



Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Yearly Summary

To: Mayor Bernie Streeter
From: Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee
CC: Nick Caggiano, Nashua Telegraph
Date: January 10, 2005

The current Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee is made up of members who have been on the committee for a year or more. We have succeeded in continuing to maintain the park's physical appearance and status as an attraction for family oriented activity. The committee is also working on the launch of several projects that will upgrade the park. We owe a large debt of gratitude to the Honor Society students from the two High schools. They proved to be an energizing force aiding our monthly Trail Day efforts.

- The committee members for this year were Matt Dalianis, Magnus Pardoe, Cindy Overby, Paul Keegan, Cheryl Cizewski, James Laliberte, Jodie Michon, Peter Testa, Sherm Sewell, Sue Camirand with special consultants Dick Gillespie and Jean Rubin. Karen Keegan, committee Chair, resigned in July.
- In September, Senator Judd Gregg officially kicked off efforts to improve the park based on the Mine Falls Park Master Plan. This work will be funded by a HUD grant of almost \$500,000. We have started preliminary planning of this work.
- In conjunction with the Fairgrounds Middle School's Student Historic Preservation Team, a sub-committee picked an engineering team (Louis Berger Group) to study how to preserve the "gatehouse". Funding of this project is from another HUD grant.
- With help from Nick Caggiano, Superintendent of Parks, and the city's legal department, we drafted a resolution to place the income from the cell tower in a fund dedicated to park expenditures. The tower is located on park grounds. We now refer to this funding as the "trust". The Board of Aldermen approved this legislation.
- The Army Corp of Engineers completed a draft study of the canal and the millpond and determined that both bodies of water were suffering from pollution and the overgrowth of some species of plants. They presented their preliminary findings and recommendations on how to improve things. They are currently working on a final proposal and cost estimate.

- We continue to raise the public's awareness of the committee's work and the park's significance to the citizens of Nashua. Jodie Michon continues to work on publicizing our Trail Day Activities and we recently had a one-hour feature on WSMN.
- As a committee, we did a site walk and are working on creating a master "Trail Day Projects Recommendations List".
- We have acquired a set of four radios from EMS that are used for group communication during Trail Day activities. We also purchased a digital camera with funding from the cell tower trust so that we can document the progress of work in the park.
- The 'Trail Guide' program, coordinated by James Lailberte, progressed by identifying volunteers and had a training session in June. Their presence in the park started this past summer.
- Our website, posted on <http://www.gonashua.com/>, continues to list Trail Days and other park information.

2004 Trail Days:

4/24:

We started the Trail Day year with 58 volunteers removing a large amount of trash from the riverbanks. In addition fallen branches, dead standing trees and other natural debris was cleaned up from the trails where they constituted a hazard.

5/22:

This month the focus was on trail erosion. We installed an experimental biodegradable log and some other material that stopped the erosion along a main trail. Along the river trail we placed 40 plants to help improve erosion near the bridge across the rivers back wash area.

6/19:

In June, we focused on one project. 47 Honor Society Students aided other volunteers in laying down a large dump truck load of gravel along 200 feet of footpath. The path runs from a wooden bridge, spanning an outlet behind Stellos Stadium, to the boat launch parking area near the gatehouse park entrance. This improves the appearance and usability of this path, which is often "wet" in the spring.

7/17:

This month we started our trail mapping system project that is headed up by Paul Keegan. We had immediate positive feedback from park users and several of the trails were partially marked. Over 90 markers were put in place. We also started to use our radios provided by Eastern Mountain Sports.

9/11:

In September we continued our trail mapping system. A small group from Oracle pitched in and brought food for the volunteers. Red, blue, and yellow makers were completed with only the green to be put in place in 2005.

10/16:

In October, 15 volunteers worked toward the theme of "Fall Cleaning." Three different boats scoured the canal and millpond removing a variety of floating debris from the water and the banks. The land crews removed 5 tires, a mattress, a kiddie pool, and various pieces of metal.