Annual Report 2026



SHORELINE GREENWAY TRAIL

Who are the Women Warriors of the Shoreline Greenway Trail?

- See Page 3

Report from the Chair

By Dan Buckley

Welcome to the **2026 Shoreline Greenway Trail Annual Report**.

Once again, as a result of your wonderful support and that of the larger community, we have enjoyed a very busy year.

We've had two significant public meetings to announce new trail sections. One is planned near Hammonasset Beach Park and a four-mile greenway connection will be under construction from East Haven to New Haven. Our monthly trail walk and rolls feature lots of new faces. The trail is growing!

In this report, you'll get a great town-by-town overview of the trail work, an article about our highly successful Student Engagement programs, and a wonderful update on the success of one of our past summer interns. All this, plus a sneak peak at one of our 2027 initiatives, a comprehensive Regional Master Plan for trail development.

I'll be stepping down after four wonderful years as chair, but I'm not leaving this work. I will head up our Trail Development and Maintenance team.



As of this Annual Report, we have not announced my replacement, but the organization will be left in capable hands following our November 10 Annual Meeting, featuring trail updates and board elections.

Thanks again and see you out there!!

Dan Buckley, Chair
Shoreline Greenway Trail

Thank You to Our 2026 Grantors!

- **Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Recreational Trails** - funding for trail projects in Hammonasset and Branford
- **The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven** - Outreach and Communications support
- **Athletic Brewing** for $10,000 to support trail work.

This report, our monthly email updates, community events and trail walks and trail way finding blazers are made possible by the generous support of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

The COMMUNITY Foundation for Greater New Haven

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Just Retired? Join the Women Warriors of the Shoreline Greenway Trail

If you just retired….now at last you will have more time to enjoy life with family and friends, time to pursue your passions, indoors and outdoors.

This is a great time for you to get involved with the Shoreline Greenway Trail!

That is just what we four women did after we each retired – more than twenty years ago! We - Judy, Ginny, Pam and Barbara - all jumped at the chance to volunteer to promote an exciting new project: to create a multi-purpose trail from Madison to East Haven… an "impossible dream" to many.

As founding leaders on the SGT Board, we've been fierce supporters of the goals of Shoreline Greenway Trail ever since… volunteering for a total of almost 100 years! … And now, we are all over 80 years old and still active! We feel like Women Warriors!

Why have we stayed involved for so long?? Here is a quick look at our volunteer careers with Shoreline Greenway Trail.

'Forever chair' in Madison, **Ginny Raff**, now 85, loved cycling on off-road trails in Rhode Island and was enticed to have a nice off-road trail close to home. So, she jumped in, built a great volunteer Madison SGT Town Team, and they created a new Shoreline Greenway Trail section at Hammonasset State Park, now a major safe and beautiful attraction for people of all ages. She led the effort, raising major funds, coordinating with Town and State DEEP and DOT and Park officials, handling permitting and even cutting brush. Fulltime volunteering!



When she retired as a professor in the early 2000's, J**udy Miller,** 86, a major walker, went to one meeting, was intrigued and ultimately became chair of Branford's SGT Town Team, which she is still! She enjoys the camaraderie of working along with interesting, talented and dedicated people. Judy chaired the SGT Board for six years as well, offering wise and calm leadership, and shepherding the use of federal and state funds for major new trail sections in Branford and East Haven, including Branford's new Tabor Trail with its charming "Circle of Peace" labyrinth.



In 2001, Board member **Pam Simonds** went to the very first gathering of a few folks in Guilford to talk about an exciting new idea – to build a safe off-road biking and walking trail along the shoreline. As an avid bicyclist and a



Just Retired? Join the Women Warriors of the Shoreline Greenway Trail

grandmother, it was just what she wanted, and for all families. SGT became her retirement career. She helped develop the Board and its mission, organized the first volunteer SGT Teams in each town, and led the Outreach Team to publicize our mission. Now 88, Pam is still biking, and co-chair of Guilford's SGT Town Team.

Barbara Brow, now 80, jumped in when she was 56 and still working, because she realized the importance of trails and wanted to establish East Haven's first multi-use trail and eventually connect to New Haven! She has been a real force, developing the unwavering support of East Haven's government officials and East Haven community groups. Her team has established two miles of East Haven's three-mile proposed trail route that now will connect to New Haven's new trail, a major exciting expansion of Shoreline Greenway Trail!



As you can see, for each of us, our volunteer work has been beyond satisfying…working together for a shared goal, camaraderie abounds.

Now we four "forever volunteers' each admit that after two decades of our leadership, we are now 'elderly Women Warriors', and it is time to pass on our accumulated know-how to younger folks. We want to pass the baton to YOU!....

Catching Up with Daisy Everingham: Trail Intern Now A Regional Planner!

As one of the Shoreline Greenway Trail interns last year, I was lucky enough to get some hands-on experience learning what happens behind the scenes to manage a multi-use trail and diving deep into the relationship between trails and climate change in Connecticut.

My experience led to the Building a Resilient Trail Report which outlined the climate hazards facing the SGT and how the organization can prepare so it'll thrive far into the future.

After my summer as an intern was over, Board Chair Dan Buckley set me up to present my report at the CT Trails Learning Community in early 2026 to foster discussions about resilience amongst trail managers in the state. That led to me teaching the topic in a CCSU grad class. In May, I graduated from my Masters in Coastal Resilience - and initially interned at NVCOG, before now taking up the position of Regional Planner at MetroCOG. In both roles I've got to work on trails in the state, whether that's trail counts or long-term planning, and was even recognized by new colleagues from the presentation I gave back in January! I'm so grateful for my time at the SGT and I hope to keep bumping into SGT folk as I keep trails as part of my job description far into the future!



- Daisy Everingham

Updates from the Trail

There is a lot going on in each of our towns and along the trail. Here are some highlights.



The **New Haven Team** is in the process of being formed and working with other volunteers and city engineers as they design a four-mile-long, 12-foot-wide extension of the trail from the East Haven town line to the intersection of East and Water Streets.

[Four New Miles of Shoreline Greenway Trail! New Haven Public Information Meeting - Shoreline Greenway Trail]

A generous set of federal and state grants helped bring this exciting milestone to life. Year of advocacy and collaboration have yielded a safe, accessible, connected trail
to the city. Residents and visitors can walk, run, and bike along our beautiful coastline on this trail connecting neighborhoods and expanding access to the outdoors.

Design work is nearly complete. Construction will start when weather allows in the spring. Eventually this section will connect to the Farmington Canal Trail, opening access for Shoreline Trail users to central New Haven, the East Coast Greenway, and points north.

In **East Haven**, the team continues to enjoy the most trail routing in place and Trail development efforts are now focused on closing the one remaining gap in East Haven from the Town Beach to Morris Creek where it will continue on to New Haven. We are actively seeking funding for this project.

Our **Branford Team** is very active (along with two new Board members - see below) and has been holding regular events on the two-and-one-half miles of beautiful trails in this area. The team is working with the town to complete funding to restore the old iron bridge on the Shoreline Greenway Trail/Trolley Trail to make it accessible for people with differing abilities. The Connecticut Recreational Trails program has provided a grant of $400,000, but the total cost will be closer to $2.5 million. Our highest priority in Branford is to see this project fully funded and completed.



The **Guilford Team** continues to work with town leaders and community organizations to continue the Shoreline Trail route through town. With DOT Community Connection Funding came approval to mark future sidewalks along Route One with Shoreline Greenway Trail blazes as part of the Trail's end-

(Continued on Page 6)

Updates from the Trail (continued from page 5)

2026 CT DEEP Parks Approved Study Route



ARIS LAND STUDIO

Shoreline Greenway Trails - Alternative Routes Studied
Hammonasset State Park, Madison CT

to-end PATHWAYS program that when completed, will mark the entire 30-mile pathway between our five towns, both off-road and roadside sections.Llook for our Shoreline Greenway Trail blazes along the trails and shared roadway route!

Our team in **Madison** continues its work with the Trail Census program, counting 250 average daily uses and approximately 80,000 total uses through 2026. The team is also working to complete design for the extension of the trail eastward through Hammonasset Park to the border of Salt Meadow Park.

[Public Information and Input Session for Madison Trail Enhancements - Shoreline Greenway Trail]

The trail is now “on the map,” as they say, with listing of its full 30-mile length in Connecticut Trail Finder:

[Shoreline Greenway - Connecticut Trail Finder]

To keep tabs on all thirty miles, we are preparing a new **master plan** to guide trail development and maintenance and project funding needs for the next five years and beyond.

(Continued on Page 7)

Updates from the Trail

We are especially grateful to the high school students who have participated in trail maintenance as part of our **Student Engagement Program**.

Summer 2026 Student Engagement Program Volunteers - Shoreline Greenway Trail

Both at organized events and individually, the leadership and initiative from these students has helped to spread the word about the trail and encourage its use.

And if you haven't already, we hope you will join one of our many trail events such as monthly first Saturday walks, rolls, and bike rides, the trails-to-rails National Trails Day event in June in partnership with Shore Line Trolley, walks with experts on environmental topics, and the annual 30-mile bike ride covering the length of completed and proposed trail.

Events from November 10 – Shoreline Greenway Trail

- The Shoreline Greenway Trail Team

Thank You to All Our Contributors - July 2025 to November 2026

Trail Builders ($1,000+)

Robert Brady
Emily Haines
Michael Johnson
Pamela and Bruce Simonds
Neal Thomas
Town of East Haven
Barry Waters

Trail Blazers ($500-$999)

Robert & Cynthia McNamara
Judy Miller
Gordon & Shelley Geballe
Joe & Cynthia Goldberg
Lenny & JoAnn Goldberg
Lianne & Lee Herdle
Anna Kot
Bruce & Renee Mcintyre
Virginia & Edward Raff

Leaders ($150-$499)

Mark & Marian Altman
Louise Beecher
Barbara Brow
Robert Buckholz
Dan Buckley
Jennifer Davies
Emily & David Davison
Christopher Deephouse
Sandra Diette
Richard Dumas
Mark Edmiston
Christa Erickson
Dick & Gail Evarts
Paul Ford
Alan Forman
Amy Fracasso
Daniel Goddard
John Gontero
Thomas Haar
Lisa & David Harding
Peter & Maureen Herbert
Paul & Kathleen Hermes
Michael Hopkins
Edward & Anne Huguenel

Leaders ($150-$499)

Bradley & Barbara Kronstat
Sylvia Anne Lack
Todd Laggis
Brenda & Martin Lewis
Curly & William Lieber
Daniel Litwin
Brian & Melissa Lonergan
Lindalea Ludwick
Patty & David McKeon
Karen & Stanley Pietrzyk
James Powell
Keely Power
Nancy Ramseyer
John Riley
Linda Roller
Sandra Ruoff
Van Selden
Denise Sokolowski
Parry & Sandra Spahr
David Stern
Blythe Swift
Margaret Thomas
Van Wilgen's Garden Center
Doss Venema
Woodie Weiss
Chris & Lisa Willems
Peter & Judith Young

Shoreline Greenway Trail

Family/Individual ($1-$149)

Bruce & Susan Ackerman
Barbara Albro
Jennifer Allcock
Joseph Altonji
Eric & Kathleen Appellof
Catharine Arnold
Peter Aronson
John & Carla Augustyn
Janice & John Barlow
Amy & Timothy Barry
Regina & Robert Bejnerowicz
Raymond & Barbara Bendici
Paula Bevilacqua
Candace Bialczak
Kenneth Bjork
Leo Black
Robert Blake
Karen Bonitz
Kimberly Boucher
Jane Bouley
Pat Bourne
Jennifer and Derek Briggs
Tracey Brooks
Lauren Brown
Joe Brown
Ben Bullard
Frank & Donna Bzdyra
CafePress
Mary Cannata
Paul Capobianco
Cynthia Cardone
Pam Carley
Frank Carrano
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Paul & Linda Davy
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Lawrence Dowler
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John & Carolyn Dugan
Dennis Durante
Ellen and Mike Ebert
Michael & Lisa Edgerton
JoAnn Everson
Ann & Edward Falsey
John & Josephine Farley
Richard Ferguson
Daniel & Nancy Finke
Jo-Ann & David Fleischman
Thomas Floyd
Diane Foberg
Glenn Forest
Francis Walsh Intermediate School
Karen & Gerald Freedman
Richard & Jeanette Frink
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Alfred Goldberg
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Jerald & Tanya Greenvall
Martha Grigsby
Gwendolyn Gunn
Arlene Hackbarth
Richard Hackley
J Handschumacher
Roger Hankins
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Fred & Linda Hargraves
Henry Haskell
Karen Heck
Brian & Eleanor Higney
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Amy Hopkins
Merle Hornstein
Robert Horwitz
Mary Louise Jackson
Mark Janke
Thomas Jensen
Patricia Johannesen
Werner & Ann Marie Kamuf
Theodore & Noemi Kearns
Gertrude & Theodore Kiaunis
Vin Kiernan
Thomas & Laurie King
Jeanne Kinnard
Susan Klimas
Vaughn & Judy Knowles
Gary & Pamela Knowles
Raymond Kosinski
Henry & Judith Kramer
John Kreider
Bradley & Barbara Kronstat
James & Joann Kupiec
Patricia Labonte
Elizabeth Leary
William & Kate Lee
Lois Lehr
Kimberly & Martin Lendroth
Cecelia & Brian Lenoci
Forrest Levin
Jakob Licht
Bruce Lively
Penny Lowenstein
Michael & Deborah Lynch
William Lynders
J Thomas Macy
Linda & Terrance Macy
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Jennifer Marks
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Ellen Matloff
Melanie Mayer
Susan McHenry
James & Lisa McKay
Christopher & Elaine Mcleod
Gary & Trudy McNeil
Judith Merriam
Renee & Matthew Meskill
dart messick
Mary Jane Minkin
Donald & Margaret Mitchell
Paul Mohor
Judy Moore
Bethany Muller
David Mulligan
Kenneth & Barbara Munro
Stephen & Carol Milazzo Murphy
Susanne Murphy
Judy Myjak

Family/Individual ($1-$149)

Joe & Barbara Naylor
Anne O'Connor
Valerie O'Donnell
Priscilla Ochman
Deborah Oswalt
ShelleyPelletier
Carolyn Pennington
Karin Peterson
Paul Petsching
Raphael Podolsky
Frank & Diane Popolizio
William & Maureen Porter
Sam & Rena Powell
Ronald & Mary Repetti
Perry & Susan Rianhard
Heidi Richard
Wendy Sabol Robert Low
Katherine Rowe
Christopher Ruser
Victor & Barbara Russo
Robert & Kathy Russo
Maryann Salatto

Christine & Wayne Sandford
James & Diane Savastano
Peter Savino
Maureen & Salvatore Scalia
Cynthia & Michael Schneider
Karen Schneider
GRETCHEN SCHRADER
Peter Scranton
Lynn Shaw
Virginia & Kevin Simmons
Denise Sokolowski
Howard Sommer
Curtis & Ann Sorensen
Susan & John Stacey
Jay Stange
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Jeff & Linda Weber
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Walter & Elizabeth Welsh
Leo & Debra Whelan
Kathleen White
Debra & Jeffrey White
Steven & Sheila Whitman
Susan Winkel
Amy Wishingrad
Stephen & Josephine Zaehringer

Join the Shoreline Greenway Trail family of supporters by adding your tax-deductible donation.

Click Here to Donate

Join Us: Madison Town Representative Needed

Would you like to help the five-town Shoreline Greenway Trail? Madison needs at least one (or more) representatives.

Requirements include attending one hybrid meeting a month to help with development of new sections of trail, organizing events and recruiting new members.

Please contact Virginia Raff (203) 318-9649 or madison@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org if you are available.

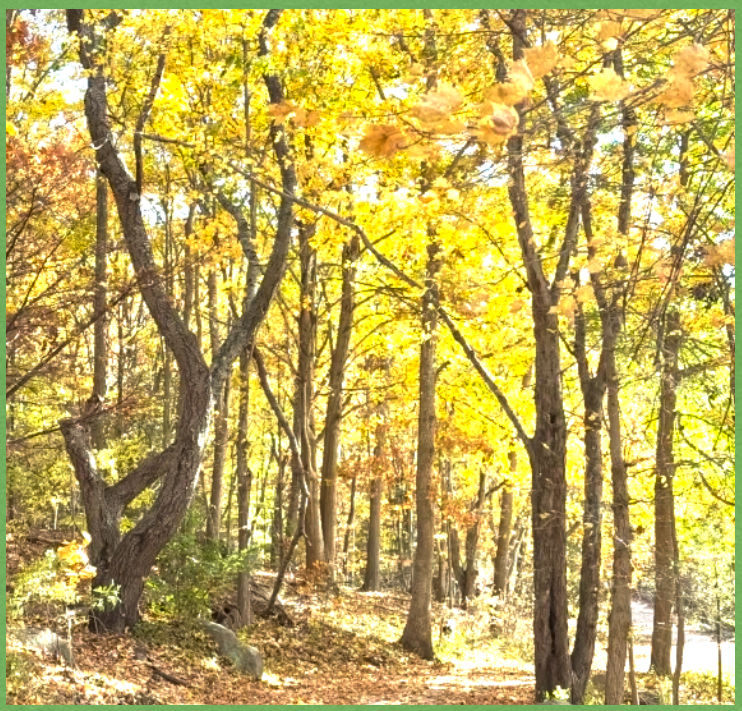


Photo by Barry Waters

Financials

Shoreline Greenway Trail, Inc. had a good year and ended similarly to last year, financially. Given that several of our initiatives for Trail Development and 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, 2026 and 2025

ASSETS

	2026	2025
Cash and Equivalents	$532,685	$574,354
Fixed Assets, net of depreciation	—	—
Total Assets	$532,685	$574,354

NET ASSETS

	2025	2024
Net Assets without donor restrictions	$319,298	$211,675
Net Assets with donor restrictions	$213,388	$362,679
Total NET ASSETS	$532,685	$574,354
Accounts Payable	$22,290	

Board Transitions 2026-2027

Changes are coming to your Board of Directors. We say goodbye to two great colleagues and welcome two more.



Stepping down after 4 years of Incredible service is **Blythe Swift.** Blythe was one of the Madison Resident Directors and was instrumental In the creation and implementation of our new Website in 2024. She helped us through a very difficult period with calm and patient work to find our current supplier and set up what we all agree is a great place to find and share information about the trail and organization. In addition she was active in trail events and the quarterly Walk & Rolls. Her departure opens up a critical slot for any Madison volunteer that wants to help.

Luca Scafidi gave us two years of amazing service both as a Guilford Resident Director and at our regional level. He created and led the Student Engagement Program that brought students from each of the trails five towns together to provide time and skills in areas such as Social media, trail maintenance, event development & support and articles for our website.





Jean Connal has been an active member of the Shoreline Greenway Trail since 2022. For her, inclusivity and access in outdoor spaces is important and is why she joined as a board member, to keep these values alive and well on trail. Jean is a walker and biker on the Shoreline Greenway and loves to contribute to this warm-hearted community.



Todd Child is a Branford resident, trail runner and hiker. Originally from Rhode Island, he moved to Branford in 2024 having raised two children in Westchester, NY. Todd has been assisting with the Greenway's pollinator garden and trail maintenance over the last year before joining the Board this Fall.

Shoreline Greenway Trail



Board of Directors

Chair - Dan Buckley
Vice Chair - Matt Lieber
Treasurer - Bradley Kronstat
Secretary - Denise Sokolowski
At Large - Doug Hausladen, Matt Lieber
Branford - Judy Miller, Jean Connal, Todd Child
East Haven - Matt Lieber
Guilford - Pam Simonds, Bradley Kronstat, Wendy Sabol
Madison - Virginia Raff, Dan Buckley

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