

Milan Trail Huggers 2024 Trail Summary

We started the year, with broken hearts, after losing our Trail Administrator Larry Gomes on January 4th. Larry had been working on a Grant from Tillotsen Local and North Country Collation hanging all new signage in our area. Larry's last day on trail working was 12/26/23, hanging said signs and he went to the hospital that evening.

In March, DanaLynn Dowling volunteered to be our Trail Administrator. In spite of no experience and lots of big washouts, we opened trails on time. Our volunteer members completed about 98% of Tillotsen signage for opening day. We had several major washouts and detours to deal with along with writing a GIA Grant to match Larry's RTP "Success Maintenance Plan" Grant. We installed temporary bridge decking on Head Pond and installed a new gate on the Bell Hill Connector. Our Volunteer members worked non-stop all summer trying to keep up with damages from 3 major washouts, detours for logging, planning a dedication for Larry, planning and hosting a dedication for Dave "Baldi" Baldassara, hosting our 1st Scenic Vista Poker Run, assisting neighboring a Club with Volunteers for River Fire, the rebuild of Corridor A1. building 2 new bridges, installation of new culverts and completing our "Success Maintenance Plan" Grant. GREAT job by our few volunteer members!!

Signage is completed

Signage at all junctions on our entire trail system is completed. We installed 60 new posts, 130 trail name signs, 50 MTH informational signs, and 50 scan it DONATION signs. This project took much more time than planned mainly due to coordination that had to be done between all of the people that are involved. We had input from landowners, state agencies, local town selectman, county commissioners, law enforcement and NH 911. Larry was out installing said signs on December 26, 2023 with Brad Morell and Mike Dowling assisting, when his illness took over. The men of MTH helped Mike & Brad with finding locations and installing said signage. This was a challenge without our Larry.

Bell Hill Connector

We installed a new gate on Paris Road that was donated by a member. Some of the trail was graded by a volunteer member. Trail needs brushing and the gate needs painting.

Benson Road/Head Pond

Benson Road got some grading thanks to our volunteer members to keep this trail in good shape. We worked closely with the Milan Community Forest president to keep their section of trail pristine. We added side rails to their bridge prior to season opening. We currently have a renter on the trail and will have to come up with an agreement for care and use of the trail just like we have with Milan Community Forest. We need gate work and grading done on this trail ASAP.

Cedar Brook Road

Cedar Brook needs grading from Dummer Pond Road up the hill. We have asked landowner for permission for a dedication for Larry at this hilltop overlooking Pontook Dam.

Pontook Dam

Trail is in good shape. Our members have been out trimming and keeping all access open. We had a big spruce tree come down in parking lot in early spring. Our amazing members had this cleaned up before I had gotten home to make calls for clean up. We need a map added to kiosk.

Success Trail Maintenance Plan – Corridor A1 Berlin

We have completed our Success Trails Rebuild Project RTP & GIA Grants from the parking lot in Berlin to almost Stearns Brook Trail. We worked collaboratively with State Bureau of Trails. This was funded by \$80,000.00 RTP Grant, a \$93,674.90 GIA Part 1, \$40,004.02 GIA Part 2 Grant Awarded, plus a \$10,000.00 Winter Damage Award.

We started at the parking lot, removing rocks and adding gravel mix. Added a gate at the trail head with emergency access. We widened the trail from 12' to 15'. Installed ditching where needed and added culverts. Applied clay gravel mixture to trail. We built 2 bridges with new steel beams 18' and 20'. We were unable to do any brushing due to Long Eared Bats species protection and federal guidelines. The funding for this portion was put to additional grading on the trail above our original plan. This is the 1st in 20 years this portion of trail had some TLC. We also added an emergency access gate on So Forks Road which leads to Boys Road and Beech Hill Trail.

In summary

This has certainly been a hard year for all of us in many ways. We started the year with the loss of our Trail Administrator and ending the year with losing our First Lady, Mrs. Mary Kellett. One thing for sure is we can lean on each other, and learn from each other. We all stepped up and got every project done together as Huggers. I know we made Larry proud.

Thank you to all our members for your past support and we hope that you will decide to join our club again in 2025. Please refer a friend. Without your memberships and dollars we can not keep trails maintained and open. Please watch our Facebook page and visit us at Milantrailhuggers.com.

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 and trail maintenance costs. Please click on links below to join or donate.

Best Regards,
The Officers and Directors of The Milan Trail Huggers

Join the Milan Trail Huggers: (Please be sure to wait until January 1st)
<https://members.nhohva.org/milan-trail-huggers>

Donate to the Milan Trail Huggers:
<https://members.nhohva.org/donate>

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..