



ESSEX COUNTY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Preserve, Maintain, Respect

Fall 2019

A View from the Chair

Dear Friends,

With spring and summer behind us, fall ushers in lovely cool, bug-free days on the trails! I am reminded every year at this time how fortunate we are to have had this organization for the past 37 years. When Essex County Trail Association was established in 1982, Our mission was to maintain and preserve trails for the purpose of passive recreation for all and the benefit of the community. Thanks to all of our loyal members, generous donors and sponsors, and selfless volunteers, we have been able to carry out that mission for more than three decades.

Along with the changing seasons come changes within our organization. We have welcomed over 30 new Trail Stewards who have the critical task of reporting trail maintenance and repair needs and a new group of student volunteers from Ipswich High School. The Board of Directors now includes 15 people, and we are excited to welcome our newest board members Betty Redstone of Swampscott and Penny Neal of Gloucester. In addition we have 29 members of the Advisory Council who bring their expertise from a variety of backgrounds. We are also excited to announce we have reached a record high in our membership, hurray! As technology takes over, it is important to cherish the moments spent out on the trails. Whether you are a hiker, runner, crosscountry skier, equestrian, cyclist or anything in between, we can all come together to appreciate the beauty Mother Nature has bestowed upon us and ensure the trails will be protected for generations to come. Encourage your friends to spend less time indoors and in front of screens. Encourage them to hit the trails, enjoy the fresh air, and support ECTA by becoming a member today!

See you on the trails,

Susan

Susan Lawrence
Chair, Board of Directors



Thank you, Volunteers!

By Carol Lloyd, Director of Trail Management

Integral to our organization are our passionate, hardworking volunteers and Trail Stewards! It is thanks to these amazing people that ECTA has thrived for the past 37 years. Whether helping out at ECTA sponsored events or in the office, raising money, being friendly ambassadors to other trail users, notifying us of problems on the trails (i.e. downed trees, flooding, debris, etc.) or participating in trail maintenance projects the help of our volunteers is priceless. You can always find them with a smile getting down and dirty in the mud with a hammer and nail to construct a new bridge/boardwalk... Every bit is greatly appreciated! While this appears seamless at times, it takes a village and what people don't always see is all the hard-working volunteers behind these projects.

We recently reviewed our list of Trail Stewards—our eyes on the trails who report any issues we need to address—and it was decided we could always use more Trail Stewards considering how critical their help is to ECTA. To our delight, 30 new people stepped up ready to help out on trails in their area! That is in addition to the 20 we already had who re-upped. With over 50 Trail Stewards, we now feel more confident than ever that we have all 450+ miles of trails covered in our six towns!

And finally, from my perspective as the person who is responsible for coordinating the work on the trails, ECTA has the best Board! These people work tirelessly and are always there to help. They all have specific skills that help in every aspects of our work and there when needed.

So a big thank you goes out to all of you! ECTA wouldn't be where we are today if it weren't for all of our volunteers! We are ALWAYS looking for more help, so if you would like to become a volunteer/Trail Stewards for the ECTA sign up on our website.

—Carol

Thank You to Peter and Gretel Clark!

ECTA would like to take a moment to thank Peter and Gretel Clark for their extraordinarily generous contribution of \$30,000 over the next three years! Peter and Gretel of Hamilton, MA are long-time supporters and members of ECTA and it is thanks to them and others alike that ECTA has thrived. We cannot thank you—our generous members and donors—enough for your support!

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Photo by Leah Angelini

From the Desk of Grant Writer, Leah Angelini

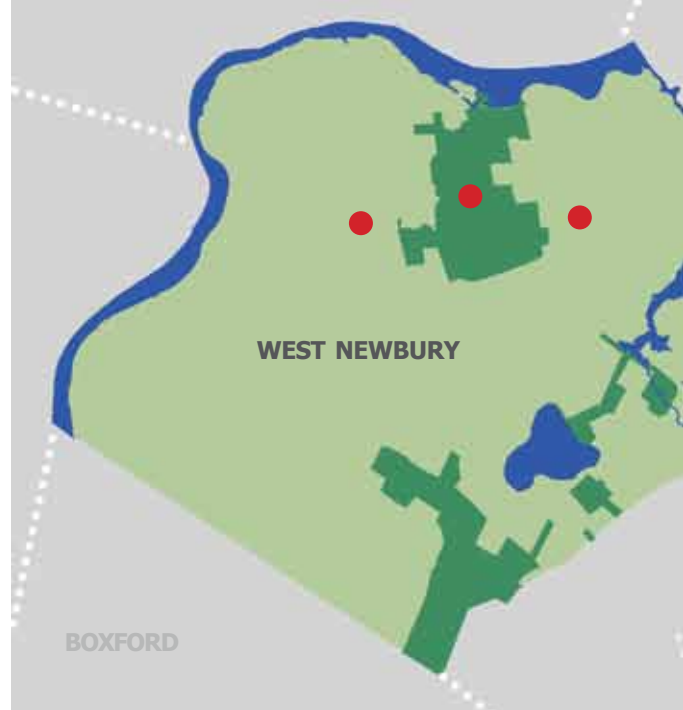
Essex County Trail Association would like to say a big thank you to MassTrails, Cell Signaling Technology, and the American Quarter Horse Association for their generous grant contributions.

Thanks to the generous funding from the MassTrails Grant Program, ECTA is able to tackle two significant projects in Willowdale State Forest. The first project is at Trail #23 where a failing culvert will be replaced with a new one. The second project is at Trail #41 where a new Beaver Deceiver needs to be installed. With this funding, ECTA is finally able to carry out the much needed repairs at these two significant trails.

Thanks to the generous funding from the Cell Signaling Technology Environmental Grant, ECTA was able to update all new signage for the 450 miles of trails running throughout the North Shore! We also will be able to carry out much need trail repair and maintenance from past and future storm damage with the remaining funds.

Lastly, we would like to thank American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) for their most recent contribution. The AQHA STEP (Stewards for Trails, Education & Partnerships) Grant Program has allowed us to carry out the much needed trail repair at the trail off of Coffin Street in West Newbury. There is a small boardwalk there for people to use to cross a very boggy section to access the trail system; however it is not accessible for horses. We have replaced the current boardwalk with a larger one that can accommodate both foot and horse traffic.

We are so grateful to all of you! It's thanks to these generous contributions we are able to carry out this crucial work for the trail systems.



SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION!

The Summer Solstice Party at Groton House was our most successful party yet! A record-breaking, sold-out crowd of over 300 people celebrated the beginning of summer and another successful year of completed trail projects and events!



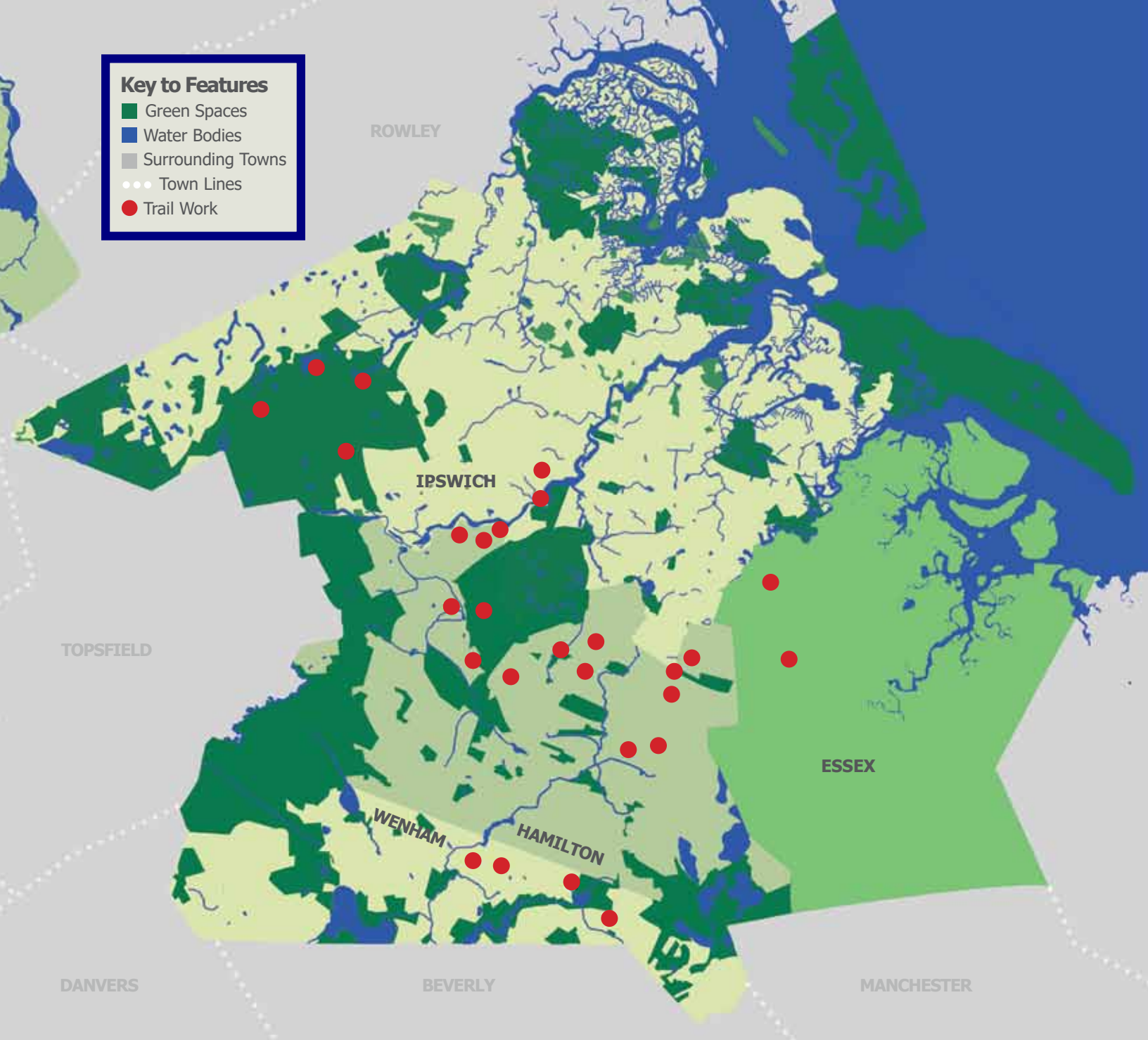
Happy guests began the evening enjoying a variety of beers from Ipswich Ale Brewery's Tapmobile, crudités and gourmet cheeses from Coastal Greengrocer and bid on wonderful silent auction items. Dinner consisted of Spanish paella prepared in giant steel pans and decadent desserts baked by Disa Cheston.



To top off the night, we had local favorite Orville Giddings and his team of superb bluegrass musicians entertain us, getting people on their feet in joyful impromptu dancing. We were all sorry to see the evening end!

Thank you to all who attended and who provide the support that's so vital to our mission. We look forward to seeing you under the tents at the 2020 Summer Solstice Party!





Key to Features

- Green Spaces
- Water Bodies
- Surrounding Towns
- ⋯ Town Lines
- Trail Work

2018-19 TRAIL WORK

Part of ECTA’s mission is to coordinate and orchestrate maintenance of the extensive 450+-mile trail system. This includes visible work such as repairing trail surfaces, working in resource areas, building boardwalks and beaver deceivers and engaging in routine tasks such as mowing and clearing downed trees. Our not-visible work involves establishing and ensuring easements with property owners, permitting with towns and creating overall trail management plans.

In 2018-19 we embarked on many successful projects and renovations in Essex, Hamilton-Wenham, Ipswich and West Newbury. While it appears effortless, it takes many hands and hours to see these projects from start to finish. Explore the trails and discover improvements we’ve made on new routes and some old tried-and-true favorites!

MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

Red dots indicate trail work including:

- Repaired trail surfaces
- Installed boardwalks & culverts
- Constructed beaver deceivers
- Repaired bridges
- Removed downed trees
- Cleared brush
- Mowed trails

Please Note:
*Red dots are not in exact location of work.
 Maps are not meant for navigation.*

2018 Contributors

Dear ECTA Members and Supporters,

We acknowledge below the many donors and sponsors who have given beyond individual and family memberships in support of ECTA. Their generosity makes it possible to fulfill our mission—our heartfelt thanks to all.

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* List as of December 31, 2018
Our apologies for any omissions



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Photos by Leah Angelini



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