

# *Farmington Valley Trails Council*



**Friends of Southampton Greenway**  
**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Background**

The FVTC is a 501 (c) (3) Corporation founded in 1992. We now have over 775 members. The organization is administered by 4 officers and a board of 16 coming from every member town. Recently renewed Bylaws expanded our scope and abilities.

We are dedicated to the construction, enhancement and maintenance of the 23-mile northern part of the **Farmington Canal Heritage Trail** which will eventually stretch from New Haven to Northampton, MA and the 18-mile **Farmington River Trail** systems in the towns of Farmington, Avon, Simsbury, East Granby, Granby, Suffield, Burlington, and Canton.

Over \$400,000 has been raised for projects, with \$70,000 either paid or pledged to the Town of East Granby for the building of the Salmon Brook Bridge.



# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Goals**

- **Complete the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, the Farmington River Trail and the East Coast Greenway in the Valley.**
- **Promote the safety, alternative transportation and recreational benefits of a multi-use trail system.**
- **Raise funds for trail construction, enhancements and maintenance with consistent design throughout the system.**
- **Build alliances with the State, local municipalities and community organizations to further goals consistent with our mission and the completion of regional and super-regional trail systems.**
- **Provide information and hold events of interest to our membership and the general public consistent with our goals.**
- **Maintain an “Adopt-A-Trail” maintenance program.**
- **Provide a strong advocacy for our membership that is always open to new voices and new volunteers.**



# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Report Card 2008**

- ✓ Strong Advocacy – Testimony in Hartford CCBA – CRCOG – DEP – Bike/Ped Planning Comm. – Regional Active Trans. Comm. - Area towns
- ✓ Strong Alliances – FCRTTA - PGA – Southwick – RTC - ECG
- ✓ Construction Commitment Monitoring – ConnDOT!!
- ✓ Maintenance – Adopt-a-Trail, Root abatement, repaving plan.
- ✓ Trail Enhancements – \$28,000 Pavilion - \$6,500 Kiosk
- ✓ Membership Growth – Now over 750 and growing
- ✓ Fund Raising – SB Bridge Fund – Award \$70,000 - Seek Grants
- ✓ Online mapping and Trail Guide – \$36,000 grant shared with FVVA and Simsbury Main Street Partnership for 22-page comprehensive guide.



# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **“Adopt-A-Trail” Volunteers**

- **Each town has a coordinator from our board of directors.**

**Avon 14 Simsbury 16 E. Granby/Suffield 6 Burlington/Canton 10**

**Farmington/Unionville 24**

**Diane and Steve Nelson**

**Boy Scout Troop 170 and Pack 37**

**John LaForest-Roys, Leader**

**Junior Women’s Club**

**Sue Johnson, President**

**Unionville Village Improvement Assoc.**

**Michael Festa, President**

**Union School PTO**

**Kerry Laberge, Chair**

**70 Volunteers (est.)**



# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Enhanced Volunteer Program**

- **Prospective volunteers were falling through the cracks and we needed to provide support and management**
- **New standing committee led by 2 board members**
- **Adopt-a-Trail segments re-assigned, new waiting list**
- **Events like Trails in Motion need staffing**
- **Specified clean-up day and other events Spring and Fall**
- **Volunteers expressing interest forwarded to committee**



# *Farmington Valley Trails Council*

## FVTC Enhancements

Landscaping – Signage - Kiosks – Benches - Water Fountains

Standardized Designs





# *Farmington Valley Trails Council*

## Farmington Valley Trails

### Simsbury/Tariffville

- Start-up planning/funding for East Coast Greenway from RT 315 east using a plan to be determined and the Griffin Line to Hartford.
- Initial meetings have been held with Bloomfield and Hartford.





# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Farmington Canal Heritage Trail**

### **East Granby**

- EG-1 .87 miles; EG-4 .85 miles and EG-5 1.7 miles (1.2 in Granby) = 5.57 miles





# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Farmington Canal Heritage Trail**

### **East Granby - Salmon Brook Bridge**

**Salmon Brook Bridge Fund has awarded the Town \$70,000 to defray the shortfall in the re-bid of the project. \$36,400 has been paid out to date.**

**The final cost of 5.57 miles of trail (of which 1.2 miles are in Granby) including the Salmon Brook Bridge, will be \$1,775,520. In a letter to the FVTC, Jim Hayden, the First Selectman of East Granby said: "I would like to thank you, your board and your members for the phenomenal support which the FVTC has given East Granby on the Greenway Project ... Simply said, without the Farmington Valley Trails Council covering the 20% town share of the last \$170,000, the project would have been abandoned or postponed until better economic times."**

**Largest donor - \$10,000; smallest - \$1**



# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Farmington Canal Heritage Trail**

### **Suffield**

SU-1 is 0.37 miles from Phelps Road to the Mass. border; initial bids came in \$150,000 too high for the town and were not awarded. The cause is two bridges each costing over \$150,000. ConnDOT has approved a new funding alternative which would place both bridges and provide for additional funds to cover the new cost of \$660,000. Unfortunately DOT has not sent the town the required documents to re-bid the project. If it can be re-bid by Feb. it can be started in April.

In addition, the Coca-Cola grant of \$55,000 that we procured for the town for parking at Phelps Road and a CT/MA border crossing can be put to use after construction starts, hopefully in the spring. Griffin Land is willing to sell the development rights but this is an open space issue that still needs to be resolved.



# *Farmington Valley Trails Council*

## Trail South - Plainville Update

An interim on-road route has been approved by the Plainville Greenway Alliance and the ECG.

The PGA hopes to get approval for markings soon.

The PGA is raising funds for an engineering study.





# *Farmington Valley Trails Council*

## Trail North - Southwick, MA Update

MASSHighway has approved \$\$\$. It is delayed while Westfield G&E lays new gas lines.

2008-9 should see construction of the first section of the Trail north of the CT border, Section II is to be delayed further for more gas lines.



Source: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission



# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Farmington River Trail**

### **Unionville/Burlington**

**Gap in Trail (approx. .9 miles in Farmington, .7 miles in Burlington) Survey complete, construction to start in 2009. \$65,000 earmarked for Farmington in recently passed budget. Towns may self-fund to keep costs down.**





# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Farmington River Trail**

**RT 4 River Trail Pavilion completed at total cost of \$28,000.**

**Partnership of Rotary Club of Farmington, FVTC and Town of Farmington**

### **DONORS:**

**Farmington Savings Bank**

**Farmington Ready Mix**

**Farmington Community Chest**

**Don Hammerberg Associates**

**Aldo DeDominicis Foundation**

**Szewczak Associates**

**Scully, Nicksa & Reeve, LLC**

**Sanford & Hawley, Inc.**

**Tomasso Brothers, Inc.**





# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Farmington River Trail**

### **Canton/Collinsville**

- **Town still working on plans and funding for trail north across RT 179 using Gildersleeve and Maple Aves.; paving the old rail line and ending in back of Best Cleaners at RT 44.**





# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **Trail Usage Study**

- **Counter is placed just south of Sand Hill Road in Simsbury. It is a laser through-beam counter that counts when the beam is broken.**
- **The data conservatively showed that portion of the Farmington Valley Greenway had over 114,300 visits a year in 2006-7.**
- **Second portion of the study counted the change in traffic with the paving of the gap connecting the trail north and south in the late fall of 2006.**
- **2007-8 data incomplete but indicates 185,000 (est.) visits.**
- **Peak days are on weekends with around 600 visits**
- **Counter will be moved to Canton to measure the River Trail in 2009**



# *Farmington Valley Trails Council*

## Community Outreach

★ Avon Day ★ Sam Collins Day ★ Tariffville ★ Wine Tasting

## TRAILs-in-MOTiON 2008

Held on National Trails Day June 7<sup>th</sup> – 200 participants!

Thanks to our Sponsors and the Simsbury Police Department





# ***Farmington Valley Trails Council***

## **TRAILs-in-MOTiON 2009**

**National Trails Day June 7th**

***Sponsored by Our New Partner:***



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# *Farmington Valley Trails Council*

Happy Holidays!

And Keep in Touch with *Our* Organization

