

Map 9 - Sherborn and Medfield - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route

Trail markings: The Sherborn and Medfield sections are blazed with traditional BC logos at key trailheads and white dollar-bill blazes painted or nailed on trees. Double blazes offset indicate a turn in the direction of the upper blaze.

Sherborn section of BCT, north to south

Parking lot (P=10 cars) on west side of Western Ave at Stevens Lane jct.

A 42°14'41" 71°24'25"

2.7 From **Barber Reservation** entrance, cross Western Ave. Walk along Stevens St to jct; right on Harrington Ridge Rd; left on Oldfield Dr; left on Dexter Dr. Right onto trail onto a farm (private property), and right turn along edge of field. At field corner, turn left along edge and through treed field, and enter **Brush Hill Reservation** on other side of stone wall. Head north thru a field in the early stages of reforestation and uphill to Brush Hill Rd. Cross rd to trail thru woods to Perry St

B 42°15'28" 71°23'40"

4.6 Cross Perry St, descend on curving woodland path southeast through **Sherborn Town Forest**, then join up with the pipeline. Follow tr over Brush Hill. Tr continues east thru woodlands, crosses RR tracks, then emerges on No. Main St (Rte 27). Turn right on Rte 27. Just after crossing the bridge over Indian Brook, cross the road to reenter the woods

C 42°15'10" 71°22'6"

6.5 Trail skirts Indian Brook wetlands and passes Sherborn highway garage. Follow pipeline to Eliot St (Rte 16)

6.8 Cross Eliot St; follow pipeline east. Right onto trail. Tr briefly goes thru woodlands to north edge of soccer field near Pine Hill School

D 42°14'54" 71°21'46"

7.1 Start of the **Rim of Fire Leg** - (To reach parking: from Rte 16, take Pine Hill Lane past the school to the extreme back of the parking lot next to the woods) From Pine Hill School soccer field take tr south.

Tr becomes wide path at back edge of **Pine Hill Cemetery**, then ascends and turns right to follow ridge (ridge traces the fault line that marks the edge of the newer volcanic rocks to the east, which are the remains of the Boston Volcano of 600 million years ago). Good woodland views by taking a westerly detour from the BCT and looking out over the ridge. The trail meets up with the pipeline and heads south to Farm Rd.

Cross Farm Rd.; continue on or parallel to the pipeline. Gradually descend, passing wetlands and much ledge. Reach Lake St near jct with Forest St and Goulding St

E 42°13'34" 71°21'17"

9.1 Follow Lake St, Forest St, and Goulding St to parking area for **Rocky Narrows Reservation** (P= 4 to 5 cars)

Beautiful section of Bay Circuit trail begins here, looping thru Rocky Narrows Reservation. It is easy to become lost in Rocky Narrows Reservation. We suggest trail users consult the excellent map in "Sherborn Walks" (about \$10 at town hall)

Blazed trail goes through young woodlands, field, red maple wetland, then turns right. Next go left onto a cart rd.

10.3 Tr passes the Rocky Narrows Canoe and Picnic Area on the bank of the Charles River. Trail ascends to Rocky Narrows overlook, a high subtle vista. Continue on rugged tr thru hemlock forest to **King Phillip's Overlook**, elevation 260' with a dramatic view of the Charles River and Medfield beyond. Trail descends. Before the RR tracks, turn left toward the river. Go under RR trestle bridge, turn right up the bank, and follow trails to the Rte 27 TToR parking area on Rte 27 (P = 8-10)

11.8 Go south on Rte 27 for ¼ mile to Rte 115 jct.

Continue southeast on Rte 27 about another ¼ mile, crossing the Charles River, to the beginning of the Medfield section of BCT

F 12.3 (P= several cars at the western shoulder of Rte 27 at the canoe launch site)

Medfield section of BCT, north to south (distances approximate)

F 42°12'36" 71°21'3" P=12 on SW shoulder of Rte 27 at Charles River crossing.

0.0 After crossing the Charles River bridge, go right on tr along river in Charles River Reservation (state land— hunting permitted). Cross pipeline, cross field, and go left on paved service (old Rte 27) to gate.

0.5 Parking (P=6) on SW side of Rte 27. Right on Rte 27 briefly, then left on Hospital Rd. Cross RR tracks (P=4), then shortly right on tr that heads into bottom section of Hospital Hill, a wide grassy field. Take immediate left and follow the path that parallels the rd up left side of hill. After cresting the hill, at paved rd turn right and follow rd down to playing fields.

At the playing fields continue thru parking area (P=12, with porta-johns) to the Warren Field (look for sign on baseball fence). Turn right along edge of field and onto a tr heading into the woods. At clearing, left onto dirt rd. Stay on main dirt rd until reaching West Mill St.

G 42°11'55" 71°19'28"

2.0 Right on West Mill for 0.1 mile

2.1 turn left onto Adams St. Along Adams St. for 0.4 mile, then right at stop sign onto West St

2.5 Follow West St for 0.1 mi, then left onto dirt rd just after RR. Proceed along tracks to tr on right heading into woods (tr may be hidden by several large piles of dirt, so look carefully for trailhead). Follow tr to landfill, a large hill looming directly ahead. Left on the dirt rd, and go thru DPW yard. Right onto DPW garage driveway to Rte 27.

3.2 Left along Rte 27 short distance to traffic light, then right onto Dale St

Left off Dale into **Vine Lake Cemetery** at Charlesdale Rd intersection. At flagpole, turn right and head downhill to pond, circle pond to the right and cross over footbridge.

Take driveway to gated cemetery entrance on Rte 109.

H 42°11'6" 71°18'14"

3.8 Left on Rte 109, then quick right onto Causeway St for 1.5 miles. at wetlands, Caseways St crosses over the Stop River that flows into the Charles River 0.1 mile downstream

K 42°10'0" 71°19'19"

5.5 Left onto Noon Hill Rd for 0.2 miles to **Noon Hill Reservation** parking (P=8) at Holt Pond. Take tr to left of map kiosk, follow tr straight thru intersections marked #1 thru #5, and left at #6 to reach the top of Noon Hill. At #7, a side trail to right leads to a scenic overlook (0.1 mi).

Follow tr downhill to rejoin Noon Hill Rd at parking area (P=12). Right on Noon Hill Rd, crossing Stop River again, to South St

L 42°9'34" 71°18'4"

6.7 Right on South St, then quick left onto Rocky Lane for 0.5 miles to Granite St

7.4 Left onto Granite St.

(continue Medfield BCT route on map 10)

Map 9 - Sherborn and Medfield - THE JEWELS

Sherborn

Rocky Narrows Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 157 acres) and adjacent **Sherborn Town Forest** (Cons.Com; about 150 acres) - Complex network of trails, mostly easy or moderate difficulty. One steep trail ascending to dramatic vistas over the Charles River, passing thru hemlock groves (unusual this far south). Canoe landing and picnic area. Parking area (4-5 cars) on Forest St near jct with E.Goulding St

Sherborn Town Forest (3 sections) - This winding set of properties follows the Shell Oil pipeline, the result of a farsighted deal negotiated in 1940. The forest takes trail users from the southern to the northern part of town. Some of the trails follow the "Rim of Fire," the fault line between the older Precambrian rock on the west and the newer volcanic rock on the east, the remains of the cataclysmic Boston Volcano of 600 million years ago.

Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts Audubon; 772 acres) - Well-marked trails; map available at visitors' center. Educational programs. Horses, dogs, and bicycles are not allowed. Parking lot on Eliot St (Rte 16) in Natick. 508-655-2296

Barber Reservation (Cons.Com; 189 acres) - Large variety of landscapes and habitats; fun place for children with open meadows and easy paths. Frequently used by equestrians. Parking on Western Ave behind rail fence.

Bailey Trail (Cons.Com) and adjacent **Pleasant St. Trail** (Sherborn Rural Land Foundation) - Easy to medium walks, gentle hills and trails thru granite ledge. Visit "Balanced Rock." Pond with swans. Parking on west side of Old Orchard Rd, close to Rte 16.

Brush Hill Trail (Cons.Com) - Seldom used trails because parking on adjacent narrow streets is difficult. However the sense of wildness it offers should appeal to those who walk to it.

Hildreth/Schoolhouse Trail (Cons.Com) - Some steep grades near the power lines, but a good variety of habitats. Good birdwatching, wildflowers. Dramatic rock ledge at northernmost point. Parking on Pleasant St.

Leland Reservation (Cons.Com) - Easy walks thru a meadow across the street from parking. Some

bushwhacking may be needed to reach ruins of old mills near Upper Mill Pond. Parking in lot on west side of Mill St, next to Lower Mill Pond.

Little Farm Pond (Massachusetts Audubon) - Short walk suitable for children to pond's edge, a seemingly "wild" spot close to town. Dogs and horses not allowed. Parking in small lot on Farm Rd, 100 yds east of jct Lake St and Farm Rd.

Peters Hill (Cons.Com) - Steep rock faces make this moderately difficult trail dangerous for careless children. Parking in lot on Coolidge St across from Prospect St.

Pine Hill Cemetery - beautiful pink granite monuments and stately trees grace the grounds

Medfield

Noon Hill (The Trustees of Reservations and Medfield Cons. Com; 590 acres) - Several miles of trails through woodlands, fields, wetlands, and around Holt Pond. Good views from top of Noon Hill. Contiguous to Corps of Engineers land along the Charles River and Stop River. Small parking lots on Noon Hill Rd.

Henry L. Shattuck Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 235 acres) - On the opposite side of Causeway St. from Noon Hill area. No formal trail system but open to the adventurous.

Medfield Rhododendron Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 196 acres) - Visit in early July to enjoy 50 acres of rhododendron in bloom. Accessible only through wetlands.

Rocky Woods Reservation and Fork Factory Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 488 acres and 144 acres) - beautiful and extensive trail system on eastern side of Medfield. Hills, wetlands, lakes, wildlife, and history. Take Hartford St north from Rte 109 to parking areas for both reservations. Map available from The Trustees of Reservations (order online)

Causeway Street - Paved in places, a dirt road in others, this street offers a pleasant walk east of the Charles River and crosses the Stop River, with some very nice views of wetlands. BCT follows this road to Noon Hill Rd.

Millis

Bridge Island Meadows (The Trustees of Reservations; 80 acres) - Accessible only by canoe or kayak from the Charles River, then west via a stream into South End Pond, this wooded upland rises to the east of the pond. If one can land and then bushwhack to the tree-covered knoll at the south end, the reward is a view of the surrounding floodplain

Map 9 - Sherborn and Medfield - For more information

maps and trailguides:

- Relevant USGS topo maps 7.5 x 15 for this area are Framingham and Medfield
- An excellent trailguide with detailed maps, **Sherborn Walks** is published by Sherborn Forest and Trail Association. It gives a detailed description of the BCT route from southeast to northwest, maps and descriptions of more than 20 properties, including natural and historic features to explore. Available at town hall and Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary for about \$10.
- An informal 6-page booklet with **Medfield's** Bay Circuit trail description and maps showing the BCT route is usually available (free) at Medfield Library.
- **Broadmoor Sanctuary** maps are available at the visitors center
- A 32-page **Charles River canoeing guide** (2000 edition) is available for about \$13 (plus s/h) from the Charles River Watershed Association. Sold at their website www.charlesriver.org. Also sold at Broadmoor and at some area outdoor stores
- **The Trustees of Reservations** publish individual maps of most of their reservations, including some of those in Medfield. Can be ordered online www.thetrustees.org

trail and land/water protection organizations:

Sherborn Rural Land Foundation, established in 1974, has acquired land and buildings of particular aesthetic, environmental, and historical significance. Sherborn, MA

Sherborn Forest and Trail Association - Equestrians and hikers provide volunteer trail maintenance. New members welcome. PO Box 477, Sherborn MA 01770

Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan Implementation Committee - town appointed group that oversees Sherborn's section of BCT and other projects. Town Hall: 508-651-7850

Medfield Open Space Committee is the town-appointed group that is working to protect more land in town. Call Town Hall for more information.

Medfield Forest and Trails Assn is a non-profit group that organizes trail projects and does trail maintenance. To volunteer contact the group's president at 508-359-8800

Massachusetts Audubon, the largest conservation organization in New England, works to preserve the natural world through conservation, education, and environmental

advocacy. It protects more than 33,000 acres of land in MA and maintains 45 wildlife sanctuaries that are open to the public. Members receive a beautiful bi-monthly magazine and reduced fees for programs. Frequent programs for individuals and families at Broadmoor on Rte 16 in Natick, as well as at other sanctuaries. To become a member call 1-800-283-8266 or visit the web site: www.massaudubon.org
For info on Broadmoor's programs call 508-655-2296 or

The Trustees of Reservations - The country's oldest member-supported land protection organization, seeking to preserve properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value, has 95 properties and protects more than 54,000 acres in Massachusetts. They sell accurate maps of most of their reservations for a small fee (order online). For membership information contact headquarters at 572 Essex St., Beverly MA 01915. 978-524-1858
web page: www.thetrustees.org
Southeast Region TTOR office at 2468B Washington St, Canton 02021 781-821-2977

Charles River Watershed Association - member supported non-profit river protection organization. Since 1965 members have been protecting the health, beauty, and accessibility of the Charles and its tributaries. Volunteers welcome for river clean-up events. For membership info call 617-965-5975. 2391 Commonwealth Ave, Newton MA 02466
www.charlesriver.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

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