



2018 Accomplishments / 2019 Goals



10 Years of Caring for a New England Treasure

The 215-mile New England Trail (NET) includes portions of four largely contiguous trails: the Mattabesett, Menunkatuck and Metacomet Trails in Connecticut and parts of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts. Designated as a national scenic trail in 2009, and marked with blue blazes in Connecticut and white in Massachusetts, the NET has something wonderful to share with everyone.

The principal trail stewards of the NET are the staff and volunteers of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) in Connecticut and the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) in Massachusetts. They are assisted by the National Park Service (NPS) in managing, protecting, restoring and caring for this scenic New England treasure. For more information, including guides and maps, please visit www.newenglandtrail.org.

Commemorative poster created to celebrate 50 years of the National Trails Act! About the artist: Jonathan Scheele, openskyideas.com

NEW ENGLAND TRAIL

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total Trail
215 miles

Caring for the Trail
369 Volunteers

Giving Time to the Trail
4,620 hours

Valuing Volunteer Time
\$143,220

**Welcoming Hikers and
Volunteers**

10 Artist in Residence Events
21 Work Parties
18 National Trails Day Hikes
32 Public Outreach Events

Thanking Trail Crews
20 NET Crew Members
2,275 Hours Worked

Hike 50 Challenge
1,500 Participants
21 States, 4 Countries
340 Challenge Completions!



Celebrating a New Decade! 2009-2019

In 2019, we are celebrating yet another new milestone—it has been a decade since the historic Mattabesett, Metacomet, and Monadnock Trails, along with the newly established Menunkatuck Trail, were collectively designated by Congress as the New England National Scenic Trail. To mark this milestone, we are launching a 10th anniversary Hike Challenge with fun and creative ways for the public to participate. Our 2018 hiking challenge was so popular, we hope to build on that momentum. Check out newenglandtrail.org for more details and to sign up!



Even as we celebrate and begin a new decade, the work is ongoing. We are working to develop innovative projects, programs and partnerships to enhance the trail experience, to cultivate an enduring network of trail volunteers and partner organizations, and to ensure that the NET is accessible, inclusive and relevant for all. *(Above: Hike50 challenge participants show off their completion patches and certificates!)*

To Blaze a Trail: 2019 Goals

- Expand NET trail crews using grants from REI and Outdoor Foundation.
- Strengthen relationships with private trail hosts.
- Increase leadership and skills training opportunities for our volunteers.
- Continue to promote uniform trail standards for a consistent trail experience.
- Develop projects to increase accessibility for all trail users.



NEW ENGLAND TRAIL
www.newenglandtrail.org



Enhancing the NET Experience

EVENTS: In 2018, CFPA and AMC held 32 public events along the NET and in surrounding communities. Our 2018 Composer-in-Residence, Ben Cosgrove, shared his NET inspired music at public concerts and events throughout the year. In MA we continued our engagement with the local college outing clubs and partnered with them for several trail events, including an Earth Day service project with students from UMass Amherst. In CT we opened a new and rugged 4.5 mile off-road section of the trail in Durham & Madison with a ribbon cutting and opening hike. *(Right: UMass Earth Day service project)*



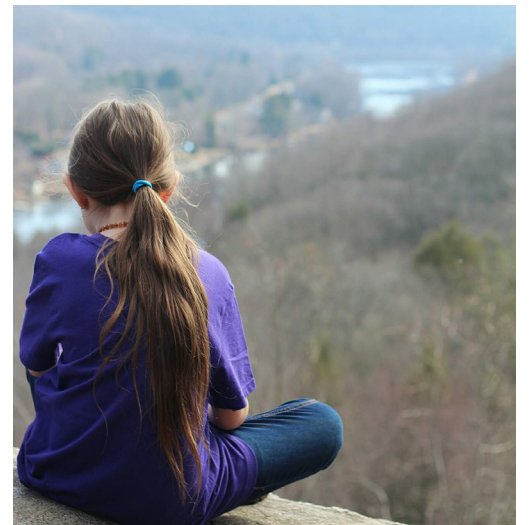
NEW ARTIST: Marisa Williamson is a Newark, NJ-based multimedia artist who has created site specific works at and in collaboration with the University of Virginia, Mural Arts Philadelphia, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Storm King Art Center, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Stay tuned for updates about Marisa's progress, her art installations, monuments, and performances along the trail. *(Right: Marisa Williamson. Center Spread: View of Oxbow from Dry Knoll by Ben Smith)*



Celebrating Hike50 Challenge Completions!



This fall Sang C., of Simsbury, CT, set a goal to hike from the MA-CT border to the Long Island Sound. Before the challenge he had never hiked, but upon completion he told us that "this was the best outdoor experience of my life!"



Sara and Lilith S. traveled from RI and were our first hikers to complete the Hike50 Challenge! Sara grew up hiking the blue blazed trails with her late uncle and used the challenge to share the experience with her 8-year-old daughter.



Hike50 NET Challenge completion patch created by Jonathan Scheele.
Purchase NET trail guides at the CFPA Bookstore or the AMC Bookstore.

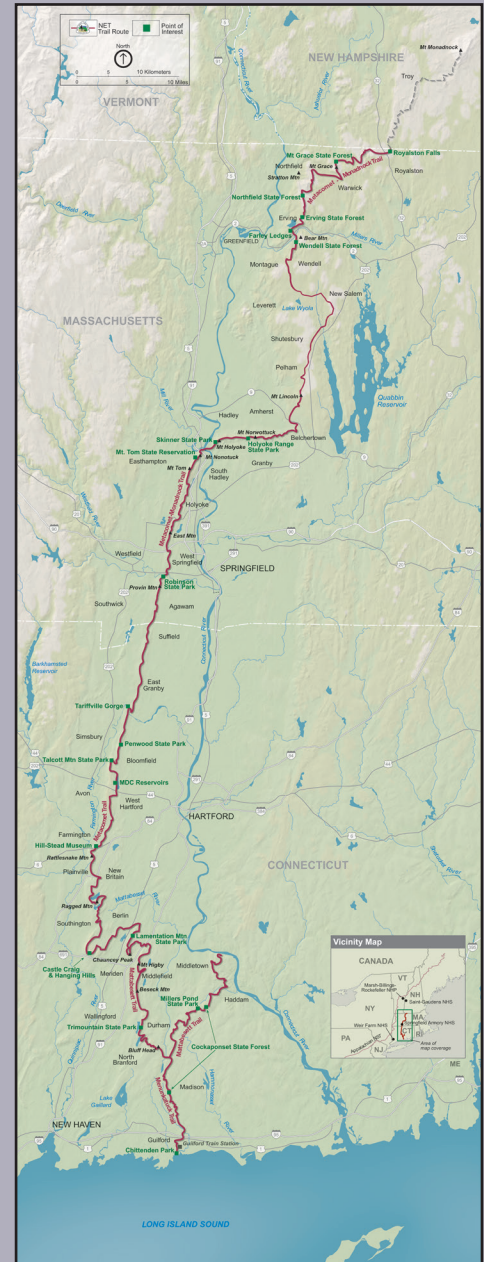


Left: CFPA Summer Trail Crew. Middle: AmeriCorps service group. Right: AMC Summer Teen Trail Crew.

TRAIL CREWS & PROJECTS: 2018 was a landmark year for trail crews on the NET! Both AMC and CFPA hosted their very own summer crews on the trail. AMC partnered for the first time with the City of Holyoke and the organization Mass Hire to employ five local youth for seven weeks on the NET. During their time on the crew they learned new skills and completed a wide variety of projects as they traveled along the trail, including installing signage, cutting switchbacks, and building bridges.

CFPA's Summer Trail Crew were trained in chainsaw use and safety. They put these skills immediately to work at Lamentation Mountain State Park clearing a new overnight campsite for long-distance hikers. Additionally, the crew built bridging through inundated areas, relocated sections of trail, learned to reinforce the trail with rock, and did some blazing enhancement. In September, CFPA hosted an AmeriCorps NCCC crew. This 9-person team built over 250-feet of bog bridging through a very wet area on a popular NET connector trail in Middletown.

LOOKING TOWARDS 2019: AMC will be working with the Town of Southwick to create a new accessible parking area and portion of trail leading to a scenic boardwalk thanks to a Recreational Trails Program grant. CFPA is looking forward to in-depth trail protection planning in 2019 to secure the NET legacy in CT.



Contact

CLARE CAIN

Trail Stewardship Director
Connecticut Forest &
Park Association
ccain@ctwoodlands.org
860.346.2372



BRIDGET LIKELY

New England National Scenic
Trail Coordinator
Appalachian Mountain Club
blikely@outdoors.org
413.835.4591



CHARLES TRACY

National Park Service
charles_tracy@nps.gov
617.223.5210