Wachusett Greenways

Annual Report



2008

A Message from the Directors

Reviewing 2008 brings gratitude for the many wonderful connections that brought volunteers and community partners together all year. Thank you to each of you who shares the vision of building trail links for the health and enjoyment of our communities. Whether you joined us for a parade, a mailing party, trail clearing, as a member,

or helped in a myriad of other ways, you are making a difference.

We made great strides toward our vision of completing our 30 miles of the rail trail corridor that will eventually stretch from Northampton to Boston. Each new trail section will bring opportunities to con-



nect with nature and community closer to new users. We believe in the value of greenways, and we believe the future of the Mass Central Rail Trail is long, both in years and in miles. Thank you!

Colleen Abrams, President Steve Dubrule, Clerk Margaret Lock, Outreach Ken McDonnell, Communications Stan Miller, Trail Clearing Leader Chris Nichols, Treasurer Ida Nystrom, Events Ed Yaqlou, MCRT Task Force Chair

Membership Matters and Rail Trail Advances

embership in Wachusett Greenways continues to grow, with 617 families, individuals, and businesses included for the 2008 calendar year representing the Wachusett region, Worcester, and 56 towns in 12 states. Greenways welcomed 77 new members. Each member is vital in supporting Greenways trail events and programs.

In 2008, 320 donors contributed \$34,600 to continue the work of building the Mass Central Rail Trail. Since its inception, 1,718 donors have contributed \$491,327 to the MCRT fund. Wachusett Greenways invites loyal supporters and new friends to help continue the progress being made on the rail trail. Every contribution to the MCRT Construction Fund is used to build more of the rail trail and will help to match various grants. Major donors of \$5,000 or more are recognized with a granite bench inscribed in their honor on the trail. Donors of \$1,000 or more are recognized together on an engraved post at a trailhead.

Membership services: Karl Barry

Next Stop, Oakham!

n 2008, the MCRT moved west, pulling into Oakham with the completion of a 1.3 mile section between the Midstate Trail intersection in Rutland and the Muddy Pond outlet connecting to a parking area at Route 122. A DCR Recreational Trails Grant together with matching contributions from Wachusett Greenways donors funded the construction.

Heading east, a short but vital section of the trail was completed between Miles Road and Route 56 in Rutland. This section opens the way to the planned Route 56 underpass, which will join western and eastern parts of the trail at Rutland Center. Completion of this new section was made possible through the generosity of the Camarra and Veaudry families, who donated easements on their property in 2007.

Thanks to a DCR Partnership Matching Grant, a stone dust paved surface was added to four trail sections: in Holden between Manning and River Streets and, from River Street to West Boylston; and in Rutland between Route 56 and the Charnock Hill tunnel, and between the Midstate Trail and the Muddy Pond culvert.

Special thanks are owed to the contractors, Mike Grady, Mark Sadowski and Bob Salvadore who employed their excellent skills on the trail.

Engineer Bruce Pennino, Ed Yaglou, and several volunteers completed construction of a heavy duty "mini-bridge" west of the Muddy Pond Culvert which can handle construction equipment.

Progress to the west will continue in 2009, including the reconstruction of collapsed bridges connecting trail sections in Oakham. Thanks to the wonderful support of our dedicated volunteers, committed grantors, and skilled contractors, we look forward to making many more connections in the year ahead.

MCRT Task Force: Ed Yaglou, Chairman; Colleen Abrams, Matt Hopkinson (moved), Bruce Pennino, Dave Small, Dick Williams







Wachusett Greenways Joins the Parades!

Wachusett Greenways was named the Grand Marshall of the Rutland 4th of July parade in honor of the many Greenways volunteers who are serving the community. These volunteers came out to assist in the celebrity pancake breakfast, participate in the parade and serve as judges. Marching in the parade, riding bicycles, holding banners and traveling on the Greenways floats gave Greenways volunteers the opportunity to fully participate in Rutland's famed 4th of July festivities. Signs along the





parade route proclaimed, "Thank you, Wachusett Greenways!"

Still energized after the 4th of July parade, our volunteers marched in West Boylston's giant, spirited Bicentennial Parade on September 21. Accolades and many words of gratitude were expressed by

residents for all the work that Greenways has done.

In both parades, Greenways volunteers rode the fabulous 19th century train engine model designed and built by Bob Bolton and the Springdale Historic Site Committee. For the Rutland parade, Bob Salvadore created a second festive float



depicting a trail scene with his antique tractor and wagon.

Encouraging Words...

My wife and I walk from the Oakdale end 1 1/2 to 2 miles about 5 times a week. We appreciate what you have done.

6/08 Lyle and Shirley, West Boyslton

Patrollers on Duty 2008

In addition to the extraordinary clean-up work caused by the December ice storm, the trails are looked after throughout the year by WG volunteer trail patrollers. Each patroller is assigned a trail to keep clean and accessible, usually near home. If a fallen branch is too large to move, Greenways trail patrol coordinator Paul Hennessey is notified and he calls Stan Miller and his crew. Fortunately, there's been very little trash, just natural events.

If you would like to help patrol the trails contact Paul at 508-886-6317 or peh01543@charter.net. Paul not only enjoys walking the trail,

but says the people he meets during his patrol are "friendly and appreciative of the rail trail."

White Oak Trail

Mark Forkey

Sterling – Cider Mill to Gates Road

Brian Toohey and Sterling Cub Scout Pack #34 Bruce Baker

West Boylston – Oakdale to Holden Line

David McClure Richard G. DiMascio Mike and Rachel Peckar and family

Holden/West Boylston, Mill Street to River Street to Oakdale Laura Beckwith

Holden – Manning Sreet to West Boylston line

James D. Schakenbach Evan Schakenbach

Holden – River Street to West Boylston line

Gerald Teran

Holden – River Street to Manning Street to Mill Street

Pauline E. Cloutier

Rutland – Wachusett Sreet to Holden line

David Henrichon



Rutland – Glenwood Road to Route 56

Pia Nielsen, Steve Mann Sheila Dibb

Diane C. Spindler

Rutland – Miles Road to Charnock Hill Tunnel

Bob J. Hill, Gail C. Hartman Bruce Ruderman

Rutland – Charnock Hill tunnel, to Whitehall Road, State Park entrance

Paul E. Hennessey

Rutland – Whitehall Road at State Park entrance to Midstate Trail

Robin Peters

Rutland/Oakham – Midstate Trail to Muddy Pond culvert Beth Hunt

Maintaining and Clearing Trails All Year

The hundred-year ice storm that clobbered the region in December resulted in a web of downed and hanging trees and limbs, virtually paralyzing access to most sections of the rail trail and White Oak Trail. Shortly after the storm, a stream of dedicated volunteers including the trail team and individual patrollers began to clear the trail.

Within weeks, thanks to the tireless work of dozens of volunteers and the DCR, nearly all sections had been made passable. While the DCR tackled the section between West Boylston and River Street in Holden, Greenways crews began clearing the rest of the rail trail, including the hard-hit section running east from at Wachusett St. in Rutland. Work will continue in 2009, including chipping and removing brush along the trails.

Throughout 2008 the trail clearing team continued preparing for new trail construction as they removed trees from the trail in Rutland. Regular maintenance, such as removing downed branch-

es and clearing drainage ditches took place thanks to our cadre of









enthusiastic work crews and patrollers, including students from the Bancroft School in Worcester and several scout troops. Cody Kennedy, Rutland Troop #306, completed his Eagle project by establishing an engraved memorial and a historic brochure for the 1932 Rutland train wreck. Thanks to all!

Trail Clearing Leader: Stan Miller

Wachusett Greenways, Inc.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses a/k/a Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2008 Accrual Basis

	Membership, Management and Operations		Trail Construction and Maintenance	Endowment		Total
Revenue	Орен	10115	Manreenance		· unu	1000
Grants and donations						
Federal/state government grants*	\$	_	\$ 79,500	\$	_	\$ 79,500
Local government grants		5,136			_	5,136
Foundation, corporate, and other grants		1,250			10,000	11,250
Individual and corporate donations		250	33,362		3,757	37,369
Membership fees	2	3,410			_	23,410
Product sales		2,977			_	2,977
Investment income		_	11,110		380	11,490
Total revenue	_3	3,023	123,972		14,137	171,132
Expenses						
Trail construction**		_	167,838		_	167,838
Trail maintenance		_	1,352		_	1,352
Fundraising		2,063	_		_	2,063
Printing and production	1	0,665	_		_	10,665
Donor recognition		7,544	_		_	7,544
Insurance		3,285			_	3,285
Special events	3,033		_		_	3,033
Postage and shipping	2,464		_		_	2,464
Professional fees		1,590	_		_	1,590
Other expenses	2,796					2,796
Total expenses	33,440		169,190		_	202,630
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses a/k/a Changes in Net Assets	s <u>\$</u>	(417)	\$ (45,218) \$	14,137	\$ (31,498)

^{*} Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

^{**} Massachusetts Central Rail Trail

Wachusett Greenways, Inc.

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended December 31, 2008 Cash Basis

Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of year	\$440,097
Add:	
Federal/state government grants	79,500
Local government grants	4,736
Foundation, corporate, and other grants	11,250
Individual and corporate donations	36,046
Membership fees	22,496
Product sales	2,977
Investment income	11,490
	168,495
Less:	
Trail construction	205,443
Trail maintenance	1,632
Fundraising	2,063
Program and Management	32,745
	241,883
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	\$366,709
Unrestricted	
Operating fund	\$ 4,059
Temporarily restricted	
Trail construction fund	312,231
GWCF Guide Grant	1,940
Kaplan Development Grant	6,450
Trail maintenance fund	17,079
	_337,700
Permanently restricted	
MCRT Preservation Endowment Fund	22,450
Springdale Mill River Walk Preservation Endowment Fund	2,500
	24,950
	\$366,709

Generous Grantors 2008

In 2008 a Recreational Trails Grant of \$50,000 supported trail construction west of the Midstate Trail intersection in Rutland to Muddy Pond in Oakham. Greenways will also receive a matching grant of \$50,000 to construct the trail in Oakham west from the Muddy Pond culvert to the Route 122 crossing in 2009.

The Recreational Trails Grants are administered by the Greenways and Trails Program of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board and the Massachusetts Highway Department. This fed-



eral TEA-21 program makes funds available to states to develop and maintain recreational trails.

A first-time Department of Conservation and Recreation Partnership matching grant of \$29,500 enabled Greenways to complete four trail sections with a stone dust paved surface in Rutland and Holden.

Wachusett Greenways will receive a second DCR Partnership Matching Grant in 2009 to help bridge Parker Brook on the rail trail in Oakham.

First-time grants from the West Boylston Cultural Council and the Holden Cultural Council, local agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, funded local performers who enhanced two Greenways annual events. For Family Fun Day in June, Katie Green designed a series of story telling workshops culminating with the Rail Trail Tellers performances. The Springdale Mill Celebration in September was enhanced by the Paddock and Lepage Band's performance.

The Kirby Foundation awarded a 2008 grant of \$10,000 in honor of Ken McDonnell. Together with a 2007 grant, the funds have been placed in the growing MCRT Maintenance Endowment Fund to provide permanent care for the rail trail.

Sam's Club provided at grant of \$1,000 to support Greenways Family Fun Day and other special events. Sam's Club also provides special grants in support of employee, Rachel Bradley, and others who volunteer in the community.

Wachusett Greenways is grateful for the trust of these grantors and provides careful stewardship of these funds for rail trail construction or Greenways programs.

Grants Coordinator: Colleen Abrams

Springdale Historic Site Committee Made it Happen Did you hear that whistle blow?

The Springdale Historic Site Committee, formed some eight years ago, has brought to life the abandoned Springdale Mill, a woolen mill built in 1864 on the Quinapoxet River, between West Boylston and Holden. Later trains brought raw wool to the mill to be processed, and took away the finished yarn to market. The mill site is now a destina-







tion for guided tours and the annual Springdale Mill Celebration. On the last Saturday in September the committee sponsors a treasure hunt and arranges for demonstrations of wool carding and twisting, food and music. The next family Springdale Mill Celebration is September 26, 2009.

There are permanent interpretive signs to help visitors understand mill history and how people lived and worked in the village. The mill buildings are on the river side of the trail, while five village cellar holes have been excavated up the hill on the opposite side of the trail.

Two important events in 2008 inspired a charming and clever building



project, completed by the Springdale Historic Site Committee. These events were the 4th of July parade in Rutland, and West Boylston's 200th Birthday Celebration Parade on September 21. The project was a life-sized replica of a c.1881 locomotive and coal tender.

The idea for a train float to use for the 4th of July Rutland Parade and West Boylston Birthday Celebration was born in the spring of 2008. Chuck Skillings delved into the design aspects for historic veracity, Bob Bolton applied his award-winning design skills, and Dick Spaulding took tools in hand. Volunteer helpers lined up, and a few months later the replica was completed.

Springdale Historic Site Committee: Ruth Spaulding, Chair, Colleen Abrams, Jim Lafley, Janet Olson, Chuck Skillings, Ed Yaglou

We Went Far and Wide in 2008

nce again Wachusett Greenways offered a wide range of outdoor events throughout every season. There were hiking, biking, birding, kayaking/canoeing and winter sports excursions, until the

December ice storm disrupted activities and attention turned to clean-up.

Highlights of the year included snowshoeing the new Waushacum Overlook conservation area in Sterling... hiking by the rushing spring waterfalls of Purgatory Brook... bike riding on the Nashua River bike trail (a perennial summer favorite) followed by a fabulous Italian meal...



birding along Sterling rail trail (who knew so many beautiful birds were right above our heads?)... looking for butterflies in Westborough... picking blackberries along the Rail Trail in Rutland... enjoying the glorious mountain laurel blooms on a June hike in Leominster State Forest... and the annual Summer Solstice Canoe Party on The Quag, where we enjoyed a spectacular sunset this year instead of thunderstorms! For a change of pace an intrepid group headed into Boston on the train, and enjoyed walking the Rose Kennedy Parkway — even in the rain!

Events coordinator: Ida Nystrom

Walking and Reading Along the Trail



This year we introduced StoryWalk™ to the Rail Trail. StoryWalk involves spacing the pages of a great story along the trail. The aim is to entice families to exercise both their bodies and their brains. To our surprise older folks and dog-walkers enjoyed StoryWalk as much as the kids! The concept originated with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Our first

StoryWalk was "Leaves" by David Ezra Stein, an autumn-themed book about a young bear confused by the falling leaves. The trail's guest book recorded over 250 enthusiastic comments, ranging from "It was Osum!" from a 6-yr old to "It reminded me of my childhood heart, the heart I seek each time I'm on this trail" from a 55-year old. The second StoryWalk, posted in Sterling, was the beautifully illustrated Ukrainian folk tale, "The Mitten" by Jan Brett. The fall StoryWalk will coincide with Family Fun Day in Oakdale.

StoryWalk Coordinator: Margaret Lock

Four Seasons Exhibit 2008

The Four Seasons of Wachusett Greenways annual exhibit traveled from its opening night venue at the Chocksett School in Sterling, to Rutland Free Public Library, then on to the Beaman Memorial Public Library in West Boylston, and ending in Holden at the Gale

Free Library and Senior Center.

The show presented diverse depictions of the Wachusett region in all its glories and quiet beauty. Thirty-four artists shared 80 works of photography, drawing, and painting. Exhibit chair Marietta Grimley-Stansky expressed appreciation for the many volunteers who helped with the traveling exhibit.





The artists represented were: Evelyn Abasciano, Robert Aiello, Bill Ayadi, Gerard Blouin, Therese Bresolin, Nancy Burke, Muriel Crum, Zabelle D'Amico, Patricia Doherty, Robert Duffy, Bonnie Fancy, Marjorie Farr, Judith Frew, Karen Gaskin, John Grote, Linda Hoffman, Sarah Howe, John Kennedy, Barbara Kimball, Marjorie Lepore,

Margaret Lock, Margaret McCandless, B. Eugene McCarthy, Gail Ann Nason, Stephen J. Noel, Frank Puffer, Michael Rogan, Ron Rosenstock, Mary E. L. Shepherd, Robert W. Smith, David Snay, Sid Solomon, Jeanine Vitale, and Lynette West-Raymond.

Exhibit team: Marietta E. Grimley-Stansky, Chair; Zabelle D'Amico, Diane Pedersen, Mary E. L Shepherd and numerous helpers.

Family Fun Day Tradition Continues to Draw Crowds

Wachusett Greenways hosted the third Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 14, 2008. The Oakdale entrance to the rail trail was the location that attracted more than 500 adults and children.

New to the event, the Rail Trail Tellers, trained by Katie Green, shared special railroad themed tales. Their participation was made possible through a grant from the West Boylston Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Old fashioned games and relay races were also a popular addition this year. Familiar and popular events such as face painting, nature inspired art, the bike parade and a nature scavenger hunt drew the attention of children of all ages.





The West Boylston Police Department conducted helmet and bicycle safety checks and the Holden Police Department led the bike parade. Good food, the lively music of Chas Paddock's band, and participation in races all contributed to a satisfying and eventful day.

Wachusett Greenways' fourth Annual Family Fun Day will be held on June 20, 2009 at the MCRT in West Boylston.

Family Fun Day Team: Janan Hamm, Coordinator, Colleen Abrams, Sue Abramson, Rachel Bradley, Barbara Campbell, Pat Charbonneau, Persis Hamilton, Nancy Lucier, Viv Ouellette, Karen Pare, Michele Simoneau, Michele Thorne



Greenways Connect in Many Ways

In 2008 Wachusett Greenways continued to reach out to supporters and the general public in an ongoing effort to enhance awareness of the trails, events and other Greenways projects. Outreach to and from local newspapers provided news of Greenways events .

We published three issues of our newsletter, the *Greenways Connector*, as well as our Annual Report. We also initiated the *e-Connector*, an email-based version of the newsletter. Wachusett Greenways encourages readers to choose to receive the online version, rather than printed and mailed via snail mail he amount of work required of the

Wachusett Greenways' dedicated mailing team.

We use ConstantContact to distribute the e-Connector and to stay in touch throughout the year. Upcoming events, membership and fund-raising drives, and other important messages reach readers faster and at less cost.

Our website, www.wachusettgreenways.org, continues to be a useful portal into all things Greenways. And we've added the capability to







donate to Greenways and become a member through secure weblinks, a convenient method growing in popularity across the Internet.

Hospitality kiosks staffed by enthusiastic Wachusett Greenways volunteers at entrances to the trail, and regional events helped introduce new friends to the rail

trail and provided opportunities to meet other outdoor enthusiasts.

Greenways Connector Team: Viv Ouellette, Manager, Colleen Abrams, Grace Blydenburgh, Tim Enman, Ken McDonnell, Ida Nystrom, Hank Ouellette, Peder Pedersen and Adshead Graphics

Webmaster and photographer: Hank Ouellette Constant Contact Designer: Ken McDonnell

News Outreach: Margaret Lock Mailing Coordinator: S. Jane Arntz Hospitality Coordinator: Colleen Abrams

2008 Volunteers, Donors of Services, and Partners

THANK YOU for sharing many gifts and talents. More than 265 volunteers served in 2008. Please forgive any errors or omissions and let us know of our error.

Volunteers Colleen Abrams Iim Abrams Sue Abramson Arlene Aldenberg Art Allen Betsy Alspach Larry Altobelli Lori Altobelli Doreen Amaral S. Jane Arntz **Ed Ayers** Olympia Ayers Bruce Baker Alissa Baldarelli Amv Baldarelli Robin Baldarelli **Jody Barnard** Christy Barnes Elise Barry Karl Barry J. Nora Bateman Laura Beckwith Robert Bertin Grace Blydenburgh **Bob Bolton** Ted Bonner Jere Bradley Rachel Bradlev Lois Breault Matt Brown Ruth Bull Dave Camarra Barbara Campbell Dave Casey Pat Charbonneau Ioe Choiniere Pauline Cloutier Gabbie Coccio Mark Coccio Nikko Coccio Ronda Coccio Deanne Comeau Bob Corcoran Anthony Costello Iean Costello

Joe Davenport Craig Della Penna Andrew Del Donno Ted Del Donno Eric DeRivera Loretta Dewey Sheila Dibb Richard G. DiMascio Bill Dobson **Jack Downes** George Dresser Charles Dubrule Sam Dubrule Steve Dubrule Tom Dunne Katie Edwards Gordo Elliot Tim Enman Lin Erskine Nate Erskine Jared Fancy Greg Fitzpatrick Mikayla Fitzpatrick Anne Flatt Betty Fogg Mark Forkey Martha Forkey Andrea Freeman Iohn Gau Bill Gauld Rocky Goodreau Cathy Graham Dave Graham John Grote Claire Gurney Sue Hall Persis Hamilton Gail Hartman Donna Jean Hazen Kavla Hazen Paul Hennessev David Henrichon Cynthia Henshaw Bronson Herrera

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In-kind Services

Includes items such as chain saw repair, office space, phone and computer services, scaffolding, generators, mowing, plowing, trucking, legal & accounting services, engineering, consulting, food, concrete blocks, paint and more.

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2008 Wachusett Greenways Members, Mass Central Rail Trail Construction Fund Donors, Maintenance Endowment Fund Donors

Thank you for your generous support! Please forgive any errors or omissions and let us know so we can correct our records.

\$1000 or More

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