

# MetroWest Daily News

## Work on Rail Trail Continues

*By Liz Mineo / Daily News Staff Thursday, September 29, 2005*

FRAMINGHAM -- Next spring local residents will be able to walk a portion of the Cochituate Rail Trail and have a glimpse at what the trail will be like when it's finished.

"It will be a linear park," said John Brennan, a Framingham Cochituate Rail Trail Committee member. "It'll provide open space and recreation for walkers, joggers, bikers and parents pushing baby carriages. The whole thing will be very scenic."

Residents will see part of that vision Oct. 16, between 10 and 11:30 a.m., when a tour for the public is scheduled. To get the trail ready for the tour, committee members are hosting a fall cleanup this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In case of rain, the cleanup will be Sunday.

It will be the 18th cleanup on the Cochituate Rail Trail, a four-mile trail stretching from School Street in Framingham to Natick Center. A former rail line, the trail is now under development in the Framingham section. The Natick section is in the planning stage.

Committee members are asking residents to pitch in to rake, clear ragweed and pick up trash during the cleanup. Volunteers are encouraged to bring rakes, shovels, hand saws, loppers and pick-up trucks and to wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants.

To help out, volunteers should park cars at 500 Old Connecticut Path and check in across the street at Cochituate Brook Reservation Park.

All those who work for an hour will get a free Cochituate Rail Trail shirt, and the committee will offer a free pizza lunch at noon.

During the tour, committee members will give an overview of the project, which has made much progress since the town created a committee to oversee the Cochituate Rail Trail in 2001.

The town has obtained an easement from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority from Route 30 to the Turnpike, and a license from the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to use the trail all the way to Old Connecticut Path. Seven piles of railroad ties were recently pulled out of the wetlands, and reconstruction of two bridges along the trail has started.

"It's a tremendous community project," said Brennan. "We've made a lot of progress and we're looking forward to the official opening of a portion of the trail next spring."

For more information about the cleanup day or the rail trail tour, contact the Framingham Cochituate Rail Trail Committee at [info@CRTrail.org](mailto:info@CRTrail.org) or visit the group's Web site at [www.CRTrail.org](http://www.CRTrail.org).

(Liz Mineo can be reached at 508-626-3825 or [lmineo@cnc.com](mailto:lmineo@cnc.com))