the Madison Fourth of July parade reflecting the parade's environmental theme. Trail Board Member Blythe Swift arranged to have a tractor pulling a small trailer lead the parade festooned with trail banners and bunting and carrying trail old timers. A large contingent of more than 50 people, many from Madison's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, trail members, and some old trail

the trail. The leader was Seth Gyllensten, a senior at GHS, who used to live in Madison and in his younger days introduced geo-caching to the Hammonasset section of trail. This effort was part of the Mastery Based Diploma Assessment course at GHS. All seniors are required to find something in their community that they are passionate about that has a problem. The problem on the trail is, of course, that invasive vines and weeds are trying to take over the trail. Seth conducted research, wrote an inquiry question and created an action plan. He then recruited a team to work with him to address the problem.

Contributors July 2023 through June 2024

Trail Builder (\$1,000+)

- Chip & Barbara Angle
- Joe & Cynthia Goldberg
- Nancy Rankin
- Pam & Bruce Simonds
- Jacqueline Ward & Barry Waters

Trail Blazer (\$500-\$999)

- Lianne & Lee Herdle
- David & Amy Jaffe
- Judy Miller & Ron Heiferman
- Mark & Karen Otterson
- Linda & Tim Reason
- Yvonne Shoff
- William Tracy IV

Leader (\$150-\$499)

- Barbara Albro
- Peter Aronson & Marie Landry
- Louise Beecher
- Lesley Bennett
- Tracey Brooks
- Barbara & Fred Brow
- Bob & Nancy Cairns
- Anthony & Rosanne Corso
- Jennifer Davies & J.L. Scott
- David & Emily Davison
- Larry Desbiens & Bill Marsland
- Raymond & Sandra Diette
- Larry Dowler
- Richard Dumas
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- Dick & Gail Evarts
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- kevin foley
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- Ginny & Ted Raff
- Nancy Ramseyer
- Ines & Terry Reardon
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- John Riley & Sallie Gouverneur
- Elizabeth & Mark Rolfe
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- Bruce Lively & Ann Rutherford
- Jay & Diane Savastano
- Edwin Selden
- Denise Sokolowski
- Parry & Sandra Spahr
- Jack & Sue Stacey
- David Stern
- Robert Stout & Susan Cayer
- Blythe Swift
- Neal & Katherine Thomas
- Peggy Thomas
- Bob Tosiello
- Howard & Peg Tuttle
- Janie Umbricht
- Emilia Van Beugen & Kenneth Florey
- Adam & Holly Leicht Weinstein
- Ellen & Howard Weiss
- Barbara Yaeger

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Organizations

Beebe Dock & Mooring Systems
 Community Foundation of Middlesex County
 FedEx
 Francis Walsh Intermediate School
 Garden Club of Madison
 Van Wilgen's Garden Center



In Memoriam

As we go to press, we have learned of the loss of Chet Blomquist, one of Shoreline Greenway Trail's staunchest supporters, who died on November 27. Chet was a founding member on Shoreline Greenway Trail Board of Directors and the first chair of the Branford team. His enthusiasm, dedication, and leadership played an important role in the success of our project. *For a full article go to shorelinegreenwaytrail.org*

Shoreline Greenway Trail Merchandise now available

You may have noticed SGT members wearing our attractive new t-shirts at local events. These are now available for purchase at Shoreline Greenway Trail events. Short sleeved cotton T-shirts come in two colors: white and lime green, in sizes small to extra-large. Hats come in the traditional khaki and the new Tek hat in dark forest green.; both are fully adjustable. All items are \$20.00 each.



And check out cafepress.com for Shoreline Greenway Trail mugs, water bottles, and other items! *They make great gifts!*



shorelinegreenwaytrail.org
info@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org

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- *Treasurer* - Bradley Kronstat
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- *East Haven* - Barbara Brow, Michael Gambardella
- *Guilford* - Pam Simonds, Bradley Kronstat, Wendy Sabol
- *Madison* - Virginia Raff, Dan Buckley, Blythe Swift