

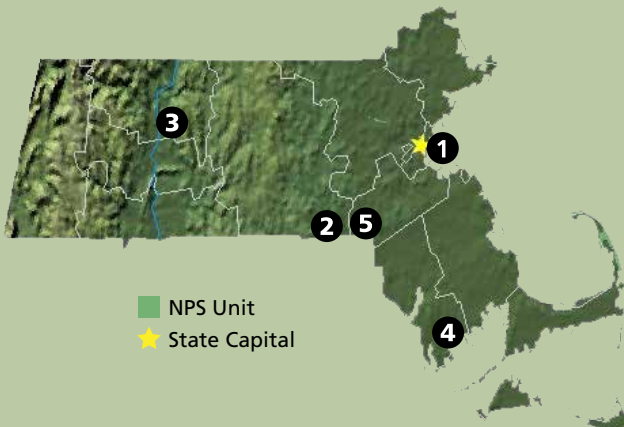


Massachusetts News



Mt. Holyoke Outing Club hiking the New England Trail.
Photo: Elise Trelegan

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Connect Historic Boston
City of Boston
2. Last Green Valley Water Trails Video
The Last Green Valley, Inc.
3. New England National Scenic Trail
Appalachian Mountain Club
4. SoCo Blueways
Buzzards Bay Coalition
5. Southern New England Trunkline Trail
Friends of the SNETT

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT): A Growing Trail of Friends

In July 2012, the Town of Bellingham applied for National Park Service assistance on behalf of three towns -- Bellingham, Franklin, and Blackstone -- and two non-profits -- the Bay State Trail Riders Association and the Franklin and Bellingham Rail Trail Committee. The project, which aimed to improve the Southern New England Trunkline Trail SNETT, began in October 2012 and the "Friends of the SNETT" quickly came together.

Simply stated, the "Friends of the SNETT" want to improve, promote, and enjoy the trail, while making more friends along the way. In 2013, the Friends of the SNETT expanded their partnership, developed a consensus about the future development of the trail, and improved public awareness of the SNETT. Their strategy combines advocacy to elected officials at all levels, public events, and on-the-ground projects, such as Eagle Scout, Ryan Gonthier, who designed and built an excellent SNETT trailhead kiosk, along with benches and landscaping.

"I have personally enjoyed the time I have spent on the trail, and with [NPS] continued dedication and hard work, the Southern New England Trunkline Trail will become more accessible to all."

- Joe Kennedy, US Congressman, MA-4th.

Current Projects

1. Connect Historic Boston

Project Partner: City of Boston, Boston National Historical Park
NPS Contact: George Robinson
Location: Boston
Congressional District: MA - 8

Project Goal

Create pedestrian and bicycle connections between transit hubs at North Station, Aquarium, State Street, and NPS sites including visitor centers at Faneuil Hall, Charlestown Navy Yard, and the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway – Boston's ribbon of contemporary parks.

NPS Role

Assist the City of Boston in developing successful approaches for connecting park areas, public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

2. Last Green Valley Water Trails Video

Project Partner: Last Green Valley, Inc.
NPS Contact: John Monroe
Location: Northeastern Connecticut, Southcentral Massachusetts
Congressional Districts: CT - 2; MA - 2

Project Goal

Produce six, five-minute promotional videos about regional water trails in

conjunction with Woodstock Academy (public high school) students and faculty.

NPS Role

Assist project partners by helping to complete the video project funded in part by the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program.

3. New England National Scenic Trail

Project Partner: Appalachian Mountain Club
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: Massachusetts, Connecticut
Congressional Districts: MA - 1, 2; CT - 1, 2, 3, 5

Project Goal

Provide the best trail experience for all users of the New England Trail.

NPS Role

Assist the Trail Stewardship Council with trail corridor land conservation, natural and cultural resource interpretation, public outreach, and trail management.



Massachusetts Walking Tour Concert at Richardson-Zlogar Cabin in Northfield.
Photo: Elise Trelegan

4. SoCo Blueways

Project Partner: Buzzards Bay Coalition
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: New Bedford
Congressional Districts: MA - 4

Project Goal

Develop a regional vision for a new National Water Trail on Buzzards Bay in southeastern Massachusetts.

NPS Role

Share NPS national experience to build an inclusive coalition and realize a community-wide vision for a National Water Trail connected with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

5. Southern New England Trunkline Trail

Project Partner: Friends of the SNETT
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: Bellingham
Congressional District: MA - 2

Project Goal

Improve community access to the 22-mile Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) as a multi-use recreation trail.

NPS Role

Share successful strategies for engaging public support and volunteers in the trail improvement projects. Identify funding resources for trail-related facilities.



Dean College Outdoor Recreation Club has volunteered to work with the Franklin and Bellingham Rail Trail Committee. Photo: Friends of the SNETT

We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

A Hip Hop Musical Adventure on the New England Trail

A new hip hop music video about adventure along the New England National Scenic Trail (NET) is creating a buzz among young people. Produced by the National Park Service Youth Ambassador Program (YAP), the storyline for the video is inspired by *The Matrix*. With already 1000 views on YouTube, the YAP video has energized young people across New England to “find their adventure” on the NET. It has even spurred other trails to produce their own dance videos.



NPS Youth Ambassadors on the New England Trail. Photo: NPS

Impressed by the energy and style of YAP’s earlier video, *Get Outside and Move*, which encourages people to explore parks and trails in their backyard, “invited YAP to work with us on the NET,” said Charles Tracy, NPS New England National Scenic Trail Superintendent. “Witnessing the creative process of this team of young artists was an amazing experience.

YAP approached the project with professionalism and brought fresh ideas to the table.” The project goals were to generate greater awareness of the trail and to encourage New England youth to get active. YAP also helped trail managers appreciate the effectiveness of peer-to-peer communication.

Building on the success of the NET video, YAP continues to expand awareness through school visits where the YAP team show their videos and share their outdoor experiences. The NET’s primary trail partners, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, are also using the video as part of their outreach programs.

To view the YAP NET video, click [here](#).

“Well, the hike up Mount Higby is a long hard climb, but when you make it to the top though, the view is divine!”

- Dakota Lopes, Performer, NPS Youth Ambassador Program.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.