

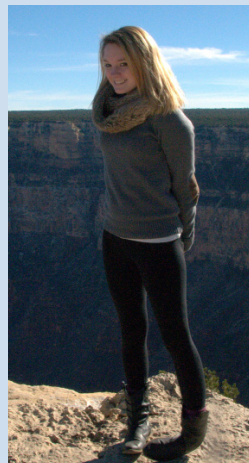


Trail volunteers from CFPA and the Guilford-based Sightlines company in the East River Preserve. (K. Magee)

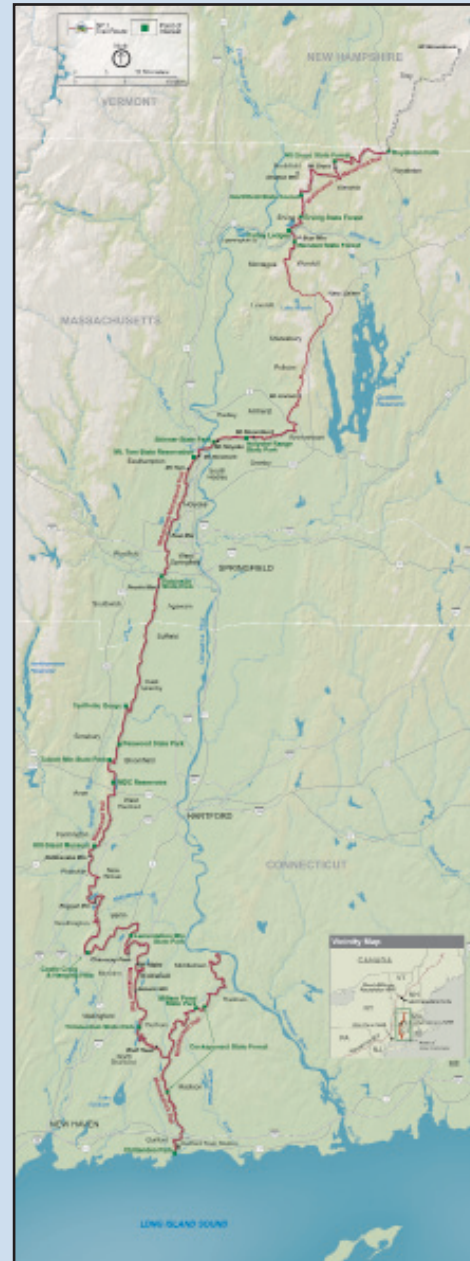
TRAIL RESTORATION AND TRAINING: In July, the NET was constructed through the East River Preserve in Guilford. With the help of more than 50 volunteers, over 30 cedar posts were installed over the Preserve's open and rolling fields for trail blazes. This new 2.5-mile segment enhances the trail experience near the NET terminus at Chittenden Park on the Long Island Sound.

TRAILS TO EVERY CLASSROOM: Farmington Alternative High School in Connecticut is piloting the NET's Trails to Every Classroom program. Projects include a "Tales from the Trail" video about Will Warren's Den on Rattlesnake Mountain, a NET guide to birding, and a poetry festival. In Massachusetts, the Hitchcock Center for Environment is developing interpretive programs for elementary school children.

FIVE-COLLEGE COMMUNITY OUTREACH: We are forging new partnerships with college outing clubs in the Amherst area to introduce students to the NET and trail stewardship. Elise Trelegan, a recent Hampshire College graduate and this year's NET-Fellow, will be coordinating this and other community-based outreach initiatives.



Elise Trelegan, New England Trail Fellow



Contact



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



JOSHUA SURETTE
New England National Scenic Trail Planner
Appalachian Mountain Club
jsurette@outdoors.org
413.835.0410



CHARLES TRACY
National Park Service
charles_tracy@nps.gov
617.223.5210

New England Trail

National Scenic Trail
Connecticut and Massachusetts



2012 Accomplishments / 2013 Goals



Experience the New England Landscape

Designated as a national scenic trail in 2009, 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. Marked with blue blazes in Connecticut and white in Massachusetts, the NET has something for 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 further information, including guides and maps, please visit www.newenglandtrail.org.

New NET Tent Platforms: Last summer, the Trustees of Reservations Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps built three platforms adjacent to the Richardson-Zlogar NET Shelter in Northfield, MA. (AMC)

NEW ENGLAND TRAIL

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total Trail
215 miles

New/Enhanced Trail
20.5 miles

Enjoying the Trail
More than 5,500 users

Caring for the Trail
312 Volunteers

Giving Time to the Trail
7,000 volunteer hours

Valuing Volunteer Time
\$140,000

Community Partnerships
\$3,900,000 in support of trail protection and maintenance

Welcoming Hikers
22 Trail events and 12 trail workdays; 3 Tent Platforms, 4 Trailhead Kiosks and 15 Trail Signs



< *Tryptich, Above Millers River, 2012*
Barbara Bosworth



“The best part has been meeting so many different people connected with the New England Trail, from geology and dinosaur track experts to historians, naturalists, trail volunteers, and hikers—each one shared their love for the outdoors.”

Barbara Bosworth, National Park Service Artist-in-Residence, NET.

Having completed a year of photography with her large-format camera on the New England Trail, NPS artist-in-residence Barbara Bosworth and curator Randi Hopkins are organizing a multi-site exhibition, scheduled for September/October 2013.

The View from Here

As we pass our three-year milepost and reflect on this past year’s activities and accomplishments, it is obvious that the value of the NET to supporters and surrounding communities is deepening. This has become ever more apparent as we expand our work with land trust partners, our volunteer maintainers, Ridgerunners, municipalities and trail users. More people are inspired by the NET and sharing their experience of this new National Scenic Trail. These include sculptor Christopher Frost, who, in response to the scenic beauty of the Holyoke Range, created the Hespera Stones and the NPS Youth Ambassadors, who produced a dynamic music video about how the NET can reconnect us with nature and ourselves. Thank you for helping us to discover new dimensions of the trail experience.

Blazing Forward: 2013 Goals

We will work to provide the best possible experience—safe, friendly, inspiring, memorable—for everyone who visits the NET. Progress toward that goal in 2013 will include:

- Enhancing, preserving, and improving access to the NET with a new website and trail app
- Cooperating with Farmington Alternative High School and the Hitchcock Environmental Center through our “Trails to Every Classroom” program
- Organizing a multi-site photography exhibition of artist-in-residence Barbara Bosworth
- Launching the Community Partners program to strengthen business partnerships with the NET
- Coordinating with the Mass Walking Tour, a special summer music event.

Enhancing the Trail Experience

NEW TENT PLATFORMS AND TRAILHEAD KIOSKS: In Massachusetts, The Trustees of Reservations’ Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps worked on trail restoration at Mt. Tom State Reservation and constructed three new tent platforms at the Richardson-Zlogar cabin in Northfield this past summer.” In Connecticut, trail visibility and navigation were enhanced by new trailhead kiosks with QR codes (allowing visitors to download trail maps) were installed at the Ragged Mountain Preserve, Rockland Preserve, Giuffrida Park and Timberlin Park. Additional trail identification signs were installed at nine smaller trailheads.

NEW ENGLAND TRAIL RIDGERUNNERS: This past summer, the new NET Ridgerunner program was initiated with two full-time ridgerunners working on Mt. Tom in Massachusetts and a team of weekend volunteers in Connecticut on Mt. Higby in Middletown and in the Ragged Mt Preserve in Berlin. These trail ambassadors conducted user surveys, assisted hikers, and shared trail maps.

LONG-TERM TRAIL STEWARDSHIP: Thanks to generous funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, CFPA has begun meeting with local towns and trail supporters in the northern half of the state to begin developing a long-term strategy for trail protection. This multi-year project will identify trail sections that are especially vulnerable and help strengthen the NET’s landowner outreach for the northern half of the trail in Connecticut.



The Trustees of Reservations’ Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps (TTOR)



NEW ENGLAND TRAIL
www.newenglandtrail.org