

Bay Circuit Trail & Greenway

Amber Stearns
BCT Coordinator
astearns@outdoors.org

www.baycircuit.org
IG: @baycircuit

Appalachian Mountain Club
www.outdoors.org

LOOKING BACK ON 2024... a note from the coordinator.

This past year was a whirlwind. I threw myself into the world of the Bay Circuit Trail & Greenway and had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful people. A dedicated committee of volunteers welcomed me into the fold, funders put their faith in the BCT and provided new opportunities for improvement and support, and new volunteers sought out fresh ways to work on the BCT.

The BCT encompasses what it means to work as a community. This newsletter is meant to keep us all in the loop, to recognize the achievements of the community, and to bring some joy to your day! This newsletter will be sent out in monthly installments.

Please send BCT updates, stories, photos, and news to astearns@outdoors.org to be included each month!

MAPS, GUIDES, AND MORE

Check out baycircuit.org for a refreshed set of hike and bike maps and guides. These [printable pdfs](#) are free to download, and we encourage you to use them as you explore the BCT.

Each map will give you a birds-eye view of the BCT with step-by-step directions, tidbits about the local history, landowners, regulations, notes on where to park, where to enjoy the view, and more.

For a virtual approach, check out the new [Interactive Map](#). This online map includes options to see local camp sites, parking, bus and train stops, and where bikes are allowed on the trail.

This map can be used on computers and smart phones to show you where you are in reference to the trail. Just make sure you turn on “Location Services” on your device to use this feature.

These maps have the latest in trail updates and can guide you in your next adventure on the BCT!



GETTING OFF THE ROAD

As of 2025, The BCT is approximately 70% off-road and 30% on-road (“on-road” meaning sidewalks, road shoulders, street crossings, etc). One of the goals of the BCT community is to reduce these on-road sections as much as possible to increase safety and improve the overall user experience of the trail. In 2024, multiple reroutes were completed, including the following:

In **Sherborn and Dover**, the BCT no longer traverses RT 127; it now spends more time meandering through the scenic Trustees of Reservations property of Rocky Narrows.

In **Wayland**, the BCT now passes through Cow Common conservation land directly to a new trail segment and boardwalk on Wayland conservation land. This new segment connects the BCT with Wayland Town Center, the Mass Central Rail Trail, and a new senior center.

In **Hanson**, the BCT winds through beautiful woods and meadows of the old Plymouth County Hospital property instead of the busy High Street.

In **Bedford**, you can enjoy the Reformatory Branch and Narrow-Gauge Rail Trails instead of sidewalks and road walks through town.



END TO ENDERS

Every year, a few people take on the challenge of hiking or biking all 230 miles of the Bay Circuit Trail. Some choose to hike all of it consecutively, some break it into sections, others run the whole trail, and still others bike it!

In 2023 and 2024, these are the End-To-Enders I have on record. If you completed the trail and your name was missed, please reach out!

*David Gibbs
Jocelyn Gibbs
Tian Feng
Keith Watling
Cole Crosby (Supported FKT)
Bill “Life Alert” Hatfield
Frederick Vetterlein
John Poirier
Carol Sandberg
Andrew Wray
Larry Jones
Josh Moughan (Hike For a Change)*

Congratulations on your accomplishment!

WHAT'S NEXT?



2025 is here and spring is approaching rapidly! This year will hold many new opportunities to engage with the trail. Check out our [Events Calendar](#) to register for group hikes, rides, maintenance, days, cleanups, and community talks.

If you're hosting an event on the BCT, let us know and we will highlight it on the calendar!

BCT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The BCT is maintained by hundreds of volunteers every year. A leading committee of these volunteers convene quarterly to discuss updates and plans for the BCT. Each of these folks represent a BCT town and/or region. Without them, the BCT would not exist! This list doesn't cover everyone, but it's a start! If you would

like to highlight the work of a volunteer in following newsletters, please email astearns@outdoors.org.

*Newburyport – Ella Weber
Boxford – Jeff Hixon
Andover – Jane Cairns
North Andover – Mike Agosti
Billerica – Marlies Henderson
Tewksbury – Bruce Shick
Concord – Bob White
Bedford – Tim Brown*

*Lincoln – Andy Falender
Wayland – Doug Stotz
Weston – Jordan McCarron
Framingham – Bill Fadden
Sudbury – Jane Maloney
Ashland – Brian Forestal
Sherborn – Art Schnure
Medfield – George Lester
Walpole – Gary Riggott
Sharon – Kelly McClintock
Easton – Jason Gold
West Bridgewater – Jack Ames
Hanson – Phil Clemons*

HIGHLIGHT: HIKE FOR A CHANGE 23 Days. 23 Stories.

By: Josh Moughan

Dirty Hands Project is thrilled to announce the return of **Hike For a Change** for its second year. From April 26th to May 31st, we will embark on a 230-mile journey along the Bay Circuit Trail, stretching from Duxbury to Plum Island.

Mental health touches all our lives in some way, and Hike For a Change offers an inspiring opportunity to bring awareness and advocacy to create hope and healing for many. The Bay Circuit Trail is a network of trails, forests, and parks, offering close to home opportunities to access nature in the Greater Boston area. Spending time in nature is proven to have a positive effect on both mental and physical health and Bay Circuit Trail offers an opportunity to embrace the outdoors, clear our minds, and change the conversation around mental health disease.

This year's theme, "**23 Days. 23 Stories**" highlights incredible stories of individuals and communities normalizing conversations around mental health and breaking the stigma that often surrounds it. Each day of the hike, Dirty Hands Project will feature a new story from Massachusetts and beyond, showcasing how mental health awareness and advocacy are creating hope and healing for many.

We encourage you to share your story. Whether it's about a loved one, your personal journey overcoming mental health challenges, or why Dirty Hands Project resonates with you, your voice matters. While we would love to have you join us on the trail, participation doesn't require hiking- just send us your story!

Hike For a Change is a powerful movement, and we are excited to have you join us for one, two, or all of the hikes!

For more information, please visit thedirtyhandsproject.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Try Exploring Andover (TEA) Time Hikes** with Mark Kaluzny – Hike Series
- **Springtime Saturday Morning Maintenance** with Amber Stearns – Locations TBD – Maintenance Series
- **Hike For a Change** with Josh Moughan and the Dirty Hands Project – April 26th to May 31st

Find more upcoming events [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Next installment scheduled for April 2025

FUNDERS

The Bay Circuit Trail has received grants from many generous donors in 2024 and 2025. We are particularly grateful to the following donors for supporting the BCT and making so many new projects possible!

- o *Institution for Savings*
- o *Essex County Community Foundation*
- o *Essex National Heritage Area*
- o *HubLuv Initiative*
- o *Aldrich Family Charitable Foundation*
- o *Fields Pond Foundation*
- o *Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council*

2024 BCT SEASON REPORT

For a closer look at BCT accomplishments from 2024, check out the [BCT Season Report](#). You can also explore the [AMC Trails Department Year End Report](#) for more details about AMC's trails operations regionally.

