



2016 Accomplishments / 2017 Goals

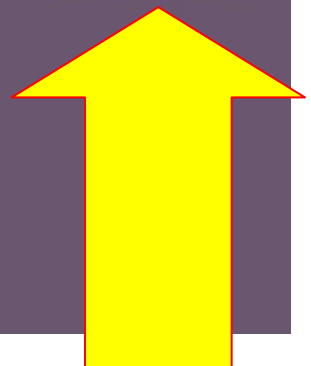


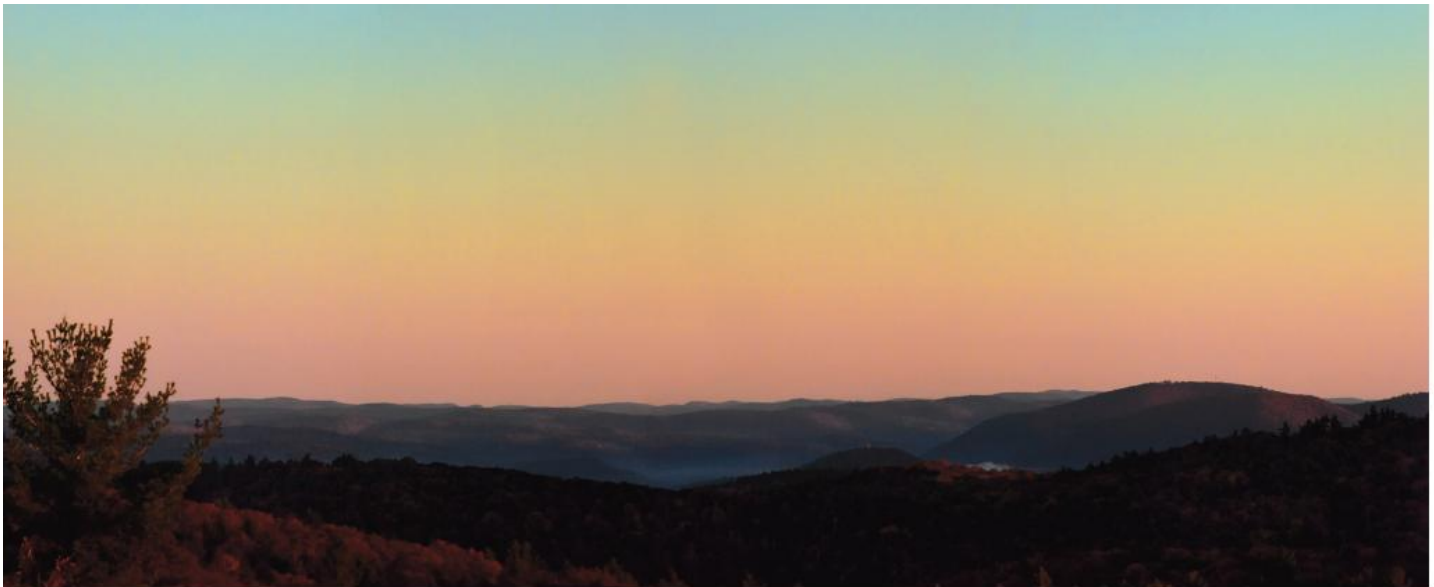
Caring for a New England Treasure

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 for 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.

*Hikers at Mount Norwottuck,
Amherst, Massachusetts
Photos: © 2017 Xiomaro.com*





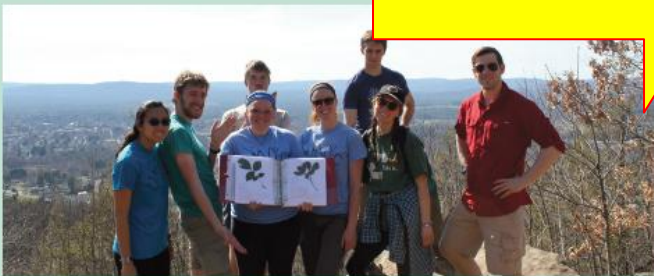
View from Richardson-Zlogar cabin, Northfield, Massachusetts
Photo: © 2017 Xiomaro.com

Steps in Stone — Stories in Stone

When Colin Carroll, CFPA Field Coordinator, and Poet-in-Residence David Leff met last summer on the trail, the intersection of their two projects beautifully reflected our mission to provide the highest quality experience for all users of the New England Trail. Colin was building stone steps to create a new sustainably-designed southern descent from Chauncey Peak on the Mattabesett Trail. David was embarking on his new residency: “to connect people better to the trail through poetry.” Please read on to learn more about our intersections and accomplishments.

To Blaze a Trail: 2017 Goals

- Strengthen relationships with private trail
- Increase leadership and skills training oppo
- Continue to promote uniform trail standar
- Develop projects to increase accessibility fo



Enhancing the Trail Experience

EVENTS: In April, AMC and NET partnered together to host a college outdoor festival featuring students from five local colleges. The festival included hikes, an orienteering competition, and a map-making workshop. In November, people gathered for the 10th anniversary of David K. Leff as the NET's first Poet-in-Residence. The event attracted an audience from both trail and artist communities and featured nature-inspired poems read by local poets, including Connecticut Poet Laureate, Rennie McQuilkin. The evening sparked interest in the trail, the artist-in-residence program, and provided an exciting way to kick-off this unique partnership.

NEW NET ARTISTS: The best way to meet our current artists, David K. Leff and Xiomáro, is through their [new video profiles](#). Our first poet in residence, Leff will be leading poetry-based hikes, workshops and working with other poets. Xiomáro has completed National Park Service photography commissions at park sites in Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts and New York.

