



Find Your Adventure

An Invitation to Explore

The New England Trail (NET) invites you to explore the beautiful places and changing seasons that inspired America's first landscape painters and reflect the essence of the New England landscape today. Stretching 215 miles through 39 communities from Long Island Sound in Connecticut to the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border, the NET features open fields, deep forests, mountain peaks, waterfalls, small streams and the region's unique traprock ridges. Whether you're out for an afternoon walk with friends or a multi-day backpacking adventure, this four-season recreation trail is easy to access and has something for everyone. Consider the NET as your open invitation to experience the forests, fields, mountains and river valleys of New England.



View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm—The Oxbow (1859). This view from Thomas Cole's masterpiece of American landscape painting is still largely visible today from the trail.



Partners for Success

The principal stewards and maintainers 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. CFPA and AMC work closely with the National Park Service to manage, protect, restore and care for this New England treasure. Maintained by dedicated volunteers, the NET is truly a trail built by and for the people.

In Connecticut, CFPA began organizing construction and maintenance for the Metacombet and Mattabesett Trails in the 1930s as part of CFPA's statewide Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System. In Massachusetts, Walter Banfield, a professor of botany at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, led a small corps of hiking enthusiasts that began laying out the trail in 1951 as an extension of Connecticut's Metacombet Trail.



Connecticut Forest & Park Association
www.ctforestandpark.org



Appalachian Mountain Club
www.outdoors.org



A Trail of Trails



Designated as a national scenic trail in 2009, the NET includes portions of four largely contiguous trails: sections of the Metacombet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts, and the Metacombet, Mattabesett and Menunkatuk Trails in Connecticut. Trail markings or "blazes" painted on trees signify the trail's route. Marked with blue blazes in Connecticut and white blazes in Massachusetts, the NET is an easy pathway to follow. For information, including trail guides and maps, please visit www.newenglandtrail.org.

Visit Nearby National Parks in New England

The New England Trail is part of the National Park System. Nearby national parks include the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Springfield Armory National Historic Site, and Weir Farm National Historic Site (see Vicinity Map on back). To learn more, visit www.nps.gov.

