

2023

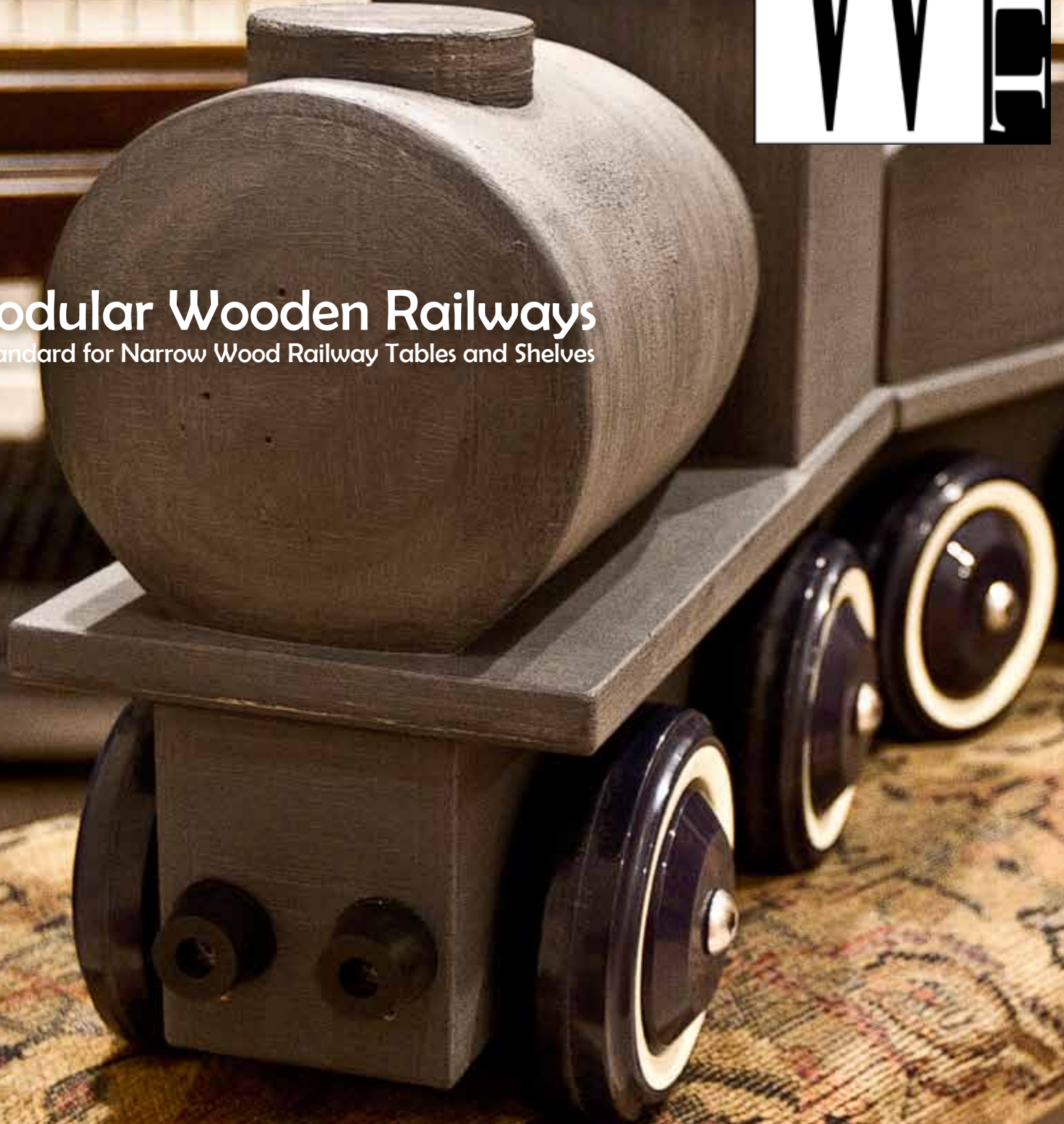
UPDATE

15th Anniversary Edition



# Modular Wooden Railways

a Standard for Narrow Wood Railway Tables and Shelves



Der Eisenbahntisch ist eine gängige Lösung zum Aufbau großer Modelleisenbahnanlagen. Leider sind Eisenbahntische oft zu groß um einfach transportiert zu werden. Auch ist es oft schwer die gegenüberliegende Seite eines Tisches zu erreichen. Zwar könnte man kleinere Tische zu einem großen Tisch kombinieren, jedoch müssen alle Schienen am Rand dann zusammenpassen. Da nur wenige Häuser und Wohnungen ausreichend Platz für eine große Eisenbahnanlage bieten, wären schmale Tische eine günstige Alternative.

Modelleisenbahnclubs habe eine Reihe von Lösungen für modulare Tischsysteme entwickelt. Diese Systeme sind dafür geeignet, sehr große Anlagen zu transportieren. Auch können Anlagen so rekonfiguriert werden – sogar eine Kombination mit Tischen anderer Familien ist in einigen Fällen möglich.

Ich möchte hier eine Alternativlösung vorschlagen, welche auf schmalen Tischplatten basiert. Diese Lösung ist besonders gut für kleinere Räume geeignet.

Die gesamte Eisenbahnanlage kann von nur einer Tischseite erreicht werden. Dies ist besonders dann günstig, wenn die Tische entlang einer Wand, und nicht im Zentrum des Zimmers aufgebaut werden.



## MOSAIC Children's Museum

2023 started early with a small custom railway completed and delivered to MOSAIC Children's Museum the second week of January to support their Spring opening. This layout incorporates 22 turnouts and 7 crossings in a compact footprint of 4'x10' with 55 lineal feet of track. Seven handmade trains provide a collaborative railroading experience without the distraction of commercialization, while water features, trees, landscaping and hilly terrain with a tunnel complement this immersive exhibit.

MOSAIC's layout is small enough to travel easily to regional events - including the North State Model

Train Show in Gridley (CA) and the International Railfair Model Train Show in Roseville (CA). Visit MOSAIC's Facebook page for more details: [www.facebook.com/MOSAICcm](https://www.facebook.com/MOSAICcm)



# FL!P Children's Museum

The last few years pushed many family-centered organizations past a point of recovery. Portland's only children's museum was among many that were shuttered in 2021. But a group of volunteers in Beaverton is now laying a foundation for a new multicultural and inclusive children's

museum in the greater Portland area. A subset of our family's modular wooden railway – last exhibited in Portland at the 2015 National Train Show – was at several events to create awareness, foster community engagement and help shape what may emerge in 2026.

## National Train Show

ECM's modular wooden railway returned to the NMRA's National Train Show for a second consecutive year – this time just outside Dallas. The layout was reconfigured daily for children and families who attended. A new mountain module was built and introduced for this event and is now resident at Edwardsville Children's Museum's Nickel Plate Station – just across the river from St. Louis.



## Community Play Project

A group in Vancouver is preparing a framework for a children's museum just north of Portland. In addition to partnerships with local organizations and participation in an array of

established events, CPP sponsored an outdoor event at Waterfront Park overlooking the Columbia River and our family's layout was there among other hands-on exhibits.

2023

Modular Railway Project:  
MOSAIC Children's Museum  
Woodland, CA

30th UNW Train Show:  
Monroe, WA

FL!P Children's Museum Popup Event:  
FL!P Children's Museum  
Portland, OR

Play PDX:  
FL!P Children's Museum  
Portland, OR

Family Play Day at Waterfront Park:  
Columbia Play Project  
Vancouver, WA

Western Gateway Farmers Market:  
MOSAIC Children's Museum  
Penn Valley, CA

Explorium!:  
Edwardsville Children's Museum  
Denton, TX

Willamette Valley MRM Train Show:  
FL!P Children's Museum  
Rickreall, OR

2024

Modular Railway Project:  
FL!P Children's Museum  
Beaverton, OR

31st UNW Train Show:  
Monroe, WA

3rd Rails to Trails Foss Maritime:  
Tacoma, WA

LK&R Spring Train Show:  
Kelso, WA

32nd Livingston Train Show:  
Livingston, MT

42nd Annual Helena Railroad Fair:  
Helena, MT

Flourish: ACM InterActivity Conf:  
Edwardsville Children's Museum  
Madison, WI

NMRA National Train Show:  
Long Beach, CA

International Railfair Train Show:  
Roseville, CA

Johnson Farm Neighborhood Trains!:  
Anderson Island, WA

Floor Railway Project:  
The Engine Shed  
Reading, UK

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[www.wTrak.org](http://www.wTrak.org)

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and Hanna Ashagre

## 2023 National Network

Five organizations with modular wooden railways engaged with their communities throughout the United States this year. In some cases, they have partnered with other organizations in a collaborative way for setup and coverage - including local scouts. Here are a few of these regional events:

Franklin County Children's Festival:  
Western Maine Play Museum  
Farmington, ME

Spring Spokane Train Show:  
River City Modelers  
Spokane, WA

Maine Fiddlehead Festival:  
Western Maine Play Museum  
Farmington, ME

Grand Strand Train Show:  
Wilmington Railroad Museum  
Myrtle Beach, SC

Spring into Trains Show:  
Wilmington Railroad Museum  
Raleigh, NC

National Train Show:  
Edwardsville Children's Museum  
Grapevine, TX

Neuse River Valley 39th Train Show:  
Wilmington Railroad Museum  
Raleigh, NC

International Railfair Train Show:  
MOSAIC Children's Museum  
Roseville, CA

Fall Spokane Train Show:  
River City Modelers  
Spokane, WA

Resources for Wooden Railways  
[wRailway.org](http://wRailway.org)

### Resourcing & Equipping

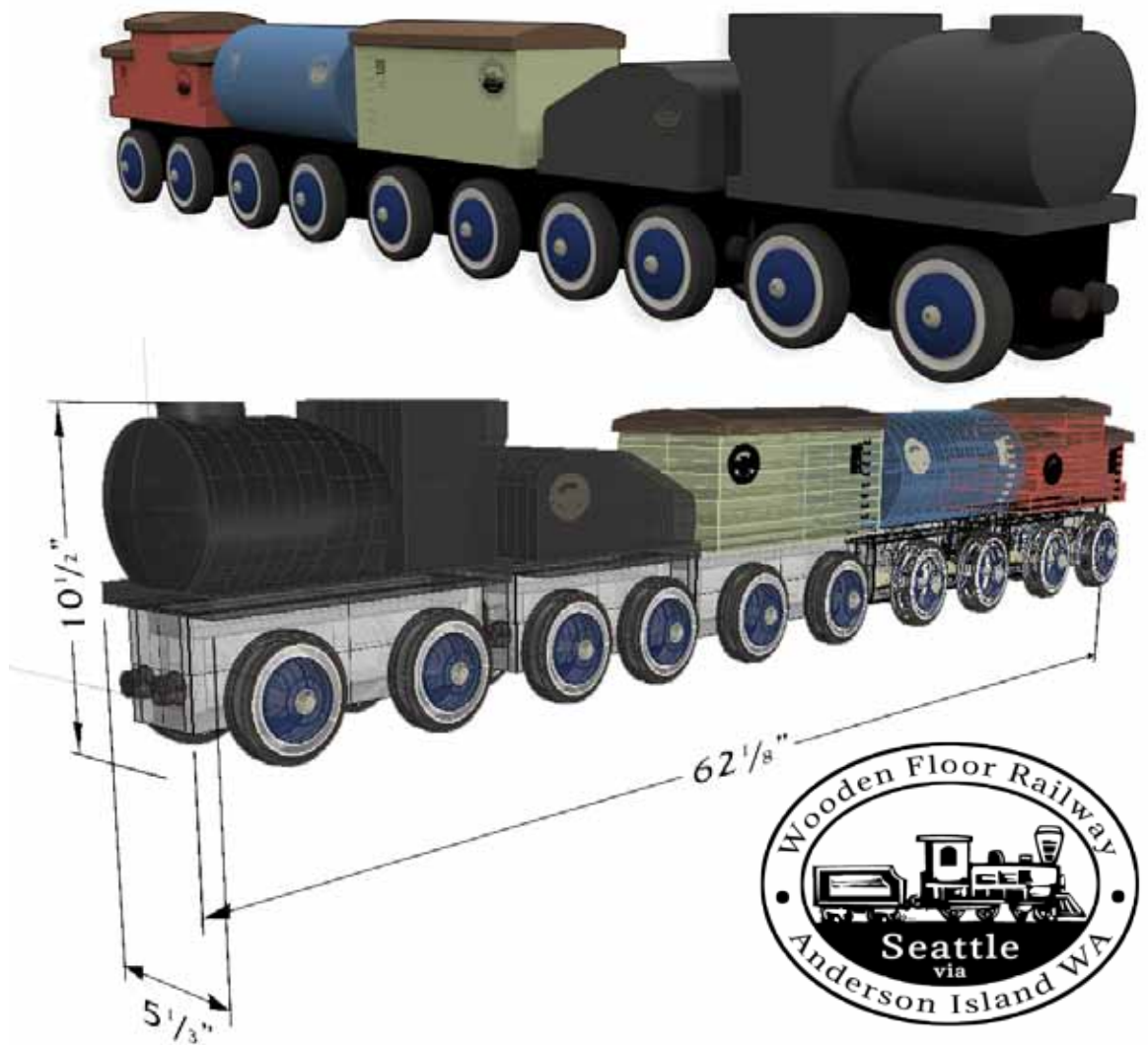
Prospective organizations for a Modular Railway Project or wooden railway resource donation should:

- be a 501(c)(3),
- serve children through at least elementary school,
- be capable of minor touch-ups (*glue, sharpie, varnish*), and
- be accessible to the public

Other factors to share might include:

- Links underserved communities (*broadly defined to include those remote from population centers, kids on the spectrum, families with limited resources, cultural diversity or other barriers and challenges*),
- Space available for permanent or periodic hands-on exhibits,
- Geographically distant from an existing modular layout,
- Active in a variety of community events and/or Train Shows,
- Affiliation with local train clubs,
- Regularly conducts Workshops or Maker Events for kids, or
- Holds periodic train-themed evening or weekend events

...got Trains?



# The Engine Shed

The Engine Shed is a special interest group for autistic children, youth and adults with a shared interest in all things 'train'. Monthly gatherings in greater London allow families and friends to connect in a barrier-free setting. A wide range of railways are set up for collaborative play and constructive engagement.

A 5' long wooden floor railway was designed to provide additional immersive and tactile train experience opportunities both indoors and out. The footlong cars weigh 5 kilos each and couple using miniature buckles. The train is made from cabinet-grade plywood that is then milk-painted, charcoal weathered and ink stamped just like the smaller trains constructed for modular wooden railways. The train was on the plane and bound for London's Heathrow airport for their April gathering but the flight was delayed for more than 19 hours due to equipment failure. The plan is to try again on another flight in 2024.

This group's innovative model for connecting families with kids and adults on the spectrum can and should be replicated everywhere!



# Reading Corner

Building on recommendations from Joni James (Western Maine Play Museum) and Holli Saperstein (Wilmington Railroad Museum), an expansive list of children's books featuring trains and railway workers was compiled and posted online. Titles are grouped by age-level as a starting point for exploration.

## Preschool

Adelaide and the Night Train.....Liz Rosenberg  
All Aboard!.....Rebecca Kai Dotlich  
And the Train Goes.....William Bee  
Alphabet Trains.....Samantha R. Vamos  
Cecil Bunions and the Midnight Train.....Betty Paraskevas  
Choo Choo.....Petr Horacek

### Choo Choo (Bilingual)

Clickety Clack.....Robert Spence  
Count on the Subway.....Paul DuBoi Jacobs  
Country Crossing.....Jim Aylesworth  
Crossing.....Philip Booth  
Curious George Takes a Train.....H. A. Rey  
Down in the Subway.....Miriam Cohen  
Down by the Station.....Will Hillenbrand  
Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride.....Deborah Bodin Cohen  
Freight Train.....Donald Crews

### Tren de carga (Bilingual)

Friday's Journey.....Ken Rush  
Grandfather's Trolley.....Bruce McMillan  
Here Comes the Train.....Charlotte Voake  
Hey! Get Off Our Train.....John Burningham  
How to Train a Train.....Jason Carter Eaton  
I'm Taking a Trip on My Train.....Shirley Neitzel  
I Can Make a Train Noise.....Michael Emberley  
I Dream of Trains.....Angela Johnson  
I Saw an Ant on the Railroad Track.....Joshua Prince  
Inside Freight Train.....Donald Crews  
Iron Horses.....Verla Kay  
It's Funny Where Ben's Train Takes Him.....Robert Burleigh  
Jingle the Brass.....Patricia Newman  
The Last Train.....Gordon Titcomb  
The Little Engine That Could.....Watty Piper

### La Pequena Locomotora Que Si Pudo (Spanish)

Little Locomotive.....Ib Spang Olsen  
Little Red Train Adventures Storybook.....Benedict Blathwayt  
The Little Train.....Lois Lenski  
Locomotive.....Julian Tuwim  
My Little Train.....Satomi Ichikawa  
My Subway Ride.....Paul DuBois Jacobs  
Next Stop Grand Central.....Maira Kalman  
Night Train.....Caroline Stutson  
On the Train.....Carron Brown  
Orphan Train.....Verla Kay  
Prairie Train.....Marsha Wilson Chall  
The Prairie Train.....Antoine O Flatharta  
Railroad Hank.....Lisa Moser  
A Railway ABC.....Jack Townend  
The Rain Train.....Elena De Roo  
Steam Train, Dream Train.....Sherri Duskey Rinker

### Que duermas bien, pequeño tren (Spanish)

Steam, Smoke and Steel: Back in Time with Trains.....Patrick O'Brien  
Subway.....Anastasia Suen  
Subway.....Christoph Niemann  
The Subway Sparrow.....Leyla Torres

### Gorrión del metro (Spanish)

Subway Story.....Julia Sarcone-Roach  
Ten Terrific Trains.....Fiona Conboy  
Terrific Trains.....Tony Mitton  
A Train Goes Clickety-Clack.....Jonathan London  
Train is on Track.....Peter Bently  
Train Man.....Andrea Zimmerman  
Train Song.....Diane Siebert  
The Train to Glasgow.....Wilma Horsbrugh  
Train Trip.....Deanna Caswell  
Trains.....Byron Barton  
Trains.....Anne Rockwell  
Trains Don't Sleep.....Andria Warmflash Rosenbaum  
Trains: Steaming! Pulling! Huffing!.....Patricia Hubbell  
Trucker and Train.....Hannah Stark  
Trainstop.....Barbara Lehman  
Tupelo Rides the Rails.....Melissa Sweet  
Two Little Trains.....Margaret Wise Brown  
Underground Train.....Mary Quattlebaum  
Where Do Steam Trains Sleep at Night?.....Brianna Cap  
Whoo! Whoo! Goes the Train.....Anne Rockwell  
William and the Night Train.....Mij Kelly  
The Winter Train.....Susanna Isern

### Tren de invierno (Spanish)

## Kindergarten through 2nd Grade

The Banshee Train.....Odds Bodkin  
Bear on the Train.....Julie Lawson  
Black and White.....David Macaulay  
Book of Trains.....Seymour Simon  
City Railways Go Above and Below.....Patrick McBriarty  
The Daylight Limited; Great Railway Adventure.....Lin Oliver  
Locomotive.....Brian Floca  
Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure.....Nadja Spiegelman  
Northbound: A Train Ride Out of Segregation.....Michael S. Bandy  
The Polar Express.....Chris Van Allsburg

### El Expreso Polar (Spanish)

The Secret Subway.....Shana Corey  
The Sunday Outing.....Gloria Jean Pinkney  
Ten Mile Day: Building Transcontinental Railroad.....Mary Ann Fraser  
The Train.....Jodie Callaghan  
Train to Somewhere.....Eve Bunting  
The Transcontinental Railroad.....Rachel Lynette  
The Yellow Train.....Alistair Highet  
You Wouldn't Want to Work on the Railroad!.....Ian Graham

## 3rd Grade to Middle School

Eyewitness: Train.....John Coiley  
Full Steam Ahead.....Rhoda Blumberg  
The Real Book About Trains.....Davis Cole  
Subway: The Story of Tunnels, Tubes and Tracks.....Larry Dane Brimmer  
Transcendental Train Yard (Bilingual).....Norma E Cantú

## Middle School

After the Train.....Gloria Whelan  
She's Been Working on the Railroad.....Nancy Smiler Levinso  
Stopping Train Britain: A Railway Odyssey... Alexander Frater  
Time Between Trains.....Anthony Bukoski  
The Train Jumper.....Don Brown

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# Corporate Match

Sharing layouts and railway resources with emerging museums in underserved communities is rewarding for both children and families. These gifts also benefit the museum through sponsorships, membership growth and regional engagement opportunities. Many companies will provide a grant or corporate match for employee or retiree hours volunteered to registered 501c3 charities. Each donation compounds to make a meaningful impact.

In 2021, Boeing provided grants for time donated to MOSAIC Children’s Museum, Wilmington Railroad Museum, NMRA and Edwardsville Children’s Museum. For 2022, grants for hours volunteered to MOSAIC Children’s Museum, Wilmington Railroad Museum and Edwardsville Children’s Museum were also made. This continues in 2023. Be sure to log hours and apply for a match when applicable!

## Highlights

wTrak returned to UNW’s annual model train event for an eleventh consecutive show. UNW was the first model train show to welcome a hands-on modular wooden railway.

WRRM’s modular railway traveled to Raleigh (NC) last November for the 38th Annual Neuse River Valley Model Train Show. Following that show, the layout returned to the museum and reconfigured with a new module.

Several videos have been added to wTrak’s YouTube channel - including visuals detailing the construction of durable fabric trees.

[www.youtube.com/@wtrak-modularwoodenrailway7534](http://www.youtube.com/@wtrak-modularwoodenrailway7534)

A video series showing construction details for the layout is now available at the museum for visitors to watch while their kids and grandchildren engage with the railway.

Separately, a 40-minute video presented in an NMRAx clinic detailing wooden railways as an entry in model railroading can also be found online.

[youtu.be/HrMOUByB0tU?t=518](https://youtu.be/HrMOUByB0tU?t=518)

