



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex Sheriff's Office

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Middlesex Sheriff's Office completes CWP project with the Middlesex Canal Association

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian joined Middlesex Canal Association President J. Jeremiah Breen and member Marlies Henderson in Billerica Friday to tour a project recently completed by the Sheriff's Community Work Program (CWP).

At the request of Ms. Henderson, the Sheriff assigned a five-member inmate crew to assist with the cleanup of a portion of the hiking trail along the Middlesex Canal. Over the course of two days, the inmates – under the direct supervision of a correction officer – clipped and trimmed branches to make the trail passable. The crew also removed several televisions, a sled and nearly 20 tires among other items dumped along the trail.

The project was completed in advance of an October 19 trail hike being led by the Middlesex Canal Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC).

"The Middlesex Canal holds a special historical significance for the Middlesex Sheriff's Office with former Middlesex Sheriff Loammi Baldwin having been a principal driver in the design and construction of the canal following his term as High Sheriff," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "I am glad we were able to assist the Association with this cleanup and I look forward to continuing to work with them in the future. Projects where our CWP crews can help clear trails and public areas for active and passive recreation are projects I want to do more of in the future."

"When the Middlesex Canal Association asked me if I would prepare the trail for their Fall Walk, I skeptically thought, 'sure, if I could clone myself'. Serendipitously, the Sheriff was looking for a trails project and I was delighted to be assigned a crew," said Henderson. "The inmates and the correction officer were polite and hardworking and I look forward to future collaboration with the Sheriff. I would also like to acknowledge the smooth collaboration with the Billerica Conservation, DPW and Fire Department for advice with regards to invasive plants, help with trash pick-up and use of the facilities respectively. Now it is on to the Oct. 19 Fall Walk which follows the footsteps of Henry Thoreau who enjoyed the very same walk in 1839!"

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