

BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL VOLUNTEER TRAILS PROGRAM



TRAILS

The Bay Circuit Trail Staff from the 2019 Season

2019

END OF SEASON REPORT

AMC's Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) Volunteer Program continues to work on projects along the 230+ mile multi-use trail, that traverses through 37 cities and towns, linking together parks, open spaces, and communities.

The 2019 season on the Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) would not have been so successful without the hard work of volunteers, youth participants, and AMC staff across the board. This season on the BCT brought new programming, as well as the continuation of our existing programs, all of which were great experiences for staff, participants, and volunteers.

The Bay Circuit Trail hosted its first Paid Youth Crew, thanks to a partnership with the City of Boston SuccessLink Program, which offers youth ages 15-18 from Boston summer employment opportunities through partner organizations. For 6 weeks, we had a crew of 6 youth who worked hard for 24 hours a week on various trail projects along the BCT. This program was a positive addition our BCT offerings, and we are thrilled to see where it can go in the future after seeing our successful first season. This program is modeled on similar summer employment opportunities that AMC offers in collaboration with NH Job's for America's Graduates to engage youth from Berlin, NH, to work on local trails in the White Mountains, and MassHire Holyoke to engage teens from Holyoke, MA, in summer work on the New England National Scenic Trail. We could not have launched this new BCT initiative without our amazing crew leaders Jane and Masuzyo, as well as Will, our Projects Coordinator.

In addition to our paid youth crew, we hosted a volunteer Teen Trail Crew in partnership with AMC's Youth Opportunities Program. The crew camped out in Harold Parker State Forest, and completed 3 full days of trail work, as well as one day of canoeing to give them a true outdoor experience. Thanks to our AMC staff Will and Jane, who were with the youth for the week, we watched the youth go from shy and quiet, to loud and excited about trail work and the outdoors.

Our usual Saturday Work Parties continued this year, with 3 in the spring and 3 in the fall, as well as several Custom Crews. This year we had a core group who came to several work parties, and their skill and expertise was incredibly helpful as we welcomed some new volunteers as well! In addition, we had volunteers from the Southeast Massachusetts chapter of AMC who took on a huge endeavor of marking the BCT town by town on the southern portion. As a result, hikers can now easily navigate portions of the trail that were notorious for lacking signage. Their help and hard work were greatly appreciated!

This season brought new programs, great rewards, and although there were a few bumps along the way (EEE and an endless amount of Poison Ivy!), we pushed through and are looking forward to the future on the Bay Circuit Trail. A BIG thank you goes to our Crew Leaders Masuzyo Mhango and Jane Maloney, and our Projects Coordinator Will Holden, who were instrumental to our success this season.

Sincerely,



Christine Viola
Bay Circuit Trail Volunteer Programs Supervisor

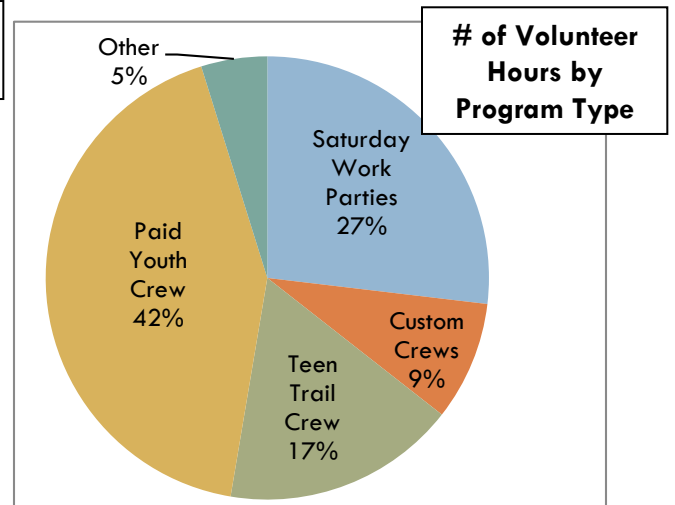
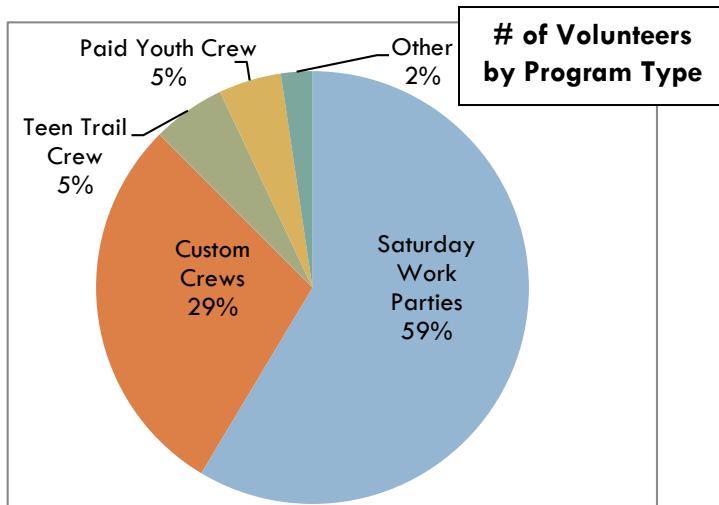


Bay Circuit Trail Volunteer Trails Program

END OF SEASON REPORT

Bay Circuit Trail Volunteer Totals		
Volunteer Program	Total Number of Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
YOP Teen Trail Crew	7	280
Paid Youth Crew	6	697
Saturday Work Parties	75	440.5
Custom Crews	37	142.5
Other	3	79
BCT Volunteer Program Totals	128	1639

Total Volunteers		
Age Group	Total # Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
Youth	23	1018
Adults	105	621



Participants and staff from AMC's Youth Opportunities Teen Trail Crew enjoy a sunset hike at Holt Hill with a view of the Boston Skyline

2019 END OF SEASON REPORT

STATISTICS

June 23rd - 28th

Volunteers: 7

Volunteer Hours: 280

Leader + Volunteer Hours: 360

New Work Installed:

2 new 8' bridges

200' new trail

Maintenance Work Completed:

10,000' brushing

BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL - YOP TEEN TRAIL CREW

For the fourth year in a row, volunteer teens from AMC's Youth Opportunities Program participated in a one-week teen trail crew based at Harold Parker State Forest. 7 teens from New Haven, CT, and Worcester, MA, camped at the Lorraine Campground, and completed trail projects along the Bay Circuit Trail.



Upon arrival of the teens, everyone was happy as the weather was forecasted to be sunny and rain-free all week, allowing for a great start to trail work. The teens began their first day at MassWildlife's JC Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary in Boxford, MA. The teens spent the first 2 days of the week there, building a brand-new trail as part of a trail re-route plan for the sanctuary.

The days in Boxford were the most labor-intensive portion of the week as the teens had to spend most of their time pulling heavy rocks and dealing with an abundance of roots during the side hilling of the new trail. The teens accomplished 200 feet of side hilling between the 2 days, learning that trail work can be a slow process depending upon what the soil has to offer.

As a reward for their hard work, the teens took a break on Wednesday afternoon, and went on a canoe trip along the Ipswich River. Led by Nate Schumacher, AMC's YOP Outdoor Adventure and Partnerships Coordinator, the group paddled six miles through beautiful scenery and saw some amazing wildlife.



Thursday, the teens returned to JC Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary to install two 8-foot bog bridges on a wet section. The teens were excited to learn how to build bog bridges and it was a nice change up from dealing with rocks and roots at the other site.

At the end of it all, the teens reflected on their time during their sunset hike to Holt Hill, thought about what they learned, and discussed what they planned to do next. We were pleased that some said they may return next year or apply for a summer AMC crew position in the future!

STATISTICS

July 9th –
August 15th

Paid Youth: 6

Volunteer Hours: 697

Leader + Volunteer
Hours: 1,171

New Work Installed:

6 new 8' Bridges

1,650' new trail

3 drainage dips

Maintenance Work Completed:

13 blowdowns removed

1,400' brushed trail

BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL- SUCCESSLINK PAID YOUTH CREW



AMC was thrilled with the opportunity to host 6 paid youth crew members from the City of Boston through the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment's SuccessLink Program. This was the first time AMC has had a paid crew and we are happy to say it was a success! The 6 high school aged crew members worked 24 hours a week for 6 weeks.

The youth began their 6 weeks with an orientation at the AMC Youth

Opportunities Program (YOP) office in Charlestown, MA. Thanks to a grant from REI, gear such as backpacks, work shirts, rain gear and water bottles were given to each youth, and BCT staff discussed the summer projects, safety guidelines, tools and more. The youth met at the YOP office each morning where the crew leaders would brief them before loading everyone into the van that would take them each day to the project sites.

The youth crew had 2 main projects of focus for their summer season. The first was to continue at JC Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary in Boxford, building a new trail as part of a sanctuary re-route. And second, to build a new trail at Prospect Hill in Rowley (owned by DCR), as part of another re-route project.

The crew started out quiet, but soon they were well acquainted through their shared new experience swinging pick mattocks and pulling heavy rocks! The crew worked hard days in the summer heat of July and August and had to deal with an abundance of mosquitos, deer flies, and ticks.



Even with these obstacles the youth accomplished a great deal of work, building 500 more feet of trail at JC Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, building 1,050 feet at Prospect Hill in Rowley, installing 6 new 8-foot bog bridges at Turkey Hill Conservation Area in Ipswich, removing 13 blowdowns across the trails worked on, and brushed out 1,400 feet of trail.

The youth crew was both happy and sad to end the season as they had made several new friends and shared experiences with their peers; nevertheless, they were happy to be done because trail work is hard, as they learned!

STATISTICS

April 13th, May 11th,
June 8th, September 14th,
October 12th, November
2nd

Volunteers: 75

Volunteer Hours: 440.5

Leader + Volunteer
Hours: 474

New Work Installed:

170 feet of bog bridging

1900 feet of new trail

3 Rock water bars
installed

800 feet of sidehilling

Maintenance Work Completed:

3 blowdowns removed

47 rocks removed

20 feet of drainage dips
cleaned

11,880 feet of brushing

234 feet of woodchips
spread

.5 acres of invasives
removed

BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL-SATURDAY WORK PARTIES

In 2019, we ran 6 Saturday Work Parties, 3 in the spring, and 3 in the fall, with a total of 69 volunteers. The projects ranged from removing invasive vegetation, to building bog bridges, to building new trail. Each day brought a group of smiling volunteers, thrilled to be helping on the BCT, many of whom already had trail work experience, but also many that were excited to join us for the first time.



In April we worked with Lincoln Land Conservation Trust to remove invasive Bittersweet and remove rocks in the BCT trail treadway. The next month in May, we installed bog bridging and brushed out trails at Rocky Narrows, owned by The Trustee. Our June work party was spent in Weston with Weston Forest & Trail Association installing bog bridging on a wet and muddy portion of the BCT. Our fall projects shifted more to a focus of trail building as September was spent in Boxford at JC Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, where volunteers completed the final project to finish the trail re-route. October and November were both spent in Rowley at Prospect Hill finishing the trail re-route project there.



Each Saturday Work Party project meets a critical trail work need on a landowner's property and the BCT, and people from all over eastern Massachusetts travel to these events. We are thankful for all of these volunteers and the landowners who make these trail improvements possible.

STATISTICS

June 10th, June 15th,
July 29th,

Volunteers: 37

Volunteer Hours: 142.5

Leader + Volunteer
Hours: 230.5

New Work Installed:

260 feet of Bog bridging

Maintenance Work
Completed:

7280 feet of brushing

10,560 feet of blazing

BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL-CUSTOM CREWS



In 2019, we ran 3 Custom Crews, with a total of 37 volunteers. The projects ranged from installing bog bridges, to cutting back vegetation overgrowth, to marking trails, and more.

To highlight one Custom Crew program, we worked with **The Venture Out Project** and **Out MetroWest** on 2 projects, one of which was a collaboration of the two organizations. These two

groups do a tremendous amount of work for the LGBTQ+ community, and we were excited to join them twice this year. The first project was in June with The Venture Out Project in Marlborough at Callahan State Park, where 12 volunteers and staff accomplished brushing out 2000 feet of trail and marking of one mile of trail, as well as the construction of one 10-foot bog bridge. The second project was in July with both organizations in Concord, where 16 volunteers and staff gathered to build 100 feet of bog bridging behind the Concord Police Department, a very wet section of the BCT. Both organizations showed an extreme willingness to contribute to the projects, leading to an excellent final product.

We also were lucky enough to work with the **Institution for Savings Bank**, where we replaced 144 feet of bog bridging in Andover and brushed out and remarked over a mile of trail. We held two sessions with this crew, and their eagerness to help, and willingness to get dirty, made for a wonderful day!



Work Completed in 2019

Maintenance Work Completed 2019	
Type of Work	Quantity/Length
Blazing	20,560 feet
Brushing	31,210 feet (5.9 miles)
Closed trail	8,350 feet
Blowdowns cleared	19
Invasives Cutting	0.5 acres
Drainage Dips	20 feet

Total New Work Installed 2019	
Type of Work	Quantity/Length
New Trail	10,025 feet
Bog Bridges (Dimensional Stringers)	494 feet
Sidehilling/Benching	2,250 feet
Water Bar (Rock)	3—15 feet total
Rocks removed	47
Drainage Dips	4



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our amazing project partners:



AMC's Bay Circuit Trail Volunteer Program would like to thank the following funders for supporting us in 2019:

Cell Signaling Technologies for their support of a BCT reroute in Boxford

2 Depot Square Ipswich Charitable Foundation for their support of a BCT trail relocation in Rowley

REI for their support of the youth crew and other program needs for the BCT

Arcadia Charitable Trust for its 3-year challenge grant to expand preservation and stewardship efforts on the BCT

The Manton Foundation for its 3-year grant providing matching funds in response to the Arcadia Charitable Trust's challenge grant.

We would also like to thank:

JMR Barker Foundation for its \$300,000 challenge grant, awarded to AMC in 2013-2014, for use over multiple years for Bay Circuit Trail operating and programs support.

We are also grateful for the contributions we received from individual donors for the Bay Circuit Trail in 2019.

Thank you to all those who support and participate in AMC's volunteer programs and help make the Bay Circuit Trail an outstanding resource for outdoor engagement!



TRAILS