

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Connecting People with Nature Since 1920



The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered nonprofit organization caring for public lands and trails.

Our passion is helping people responsibly enjoy the benefits of being outdoors.

When park agencies require resources for vital needs such as trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and visitor education, the Trail Conference jumps into action. Since 1920, we have brought our expertise and ability to find sustainable, on-the-ground solutions to land managers throughout the greater New York metropolitan region.

By partnering with these agencies and engaging the public, the Trail Conference preserves the integrity of trails and natural areas and inspires a deeper appreciation for the care that these special places require.

Let's connect.

You'll find us on the trail and at:

Trail Conference Headquarters

600 Ramapo Valley Rd.
Mahwah, NJ 07430

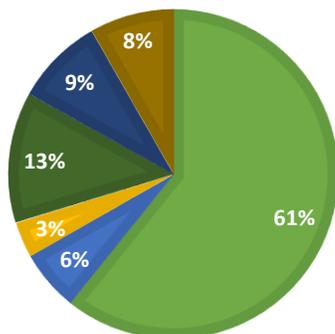
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2018 EXPENSES

- Trail Programs
- Darlington Schoolhouse
- Management & General
- Publications
- Membership
- Fundraising



83% of expenses went to program expenses

Your Trails. Your Parks. Your Impact.

The Trail Conference's mission is made possible through generous support from hundreds of individuals, companies, and foundations—and outdoor-lovers like you. Do your part to protect the land you love at nynjtc.org/donate or contact Development Director Don Weise: dweise@nynjtc.org or 201.512.9348 x813.

In 2018, the Trail Conference achieved Charity Navigator's highest ranking, the 4-star rating, for our sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. For the fifth year in a row, this "exceptional designation" indicated adherence to good governance and best practices that demonstrates trustworthiness to the public.

2018 Annual Report Summary

BETTER OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH STEWARDSHIP (BOOTS)

Since 1920, the Trail Conference has been caring for public trails and parklands. It's through the dedication of our volunteers and advocates that all of us are able to enjoy such a wealth of safe, enjoyable opportunities outside in the greater New York metropolitan region. We believe everyone who seeks the outdoors should have the opportunity to connect with nature.

Our passion is creating great trail experiences. Thanks to the efforts of **2,342 volunteers** giving **103,771 hours** in 2018, here's a glimpse at what we were able to accomplish last year.

1.5 million
invasive plants removed

The Trail Conference is the leader in regional efforts to combat invasive species, which are a huge threat to the integrity of native habitats. Our Invasives Strike Force Conservation Corps seasonal crew and ISF crew volunteers reached new milestones by removing over 1.5 million invasive plants across the region.

70,890
trail users engaged

The ongoing development of our Trail Steward program has put the Trail Conference in a position to assist and educate more trail users than ever before. In May, we trained almost 40 seasonal employees of not only the Trail Conference, but also the state park departments of New York and New Jersey, as Trail Stewards. Stationed at popular trails across the region, Stewards provide helpful outreach and information about park regulations, hiker safety, preparedness, Leave No Trace principles, and other best practices. The Trail Conference also played a lead role in Leave No Trace's Hot Spot Week at Breakneck Ridge, hosting and taking part in stewardship events aimed at ensuring outdoor-lovers do their part to respect and protect the rugged beauty of Breakneck Ridge.



AMBER RAY

2,165
miles of trails maintained

On any given day on the trail, there's a good chance you'll encounter a Trail Conference volunteer working hard to improve your outdoor experience. Volunteers who "adopt" a trail do the on-the-ground work to ensure it remains open and safe for fellow users. A number of our crews also go out on maintenance trips to help keep trails accessible.

358
miles of Long Path
protected

Since 1960, the Trail Conference has spearheaded the effort to maintain, protect, and complete the Long Path. Today, the aqua-blazed Long Path extends 358 miles from 175th Street Subway Station in Manhattan to John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany. The goal is to extend the trail across the Mohawk River and Saratoga County to link with the Adirondack State Park trail system. Our conservation and advocacy work—not to mention on-the-ground maintenance and construction—is making strides in our efforts to permanently protect the eventual 430-mile corridor of "New York's Greatest Trail."



95
years of service to the Appalachian Trail

On Oct. 7, 1923, Trail Conference volunteers officially opened the first section of the Appalachian Trail, which they built and blazed through Bear Mountain and Harriman state parks in New York. Nearly a century later, Trail Conference volunteers still selflessly give their time and energy to ensure the 174 miles of A.T. spanning New Jersey and New York remain open, safe, and enjoyable for everyone who follows that iconic white blaze. We celebrated the 95-year milestone with events and workshops, capping off the season by completing the historic Bear Mountain Trails Project—the most ambitious rehabilitation of the A.T. ever conducted.

20
crews building trails and restoring natural areas

When trails are threatened, the Trail Conference responds. When incredibly powerful spring storms damaged trails across the region, volunteers made heroic efforts in a short amount of time to clear and restore them. Trail emergencies aside, all year long our crews dedicate hours to rerouting and rehabilitating eroded trails, building bridges, replacing puncheon, restoring native habitats, and overall ensuring our trails are sustainable and ecosystems are protected.

3 | **1**
revised map sets | updated guidebook

Since the original publication of *The New York Walk Book* in 1923, the Trail Conference has provided trail users with the most accurate, up-to-date information on local trails. In 2018, we published a revised edition of the *Harriman Trails* guidebook and the Hudson Palisades, Harriman-Bear Mountain, and Catskill map sets.

7
miles of new multi-use
trail opened

Seventeen years after the first Trails Plan for Sterling Forest State Park was drafted, the park celebrated the opening of one of the finest multi-use trails in the region, built by the Trail Conference. The completion of a 7-mile, single-track loop open to hikers, mountain bikers, and, in part, equestrians brought to fruition the dreams of so many who worked to make this beautiful forest accessible to a wide variety of users.



STEVE AARON



JANE DANIELS