



## Get some exercise, and help build the rail trail at the same time!

Regrettably, we needed to cancel our volunteer day on May 2nd to spruce up the Squannacook River Rail Trail. But we still encourage people to walk the rail trail with those they are isolating with, and see the progress we made last winter. If you feel so inclined, we would like your help clearing the rail trail as you walk along.

One task you can do is to simply remove loose wood and branches from near the rails as you walk along. Our goal this year is to make the rail trail a nice place for a walk or mountain bike ride, so we are focusing on the few feet just south of the rails, as shown in the picture (except behind Harbor Village, where the trail is north of the tracks). We do ask that you avoid throwing wood toward people's yards, or across the straw wattles, because the wattles are a barrier protecting our wetlands. Where there are wattles, loose wood can be put on the rails.



An example of what we would like the whole rail trail to look like, with your help.

If you have them, we would also encourage walking with clippers or a hand saw to remove small brush missed in the tree clearing. For insurance reasons, please do not use power tools outside of scheduled volunteer days. Thanks so much to everyone for your support, and stay safe!

### Do you use Amazon.com? Here's an easy way to help build our rail trail!

Amazon.com will donate 0.5% of every purchase you make on amazon.com to Squannacook Greenways, if you simply go to **smile.amazon.com** instead of just amazon.com. The prices are the same either way, so its an easy way to help. Either type "Squannacook Greenways" the first time you visit smile.amazon.com, or use the url below:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3244076>



### Our wattles can stay until spring 2021

We were given permission from Natural Heritage and the town conservation commissions to keep this year's wattles in place through the next build season (Nov 2020-Mar 2021). If they are still in good shape, we will save quite a but of money. And, as all the volunteers know, we will also save quite a lot of work!



Bill King's team at work in Dec 2019.

### What is the plan for the rest of the construction of this rail trail?

Squannacook Greenways has decided to take a staged approach to construction of this rail trail. This decision was driven by two factors: 1) our limited Nov - Mar window for construction equipment, 2) large increases in the cost of removing old ties and large decreases in the value of scrap steel. In 2019-2020 we

cleared the entire corridor of trees. In addition, we installed a fence behind Sterilite to ensure users are not tempted to access the rail trail from their shipping area. We will then build 1/3 of the trail in each of the following three winters. In between, we will be applying for MassTrails and other grants to cover the additional costs not anticipated in our original capital campaign.

