



Milan Trail Huggers

P.O. Box 42

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*Maintaining Trails in Milan, Stark, Dummer, Success and Cambridge*

### **Milan Trail Huggers 2023 Trail Summary**

In spite of lots of rainy weather, our club finished several major trail projects this summer and fall.

The majority of this trail work took place on Corridor A1 in Success and Cambridge. Brushing was completed along 10 miles of Corridor A1. A ½ mile-long narrow section of trail was cut back, widened and new ditching was installed. A steep rocky hill was completely rebuilt and coated with clay gravel. Failed culverts were replaced in several areas. The first mile of Corridor A1 that runs along Success Pond Road was transformed from a sandy stutter-bump surface to a smooth road surface by installing 130 loads of clay gravel which held up extremely well during the heavy summer traffic.

At the end of the summer, we graded the northern part of the Head Pond Connector trail in Milan which saw tons of traffic this summer. We also graded Cedar Brook Road and the steep hill going down to Dummer Pond Road.

#### **Progress made on improved signage**

Over the summer, our club installed 60 new sign posts at junctions in our entire trail system in Stark, Milan, Dummer, Success and Cambridge. On each of these signs posts, the club will be installing the names of roads or trails that cross over the main trail. The signs are being printed now and we expect to install them right after mud season ends in the spring.

During last summer, the Coos County Sheriff's Department installed road name signs along the access roads leading into the trail system.

These two sets of signs will work together to help riders identify where they are in the trail system. These signs will also help first responders, tow operators, etc. find their way into the trail system using the gravel access roads.

This project has taken more time than we expected to complete mainly due to the coordination that had to be done between all of the people that are involved in the process. We had input from landowners, state agencies, local town selectmen, county commissioners, law enforcement and NH 911.

## **Corridor D Work Around**

As most of you know, Dummer closed their roads to ATV's and this severed Corridor D in two locations. Meetings were held with two private landowners this year trying to get a work around. These two landowners are just the first of several landowners that must agree to a trail and while some progress was made, we were unable to get permission. We will talk to them again next year and hope for the best.

## **Kelsey Notch Trail**

Our club along with several other clubs plus representatives from NHOHVA and a Coos County Commissioner all testified at hearings in Concord NH last January to keep the Kelsey Notch trail open. This trail has been on probation for several years after multiple environmental groups appealed to CORD (Council On Resources and Development) to close it down due to environmental concerns.

This testimony resulted in CORD voting to keep the trail open with annual maintenance reports required. This was a huge victory for ATV riders since this would have severed the only connection between the Stratford area trails and the Colebrook area trails. In addition, it could have set a precedent for closing down other ATV trails on State land.

## **Trail Master News**

Unfortunately we have to report that our trail master has been diagnosed with cancer. He is currently undergoing treatments which should put the cancer into remission by May. But he wants to start training others to take his place.

He has created a YouTube channel with training videos and also has some great spreadsheet tools. The ideal candidate is someone with computer skills since most of this job is paperwork. Working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is required.

You do not have to live in the area since the paperwork can be done anywhere. Construction experience is not required but would be considered a plus.

In the past, this has been a volunteer position but our club along with NHOHVA are putting together a budget to provide some compensation for this position. To learn more, please click on the following link: <https://milantrailhuggers.com/training>

Remember there can be no trails without maintenance and there can be no maintenance without grants and there can be no grants without a trail master.

## **In Summary**

Thank you very much for your past support and we hope you will decide to join our club again in 2024. For those of you were former members of the Sunset Riders Club, you will be happy to know that we got permission to name a trail after the late David Baldassara (the former trail master of the Sunset Riders Club).

We will be holding a formal dedication for “Baldy’s Trail” next summer which will be attended by local and state officials as well as family and friends. Please watch our Facebook Page for more details about this dedication ceremony.

For those of you who can afford it, we ask you to add a \$15.00 donation to your membership cost to help us with grant matches. Please click on one of the links below to join or donate.

Best Regards,

The Officers and Directors of the Milan Trail Huggers

Join the Milan Trail Huggers:

<https://members.nhohva.org/milan-trail-huggers>

Donate to the Milan Trail Huggers:

<https://members.nhohva.org/donate>