

## December Volunteer Spotlight: Snowmobile Club helps ECRT blaze a trail

Over the past few years, we've shared stories about volunteers who have gone above and beyond to support the 27-mile ECRT trail. We'd like to close out 2021 honoring the **Western New York Snowmobile Club of Boston (WNYSBC)** for helping us build the trail—literally.

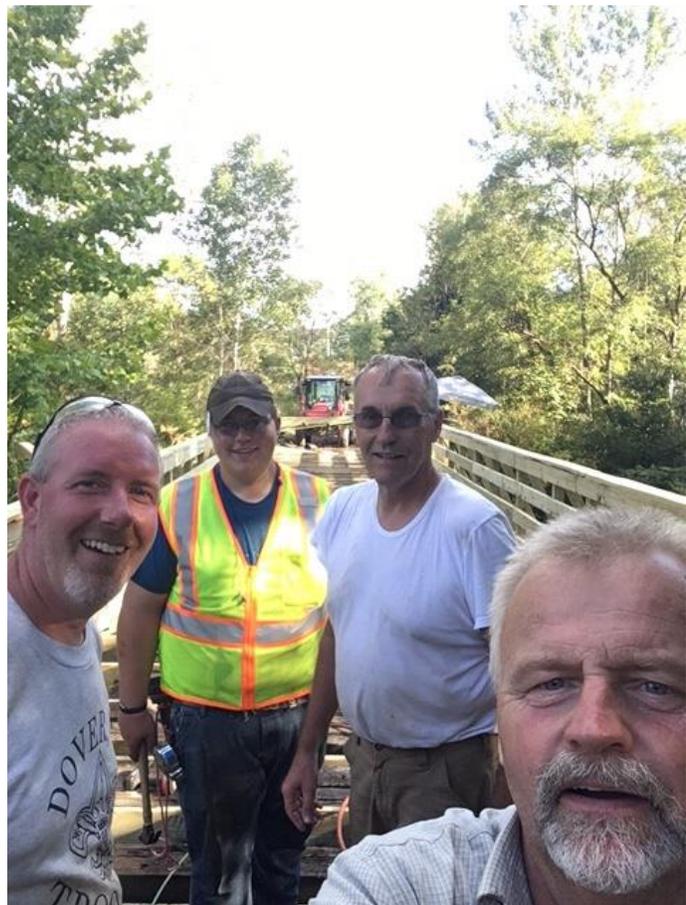
**WNYSBC** has long seen the Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad as an important connection to the regional and NYS Snowmobile Trail System that traverses the south towns. Since ECRT's founding in 2008, WNYSBC has had a delegate on ECRT's board to foster collaboration between the two organizations.

Following the federal railbanking of the corridor in 2018, the WNY Snowmobile Club began to discuss improving the corridor for snowmobile use. The NYS Snowmobile Trail System and trails maintained by WNYSBC intersect the rail corridor in several places. Incorporating sections of the ECRT corridor brings snowmobilers into the Village of Springville for amenities like food and fuel and connects to the trail network going north.

In 2019, WNYSBC brought in the equipment and volunteers needed to clear overgrowth on the 3.5 miles of trail from the end of the Pop Warner trail in Springville north to Genesee Road. The team also re-decked and added guardrails to two bridges. In addition, club members signed up as patrollers to monitor this section year-round.

Thanks to the hard work of WNYSBC, ECRT was able to open that unimproved section of trail in Concord in 2020 for snowmobilers, hikers, and cross-country skiers. And while work continues on that section, trail users now have 5 miles of rustic but open trail in Concord to get out and explore.

After a pandemic pause, this year, the WNYSBC got to work again, re-decking two additional bridges on Route 240, just north and south of Kissing Bridge. According to the Club's trail boss John Baronich,



**“These improvements now allow snowmobilers to access both 30- and 50-mile loop trails that take you into Hamburg, over to Strykersville, out to Holland, and beyond.”**

Today, the Club has 125 members, with a nucleus of about 15 members who have been instrumental in improving the ECRT trail. The partnership is a win-win. While snowmobile clubs on average only get to use the corridor about 2-dozen days per year as weather permits, the work they do benefits other trail users year-round. They assist with seasonal maintenance, clearing felled trees, and trail grooming in the winter, so the surface can be used by other trail users like cross country skiers.

We’re so thankful to the Western New York Snowmobile Club of Boston, especially to those dedicated volunteers who are helping us blaze a trail.

Learn more at [www.bostontrails.com](http://www.bostontrails.com).

