



2014 Accomplishments / 2015 Goals



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 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 more information, including guides and maps, please visit www.newenglandtrail.org.

Jam Belden-Herrera on a Family Ramble/Letterboxing adventure at Castle Craig in Meriden, CT. There were more than 40 public events on the NET this year.

NEW ENGLAND TRAIL

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total Trail:
215 miles

New/Enhanced Trail:
12 miles

Enjoying the Trail:
More than 10,000 day hikers;
more than a dozen thru-hikers

Caring for the Trail:
165 Volunteers

Giving Time to the Trail:
6,750 volunteer hours

Valuing Volunteer Time:
\$183,000

Community Partnerships:
\$2.24M in support of trail
protection, maintenance
and community outreach

Welcoming Hikers:
40 Trail events, 1 Trailwide
event, plus new *NET Family
Rambles* and *Walks & Talks*
educational hike series in
Connecticut



Making Creative Connections

As we gaze forward to opportunities for new connections with young people and strengthening trail partnerships, it is a good time to reflect on this year's record of accomplishments. Even a quick glance reveals an elegant new boardwalk and kiosk at the NET Southern Gateway in Guilford, Connecticut; new initiatives to nurture youth leadership through our NET College Network and Teen Trail Crew; and improvements to management and training for our valued trail volunteers. Please read on: this year's report provides a surprising range of creative connections.

Blazing Forward: 2015 Goals

- Growing the New England Trail College Network
- Strengthening partnerships with communities and land trusts
- Expanding the scope of the summer Teen Trail Crew
- Publishing a new NET Map & Guide



New England Trail College Network Fall visit to Farley Ledges in Erving MA.



NEW ENGLAND TRAIL
www.newenglandtrail.org



The cloud-draped Holyoke Range as seen from Mount Pollux in Amherst, Massachusetts on a July morning.
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Enhancing the Trail Experience

CONSERVING LANDS ALONG THE NEW ENGLAND TRAIL: In 2014, the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs awarded a \$1.5M Landscape Partnership grant to the Kestrel Land Trust protect land on the Mount Holyoke Range, which includes the New England Trail. This initiative, which has already protected 336 acres, is part of a broader strategy to protect up to 11,000 acres on both the Mount Holyoke and Mount Tom mountain ranges.

FAMILY RAMBLES AND WALKS & TALKS: CFPA hosted a ramble/letterboxing series for young hikers and an educational *Walks & Talks* series for adults on the NET. With over 40 participants, many were able to experience the NET in a new way.

ART ON THE NEW ENGLAND TRAIL: Through *Parks to People*, a community-based art project, Carolina Aragon, New England Trail artist-in-residence and Smith College lecturer, collaborated with her Art and Ecology students and an after-school group from the William R. Peck School in Holyoke. *Parks to People's* young artists explored the NET and created paintings, photographs, postcards and a colorful bus placard to inspire the public to visit state parks along the NET, such as Mount Tom State Reservation.



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Parks to People created a direct connection to the local landscape, especially for youth and recent immigrant groups.”

- Carolina Aragon, NET Artist-in Residence.



Parks to People field trip to Mount Tom State Park

This new poster was created by Jonathan Scheele, whose father had a long career at the National Park Service's Southeast Archeological Center.





Opening the new boardwalk and building the kiosk at Chittenden Park in Guilford, CT.

SOUTHERN GATEWAY DEDICATED IN GUILFORD: The NET officially reached Long Island Sound at a National Trails Day dedication event in June at Guilford’s Chittenden Park. The park now features a gently-curved boardwalk over the dunes to an overlook platform. From the platform, walkers can view Falkner Island, Chaffinch Island Park, and the West River. A kiosk built by Guilford High’s Advanced Woodworking students—and assisted by many hands—was installed at the park entrance. Twenty-three donors and in-kind contributors (plus countless partners, supporters & volunteers) made the project possible.

NEW TRAILHEAD MURAL: Students from Guilford High School removed graffiti and enhanced a bridge abutment with scenes from the local community and the NET.

TEEN TRAIL CREW: AMC employed 30 teens over three separate “Summer Teen Trail Crew” programs. These teens worked under supervision of Berkshire Chapter Field Supervisors to complete projects along the NET in Wendell and Warwick, MA.

TRAIL ADOPTER TRAINING IN MASSACHUSETTS: AMC Volunteer Engagement staff delivered a highly successful Trail Adopter training for the core 12 volunteers serving the NET in Massachusetts. The event bolstered the enthusiasm and skills of these instrumental NET volunteers, and included both administrative and field training sessions.



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