



## Spring/Summer 2025 Newsletter

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### Message from the Board Chair

Welcome to our brand new email newsletter! We hope you like it. Let us know what you think about this change from the printed version. We hope it is a little more responsive and nimble in reaching out to you - and a little easier to recycle. I can't wait to see you out on the trail this summer. We have new interns ready to meet you, lots of volunteer opportunities and a great series of events to help grow the community making the Shoreline Greenway Trail a better way from here to there on Long Island Sound.



Cheers,

Dan Buckley, Board Chair

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### News Along the Trail

The five town teams of the Shoreline Greenway Trail have been busy working to get more miles of trail on the ground, maintain the existing trails, and plan

events for the public to encourage recreation and appreciation of nature.

**New Haven** is the newest town member and shows tremendous promise. The city has secured \$9.3 million in funding to build the New Haven section. It will stretch from the East Haven line across the harbor front to the Farmington Canal Greenway at East Street and Water Street. Design work is well underway, with construction to begin later in this year. The New Haven team is working closely with the city engineering

department to ensure the project reflects community needs. When completed it will offer a safe, accessible, beautiful greenway connecting Shoreline Greenway with other notable trails.



In **East Haven**, the Shoreline Greenway Trail is close to completing its entire route through town. The only section left to complete will run 1.3 miles from Bradford Avenue and Coe Avenue to the New Haven town line at South End Road. We are actively pursuing funding for the planning and design phase. The East Haven Team is also working to get signs placed along the trail from Bradford and Coe Avenues to Elliot Street.

**Branford** has received a \$3.5 million grant for safety and access improvements to Route 142 in Short Beach as part of the proposed Shoreline Greenway Trail. Improvements will include sidewalks, crosswalks, and road-narrowing. Unfortunately, the right-of-way is not wide enough for bicycle lanes, but improvements will enhance bicycle safety. The Branford team is also working with the Public Works Department to improve accessibility on the Shoreline Greenway Stony Creek Trolley Trail.

The **Guilford Team** is focused on the work of the Safe Streets Task Force and town plans to build bike/ped projects on Route One and Long Hill Road. Many of our members attended the public meeting on proposed sidewalks and advocated for sidewalks along Route One to be at least 6 feet wide. The Guilford Team is also supporting the first safe bike path in Guilford, a proposed off-road, ten-foot-wide pathway on Long Hill Road to the high school.

The **Madison** Team is working with the landscape architecture firm Aris Land Studio to design Hammonasset East, a new trail that will head eastward from the current trail and connect to the town's Salt Meadow Park. This section will traverse a sensitive natural preserve and thus requires much environmental study and various special permits. Progress on design of the trail will continue after the environmental study. The trail user's experience will be very different from the existing trail in Hammonasset, and the connection to Salt Meadow Park will allow for even more walking and biking.

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## Young Volunteers on the Trail

Luca Scafidi, a student at Guilford High School is Shoreline Greenway Trail's youngest board member (at right in photo), and he has brought a wealth of wisdom and energy to our mission. Under his leadership our youth engagement program has blossomed with local youth helping to preserve and expand access to the trail. Students have come out to every trail event this year, managed sign-ins, worked on trail



maintenance, and helped recruit more student volunteers.

Some highlights include the work of Guilford High School 10th Grader Emily Jones to enhance trail social media accounts and expand their outreach. Students organized two trail maintenance sessions, one at Hammonasset in Madison, and one at Farm River State Park in East Haven. Claire Corwin, Hopkins High School 12th Grader, and Mike Gambardella, East Haven Team member, led these efforts. Students from East Haven, Branford, Guilford, and New Haven cleared brush and leaves to

restore the trail to good condition. Several high school volunteers helped to staff trail booths at events, including the Guilford Police Department's *National Night Out* in October, and Earth Day in May.

Looking to the future, we hope to welcome more students to tackle projects such as environmental cataloging, trail census, and graphic design work to both benefit the trail and provide students with service experience. Students are showing us the power of imagination backed up with hard work.

**Register as a Youth  
Volunteer**

## Events Calendar

**Saturday, June 7, 10 AM** - CT Trails Day: Branford/East Haven/Shoreline Trolley walk

**Saturday, June 14** - SGT booth at the Branford Festival

**Saturday, July 5, 10 AM** - First Saturday Walk, New Haven

**Saturday, July 19, 10 AM** - Trolley Bridge Walk, Branford

**Saturday, August 2, 10 AM** - First Saturday Bike Ride, Guilford

**Saturday, August 16, 10 AM** - Trolley to Trails Walk, Madison

**Saturday, September 6, 10 AM** - First Saturday Walk, Madison

**Saturday, October 18, 10AM** - Trolley to Trails Walk, New Haven

**Detailed Events  
Information**

## Accessibility for All on the Shoreline Greenway Trail

An important goal for the trail is to be as accessible for all users as topography allows. Branford resident Marian Altman, a wheelchair user, volunteered to try out our trails, assess how well we meet that goal, and make suggestions for how we could improve.





When she rolled the trail in Hammonasset Park, she said, "For wheelchair users, there are some small hills through wooded areas. Most manual chair users will need to be pushed up the hills," but she declared it accessible for her motorized chair. She gave highest marks to the Shoreline Greenway Trail off Tabor Drive in Branford. She declared, "This trail is totally accessible, and it is paved." The trailhead parking lots at both sites provide handicapped parking.

She pointed out a need for improvement on the Shoreline Greenway Stony Creek Trolley Trail. "One side of each bridge requires a step up or down. Some other areas had uneven surfaces, but were passable," she reported. Marian plans to explore other trails this summer. Her full report on wheelchair accessibility will be available on the Shoreline Greenway Trail website.

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## Promoting Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety is Built Into the SGT Mission

Do you feel comfortable riding your bike on local roads? Do you feel safe crossing the street? Does the sidewalk accommodate your wheelchair? These questions come up more and more as shoreline residents pursue active transportation. With its mission of

creating a safe bicycle pedestrian trail from Madison into New Haven, Shoreline Greenway Trail is a natural partner with community efforts to improve safety and access. The trail itself is often an important link in an interconnected system of safe streets. Shoreline communities are addressing these concerns by creating committees that tackle active transportation and safety issues. Shoreline Greenway Trail members are playing a significant role in these committees, and the trail is partnering in their activities.



The **Madison** Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee was started in 2018 to respond to the desire for safer walking and biking expressed in the Plan of Conservation and Development. Ginny Raff, SGT Madison Team chair, became BPAC's first chair. One of the committee's earliest achievements was the development of a Complete Streets policy approved by the Board of Selectmen. Their primary long-term task is to create a Bike/Walk master plan for the town.

The same year **Guilford's** Board of Selectmen established a Safe Streets Task Force to "improve safety, mobility, equity, and connectivity." The group has actively promoted sidewalk projects and has developed a community mapping scheme. Their efforts resulted in the enactment of a Complete Streets resolution by the Board of Selectmen. Shoreline Greenway Trail members have served on the task force, and the Guilford team has co-sponsored activities such as bicycle safety events.

**Branford** is relatively new to the bike/ped safety scene. Its Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, recently formed as a grassroots initiative in response to recommendations in the Plan of Conservation and Development, is seeking recognition as a town committee. The group is spearheaded by Judith Miller, Branford's Shoreline Greenway Trail team chair. Its primary goal is to make active transportation safe and accessible. The group is first focusing on connectivity among schools in support of the state's Safe Routes to Schools initiative. The group will also work with the town on a Complete Streets policy. In **East Haven**, the Shoreline Greenway Trail team is working with town leaders to create a bicycle pedestrian group. They invite readers to provide input regarding Complete Streets policies and structures. It is important that town leaders hear from the community that Complete Streets concepts are important. To lend your voice, contact town team co-chair Matt Lieber at [mattlieber@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](mailto:mattlieber@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org)

**New Haven** takes the prize for energy, comprehensiveness, and achievement in creating Complete

Streets. Bicycle pedestrian safety and access is promoted by The New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation. Chair of the group is Doug Hauslauden, Shoreline Greenway Trail team leader for New Haven. With the support of town engineer Giovanni Zinn, the city has developed miles of bike lanes and cycle tracks, made substantial progress on the Farmington Canal Greenway and the Harborside Trail, and developed the state's first two-way protected cycle track on Long Wharf Drive.

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## Meet our Summer 2025 Interns!

PLEASE join us in welcoming two outstanding students to the Shoreline Greenway Trail Team. We look forward to their significant contributions to our efforts! This program is supported via a generous grant from the **Greater New Haven Green Fund** for which we are very appreciative.



**Daisy Everingham** is a Master's student in Coastal Resilience at Southern Connecticut State University. She is interested in how we can make our shorelines places that are resilient to climate change, whilst encouraging active travel and stronger communities. She's passionate about getting more people out of their cars and onto their bikes, and linking up New Haven with the surrounding shoreline and wetlands. Before her Master's, Daisy worked in environmental communications, and is excited to build her skills and meet community members across New Haven county as she supports the Shoreline Greenway Trail's work. Daisy will be working on ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS, RESILIENCE & SURVEY and TRAIL MAPPING, WAYFINDING and TRAILS!



**Lillian Teel** is a rising sophomore at Yale University pursuing a major in Political Science, with a potential double major in Computing and the Arts. She has strong interests in constitutional, criminal, and immigration law, and outside of academics can be found training on the Yale swim team or pursuing her passion for digital art. Lillian is so excited to contribute to Shoreline Greenway Trail's community engagement and legal development programs, and is eager to work with the team this summer. Lillian will be working on two main programs: NEW HAVEN & EAST HAVEN ENGAGEMENT and LEGAL OUTREACH and DEVELOPMENT as well as the shared ACCESS & ENGAGEMENT Program with her fellow intern Daisy Everingham.

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## Ready to Contribute?

Your gifts will help to build more trail! Please contribute financial support with the link below OR if you are in search of an interesting and rewarding volunteer job, the Shoreline Greenway Trail may be the perfect answer. We especially need help with bookkeeping and data entry - mostly work from home. If you are interested, please email [info@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org](mailto:info@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org) or call (203) 815-0947.

**Donate Online to the Shoreline Greenway Trail**

Mail a check to:

SHORELINE GREENWAY TRAIL, INC. • BOX 148 BRANFORD, CT 06405



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