The Milford Improvement Team is a 501(c)6 non profit organization working for and on behalf of the Town of Milford, its residents and businesses run by its Executive Director and an all-volunteer board of directors.
MIT’s Mission Statement

The Milford Improvement Team is a public-private partnership working to promote, revitalize, and enhance the historic, natural, social, and economic vitality of Milford.

We help make Milford, Milford!
MIT’s 2016 Awards and Honors:

Winner of the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year 2016!
MIT coordinates community events and projects on behalf of the Town of Milford, for the benefit of its businesses and residents.

The goal of these MIT sponsored events/projects is to bring an increased awareness of the greater Milford region as a travel/tourism destination, as well as promoting the potential for investment and commercial activity in Milford. We strive to put Milford on the map as a place to live, work, shop, dine, travel, and do business.
In 2016, MIT-coordinated events attracted well over 45,000+ attendees to the Town of Milford.

In 2016, MIT played a lead role in implementing many projects for the benefit of the Town and for the quality of life for
A recent engineering study has determined that Milford's historic Swing Bridge (circa 1889) is in poor shape and is at risk of it being closed in the next few years. Built at the height of the Victorian Era, this pedestrian bridge has historical significance. Desiring to save and preserve this piece of Milford history, a group of concerned citizens--including the Milford Improvement Team (MIT), Heritage Commission, Historical Society, and Conservation Commission--and Town officials, partnered in the Save the Swing Bridge Project. An on-going fundraiser, MIT designed and published the marketing materials and publicity, and continues to promote awareness and pursue donations for this project.
Despite frigid temperatures, an enthusiastic crowd turned out for the Milford Winter Festival and Snowball Drop on Saturday, January 23rd at Shepard Park. Families who attended the festival enjoyed ice skating, meeting Max the Manchester Monarchs mascot, drinking hot cocoa, toasting marshmallows, and more winter fun! The Milford Recreation Department partnered with the Milford Improvement Team in 2016, and towards the end of the event, a friendly Snowman dropped hundreds of Snowball (aka ping pong balls) for the kids to gather up for a chance to win great prizes!!
On Saturday, March 26th, the Milford Improvement Team coordinated the 3rd Annual Vacant Spaces Tour that showcased available commercial spaces in our area. This tour was geared towards anyone thinking about starting up a business, expanding or relocating their existing business to the Milford area.

Attendees were given a light breakfast while participating in a Panel Discussion with local experts: town representatives from Community Development, Building and Fire Departments, commercial realtors and commercial lenders. Attendees then took a self-guided tour of the commercial properties available for lease or for purchase, with realtors on hand to answer questions and show the properties.
Once the snowbanks melt in Milford each Spring, a great deal of trash gets left behind. For the 3rd year, on Saturday, May 7th, MIT brought together the community to make Milford beautiful once again. Starting at the Keyes Pavilion with coffee and donuts, many groups including the Milford Garden Club, Church groups, scout troops, teams from Milford businesses and other citizens fanned out to their assigned areas! After they picked up several hundred bags of trash, participants met back at the Keyes Pavilion for a fantastic BBQ thank you lunch courtesy of the Masonic Lodge.

Date: Saturday, May 7th, 9am to 1pm

> 9 am: Start at Keyes Field—coffee, donuts and pick up your trash bags and your group’s assigned area
> 9:30 to 11:30am: Clean-up designated areas, rake, pull weeds, and more!
> 11:30/noon to 1pm: Keyes Field—come back to the park for a thank you BBQ Cook Out sponsored by the Masonic Lodge of Milford!

For details, or to sign up your group, please contact Wendy Hurd, Director of the Milford Improvement Team, at director@milfordimprovementteam.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2016 COMMUNITY PARTNERS!
7th Annual Taste of Milford

Each Spring, MIT coordinates A Taste of Milford. The purpose of this event is to showcase Milford eateries, as well as the Milford Oval area businesses that host them. The “Taste” event puts Milford on the map as a shopping and dining destination, and is a vital traffic building tool for our area businesses.

In 2016, 70+ attendees thoroughly enjoyed their evening as they strolled around the historic Milford Oval shops and Town Hall and "tasted" some of the best entrees, desserts, appetizers, and much more from the over 30 participating culinary enthusiasts--Milford area restaurants, shops, caterers, Milford High's Culinary Program, and Home Food businesses!

20+ businesses hosted the event, along with 50+ community volunteers. Live music entertained guests at 3 locations.
Commemorative Bricks on the Oval Campaign

Originally laid in 1996, the Milford Oval’s beautiful brickwork had started to show its age and had become a tripping hazard. In 2016, in an effort to raise funds to renovate the Oval area bricks, the Milford Improvement Team coordinated a commemorative brick sale which raised significant monies towards assisting the town in making this project a reality. Over the course of several months, Oval area brick pathways and brick curbing were repaired, re-laid and new commemorative ricks were added.
MIT’s Year-round Oval Beautification Projects

MIT coordinates seasonal flowers on the Oval bandstand and Stone Bridge planters, the town’s Fall decorations, winter holiday decorations, and one of the large town hall wreaths. These beautification projects are made possible through our much-valued partnerships with the Milford Garden Club, the Milford DPW, Milford Lions Club, and area business owners.
The 27th Annual Milford Pumpkin Festival was held October 7th through 9th. MIT continues to organize all aspects of this event on behalf of the Town of Milford, so that we may continue to promote the historic, natural, social, and economic vitality of the town. Special events like the Pumpkin Festival provide great visibility for the Town of Milford and help foster civic pride and a positive image of the community as a whole. There were 45,000+ attendees over the 3 day event. Thousands of volunteer hours go into putting on this event, with people working months in advance. Over 40 Milford area non profits, school clubs and teams, community based groups and others, participated with fundraising or awareness activities that raised substantial monies – funds that were reinvested directly back into the Milford Community in the form of team and band uniforms, scholarships, service trips, educational programs, community programs and much more.

2066 lb giant!

Top Bands performed!

Fantastic Fireworks!

27th Annual Milford Pumpkin Festival!
October 7—9, 2016
www.milfordpumpkinfestival.org
Bigger and Better than ever!

Come to one of NH’s most highly anticipated Fall festivals! Held in and around historic downtown Milford, NH! Free admission and free parking!

Spectacular Fireworks! Live Bands all weekend on 2 stages! Fantastic Food & Crafts from all over New England! Carnival rides! Bouncy Houses! Haunted Trail! Beer Tasting Tent! Talent Show! Giant Pumpkin contest! Pumpkin Catapult!

Build a Scarecrow, Paint a pumpkin and much, much more!

Saturday crowds enjoy the pumpkin festival

Friday Night’s popular Beer Tasting Tent!
The Milford Pumpkin Festival:

“Best Community Event” by Hippo Readers in 2010-2014, 2016!

Best Local Event at the Souhegan Valley “Best of” Awards in 2014, 2015 & 2016!
South Street Improvement Project!

The long anticipated South Street Improvements Project, initiated by the Milford Improvement Team (MIT) in 2006 with the award of a $625,000 Transportation and Enhancement Grant to the Town of Milford to improve pedestrian and traffic safety, finally became a reality in 2016. The project included the undergrounding of the overhead utilities, road widening, new sidewalks on both sides of the street and the installation of period streetlamps similar to those on the Oval.

*Photos courtesy of the Cabinet Press*
Each December, MIT partners with Milford non-profits, churches, and community groups, to host Milford’s Annual Holiday Craft Fairs and Events. MIT handles all the publicity, fliers, maps and brochures for holiday craft fair event participant. MIT also promotes the Town of Milford itself as a unique dining and shopping destination. Milford groups held craft fairs at 11 different Milford locations on Saturday, December 3rd raising funds for their various causes. As part of this popular annual holiday event, the Milford Indoor Farmers’ Market also held their holiday market in Town Hall Auditorium. The Milford Lion’s Club also had Santa on the Oval Sunday, December 4th, with hot cider and cookies!
On-going MIT projects that benefit Milford

*Promoting Milford as a vibrant cultural, retail and entertainment destination in the region;

*MIT’s Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)- originating from its 2010 HUD grant, MIT continues loan funds to Milford businesses to invest and make improvements to their properties that will improve both the business and the overall aesthetic quality of Milford, as well as promote economic development in our town;

*Continuing to maintain downtown Milford as the attractive, pedestrian-oriented center of our community;

*Fostering cooperation among residents, business owners and property owners.

*Serving as a resource/support/partner to many Milford area non profits, community groups, schools, scout troops, churches, teams etc with their own fundraising endeavors and projects that serve to better the community as a whole;

*MIT’s Executive Director is a member of: the town’s Economic Development Advisory Committee, a board member of the Chamber of Commerce, member of NRPC’s Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, member of the UNH Business Expansion and Retention Study Committee, a member of the NH Vibrant Communities Network, and named the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce’s 2015 Business Leader of the Year.
MIT: partnering with the Milford community in 2016

*Winter Festival and Snowball Drop:* Milford Recreation Department and area businesses

*Vacant Building Tour:* SV Chamber of Commerce, Milford area realtors, bankers, town officials

*Town wide Clean up day:* Milford Masonic Lodge, Milford Scout Troops, Milford churches, businesses, residents

*Taste of Milford:* MHS Culinary Arts Program, Milford area Restaurants and Businesses

*Milford Arts Festival:* Local artists, craftspeople, musicians, Milford Heritage Commission, Milford Historical Society, Milford Conservation Commission


*Holiday Fairs:* Dollars for Scholars, 1st Congregational Church, Unitarian Universalist Church, SHARE Outreach, Milford Farmers’ Market, Church of our Saviour, St Patrick’s Church, Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, Milford United Methodist Church, Wadleigh Library, MHS Music Boosters, and the area restaurants and businesses.
According to the *Independent Sector*, a leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations committed to advancing the common good, the *State Value for Volunteer Time in New Hampshire* is $23.79 per person/per hour.
The Monadnock Region (which is the travel region that the state places Milford within) saw a positive period for the State’s travel sector. More travelers visited the state compared to 2014, and they spent more.

Due to its nearness to large cities, NH tourism has a much larger proportion of day trips and travelers to NH spend a larger share of their money at retail stores, and restaurant spending.

MIT events brought in well over 45,000 visitors to Milford in 2016. Valued by the NH Travel and Tourism department at $102 per person/ per day, thus meaning that MIT events brought over $3 million dollars into the local economy.

NOTE: Weather
Tourism is one sector whose fortune is left at the mercy of Mother Nature.

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MIT Accomplishments on Behalf of the Town of Milford over the years...
Milford Improvement Team’s Accomplishments:

Through the years: Making a difference to Milford

A brief overview of grants and projects facilitated or written by the MIT over the last two decades that have been submitted and awarded solely for the benefit of Milford.

1993

Received the 1993 federal grant for physical improvements to the Downtown, a $600,000 project that installed pedestrian and handicapped accessibility, undergrounded utilities, brick-banded sidewalks, period lighting and created the appealing Downtown of today.

2000

Traditionally held over Columbus Day weekend each year, the Milford Do-It Team took over coordinating the town’s annual Milford Pumpkin Festival on behalf of the town and its residents in 2000.
2000 (con’t)

In 2014, through the efforts of MIT, The Milford Pumpkin Festival celebrated its 25th year, with crowds in excess of 35,000!

2004 MIT was a partner in planning the grant the town received to build bridge from Keyes Field to Boys & Girls Club. The Gregg Crossing Bridge was bought as part of a $500,000 grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.
2005

Bandstand Restoration Grant

We restored the historic bandstand on the Oval after receiving a grant from the NH State Council on the Arts Cultural Conservation Grant for $9570 and with additional funds coming from a grant from the Marchese Funds at $4930. Total: $14,500

2006

As part of the State of New Hampshire’s 10-year highway plan, Milford was awarded a Federal Highway Appropriation of $3.5 Million (with the Town to provide $700,000 as 20% matching funds) in order to make “improvements in the area known as the “Oval” to improve traffic flow based on results of ongoing traffic studies within the town.”
2006 con’t

Milford Main Street Program DO-IT in conjunction with the town also applied for a $625,000 Transportation and Enhancement Grant to improve the pedestrian and traffic safety on South Street. Since winning the grant, we have been working with the Town of Milford, the Planning Department and the Nashua Regional Planning Commission to extend the Oval improvements down South Street and improve the safety of the street. Construction will begin Spring 2015.

DO-IT also applied for and received a $50,000 HUD Grant to restore the exterior of the Crisafulli building on the corner of South Street and Nashua Street, known for years as the Boston Shoe Store.

Scenes of beautification in Milford:
2009

DO-IT obtained a $50,000 HUD grant that served as the starting funds for a low interest revolving loan fund available to Milford businesses. Pasta Loft on the Oval was the first recipient, allowing it to finance its beautiful wine bar. These funds are currently loaned out for a second time to a Milford business owner, who is expanding his restaurant.

2011

In partnership with Milford’s Conservation Commission, DO-IT applied for and was awarded Rail Trail Grants from the Arthur Getz Foundation $1000 and McInnich Foundation $3,500.

2013

The Milford Improvement Team was awarded a $50,000 Community Design Charrette by PLAN NH to focus on the Garden and Cottage Streets neighborhood. The Charrette held two public visioning sessions to discuss issues concerning traffic, walkability and redevelopment of underutilized space, as well as potential uses for the historic B&M train station building on Garden Street. The Charrette is a highly competitive application and awarded to only 2-3 communities per year.
The Plan NH members donated their time and expertise to the charrette, a value of approximately $50,000 if the Town was to hire comparable services. To offset expenses of the Charrette, MIT was also awarded a $5000 grant by the NH Charitable Foundation. In June 2014, Plan NH members presented their recommendations to the Milford Community.

In 2013, MIT also applied for and received a grant from the Marchese Trust for $5,000 to support the development and installation of a historic tour of Milford that uses the technology of “QR” or “quick response” codes on cellular smart phones. MIT partnered with the Milford Historical Society, the Milford Heritage Commission and the Conservation Commission and had the support of the Town of Milford to implement this project.

Milford QR Code Tour is launched at www.qrtoursmilfordnh.org. This tour focuses on the historical places in Milford. There are 14 stops on the tour, with plans to expand the tour in the future to historical people, a cemetery tour and more!
2014 (con’t)

MIT played a leading role in the Restoration and Rededication of Milford’s World War II Memorial Park. Partnering with the Milford Garden Club, Milford Historical Society, Harley-Sanford VFW, and the Town of Milford. MIT applied for and received grants from The Kaley Foundation and the Arthur L. Keyes Memorial Trust, as well as private donors.

NEW MIT annual projects in 2014 included the “Make it Milford, Vacant Spaces Tour” in March, where MIT partnered with the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce and local realtors and building owners, to showcase our available commercial spaces including storefronts, office and industrial space.

MIT also coordinated the new annual Milford Town-wide Clean-up day, which was held in late May. Partnering with the Milford Masonic Lodge, the Milford DPW, and local businesses and community groups, scores of residents and town officials came out in full force to pick up tons of trash that had accumulated along the roads and Souhegan River in Milford. Participants were treated to a BBQ lunch afterwards.
In 2015, town projects included: New Oval Banners, & an extensive Oval area Parking Study and map.
Special Thanks to our 2016 Community Sponsors:

Businesses that partnered with MIT in 2016 with Events/Projects:
Special Thanks to the Town of Milford Board of Selectmen, the Fire, DPW, Police and Ambulance Departments, our many community partners in projects and events, and to our many sponsors who partnered with MIT in 2016, to make it such a successful year!
2016 Board of Directors

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President, Alan Woolfson, VP, Monarch Instruments, Amherst, NH
Vice President, Edward Killam, Senior VP, Northway Bank, Concord, NH
Treasurer: Kent Chappell, Owner, Chappell Tractor, Milford, NH

Executive Board:
Heather Leach, Vice President, Granite Bank, Amherst NH
Mark Constable, Owner, Nationwide Insurance

Board:
Kathy Bauer, Milford Board of Selectmen
Trent Blalock, Edward Jones Investments, Milford, NH
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Tim Barr, Retired, New Balance Corp., Resident of Milford

Staff:
Wendy Hunt, Executive Director
Thank you for your continued support!