

December 19, 2021

To Littleton Selectboard, DNCR/BOT and DOT;

The DNCR site states:

Activities and Amenities



The Ammonoosuc Rail Trail is 19 miles long and goes between Woodsville and Littleton. The Ammonoosuc River provides a gorgeous backdrop to this trail. In Bath, you can see the magnificent 345 foot covered bridge that was built in 1832. The Lisbon Depot is another must see along the trail. The trail starts at Central Street in Woodsville and ends at Industrial Park Road in Littleton.

“The trail starts at Central Street in Woodsville and ends at Industrial Park Road in Littleton”

<https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/recreational-rail-trails/ammonoosuc-recreational-rail-trail>

In a 2020 article by InDepthNH, BOT ‘Chief’

“Gamache said it took about seven years to get through the process of getting the rails to be abandoned and the state was able to find four contractors, with the low bidder from Littleton, Hammer Down Construction.

Funding will come through a combination of federal Northern Borders grant money and that which is within the recreational trails program’s fund.

The goal is to start the phase now with rail ties removed on three miles before winter. **It will start off Industrial Park Drive in Littleton where the existing Ammonoosuc trail now ends** and go to Reddington Street through the downtown part of the trail.” (my emphasis)

<http://indepthnh.org/2020/10/21/hospital-merger-rail-trails-homeless-people-on-councils-agenda/>

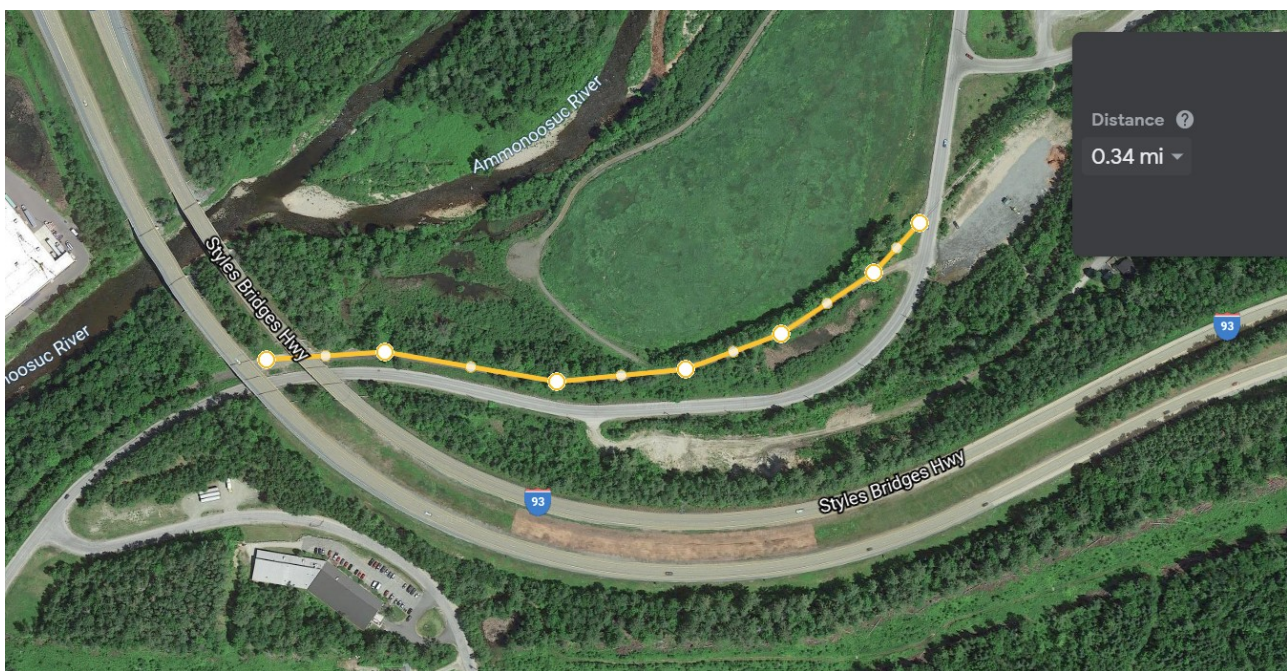
I request that the Littleton Selectboard, DNCR/BOT and NH DOT work together to determine the exact location of the end of the TE-funded (OHRV-permitted) portion of the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail, place a gate here which prevents OHRV passage east, mark the Rail Trail here in both directions for allowed use, as has been done at the southwest end of the HammerDown parking lot, and clarify what vehicles DOT has permitted to cross Industrial Park Road, and where (there are two trail exit points on the west side of this road.)

If OHRV access of the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail is not permitted from the HammerDown Adventures parking lot, across Industrial Park Road, signs and a gate should also be also placed where the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail meets the west side of Industrial Park Rd., with effective barriers to prevent OHRV access since the terrain has little cover at this location.

The map below, marked by Lou Barker of NH DOT on 12/16/2021 at my request, shows the approximate eastern end of the portion of the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail that permits OHRVs. The parking lot of HammerDown Adventures, which sells ATV and snowmobile tours, is located just below the words "Milepost B." The Rail Trail east (right) of the red arrow does not allow OHRV use.



Below: In yellow is the .34 mile route on the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail from the HammerDown Adventures Parking lot to the approximate location marked by Lou Barker.



Just west of the western lane of I-93, on the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail, is a gate that appears to permit OHRV access since there is no sign forbidding OHRV access, and on December 18th, 2021 there were ATV tracks going through it and continuing on to Industrial Park Road, as well as ATV trail diversions onto the embankments on the southern concrete pillars supporting the highway overpasses.



Online, HammerDown offers ATV tours of the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail, and there are posts by HammerDown Adventures and ATV riders showing the HammerDown Parking lot as providing access to the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvJSXNYo0bU>





HammerDown Adventures at the Snowyard

June 25 · 🌐



Twin Mountain-Bretton Woods Chamber of Commerce

June 23

Bring your friends and family to HammerDown Adventures at the Snowyard for SXS tours along the Ammonoosuc River! Starting at the Snow Yard in Littleton, NH, you'll follow the river through the woods passing picturesque landscapes and small historic

towns. Visit on Thursdays to enjoy food from the Bitchin' Kitchen food truck.

Above: Though advertising that HammerDown has access to the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail from their parking lot, the photo does not appear to show the Rail Trail, but it does show unacceptable trail degradation.

It also appears that when the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail to Industrial Park Road was created, many, if not all the ties, were dumped along the northern slope of the trail, above a stream, and if so, these should be removed since they contain creosote and possibly pentachlorophenol, arsenic, oil, and other contaminants.

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Above: Looking north, the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail crossing of Industrial Park Road is indicated by the darker pavement. The HammerDown Adventures parking lot is on the right. A sign forbidding OHRVs from heading east is near the large rocks partly obscured by the Guided Tours sign.

Below: HammerDown Adventures parking lot looking south from the Rail Trail.



Review of HammerDown Adventures ATV tour, October 2021:



Doug M wrote a review Oct 2021

📍 Boston, Massachusetts • 96 contributions • 28 helpful votes



Fun, Fast, Muddy adventure ride !

Great offroad ATV tour ! Took the 2 hour tour with my wife in the fun park, and it was a blast. Fairly fast paced trip through woods, and over logs, and through the mud. Be prepared to get dirty ! Nice high powered side by side was fun and easy to drive. They seemed a little disorganized at first, with the whole reservation process, but once we got it squared away there were no more problems. Can't wait to come back and do it again.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: October 2021

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC.

Helpful Share

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g46143-d19926443-Reviews-Hammerdown_Adventures_at_the_Snowyard-Littleton_New_Hampshire.html



Left: west of Industrial Park Road, Ammonoosuc Rail Trail exit, with another trail exit on the plateau to the right/north. Note lack of barriers and signs indicating permitted uses.



What appear to be railroad ties, dumped on the north slope of the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail between Industrial Park Road and the I-93 overpass.



What Is an OHRV?

According to New Hampshire law, an off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) is any mechanically propelled vehicle that:

- Is used off a public way for pleasure or recreational purposes **and...**
- Runs on rubber tires, tracks, or a cushion of air **and...**
- Depends on the ground or other surface for travel **and...**
- Has an operator who sits in or on the vehicle.

All legally registered motorized vehicles when used for off-highway recreational purposes are OHRVs.

OHRVs include ATVs, trail bikes, and UTVs.

ATV: According to New Hampshire law, an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is any motor-driven vehicle that:

- Is designed or adapted for travel off maintained roads **and...**
- Has one or more low-pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch or less) **and...**
- Is 50 inches in width or less **and...**
- Has a net weight that does not exceed 1,000 pounds **and...**
- Is capable of carrying passengers or other payloads.

https://www.offroad-ed.com/newhampshire/studyGuide/What-Is-an-OHRV/40103101_172218/