

**Map 5B - Lowell, Chelmsford,
Carlisle, Westford - BAY CIRCUIT
TRAIL proposed route**

North to south; no blazes

*Dedicated BCT from Andover to Lowell (east/west) follows the Merrimack River for about 6 miles along the **Merrimack River Trail**. In Lowell MRT logos lead to the **National Historic Park** (parking, restrooms, restaurants)*

Proposed route from Lowell to Acton is not yet blazed or dedicated.

Leave the Merrimack River near jct with Concord River in vicinity of St. Johns Hospital. Cross briefly to west bank of Concord River and **Jolleene Dubner** riverside park. (Parking at Lowell National Historic Park about 0.2 mile west)

Recross to East Bank on the Rte 133 bridge (Church St).

Follow the east bank about 1 mile to Lawrence St bridge where BCT will leave the **Concord River Greenway**. Cross to the west bank. Proposed BCT winds its way thru a variety of residential side streets and cemeteries until it crosses under the I-495 Lowell connector on Industrial Ave.

Here BCT will connect with the proposed **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail** at the Crosspoint Office Park.

BCT will follow Bruce Freeman about 8 miles to Carlisle/Acton town line (near jct Rte 225 and Rte 27).

About 300 yds into Acton the proposed route leaves the rail line to the east, crosses Rte 27 and joins the dedicated Bay Circuit Trail at Wheeler Lane.

(see marked and dedicated route in Acton on map 6)

Note on **Concord River Greenway**: Spearheaded by the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, this project has made considerable progress toward a linked system of open space and park land surrounding both banks of the scenic and historic Concord River. Negotiations continue to include several parcels of industrial and rail right of way property in the greenway. Those interested the latest information should contact Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust: 978-934-0030.

Note on **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**: this rails-to-trails project utilizes the former Lowell Secondary Line, which is now owned by the state. The first phase, set to open August 2009, is 6.8 miles in Lowell, Chelmsford, and Westford, multi-use. It is handicapped accessible. It passes several places in Chelmsford where snacks and lunch can be bought. It will also pass thru woodlands, near swamps with good birding, and beside Heart Pond in Chelmsford.

Side trails in Westford will link Bruce Freeman Rail Trail with the Westford trail network.

Public parking sites are not yet known. Keep informed:

www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Map 5B - Lowell, Chelmsford, Carlisle, Westford - THE JEWELS

Lowell, Dracut, Tyngsboro State Forest (DCR; about 1200 acres) - forest criss-crossed by woods roads and a few paved roads as well as numerous trails. Equestrians welcome; no motorized vehicles allowed. Handicapped accessible trail to fishing and picnic area. NEMBA and Eagle Scouts active in trail improvements. Guided walks by Pentucketville Citizens Council. Parking at Trotting Park Rd (Lowell). 978-453-0592 Maps available at Lowell Heritage State Park and online www.mass.gov/dcr Click on Trails

Lowell:

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

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

Rogers Fort Hill Park (Recreation Dept) - Walking paths on a hilly site. Access and 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 one of the cemeteries on the west side of the river is the gravesite of poet Jack Kerouac

Concord River Greenway - see note on BCT route page

Chelmsford: town-owned land

Russell Mill Pond town forest (132 acres) - trails, canoeing, fishing, birding. 3000' pond frontage. Parking lot off Mill Rd

Thanksgiving town forest (45 acres) - trails connect to Great Brook Farm State Park

Wright Reservation (110 acres) - trails thru a former tree nursery; many unusual species here, including hybrids. Also swamp and brook. Parking = a few on Parker Rd

Lime Quarry Reservation (64 acres) - trail thru woods around former lime quarry; unusual calcareous plants. P on Rte 110

Margaret Mill Reservation (37 acres) - includes small pond. Bridges on trail slated for replacement, but passable now. Parking = 12 on Crooked Spring Rd

Heart Pond - Scenic view from BCT. Sandy beach is private.

Chelmsford/Carlisle:

Cranberry bog (Chelmsford 180 acres; Carlisle 151 acres) - Carlisle leases part of this site for cranberry agriculture; the rest

is rich in wildlife; excellent birdwatching. Parking at trail entrances on Curve St (Carlisle) and Elm St (Chelmsford)

Carlisle:

Great Brook Farm State Park (DCR; nearly 1000 acres) - 20 miles of trails maintained by volunteers. Also tours of their working dairy farm. Organized events and walks. Lowell St, Carlisle 978-369-3350 Maps at HQ and online: www.mass.gov/dcr click on Trails

Detailed maps of properties below are in [Trails in Carlisle](#) available for about \$5 at town hall. Some maps available on website: www.carlisle.org Click on Conservation

Carlisle Town Forest (69 acres) - trail network loops through woodlands. Parking on East St by Town Forest sign

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. Two parking areas off Maple St

O'Rourke farm (US Fish and Wildlife Service) - trails here connect Greenough and Foss Farm properties. 6 miles trail along river. Mountain bikes, horses not allowed. Foot access from Greenough or Foss Farm (south of map)

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. Trail links to Greenough thru O'Rourke. Park on Rte 225 (South of map)

Carlisle Pines State Park and MacAfee Conservation Area (DCR, town, and Carlisle Conservation Foundation; about 54 acres) - Beautiful huge pines, the survivors of a virgin stand of over 100 white pines protected in 1900 as a public reservation. Good walking and horse-riding area; snowshoeing. Parking at end of Forest Park Dr, off Curve St

Conant Land (57 acres) - multi-use property includes trails thru woodlands to Castle Rock and Fishtail pond, beginning near Town Hall parking lot. Map on website.

Towle Land Conservation Area (Cons.Com; 112 acres) - mostly open fields and woods, small pond and many streams. Popular x-country ski area. Parking off Westford Rd (Rte 225)

Westford: *Booklet of maps and trail descriptions [Westford Trails](#) available for about \$5 at Roudenbush Community Center, Main St. Updated annually.*

Westford Trail System includes over 50 trails accessible to the public, and new trails are added each year. Westford Land Stewardship Committee is steadily improving trail conditions and markings. Parking is available mostly along roads.

Nashoba Brook watershed trails - includes town-owned conservation land, Massachusetts Audubon hayfields, and Westford Cons.Trust's Wilson land. Large trail network thru woodlands, fields, over esker, around pond; some trails closed to equestrians. Access from Powers Rd, Preservation Way, and Texas Rd. Parking = 8 near sign on Rte 225 near Powers Rd

Francis Hill trails (some private land) - pastures and stone walls; also "Rowdle Towdle" woods (historic term, meaning unclear). Access from Hunt Rd/Spaulding Rd at Chelmsford town line, Chamberlain Rd, and Lowell Rd

Martina Gage Forest (town forest committee) - trails on west side of Heart Pond

Stone Arch Bridge - beautiful historic RR bridge. Trail access from Cold Spring Rd near jct Forge Village Rd (west of map)

MAP 5B - Lowell, Chelmsford, Carlisle, Westford - FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maps and Trailguides:

- *Trails in Carlisle* about \$5 at Town Hall. Maps, history, natural features
- *Westford Trails* maps booklet. Updated annually; about \$5 at Roudenbush Community Center, Main St
- Booklet of local properties and trails in Chelmsford. Small charge. Town offices, Community Development office
- Map of Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State Forest at Lowell Heritage State Park visitor center and online www.mass.gov/dcr Click on Trails
- Map of Great Brook Farm State Park at HQ (Lowell St., Carlisle) and online www.mass.gov/dcr Click on Trails
- Some Carlisle Cons.Com maps on-line www.carlisle.org
- Some Carlisle Conservation Foundation maps online www.carlisleconservationfoundation.org

Trails, Land/Water Protection Organizations:

Region 2 Dept. Of Conservation & Recreation

headquarters - Great Brook Farm State Park, Lowell St, Carlisle. Maps available of Billerica and Warren-Manning State Forests as well as Great Brook Farm State Park. 978-369-6312

Mass.DCR, Lowell Heritage State Park - offers riverfront recreation, interpretive programs, special events, map of Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State Forest. Parking at Shattuck St. lot. 978-453-0592
email: Lowell.heritage@state.ma.us

National Park Service – Lowell National Historic Park
www.nps.gov/lowe/ 978-459-1000

Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust - a non-profit group "working to protect Lowell's green space." Contributions welcome. POBox 7162, Lowell 01852. Newsletter available by calling 978-934-0030 www.lowelllandtrust.org

Flowering City Committee, Lowell - a citizens' group that works with other organizations and individuals to develop a vision for Lowell as a wonderful place to live and work. Works in 5 broad categories, including greenways and riverways. One of several sub-committees is the Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State Forest committee, exploring ways to improve access and use. New sub-committee members welcome. Website www.floweringcity.org Phone for info c/o Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust 978-934-0030

Pentucketville Citizens Council, Lowell - members lead walks in Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State Forest; also Winterfest event.

Chelmsford Conservation Commission and Community Development Dept - informal volunteer stewardship committee maintains open space parcels. For info contact Andy Sheehan at town offices: 978-250-5247

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

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

Carlisle Conservation Foundation - private non-profit group seeking to permanently preserve open space in Carlisle. Works with the town and the **Carlisle Land Trust**. Foundation currently owns 125 acres and holds conservation restrictions on another 107 acres. Funding comes from annual dues and donations. Members of the public are invited to join the Foundation. PO Box 300, Carlisle 01741
www.carlisleconservationfoundation.org

Westford Conservation Trust - a private, non-governmental organization founded in 1984 to buy, sell, or hold land thru direct ownership or conservation restrictions, for the purpose of protecting sites of natural and historic interest and of creating a town-wide trail network. Currently owns over 100 acres and 12 parcels, with conservation restrictions on 31 properties. Funded by gifts, grants, and membership dues (dues begin at \$10 for individual membership).
www.westfordconservationtrust.org

Westford Town Forest Committee - appointed group to oversee town-owned forest parcels. Contact town hall for info

Westford Conservation Commission - town hall. 978-692-5524

Merrimack River Watershed Council works for protection of the Merrimack Watershed in Massachusetts and NH. Council members lead canoe trips and walks. Active volunteer streams monitoring program, including the **Stony Brook Stream Team**. New members of stream team and MRWC welcome. office: 600 Suffolk St., Lowell 01854 978-275-0120 www.merrimack.org

New England Mountain Bike Assn (NEMBA) is active in Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State Forest and Great Brook Farm State Park. Trailwork and rides. Members receive newsletter listing events. To join call 1-800-576-3622

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/

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

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