



Massachusetts News



Building a new cabin on the New England National Scenic Trail in Northfield
Photo: Sam Richardson

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Last Green Valley Water Trails**
The Last Green Valley, Inc.
- 2. New England National Scenic Trail**
Connecticut Forest & Park Association and
Appalachian Mountain Club
- 3. ArtWorks! New Bedford**
ArtWorks! Partners for the Arts & Community and
New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- 4. Monatiquot Riverwalk**
Town of Braintree
- 5. Connect Historic Boston**
City of Boston

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides 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.

Recent Successes

A New Shelter in Northfield and Southwick Lands Protected

Nearly 2 million people live within 10 miles of the newly-designated New England National Scenic Trail (NET), which offers superb walking and long-distance hiking in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The 250-mile route features the classic New England landscape: long distance vistas of rural towns, small farms, unfragmented forests, and large river valleys. At a time when many Americans are becoming disconnected from nature, the NET provides a valuable, convenient outlet for enjoying New England's outdoors. The NET is maintained by volunteers of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) with assistance from the National Park Service.

continued on page 3

“The New England Trail is peaceful hiking, yet never dull. Serene for sure, yet full of surprises. . . every single section affords the hiker a treat, be it a lovely waterfall, a breathtaking cliff, an historic stone marker, a babbling brook, a blueberry patch. . .”

Tom Tella, Wolcott, Connecticut

Current Projects



Chip Pray marks new NET trailhead in Southwick. Photo credit: Appalachian Mountain Club

1. Last Green Valley Water Trails

Project Partner: The Last Green Valley, Inc.

RTCA Contact: John Monroe

Location: Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor, Connecticut and Massachusetts
Congressional Districts: CT - 2, MA - 2

Project Goal

A network of water trails in the upper Thames Basin (Willimantic, Shetucket, Quinebaug, Five Mile, and the French) that are designated National Recreation Trails. Included will be Paddle Guides, on-the-ground stewardship improvements, celebration events, and a River Ranger volunteer program.

RTCA Role

Advise the water trail steering committee, assist with National Recreation Trail nomination, and help to mobilize River Rangers volunteers.

2. New England National Scenic Trail

Project Partner: Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Appalachian Mountain Club

RTCA Contact: Charles Tracy

Location: 39 communities in central Connecticut and Massachusetts
Congressional District: MA - 2

Project Goal

Create connector trails with communities, construct trail shelters, and reach out to area college students.

RTCA Role

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

3. ArtWorks! New Bedford

Project Partner: ArtWorks! Partners for the Arts & Community and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

RTCA Contact: Charles Tracy

Location: New Bedford, Massachusetts
Congressional District: MA - 4

Project Goal

Establishment of a new artist-in-residence thematically linked with New Bedford community arts programming.

RTCA Role

Provide consultation in developing community arts partnership for temporary and permanent public art and public events.

4. Monatiquot Riverwalk

Project Partner: Town of Braintree

RTCA Contact: Charles Tracy

Location: Monatiquot River, Braintree, Massachusetts

Congressional District: MA - 9

Project Goal

Connect commercial area, new transit station, neighborhoods and recreation fields with accessible bicycle/walking facilities.

RTCA Role

Help with trail design, interpretive signage and development, and identify funding sources.

5. Connect Historic Boston

Project Partner: City of Boston, Boston National Historical Park

RTCA Contact: George Robinson

Location: Boston, Massachusetts

Congressional District: MA - 8

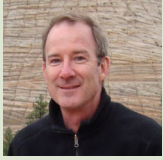
Project Goal

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

RTCA Role

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

We're Here For You.
Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 1,991 Miles of Trail Developed
- 1,925 Miles of River Conserved
- 33,230 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
- 94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

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



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Recent Successes cont.

In Northfield, Barbara and Sam Richardson, with help from Berkshire Chapter trail volunteers, are constructing a new cabin for multi-day NET hikers. The cabin site, now protected by a conservation easement generously donated by the Richardsons, affords sweeping mountaintop views in all directions: Mt. Monadnock to the north, Mt. Greylock to the west, and Mt. Wachusett to the east.

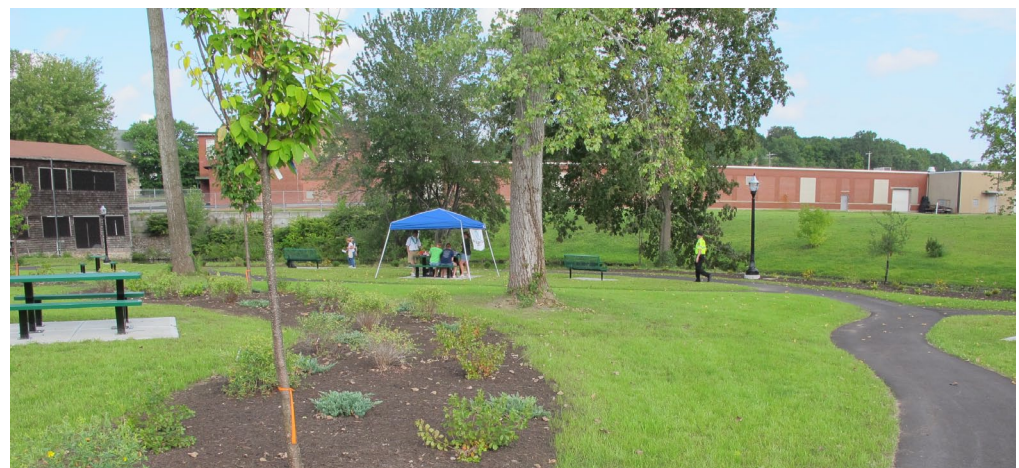
Barbara arrived back from store with the concrete blocks, a staple gun for attaching the house-wrap, and hot coffee. We put the concrete blocks in place, moved the skids, and fiddled with them until they were square. We then nailed a joist across the end of the skids to hold things in place. ~ Sam Richardson 9/17/11

The Town of Southwick, in partnership with the Valley Land Trust and AMC's Berkshire Chapter, protected a 43-acre parcel that includes a vital half-mile section of the NET. A new conservation restriction now permanently protects this land, which includes extensive wetlands and Southwick's scenic traprock ridges.

French River Greenway



Three years after Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) involvement in the French River Greenway, Ken Parker cut the ribbon to open French River Park, in Webster MA. John Monroe presented Ken and the French River Connection with a Conservation Hero Award.



Hundreds of people turned out to celebrate the transformation of a weedy vacant lot into a lovely public park, made possible by the donation of an easement by the landowner.