



East Coast
Greenway®
ALLIANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EASTERN TRAIL IN SCARBOROUGH OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS PART OF THE EAST COAST GREENWAY

You may think of the Eastern Trail as a place to spend an afternoon or perhaps as a way to travel from one town in southern Maine to another. But you have ever thought of it as a way to get to Florida? Visitors to Scarborough's section of the Eastern Trail can now get a small glimpse of a very large vision. On March 11th, the 2.5-mile section of Eastern Trail crossing Scarborough Marsh was officially designated as part of the East Coast Greenway (ECG) by the East Coast Greenway Alliance at its board meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. The ECG is a continuous, 3,000-mile trail that stretches from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida.

That same day, the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA), in partnership with the Eastern Trail Alliance (ETA) and the Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD), agreed that as segments of the Eastern Trail are developed, they will become official parts of the ECG. The ECGA Board reaffirmed and recognized the alliance partners ETA and ETMD for their work in developing an important section of the East Coast Greenway.

Located in the southern part of the state, the Eastern Trail will have the greatest exposure to the more densely-populated areas of New England, and will demonstrate the tourism potential of all traffic-free paths in Maine. As part of the ECG, the trail will attract recreational tourists from cyclists and walkers to wheelchair users and cross-country skiers to explore Maine's trails. In addition, the Eastern Trail is uniquely positioned to provide linkages between trail users and Amtrak, so that the trail is easily accessible by public transportation. This linkage is envisioned to eventually take place all up and down the Amtrak-ECG corridor.

The 2.5-mile section through Scarborough adds to the 30 miles already designated as ECG in Maine, including the Calais Riverwalk (Calais), Rotary Centennial Trail (Benton), Androscoggin River Bicycle Path (Brunswick), Beth Condon Pathway (Yarmouth), Eastern Promenade Trail (Portland), and the South Portland Greenbelt.

"The Eastern Trail is a real asset to everybody who enjoys a walk in the woods or through a marsh, and for bicyclists, cross-country skiers and equestrians, as well," said Bob Hamblen, Eastern Trail Management District president. "The designation of the ET's 55-mile route as part of the East Coast Greenway is a milestone, and a tribute to the efforts of a lot of great people."

"It is so exciting to officially welcome the Scarborough section to the trail system. Everyone has worked so hard," added Maggie Warren, Maine State Chair of the East Coast Greenway Alliance.

Often referred to as an "urban Appalachian Trail", the ECG passes through 15 states and Washington, D.C., linking cities and towns along the way using urban greenways, park paths, abandoned railroad corridors, waterfront esplanades, and scenic roads. 21% of the route is already completed as traffic-free, firm-surface, off-road trail, while much of the remainder – largely on safe and scenic roads for now – is currently in development. Eventually the entire trail will be off-road, allowing people of all abilities to travel safely from city-to-city, state-to-state, or in their own community without the use of motorized transportation.

In order to be designated as part of the East Coast Greenway, a trail must have a firm-surface and be accessible for all kinds of users, including wheelchairs, cyclists, and walkers. The trail also must have the potential to connect with future neighboring trails to form a continuous route.

The project is spearheaded by the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA), a non-profit organization based in Wakefield, Rhode Island. While the ECGA itself does not build trail, it supplies vision for connecting local trails and provides strategic assistance for states, counties and municipal jurisdictions that do build trail. The entire route will be publicly owned and operated and free to all to use.

For more information about the East Coast Greenway, please visit: www.greenway.org
For more information about the Eastern Trail, please visit: www.eastertrail.org

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