

Disclaimer and Cautions: The Bay Circuit Alliance, as the advocate and promoter of the Bay Circuit Trail, expressly disclaims responsibility for injuries or damages that may arise from using the trail. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of maps or completeness of warnings about hazards that may exist. Portions of the trail are along roads or train tracks and involve crossing them. Users should pay attention to traffic and walk on the shoulder of roads facing traffic, not on the pavement, cross only at designated locations and use extreme care. Children and pets need to be closely monitored and under control.



Map 5A - Tewksbury, Billerica, Bedford - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route

(as shown on map 5A dated July 2016)
(text updated July 2017)

The BCT often follows pre-existing local trails; BCT-specific blazing is a work in progress and may be sparse in segments. We encourage you to review and carry corresponding local maps on your BCT walk.

Trail Notices regarding trail problems and closures are posted on the website at www.baycircuit.org under the Explore tab. Please review them for updates to the trail guide and maps.

Tewksbury and Billerica: BCT supporters are trying to create a link between Andover and Bedford. Proposed route is subject to change and is not blazed.

Bedford: Sections of Bedford BCT are not blazed.

BCT North to South, distances approximate.

K N42 31.682 W71 16.519

0.0 Orchard Rd in Billerica, west of Rte 3 bridge.
Follow Middlesex Community College (MCC) fitness trail down roadway embankment toward Rte 3 and into woods paralleling Rte 3.

0.4 Cross town line into Bedford.

0.7 Kiosk for start of MCC fitness trail. To right of kiosk, head south on trail into woods.

0.8 Cross MCC south entrance road, right for 150 ft along grassed shoulder, and left into the woods.

1.0 Cross Springs Rd into Governor Winthrop Conservation Area and follow paths north of wetlands and woodlands.

1.4 Left onto Narrow Gauge Rail Trail to Sweetwater Ave.

L N42 30.889 W71 16.554

1.6 **Fawn Lake Conservation Area** parking lot (P=10) on Sweetwater Ave, about .25 mile east of Rte 4, follow stone dust rail trail south, passing the Veterans Administration Hospital and the **York Conservation Area**. This section of BCT is wide and smooth, suitable for strollers, sport wheelchairs, and bicycling.

M N42 29.961 W71 16.539

2.7 Cross Pine Hill Rd (parking east of trail crossing).
Continue on rail trail one-quarter mile to Springs Rd.

3.0 Tr. jct. Spur trail to Minuteman Bikeway begins here. To access Minuteman Bikeway, or for the more sylvan alternative, continue on the Bedford Narrow Gauge stone dust rail trail parallel to Hillside Ave, cross Great Rd at Memorial Park, continue to Loomis St beside Pizza Express. Minuteman Bikeway is diagonally across the street at jct of Loomis, South, and Railroad Avenue. Or continue on Railroad Avenue west to an unpaved parking area

with

access to the Minuteman Bikeway Extension (also known as the Reformatory Branch), where Bay Circuit

marking picks up again.

3.0 The dedicated BCT route turns right onto Springs Rd sidewalk to jct of Springs Rd and Hillside Ave. Use cross walk to continue south on Springs Rd using sidewalk. This stretch of the BCT passes period homes and the Old Burying Ground of the **Bedford Historic District**.

3.4 Reach Bedford Center at jct of Springs Rd and Great Rd (Rtes 4/225). Cross Great Rd at signalized crosswalk (**CAUTION: heavy traffic**) to southerly sidewalk and turn right passing the Town Common with the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church on the site of the original meeting house, the First Congregational Church, and the Bedford Historical Society Archives at the Police Station.

N N42 29.594 W71 16.985

3.6 Turn left on Mudge Way using sidewalk on far (west) side. Pass Bedford Free Public Library and Bedford High School on right, parking lot and ball fields on left.

3.9 At far end of high school, continue on paved multi-use path that passes between athletic fields, to Railroad Avenue (John Glenn Middle School is across the street). Turn left, continuing on asphalt sidewalk. Follow sidewalk as road curves to the right around athletic fields.

4.3 At sharp left turn of Railroad Avenue, cross road to gravel parking area for **Elm Brook Conservation Area** (P=10 on rt side of rd). At back left corner of parking area, take footpath. In about 75 yards turn right as path joins the abandoned RR bed that leads

to Concord. Follow RR bed west, ignoring all side trails. Pass water treatment plant; continue straight ahead on water dept paved access road.

P N42 28.950 W71 17.955

5.1 (P=1-2 cars at Hartwell Rd) Cross Hartwell Rd. Continue on RR bed (slightly narrower here), ignoring all side trails. Pass **Mary Putnam Webber Wildlife Preserve** on left. Continue straight to gravel parking lot (P=10) on Rte 62, between #402 Concord Rd (a red brick preschool) and #392, a house.

R N42 28.788 W71 18.892

5.9 RR bed continues on other side of Rte 62 into Concord along **Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge**.

(Continued on map 6 at point "R")

Map 5A -Tewksbury, Billerica, Bedford, Carlisle - THE JEWELS

Middlesex Canal - Volunteers are attempting to restore parts of this historic canal, to protect the old towpath and make it a walking/bicycling path, and to create Concord Millpond Park in Billerica. Phase one of Millpond Park is in progress. Museum and visitor center in Faulkner Mill open Sat & Sun 12-4, except holidays. www.middlesexcanal.org

Yankee Doodle Bike Path - a work in progress. Town Meeting has voted to fund a 25% Design and the town has submitted a preferred alignment with MassDOT for construction funding approval Rte 3 crossing has been built. For information contact Billerica Rec. Dept at 978-671-0921

Minuteman Bikeway - Beginning in Bedford and extending to the Alewife MBTA station, this paved 10 mile long recreational trail is a favorite with commuters as well as families. ADA accessible. It passes near shops, parks, and historic sites. Maps may be available at town halls and some local businesses, and online: www.minutemanbikeway.org

Narrow Gauge Rail Trail (2 miles) - paved from the Minuteman to Great Rd, then a wide stone dust multi-use path, suitable for families, strollers, and sport wheelchairs. Northern end near Rte 3 in Technology Park. Billerica advocates hope to extend this to their High School.

Warren Manning State Forest and State Park, and

Gilson Hill Lot (DCR; total 480 acres) - Woodland trails, some wetlands. Camping; toddler sprinkler park. Access from Rte 129, Rangeway Rd, and Treble Cove Rd. Parking off Rte 129. Maps are available at at Billerica Cons. Com

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge -Concord Unit (US Fish & Wildlife Service) - 3,486 acres of wetlands, uplands, bottomland hardwoods in both units. Established in 1944 primarily as a sanctuary for migratory and wetland birds. Highest public use of all refuges in the wildlife complex. Maps of both this northern unit and the Sudbury unit are available at headquarters, Weir Hill Rd., Sudbury. 978-443-4661 www.fws.gov/northeast/greatmeadows/

Tewksbury:

Tewksbury Hospital land - Prolonged negotiations with the state have resulted in permanent protection of some open space portions of this property for recreational use, while other portions are put to agricultural and other uses. The proposed BCT "eastern leg" will pass through this property when completed

Indian Springs (water dept) - Part of the Heath Brook well fields, many Indian relics have been found here. Even in winter the springs don't freeze, so the area was a popular winter homesite for native Americans.

Heath Brook well fields (water dept) - Wet but interesting walking between Foster Rd. and Rte. 38

Foster's Park (Cons.Com) - Between Shawsheen Rd. and the Shawsheen River, numerous trails with views of the river

Billerica: maps available in *Billerica's Natural Treasures at Cons.Com office*

Jones Town Forest (Cons.Com; 130 acres) - several trails; Jones Brook. Abuts Shawsheen River. Access from Buckingham Dr

Bignell Road Town Forest (Cons.Com; 15 acres) - dirt rd leading to power line easement, 2 trails used by dirt bikes. Access from Bignell Rd

Shaloo Meadow Town Forest (Cons.Com; 17 acres) - Shawsheen River floodplain. Fishing and canoeing

Marshall Orchard (Cons.Com; 4.7 acres) - nature trails. Access from end of Francesca Way off Russet Rd

Fox Hill conservation land (Cons.Com; 35 acres)

Rangeway Road Town Forest (Cons.Com; 25 acres) - Some hiking trails. Access from Rangeway Rd

Shady Hill Ave. conservation land (Cons.Com; 13 acres) - Dirt rd along northeastern side connects with old RR bed. Abuts Martina Gage Conservation Land. Access from Eliot Street / Orchard Rd bridge.

Nuttings Lake (Cons.Com; 22 acres) - trails and swimming beach. Access from Middlesex Turnpike. Parking permits and info thru Rec. Dept.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park (Billerica; 197 acres). on west bank of the Concord River. Soccer fields, wooded areas, and Winning Pond. Access from Treble Cove Rd just south of Rte 3

Ralph Hill Wood Lot (Sudbury Valley Trustees; 34 acres) - rolling wooded land shaped by glaciers. Access from Vietnam Veterans Park or by canoe from Concord River

Ralph Hill Homestead (Sudbury Valley Trustees; 28 acres) - wooded area on east side of river, upstream from Rte 3. Trail follows riverbank; several good canoe landing sites. Access thru Billerica land at end of Ossipee Rd, off Riverhurst Rd

***Carlisle:** detailed maps of these properties are in Trails in Carlisle available for about \$10 at town hall. Some maps on-line www.carlisle.org*

Greenough Land (Cons.Com; 242 acres) - trails circle a 15-acre pond and lead to Concord River. Good x-country skiing. Some trails lead to adjacent private property; use of trail map suggested. Link to Foss Farm thru O'Rourke farm. Two parking areas off Maple St

O'Rourke farm (US Fish and Wildlife Service) - town purchase of this property in 1998 with resale to become part of Great Meadows Nat'l Wildlife Refuge created public connecting trails between Greenough and Foss Farm properties. Trail along river is being constructed. No mountain bikes or horses allowed. The only foot access is from Greenough or Foss Farm properties

Foss Farm (Cons.Com; 57 acres) - flat trails along established dirt roads make this area accessible to sport wheelchairs and strollers. Land includes community gardens, large fields, pony ring, and woodlands. Link to Greenough thru O'Rourke purchase is being constructed. Parking on Rte 225

***Bedford:** maps available on town website (<http://www.bedfordma.gov/trails-committee/pages/bedford-trail-maps>) or a "Trail Guide" can be purchased for \$10 at Town Hall or DPW.*

Middlesex Community College - Located in a wooded industrial park near several Bedford conservation areas. Trails connect to adjacent conservation land

Buehler Ponds Conservation Area (Cons.Com; 9 acres) - trails around small ponds. Access from Narrow Gauge Rail Trail north of Fawn Lake parking lot and from Job Lane School. Parking at Sweetwater Avenue.

Fawn Lake (Cons.Com; 40 acres) - Half mile trail around the lake (which once was part of a health resort). Colored blazes on various trails. Limited fishing; ice skating. Parking lot off Sweetwater Ave. Access also from Middlesex Community College parking lot south of lake and from Springs Rd

Wilderness Park Conservation Area (Cons.Com; 74 acres) - well developed network of trails thru woodlands, swamp, and old-field habitats. Access from Springs Rd. Parking at Middlesex Community College offsite lot.

Shawsheen River Conservation Area (Cons.Com; 28 acres) - One long east-west trail provides pedestrian access to the river and its floodplain. Excellent wildlife habitat. Access by right of way from Middlesex Turnpike via small cart path. Limited off-rd parking.

York Conservation Area (Cons.Com; 39 acres) - One north-south trail loops off the BCT (BCT follows rail trail here). Access from Narrow Gauge Rail Trail north of Pine Hill Rd.

Minnie Reid Conservation Area (Cons.Com; 25 acres) - abundant wildlife in varied habitats, including field that is mowed yearly. Single trail provides access to the 300 acre Huckins Farm property. Access from Chelmsford Rd (Rte 4) near jct with North Rd.

Elm Brook Conservation Area (Cons.Com; 69 acres) - Eastern area has several trails. Abuts Elm Brook and Minuteman Bikeway Extension/RR right of way. Access from Minuteman Bikeway Extension RR bed and unpaved parking area on Railroad Ave

Huckins Farm is a clustered housing development with extensive trail easements and access to the Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge. Some trails are good for

jogging and family walking. Trails are unpaved and biking is prohibited by the Conservation Restriction. Trail link to Harvard U. research lands south of farm. Access from Rte 4

Hartwell Town Forest and Jordan Conservation Area (Cons. Com; 156 acres) - extensive network of trails on flat wooded terrain. Town gardens and abandoned cranberry bogs. Picnic areas. Access from 3 points on Hartwell Rd and 2 on South Rd

Mary Putnam Webber Wildlife Preserve (Cons.Com; 20acres) - uplands and sensitive wetlands; mature oak forest and white pine groves, surrounding a certified vernal pool containing wood frog habitat. Interpretive trail and trail guide. Adjacent to the rail trail; accessible from either Concord or Hartwell Rd

Lindau Farmstead at Pine Hill (Municipal land) - trails wind through open fields and mature oak forest. Viewing areas overlooking the Upper Field and under an ancient red oak in the Lower Field. Between Pine Hill, Doris, Fletcher and Paul Revere Rds, just north of the center of town. Primary access is from Pine Hill Rd, along a gravel trail by the water tower

Map 5A -Tewksbury, Billerica, Bedford, Carlisle - FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maps and trail guides:

- Relevant USGS topo maps 7.5 x 15 are Reading, Billerica, and Maynard
- Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge maps available at the HQ/ visitor center, Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury. 978-443-4661. Various nature and trail brochures available online: www.fws.gov/northeast/greatmeadows/refuge_brochure.html
- Maps of Billerica and Warren-Manning State Forests available at Great Brook Farm State Park, Lowell St
- The Billerica Conservation Commission may have some individual pamphlets with maps available. Contact Cons.Com for further information: 365 Boston Rd, Town Hall 978-671-0966
- Trail Guide available at Bedford Town Hall or DPW for \$10
- *Trails in Carlisle* with detailed maps, about \$10 at Town Hall
- Maps of Minuteman Bikeway are available at town halls and some merchants along the route. Also online: www.minutemanbikeway.org
- Tewksbury Conservation Commission, corner of Whipple and Pine, has an updated open space map of

the town

- Sudbury Valley Trustees sell individual maps of many of their properties. Canoeing map. Order maps and books on website www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org
- *Concord, Sudbury, and Assabet Rivers Canoe Guide* (2nd edition) by Ron McAdow, available from SVT for \$22
- *Hiking the SuAsCo Watershed* (2004) by Jill Phelps Kern, available from SVT for \$16

Local Trail and Land/Water Protection Organizations:

Closing the Tewksbury gap - various groups and individuals have been working to protect the Bay Circuit route between High Plain Rd in Andover and Bedford via Tewksbury's old Native American path called the Wamesit loop. To volunteer in this effort contact the Bay Circuit Alliance headquarters for more information.

Middlesex Canal Commission - established by MA Legislature in 1977, 16 appointed members, whose mandate is "to return the Canal to public use." Walks and events. www.middlesexcanal.org

Museum and Visitors Center in Faulkner Mills near Concord Millpond Park (71 Faulkner St., No. Billerica) is open Sat and Sun 12 to 4, except holidays. Volunteers work to keep part of the canal visible and attractive by clearing brush, protect the old towpath from encroachment, and plan a walking/biking path within the restoration plans.

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (US Fish & Wildlife Service) - Maps and brochures online at www.fws.gov/northeast/greatmeadows/ and may also be available at HQ/visitor center, Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury.

Region 2 DCR headquarters - Great Brook Farm State Park, Lowell St, Carlisle. Maps available 978-369-6312.

Tewksbury Conservation Commission - corner Whipple & Pine www.tewksbury.net

Billerica Conservation Commission - 365 Boston Rd (Town Hall) 978-671-0966 Maps of some town properties may be available www.billerica.ma.us

Bedford Conservation Commission/ Bedford Trails Committee - 10 Mudge Way (Town Offices) 781-275-6211; Trail Guides may be purchased for \$10. Maps available on town website: <http://www.bedfordma.gov/trails-committee/pages/bedford-trail-maps>

Bedford Friends of the Minuteman Bikeway - new members welcome to help extend bike trails, encourage biking, improve bike parking and access to stores, advocate for town regulations. Meets monthly after Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee. Check website <http://bikebedford.org> for current schedule

Carlisle Trails Committee - appointed committee seeks to build a network of trails connecting neighborhoods and open space. Volunteers welcome and needed for trail blazing, maintenance, mapping and preservation. Meetings are posted

Carlisle Conservation Commission - Westford Rd, Rte 225 (Town Hall) 978-369-0336 www.carlisle.org
Some maps

Carlisle Conservation Foundation and Land Trust - non-profit group seeking to permanently preserve open space. Currently Foundation owns 125 acres and holds conservation restrictions on another 107 acres. Works with town and **Carlisle Land Trust**. Funding comes from annual dues and donations. New members welcome. PO Box 300, Carlisle 01741
www.carlisleconservationfoundation.org

Sudbury Valley Trustees - protecting the natural resources of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River Valleys since 1953. Over 100 properties and 3600 acres. Bicycles are prohibited on SVT land. Members receive newsletters, maps, outings and events listings. 18 Wohlbach Rd, Sudbury 01776. 978-443-5588
www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org

Shawsheen River Watershed Association - citizens' group seeking to protect and improve water quality and public access. Check excellent website at www.shawsheen.org for info on meetings and membership

SWEAT (Shawsheen Watershed Environmental Action Team) - part of SRWA. Members organize frequent river clean-ups. Volunteers welcome. 978-851-9505

SuAsCo Watershed Community Council - collaboration of businesses, towns, environmental organizations, and state, federal and regional govt to manage environmental issues in the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed. Seek to protect natural resources, restore water quality & flow, coordinate land use and water resource planning, encourage stewardship, and channel financial and technical assistance to solve

problems. Task forces welcome volunteers. 118 Great Rd Suite 200, Stow 01775 978-461-0735 www.suasco.org

Charles River Wheelmen - very active group of bicyclists that lead rides of varying lengths throughout BC area. Excellent website lists rides, membership & other info at: www.crw.org

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