

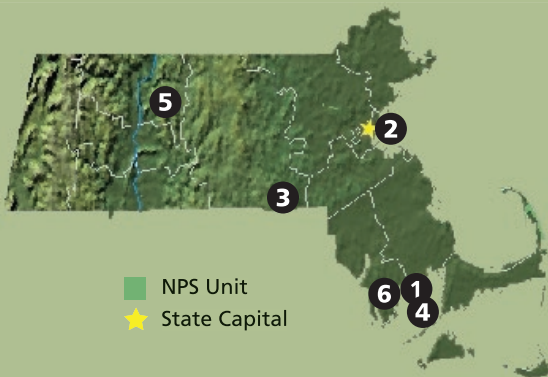


Massachusetts News



Summer Hikers on the New England Trail. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. ArtWorks! New Bedford**
ArtWorks! Partners for the Arts & Community
- 2. Connect Historic Boston**
City of Boston, Boston National Historic Park
- 3. Last Green Valley Water Trails**
Last Green Valley, Inc.
- 4. New Bedford Water Trail**
New Bedford Whaling National History Alliance
- 5. New England National Scenic Trail**
Appalachian Mountain Club
- 6. Taunton River Greenway**
Taunton River Trail Committee

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Connecting with Art

Three art projects designed to connect people to the New England National Scenic Trail are currently underway. Sculptor Christopher Frost has developed Hespera Stones, named for a mythical forest nymph who appears at dusk, that gently glow with LED lights powered by solar panels. Landscape photographer Barbara Bosworth is creating photographs of the land and people of the New England Trail as part of a multi-year project. The NPS Youth Ambassadors, based at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, are producing a music video celebrating the New England Trail.

Young People on the New England Trail

The Trustees of Reservations and the Appalachian Mountain Club joined forces with National Park Service this summer to enhance outdoor job opportunities for young people in Holyoke, thanks to a grant from the Boston Youth Environmental Network and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The grant helped to expand

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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.

Current Projects

1. ArtWorks! New Bedford

Project Partner: ArtWorks! Partners for the Arts & Community
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: New Bedford, MA
Congressional District: MA - 9

Project Goal

Establishment of a park-based artist-in-residency at New Bedford Whaling National Heritage Park, thematically linked with community arts programming and annual celebrations.

NPS Role

Consult with the development of a community arts partnership which integrates temporary and permanent public art and public events.

2. Connect Historic Boston

Project Partner: City of Boston, Boston National Historical Park
NPS Contact: George Robinson
Location: Boston
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, 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.

3. Last Green Valley Water Trails

Project Partner: Last Green Valley, Inc.
NPS Contact: John Monroe
Location: Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor in northeastern Connecticut and adjacent towns in Massachusetts
Congressional District: MA - 1, 2

Project Goal

Create network of water trails in the upper Thames Basin (Willimantic, Shetucket, Quinebaug, Five Mile, and the French).

NPS Role

Implement a Challenge Cost-Share Project to produce promotional videos about regional water trails.

4. New Bedford Water Trail

Project Partner: New Bedford Whaling History Alliance
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: Acushnet River, New Bedford
Congressional District: MA - 9

Project Goal

A new water trail along the Acushnet River which engages New Bedford's young people in healthy recreation and connects them to the City's maritime heritage.

NPS Role

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

5. New England National Scenic Trail

Project Partner: Appalachian Mountain Club
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: 39 communities in central Connecticut and Massachusetts.
Congressional District: MA - 1, 2

Project Goal

Create the best possible visitor experience on this newly-designated National Scenic Trail.

NPS Role

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

6. Taunton River Greenway

Project Partner: Taunton River Trail Committee
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: Taunton River in southeastern Massachusetts
Congressional District: MA - 4, 8, 9

Project Goal

Conserve land, encourage environmentally sensitive development, and increase public access along Taunton River.

NPS Role

Share successful strategies for working with private landowners, engaging public support, and identifying funds.



Hespera Stones: Art on the New England Trail. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You.

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



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2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154 Miles of Trail Developed

1,074 Miles of River Conserved

70,385 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.

The Trustees' Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps to create two new positions, called "Ridge Runners," which are staff that welcome hikers to the New England Trail. The first Ridge Runners were two Holyoke residents, Yamira Vazquez and Jose Garcia. Vazquez just completed her first year at American International College in Springfield, where she is majoring in criminal justice and political science, and Garcia has been working with the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club as a supervisor, instructor, and lifeguard. Both had strong experience through their previous work with Trustees of Reservations Youth Corps. The Ridge Runners spent their weekends welcoming hikers, answering questions, providing directions to visitors, and monitoring trail conditions. They also worked with the younger Youth Conservation Corps crew members, providing the crew with trail condition reports and serving as professional role models.

"Young people need to be leaders and inspire others to get out there."

- Yamira Vasquez, Ridge Runner on the New England Trail



Youth Conservation Corps team building tent platforms on the New England Trail.
Photo: Appalachian Mountain Club