

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Greenways and Trails Program

2011 Recreational Trails Grants: Project Summaries

Administration

DCR - Planning and Resource Management

Recreational Trails Program Administration

Administration of the Recreational Trails Program

Grant Awarded \$105,449.00

Match
\$26,363.00

Diverse / Multi-Use Category

Massachusetts Recreational Trail Advisory Board

Education Projects

These funds represent 5% of the total Recreational Trails Program funding which will be allocated towards recreational trail education projects that are statewide in nature and focus on projects/programs with an impact for all trail user groups.

Grant Award \$33,972.00

Match \$8,493.00

Department of Conservation & Recreation

Mahican Mohawk Trail Development Project

This project will complete efforts to move 7 miles of the Mahican Mohawk Trail off-road in the towns of Florida, Charlemont and North Adams, to create an exceptional trail experience on permanently protected State Forest land. Three additional new segments of trail will be created to connect to existing trails (approximately one mile), build four new stream crossings, repair damaged sections of existing trail in Savoy Mountain State Forest, and blaze and sign the entire route.

Grant Award \$45,000.00

Match \$11,250.00

Department of Conservation & Recreation

Middlesex Fells: Trail System Plan Implementation, Phase 1

This project will begin to implement the recommendations of the Middlesex Fells Trail System Plan as a

component of the state park's Resource Management Plan upon final approval by the DCR Stewardship Council. This Phase 1 implementation will focus on reducing the extent and confusion of the trail system, maintaining and improving trails, improving trail system maps and signage and protecting sensitive resources. Specifically, the project will result in the closure of damaging, redundant and confusing trails, repairs to critical trails and management ways, and production of new maps and signs.

Grant Award \$30,000.00

Match \$12,738.00

**Town of Upton Land
Stewardship Committee
Former Stefans Farm Parcel: Trail Construction Phase III**

This project will enhance the trail experience on the Former Stefans Farm Parcel in Upton and will include continued maintenance of existing trails, the creation of a natural resources and historic interpretive trail, construction of water crossings, invasive plant control, excavation work to divert water, purchase and installation of durable signs which state town regulations, restoration of an historic cart path and maintenance mowing of fields for habitat.

Grant Award	\$6,950.00
Match	\$3,704.24

**Coonamesett River Trust
Bridge over the River Flax**

This project will build a footbridge over Flax Stream to create a continuous trail along the Coonamesett River. Currently, dog walkers, bird watchers, runners, bicyclists, fishermen and walkers using the trail either scramble down the steep sides of the stream and place rocks in the stream to get across, causing erosion and blockading the herring migration, or they use the busy road in order to complete the loop around the trail system. This footbridge will provide an important connection by providing a safe way to complete the walking trail loop, preventing environmental degradation of an important herring stream and making the trail network much safer for users.

Grant Award	\$10,505.86
Match	\$4,896.00

**Town of Leverett Conservation Commission
East Leverett Trail Network**

Six Town-owned and Rattlesnake Gutter Trust-owned conservation lands surround the confluences of Doolittle Brook, Mountain Brook and Roaring Brook in East Leverett. Hiking trails bisect each of these six properties, but few have been formally marked and mapped, and many have not been maintained for decades. The purpose of this project is to work with the community to revitalize existing trails, and in some areas, create new trails, on both public and private land, connecting each of these conservation areas and establishing a network of trails and trailheads covering over 160 acres of land, and 3.5 miles of trail.

Grant Award	\$10,550.00
Match	\$10,638.00

**Bike to Sea, Inc.
Northern Strand Phase II - Main Street Malden to Boston Street Saugus**

This project involves construction of a stone dust path 7 miles along the Northern Strand Community Trail (aka Bike to Sea Trail) from Main Street in Malden to Neptune Street in Lynn. This section of rail trail and on-road routes will connect low-income neighborhoods in Malden and Lynn with the Rumney Marsh in Saugus and Revere.

Grant Award	\$84,022.15
Match	\$395,000.00

Wachusett Greenways

Mass Central Rail Trail - Oakham/Barre, Coldbrook Road to Ware River Crossing

Wachusett Greenways proposed to construct 1.3 miles of Mass Central Rail Trail in Oakham and Barre from Coldbrook Road at Coldbrook Station west to the Ware River crossing Route 122 in Barre. Construction will include removal of trees and organics from the trail, repair of ditches and drainage and placement of processed gravel trail base. With completion of this work, 17 miles of the planned 30-mile midsection of the 104-mile Mass Central Rail Trail will be complete.

Grant Award \$50,000.00

Match \$51,440.00

Town of Brimfield, Sturbridge & U.S. Army Corps

Grand Trunk Trail: East Brimfield Section 1 & Sturbridge Section 2

This project will complete two 1,400-foot sections of the regional Grand Trunk Trail, a piece of the statewide Titanic Rail Trail with project sites located in both Brimfield and Sturbridge. Section 1 will complete a portion of the trail from Holland/East Brimfield Road to the river crossing, including funding for an engineer's review and stamp of approval on the bridge design, to be constructed at a later date. Section 2 will complete a portion of the trail from its current end, in the middle of the woods, to an existing parking lot that services the East Brimfield Lake Dam and overlook.

Grant Award \$30,510.00

Match \$31,877.54

Towns of Bedford, Lexington & Arlington

Navigating the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway: A Three-Town Program for User Information

This project is a collaborative effort of the three towns to manage the Bikeway with members of their volunteer bicycle advisory committees and other town partners. The project will provide Bikeway visitors with adequate and attractive guidance about the Bikeway, the historic area that surrounds its entire length, the natural attractions that are nearby and links to the growing number of connector paths and nearby supporting businesses. The project proposes the development and production of a map and brochure for the Bikeway, and the design of a unified signage system to identify the links between the Bikeway and the communities through which it runs, as well as other uniform trail amenities to enhance the user experience.

Grant Award \$41,500.00

Match \$10,375.00

City of Fall River

The Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve Unified Trail

The City of Fall River, in collaboration with TTOR, DCR and DFW, requires funding to complete the vision of a unified passive recreation trail connecting the Bioreserve's 13,600 acres. The project elements will include production of a unified trail map, production/installation of way finding signs and construction of a trailhead parking area with visitor amenities. Completing this project improves public access to the Watuppa Reservation, connects the Reservation to the greater Bioreserve landscape and provides convenient designated parking and other features that encourage use and enhance the visitor experience.

Grant Award \$33,465.00

Match \$13,215.00

East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc.

Trail and Bridge Improvements on the Mass Central Rail Trail

The East Quabbin Land Trust is developing a 2-mile section of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Hardwick and New Braintree. Funding will allow for the completion of the final bridge construction necessary to formally open this section of trail. This phase will fund the necessary metal work on the lateral truss bridge and railing system to protect the users as they view the Ware River while experiencing the trail.

Grant Award \$30,000.00

Match \$8,500.00

Sheffield Land Trust

Schenob Brook Trail Bridge

This project will construct a bridge connecting two portions of Sheffield Land Trust property that will provide access for community members and students to the Schenob Brook ACEC and its trail system. This bridge will open up a safe walking route between the town of Sheffield and the high school campus. This project includes a unique collaboration between Sheffield Land Trust, Greenagers (a youth environmental service program), the Town of Sheffield, the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and local contractors.

Grant Award \$24,128.00

Match \$17,386.00

Town of Hubbardston Open Space Committee

Relocation & Repair of Eroded Trail

This grant will enable Hubbardston to reroute a heavily used, badly eroded trail and build two bridges to cross a stream. A stone trailhead sign will be erected at the picnic area currently under construction at the trailhead. A general trail map will be made to display at the trailhead and paper maps will be updated to reflect new trails that have been constructed as well as the reroute of the existing eroded trail.

Grant Award \$3,578.00

Match \$1,062.00

YMCA of Greater Providence Newman Branch

Seekonk Accessible Trail

The Newman Seekonk YMCA will construct a 0.5-mile universally accessible woodlands trail, connecting its advanced rehabilitation/recreation facility to the Seekonk Town Hall and eventually connecting to a regional network of trails. The trail will be located in an attractive woodland environment and connect to the Runnins River where wildlife viewing platforms will be constructed. This will be the only trail in the region built specifically for special needs populations and connects to a rehabilitation center. The trail will also be built to attract use by seniors, families visiting the YMCA and residents going to Town Hall.

Grant Award \$50,000.00

Match \$73,351.00

Town of Topsfield Rail Trail Committee

Topsfield Linear Common

This project will involve the continued development of the Topsfield Linear Common, a recreational path along a former railbed. The trail is being constructed with a stone dust surface. The developed portion of the trail is currently being used for a wide range of non-motorized recreational purposes by a variety of users.

Grant Award \$50,000.00

Match \$12,500.00

Motorized Category

Department of Conservation and Recreation Pittsfield State Forest OHV Permit Program

This project will fund two positions with DCR at Pittsfield State Forest to manage and implement the Pittsfield State Forest OHV Permit Program. The positions will be supplemental park rangers, or "education rangers" and duties will include monitoring, educating, and providing statistical analysis of OHV use at the state forest.

Grant Award \$36,000.00

Match \$9,000.00

Department of Conservation and Recreation Beartown State Forest Motorized Trail Improvement Project, Phase One: Wildcat Trail

This project will rehabilitate the motorized trail system throughout Beartown State Forest, using a phased approach and prioritization of the most crucial and heavily used trails in the network to create a more sustainable, safe, and user friendly trail system. Phase One will hire a contractor to assess and rehabilitate the Wildcat Trail, the primary spine of the motorized trail network in Beartown. The project will also improve signage through directional sign production, installation, and new trail blazing.

Grant Award \$23,257.40

Match \$12,500.00

Department of Conservation & Recreation DCR West Region Trail Crew

Guided by the 2007 Motorized Trail Recreational Facility Assessment Policy which outlines the standards for trail siting, construction and maintenance and DCR's Trails Guidelines and Best Practices Manual, the West Region Trail Crew will provide 24 weeks of professional trail work on over 300 miles of trails (106 miles of OHV and 200 miles of snowmobile) within the state forest of the region.

Grant Award \$41,816.00

Match \$20,020.20

Department of Conservation & Recreation Skyline Trail Improvement Project

This project will repair and reconstruct 2.75 miles of the Skyline Trail (backbone of the Pittsfield State Forest OHV/Snowmobile trail system) extending from Brickhouse Mountain Road to Churchill Brook. Guided by the 2007 Motorized Trail Recreational Facility Assessment Policy outlining the standards for trail siting, construction, and maintenance, and DCR's Trail Guidelines and Best Practices Manual, this project has been designed to improve existing trail conditions and mitigate impacts to adjacent wetland resources. The project will provide a sustainable motorized trail system by improving treadway stability and drainage, constructing access barriers to prevent future damage to environmentally sensitive resource areas, and installing proper crossings for intermittent streams and Churchill Brook.

Grant Award \$150,837.34

Match \$37,710.00

Berkshire Trail Riders Association Trail Maintenance Program

This project will enable BTR club members the opportunity to improve and repair multi-use trails in the Tolland State Forest. BTR will purchase an enclosed trailer in order to improve the ability to transport club-owned equipment and supplies, including a utility vehicle and two ATV wagons. This project would enable BTR members to properly transport the current equipment and any future items in a safe and responsible manner, to and from Tolland State Forest.

Grant Award \$13,945.00

Match \$3,496.00

Adams Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club 2011 Trail Project

This project will include repairs and rehabilitation of the existing snowmobile Trail ("Adams Sno-Drifter Trail", "Sucker Pond Trail" and "Carpenter Trail"). This will involve the removal of rocks and stumps, as needed, and water bar clearing. A current model year Ski-Doo Scandic SWT Snowmobile will be purchased for grooming purposes along with materials to fabricate a drag to accompany the equipment.

Grant Award \$14,327.50

Match \$7,727.60

Berkshire Snow Seekers Snowmobile Club, Inc. Pittsfield State Forest Groomer Replacement

This project will involve the purchase of a new, environmentally-friendly (low noise, low emissions, low fuel usage) snowmobile-based grooming system to replace an old snowmobile-based groomer and drag which are no longer economically feasible to repair and maintain (1995 Polaris Wide Track, second-hand). This grooming system will be used on the 50-plus miles of snowmobile trails in the Pittsfield State Forest and Balance Rock State Park areas which DCR does not groom. This system will be used predominantly on the smaller trails that the larger Club groomer cannot traverse without trail widening.

Grant Award \$14,800.00

Match \$3,924.60

Colrain Sno-Drifters Colrain Sno-Drifters Trail Development and Enhancement Program 2011

This project will involve the purchase of an all-terrain vehicle and rescue trailer to develop, enhance and maintain trails for recreational and emergency access purposes in Cook and Catamount State Forests.

Grant Award \$28,086.00

Match \$8,984.00

Florida Mountaineers Snowmobile Club Equipment Purchase/Trail Maintenance/Reroute Project

This project will maintain usage and increase safety of the Recreational Trail System within the community of Florida (encompassing Florida, Savoy and Monroe State Forests). The project will include the purchase of a groomer machine, trail maintenance of existing trails in DCR State Forests, and a reroute of Corridor 3A due to the impending construction of a Wind Farm in the current trail location.

Grant Award \$11,320.00

Match \$2,842.56

Lunenburg Snow Riders Multi-Seasonal Trail Improvement Equipment

This project will include the purchase of Little Brother Groomer (5x9) with electric lift, rear wheels, and front ski as well as a 2011 Polaris Ranger 800 HD with various accessories. This equipment will be used by designated volunteer club members to groom and improve trails within the communities of Lunenburg, Ashby, Ashburnham and Townsend.

Grant Award \$27,200.00

Match \$8,417.36

Savoy Canary Kats Snowmobile Club Purchase of Utility Snowmobile and Access Gates

This project will include the purchase of a 2011 Skandic SWT Utility Snowmobile. Funds will also allow for the purchase of four access gates to be used to restrict large vehicle access on two main corridor trails. The club will install the gates on Lewis Hill and Tannery Trail. The club will dedicate additional matching funds to the purchase of material and the fabrication of a snow grooming drag.

Grant Award \$19,875.00

Match \$6,780.88

Worthington Snowmobile Club WSC Enhancement, Stewardship and Maintenance Project

This project will include the purchase of boards for general bridge repair, two chainsaws and a pole saw to aid the Club in its efforts to enhance and maintain the existing trail system in the towns of Worthington, Cummington, Huntington, Chester, Middlefield and Peru. The installation of drainage to alleviate mud holes, the replacement of lost bridges due to floods and the removal of brush due to the ice storm will all be components of this project. In addition to the purchase of a Polaris Ranger as a result of a previous RTP grant award, this ongoing stewardship and maintenance project will enable the Club to achieve its five-year plan to help convert the existing snowmobile trails in these communities into a greenway for continued use and enjoyment throughout recreational community.

Grant Award \$2,919.70

Match \$6,416.70

Goshen Highlanders Snowmobile Club 2011 Trail Easement Project

The purpose of this project is to permanently secure a trail easement on part of the main snowmobile trail corridor in Goshen, which connects the DAR State Forest to Ashfield, Cummington and Plainfield. Another piece of this project will be to acquire materials for the continued maintenance program and ongoing erosion repair work for the DAR State Forest trail system and Tilton Town Farm Land in Goshen. The final piece of this project is to purchase all-season tracks for the club RTV which was purchased through a previous RTP grant, maximizing the usefulness of this year-round machine.

Grant Award \$18,010.00

Match \$4,503.00

King Phillip Trail Riders Trail Maintenance and Improvement Program

This project will support the purchase of a work utility vehicle to assist in the continued efforts of trail maintenance activities by KPTR. In order to access remote areas of Wrentham, Foxboro and Franklin State Forests, better known as the Gilbert Hills State Forest Region, this work utility vehicle is necessary to transport building materials and supplies. The work utility vehicle will allow for KPTR to perform trail work in a safer and more efficient manner.

Grant Award	\$17,891.06
Match	\$4,473.00

Non-Motorized Category

Town of Lexington Conservation Division & Stewards Lexington Paint Mine Conservation Land Trail Improvements

This project will address wetland trail problems along approximately 1,300 feet of trails in the Paint Mine Conservation Area while providing safer access for students and teachers involved in nature studies programs at the adjacent Eastbrook Elementary School. The primary improvement will be high-quality 36-inch boardwalks and bridges along seasonally wet stretches of existing trails.

Grant Award	\$24,437.61
Match	\$30,624.00

Hopkinton Area Land Trust Center Trail Stewardship Project

The purpose of this stewardship project is two-fold: 1) to repair the erosion damage to the Hopkinton Center Trail and restore the natural hydrology and 2) ensure that the repairs to the trail are permanent, prohibiting further erosion. These goals will be accomplished by installing a number of erosion deterrents including crusher run, rip rap, drain pipes and Gravelpave on various portions of the trail bed.

Grant Award	\$17,525.00
Match	\$4,386.00

Department of Conservation and Recreation 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 numerous volunteers to help to maintain the trail and associated overnight facilities. The AT Ridge Runner also helps to monitor trail conditions and use, and respond to emergencies as needed.

Grant Award	\$9,932.56
Match	\$25,802.72

South Shore Natural Science Center, Inc.
Improve and Enhance Current Trail System at SSNSC

This project will widen the current trail system at the South Shore Natural Science Center from its current width of an average 30", which only allows for single file walking, to a width of 60" that will accommodate 2 people to walk side by side, thus making the trails safe and enjoyable for casual walkers. New trail markers and interpretive markers identifying the different trees and native plants along the trail will be installed. A new kiosk will be installed at the trailhead to convey information to walkers and to hold trail maps.

Grant Award \$6,547.00
Match \$2,585.84

City of Beverly
Trailblazing at Fox Hill

This project will construct a trail system through the currently-inaccessible property at Fox Hill, a 10-acre parcel of protected open space in Beverly.

Grant Award \$1,021.00
Match \$3,957.92

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Neponsit River Canoe Launch Improvement and Educational Signs

Currently, the DCR South Region operates and maintains 10 canoe access points along the Neponsit River. Due to an increase in use of the river for recreational purposes and the recent creation of the Neponsit Esplanade, DCR wishes to install kiosks at each one of these canoe launch locations. Each map board will provide a copy of the canoe launch map, information about riparian habitat and wildlife as well as emergency contacts. In addition, many of the canoe launches are in need of minor repairs as well as vegetation removal, which DCR will also accomplish as a part of this project.

Grant Award \$7,550.00
Match \$3,087.00

Town of Salisbury
Salisbury Ghost Trail Extension

This grant will allow completion of the Salisbury Point Ghost Trail, which is a key link in the regional Coastal Trails Network, by improving approximately 2,665 linear feet of abandoned railroad bed and building a new 330foot trail connection to a recreational facility and its parking area. Completing this portion of the rail trail will allow the use of 1.8 additional miles of trail from Lion's Park to Rabbit Road, avoiding the busy and dangerous Route 110.

Grant Award \$50,000.00
Match \$23,144.60

Essex County Trail Association
Trail Protection and Stewardship Program

ECTA is launching a Trail Protection and Stewardship Program. The program will rely mainly on community volunteers and others to engage in trail stewardship and repairs on several trails including: 1) portions of the 5mile public trail network on the campus of the New England Biolabs Corporation; 2) a newly protected 1.5-mile trail across Maplecroft Farm; 3) the Sagamore Hill trail that crosses lands in Essex, Ipswich, and Hamilton.

Many of these trails represent critical linkages in the local trail system that connects trails on nearby protected open space.

Grant Award \$44,500.00

Match \$12,000.00

The Trustees of Reservations

Glendale Falls: One Step at a Time

Glendale Falls in Middlefield, one of the longest and most spectacular waterfalls in the Commonwealth, is suffering from excessive soil erosion due to continued high visitation and unplanned visitor flow. The Trustees has partnered with the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee to design a trail with a portion to be universally accessible to allow safer viewing of the falls while mitigating the erosion potential. Part of the project is successfully completed with many volunteer hours committed; RTP funds will allow the completion of the more technical and expensive components of this project.

Grant Award \$39,400.00

Match \$13,192.00

Thunderbolt Ski Runners

TSR Trail Signage and Ongoing Maintenance

The Thunderbolt Ski Runners propose to work with local DCR and Town of Adams planning officials to design and install signage that links trails on and around the Thunderbolt Trail, where use has increased in recent years due to a rise in hiker, skier, snowshoer, and snowmobile traffic. The project will also work with DCR to maintain the trails at Greylock State Reservation, as needed. Constant maintenance of the trails and the replacement of the deteriorated, broken, and missing signs will enhance this trail system aesthetically, increase user way finding and restore the area to a safe comfortable recreational environment for visitors and locals alike.

Grant Award \$10,139.00

Match \$16,133.00

Appalachian Mountain Club

Rebuilding the Appalachian Trail on Mt. Prospect

The Appalachian Trail on the north side of Mt. Prospect in Williamstown is arguably the steepest section of the trail in Massachusetts. This straight-up-the-fall-line trail has served as a channel for water and caused significant erosion problems over two miles of trail. AMC will use funding to reroute this trail to sustainable grades. AMC staff will flag the route and, for six weeks in the summer, a staff-led teen volunteer trail crew will work on trail clearing, sidehilling (benching) and installation of basic drainage and retention features. During the fall, AMC's professional trail crew will tackle the most challenging and technical sections of the reroute.

Grant Award \$35,780.00

Match \$49,920.00

Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation

Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation Trail Stewardship Program

The Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation manages or assists in the management of close to 10 miles of hiking trails in the Williamstown area, including sections of and accesses to the 35-mile Taconic Crest Trail and trails on Mt. Greylock. The WRLF has a year-round Board member and trail monitor and hires a two-person trail crew each summer to maintain and improve trails and supervise youth trail volunteers. The WRLF would like to update its tool inventory to more safely and efficiently outfit trail workers and volunteers who work on WRLF and other trails.

Grant Award	\$604.00
Match	\$204.00

**Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
Trail Development and Enhancement at Taunton State Hospital**

This project will expand the existing trail network at the Taunton State Hospital along the Mill River in Taunton. The project will add three quarters of a mile of new trails to the existing 3.3-mile trail network and will add seven scenic overlooks with granite benches and signage. The trail network is an important public amenity for this urban neighborhood and the new trails will be integrated into a larger river restoration and dam removal project underway on the Mill River.

Grant Award	\$20,325.00
Match	\$35,832.00

**City of Springfield
Forest Park Trails**

Forest Park is Springfield's largest and most diverse park, offering both active and passive recreational activities that support the mission of the City. The City of Springfield has identified six specific sites which are integral to the accessibility of Forest Park's trail system, located along a 2-mile loop. Currently, those sites present challenges that have limited the overall maintenance and stability of the trails, especially during in climate weather. Upgrades, renovations and reestablishment of trail facilities will both enhance recreational opportunities and improve the safety of the trails for its users.

Grant Award	\$29,315.00
Match	\$10,138.00

**Mt. Tom Advocacy Committee
Bray Valley Trail Bridge**

This project will replace an existing footbridge in the trail system at Mt. Tom State Reservation that has been determined by Reservation personnel to be beyond repair. The bridge is an important link in the existing trail system at Mt. Tom and is also a very popular teaching location for Park Interpreters. Several local groups including the Mt. Tom Advocacy Committee, AMC, Pioneer Valley Hiking Club and others will work together to replace this bridge so that future generations will continue to use and enjoy this vital component of the trail system and the Reservation.

Grant Award	\$3,632.18
Match	\$13,476.00

**Town of Holliston
Holliston Section of the Upper Charles Rail Trail**

This project will construct a 1/2 –mile section of the 6.7-mile, town-wide section of the 20-mile regional Upper Charles Rail Trail. The Trail is designed as a multi-use, regional rail trail connecting the towns of Hopkinton, Milford, Holliston, Sherborn and Ashland. The ½-mile section of the former railroad right-of-way was recently purchased by the Town of Holliston.

Grant Award	\$49,952.00
Match	\$16,654.00

