

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

*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*

*BCT North to South, distances approximate. GPS coordinates.*

**L** 42°30'53" 71°16'33"

0.0 From **Fawn Lake Conservation Area** parking lot (P=10) on Sweetwater Ave, about .25 mile east of Rte 4, follow stone dust railtrail 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** 42°29'57" 71°16'33"

1.0 Cross Pine Hill Rd (limited parking). Continue on railtrail to Springs Rd

1.3 Tr. jct. Spur trail to Minuteman Bikeway begins here. Continue on stonedust railtrail 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 Avenues. About 0.5 mile

1.3 Tr. jct. BCT route turns right onto Springs Rd sidewalk to jct of Springs Rd and Hillside Ave. Use cross walk to reach sidewalk on other side of Springs Rd. Continue south. This stretch of the BCT passes period homes and the Old Burial Ground of the **Bedford historic district**

1.5 Reach Bedford Center at jct of Springs Rd and Great Rd (Rtes 4/225). Cross Great Rd to southerly sidewalk and walk west to Mudge Way, passing the Town Common with the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church on the site of the original meeting house, the First Congregational Church, Bedford Historical Society Archives, and the Fitch Tavern

**N** 42°29'36" 71°16'59"

1.7 Turn left, on Mudge Way sidewalk, to cross walk to the library. Pass library and senior high school on right, parking lot and ballfields on left

1.9 At far end of high school, cross driveway onto John Glenn Middle School paved access path that passes between athletic fields. Paved path soon reaches Winchester Dr (John Glenn Middle School is across the street). Turn left at road onto asphalt sidewalk. Follow sidewalk as road curves to the right around athletic field

2.5 At sharp left turn of Winchester Dr cross road to **Elm Brook Conservation Area** (parking lot = 10 on rt side of rd). At back right corner of parking lot, 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** 42°28'59" 71°17'58"

3.4 (P for 1-2 cars on side of water dept access rd 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 parking lot (P=10) on Rte 62, between #402 Concord Rd (a red brick preschool) and #392, a house.

**R** 42°28'46" 71°18'54"

4.2 RR bed continues on other side of Rte 62 to **Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge** and into Concord.

## 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 Faulkners Mill open Sat & Sun 12-4, Apr-Sept. [www.middlesexcanal.org](http://www.middlesexcanal.org)

**Yankee Doodle Bike Path** - a work in progress. State money has been allocated but easements must be secured before design and engineering work is done. For information contact Billerica Rec. Dept at 978-671-0921

**Minuteman Bikeway** - Beginning in Bedford and extending to the Alewife MBTA station, this paved 20 miles long recreational trail is a favorite with commuters as well as families. Handi-capped accessible. It passes near shops, parks, and historic sites. Maps may be available at town halls and some local businesses

**Narrow Gauge Rail Trail** (2 miles) - paved from the Minuteman to Great Rd, then a wide stonedust 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 high school

**Warren Manning S.F. and Park, and Gilson Hill Lot** (DCR; total 480 acres) - Woodland trails, some wetlands. Good views from top of Gilson Hill. Access from Rte 129, Rangeway Rd, and Winning Rd (off Treble Cove Rd). Parking off Rte 129. Somewhat out of date maps are available at Great Brook Farm State Park headquarters (Lowell St in Carlisle) and 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

### *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

Map 5A - THE JEWELS - continued

**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 Gage Town Forest. Access from end of rd at Nutting Lake

**Nutting 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 \$5 at town hall. Some maps on-line [www.carlisle.org/conservation.htm](http://www.carlisle.org/conservation.htm)

**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:** free maps available at Cons. Com. office. Property descriptions on-line [www.town.bedford.ma.us/conservation](http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/conservation)

**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) - dirt rd; trails around small ponds. Access from railtrail north of Fawn Lake parking lot and from Job Lane School. Parking at Fawn Lake

**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. Self-guiding nature trail booklet available at Cons. Com. office in town hall. Limited fishing; ice skating. Parking lot off Sweetwater Ave, .25 mile from Rte 4. 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 and VA Hospital

**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 cartpath. Limited off-rd parking.

**York Conservation Area** (Cons.Com; 39 acres) - One north-south trail loops off the BCT (BCT follows railtrail here). Access from Mickelson Lane off Pine Hill Rd. Small parking lot.

**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 town-owned RR right of way. Access from RR bed and Winchester Dr. Parking along Railroad Ave

**Huckins Farm** is now partly developed with clustered housing, but an agreement with the town retains many of the trails. Some trails are paved, good for jogging and family walking. 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; 20 acres) - 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 railtrail; accessible from either Concord or Hartwell Rd

**Lindau Farmstead at Pine Hill** (Cons.Com) - 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 towers

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

### Maps and trailguides:

- 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.
- Maps of Billerica and Warren-Manning State Forests available at Great Brook Farm State Park, Lowell St
- *Billerica's Natural Treasures* was reissued in 1997. It is based on the 1979 Conservation Commission booklet *Billerica's Natural Resources*. It describes 22 forests and conservation areas in town and includes some trail maps. The Conservation Commission also has some individual pamphlets with maps available. Contact Cons.Com for further information: 365 Boston Rd, Town Hall 978-671-0966
- Self-guiding nature trail booklet for Fawn Lake Cons. Area, the brochure *Conservation Lands of Bedford* with detailed maps and info about 12 conservation areas, and an informal set of 8 pages of maps of conservation areas are available free at Bedford Conservation Commission office, 10 Mudge Way
- *Trails in Carlisle* with detailed maps, about \$5 at Town Hall
- Maps of Minuteman Bikeway are available at town halls and some merchants along the route
- 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. *Out & About in the SuAsCo Watershed* large map includes canoe info. \$5 for members; \$8 non-members. Order maps and books on website [www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org](http://www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org)
- *Concord, Sudbury, and Assabet Rivers Canoe Guide* (2nd edition) by Ron McAdow, available from SVT for \$18
- *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](http://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, April-Sept. 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 available at HQ/visitor center, Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury. "Friends of Great Meadows" has been formed to help increase public awareness of Refuge issues, improve public facilities, and maintain trails at both Sudbury and Concord units. Group meets monthly at the visitor center and welcomes new members. Phone for info 978-443-4661

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

**Tewksbury Conservation Commission** - corner Whipple & Pine  
**Billerica Conservation Commission** - 365 Boston Rd (Town Hall) 978-671-0966 Maps of some town properties available

**Bedford Conservation Commission** - 10 Mudge Way (Town Offices) 781-275-6211 Maps of most town properties available. Property descriptions on-line [www.town.bedford.ma.us/conservation](http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/conservation)

**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](http://www.carlisle.org) Some maps

**Carlisle Conservation Foundation** - 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](http://www.carlisleconservationfoundation.org)

**Sudbury Valley Trustees** - protecting the natural resources of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River Valleys since 1953. Bicycles are prohibited on SVT land. Members receive newsletters, maps, outings and events listings. Membership starts at \$40. 18 Wohlbach Rd, Sudbury 01776. 978-443-5588 [www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org](http://www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org)

**Liberty Land Trust** - citizens' group seeking to acquire land and easements for conserving open space in its natural state, in Billerica and surrounding towns. Land will increase opportunities for passive recreation in the area. Funding is strictly from members and donations. Donations and new members welcome. 978-667-0222 [www.libertylandtrust.org](http://www.libertylandtrust.org) 6 Biagiotti Way, N.Billerica 01862

**Shawsheen River Watershed Association** - citizens' group seeking to protect and improve water quality and public access. Check excellent website at [www.shawsheen.org](http://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

**CREST** (Concord River Environmental Stream Team) - Volunteer group organized in 1999 to clean and maintain the Concord River. Contact Kevin Gilligan 978-667-8692

**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](http://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 [www.crw.org](http://www.crw.org)

**Bay Circuit Alliance** - 3 Railroad St., Andover, across from the old railroad station. 978-470-1982 [baycircuit@juno.com](mailto:baycircuit@juno.com) [www.baycircuit.org](http://www.baycircuit.org)