



# CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

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**For immediate release**

**For more information: [www.NorthamptonMA.gov/STAR](http://www.NorthamptonMA.gov/STAR)**

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## **Northampton's MassCentral and New Haven & Northampton Rail Trail designated National Recreation Trails**

Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced today that Northampton's two primary rail trails, the MassCentral (Norwottuck) Rail Trail and the New Haven & Northampton Canal (Manhan) Rail Trail, have been designated National Recreation Trails. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel approved 21 New National Recreation Trails for 2014, including both of Northampton's trails.

"We all know how great our rail trail system is," said Mayor Narkewicz. "We are pleased that the Department of Interior agrees that our trails are of national importance."

"Rail trails serve our residents for recreation, transportation, and healthy living," said the Mayor. "Rail trails also support our economy, bringing in visitors and dollars to support our hotels, restaurants, and retail economy. We expect that this designation will encourage more people to travel to Northampton to visit our trails."

The MassCentral Rail Trail will eventually extend 100 miles from Northampton to Boston. The New Haven & Northampton Rail Trail will eventually extend 85 miles from Northampton to New Haven. Northampton's sections are the first of either trail to be listed as a National Recreation Trail.

"Northampton started the nomination process to honor our trails and help attract visitors," said Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability. "We also hope, however, that this is only the first step. Eventually the entire trail to Boston and the entire trail to New Haven should be designated National Recreation Trails."

The federal announcement was timed to coincide with National Trails Day, June 7, 2014, an annual celebration of all of the nation's trails, rail trails, multiuse trails, hiking trails, and canoe trails. In addition to 11 miles of rail trails, Northampton has hiking and nature trails through many of the public and privately protected open space in the city.

Secretary Jewell's announcement: [www.interior.gov/news/pressreleases/for-national-trails-day-secretary-jewell-national-park-service-director-jarvis-announce-21-national-recreation-trails-in-11-states.cfm](http://www.interior.gov/news/pressreleases/for-national-trails-day-secretary-jewell-national-park-service-director-jarvis-announce-21-national-recreation-trails-in-11-states.cfm)