

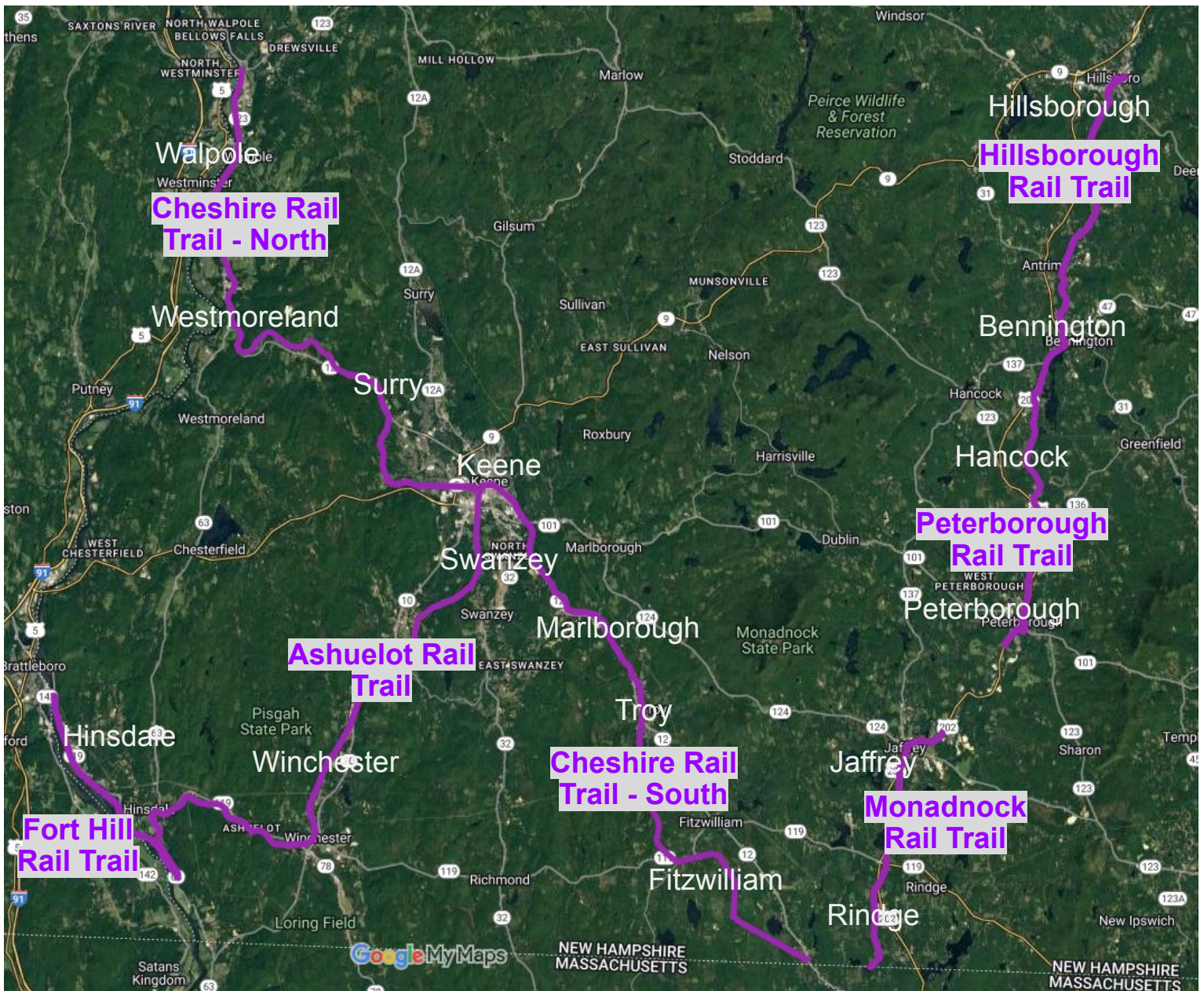
# **Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative**

## **Annual Report 2023**

# Executive Summary

## 2023 Rail Trail Reach:

- 80 Miles
- 10 Towns
- 6 Rail Trails
- 5 Bridges
- 1829 Volunteer Hours





## *Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report*

### **Ashuelot, Cheshire & Monadnock Rail Trail - Extensive Storm Damage**

- **Town:** Swanzey, Fitzwilliam, Troy, Rindge and Jaffrey
- **Partners:** Monadnock Sno-Moles, Keene SnoRiders, Swanzey Rail Trail Advisory Committee, Cheshire County, FEMA, NH Homeland Security & Emergency Services, NH Bureau of Trails, NH Department of Transportation, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Eversource
- **Length:** 30 miles
- **Time:** +/-300 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** No materials. Volunteer provided meals, equipment, and labor.



### **2023 Activities: January and March Storm Damage**

- Extensive damage to trees in early 2023 from heavy wet snow and ice accumulation. Two storms. Rail Beds were blocked by tree fall throughout the Region. No use possible.
- The Sno-Moles coordinated work parties every weekend and some weekdays until access was restored (Cheshire Rail Trail-South & Monadnock Rail Trail)
- Tree removal, brush clearing and cleanup.
- July flood damage. Seven washouts along the Ashuelot Rail Trail in Swanzey. Working with Federal and State agencies to resolve.





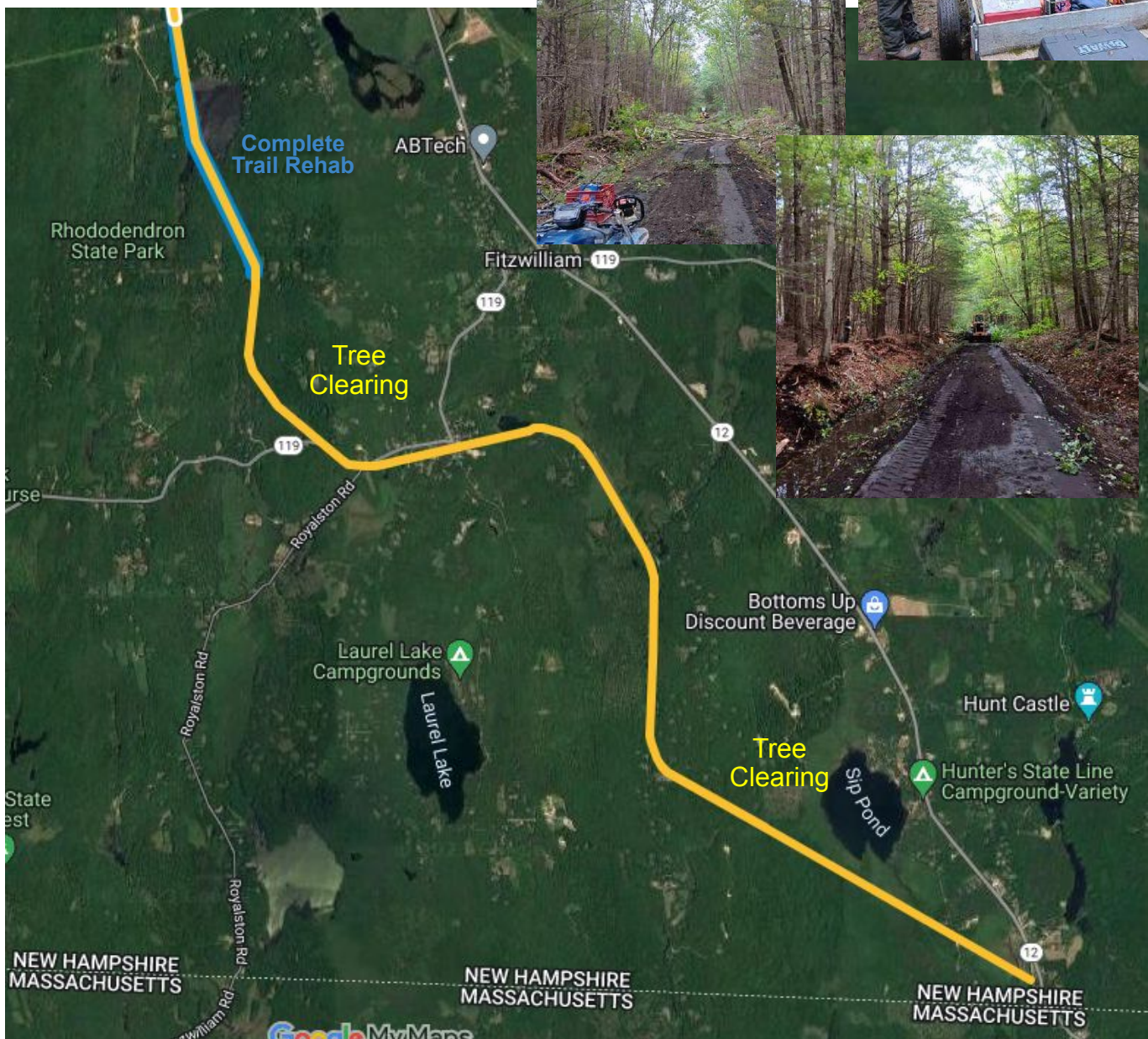
# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Cheshire Rail Trail

- **Town:** Fitzwilliam
- **Partners:** Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Monadnock Sno-Moles
- **Length:** 9 miles
- **Time:** 220 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Monadnock Sno-Moles, Timken, Mascoma Bank

## 2023 Activities:

- Trail reconstruction north of Rockwood Pond to Troy/Fitzwilliam town line
- Trail reconstruction south of Rockwood Pond to Rhododendron Rd.
- South of Rhododendron Rd widen trail to Trail Standards, dig drainage swales and drainage improvements
- Tree clearing





# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Monadnock Rail Trail

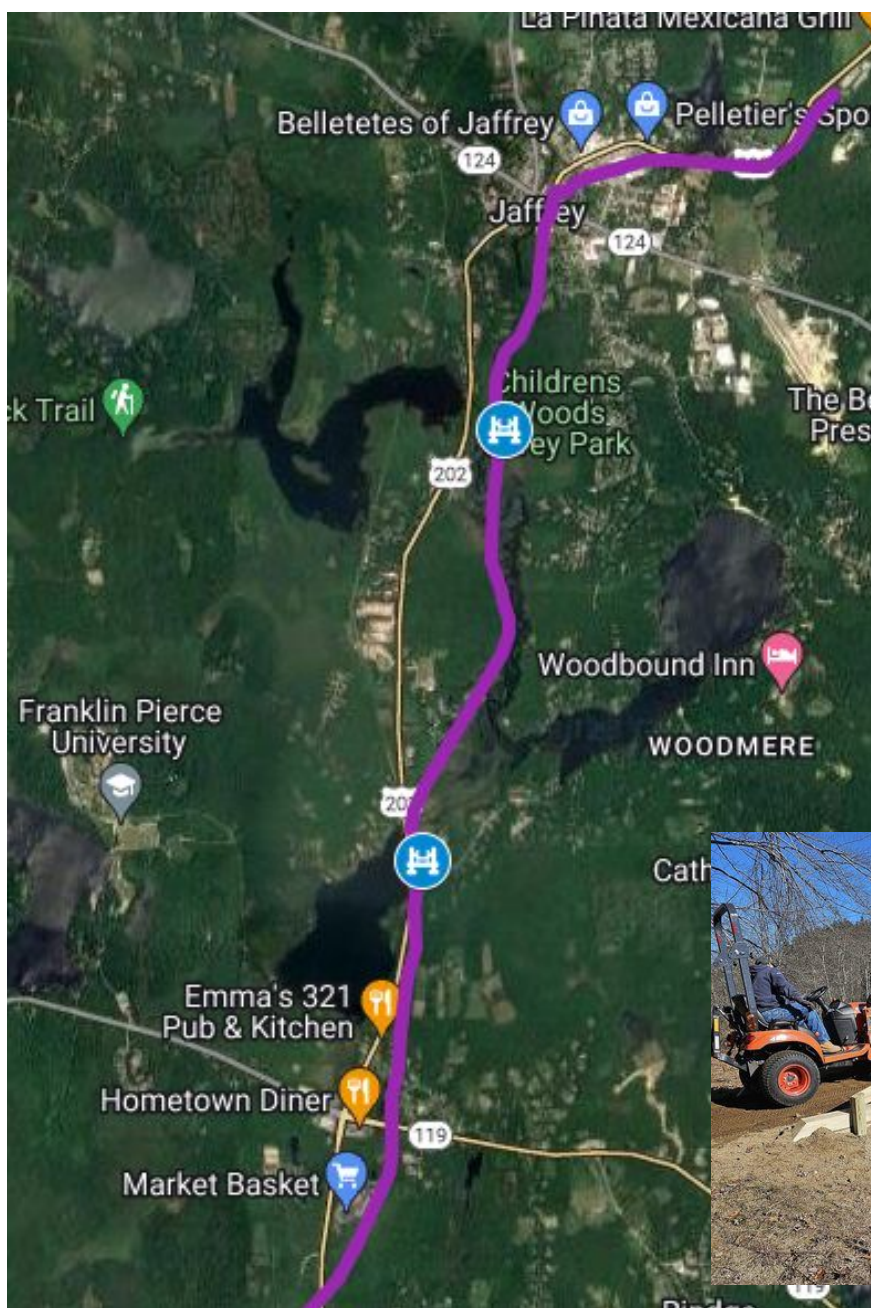
- **Town:** Jaffrey
- **Partners:** Monadnock Sno-Moles
- **Length:** 0.3 miles
- **Time:** 85 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Grant In-Aid, In-Kind Equipment

### 2023 Activities:

- Repair Bridge adjacent to S. Woodbound Road
- Repair Bridge at Contookcook Dam to allow connector trail access.

### 2024 Plans:

- Monadnock Trail access ends in Jaffrey. Access north of Jaffrey and through Peterborough to Dublin needed.
- Additional bridges and earthwork required to access north of Jaffrey and through Peterborough





## Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

### Cheshire Rail Trail

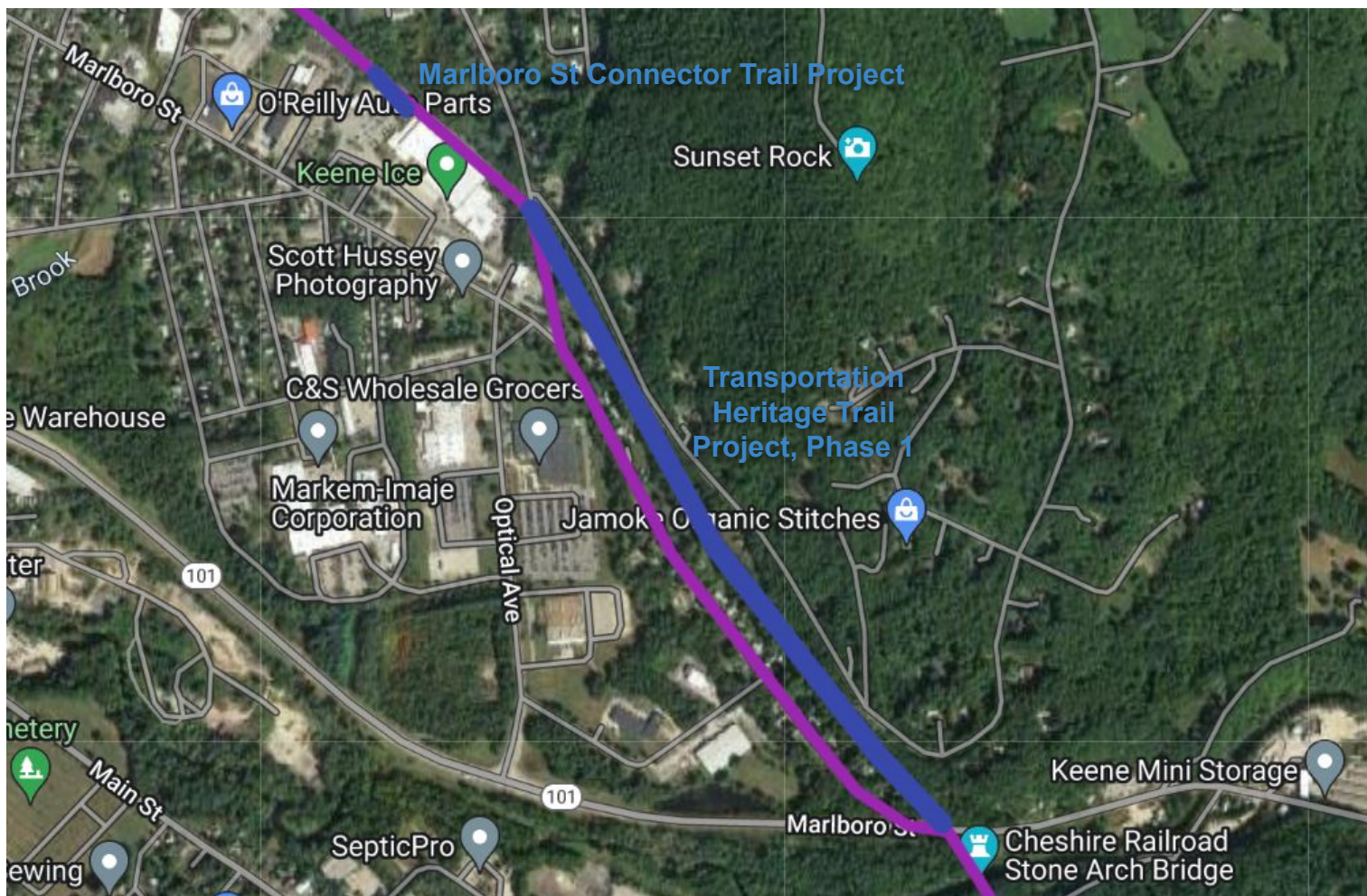
- **Town:** Keene
- **Partners:** Keene Parks & Recreation, Keene Bicycle & Pedestrian Pathways Advisory Committee, Pathways for Keene
- **Length:** 3 miles
- **Funders:** Transportation Alternatives Program Grant, City of Keene, Pathways for Keene

### 2023 Activities:

- Transportation Heritage Trail Project planning and public input.
- Twice a year trail cleanup (Cheshire & Ashuelot Rail Trails)

### 2024 Plans:

- Marlborough Street/Cheshire Rail Trail connector access implementation.
- Transportation Heritage Trail Project engineering and design (See <https://keenenh.gov/public-works/projects/transportation-heritage-trail>)





## Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

### Ashuelot Rail Trail

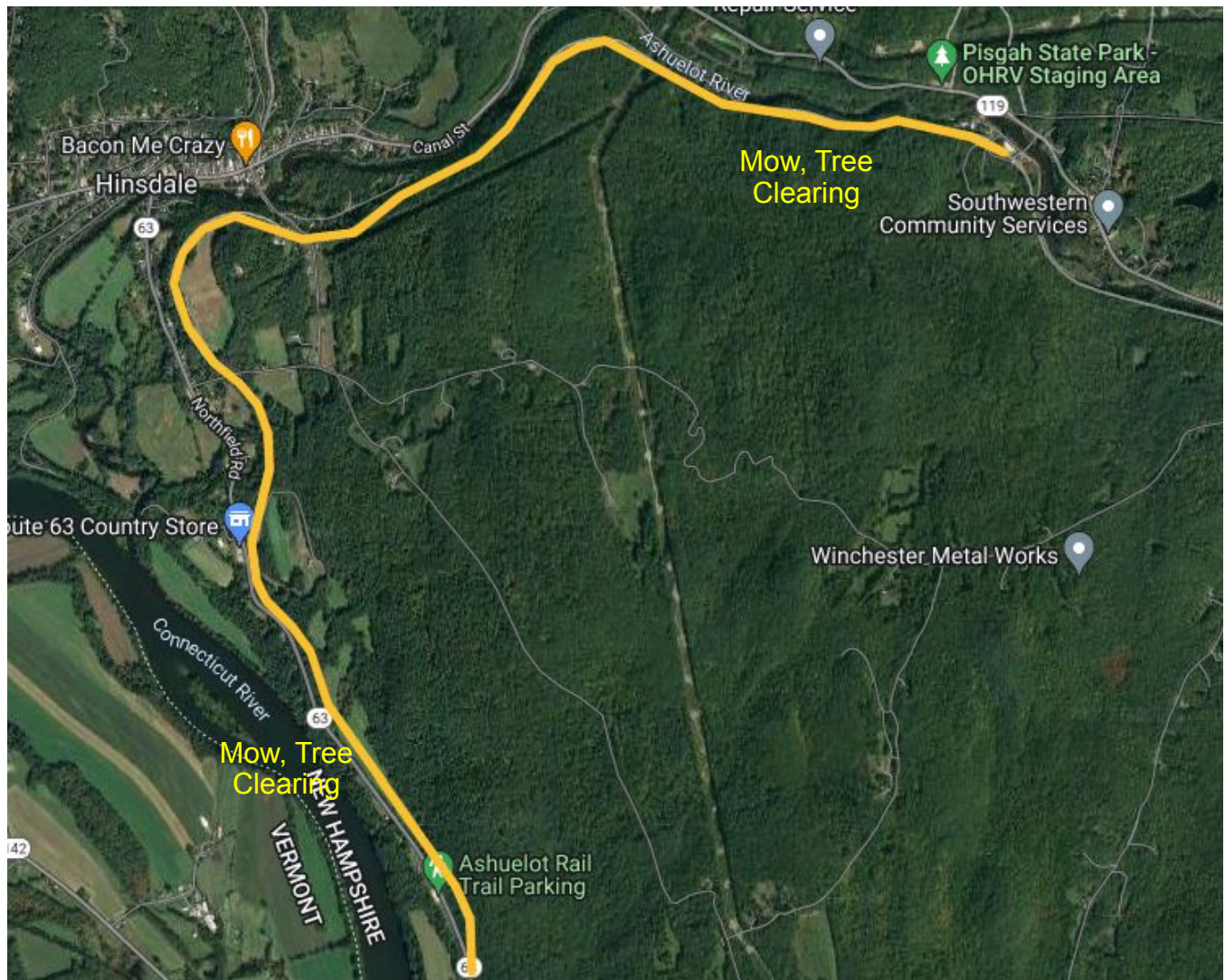
- **Town:** Hinsdale
- **Partners:** Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders
- **Length:** 4.7 miles
- **Time:** 6 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders

### 2023 Activities:

- Mowing and tree removal

### 2024 Plans:

- Mow and remove trees as needed





# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Fort Hill Rail Trail

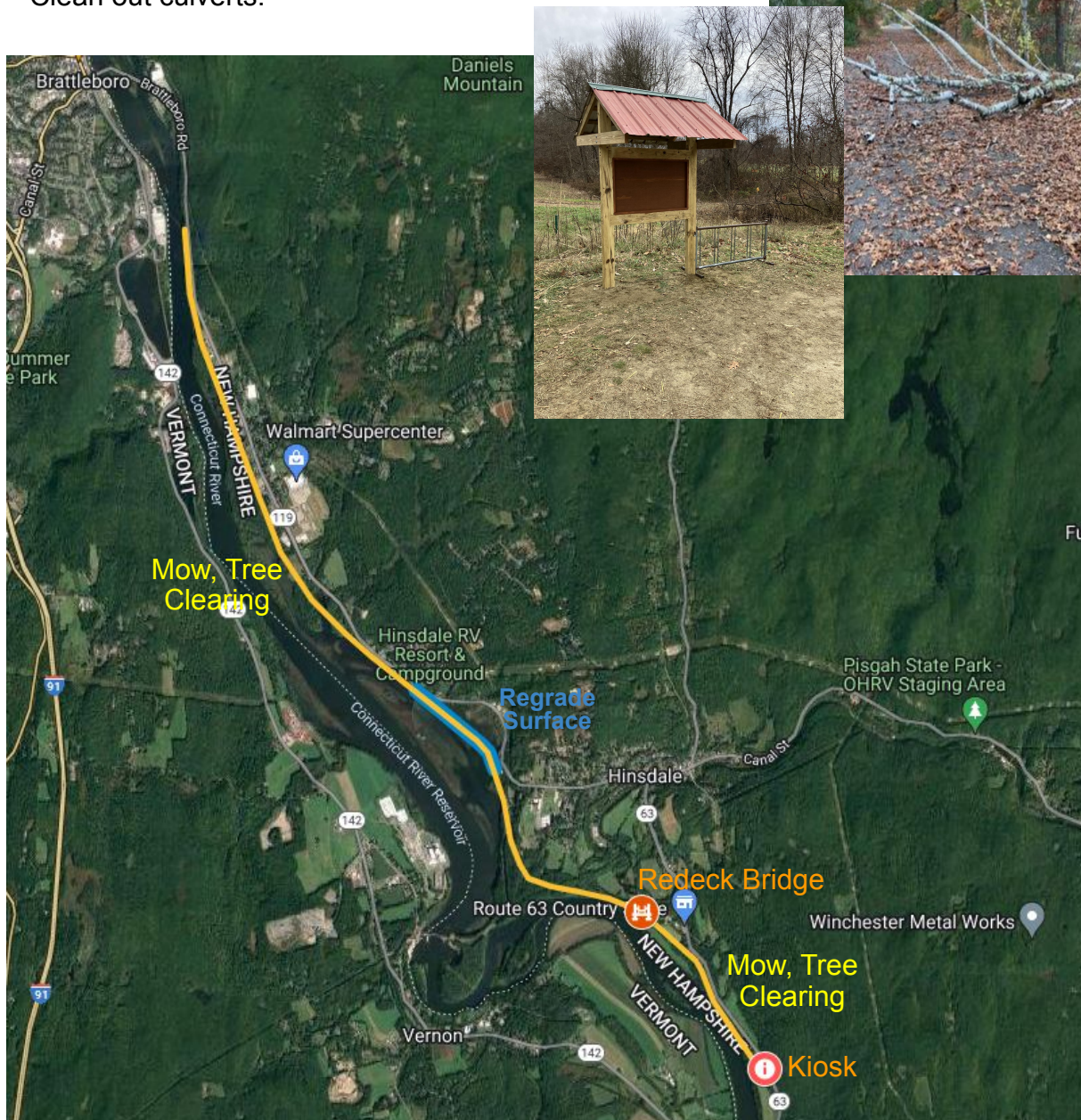
- **Town:** Hinsdale
- **Partners:** Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders
- **Length:** 7.2 miles
- **Time:** 115 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** NH Bureau of Trails, Grant-in-Aid, Pisgah Mountain TrailRiders

## 2023 Activities:

- Mowing and tree removal
- Redecked the Ashuelot River bridge.
- Install Kiosk at Dole Junction including bench and bike rack
- Causeway trail surface regrading

## 2024 Plans:

- Clean out culverts.





# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Peterborough Rail Trail (a.k.a. Old Railroad Trail)

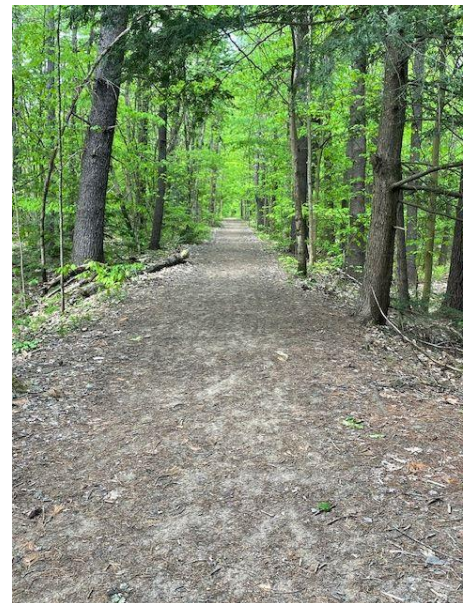
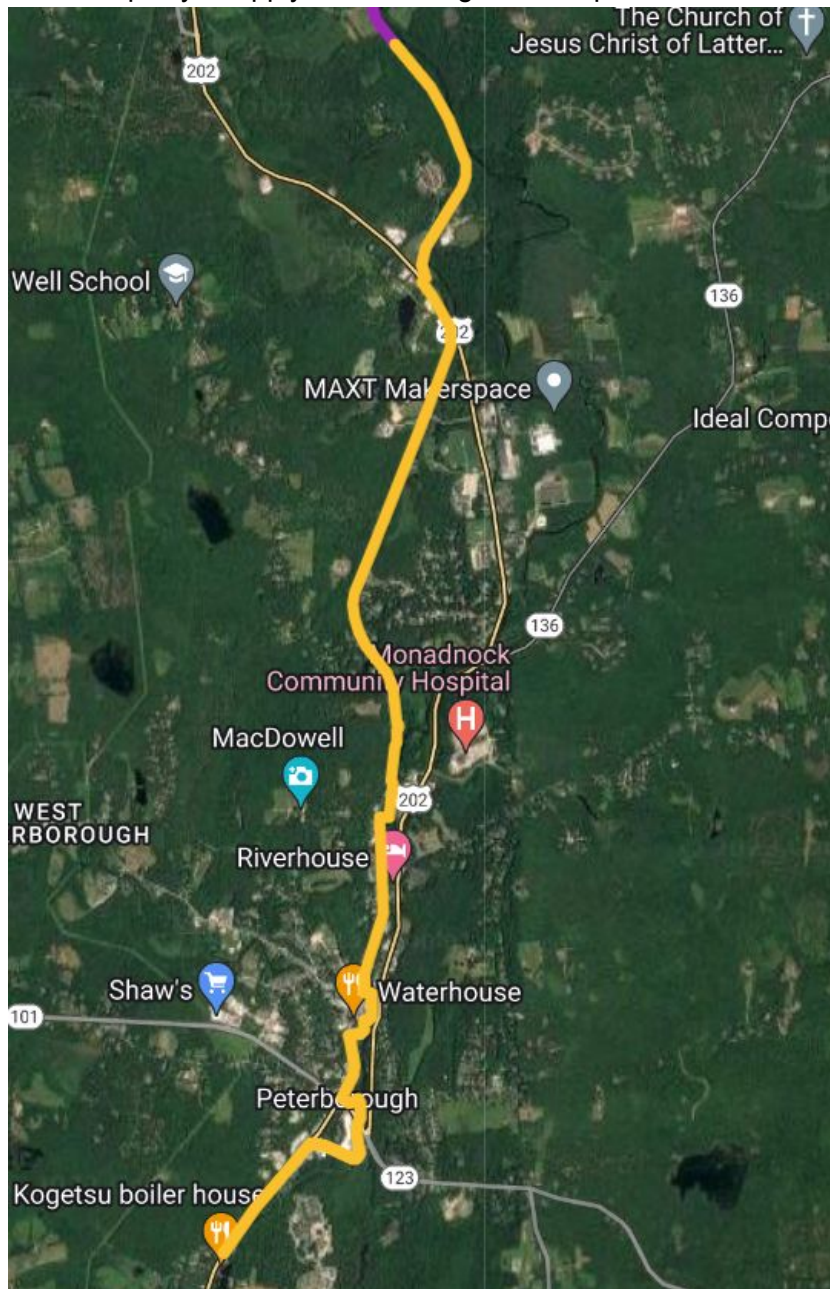
- **Town:** Peterborough
- **Partners:** Peterborough DPW & Monadnock Outdoors (formerly Peterborough Hiking)
- **Length:** 6.5 miles
- **Funders:** Town of Peterborough

### 2023 Activities:

- The Community Way Path through Peterborough is maintained on a regular basis by the Peterborough DPW. The trail is kept clear and mowing is performed as needed. Volunteers from Monadnock Outdoors assists with maintenance.

### 2024 Plans:

- RTP grant was awarded to rehabilitate the trail from the recycle center to the Hancock/Peterborough town line.
- Monadnock Outdoors is working with Hancock residents and municipality to apply for an RTP grant to improve the trail in Hancock.





# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Monadnock/Cheshire Rail Trail Connector Trail

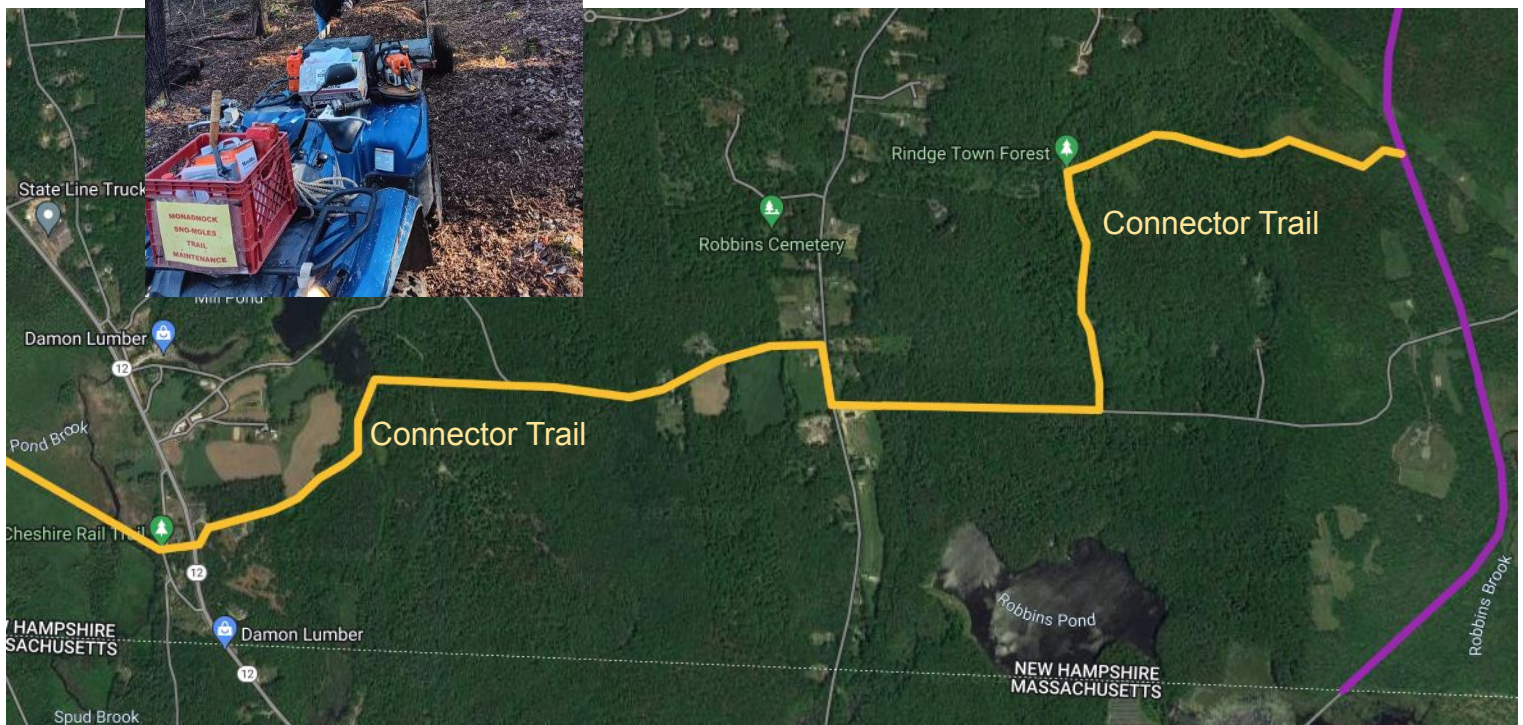
- **Town:** Rindge/Fitzwilliam
- **Partners:** Monadnock Sno-Moles, Town of Rindge Conservation Commission
- **Length:** 0.8 miles
- **Time:** 340 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Grant-In-Aid

### 2023 Activities:

- Built new trail from Rand Rd. to Tetrealt Park to work on Public Access connector trail between Monadnock Branch and Cheshire Branch

### 2024 Plans:

- Continue working with landowners and Town of Rindge and Jaffrey to establish connector trail between both Rail Trails.
- Allows access for Snowmobiles to avoid crossing into Massachusetts to connect trail systems.
- Allows hikers and bikers to connect trail systems north of Winchendon.





# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Cheshire Rail Trail

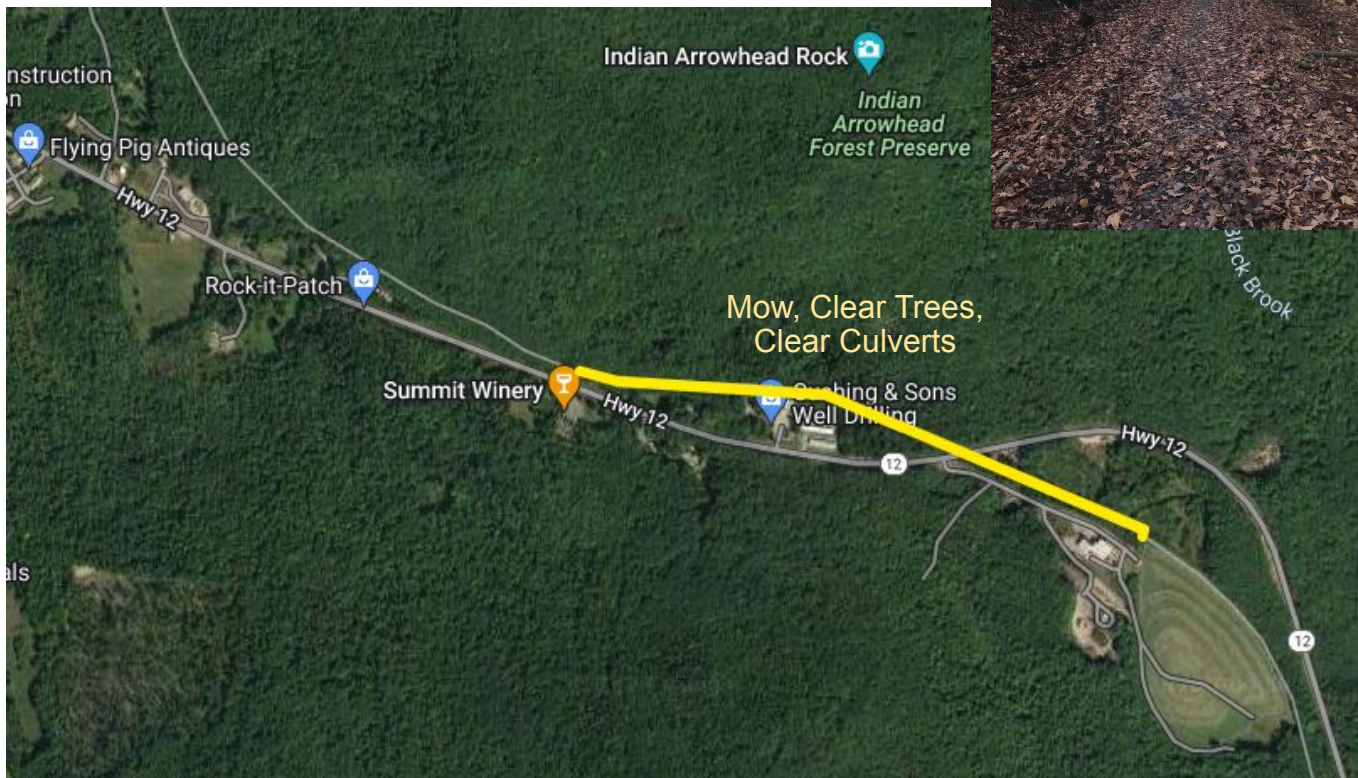
- **Town:** Surry
- **Partners:** Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Keene Sno-Moles, Cheshire County
- **Length:** 1 mile
- **Time:** 130 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** NH Bureau of Trails, Recreational Trails Program, Putnam Foundation

### 2023 Activities:

- Mow, remove trees, clear drainage ditches
- Reposition and clear culverts
- Remove two large boulders

### 2024 Plans:

- Lay down fill material and final top-surface material





## Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

### Ashuelot Rail Trail

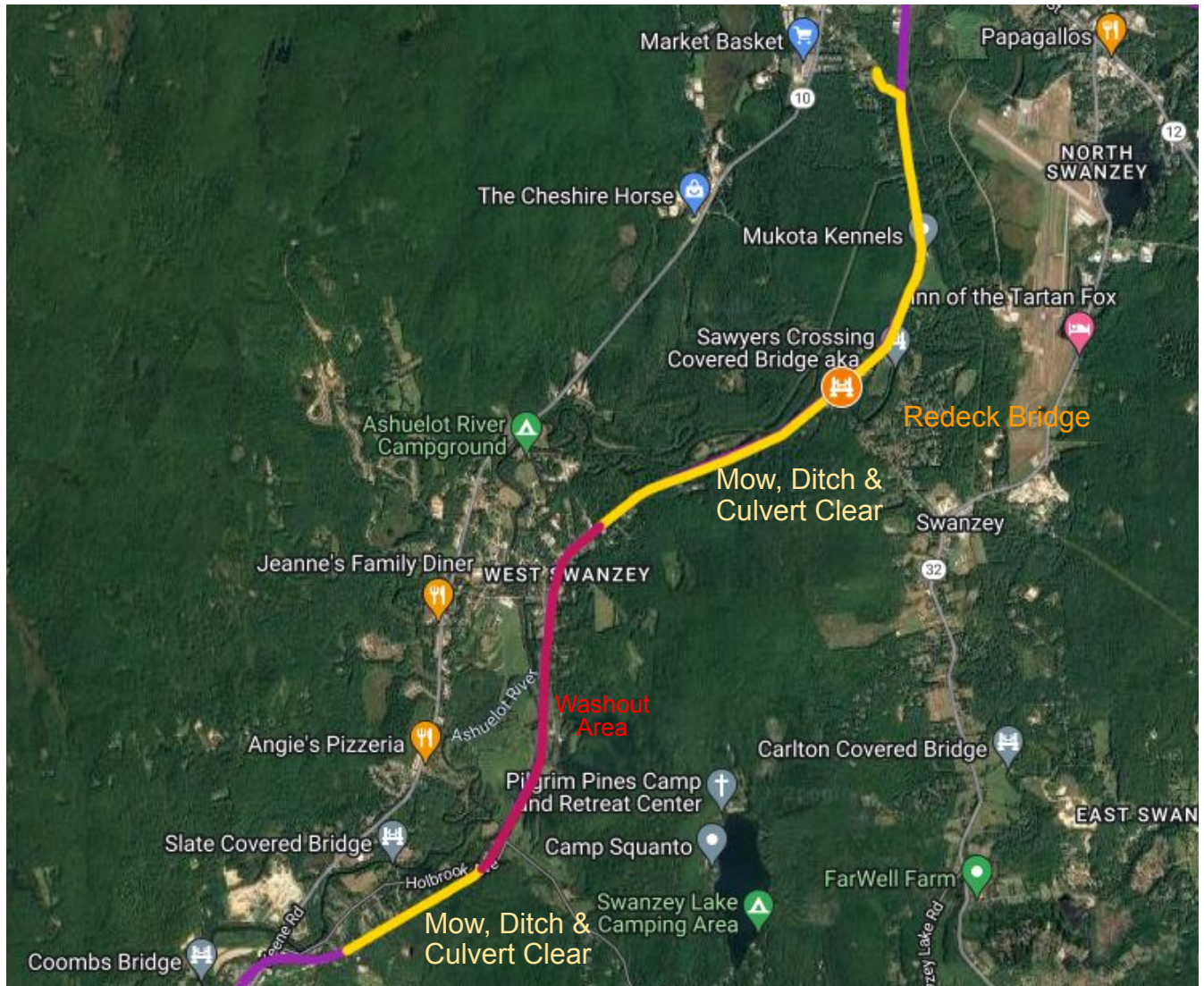
- **Town:** Swanzey
- **Partners:** Swanzey Rail Trail Advisory Committee, Keene SnoRide, Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative
- **Length:** 4.2 miles
- **Time:** 405 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** NH Bureau of Trails, Recreational Trails Program grant and Grant-in-Aid

### 2023 Activities:

- Mow, clear ditches, clear culverts from Riley Conservation Area to Tower Lane, Westport.
- Surveyed with Federal and State agencies several washouts from Eversource substation near Pine Street to the south Holbrook Avenue crossing.
- Redecked the Ashuelot River bridge just south of Sawyers Crossing Road.
- Replaced damaged decking board on the Ash Brook bridge

### 2024 Plans:

- Laydown final top-surface over one mile of trail in the Westport area.





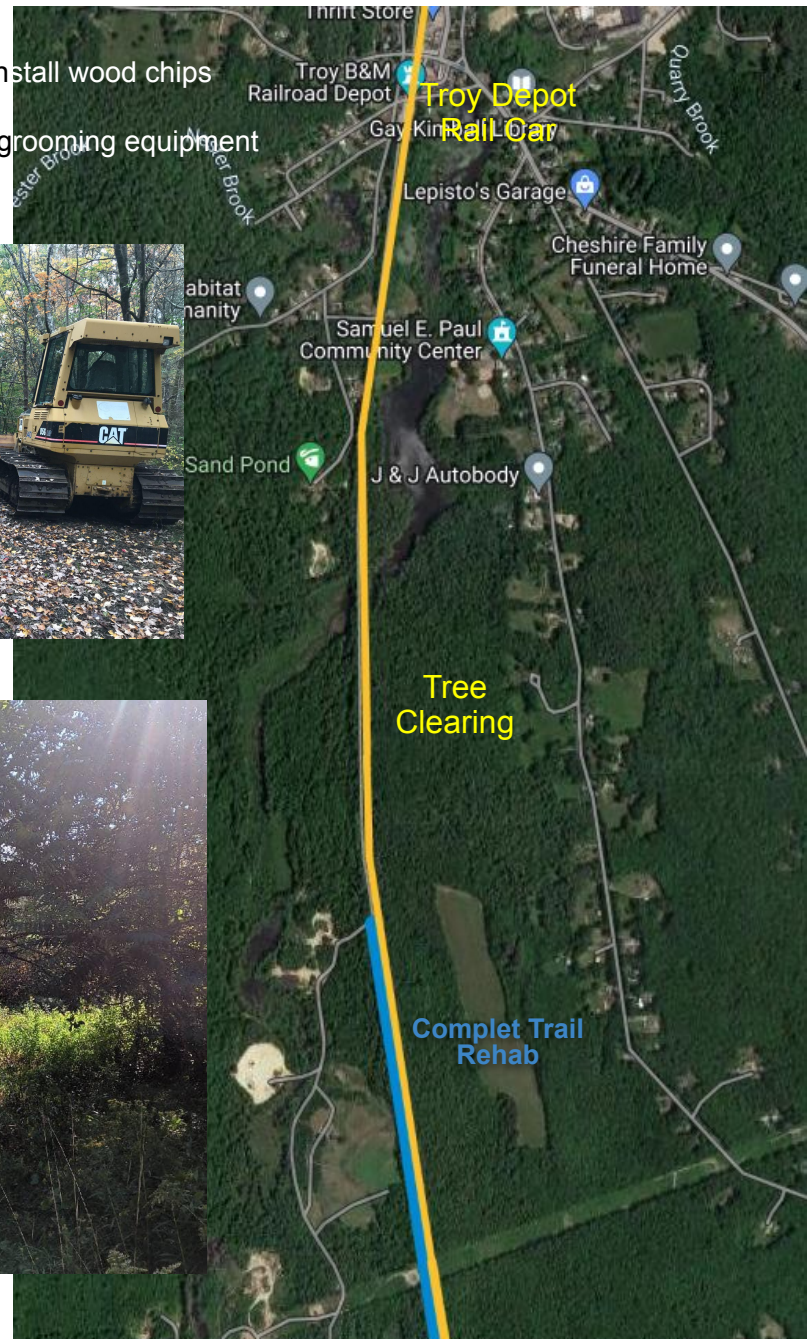
# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Cheshire Rail Trail

- **Town:** Troy
- **Partners:** Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Keene Sno-Moles, Cheshire County, Troy Railroad Depot Committee
- **Length:** 4 miles
- **Time:** 90 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Timken Foundation, Mascoma Foundation, In-Kind Equipment

## 2023 Activities:

- Trail Cleanup Work:
  - Repaired Washout from Flood Damage to restore Trail Access
  - Tree and brush cleanup from winter storms
- Trail Rehabilitate Work:
  - Mow, remove trees, clear drainage ditches
  - Grade surface
  - Apply hardpack material
- Troy Depot Rail Car Work:
  - Clear brush, earthwork and grading, install wood chips
  - Prepare for grand opening.
  - Attend opening event with display of grooming equipment and Trail Maintenance activities





# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Cheshire Rail Trail

- **Town:** Westmoreland
- **Partners:** Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative, Westmoreland Snobelters
- **Length:** 6.5 miles
- **Time:** 71 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** Savings Bank of Walpole, Westmoreland Snobelters

### 2023 Activities:

- Mow from Summit to Depot Rd
- Cleared trees, brush, and leaf build up
- Cleared ditches north and south of the Westmoreland Depot, and just north of Aldrich Rd.
- Graded sections of the trail to keep water in the drainage ditches

### 2024 Plans:

- Awarded the Recreational Trails Program grant. Plans to ditch clear, culvert clear, and mow the entire 7 miles plus provide some trail surface material.





## Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

### Ashuelot Rail Trail

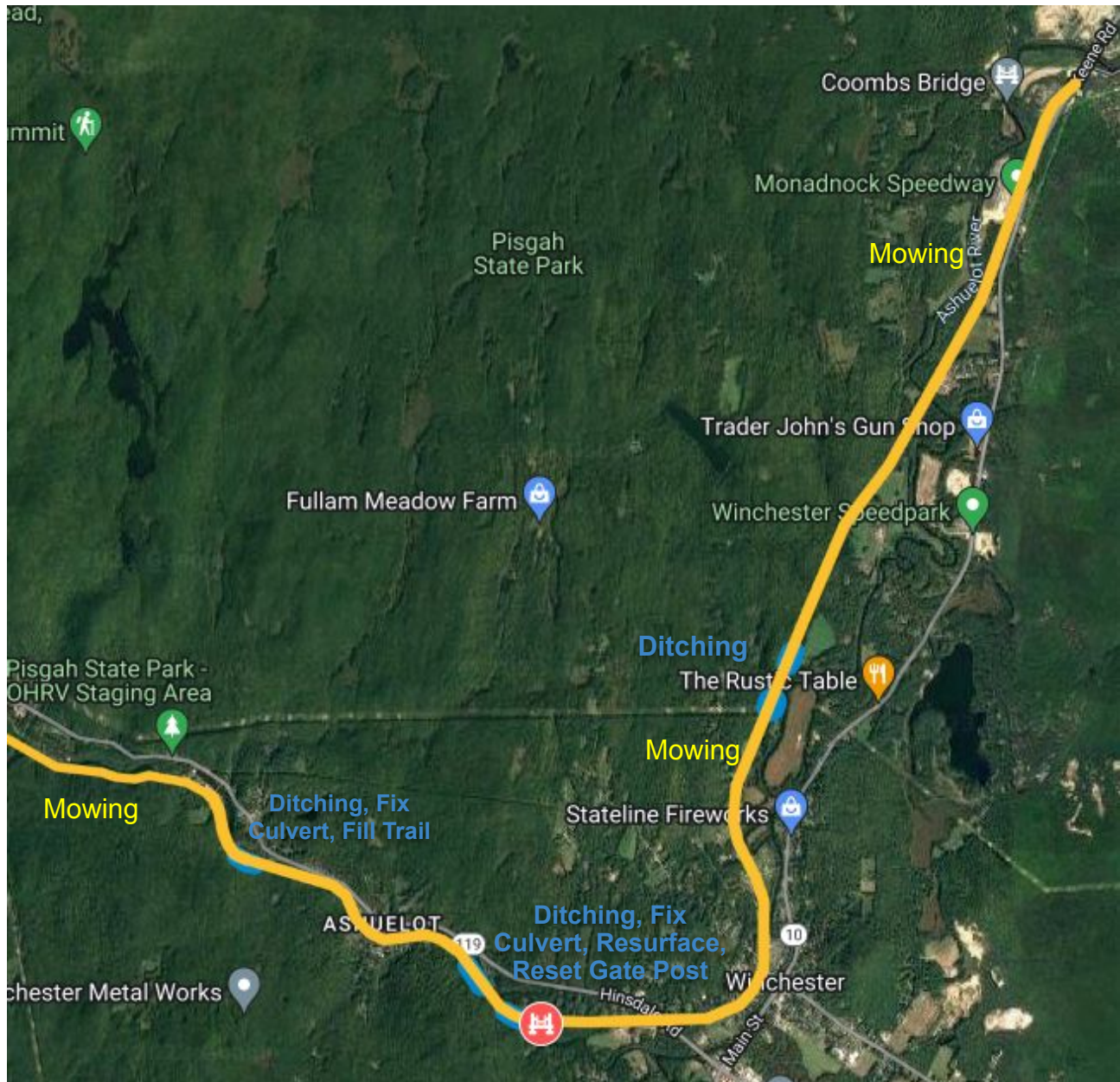
- **Town:** Winchester
- **Partners:** Winchester Trailriders, Town of Winchester
- **Length:** 8 miles
- **Time:** 68 Volunteer hours
- **Funders:** NH Bureau of Trails, Recreational Trails Program, USDA

### 2023 Activities:

- South Bridge Rebuild
- Ditch clearing, culvert clearing, resurfacing
- Mowing

### 2024 Plans:

- Ditch clearing, culvert clearing, resurfacing from Monadnock Speedway to Coombs Bridge.





# Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

## Community Outreach

- **Events:** 6
- **Volunteers:** 80 hours
- **Partners:** Keene Sno-Moles, Pathways For Keene, NH Rail Trail Coalition, Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative

## **Events Attended:**

1. Events Attended:
2. Keene Earth Day
3. Jaffrey Riverfest
4. Troy Depot Rail Car
5. Winchester Picklefest
6. Ashuelot Bridger Dinner
7. NHRTC Conference

