

Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assabet Valley Students Adorn Assabet River Rail Trail

Area. Welding students at Assabet Valley, under the supervision of instructors George Aziz, Chris Wittmier, and Neil Mansfield, created bicycle metal art using welding and creative designs to make the Assabet River Rail Trail a more cheerful place to pedal and have fun. Initially, Mark Hollick, Assabet's Principal, was approached by officials in his home town of Hudson to ask if the school's welding students would be interested in making brackets to mount several wooden sculptures created for the path. Of course, they complied, but as the project progressed, the students were asked if they would like to contribute some metal art as well. The decision was made to design and craft two bike sculptures – one a modern piece depicting a racer hunched over his handlebars on a sleek racing bike, while the other is an old fashioned traditional big wheel bicycle. Students sketched them out and then made full-scale drawings, ordered supplies, and began cutting, fabricating, and welding, keeping in mind that a piece on such a large public scale must be safe from rough edges and withstand the test of time and weather elements. The Automotive Collision program was asked to do the final painting of the pieces, for who would be better at a professional quality paint job than students trained in that field? The resulting sculptures were installed by the Assabet students and instructors in the spring, and have been a delight to passersby and trail users ever since.

Tagline: Instructor Chris Whitmier, Matt Christoforo, West Boylson, Greg Pitard, Berlin, Michael McGrath, Marlborough, Patrick Pierce, Clinton, Post Grad student Rebecca Johnson, Andrew Moulton, Hudson, lead instructor, Neil Mansfield, and in front, Post Grad student Dave Dawson, after installing one of the two metal bike sculptures for the Assabet River Rail Trail.