



2022 Accomplishments / 2023 Goals



Learning about Chief Metacomb with the NET's Indigenous Consultant. - Kayleigh Moses.

The 235-mile New England Trail (NET) includes portions of four largely contiguous trails: the Mattabesett, Menunkatuck and Metacomb Trails in Connecticut and parts of the Metacomb-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

The principal trail stewards of the NET are the staff and volunteers of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) in Connecticut and the Western Mass 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.



NEW ENGLAND TRAIL

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total Trail
235 miles

Caring for the Trail
145 CT Volunteers
60 MA Volunteers
205 Total Volunteers

Giving Time to the Trail
7,445 volunteer hours

Valuing Volunteer Time
\$222,978

Hike50 & Hike100 Challenge
1,000 + Participants
63 Challenges Completed
8,900 miles hiked in 2022



*Hiker patch for
2022 Hike 50 Challenge.*



NEW ENGLAND TRAIL
www.newenglandtrail.org
www.nps.gov/reen



What was new in 2022?

The NET was fortunate to host Tribal Consultant, Jay Levy, to more fully understand and document the trail's history. Cultural sites along the trail corridor in CT were the primary focus. Part of this project was also to map Native territories in CT. Levy interviewed many Native experts and led interpretive hikes for Native Youth and non-Native hikers to share the significance of the Indigenous histories on the NET.



The NET hosted Kayleigh Moses as our first Community Volunteer Ambassador, in a year-long conservation internship. She assisted with many outreach and capacity-building projects for the trail, including the Indigenous site survey initiative.

Blazing a Trail- 2023 Goals

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.

These goals include:

- Continuing Indigenous site survey work in MA
- Release of our interactive trail storymap
- Hosting the Trail's second Community Volunteer Ambassador
- Potential acquisition of a 200-acre Southwick, MA property
- Improving overnight accommodations for long-distance hikers



View of Mt. Grace from the Richardson-Zlogar Cabin. - Donald Odell.

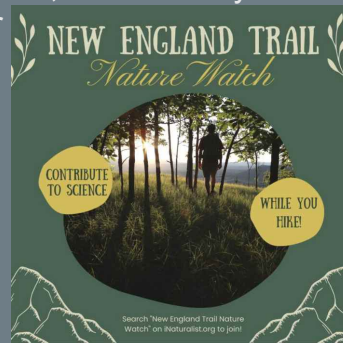
Hike Challenge Highlights



"Was able to share half of my hikes with my Grandson, Derek. Passing on the love of nature... is one of my greatest presents to him." - William Lanzoni of Wallingford, CT.

Enhancing the NET Experience

The NET hosted a Scientists in Parks intern, who initiated the New England Trail Nature Watch project on iNaturalist, a community science app. The project encouraged outdoor recreationists to make plant observations along the NET. This crowd-sourced data helps fill in the gaps where traditional data is scarce. Having a better understanding of the biodiversity on the trail will help us protect and understand the unique ecosystems the trail traverses.



"It was really fun, and I was pleasantly surprised with the beauty of it." - Jordan Marchand of Lowell, MA.

Land Conservation

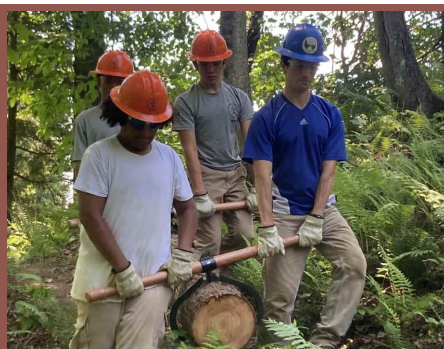
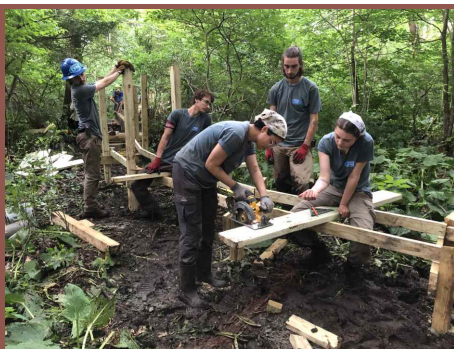
The National Park Service has completed its first NET Land Protection Plan. Partners worked together to develop criteria and values for our land protection work through multi-session interviews and group workshops. This Plan will assist efforts to ensure the trail corridor is protected for generations to come. Trail partners have also teamed up with the Trust for Public Land to develop an interactive trailwide mapping tool for land protection.

The Wallingford Land Trust in CT protected a 14-acre wooded parcel to protect a section of the NET. The Town of Guilford, CT also acquired a property that hosts a small section of the NET, ensuring trail connectivity in that municipality.

The Trustees of Reservations purchased 63 acres of land from a private landowner adjacent to their Royalston Falls property in Royalston, MA, protecting 0.3 miles of the NET in the process. The Trustees plan to expand their parking area to keep pace with the popularity of Royalston Falls as a recreation destination.



"A place I could have an epic adventure within driving distance from home." - Ryan Fernand of New Fairfield, CT.

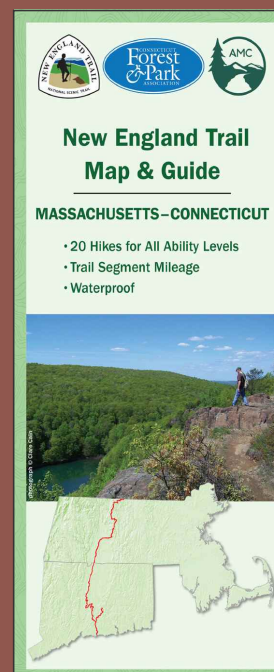


CFPA and AMC young adult Trail Crews working to improve the NET for hikers.

TRAIL CREWS:

In Massachusetts, AMC worked alongside the MassHire Holyoke Career Center this year to establish a youth trail crew who would maintain and improve the NET for 6 weeks this summer. This year's crew consisted of eight youth who developed trail building skills and environmental ethics by constructing bog bridging, reroutes, water bars, stone steps, and prepared and provided a lesson on Leave No Trace (LNT) principles in Stanley Park, Westfield, MA. The crew also attended an overnight at AMC's Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA.

In Connecticut, CFPA's Trail Crew were not afraid to get muddy! Crew members contended with deep mud to complete an incredibly impressive 100-foot elevated bog bridge and 20-foot footbridge on the NET, just north of Timberlin Park in Berlin. The Crew also built a 20-foot bridge and completed a relocation on the George Etzel-Meyerhuber Trail, a connector to the NET in Guilford. The Crew camped in the field for many weeks experiencing backcountry camp life and learning outdoor skills.



VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

Volunteers from UMass Amherst helped open a 100-yard reroute on the NET in Easthampton, MA. This reroute now connects the trail to the new Mount Tom North Trailhead Park, which opened in the summer. Thanks to AMC volunteers, the new park's accessible trail, picnic area, and parking area provide a permanent connection to the Mount Tom State Reservation from the Town of Easthampton.

Connecticut's volunteer RockStars worked on a number of stone steps, retaining walls and improvements at Giuffrida Park in Meriden to better stabilize the trail surface. Volunteers also joined our trail crew over a series of work parties to re-build foot bridges and to relocate sections of trail to more sustainable locations.

CFPA volunteer Trail Managers worked together and independently to clear brush, install signs, cut blowdowns, paint blazes, and keep the trail in great shape.



CLARE CAIN

Trails Director
Connecticut Forest & Park
Association
ccain@ctwoodlands.org
860.346.8733



LIAM CREGAN

New England National Scenic
Trail Planner
Appalachian Mountain Club
lcregan@outdoors.org
413.835.4593



ANDREW LONG

Trail Administrator
National Park Service
andrew_long@nps.gov
413.351.8182