TYLER MILL PRESERVE – February 2019 status. As an update for users who are waiting patiently for Tyler Mill Preserve to reopen, The Tyler Mill Trail Stewards offer the following info:

1. Work on *trails* is in the ‘home stretch.’ Most of the trail work has been completed by Stewards and Conservation Commissioners under the Town’s chainsaw policy. Final hazard areas are being worked, depending on the weather (no heavy wind, no heavy rain, no significant icy conditions).
2. The greatest need since June has been heavy machinery. In January, Public Works was assigned the task of clearing the most heavily damaged central area. They started January 22nd.
3. The completion of the work now depends on the weather. Connecticut is finally getting some ‘winter’ and that affects the work.
4. There is nothing that members of the public can do to help. Most of the ‘hauling’ and ‘brush clearing’ work that could be done on foot was done by July.
5. Finally, as the work nears completion, the Town administration will need to determine when it is safe to reopen the Preserve, from a liability standpoint, since areas off-trail are not being cleared, and there is tree damage throughout most of the 1000-acre forest.
6. Once the Town determines that it is safe to re-open, there will be opportunities for the public to help on formal work parties organized by the Conservation Commission (primarily replacement of a few boardwalks and a few new footbridges in re-routed or damaged areas…many hands make this type of work in remote areas much easier!).

In the meantime, people are reminded that there are other open spaces with beautiful trails in the immediate area, including other town parks, Land Trust properties, state parks, and the New England Scenic Trail.