

## Kendra Baumer

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**From:** New York-New Jersey Trail Conference <kbaumer@nynjtc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 11:47 AM  
**To:** Kendra Baumer  
**Subject:** Greetings from Our New Volunteer Engagement Manager



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Dear Trail Conference Volunteers and Members,

My name is Kendra Baumer and I recently joined the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference team as the full-time Volunteer Engagement Manager.

I've been a member and trail maintainer for over two years and am very excited to begin contributing to the Trail Conference as a staff member.

It's no secret that the Trail Conference has been going through change. The organization is faced with mounting demands - our trails are experiencing increased popularity at the same time public financing for our parks is decreasing, and the ecosystems our trails traverse are strained due to overuse and climate change.

To meet these challenges head-on, the organization has had to rapidly grow, expand programming, restructure, and, most recently, update our mission statement. As the world and landscape we work in evolves, so too, do we.

I've witnessed these shifts as a volunteer and am now observing them as a staff member. Growing pains inevitably come along with big adjustments. **We're working hard to tackle them** and that's part of the reason I've been brought aboard.

**I want to work together with you to continue to make the organization better.** Whether you are a board member, volunteer, donating member, or staff, we are all part of the Trail Conference family.

My goals are to: help smooth out the bumps that have arisen along the road of change; strengthen the organization by enhancing the volunteer programs to improve the experience; and further cultivate a symbiotic relationship between staff and volunteers.

The first step I'm taking is to conduct a full review of the volunteer and member experience, the organization, and volunteer programming. I've already begun the process, which will take a few months to complete. **A key part of the review will be to get feedback directly from you.**

There will be opportunities for you to participate along the way, and I'd like to get this ball rolling by beginning to meet with you directly. **I'll be hosting a meet and greet on December 9 at Village Buzz Café in Greenwood Lake, NY, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. I invite you to [sign up here](#).**

I look forward to working with you as we continue to ensure that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come.

Warmly,  
Kendra

*For Kendra's bio and background, please visit the [About Us](#) section of the website.*

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