

# BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL VOLUNTEER TRAILS PROGRAM



2018

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 2018 season on the Bay Circuit Trail would not have been so successful without the hard work of volunteers, youth participants, and AMC staff across the board. Volunteers and staff alike filled in to help, as I tried to navigate the ins and outs of the Bay Circuit Trail for my first season. I am forever grateful for the support I received, which allowed this season to be a tremendous success.

This season we continued partnerships with our youth crews with both AMC's Youth Opportunities Program, and the Groundwork Lawrence Green Team. Thanks to their consistent, hard work, the teens worked through extreme heat and torrential downpours improving the Bay Circuit Trail on the North Shore. It was an amazing experience to watch them work hard and see how proud they were at the end of a tough week. To quote one of the YOP teen participants, "I never thought a week away from technology would benefit me so much." The BCT and our community partners are thrilled with the work that the youth crews put in, and it was nice to see that the participants' experience was extremely positive and beneficial for them.

We continued our traditional Saturday Work Parties, running 3 in the spring, and 3 in the fall in various spots along the Bay Circuit Trail. No matter how many volunteers showed up, every single one was ready to work, and we always accomplished our goals for the day. We are especially thankful for our volunteer leaders and returning volunteers who helped newer volunteers learn all there is to learn about trail work, so by the end we were all working as a well-oiled machine.

We are so thrilled with how smoothly the season ran, grateful for the hard work of our staff and volunteers, and looking forward to what is next on the Bay Circuit Trail!

Sincerely,



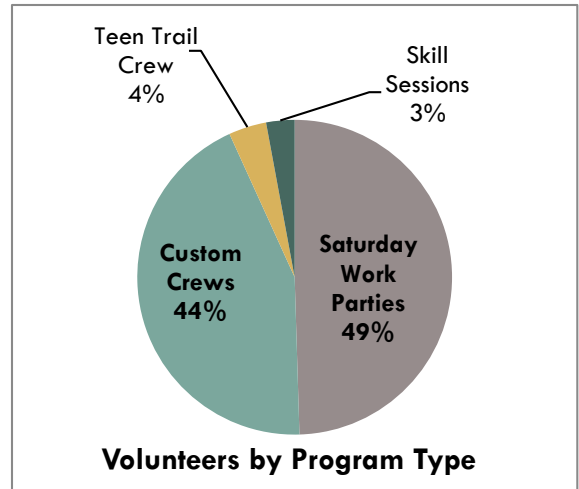
Christine Viola  
Bay Circuit Trail Volunteer Programs Supervisor



# 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	8	320
Saturday Work Parties	102	618
Custom Crews	90	815
Skill Sessions	6	24
<b>BCT Volunteer Program Totals</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1777</b>



Total Volunteers		
Age Group	Total # Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
Youth	40	802
Adults	166	975



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

2018 END OF SEASON REPORT

**STATISTICS**

**June 24-29<sup>th</sup>**

**# Volunteers: 8**

**Volunteer Hours: 320**

**Leader + Volunteer Hours: 425**

**New Work Installed:**

2 New 12' Bridges

9 check steps

2 box steps

10 ft of drainage dips

3 stepping stones set

**Maintenance Work Completed:**

**1 blowdown removed**

**6400' brushing**

**BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL- YOP TEEN TRAIL CREW**

For the third year in a row, teens from AMC's Youth Opportunities Program participated in a one-week long teen trail crew, based at Harold Parker State Forest. Eight teens from New Haven, New York City, and Worcester camped out at the Lorraine Campground, and completed trail projects along the Bay Circuit Trail.

Though the first night brought rain, lightning, and wind, the teens were ready to get to work on Monday morning. We piled into the van, drove to the work site, and began our day. This time, the teens were working at Deer Jump Reservation in Andover. The property is owned by the Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS), and they provided all the lumber and materials for the projects.



The teens worked on the trail for 3 days total, including working through a torrential downpour on the final day to make sure the project was completed. In total, this group put in 2, 12-foot bog bridges, set 3 stepping stone, and installed 9 check steps, 2 box steps, and 10 feet of drainage dips. They also removed one blowdown, and completed approximately 6400 feet of brushing along the BCT.



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.

At the end of it all, the teens reflected on their time, thought about what they learned, and discussed what they planned to do next. Some even asked about coming back to do it again next summer. AVIS and AMC are so grateful for all of their hard work throughout the week.

## STATISTICS

July 10-13<sup>th</sup>  
July 17-20<sup>th</sup>

# Volunteers: 35

Volunteer Hours: 556

Leader + Volunteer  
Hours: 636

### New Work Installed:

3 New 12' Bridges

1 New 16' Bridge

1 check steps

2 box steps

10 ft of drainage dips

3 stepping stones set

### Maintenance Work Completed:

1 blowdown removed

1000' brushing

## BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL- GROUNDWORK LAWRENCE



For two weeks in July, youth from the Groundwork Lawrence Green Team continued work on the Bay Circuit Trail at Deer Jump Reservation in Andover. While the participants did not camp out, they came each day ready to work. They had been previously assigned into three “teams,” so each day we had a mix of different people from each team. Once we went through a thorough tool and safety talk, they were ready to get to work.

After the two weeks with the crews, we had installed a

16-foot bridge, three 12-foot bridges, 3 steps, set 2 rocks, and brushed out a half-mile of trail. The enthusiasm never wavered, and we accomplished everything we planned to. To end each week, we took a long hike on the BCT to show off some of the work done by past participants like themselves.



## STATISTICS

April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, September 29<sup>th</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 10<sup>th</sup>

# Volunteers: 102

Volunteer Hours: 618

Leader + Volunteer Hours: 696

### New Work Installed:

29 rocks set

3 wood water bars

5020 feet of new trail

540 feet of trail closed

50 feet of bog bridging

50 feet of drainage dips  
6 check steps

2 box steps

### Maintenance Work Completed:

Repaired 4 check steps

5000 feet of brushing

40 feet of drainage dips

8 blowdowns cleared

## BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL-SATURDAY WORK PARTIES

In 2018, we ran 6 Saturday Work Parties, 3 in the spring, and 3 in the fall, with a total of 102 volunteers between them all. The projects ranged from rerouting a steep section of future BCT, installing bog bridging, and rock water bar projects. Each day brought a group of smiling volunteers, thrilled



to be helping on the BCT.

To highlight one work party, we partnered with Minuteman National Historic Park in Concord in September to celebrate National Public Lands Day. We had 42 volunteers come out on a perfect, 70 degree and sunny day. We worked on various projects near the Old North Bridge, including repairing a severely eroded section of the BCT, and digging drainage ditches to help manage the water and divert it off the trail. Thanks to Vibram Corporation, we

were able to provide snacks, pizza, and t-shirts for the volunteers.



Volunteers celebrate a successful National Public Lands Day along the BCT in Minuteman National Historic Park

## Work Completed in 2018

Maintenance Work Completed 2018	
Type of Work	Quantity/Length
Blazing	2 miles
Brushing	7.9 miles
Closed trail	740 feet
Blowdowns cleared	10
Waterbars cleaned	7
Check steps repaired	7

Total New Work Installed 2018	
Type of Work	Quantity/Length
New Trail	5,020 feet
Bog Bridges (Dimensional Stringers)	33 (401 feet total)
Check Steps	28
Retaining wall	300 feet
Sidehilling/Benching	800 feet
Water Bar (Rock)	4 (65 feet total)
Box steps	6 box steps
Rocks set	34
Drainage dips	80 feet



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our amazing land partners:



AMC's Bay Circuit Trail Volunteer Program would like to thank the following funders for supporting us in 2018:

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts**

**REI**

**AMD**

**Vibram Corporation**

We would like to thank the **JMR Barker Foundation** for its \$300,000 challenge grant, awarded to AMC in 2013-2014, for use over several years for Bay Circuit Trail operating and programs support.

We are also grateful for the contributions we received from individuals for the Bay Circuit Trail in 2018.

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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!

