



## 2019 Accomplishments / 2020 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 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](http://www.newenglandtrail.org).

*NET from above at Mount Norwattuck.*

*Image: Jamie Malcolm Brown.*

*About this image: <https://jamiemalcolmbrown.com/>*

# NEW ENGLAND TRAIL

## 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Total Trail**  
215 miles

**Caring for the Trail**  
478 Volunteers

**Giving Time to the Trail**  
4,249 volunteer hours

**Valuing Volunteer Time**  
\$108,815

**Thanking Trail Crews**  
13 NET Crew Members  
2,300 Hours Worked

**Hike50 and Hike100 Challenge**  
1,100 Participants  
256 Challenges Completed  
Over 18,500 miles hiked

The NET is “a beautiful trail with challenges, rich history, rare flora and an incredible community through which it passes.” Mat J. of Collinsville CT.



**NEW ENGLAND TRAIL**  
[www.newenglandtrail.org](http://www.newenglandtrail.org)  
[www.nps.gov/neen](http://www.nps.gov/neen)



## Reflecting on Ten Years of Trail

As the New England Trail celebrates its tenth birthday, let's take a moment and look back on all that we've achieved during the last decade. We've had an incredible increase and interest in our volunteer program, our land protection efforts have helped secure important sections of trail, our youth and family hikes are popular, our community partnerships have deepened and our Summer trail crews are doing amazing on-the-ground work. Our popular Hike50 Challenge has captured the excitement of our hiking community. Heading into 2020 we are committed to building on these successes and to expanding our efforts. We are excited to launch a new interactive website with enhanced mapping this year so the public can access the trail more easily. We couldn't accomplish any of these things without our wonderful trail community. We are eager to see where the next ten years will take us as we continue to improve the New England Trail experience for all.

## To Blaze a Trail: 2020 Goals

- 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
- Energize new communities around the trail
- Launch new and improved interactive NET website



Left: National Trails Day hike on the NET, Lisa Liesener.



Young hikers enjoy Meet-up/ Teach-up event in CT led by the National Park Foundation on the NET in collaboration with our Artist-in-Residence, Marisa Williamson.

## Celebrating Hike50/Hike100 Challenge Completions!



"There's nothing like having a map in your hand, and a hike on the NET awaiting you. Yet, every inch of this trail has been a magnificent experience I was able to enjoy with friends and family!" - Logan M.

## Enhancing the NET Experience

**EVENTS:** In 2019 CFP and AMC held various public events along the NET and in surrounding communities. Our 2019 Artist-in-Residence, Marisa Williamson, created postcards and monuments that memorialized stories along the trail. In MA we continued our engagement with the local college outing clubs and partnered with them for several trail events. In CT volunteers completed the Metacomet Loop, creating a new long hiking loop opportunity in Berlin and Meriden. Volunteers also worked on a major trail improvement project in Farmington to stabilize and strengthen a trail section that suffered from serious erosion. *Right: AIR Postcard created by Marisa Williamson.*



**NEW TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR:** Andrew Long is our new Trail Administrator for the National Park Service (NPS). He comes from a leadership and management background in the US Marine Corps and from the Yale School of Management. After earning his MBA, Andrew started in a full time position, with the NPS in Hartford, CT helping to plan and establish Coltsville National Historical Park. Andrew is an avid outdoorsman and history nerd, and thrilled with the opportunity to work with the New England Trail community. He lives in Madison, CT with his wife and two very active toddlers. *Right: Andrew Long, National Park Service.*



"Hiking renews my soul and keeps me sane, and I love having the NET so close to my home here in West Hartford." - Lori D.



Hike 100 NET Challenge Completion patch created by Jonathan Scheele.

Purchase NET trail guides at the CFP Bookstore or the AMC Bookstore.



Connecticut trail crew completing new footbridge on NET.



Massachusetts teen trail crew installing signage in Skinner State Park.

## Trail Crews and Field Work


**2019 UPDATES:** 2019 was a landmark year for trail crews on the NET! Both AMC and CFPA hosted their own summer crews on the trail. AMC partnered for the second time with the City of Holyoke and the organization MassHire to employ 8 local youth for seven weeks on the NET. During their time on the crew they developed trail building 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 spent the Summer of 2019 sweating it out on trail projects around CT. On the NET, the crew re-built a footbridge in West Hartford learning basic carpentry skills along the way. They also assisted with a major trail relocation in Durham taking the trail off an old eroded cart path and onto a newly contoured trail section. In Berlin, the crew heaved and hauled rock from the surrounding hillside to harden the trail in areas that had become unstable over time.

**LOOKING TOWARDS 2020:** In CT, CFPA plans to work on two major trail relocations and construct three footbridges in the coming year. In MA, AMC plans to work on a roadwalk relocation and increasing training opportunities for its trail adopter program. Both organizations will work towards developing a comprehensive trail inventory as well.





REI workparty on NET, 2019.



### New England Trail Map & Guide

**MASSACHUSETTS-CONNECTICUT**

- 20 Hikes for All Ability Levels
- Trail Segment Mileage
- Waterproof



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