



2025 Bay Circuit Trail End of Year Report



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ~893+ BCT Committee hours
- 38 Staff led events
- 68 Volunteer led events
- 619 Event attendees
- 71 Group hikes
- 8 Bike rides
- 8 Tabling events
- 250 Volunteer leadership hours
- 200+ Miles of trail maintained
- 4 Reroutes completed
- 12 End-to-End submissions

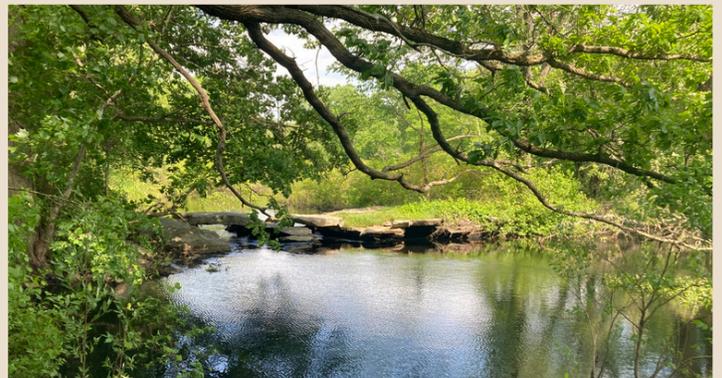
*Volunteer hours are always under-reported. The true number is higher!

1,455 VOLUNTEER HOURS

OUR STORY

The **Bay Circuit Trail & Greenway** is a 230+ mile multi-use trail surrounding greater Boston. This trail is maintained and protected by hundreds of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to this regional resource. In 2025 we expanded our reach to more people around Boston with a focus on trail **engagement** and **improvement**. This report includes some highlights from the season, but by no means covers all the incredible work accomplished across the trail.

Turn the page to learn more.





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A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP

Even after two years working on the BCT, I still have much to learn from this community. It is impossible to cover the true extent of the effort that goes into this trail and greenway in one report. 230 miles of trail are cared for by hundreds of volunteers who inspire me every day with their dedication.

The BCT is lesser known than many long-distance hiking trails, but those who are involved seem quite obsessed. Once discovered, the BCT becomes a personal challenge and an opportunity to explore eastern Massachusetts on foot or by bike. It provides calm spaces to birdwatch, fish, search for wildlife, explore local history, and to find like-minded new friends.

I am grateful for my role as BCT Coordinator - while it is a job, it is something I love to be a part of and to support every day. There is always work to be done, but this is the kind of work I look forward to. I'll see you out on the trail.

**Amber Stearns,
BCT Coordinator**

MEET THE TEAM

- BCT Coordinator:** Amber Stearns
- BCT Outreach Assistant:** Sarah Dolan
- Southern New England Trails Volunteer Programs Supervisor:** Connor Piechota
- Southern New England Trail Programs Manager:** Caitlin McCarthy





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2025 PRIORITIES

Engagement (pgs. 4-9)

- Goals
 - Targeted Audience
 - Retention of Vols
 - Expansion and Outreach
- Tactics
 - Events Calendar
 - Newsletter
 - Promotional Materials
 - Challenges
 - Consistency

Stewardship (pgs. 10-15)

- Goals
 - Improve the trail
 - Reduce road-walks
 - Receive & utilize community feedback
 - Bring new volunteers in
- Tactics
 - Work Parties & Trail Projects
 - Promo and communication with AMC Boston & Worcester 20s&30s
 - Tool Cache
 - BCT Committee & Volunteer Expertise

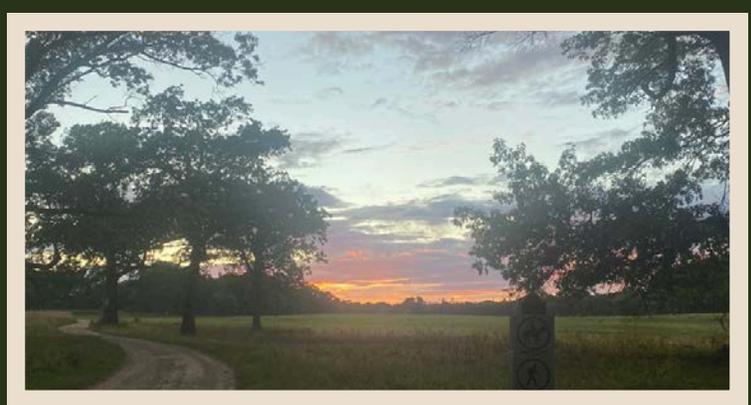
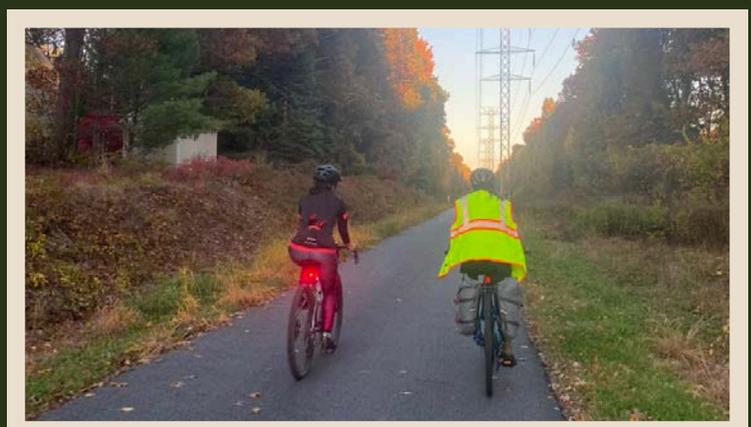
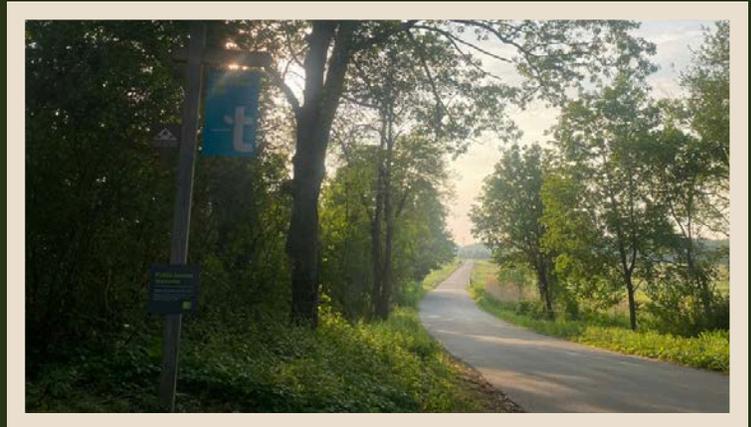
Gaps (pg 16)

- Bridgewater
- Tewksbury

Collaborations (pgs. 17-19)

- Spokes
- On-Trail Collabs

Thank You! (pgs. 20-21)





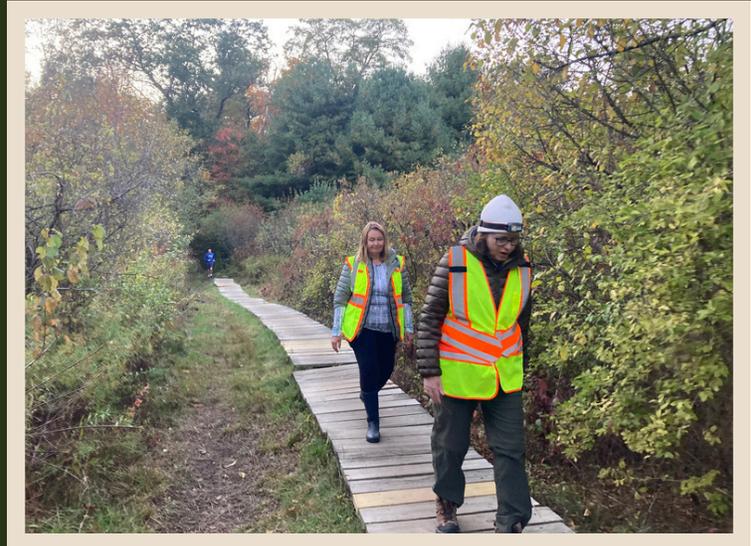
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2025 PRIORITIES CONT.

We set 4 primary goals for 2025.

Increasing engagement with the BCT was top priority since this need was reflected throughout the three other priority areas identified. These include **Stewardship, Gap Closures, and Partnerships.**



ENGAGING NEW AUDIENCES

For successful, long-term stewardship of our trails, we need to take an inter-generational approach. We need young people to get involved in trail stewardship. This year we made some choices to engage younger volunteers and trail users, and we tried to expand our outreach beyond the firmly established volunteers and partners we already know we can trust.

Strategies we utilized:

- Newsletter Distribution
- Website Events Calendar
- Hike/Bike Challenges
- Increase in Social Media usage and management
- Weekend and evening events
- Events accessible via public transit
- Targeted partnerships with AMC Boston/Worcester 20s&30s



**Learn to Ride:
Beginner Bike Class for Kids at
BCT's Northern Terminus**





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ENGAGEMENT

To increase engagement with the BCT is to improve the trail in nearly every capacity. The more people who are made aware of the Bay Circuit and who participate in its activities, maintenance, and protection, the better. This works both ways - access to the BCT and other outdoor spaces can improve public health and happiness.

Check out the table on the next page for an overview of the different events that took place across the trail. We'll take a closer look at these later in the report.





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Bay Circuit Trail 2025 Statistics	
Volunteer Hours*	~ 1,455
Committee & Associated Volunteer hours	~ 893
Volunteer Trip Leader hours	~ 250
Event Volunteer hours	312
Events, Activities, Presentations	129+
Staff Led Volunteer Events	13
Staff Led Hikes	6
Staff Led Rides	8
Presentations/Socials	11
Volunteer Led Hikes	68
Volunteer Led Projects*	12+
BCT Adjacent/Related events	12+
Recorded Event Attendees	619
Reroutes	4
Concord Annursnac	0.8 mi
Wayland @ Cow Common	0.25 mi
Southborough - Completion pending	0.2 mi
Easton - Trail alignment adjustment	0.1 mi
End to Enders	12
Cyclist End to Enders	1
Hike End to Enders	11
Hike Challenge Completions	6
*Many of the volunteer hours are under-reported and the true values are higher than shown here	



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ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTERS

To reach the BCT Community on a regular basis, we began a monthly Newsletter. **Eight installments of the newsletter** promoted upcoming events, highlighted accomplishments, advertised hike and bike challenges, and included some fun facts about the trail.

We are open to input from the community for contents of the Newsletters and aim to promote this engagement more in the coming years.

The mailing list has reached **300 people** as of November, 2025

Check out this year's Newsletters on the BCT website: [BCT Newsletters](#)

ENGAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Every year, dedicated people hike or cycle the whole BCT. These folks complete the impressive task of covering all 230+ miles of the BCT and are recognized below:

END TO ENDERS

- Bill Stanton (+5 companions)
- Michael Shwartz
- Beth Applebaum
- Kate Nachbar
- Erica Leinbach
- Jesse Leinbach
- Ryan Gies - Cyclist!

We hosted a Hike Challenge in 2025, encouraging people to hike 50 or 100 miles of the BCT. These challengers are below (but the challenge goes through Dec 30th so this may not cover everyone!)

HIKE CHALLENGERS

- Janel Paquin
- Stephen Kiley
- Dennis Pyburn Jr
- Dennis O'Donnell
- Jennifer Herman
- Cheryl Kreinbring





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ENGAGEMENT TABLING

To promote the BCT to new audiences, BCT Staff attended **6 opportunities** to table and promote the trail in nearby communities. We participated in **Pedal Power at the Museum of Science** (sponsored by HubLuv), **Medfield Day**, **Ipswich's Open Space Festival**, **West Bridgewater's River Walk**, **NEMBA's Turkey Afterburner** event, and **WPI's Sustainable Careers Fair**.

ENGAGEMENT SOCIALS

We had fun hosting two socials for **AMC's Worcester and Boston chapters** to encourage community building on and around the BCT and nearby trail training opportunities.

We held a **potluck-slideshow** at AMC's Boston Office and an **ice cream social** in Worcester for opportunities to learn about our trails, make new friends, and chow down!





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ENGAGEMENT HIKES

BCT Staff led multiple hikes on the BCT. We explored Borderland State Park in Easton, Appleton Farms and Willowdale State Park in Ipswich, Medfield State Hospital Land, Drumlin Farm in Lincoln, and Ogilvie Town Forest in Weston. Meanwhile, volunteer hike leaders led 68 recorded hikes on the BCT in 2025! **Pam Richardson, Jon Unger, and Mark Kaluzny** contributed to the bulk of these hikes - many thanks to these dedicated explorers and advocates of the BCT.

ENGAGEMENT RIDES

While there's much to explore on foot, the BCT also offers many opportunities to explore on bike! We led a **Wednesday Night Ride** series of the **Mass Central and Bruce Freeman Rail Trails**. These rides allowed us to explore some beautiful trail during the quiet and cool hours of a New England Fall. Positive feedback from our participants will have us running this series again in 2026 but with more rail trails next time!





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STEWARDSHIP

The BCT is stewarded by volunteer maintainers, landowners, and partner organizations. Stewardship of the BCT is an ongoing task that is always evolving and requires endless attention to the needs of the greenway and trail.

CARING FOR THE TRAIL

The work that our volunteers do is substantial. **BCT Committee Members** communicate with their own volunteers in each of the 38 towns to facilitate extensive maintenance, blowdown clearing, infrastructure improvements, reroutes, sign and blaze installations, community activities, ecosystem and forest management, and more.

In addition to the Committee, new and returning volunteers attend one-off events to help with trail projects. Staff from **land trusts, conservation organizations, and town offices** help to facilitate reroutes, land protection efforts and policy. Trail users often report updates about the highlights and needs of the trail. The BCT is a community project that thrives on attention!



Photo by Nancy Hartle (2024)



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STEWARDSHIP BCT COMMITTEE

BCT Committee Members report on the work they and their volunteers have accomplished on the BCT each year.

A few highlights from 2025 include the **Mary French Boardwalk** repairs, the **Concord Annursac reroute**, the Boxford forest fire recuperation, and the Medfield trail protection efforts.



STEWARDSHIP

MARY FRENCH BOARDWALK REPAIRS

Volunteers **Bob Decelle and Steve Cooper** have led the task of repairing the **Mary French Boardwalk in Andover**. The 1,000ft boardwalk honors the late Mary French and is a stunning route through the wetlands bordering the Skug River. This boardwalk, connecting Hammond Reservation to the Skug River Reservation, was originally built 25 years ago with the help of Bob Decelle and is an instrumental and beautiful piece of the BCT.

So far, volunteers have spent **260+ hours** working on the boardwalk reconstruction.

STEWARDSHIP

CONCORD ANNURSAC REROUTE

Thanks to Concord Trails stewards **Gerard Jansen and Bob White**, the BCT was relocated through Annursnac Conservation land. This reroute moved the BCT off of unsafe roads with no sidewalks and blind curves. Instead, the trail now passes through some beautiful woods and along a safer and shorter segment of road.



Photo from Andover Trails



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STEWARDSHIP - NORTHERN TERMINUS IMPROVEMENTS

Our first project of the season was to make some improvements at the Northern Terminus of the BCT. Thanks to funding from **Essex County Community Foundation, Essex National Heritage Area**, and **Institution for Savings** in partnership with **NPS and Historic New England**, the BCT Northern Terminus was improved by the help of the volunteers who spent their weekend hauling gravel and lumber, digging post-holes, assembling 27ft of new boardwalk and 50 feet of bog bridging

NORTHERN TERMINUS 5/3 & 5/4

- 50ft** of bog bridging replacements
- 27ft** of new boardwalk
- 64ft²** of re-graded tread
- 3 tons** of gravel hauled
- 17 Vols** from AMC Boston 20s&30s
- 122** volunteer hours
- 113** staff hours
- 24ft** of boardwalk removed
- 3 truck beds** of invasive shrubs removed





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Before



After





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STEWARDSHIP

SOUTHBOROUGH 6/8 & 9/5

In partnership with **Southborough Trails Committee**, **AMC Worcester Chapter** vols, and volunteers from **AllTrails**, we constructed a brand new trail to provide a safer route for the BCT and the Boroughs Loop Trail. This reroute will be complete once two bridges are installed to span the nearby wetlands. The project took two volunteer days, 12 volunteers, and a LOT of poison ivy clearing to accomplish.

STEWARDSHIP

WAYLAND 10/2

Completion of a reroute in Wayland took place to move the trail off of two main roads (Rt 20 and Rt 27). Instead, the trail now travels through woods bordering the Sudbury River, and it integrates smoothly with Wayland's new senior center. It also preemptively provides access to the **Mass Central Rail Trail** extension that is set to take place in a few years, which will eventually reroute the BCT off of additional road walk on Rt 20.





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STEWARDSHIP TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKDAYS

There are a few portions of trail that need some extra TLC. To take care of these, the BCT Coordinator hosted **6 Saturday Morning Maintenance** days to tackle the overgrowth and blowdowns on a few segments of trail. We focused on the BCT south of Plain St in Pembroke, and trail north of Hospital Rd in Medfield, among a few other locations.

STEWARDSHIP TOOL CACHE

To conduct our trail projects and trail maintenance, we needed tools to use! A temporary tool cache was established in Wayland, thanks to the Wayland Conservation Commission. This cache was used primarily for staff-led volunteer events in 2025, but will be available to more volunteers in 2026, though it's location may shift.





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GAPS

While the trail can be traversed from end to end (as many people accomplish each year), there are a few sections of trail that we consider “Gaps”. These are segments of trail that are dominated by roadwalk and could be drastically improved by some redirection into open space. These gaps primarily exist as a result of land disputes, lack of green space, and difficulty acquiring access or permission from landowners or local government.

However, **each year we make progress on closing these gaps!** This work is bureaucratic and slow moving, but it is occurring.

GAPS CONT.

An open space gap in the trail in **Bridgewater** is being addressed as we speak! A working group has formed to try to build an **8 mile rail trail from Bridgewater to Abbingdon** that could potentially connect **two MBTA commuter rail stops, close the gap in the BCT**, and provide **a new multi-use path** for residents in southeastern MA. We are in preliminary stages, but we are optimistic!

In **Tewksbury**, slow and steady progress is occurring to develop some extensive boardwalks that would provide the infrastructure necessary to route the BCT through a large portion of open space in the town.

For more details on work on the BCT Gaps, reach out to Amber.



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COLLABORATION

The BCT does not exist in a vacuum! The 230-mile trail link with many other existing trails in eastern MA. We want to support each other, so we aim to keep in contact and up to date regarding the many connections and junctions. The ones noted in this report are just a fraction of the collaborations we have, with many more opportunities for collaboration on the horizon.

COLLABORATION HIKE FOR A CHANGE

One of the most rewarding experiences of the year was getting to hike with and support Josh Moughan on his Hike For Change.

Josh leads an end-to-end hike of the BCT annually as a fundraiser to support the Dirty Hands Project. This is a nonprofit created by "Josh and Liz Moughan in response to losing their son, Ty, at the age of 18 to suicide in August 2023. In Ty's memory, they are committed to making a positive change in the lives of those impacted by mental illness."

Join us on the BCT in May of 2026 to Hike for a Change.

To learn more, go to Dirtyhandsproject.org





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COLLABORATION MASS WALKING TOURS

Troubadours, incredibly kind people, and true leaders, Mark and Raianne led the Mass Walking Tours for the **14th year** in a row on the **Mystic Link Trail**. I had the pleasure of hiking with them for a day and getting to listen to their beautiful music at the end of a long walk. Mark and Raianne aim to walk trails in every town in Massachusetts and have already walked the **whole BCT on their treks through 123 MA towns**. Check out [their website](#) for more info

COLLABORATION TRAILS & SAILS

Essex National Heritage Area hosts a series of free activities in Essex County each September called **Trails & Sails**. We were invited to participate in their event series for the second year in a row and Sarah Dolan was thrilled to lead an engaging hike at Appleton Farm in Ipswich this year. We look forward to next year's events.





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Photo by Joy Hartwell



COLLABORATION MYSTIC LINK TRAIL

A newborn route that is still in development is the **Mystic Link Trail** - a path from Andover to Boston. Sarah Dolan had the pleasure of going on a pilot ride of this trail with the volunteers who are instrumental in its development (Bruce Shick and Joy Hartwell among others)

COLLABORATION RAIL TRAILS

The BCT coexists on multiple rail trails

- **Bruce Freeman**
- **Mass Central (MCRT)**
- **Reformatory Branch**
- **Narrow Gauge**

These rail trails are particularly great opportunities for travel without a car! Hop on the Bruce Freeman in Sudbury and bike all the way to Lowell. in 2026 we will be leading many group rides along these rail trails so keep an eye out for these upcoming adventures!





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THANK YOU'S

BCT COMMITTEE

- Ella Webber - Newburyport
- Alan Goren - Ipswich
- Jane Cairns - Andover
- Mike Agosti - North Andover
- Andy Falender - Lincoln
- Bruce Schick - Tewksbury
- Marlies Henderson - Billerica
- Jeff Hixon - Boxford
- Tim Brown - Bedford
- John Campos III - Bedford
- Kristen Dowdy - Bedford
- Bob White - Concord
- Will Holden - Concord
- Delia Kaye - Concord
- Jane Maloney - Sudbury
- Linda Hansen - Wayland
- Doug Stotz - Wayland
- Jordan McCarron - Weston
- Bill Fadden - Framingham
- Brian Forestal - Ashland
- George Lester - Medfield
- Gary Riggott - Walpole
- Kelly McClintock - Sherborn
- David Kileen - Sherborn
- Art Schnure - Dover
- Jason Gold - Easton
- Celia Roberts - W. Bridgewater
- John Ames - W. Bridgewater
- Dave Mansfield - Hanson
- Phil Clemons - Hanson



Photo by Jack Ames



Photo from Andover Trails



Photo by Jack Ames



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THANK YOU

GRANT FUNDERS

- HubLuv/ The Conine Foundation
- Fields Pond Foundation
- Aldrich Family Charitable Foundation
- Institution for Savings
- Essex County Community Foundation
- Essex National Heritage Area

“**SPOKES**” (not a comprehensive list - click each for more detail)

- [Mystic Link Trail](#)
- [Mass Central Rail Trail](#)
- Charles River Link Trail
- [Warner Trail](#)
- [Minuteman Bikeway](#)
- [Bruce Freeman Rail Trail](#)

STANDOUT HIKE LEADERS

- Mark Kaluzny
- Jon Unger
- Pam Richardson

We can't quite fit the name of every volunteer who contributes their time to the BCT **so if you've supported the Bay Circuit Trail and Greenway, just know we appreciate your help.**

We'll see you again in 2026. Be well!

Photo by Dave O'Brien



Photo from Andover Trails

