



# Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Chairman: Peter Testa  
12 Mapleleaf Drive  
Nashua, NH 03062

## **THE 2008 END OF THE YEAR REPORT**

2008 was a good year for Mine Falls Park despite the massive rainfall. The park at this time is well maintained and very clean.

In January, 2008 we held officer elections and accepted committee volunteers to be Trail Day planners. The job of planning is actually every committee member's responsibility. This way we all share a type of ownership of the park.

Two major HUD projects were completed this year: 1) the gate house restoration and 2) the North 7<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Both projects were major improvements to the park. The N 7<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge opened up a new area in the park and made it easier to move around. In addition to the bridge, we also built a staircase that connects the canal trail at the top to Spine Rd. at the bottom. It is located about 600 feet west of the N 7<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge. The Committee chose to name the staircase trail, the Fox Trail. These two additions make access to the soccer fields very easy.

The gate house is restored and there are plans to make it an educational center. The building is an historical plum for the park.

The committee spent time and effort in surveying the park with an eye toward safety issues. Trees were removed from underneath the Lincoln Park Bridge and other dead or dying trees that were along the trails were removed to protect park users from possible harm. The park has been GPS surveyed with a map given to the Police and Fire Departments. This is a locator system that allows for a quick location in case of an emergency. We added two new GPS trails this year – purple and orange. The other trails are red, yellow, blue, and green. A majority of the park is surveyed at this time for emergency purposes.

There were several other major accomplishments this year. One was the adoption of a new Mine Falls Park logo. It is simple, yet gets the point across. Other projects included the first overflow bridge repair, and attacking an invasive weed both in the canal and on some trails. While we considered treating the milfoil with a poison, the plan was vetoed by the Fish and Game. It was suggested that we harvest the weed. This process will help keep it in check but will not destroy it. We may have better luck with eliminating garlic mustard weed that has invaded the Whipple Street entrance. Once we identify the plant it can be either pulled out by the roots or be treated with the common weed remover Roundup.

Once again, we attempted to solve the run off problem of water pouring down from the parking lots at NHSS and into the Mill Pond. The force of the water creates major erosion and destroys trails. We built a gabion and several check dams only to have them destroyed by the major run-off. We attempted to solve this problem on two other trail days this year but it proved a waste of time and effort and was back breaking work. We have turned this project over to the city



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engineers to see what can be done to curb the force of the water. Hopefully, in 2009 the problem will be solved by the city engineers.

Several trails were partially rebuilt in order to curb the erosion. There are some other trails that need this same treatment but we ran out of time to do the work. It has been suggested that we cover the roots on the trails with stone dust to help prevent erosion. This will be a major effort in 2009 with a lot of planning to be done as to what is the most effective design to accomplish our goal.

The committee has some concerns that require the help of the city in solving.

1. Unleashed dogs in the park ,
2. Too many dogs in the park
3. Dog owners who do not properly pick up after their dogs and dispose of the waste.
4. Police presence in the park for safety and to help monitor the dog problem.

2008 was a good year for the park and the committee! Many dedicated people worked to improve and maintain this gem. The Park and Recreation superintendent, Nick Caggiano, was always there to guide and assist us. He is wealth of knowledge and expertise. Our Conservation Commission representative, Dick Gillespie, had great ideas on park maintenance that he shared and helped implement. Member Steve Davis single-handedly organized the sponsors and gift cards for the people who work on Trail Days. Mark Soucy with his ever present notebook was a major factor in designing and implementing Trail Days. Sherm Sewell acted as caretaker to the park and kept us informed of work to be done through e-mails and photographs. Sean Neary, Vice-chairman, was the architect for the new staircase and a major park advocate. Leo Parker, Mike Dillon, and Joshua Segal led Trails Days and accomplished a great deal that kept the park in pristine condition. Greg Andruskevich, Brian Bakker, William Luers, and Scott Rogers, all new members of the committee, have already shown great drive and ambition and a sense of caring for the park. The terms of Jodi Michon and Jim Laliberte expired this year and both have moved on to other projects. Both will be greatly missed. There are a few members of the committee who are able to provide some history to the new members. This practice is a necessary element for continuity in the care of this gem of Nashua.

Peter D. Testa, Chairman MFPAC