

**Map 4 - Andover, Tewksbury, Lowell –
BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route**

(as shown on map 4 dated March 2011)

(text updated March 2011)

Trail marking:

Andover: the BCT is marked with standard white dollar bill-sized blazes, oriented vertically, painted or nailed on trees or poles. On some AVIS properties other trails are also marked with white blazes, so look for the Bay Circuit logo at trail intersections.

Parking along the street is possible at some trailheads. Parking lots are indicated in trail description. No parking allowed along Central St, Reservation Rd, Rte 133, High Plain Rd

Tewksbury: BCT is unmarked

Lowell: Downtown the trail coincides with the Canalway Trail marked with small black signs with showing map.

Andover BCT route, north to south (actually, east to west here) from Shawsheen River to Tewksbury

A N42 38.856 W71 09.078

0.0 From junction of Central St, Reservation Rd., Andover St, and Red Spring Rd proceed uphill along Reservation Rd (P=3 near RR bridge on Red Spring Rd side)

Indian Ridge Reservation, AVIS.

0.1 Right onto woods trail. Follow blazes up the esker to Alice Buck memorial stone. Continue following blazes

0.5 Sharp left, then immediate right to ascend second esker, which passes behind Andover High School

1.0 Leave esker on trail left to reach boardwalk. Follow boardwalk to the meadow.

West Parish Meadow Reservation, AVIS

1.05 Follow well-worn path across meadow

1.2 Reenter woods, reach boardwalk shortly
1.3 Right on Reservation Rd

West Parish Cemetery

B N42 39.328 W71 09.824

1.4 Cross intersection of Reservation Rd and Cutler Rd and Oriole Dr; enter cemetery thru gate. Immediate left to enter woods trail.

1.8 Leave cemetery thru opening in stone wall at corner of Cutler Rd and Lowell St (Rte 133) (Parking on Cutler Rd). Immediate right on Lowell St sidewalk (BCT blazes on utility poles on opposite side of street; use sidewalk)

Doyle Link, Andover Conservation

Commission

C N42 39.400 W71 10.230

1.9 Cross Rte 133 (use caution) to enter Doyle Link

1.95 At first trail jct, take left fork.

2.38 Sharp right, trail slopes uphill about 200 ft, then sharp left thru stone wall, then bear right.

Follow blazes to High Plain Rd

D N42 39.794 W71 10.924

2.9 Left onto High Plain Rd for 1.4 miles, over Rte 93 and Rte 495.

E N42 39.515 W71 11.906

3.6 note: possible BCT route "eastern leg" into Tewksbury would begin at woods road on left leading to Haggetts Pond. Tr currently can be followed to Rte. 133, where it is interrupted by private property)

F N42 39.572 W71 12.248

4.3 Right into woods, across from Bald Hill Reservation parking lot (P=20) on south side of road.

Harold Rafton Reservation, AVIS (AVIS uses white blazes for all trails here. Look for Bay Circuit logo markers at trail jcts)

4.61 Right at trail jct

4.82 Left at trail jct and cross under power line

4.94 Left at trail jct instead of going straight to Fish Brook viewing platform.

**Fish Brook, Andover Conservation
Commission**

5.3 Cross brook on bridge, 40 feet left of trail. Right to resume trail

6.2 Enter field, cross to corner of River Rd and Chandler Rd (P=4)

G N42 40.793 W71 13.070

6.3 Left briefly on River Rd, right onto Launching Rd. Go 0.3 mi on Launching Rd to enter Deer Jump Reservation on right.

Deer Jump Reservation, AVIS (AVIS uses white blazes for all trails here. Look for Bay Circuit logo markers at trail jcts. Follow tr parallel to the river)

6.65 Right into woods, left at first jct. Head toward Merrimack River (South to North: to leave the river trail bear right uphill at small bridge)

6.73 Left at trail jct, downhill toward Merrimack River. Continue following river trail for 2.5 miles to the Tewksbury pumping station. Ignore white blazes to mark egress trails to the left

H N42 39.722 W71 14.463

Tr passes under power lines. (Take steep side trail up bluff for scenic birds-eye view of river and for parking P=4 on River Rd at power lines)

K N42 39.382 W71 15.280

9.2 Tewksbury pumping station

Tewksbury BCT route to Merrimack River Trail in Lowell

Two routes are possible at this point, depending on the season. In winter, skiers and walkers are allowed to continue parallel to the river on the golf course property and behind St. Mary's Cemetery, to the public river trail thru Tewksbury

and Lowell. In other seasons the golf course is closed to non-golf use.

Non-Winter route:

K N42 39.382 W71 15.280

9.2 Tewksbury pumping station. Leave **Merrimack River Trail** at the Tewksbury pumping station (parking allowed along Merrimack St). Take Merrimack St to River Rd, turn right, pass St. Mary's cemetery, and continue to the Tewksbury/Lowell town line at the junction with Rte 13.3 (gas station). Bear right, then turn hard right onto Burnham Rd toward the river.

L N42 39.297 W71 16.532

11.3 **Merrimack River Trail** in Lowell.

Winter route:

K N42 39.382 W71 15.280

9.2 Tewksbury pumping station (parking allowed along Merrimack St). Continue along edge of Merrimack River on golf course and trails in St Mary's Cemetery.

L N42 39.297 W71 16.532

10.4 **Merrimack River Trail** in Lowell at Burham Rd.

Lowell BCT route along the Merrimack River, northeast to southwest

L N42 39.297 W71 16.532

0.0 Follow the trail constructed on large boulders southwest along the Merrimack River. From here to downtown Lowell hikers are on both the BCT and the Merrimack River Trail. This stretch has not been uniformly maintained and some abutters have encroached on the right of way with gardens, patios, and building debris. It is, however, passable and public. The rip-rap construction covers a sewer interceptor. Trail

passes sewage treatment plant. Follow driveway around the plant to resume the public river trail
1.3 Leave **Merrimack River Trail**. Left on short trail up embankment (over guardrail) to intersection of Corrigan Ave and Stackpole St, and right on Stackpole St. Cross Nesmith St (Rte 38/110) and continue on Stackpole St to Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

M N42 38.739 W71 18.219

1.8 Follow sidewalks around Lowell Memorial Auditorium to East Merrimack St. Right on East Merrimack St (becomes Merrimack St). Follow Merrimack River Trail (Canalway black signs) to Kerouac Park, Boott Cotton Mill Museum, other historic mill sites, to Lowell National/State Historical Park Visitors Center at Market St and Shattuck St (parking lot in back of buildings, P=25+)

2.8 Visitors Center. End of trail at present.

Proposed Trail in Lowell under development:

1. Connection to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The BCT will continue at Davidson St in downtown Lowell along the Concord River Greenway (CRG). Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust is working to complete the CRG that will be the eventual BCT route linking to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at Cross Point. Two sections of the CRG are complete from East Merrimack St to Fayette St and from Rogers St to Lawrence St in Lowell. When completed BCT will leave the Merrimack River Trail near Middlesex Community College to access the Concord River Greenway.

2. Merrimack River Trail to Concord River. Instead of leaving the Merrimack River at the intersection of Corrigan Ave and Stackpole St,

continue west along the river and under the Rte 38/110 bridge to the Public Housing building driveway on Stackpole St in the vicinity of St. John's Hospital and Lowell Memorial Auditorium. This part will be opened when the city improves the section under the bridge.

Map 4 -Andover, Tewksbury, Lowell - THE JEWELS

Indian Ridge Reservation (Andover Village Improvement Society; 23 acres) - Woodland trails along Indian Ridge, a glacial esker 50 feet high. A plaque on a boulder memorializes Alice Buck, one of Andover's first conservationists. Parking lot at Andover High School

Bakers Meadow Reservation (AVIS; 59 acres) - Woodland trail circles a created pond and wetlands. Many species of birds, including herons, ducks, and rare snowy owls, have been sighted. Vital habitat for muskrat, mink and beaver

West Parish Meadow Reservation (AVIS; 28 acres) One of the few true meadows remaining in town. Several small ponds, wildflowers, and many birds. A beautifully illustrated self-guiding nature trail booklet is available for \$4 from AVIS and at Moor and Mountain outfitters in Dundee Park. Parking lot at Andover High School

Doyle Link (Andover Conservation Commission; 75 acres) - Pleasant woodlands, two ponds, several streams. Red maple swamp on the Greenwood Rd end. Beautiful autumn foliage

Haggett's Pond (Andover Water Dept) - Wide unpaved level path from High Plain Rd. to Haggett's Pond Rd near jct with Rte 133. Possible future BCT route. Picnic spots, views of pond. Fishing allowed. No swimming. Limited parking on Haggetts Pond Rd and on High Plain Rd

Harold R. Rafton Reservation (AVIS; 226 acres) and **Fish Brook Wetlands** (Andover Conservation Commission; 235 acres) - Once farmland and woodlot. Many old stone walls remain. The ski loop trail passes through lovely hemlock groves. Trails pass beaver-dammed swamps and other wetlands. Fish Brook watershed is part of Andover's public water supply. A new AVIS parking lot is now available, 50 yds east of the compost site on High Plain Rd.--parking no longer allowed at compost site (fenced off); P=4 at jct. of Chandler Rd. and River Rd.

Shawsheen River and Vale Reservations (AVIS; 75 acres) - **Pomps Pond and Recreation Park** (Andover Conservation Commission; 101 acres) - Pleasant riverside hiking, ski touring, and canoeing. Canoe launch sites for Shawsheen River at end of Dale St and at Central St Bridge. At Recreation Park also tennis, softball, picnicking, swimming and canoeing. Parking lots at Recreation Park, end of Dale St, and near Ballardvale dam; small lot on Red Spring Rd near RR bridge; along Abbot Bridge Dr.

Wood Hill and Bald Hill (Andover Conservation Commission; 203 acres) - Woodland hiking, partly along old farm roads. Views east from Bald Hill.

A new AVIS parking lot is now available, 50 yds east of the compost site on High Plain Rd.-- parking no longer allowed at compost site (fenced off).

Nat Smith Reservation (AVIS; 67 acres) – Bailey trail was the first trail constructed by Andover Youth Services, in 2000. Also a loop trail. Mountain laurel display in May. Access from Berkeley Lane, off Wellington Circle

Deer Jump Reservation and Spaulding Reservation (AVIS; 163 acres)

Merrimack River Reservation (Andover Conservation Commission; 76 acres) - Several trails coincide here. The Penacook Trail from Lawrence to Lowell Heritage State Park is part of the larger Merrimack River Trail. The BCT joins these trails near Launching Rd and continues south and west to the Tewksbury line.

North and east of Launching Rd, the wide smooth Merrimack River Trail extends to the end of the Philips complex, offering good views of the river. Popular for hiking and jogging. The Merrimack River Trail then narrows and continues under Rte 93 and to the Lawrence line. The trail will eventually lead to Heritage State Park in Lawrence and beyond.

Parking: Along Launching Rd., Brundrett Ave., River Rd.; parking lots at New England Business Park, the Wyndham Hotel, and the Greater Lawrence Vocational School

Sewer interceptor trail, Tewksbury & Lowell - Don't let the name fool you. This public path constructed of large boulders and gravel is a scenic 2-mile walk along the south side of the Merrimack River. It serves as the BCT route and

the Merrimack River Trail route. Though not uniformly maintained and in places suffering encroachment from neighbors, it is an interesting walk from which to observe the river.

Kerouac Park (off Merrimack St., Lowell) - Small plaza with excerpts of locally born poet Jack Kerouac's work on polished granite monuments. On BCT route. Parking in nearby lots or on street

Lowell National Historical Park and Lowell Heritage State Park - These urban historic parks recount the glory days of the cotton and woolen mills that made Lowell America's first great industrial city and celebrate the present ethnic diversity of the city. Tours of the mills, the mill-girls' housing, and the canals that powered the mills are free. Call 978-459-1000 (LNHP) for information and tour registration.

www.nps.gov/lowe/

For info on riverfront recreation programs and events call 978-453-0592 (LHSP) or email lowell.heritage@state.ma.us Free parking at Shattuck St. lot. Follow signs from Rte. 495

Livingston Park (Tewksbury Recreation) - Originally part of the Tewksbury Hospital land. Includes playing fields and playgrounds. Parking and access from East St

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

Rogers Fort Hill Park (Lowell Recreation) - Walking paths, hilly site. Access, parking off Rte. 38 near Shedd Playground

Lowell Cemetery (near Rogers Fort Hill Park and Shedd Playground) - Gravesite of Senator Paul Tsongas. Views of Concord River. In the cemetery on the west side of the river is the gravesite of poet Jack Kerouac

Great Swamp - A patchwork of public and private wetlands with trails for the adventurous. Can be accessed from the proposed BCT by old railroad beds

Concord River Greenway - A work in progress by the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust. See website for events and special rafting dates.

Map 4 - Andover, Tewksbury, Lowell - FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maps and trailguides:

- Relevant USGS **topo maps** 7.5 x 15 are Lawrence, Lowell, Reading, Billerica
- **Andover Trail Guide** has been updated and will be available at Moor and Mountain in Andover (3 Railroad St), and the Andover Bookstore (93 Main St), and perhaps online thru AVIS. This book includes maps and descriptions of more than 40 properties, with history and natural features as well as suggested trail routes

- The **AVIS map of Andover** is available for a small cost at Moor and Mountain and the Andover Bookstore.
- Tewksbury Conservation Commission, corner of Whipple and Pine, has an open space map

Local trail and land/water protection organizations

Merrimack River Watershed Council works for protection of the Merrimack River and watershed in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. They lead canoe trips and have an active volunteer stream monitoring program. www.merrimack.org

Shawsheen River Watershed Association.

Active volunteers work to protect and improve water quality and public access. New members welcome. org Monthly meetings. Excellent website www.shawsheen.org

The **Andover Trails Committee** is an informal group of people who support Bay Circuit Alliance projects, improve and maintain existing trails on conservation land, and work on the Shawsheen River Greenway initiative. The public is invited to attend meetings and to volunteer for trails projects. Membership is informal. www.andovertrails.org

Members of the **Appalachian Mountain Club** Andover Committee lead guided walks of the properties in Andover and other interesting sites most weekends from Sept. through June. Free to the public. For details look in the "Events" column of local newspapers, check the Andover page of the AMC website, or join the AMC to receive a monthly

magazine, listing many walks and events throughout New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. www.amcboston.org

AVIS (Andover Village Improvement Society) owns over 1100 acres in Andover on 30 reservations that are open to the public for walking, skiing, and enjoyment of nature. Membership is open to everyone who cares about land preservation. POBox 5097, Andover MA 01810. www.avisandover.org

Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust is a non-profit group "working to protect Lowell's green space." www.lowelllandtrust.org

Lowell National Historic Park - This urban historic park recounts the glory days of the cotton and woolen mills that made Lowell America's first great industrial city. Tours of the mills, the mill-girls' housing, and the canals that powered the mills are free. Bookstore and gift shop. Follow brown signs from Rte 495. Call 978-459-1000 for information and tour registration. www.nps.gov/lowe/

Lowell Heritage State Park celebrates the ethnic diversity of the city. www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/llhp.htm For info on riverfront recreation, programs and events, call 978-458-8750. Free parking at Shattuck St. lot. Follow signs from Rte 495

Closing the Tewksbury gap: various groups have been working to protect the BC route between High Plain Rd and Bedford via Tewksbury's old Native American path called the Wamesit loop. To volunteer contact BCA

headquarters

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

Bay Circuit Alliance headquarters is in the Moor and Mountain store at 3 Railroad St., Andover, across the tracks from the converted old RR station 978-470-1982 www.baycircuit.org