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Topsfield will unveil rail trail

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TOPSFIELD — Tomorrow, the Topsfield Rail Trail Committee will cut the ribbon on a new trail and bike path — a project 18 years in the making.

The path, known as the Topsfield Linear Common, replaces a railroad track that was abandoned in 1981. It will be four miles long, though presently only six-tenths of a mile have been completed. According to Joe Geller, chairman of the Rail Trail Committee, this part of the trail was the most complicated and the first mile should be completed by the spring.

The trail, funded by grants and donations, has faced many obstacles, such as lease agreements, safety and environmental concerns, and the labor that goes into removing a railroad track.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will coincide with Topsfield's first Trails Day, which will begin at 8 a.m. on the new trail. All are welcome to explore the new trail, and afterward the group will walk the newly marked Beech Trail and tour the Wildlife Path at Pye Brook Community Park. The official ribbon-cutting will be at 2 p.m. after a short reception at the library.

"It's been a real community effort," Geller said. "We hope a lot of people will come out and celebrate."

For more information, visit www.topsfieldrecreation.org.

— Jennesa Regios