



DECEMBER 2017

# On the Greenway

NEWS & NOTES FOR FRIENDS OF THE EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE



An evening bike tour and photo op on the Potterfield Memorial Bridge over the James River highlighted our River Relay stop in Richmond, VA.

## Celebrating connections, building partnerships

Nine weeks of bike rides, walks, paddles, and more served to engage longtime members and make new fans among more than 6,000 East Coast River Relay participants this fall. From August 24 to October 28, we partnered with 201 organizations to hold 57 public events along our route from Maine to Florida.

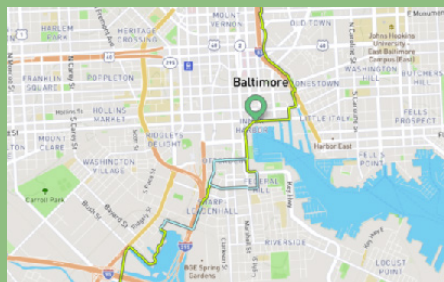
But numbers tell just part of the River Relay story. From a Passamaquoddy send-off ceremony at the Wabanaki Culture Center in Calais, Maine, to ribbon-cuttings, trail cleanups, and receptions, the River Relay celebrated

Greenway progress, local culture, environmental stewardship, rivers—and the East Coast Greenway Alliance’s 25th birthday. Key River Relay support came from watershed sponsors the William Penn Foundation and REI.

“The River Relay was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I was inspired every day by our generous members, partners, and all the public servants who are getting the Greenway built,” says Dennis Markatos-Soriano, executive director. “Together we are connecting our communities to the awe-inspiring nature and watersheds around us.”

### Redesigned, browser-based map tool launched

Find the closest point on the Greenway from wherever you are, create turn-by-turn cue sheets and more. Read more and watch video on using map: [greenway.org/map-tool](http://greenway.org/map-tool)



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## EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE

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### FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dennis Markatos-Soriano, second from left, enjoys a River Relay event in Savannah with (from left) SC/GA Coordinator Brent Buice, Trustee Atiba Mbiwan, and volunteer Nedra Deadwyler.

## The possibilities ahead

We acted boldly in 2017. We achieved great successes through the East Coast River Relay, our first Southeast Summit, and strong greenway development throughout our corridor.

But pernicious challenges exist that threaten our environment, our health, and our unity as a nation. Together, we can face these challenges and be a beacon of hope and positive impact for our 15 states and beyond.

I look forward to digging deep with you to continue our momentum and achieve more in 2018 than seems possible today. Thanks for your support!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Markatos-Soriano'.

Dennis Markatos-Soriano, Executive Director

## Daniel Paschall named Mid-Atlantic Coordinator



In July, Daniel Paschall joined the Alliance as Mid-Atlantic coordinator to lead our work in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. He succeeds Andy Hamilton, who retired in May.

Paschall has worked as a research analyst for the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy in New York City, a Green Project coordinator in New Orleans, and as a transportation/urban design intern with Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Office of Transit, Bicycle, & Pedestrian Planning in Philadelphia.

## Four new Trustees elected

The East Coast Greenway Alliance Board of Trustees named four new members to three-year terms beginning in January: Andy Clarke (Virginia), Sarah Hreha (Connecticut), Iona Thomas (North Carolina), and Dick Woodbury (Maine).

Read more: [greenway.org/blog/new-members](http://greenway.org/blog/new-members)



## Myrtle Beach first city to complete Greenway

The dedication of a trailhead in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in October served also as a celebration of the first city to finish its East Coast Greenway segment. To accomplish this feat, Myrtle Beach leaders have recognized the value of safe, connected places for people to bike and walk as well as the value that a greenway of national significance brings to the local economy: Town leaders (including the trailhead's namesake, Jack Walker, former planning director, left) and Week-A-Year Tour riders gathered at the trailhead dedication.



## New England Bike-Walk Summit expands to two days

The New England Bike-Walk Summit, held every two years since 2010, is expanding to two days this spring, April 26-27, in Boston, Mass. With a broad representation of stakeholders and leaders from the private and public sectors, the summit inspires the movement for advancing bicycling and walking innovations in communities across the region.

The New England Summit features a dinner and panel session at The NonProfit Center in Boston on Thursday followed by a day of workshops, keynote, and networking opportunities on the UMass-Boston campus. Learn more, download the Summit sponsorship kit and/or register to attend at [greenway.org/ne-bike-walk](http://greenway.org/ne-bike-walk).



## WAY Tour cyclists reach Georgia, support Greenway

The seventh annual Week-A-Year Tour drew 38 cyclists traveling from Wilmington, NC, to Savannah, GA, for a steamy week in early October. The cyclists, all repeat WAY Tour riders, raised more than \$60,000 for the Greenway. Top fundraisers were trustees Bob Spiegelman and Bob Russo, who each raised more than \$10,000.

Brent Buice, our SC/GA coordinator, led the tour, which coincided with the River Relay. In addition to daily rides, the cyclists could join community Relay events.



**Bridging the gap:** An impressive 135-foot Farmington Canal Heritage Trail bridge is due to open soon over Route 6 in Farmington, Conn. The bridge and 2.4 miles of new trail — closing a major gap in the East Coast Greenway — are the first multi-use trail projects to be wholly funded by Governor Dannel Malloy and the DOT under the state's LetsGoCT! program.





*Clockwise from above: Chatting with vendors between sessions; a post-Summit bike tour of the American Tobacco Trail, one of four tour options; the Triangle impact report we released at Summit.*

# Southeast Summit energizes greenway advocates

A three-day gathering in Durham, N.C., in early October left more than 300 greenway advocates and partners energized to do more good in their communities. Mobile workshops and active options began and ended the conference with a packed slate of presentations in between.

“The more we can come together and unite on common ground these days, the better. And greenways provide that common ground,” Reid Wilson, chief deputy secretary of N.C. Department of Cultural and Natural Resources, told attendees at a plenary lunch.

The lunch also featured an impact study prepared by Alta Planning+ Design and sponsored by GSK. The report’s key finding: The East Coast

Greenway annually generates \$90 million for the Triangle region of Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill from

Read more:  
[greenway.org/triangle-impact-report](https://greenway.org/triangle-impact-report)

gains in health and the environment to transportation and access benefits and economic gains.

**4 On the Greenway**

In his opening keynote, greenways guru Chuck Flink, Advisory Board chair of the East Coast Greenway Alliance, traced the history of greenways, shared snapshots of trails and greenways across the U.S., and addressed future challenges and opportunities — namely climate change and technology, including electric bikes.

A philanthropy panel featured four foundation representatives. The panelists agreed that issues of equity — ensuring that everyone benefits from greenway initiatives — are top of mind for their foundations. “Take pride that you are working in a space where inclusion is part of what you do,” Kathy Higgins, president of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, told attendees.

Presenters from 12 states delivered 45 sessions on topics ranging from coalition building to new technology, greenways and art, philanthropy, and breweries as greenway partners.

Read more:  
[greenway.org/southeast-summit](https://greenway.org/southeast-summit)

**THANKS TO OUR SUMMIT SPONSORS**

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 • Land Design • LimeBike • McAdams • Parks Hospitality Group • PermaTrak • Ponysaurus Brewing • Stantec • Trek • Trophy Brewing • Whole Foods • WSP





**Nine weeks of engagement:** (Clockwise from top left) New England Coordinator Molly Henry talks with walkers in Providence, RI; Greenway Program Director Niles Barnes (who rode 900+ miles of the Relay) collects Farmington River sample in CT; Board Chair Bob Spiegelman, NH Governor Chris Sununu, and Executive Director Dennis Markatos-Soriano in Portsmouth, NH; a climate resiliency talk in Hoboken, NJ; volunteer Rob Dexter (who rode 796 miles) dips his wheel in Connecticut River in Hartford; a group rides out of Washington, D.C.; and a kid-friendly cleanup of Ellerbe Creek in Durham, NC.





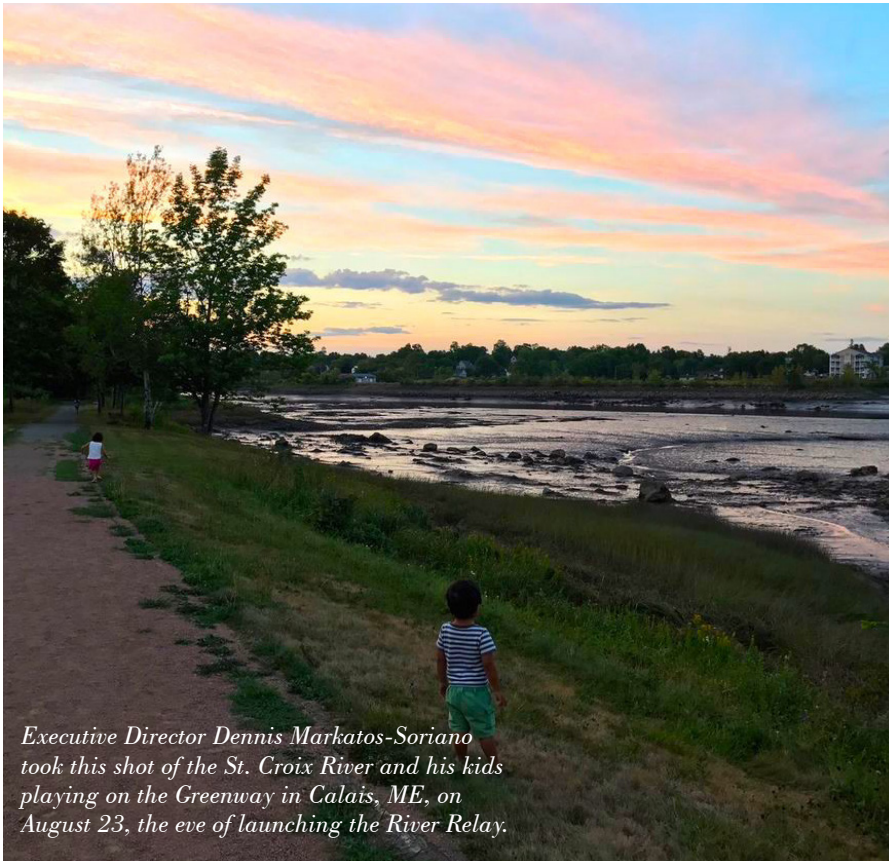
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*Executive Director Dennis Markatos-Soriano took this shot of the St. Croix River and his kids playing on the Greenway in Calais, ME, on August 23, the eve of launching the River Relay.*

**“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.” — Aristotle**

In this season of giving, invest in a healthier, more sustainable future with your tax-deductible gift to the East Coast Greenway.

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&  
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