

Department of Conservation and Recreation Greenways and Trails Program

2010 Recreational Trails Grants; Project Summaries

Administration

**DCR - Planning and Resource Management
Recreational Trails Program Administration**
Administration of the Recreational Trails Program

Grant Awarded \$86,211 *Match* \$21,552.75

Diverse / Multi-Use

City of Lawrence

Spicket River Greenway Trail

The City of Lawrence proposes the construction of 500 linear feet of riverside trail along the Spicket River Greenway. This portion of proposed trail stretches from the dam at Stevens Pond (the location of a foot bridge of the Spicket River) westward to connect with what will become Manchester Street Park, located at the head of the Spicker River Greenway. The proposed project is on a linear right-of-way, nestled between privately owned property and Stevens Pond, which was acquired by the City in 2008.

Amount Awarded \$45,871.00 *Match* \$40,075.00

City of Newburyport

Clipper City Rail Trail Enhancement

The proposed Clipper City Rail Trail Enhancement Project will make this new rail trail substantially more attractive, functional, and welcoming to the public. We anticipate that the basic trail will be built in 2008 with state and federal transportation funding; however, a number of crucial items are not considered "participating costs." Consequently, this supplementary Enhancement Project will fund the design, purchase, and installation of a number of facilities such as benches, signage, kiosks, play equipment and safety surfacing, trash receptacles, plastic bag dispensers for dog waste, a bronze plaque, a pathway connection to Haley's Ice Cream, and an undercarriage screen at the Route 1 underpass.

Amount Awarded \$31,553.00 *Match* \$70,000.00

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Merrimack River Trail Development

The project will engage trail advocates, municipal officials, and community leaders in 15 communities in a strategic process focused on developing one of the state's most outstanding recreational assets - a 30-mile long bicycle and pedestrian trail along the Merrimack River. MVPC in partnership with the Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) will facilitate community outreach, GPS data collection, GIS mapping, planning recommendations and report production.

Amount Awarded \$15,700.00 *Match* \$3,950.00

The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR)

Norris Reservation - Universal Access

This project includes three elements: creating a new universal access trail into the reservation; providing critical repairs to boardwalks; and restoring an eroded section of the North River bank in Norwell. The project will enable handicapped access to a scenic mill pond and provide essential trail repairs and restoration.

Amount Awarded \$20,000.00 *Match* \$5,320.00

DCR Urban Parks South Region

Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT)

This project will improve sections of the MCRT in Weston and Waltham. Work will include adding signage, gates, and guardrails at entrances. We will also enhance new trailheads and open new sections of trail.

Amount Awarded \$27,047.00 *Match* \$20,328.00

Town of Topsfield - Rail Trail Committee

Topsfield Linear Common - Phase 3

This project will continue the development of the Topsfield Linear Common. Topsfield has a 99-year lease for the southern half of the trail and is in negotiations with National Grid for a lease or license of the northern half. The trail will be constructed using a combination of stone dust and hard surface. The trail will be used for a wide range of non-motorized commuting and recreational purposes by a variety of users.

Amount Awarded \$41,000.00 *Match* \$12,500.00

Town of Wayland

Nike Site Wheelchair Accessible Trail

The Town of Wayland plans to construct a wheelchair accessible trail around the perimeter of the former Nike Missile site - a 13.5 acre parcel in north Wayland. The trail will extend around a community housing development, connect to the Bay Circuit Trail, and be part of the town-owned park. Three goals will be accomplished, a safe accessible all-persons trail, construction of a pervious surface is possible, and a least naturally invasive design.

Amount Awarded \$22,560.00 *Match* \$5,640.00

East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc.

Trail & Bridge Improvements of the Mass Central Rail Trail - Phase II

The East Quabbin Land Trust is developing a two-mile section of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Hardwick and New Braintree, MA. Phase 2 of the project will complete work on a lateral truss bridge located and formalize parking at the former New Braintree train station site, making it possible to fully open this section of the MCRT.

Grant Awarded \$42,500 *Match* \$13,260

Friends of the Wayland Rail Trail (MCRT)

Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) - Wayland

The volunteer work on this project will improve the safety and usability of the walking path along the eastern 1.5 miles of the MCRT in Wayland, used by pedestrians, bikers and equestrians. These minor improvements will allow more families to walk and bike to the Wayland Town Library, Town Center, Claypit Elementary School, and the Weston Woods.

Grant Awarded \$600 *Match* \$1,620

Town of Sherborn

Upper Charles River Rail Trail - Sherborn

This project will enable the acquisition of the Sherborn section of the Upper Charles River Rail Trail (UCRRT), the regional multi-purpose 20-mile loop trail connecting the towns of Sherborn, Holliston, Milford, Ashland, and Hopkinton with planned connections to Framingham, the Bay Circuit Trail and the Bruce Freeman Trail. The Sherborn portion is an important continuation of the already completed sections in Milford and Holliston. The UCRRT reduces road traffic and associated pollution, provides healthful, non motorized access to woods, fields, historical arched stone bridges, commuter rail stations and local commerce.

Grant Awarded \$48,000 *Match* \$12,000

Essex County Trail Association

Essex County Mapping and Trail Improvement Project

This project will implement recommended improvements to the Bradley Palmer State Park trail system, straddling the Towns of Hamilton and Topsfield. ECTA will partner with staff from Bradley Palmer State Park, the new England Mountain Bike Association, the Quebec Labrador Foundation, the Bay Circuit Alliance and others.

Grant Awarded \$29,102 *Match* \$8,034

Wachusett Greenways

Mass Central Rail Trail, Muddy Pond to Coldbrook Station

Wachusett Greenways will complete the top coat of stone dust paving on 1.7 miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Oakham from Muddy Pond to the Route 122 crossing, then west to Coldbrook Station. Upon completion of this work, 14 miles of the planned 30-mile midsection of the 104-mile MCRT will be complete.

Grant Awarded \$27,288 *Match* \$12,500

MassBike/Pioneer Valley and City of Northampton

Norwottuck and Manhan Trail Connections and Wayfinder Signs

In partnership with the Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways and the City of Northampton, MassBike will create kiosks and signs at the trailheads for the new downtown connections between the Manhan and Norwottuck Rail Trails and other prominent downtown locations. Funds will support the installation of trail maps and signs to five existing locations in downtown parking lots. Currently, there is no signage depicting the new network of trails in the City of Northampton. The new kiosks will identify new segments of the path network and direct local and recreational users to trail access points.

Grant Awarded \$12,200 *Match* \$8,310

MARTAB

Education Funds

Funds will be administered by the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board (MARTAB) to provide trail related training opportunities to individuals and organizations around the state.

Grant Awarded \$29,128 *Match* \$10,000

Motorized

DCR - West Region

Taconic Skyline Trail Bridge

The Taconic Skyline Trail in Pittsfield State Forest is a critical north-south route for a variety of trail uses including snowmobiles, ATV's, motorcycles, mountain bikes and pedestrians. The trail, established by the CCC in the 1930's crossed a wetland resource area which has been increasingly impacted as the volume and type of trail use has increased over time. Re-routing the trail for approximately 2,000 feet and installing a bridge capable of carrying motorized vehicles will eliminate all wetland impacts and improve trail conditions along this key link in the Pittsfield State Forest trail system.

Amount Awarded \$113,813.00 *Match* \$100,000.00

Colrain Sno-Drifters

Major Route Expansion Project

This project will expand the Route 2 Corridor Trail, which starts in Leyden and ends in Heath, the major portion of which runs through Colrain. Our goal is to expand and repair six miles of this trail to improve safety and accessibility of this corridor to other groups besides snowmobilers. The cost will include rental equipment to help accomplish this goal.

Amount Awarded \$9,634.00 *Match* \$8,984.00

Savoy Kanary Kats Snowmobile

Snowmobile Grooming Enhancement

This project will purchase a set of replacement tracks and drive sprockets for our PB 130D Groomer. The project will also purchase a 2009 Skandic SWT utility snowmobile. The club matched portion would provide labor to install the replacement racks, fabricate a grooming drag, and 100 hours of trail maintenance.

Amount Awarded \$27,400.00 *Match* \$35,826.00

Ware River Snowmobile Club

Trail Maintenance and Groomer

The club proposes to help maintain the Hardwick section of the Mass Central Rail Trail, and purchase a groomer. As a match, the club will install gates and perform trail maintenance on the rail trail, as well as town conservation land, and the non-motorized Rock House Reservation.

Amount Awarded \$18,000.00 *Match* \$4,996.00

Harvard Snowmobile Club Inc.

Trail Improvement and Groomer Vehicle Purchase

The Harvard Snowmobile Club will improve upon its 22-mile trail system through the purchase of a groomer. As part of the match, the club will improve upon the trail system, increase the frequency of maintenance, and will groom the trails throughout the next year. This utility vehicle purchase will replace a vehicle that is currently on loan to the Harvard Snowmobile Club.

Grant Awarded \$14,767 *Match* \$4,635

Knox Trail Sno-Riders, Inc.

Lower Spectacle Pond and Tolland State Forest Trails Project

KTSRI will purchase a 2010 Saratoga XP700 Polaris Track Ranger and tools to improve and maintain 11.2 miles of public trails throughout the year in Otis State Forest and Lower Spectacle Pond in the Town of Sandisfield. The Ranger will be used to increase the frequency of trail maintenance including winter trail grooming, rock removal, installation of trail markers and water bars, removal of fallen trees and to provide emergency services. More than 1,300 hours of in-kind labor will be dedicated to the project.

Grant Awarded \$49,215 *Match* \$29,220

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield

ATV Facility

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield and the Police Athletic/Activities League are working together to develop an ATV facility park for youth and their families. Through the donation of 40 acres of land from the City of Westfield, the facility will consist of a variety of riding trails, will facilitate youth ATV program curriculum for the disadvantaged youth population in Westfield and surrounding areas, and will offer training programs on the legal use of ATV's on private and public property. The main goal of the facility is to provide a designated ATV riding facility to keep riders from damaging trails intended for other recreational activities and on private property.

Grant Awarded \$9,340 *Match* \$41,071

DCR - Western Region

Western Region Trail Crew

Guided by the 2007 Motorized Trail Recreational Facility Assessment Policy outlining the standards for trail siting, construction and maintenance, the West Region Seasonal Trail Crew will provide 16 weeks of professional trail work on 106 miles of motorized trails within the state forests of the region. This project not only helps to satisfy a growing recreational demand for OHV use, but also helps to protect the environment as well as other public and private land by providing legal and sustainable riding opportunities.

Grant Awarded \$25,306 *Match* \$25,708

Mill Valley Snowmobile Club of Belchertown

B&M RR Bed Rehabilitation Project

This project will restore and improve the condition and maintenance of the old B & M Railroad bed now owned by the Town of Belchertown, MA. This project will rehabilitate and upgrade a long section of the railroad bed that has been severely eroded by use, neglect and weather. Specifically, this project will provide fill where necessary, improve conditions of the trail by adding drainage points and will level and build up the center of the trail.

Grant Awarded \$5,821 *Match* \$2,156

Berkshire Snow Seekers Snowmobile Club

Berkshire County's North Mountain Trail Restoration Project

This project will involve the purchase of excavator time and supply volunteer labor to restore badly eroded sections of a trail on the division of Fisheries and Wildlife properties including Moran WMA, Peru WMA, and Chaley WMA. The crew will remove large rocks, restore waterbars/washouts, remove blowdowns, and block non-permitted trails including spur trails and connectors with a combination of trees and boulder placement, as directed by DF&W. This effort will increase trail user safety, provide sportsmen and DF&W personnel with better access to remote areas, and provide links to other nearby trails, local restaurants, and services.

Grant Awarded \$4,000 *Match* \$3,694

King Phillip Trail Riders

Trail Maintenance and Improvement Project

This project will enable the King Phillip Trail Rider club members the opportunity to repair and improve multi-use trails throughout the Wrentham, Foxboro, & Franklin State Forests, better known as the F. Gilbert Hills State Forest Region. KPTR will use a diesel tractor with accessories capable of grading smooth trail surfaces, install/replace erosion water bars along trail slopes and inclines, and maintain public parking areas and trailhead facilities. The results of this project will enable trail users and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy a quality experience in a heavily-travelled forest region.

Grant Awarded \$11,398 *Match* \$9,546

Indian Head Snowmobile Club

Trail Restoration Initiative - Hawley

This project will provide needed volunteers to clear and remove dangerous debris caused by the 2009 ice storm from the Kenneth M. Dubuque State Forest. The project would also provide for the purchase of a Kubota RTV 900 Groomer to provide well-maintained roads/trails for use by the general public. The Indian Head Snowmobile Club is committed to providing safe and well-groomed trails for each group that accesses the trails/roads that the club maintains.

Grant Awarded \$21,600 *Match* \$4,717

Northfield Snowmobile Club

Mount Grace Trail

This project will restore existing trails and provide trail grooming equipment to maintain trail sections through Northfield State Forest and Warwick State Forest that lead to the New England National Scenic Trail and Mount Grace State Forest. New trail signage, including a trail map kiosk, will be installed as part of the project.

Grant Awarded \$12,400 *Match* \$3,100

Worthington Snowmobile Club

Equipment Purchase

This project will fund the purchase of a Saratoga Polaris Ranger and mogul master planner which will be used for year round trail maintenance, improvements and trail grooming during winter months. The equipment will be used to install drainage and repair mud holes, replace old bridges which were lost to flooding, remove brush due to the ice storm and groom the winter trails for snowmobile and other use.

Grant Awarded \$20,920 *Match* \$18,931

Non-Motorized

Bay Circuit Alliance

Ipswich Center to Crane Beach Trail

The Argilla Road Trail is a proposed 4.3-mile from the new riverwalk foot bridge in downtown Ipswich to the entrance of Crane Beach. The project connects to the Bay Circuit Trail and completes the northern "Hamilton Branch" of the trail.

Amount Awarded \$46,855.00 *Match* \$49,150.00

Great Barrington Land Conservancy

Lake Mansfield Forest Conservation

This is the final stage of the trail building project in the Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest. It will result in re-surfacing of existing trails and proposed trails to meet accessibility standards, helping our community move towards its accessibility goals stated in our Open Space Plan. This project will also move the town forward in its goal to develop a "Central Loop Trail," a first step in developing a town-wide trail system connecting natural, historic and cultural resources as proposed by the Great Barrington Trails and Greenways Vision.

Amount Awarded \$29,151.00 *Match* \$21,728.00

Salem Sound Coastwatch (SSCW)

Lower North Coastal Water Trails

SSCW will develop an interactive web-based trails guide to the waterways from Salem Sound to Boston Bay. SSCW will collaborate with 8 Towns & the Bay (8T&B), North Shore Paddlers Network, and other partners to develop this network. This network of publicly accessible, safe and properly delineated recreational water trails - especially for small non-motorized craft - meets the growing public interest in this recreational opportunity and has the potential to broaden public support for and stewardship of coastal waters.

Amount Awarded \$12,300.00 *Match* \$6,500.00

Town of Dedham

Dedham Water Trail Project

The Dedham Water Trail is a 3 hour canoe and kayak experience connecting paddlers with Dedham's fascinating history and natural resources of the Charles River. The water trail would follow the lead of organized hiking trails by marking with mile markers and interpretive signage placed at launches along the Charles and at various sites of historic and ecological significance. The water trail makes several significant connections to trails owned by the DCR, as well as canoe launches and the Dedham Square shops.

Amount Awarded \$35,251.00 *Match* \$9,160.00

Town of Sudbury Conservation

Sudbury Hop Brook Marsh

This project will result in new bridges over 5 wetland areas. Existing "bridges" are 14 years old and rotting, and areas have become an invitation to ATVs and mountain bikers as well as a hazard to users.

Amount Awarded \$4,510.00 *Match* \$1,830.00

Massachusetts Audubon Society

Broad Meadow Brook Trail Project

Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary will extend all-persons access to their system through renovations to an existing boardwalk, addition of new boardwalk, trail surface improvements, and addition of a small accessible bridge to span Broad Meadow Brook. The project will encompass over 2,487 feet of continuous access, starting from the accessible Conservation Center and leading through forest and river habitats. The eventual connection of this trail system with trails outside our 418 acres, including the Blackstone River Bikeway, will expand our recreational and educational services far beyond our borders.

Amount Awarded \$40,780.00 *Match* \$50,000.00

DCR - Western Region

Appalachian Trail Ridge Runner

This project will fund a seasonal Appalachian Trail Ridge Runner who will work exclusively on the National Scenic Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts. The AT Ridge Runner provides education and information to trail visitors, and works closely with the numerous volunteers that help to maintain the trail and associated overnight facilities. The AT Ridge Runner also helps to monitor trail conditions and use, and responds to emergencies as needed.

Grant Awarded \$7,917 *Match* \$25,708

Appalachian Mountain Club

Appalachian Trail Restoration - Cheshire

This project will improve drainage and soil retention, and reduce erosion along the Appalachian Trail between Outlook Avenue and Old Adams Road in Cheshire, MA. The project involves the construction of rock staircases, retaining structures, waterbars, and other repair work. It will be completed by a combination of AMC's staff-led volunteer trail crew and professional trail crew.

Grant Awarded \$15,200 *Match* \$9,600

Town of Amherst

Puffer's Pond - Mill River Recreation Corridor

This project is a necessary first step to address the severe maintenance needs of the Puffer's Pond-Mill River Recreation Corridor. The project will resurface a parking area and two trails, including the universal access (fully accessible) Kevin Flood Trail. It will also install split-rail fencing in areas where users need to be directed onto existing trails and educate the public about the value of conservation land with the installation of three informational kiosks around Puffer's Pond.

Grant Awarded \$17,947 *Match* \$4,487

Town of Amherst, Cherry Hill Golf Course

Cherry Hill Trail Project

The Cherry Hill Trail Project will create a professionally groomed Nordic skiing facility in Amherst where children and adults from around the region can learn to ski and Nordic ski teams will have a safe and consistent trail surface to practice on. The trail will also provide access to an existing trail system on designated conservation land maintained by the Town of Amherst and access to the 47-mile Robert Frost Trail.

Grant Awarded \$13,863 *Match* \$5,788

Blackstone River Watershed

Blackstone River Access Site

This project will install granite curbing steps and signage at three existing canoe and kayak river access sites at the Blackstone River and Canal State Park in Uxbridge, MA, that are part of the Blackstone River Water Trail System. Present sites have become deteriorated from erosion due to heavy use by recreational boaters. Design and permitting to restore these sites and others along the Blackstone River have been funded and completed under a cooperative agreement between BRWA and the John H Chaffee Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor Commission.

Grant Awarded \$48,000 *Match* \$246,121

DCR - Wells State Park

Mill Pond Accessible Trail at Wells State Park, Sturbridge, MA

The Universal Access Program (UAP) of DCR will resurface an existing stonedust wheelchair accessible trail, also designated as a "Healthy Heart" trail, within a highly significant ecological and historical area at Wells State Park in Sturbridge, MA. The roughly 1/2 mile-long stonedust trail is accessible via and adjoins to the park road,

where parking is provided, and additional trails connect to this trail.

Grant Awarded \$28,000 *Match* \$11,000

Town of Danvers

Danvers Swamp Walk

This project will fund the constructions of the Danvers SwampWalk, which is a "shovel ready", fully permitted, 1421-foot elevated, wooden-pile supported walkway through Leach's & Caruso's Swamps in the Town of Danvers & Wenham with 2 access points from the abandoned MBTA railroad bed (formerly Boston & Maine).

Grant Awarded \$26,660 *Match* \$44,920