

Saturday, Sept. 13th – Sunday, Sept. 28th, 2025
200+ free events across Essex County!

TRAILS & SAILS



ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Trails & Sails is a 16-day event that takes place every September throughout the Essex National Heritage Area (Essex County, MA). Featuring hundreds of free events, Essex Heritage partners with 100+ organizations who showcase what a special place this truly is. With thousands of participants reported annually, hosting a Trails & Sails event is a great opportunity for regional exposure and to reach new audiences.

From hands-on experiences to uncovering hidden gems, Trails & Sails offers something for everyone — fostering stewardship, fueling cultural tourism, and making heritage resources accessible to all. Join in on the fun by hosting an event in 2025!



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

Trails & Sails 2025

HISTORY

Entering its 24th year, Trails & Sails is an event series that brings awareness and appreciation for the many natural, cultural, and historic resources throughout Essex County, which is located within the Essex National Heritage Area. Since inception, the program has expanded from 1 weekend to 16 days of adventure!

HOW TO PARTNER

Trails & Sails is organized and coordinated by Essex Heritage, who partners with non-profits, community groups, and small businesses to host events. Hosts can submit their events through a simple online form on the Trails & Sails website. Once events are in the works, Essex Heritage becomes the marketing engine to promote the series. This is done through the publication of a printed guide, an online and mobile-friendly website, and further digital media promotion.

THEMES

This year, events that fall under the following themes will be given a special focus in our print and online materials.

Essex County Revolution 250: Events that explore Essex County's role in the American Revolution.

From Past to Present: Events that uncover the lesser-known stories of our past and help guide us to a better future.

Exploring Our Coast and Waterways: Events that educate people about our water-based resources and highlight their importance.

Outdoor Adventures: Events that showcase the natural beauty of Essex County and how we can support our green spaces.

If you would like to see if your organization's event can be represented under one of these themes, please contact HeatherG@EssexHeritage.org to learn more!

WHY

Essex Heritage believes that if residents and visitors get a taste of the thousands of assets found in Essex County, they will be more likely to promote and support those places over time. Through Trails & Sails, awareness and appreciation of local resources can be catalyzed and all ages can enjoy what Essex County has to offer.

LEARN MORE BY VISITING

WWW.TRAILSANDSAILS.ORG