

Mission: *to save the century-old, architecturally-rare, and historically-significant Schell Memorial Bridge across the beautiful Connecticut River in the storied town of Northfield, Massachusetts, and to restore the bridge as a critical trail link in the evolving biking, hiking, and recreational activity scene in the Massachusetts/New Hampshire/Vermont area.*

Friends of Schell Bridge is a non-profit corporation, formed to facilitate investigation of the feasibility of rehabilitating Schell Bridge and, if feasible, to raise funds necessary for its restoration and maintenance.

No Northfield public funds would be involved in any restoration; funding would come from private sources and foundations, and from national and state government sources.

An engineering study of the trusses and bearings of the bridge was conducted by the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College. That study was completed in May 2005; it was comprehensive and indicates that rehabilitation of the bridge to current standards may cost less than demolition.

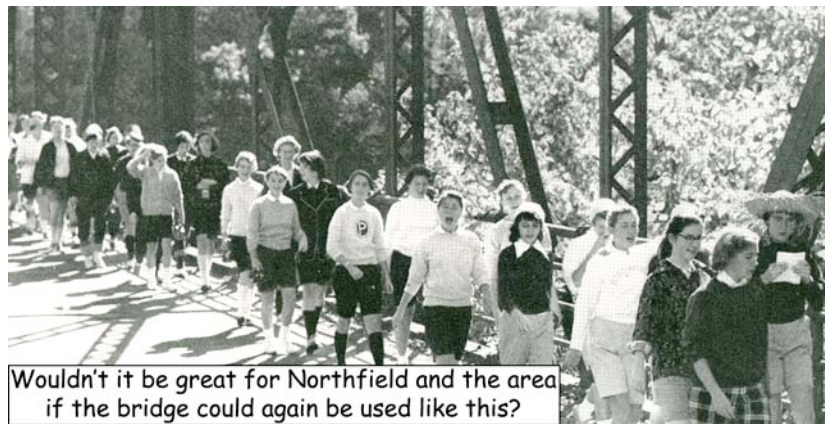
A dive is planned for June 2005 after the river clears from the spring runoff, to make a full photographic record of the current condition of the piers.

The Friends of Schell Bridge plans to continue pursuing restoration of the bridge and to identify sources of funding. You are invited to become a member and join in this effort.

For more information call a phone number listed above, or write to the above address.

Significant events for the bridge and Northfield include:

- 1903 - Schell Bridge completed and put into service in 1904
- 1936 - Schell survives great flood; many CT river bridges do not
- 1977 - MA DPW develops plan to renovate Schell Bridge
- 1985 - Schell Bridge closed
- 1987 - Decision made to demolish Schell Bridge
- 1997 - Schell Bridge demolition contracted, then withdrawn
- 2003 - Schell Bridge in the PreservatiON Massachusetts, Inc. 2003 list of the 10 most endangered places in MA
- 2004 - May 3, Northfield town meeting approves the Smith College rehabilitation study of Schell Bridge
- 2004 - August 20, Friends of Schell Bridge (FSB) formed
- 2005 - March 19, Tri-state trail seminar, FSB a sponsor
- 2005 - May 5, final report of the Smith College rehabilitation study of Schell Bridge presented to the town
- 2005 - Dive to inspect the condition of the bridge piers planned for sometime in June (after the water clears)
- 2005 - June 16, first annual membership meeting of Friends of Schell Bridge



Wouldn't it be great for Northfield and the area if the bridge could again be used like this?

If you would like to be a member of the Friends of Schell Bridge, complete this form and send it, with check, to the address above.

NAME			
ADDRESS			
CITY, STATE, ZIP			
PHONE		EMAIL	
Membership Levels:	Student: \$5 <input type="checkbox"/>	Individual: \$15 <input type="checkbox"/>	Family: \$25 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Bridge Booster: \$100 <input type="checkbox"/>		Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/>