

DATE: 2/2/04
TO: MAYOR BERNIE STREETER
FROM: MINE FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RE: YEAR-END SUMMARY

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As you are aware, the current Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee is made up completely of members who have been on the committee for a little over a year or less. Though we spent much of the year learning what our role is, and getting acquainted with City Personnel and ongoing projects, we managed to accomplish several new projects.

- We created a new structure for the committee in which each of us has taken on an area of interest or focus. All tasks relative to a particular area of focus are delegated to the correct committee member. You will find a list of committee members and their areas of focus at the top of this memo.
- We had various members of the Parks and Recreation Department (in addition to Nick Caggiano and June Caron who each attended almost 100% of our meetings) attend our meetings so that the Committee would become acquainted with the Department and its several MFP-related projects.
- The web-site coordinators, Cheryl and Matt, took the web pages, originally created by Garrett Nelson, and updated them. The pages have been uploaded by the City's IT department. They look great and are a nice addition to the Go Nashua web site. (**www.gonashua.com --city dept ---parks and rec --Mine Falls Park.**)
- A sub-committee, lead by Jim Laliberte, has formed and is researching how other multi-use parks 1. keep the peace among the variety of types of users of the park, and 2. minimize misuse of the trails. Jim, Karen and Paul attend the New England Bike Patrol training at Great Brook State Park in Carlisle, MA, last Spring. Nashua Police Officer, Glen Levesque, has joined the subcommittee, as an advisor.
- We updated the map and text in the Mine Falls Park brochure and Sue was able to get them printed for free by BAE Systems. We have distributed them to the bike shops and other places around town.

- We, as a committee, did research, did a site walk, and made recommendations – on two occasions- to the City regarding the placement of the fiber optic cables going through the Park.
- We sent one of our members, Sherm, to a trail-building school presented by The NH TrailWrights. He brought back good information that he shared with the committee.
- We are compiling the results of an ongoing survey of users of Mine Falls Park. Jim created a list of questions designed to tell us who uses the park and why. We bring them to various events and Trail days and ask people who use MFP to complete them for us.
- We have maintained open communication between the committee and the Parks Department. Many improvements and repairs have been completed in Mine Falls Park. Some were completed by the Department, and some were completed by the committee, along with citizen volunteers as part of the trail day activities listed below. Jodi has been responsible for most of the organizing of trail day publicity and logistics. Magnus has been a liason between Scott Polock and the committee.

2003 Trail Days:

- 4/26:** The Earth Day Trail Day was a drizzly day with a great turnout. We had over 30 high school Honor Society students, among others help to plant saplings and clean up near the Whipple Street Entrance. We also spread top soil and stone dust on areas of trails that had erosion issues. (Peter has been responsible for getting several Honor Student volunteers to every one of our Trail days.)
- 5/17:** In May, we completed the work that had been started the previous year, on the River Run trail. The final step in solving the erosion issues on the section of trail was the installation of a waterbar.
- 6/8:** In June, we accomplished two projects. We did the annual cleaning of the area near the highway, where trash collects inside a chain link fence. We also did some trail repair near the Mill Pond area.
- 7/19:** NH Trails Day is a statewide, volunteer, trail maintenance day that we participated in. We invited the local New England Mountain bike Association chapter to join us in the planning and executing of the NH Trails Day project. We closed two trails with erosion issues, by planting shrubs provided by the City, and filing the trail with debris and deadfall from the surrounding area. In the spirit of “Give and Take” we also built a new, single-track mountain bike trail. The trail was planned and laid out as a cooperative effort between MFPAC members and NEMBA

members who had trail-building experience. It was a wonderful day of cooperation between volunteers and The City, as well as “hikers” and “cyclists.”

9/20: In September, we held a “Labor day” trail day, during which the volunteers split into four groups. One repaired a waterbar near the gatehouse; one did some trail repair near the Millpond entrance; another group planted more plantings at one of the trails that we attempted to close during the July Trail day; and the fourth group cleaned up trash.

10/18: In October, or theme was “Fall Cleaning.” Again, we divided into four groups with the goal of Cleaning up around the canal. For this trail day, we were joined by five City Year volunteers who were very hard workers. One brave group got into canoes and kayaks and removed trash and debris from the canal. The rest of us, took separate areas on land and did the same. We filled the Parks and Recreation Pick up truck to overflowing with junk –including a kitchen sink!

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