

Thank you so much for this wonderful trail! It's definitely our second home!"

—David Rosenfield, Karen Shapiro, Ruth Shapiro

On Monday, September 29, WG partners gathered at Manning St., Holden to dedicate the three most recent MCRT construction projects between River Street and Princeton Street. Leaders from Holden and many of our eight towns, DCR DWSP, MassTrails, construction contractors, trail neighbors, MCRT Alliance, and steadfast WG supporters participated with enthusiasm. A bike tour followed the festive ribbon cutting and MCRT cake cutting. On Saturday, October 4, the dedication festivities for everyone included WALK/RUN/RIDE events for all ages.

Thank you for all the time and energy spent maintaining and expanding the trail!"

—Mary Springer and Arthur Frost, Barre

Connections across the Commonwealth

In March, WG board members attended the annual gathering of the MCRT Alliance which drew supporters from across the Commonwealth. WG welcomed an Alliance group ride on the MCRT in West Boylston and Holden. WG also participates on the board of the MCRT Alliance, the statewide advocacy organization focused on a complete MCRT.



WG welcomes Alliance riders

In October, WG participated in the Moving Together conference in Boston, which provides education and encouragement for active transportation. One highlight this year was meeting several engineers who are MCRT enthusiasts.

Thank you for making green spaces accessible. ♥"

Debbie Giniewicz, Rutland



Scarlett Strom and trail count volunteers

Amazing Trail Tapestry of Neighbors, Volunteers, Members, Donors and first Employee

Lifelong and new residents, visitors from dozens of towns and states, multiple generations, cross-country runners, cyclists, people with rollators, wheelchairs and walking sticks, first time cyclists, dedicated members, indefatigable volunteers and donors who cheer for each new trail connection are all vital to the MCRT trail tapestry. Thank you to WPI student, Scarlett Strom, who signed on as the WG employee for summer 2025. Scarlett served as an enthusiastic and well-qualified member of the MCRT trail management team.



Chain saw volunteers



WPI APO volunteers

It is joy using the trail ourselves, and more joy seeing and hearing other people out on the MCRT."

—David and Emily Hutcheson, Weston

Each WG Friend Is Welcome

Thank you to each of our 926 donors from 127 towns in 17 states in 2025. Many are steadfast donors, and 186 are new donors. Can we reach 1000 donors in 2026? Basic membership (suggested \$40) is the foundation for annual operating expenses. Three special Mass Central Rail Trail Funds also sustain us:

- 1) The MCRT Construction Fund helps construct new trail sections.
- 2) The Dr. Edward P. Yaglou MCRT Maintenance Fund supports restoration projects.
- 3) The MCRT Stewardship Endowment Fund is a permanent fund, and the growth from it will help us to hire a year round employee.

I love the Rail Trail. Every day I see something new and exciting on it."

—Beth Hunt, Rutland

Wachusett Greenways Board of Directors

Colleen Abrams, *President*; Stephen Chanis; Dan Heney; Troy Milliken, *Treasurer*; Mike Peckar, *Secretary*; and Chuck Snow.



Thank you for 30 years of fun, fitness and friends!"

—Dmetro and Dotty Kormeluk, Sterling



2025 Annual Report 30 Years!





What remarkable progress in creating trails and supporting our local environment—thank you.”

—Cathy and Jake O’Connor, Holden

The next construction is a new accessible MCRT connection at Rutland State Park entrance road with MassTrails grant support. Parking lot restoration is planned with DCR DWSP for Gates Rd., Sterling and Thomas St., West Boylston.

You’ve done a spectacular job advancing the Greenways. So keep up the good work.”

—Bob Dore, Concord

Note from WG: In 1995 when Wachusett Greenways began exploring trail possibilities, Bob was the first to recommend that WG pursue building the core of the MCRT.

Partners Are Key

This year select boards of all eight WG towns—Barre, Holden, Oakham, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston—signed letters championing completion of the MCRT. The Commonwealth and the remainder of 127 MCRT towns share the goal of building out the 104-mile MCRT between Boston and Northampton. WG is following a focused track to complete the central 30 miles of the MCRT with



Ribbon cutting with partners

Great organization. Keep up the super job on trail improvements and adding new trail”

—Jim O’Connor, Holden

Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) Construction Onward!

During 2025, Wachusett Greenways (WG) constructed a 2.3 mile accessible portion of the MCRT route traveling 2.3 miles over the hill in Holden between Manning Street and Wachusett Street (Route 31) at Mill Street. Two MassTrails grants and matching funds from Wachusett Greenways donors supported completion of this two-year project by June 2025. This construction expands the completed MCRT section between Thomas St., West Boylston and Princeton St., Holden to a distance of 9 miles.

We just rode the new section of the trail after we got to Manning Street. It’s amazing. Such good engineering. Should last a long time. Congratulations!”

—Jay and Susanna Glaser, Sterling

WG, with partners, have completed nearly 21 miles of the MCRT between Barre and Sterling. Nine to eleven miles of MCRT gaps remain and WG is actively planning that construction.



Shrewsbury Robotics Group

Continue the great work of wonders.”

—Richard Westerback, Jefferson

support of our partners: DCR Division of Watershed Protection, eight Wachusett/Ware towns, MassTrails, foundations, businesses, dedicated members, donors and volunteers, and the MCRT Alliance.

Onward with Stewardship

Wachusett Greenways stewards the MCRT with support from eight towns and the DCR DWSP. Thank you to the towns who assist with some maintenance. Thanks to the DCR DWSP for support including Thomas Street parking lot maintenance. WG works year round to maintain the MCRT from Sterling to Barre including clearing ditches and dead trees, mowing, brush removal, regular patrolling, litter



Trail volunteers leaf blowing

Thanks for continuing stewardship of this treasured trail!”

—Steve Johnson, Windham, NH

We love the terrific work you are doing—many thanks!”

—Tricia Drony and Doug Johnson, Hudson

removal, accessible restroom provision and maintenance, bench and picnic table care, outreach and hospitality to trail users, and plowing several parking areas.



Clearing at Charnock

Love the trail. Keep up the good work!”

—Paul Challenger, Holden

WG Celebrations

On June 18, 2025, WG held the annual meeting celebrating 30 years of connecting central Mass communities. Fifty WG enthusiasts gathered to share MCRT stories and enjoy a picnic at Trout Brook Reservation, Holden. All are welcome to the next annual meeting at Trout Brook Reservation on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.



Dedication cake