



connections

*The newsletter of the Massachusetts
Greenways and Trails Program*

June 2009, No. 31

Events and Celebrations:

June has so many exciting trail events and happenings going on, from last weekend's National Trails Day to new trail openings and DCR's Health Heart Trails kick off, we'd like to try to share just a few coming up.

Mahican Mohawk Trail's South River Bridge Opening:



After nearly a decade of effort, a pedestrian bridge along the Mahican Mohawk Trail over the South River in Conway Massachusetts has finally been installed. This bridge sits at the site of what was once the tallest railroad bridge in southern New England.

Join the Deerfield River Watershed Association, Transcanada Hydro, DCR, and other friends and partners of this effort at the grand opening ceremony, June 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the end of Conway Station Road, Conway.

Grand Trunk Trail Honored with a "Save the Trails" Grant:

The Grand Trunk Trail Blazers and the Town of Sturbridge have won a \$5,000 Save the Trails™ grant from Nature Valley® and American Hiking Society, after 20,000 consumers cast online votes to decide the winners.

"This is the first time we've asked Americans to vote in support of their favorite hiking trails and we were amazed by their enthusiastic response," said Gregory A. Miller, American Hiking Society president. "It's been our pleasure to partner with Nature Valley to ensure these important trails will be available for millions to enjoy for many years to come."

More than 150 nonprofits from across the country competed for the grants. Nine other organizations are receiving \$5,000 in funding. Grand Trunk Trail Blazers and the Town of Sturbridge will use the money toward trail restoration during summer 2009.

Housatonic Riverwalk's National Recreational Trail Celebration:



Great Barrington's Riverwalk has recently been designated a "National Recreation Trail" and they will be celebrating this honor on Saturday, June 13, at 10:30 with friends, and state and federal legislators. The event will include remarks, a Riverwalk tour and a guided walk of Great Barrington's Central Loop Trail. For more information on this remarkable trail, visit: www.gbriverwalk.org/.

New England National Scenic Trail ~ Celebration Meetings:

President Obama recently signed the Omnibus Public Lands Act which included the designation of the New England National Scenic Trail. This Trail, (you may know it as the Metacomet-Monadnock or Mattabesett Trail), stretches over 200 miles from the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border to Middletown, Connecticut.



All are cordially invited to join the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the National Park Service, and all trail partners in a meeting to discuss the benefits of the designation for your town, and help lay the foundation for long-term support of the Trail. Celebrations will be held in Massachusetts and Connecticut on the following dates and times:

Massachusetts Celebration:

Wed. June 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Hadley Senior Center, 46 Middle Street, Hadley

Connecticut Celebration: Mon. June 22nd from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Northeast Utilities, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT 06037

These will be informal meetings and discussions designed to update interested parties about the Trail and its designation. We are inviting individuals to be involved in the Trail Stewardship Council, which will support the Trail and designation through advisory, communication and coordination roles. Information is also available on a new website for the Trail: NewEnglandNST.org

National Park Service Invites Applications for Assistance

The National Park Service, through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) works with communities and local organizations to plan and implement locally-led outdoor recreation trail and natural resource conservation projects. August 1 is the application deadline for the next round of RTCA assistance.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss project ideas with National Park Service before submitting an application. Contact Charles Tracy charles_tracy@nps.gov 617 223 5210 or visit www.nps.gov/rtca for more information.

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Please forward to others who might be interested in Massachusetts Greenways and Trails.



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