



*Connecting our Communities with the  
Mass Central Rail Trail*

**December 2022**

## **Joyful Experiences in 2022 Unite Us!**

*(See some great photos of 2022 connections at the end  
of this message!)*

Connecting is the heart of Wachusett Greenways. This year we're celebrating new connections of members, volunteers and portions of the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT).

Gratitude flows to each of you who has stepped forward to share. Amazing volunteers are the hands, feet and hearts who build connections. Thank you to all who clear branches, mow trail shoulders, muck out ditches, cut hazardous trees, sharpen mower blades, seal envelopes, write notes, measure new trail routes, use your own tractors, trucks and chainsaws, care for restrooms, patrol the trail, communicate and reach out, search out history, seek grants, welcome trail visitors, and so much more.

Our beloved members and supporters are those who donate to connect and care for the Mass Central Rail Trail. Your words of encouragement are the jet-pack fuel that keeps us steadfast. Thank you to each one who has given in 2022.

A strong foundation built on community partnerships is essential for making the MCRT possible. Thank you to the staff and elected officials of our regional Towns and the Commonwealth, the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, MassTrails and local foundations. We are grateful to each of you!

Membership matters. The suggested annual amount is \$40 (your gift in any amount makes you a member). Please give your 2022 membership. If you are already a member, THANK YOU. If you're not sure, please [contact us](#).

We also invite you to make a year-end special gift to any of the Wachusett Greenways – MCRT Funds to celebrate 2022. Your gift will help to complete and care for the 30-mile MCRT through Sterling, West Boylston, Holden, Rutland, Oakham and Barre. Together we are growing one interconnected, united trail for people of all ages and abilities.

- MCRT Construction Fund – to construct more of the central 30 miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail.
- Dr. Edward P. Yaglou MCRT Maintenance Fund – to maintain and refurbish the Trail.
- MCRT Stewardship Endowment Fund – to grow this permanent fund for Wachusett Greenways' enduring stewardship of the Trail.

Whether you [donate online](#) or by postal mail, please designate which fund(s) you choose for your gift. Thank you to each of you who are members or donors for 2022!

Many thanks also to everyone who has already made an additional contribution for a Wachusett Greenways Mass Central Rail Trail Fund this year. Welcome to every member or donor coming on board today!

Watch for our annual report in February to learn more of our progress of 2022 and plans for 2023.

Peace and joy to you!

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In 2022, Cub Scout Pack 182 from Holden helped conserve the Charlotte Kaplan and Jeremiah Kaplan bridges over the Quinapoxet River in Holden.

The MCRT in the



heart of the Commonwealth is a great connector for visitors traveling from the east and the west. Here two visitors reconnecting at the trail.



We replaced the bridge in Sterling at West Lake Washacum in 2022. We'll celebrate the new bridge and the support from MassTrails in 2023.



Sometimes major maintenance is needed. Here new culvert pipes are readied for installation on the Charnock Hill Rd. to Miles Rd. section of the MCRT in Rutland. In 2022 we also contracted full restoration of the ditches here. In 2023 we'll resurface portions of this well-traveled section.

Volunteers from WPI's Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity completed another successful day caring for the MCRT in November.



[www.wachusettgreenways.org](http://www.wachusettgreenways.org)

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