

## HISTORY OF VERNON RAIL TRAILS

## SUPPORTING BROCHURE SPONSORS

### Hop River Linear Park Extension

This multi-use greenway consists of 5.10 miles of trail along an abandoned railway (Hartford, Providence, and Fishkill RR) from the Vernon/Manchester town line easterly, then southerly to the Vernon/Bolton town line. From Bolton, the railway has been re-graded 15 more miles to Willimantic and is identified as a Connecticut State Trail named the "Hop River Linear Park Trail". In Willimantic, it joins the Airline Linear Park Trail which is approximately 40 miles long. These trails are permitted on Connecticut D.E.P. property.

### Rockville Spur

This multi-use greenway consists of 4.1 miles of trail along an abandoned railway which splits from the Hop River Linear Park Trail at Warren Avenue and heads northerly into the historic center of Rockville, Connecticut. The trail includes a footbridge over the Tankerhoosen River that was completed in 1998 and was funded by the TTRLP Grant.

### Phases of the Project

The original railroad was completed in 1849 and ran for over 100 years. The Rails to Trails project was designed and engineered by the Town of Vernon Engineering Department. Phase I of the project runs from Tunnel Road to the Bolton Line and was dedicated in 1995(2.43 miles). This section in Vernon was re-graded by the Connecticut National Guard-Bravo Company of the 244nd Engineer Battalion and was then covered with stone dust by the Town of Vernon. The trail was named "Route Sapper" in honor of the Bravo Company in Vernon. The funding for this project was obtained by the Vernon Hockanum River Linear Park Committee from the State via ISTEA funding, grants and the Boulder Ridge Subdivision sidewalk fund. The trail provides to the public a route for biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback. Handicap usage is encourage. The trail is maintained by the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department and by volunteers. **Phase II** of the project, which was dedicated in 1998, runs from Tunnel Road to the Manchester town line and from Pheonix Street to the Tankerhoosen Bridge (2.61 miles). This phase was funded by the State and Federal STP enhancement programs and HRLP funds. **Phase III** of the project runs from the Tankerhoosen Bridge to West Road and was dedicated in 2000(3.19 miles). This part of the trail was constructed by the Town of Vernon Department of Public Works with National Recreation Trails Program grants and State LOCIP funding. **Phase IV** was completed in 2004. The trail runs for .82 miles from West Road to Vernon Avenue. It was funded by a Recreational Trails grant from the State of Connecticut DEP.



### Adopt-A-Trail

## Vernon Greenways Volunteers and Sponsors

The **Vernon Greenways Volunteers** assist the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department through the maintenance, enhancement and proper use of the 30+ miles of trails in Vernon, Ct. **Sponsors** adopt a section of Vernon's trail system or finance a trail project through an annual tax deductible donation to supply the funds to support our work.

- **Volunteers** - Follow sound trail practices: adhere to posted restrictions, comply with town ordinances, carry out what they carry in, pick up after their pets, etc. They may also choose to participate in building, cleanup or trail enhancement projects. Some individuals elect to be **Trail Managers** and take responsibility for a segment of trail (usually 0.8 to 1.9 miles).
- **Sponsors** - Businesses or individuals who donate tax deductible cash or in-kind services to fund our expenses. **Trail Sponsors** donate \$200 annually to adopt a section of trail. A sign is posted on their trail segment signifying their participation. **Project Sponsors** donate an amount not to exceed \$200 to fund various projects and are recognized with a sign on the project recognizing their participation.

To learn more about the organization or to join contact Don Bellingham at (860) 872-6061 or [Vernongreenways@att.net](mailto:Vernongreenways@att.net).

### How will I be expected to participate?

Participation in maintenance projects is not mandatory as we realize time and physical restrictions may not allow all members to participate at this level; we value your head and heart as well as your hands. However, some of the greatest enjoyment in this program is through the interaction with fellow volunteers and seeing the results of your labor on a completed project. Send ideas and suggestions to our e-mail address. Attend meetings, usually twice a year, and the annual picnic.

### What is a Trail Manager?

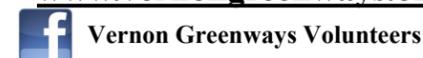
All members are Vernon Greenways Volunteers. You may also elect to be a Trail Manager who takes ownership of a trail segment. A Trail Manager is responsible for maintaining their segment to the best of their ability and reporting those things which are beyond their capabilities. The duties include but are not limited to: removal of trash and debris; cutting back encroaching vegetation; graffiti removal; maintaining trail map dispensers, if appropriate; maintaining dog litter bag dispensers and receptacles, if appropriate. Heavy duty trash bags and a trash picker will be supplied, if requested.

### What Trails Do We Service?

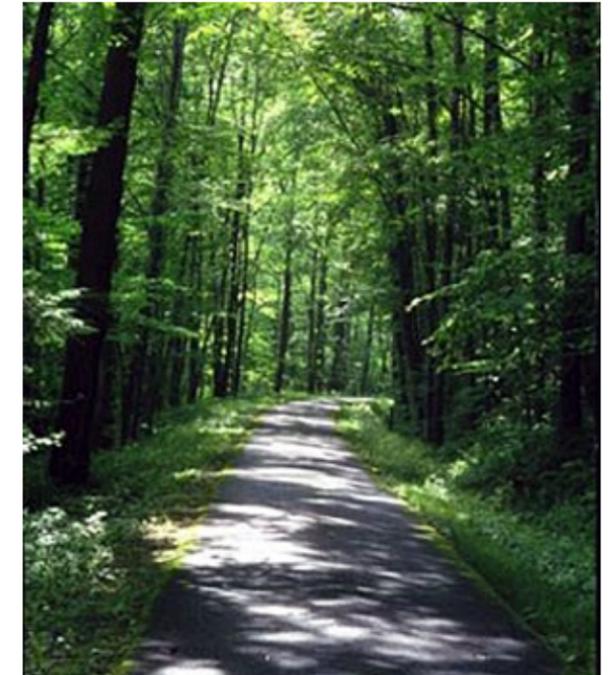
- Rails to Trails      Hockanum River Linear Park
- Valley Falls\*      Vernon Center Middle School
- Walker 's Reservoir      The Braille Trail

\*Main Road, Rail Road Brook and Valley Falls Loop Trails, only.

[www.vernongreenways.org](http://www.vernongreenways.org)



# Town of Vernon Rails-To-Trails System



Vernon Parks & Recreation

860-870-3520

[www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov)

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[Hartford@minutemanpress.com](mailto:Hartford@minutemanpress.com)



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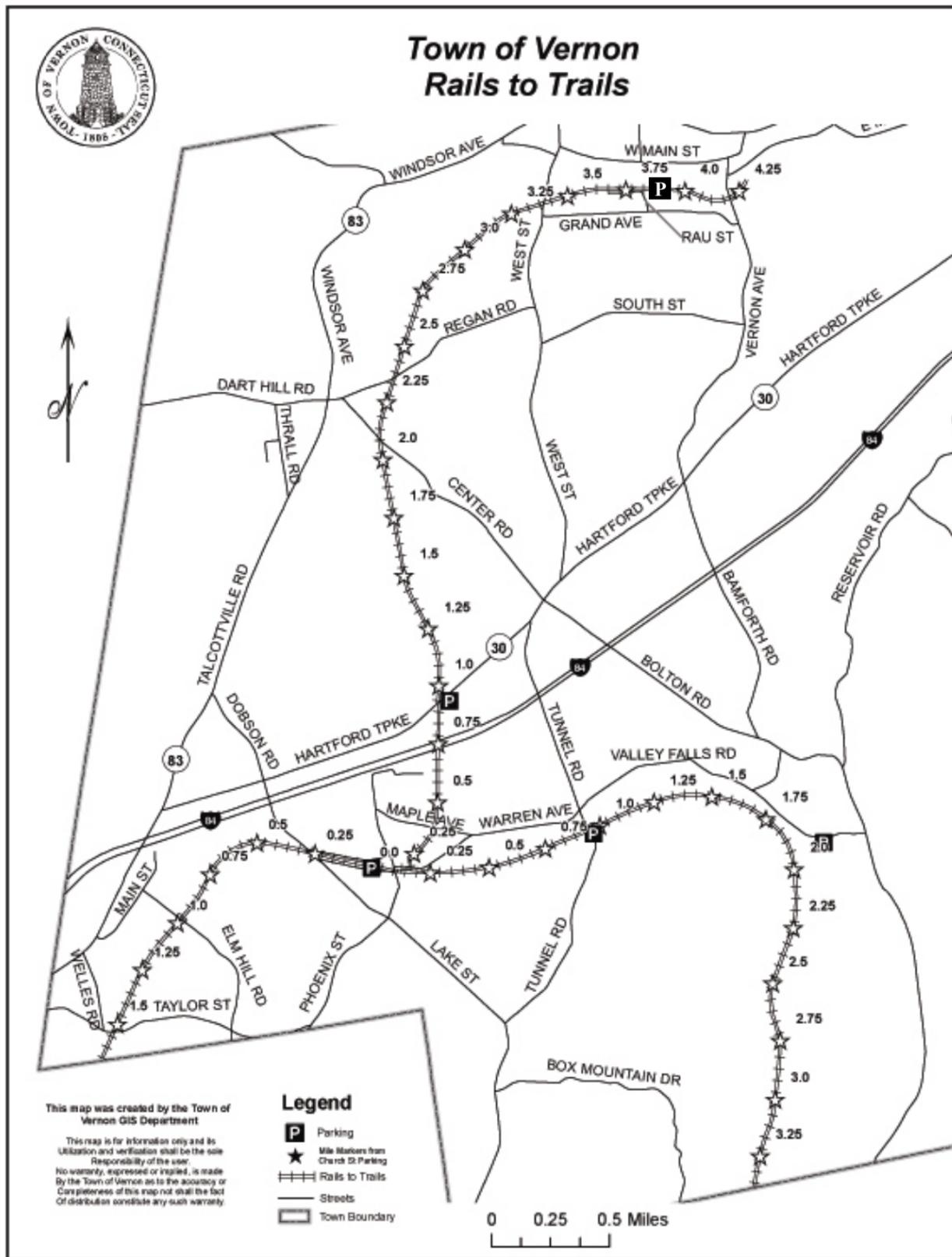
120 South Street

Phone: 860-870-3520

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Email: parksandrec@vernon-ct.gov

Www.vernon-ct.gov



352 Hartford Turnpike \* Vernon, CT 06066  
860-872-1826

52 Pratt Street\*Hartford, CT 06103  
860-522-1547