

**Subject:** Sullivan County Press Release - Sat. Oct. 7 9AM - GRAND OPENING of NEW HIKING TRAIL, UNITY NH

Press Release: **Grand Opening of New Hiking Trail in Sullivan County**

UNITY – Looking for something to do on Columbus Day weekend? **The Grand Opening of Sullivan County's New Hiking Trail will take place on Saturday, October 7, 2017.**

The Sullivan County Natural Resources department has been constructing a 4 mile hiking trail, built entirely on County lands in the Town of Unity. With grant support from the NH Trails Bureau, this effort is being coordinated by Natural Resources Field Technician Sam Sprague, with assistance from Student Conservation Association trail crews, the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, the Unity Elementary School, and the Sullivan County Conservation District.

The new hiking trail showcases the varied cultural and natural histories of Sullivan County. From its western end at the Sullivan County Complex, the trail climbs steadily past a small pond before crossing the Second New Hampshire Turnpike. It then continues gradually upward, along the flanks of Unity Mountain, before dropping down and following the shore of Marshall Pond. The trail's eastern end is located at Mica Mine Road, opposite the historic Marshall family cemetery. A scenic overlook near the summit of Unity Mountain affords hikers a spectacular view. Numerous bird and other wildlife species are routinely spotted in diverse habitats along the trail.

**Schedule of Events for the Grand Opening**

- 9:00am Walk begins at the Sullivan County Health Care Employee Parking Lot
- 10:00am Trail Name and Kiosk Unveiling on 2nd NH Turnpike near the DOT salt shed
- 10:30am Walk the rest of the trail to Mica Mine Rd.
- 12:00pm Bus shuttle back to the parking areas thanks to Unity Elementary School

Please bring water and snacks and wear sturdy shoes for the full hike. Dogs, on leashes, are also welcome.

**For more information, please contact Lionel Chute, Natural Resources Director: 603-542-4891.**