

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 6 -Billerica, Bedford, Acton, Carlisle, Concord - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route

*(as shown on map 6 dated July 2017)
(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.

Carlisle: efforts are underway for a town-wide trail system that will allow a BCT route

Billerica, Bedford, Concord: North to South, distances approximate

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 unpaved parking area with access to the Minuteman Bikeway Extension (also

known as the Reformatory Branch)(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 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 Sanctuary**.

6.65 BCT crosses Monsen Rd access to Great Meadows NWR. Rest rooms and limited parking (P=4) 80 yards to the right (north) with more parking (P=20) 100 yards further. Follow RR bed to Monument St, where trail intersects BCT branch from Acton.

S N42 27.966 W71 20.882

7.9 Monument St trail junction. Turn right for BCT north to Acton, and straight for BCT south to Lincoln.

Acton: North to South. Distances measured Trail marking: BCT is blazed with white rectangular blazes. Trails on town conservation will be blazed yellow for through trails, blue for connector trails, and red for side trails. Some tr

jcts have signs.

B N42 30.799 W71 24.306

From Rte 27: take Wheeler Lane 0.1 miles to kiosk and parking area at dead end.

0.0 BCT leaves Wheeler Lane parking area to the south behind the kiosk, beside three stone posts. Tr runs between stone walls for 400 ft into **Nashoba Brook Cons Area**. Tr parallels Nashoba Brook. Spur tr to Milldam Rd at 0.3 miles, boardwalk at 0.5 miles

0.6 Tr jct. Historic stone chamber site with interpretive kiosk 50 feet to the right. BCT turns left (south)

0.7 Cross wood bridge over Nashoba Brook

0.8 Tr jct with interpretive kiosk. Pencil factory historic site is to the right. Proceed left 0.25 mile to Davis Rd trailhead parking area (P=8 with kiosk). (To restaurants proceed 0.4 mile south on Davis Rd. to Great Rd aka Route 2A; several restaurants are within 0.2 miles of jct, heading left (east))

1.1 BCT leaves Davis Rd parking area headed NE.

1.4 Take right fork 0.1 mile, crossing into Spring Hill Conservation Land (signs).

C N42 30.327 W71 24.420

1.5 Tr jct. Turn left (north).

2.4 Tr. jct. For camping (permit required from town of Acton) turn left to Camp Acton. BCT continues straight (south).

2.5 Tr. jct. Access trail from Spring Hill Rd comes in from left (0.2 mile). BCT turns sharply right.

2.8 Tr. jct. Turn left (east), crossing boardwalk at 2.9 miles, thru a hemlock grove at 3.2 miles.

Trail goes up a steep grade thru a beech grove, reaching summit of Strawberry Hill at 3.4 miles (views of Nobscot Hill to south). Trail hugs stone wall and reaches Jay Lane cul-de-sac at 3.5 miles (parking at 3.6 miles at base of hill).

D N42 29.546 W71 24.209

3.6 (Gravel parking area on Strawberry Hill Road opposite Jay Lane) Take Strawberry Hill Rd sidewalk to left (east). Turn right (south) on Pope Rd at 3.8 miles. Turn left (east) onto StoneyMeade Way at 4.4 miles. Bear left at end of the divided portion of Stoneymeade Way.

4.6 Enter woods on tr marked **Stoneymeade Cons. Land**

4.7 Enter field and turn right (south) at arrow on post.

E N42 29.090 W71 23.855

5.0 Enter woods at Acton/Concord town line. Ruins of WWII era aircraft communications building on left. At this point BCT enters Concord's **Annursnac Hill Cons. Area**.

Concord: North to south. Blazed with BCT logos. For information on historic sites highlighted, see THE JEWELS page

E N42 29.090 W71 23.855

0.0 At Acton/Concord border BCT enters **Annursnac Hill Cons. Area**. Tr is muddy at brook crossing. Bear left at tr jct

F N42 29.104 W71 23.297

0.6 Reach gate and notice information kiosk 50 yards in from **Strawberry Hill Rd**. Turn right on Strawberry Hill Rd, then right again

- onto College Rd (CAUTION: no sidewalk). Follow College Rd to Annursnac Hill Rd.
- 1.0 Turn left on Annursnac Hill Rd to Strawberry Hill Rd.
 - 1.4 Turn right on Strawberry Hill Rd. In 0.1 mile, follow trail into woods just beyond a driveway on the right. Trail parallels Strawberry Hill Rd, crosses Finigan Way and continue through woods to the right. At a trail junction, turn left (south) out of the woods to a dirt farm road. Follow the farm road to the right then immediately left and continue along the agricultural field to Barrett's Mill Rd.
 - 1.8 Turn left on Barrett's Mill Rd. The Col. James Barrett farmhouse (1705) is a short distance to the right (part of Minute Man Nat'l Historical Park). Follow sidewalk to Lowell Rd, passing the ruins of Barrett's Mill (private) on the left.
- G** N42 28.442 W71 21.860
- 2.6 Cross Lowell Rd. Proceed straight on Barnes Hill Rd, which blends into Estabrook Rd at 2.5 mi (south to north, turn left at rd jct onto Barnes Hill Rd). Bear right, cross Liberty St with the Muster Field on your right
 - 3.3 Left thru stone wall into **Minute Man Nat'l Historical Park**. Pass the Visitor Center on the left (parking lot and year-round restrooms); follow dirt path (old Esterbrook Rd) down the slope to the **Minute Man Statue** and **Old North Bridge** (site of "the shot heard round the world" in 1775).
 - 3.6 Cross Concord River on the bridge and follow tr to Monument St (seasonal restrooms to left).
 - 3.7 Right on Monument St, passing **The Old Manse** (1770) and the **Elisha Jones**

"Bullethole House." Follow Monument St to old RR right-of-way, marked by three granite posts.

- S** N42 27.966 W71 20.877
- 3.9 Trail junction. Trail to left is BCT northbound to Bedford. Trail to right is BCT southbound to Lincoln.
For northbound, turn left and follow RR bed past Great Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary to Bedford. See trail description at beginning of this section and Section 5A for map and trail guide.
For southbound, turn right onto RR bed thru **Concord Cons. Land**, proceeding straight past the corner of Lang and Bow Streets. Keeping the lumberyard fence on your right, cross Mill Brook.
 - 4.2 Left onto Lowell Rd. Pass bank and pharmacy on right, re-cross Mill Brook, and proceed to **Monument Square**
 - 4.4 Straight ahead thru Square, passing Colonial Inn (c. 1716) on left. Across the green on left, the red brick **Concord Town House** (1852) offers public restrooms on second floor open during business hours. Visitor information center and public rest room to right on Main St behind Middlesex Bank (P=25+). Visitor Center is open 10 to 4 from April 1 thru Oct. 31. Restrooms open year round from 7 am to 8pm
- T** N42 27.622 W71 20.939
- 4.5 Cross Main St (Rte 62) at pedestrian crossing. Follow Lexington Rd to Heywood St, and turn right to BCT trail post on Heywood St. Turn left at trail post, cross Heywood St (CAUTION: use great care) and follow trail across **Heywood Meadow** to the

Emerson-Thoreau Amble beside the **Concord Independent Battery Gun House**. **The trail** enters woods at the far right-hand corner of the meadow. Continue straight ahead on the Amble, passing behind the **home of Ralph Waldo Emerson** (1828). Follow the Amble as it turns right over a footbridge crossing the Mill Brook and, after a few turns, emerges at the Concord Ice Company driveway (a few feet from Walden Street)."

- 5.1 At the far edge of the field (a few feet from Walden St) follow the trail left on a gravel cart path. Follow the trail left on a gravel cart path, which becomes dirt after passing an ice house on the left, taking care to stay on the cart path and not stray onto private property Just before reaching private property (marked by a sign and a chain across the cart path), follow the Amble left into a grove of trees. In a few yards, the trail turns right over a footbridge crossing Cargill Farm Ditch, then winds its way through **Hapgood Wright Town Forest**, turns left onto a trail marked with yellow blazes, and soon arrives at **Fairyland Pond**.
- 5.8 At the pond, follow the Amble and yellow blazes left over a small dam and clockwise halfway around the pond. At a wooden bench, just before crossing the pond's inlet brook, follow the Amble and red blazes left up a trail climbing past **Bristers's Spring**. Turn right at top of hill and follow the Amble and yellow blazes to a small, paved handicap parking lot by Walden St. Make a hard left, following the Amble and red blazes onto a trail paralleling Walden St. At the main entrance to **Bristers Hill, Thoreau Interpretive Path**, turn right, following the

Amble and red blazes to Walden St. Left on Walden St briefly to Rte 2.

U N42 26.670 W71 20.421

6.4 At Rte 2, first cross Walden St and then cross Rte 2 to Rte 126 and Walden Pond State Reservation (*CAUTION: Use great care and obey traffic lights at this multi-lane highway jct. Cross Rte 2 with great caution: this junction has multiple lights, including left turn only lights, and heavy traffic.*)

(continued on map 7)

Map 6 - Billerica, Bedford, Acton, Carlisle, Concord - THE JEWELS

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge - Concord Unit (US Fish & Wildlife Service; 3,486 acres both units) - wetlands, uplands, bottomland hardwoods along 12 miles of Sudbury River. Established in 1944 primarily as a sanctuary for migratory and wetland birds. Highest public use of all refuges in the wildlife complex. Dogs must be leashed. Bicycles and horses prohibited. 1.7 mile trail around marsh pools. Photo blinds and observation tower. Handicapped accessible. Entrance on Monsen Rd off Rte 62 in Concord. Large map at parking lot. Maps of both this northern unit and the Sudbury unit are available at headquarters, Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury. 978-443-4661 and online: www.fws.gov/northeast/greatmeadows/

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail - a work in progress, the abandoned Penn Central right of way will

soon be converted to a multi-use bikeway to run from Lowell to Westford/Acton town line, and eventually may be extended to South Sudbury. Northern 6.8 miles opened Aug. 2009.

Carlisle: detailed maps in *Trails in Carlisle* available for about \$10 at town hall.

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) - town purchase of this property in 1998 with resale to become part of Great Meadows Nat'l Wildlife Refuge allowed construction of 6-miles-long public trail along river between Greenough and Foss Farm properties. No mountain bikes or horses allowed. 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, fields, pony ring, and woodlands. Trail link to Greenough thru O'Rourke. P Rte 225

Carlises Pines State Park and MacAfee Conservation Area (Mass.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 in winter. P at end of Forest Park Dr, off Curve St (off NW corner of this map)

Spencer Brook Res (Carlisle Cons. Foundation; 31.5 acres) and **Bisbee Land** (Cons.Com; 35 acres) - woodlands, wetlands, agricultural lands, and some trails. Access from Concord St and Hartwell Rd. P on Concord St

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

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

Davis Corridor, Malcolm Meadows, Sachs Greenway, and Rockstrom Land (Carlisle; about 190 acres) and **Malcolm Preserve** (The Trustees of Reservations; 11 acres) - This patchwork of public use land and conservation restrictions is confusing without a map. Of special note is handicapped accessible trail thru Malcolm Preserve (parking lot on Stearns St), built with combined efforts of The Trustees of Reservations, Carlisle Land Trust, and Mass. Greenways Program funding. Two Rod Rd connects to Concord's Punkatasset Hill

Carlisle and Concord:

Estabrook Woods - a general region rather than a specific property, this large patchwork of town-owned land, Harvard University forestry land, and private property is criss-crossed with trails, but only some trails are open to the public. Two Rod Road and Estabrook Rd are historic right of ways. A detailed map is available on line. See **More Information** under Concord and Carlisle trails in *Trails in Carlisle*. New England

Orienteering Club map sold at Globe Corner Bookstore, Harvard Square shows a portion of the region in great detail

Bedford:

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 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 supporters hope to extend this to their high school

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

Buehler Ponds Cons. Area (Cons.Com) - trails around small ponds. Access from Narrow Gauge Rail Trail north of Fawn Lake parking and from Job Lane School trails or trail from North Road.

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 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 lot adjacent to VA Hospital.

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

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

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

Acton: Guide and maps available. See info page.

Will Hole Cons. Land/Acton Town Forest (Cons.Com; 73 acres). - Trails, esker, boardwalk over quaking bog with carnivorous plants, larch, and black spruce. Adjoins **North Acton Rec. Area or NARA** (40 acres) with pond, bathhouse, athletic fields, paved walking path. Fee for beach use. Recreation Dept 978-929-6640.

Nashoba Brook Cons. Land (Cons.Com; 123 acres) - Includes two bridges and two boardwalks over/along Nashoba Brook. A historic stone chamber is near the brook, possibly an early 19th century root cellar. Access from Wheeler Lane and Davis Rd.

The **Pencil Factory Dam** is the ruins of a dam and associated mill where Ebenezer Wood ground graphite and manufactured pencils. Henry David Thoreau's family purchased some of the graphite for their own pencil production.

The **Trail Through Time**, a bi-cultural heritage trail, follows trails within the Nashoba Brook and Spring Hill conservation parcels, portions of which are along the BCT. Besides the **Stone Chamber** and the **Pencil Factory** site, the **TTT** accesses stone remains of the 1730s **Wheeler (dry cattle) Farm** and adjacent **Robbins (grist) Mill** site, both in process of stonework restoration. Additional features along the **TTT**

are remains of the **Old Road to Concord**, numerous **Native American stone piles** and other ceremonial relics such as 'portals' and a turtle effigy. The site believed to be the **Quarry** for the Chamber's huge roof slabs is also on this trail. Restoration and enhancement of sites is a work in progress. Accesses are from Wheeler Lane, Davis Road, Pope Road, and Carlisle Road at .2 mi from Rt. 27.

Camp Acton (Cons. Com - 60 acres) - former Boy Scout Camping area purchased by town with links to adjacent Spring Hill Cons.Land. Wide trail thru woodlands with many small clearings. Hunt for grave with marker "The Educated Horse 1900." Access from Rte 27 thru Nashoba Brook Cons.Land and from Pope Rd. Primitive camping allowed for a fee of \$15.00 per weekend per campsite. Call Recreation Dept. 978-929-6640 for reservations.

Spring Hill Cons. Land (Cons.Com; 184 acres) - Mixed forest, wooded wetland, deer. Access from Spring Hill Rd cul-de-sac and Jay Lane cul-de-sac at Strawberry Hill. P at base of hill on Strawberry Hill Rd.

Stoneymeade Cons. Land (Cons.Com; 44 acres) - Wooded wetlands and open meadow with trail and bluebird boxes. Remains of WWII radar and aircraft spotting station.

Concord and Lincoln:

Minuteman National Historical Park (Nat'l Park Service) - A work in progress, this linear park follows the Battle Road of 1775 from Old North Bridge to Lexington. Trail connects many historic sites and period buildings, with numerous signs to interpret the human as well as historic

story of the area. Wide clay path through woodlands and fields is suitable for strollers and wheelchairs as well as walkers and careful bicyclists. Maps available at Old North Bridge Visitor Center (just north of town center) and at Minuteman Visitor Center on Rte. 2A, 1/2 mile west of I- 95 jct. 978-369-6993 x22
www.nps.gov/mima/

Concord:

Punkatasset Hill (Concord Commission on Natural Resources) - trails thru town forest connect on north to Two Rod Rd, a historic right of way leading to Carlisle trails

Annurnsac Conservation Land - Woodlands accessible via BCT from gate and kiosk on Strawberry Hill Rd and from Stoneymeade Cons. Area in Acton

South Meadow Cons/Rec land (town of Concord) - Trails and playing fields

Hapgood-Wright town forest (Concord Commission on Natural Resources) - Includes **Fairyland Pond** with trails around pond and thru woodlands. Parking

Concord Historic sites along the BCT route: (Bedford and Concord)

5.9 **West Bedford Station site** – Until 1926 a small open air station served passengers of the Boston and Maine Reformatory Branch Railroad, where the rails crossed Concord Road beneath a wooden bridge.

6.7 **Great Meadows** – in colonial times this was one continuous meadow that supplied marsh hay for cattle feed. In 1928 Samuel Hoar built dikes

that raised the water level to attract water fowl for hunting, eventually giving the meadow to the federal government in 1944 as a wetlands preserve.

7.0 **Native American Encampment & African American Settlement** – Artifacts discovered on the ridgeline above the meadow place Paleo-Indian activity here from thousands of years ago, while Nipmuc Indians lived here in pre-colonial times until the 1800s. African American John Jack, first former slave to own land in Concord, established a farm here, followed by Caesar Robbins, a freed slave and veteran of the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. Caesar's children Peter and Susan built the one-room house that was moved to Monument Street where it survives as the Robbins House Interpretive Center.

7.5 **Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and Author's Ridge**- at a granite monument to Colonial Militia a short path leads to a cemetery cul-de-sac and a steep climb up a hill to the base of Author's Ridge where the graves of Henry David Thoreau, Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorn can be visited.

7.7 **Concord Station site** – A small railroad station was once located here near present day corner of Bow and Lang Streets beside a rail yard where Concord Lumber is today. It serviced Concord on the Reformatory Branch Railroad and once doubled as the publication office for the Concord Journal newspaper.

Concord historic sites along the BCT route: (Acton and Concord)

0.6 **Strawberry Hill Road** has been designated the "Isaac Davis Trail" - the route the Acton Minutemen took to the Battle of the North

Bridge. Captain Isaac Davis was the first patriot killed in the fight. Follow the granite markers along Strawberry Hill Rd to recreate the march to the North Bridge in Minuteman National Park 1.8 and 2.0 **Barrett Farmhouse** (incorporated into Minute Man Nat'l Historical Park) and **Barrett Mill** ruins - on April 19, 1775, Col. James Barrett was in charge of all the military stores in Concord. It was for the purpose of seizing arms and supplies at his farmhouse that the British Regulars crossed the Old North Bridge that fateful day

3.3 **Muster Field** - where the colonial militia assembled before marching on the Bridge 100 yds left on Liberty St is the home of **Major John Buttrick** - commander of the colonial forces at the Bridge

3.6 **Minuteman Statue** - sculpted by Daniel Chester French for the 1875 Centennial Celebration

Old North Bridge - the present bridge (1956) marks the site where colonial militia and Minutemen skirmished with the British Redcoats on April 19, 1775 ("the shot heard round the world"), launching the American Revolution **Grave of British Soldiers** - with inscription by James Russell Lowell, 1837

3.7 **Robbins House Interpretive Center** – the restored one-room house dating to 1823 was originally inhabited by African Americans of the Robbins family and moved to this site in 2011 as the center for Concord's African American and Abolitionist History.

3.8 **The Old Manse** (The Trustees of Reservations; 8 acres) - a Nat'l Historic Landmark. Built in 1769 by Rev. Wm. Emerson, later home of Ralph Waldo Emerson and also Nathaniel Hawthorne and family, among others. Guided tours seasonally; admission fee. Abuts

Old North Bridge. Self-guided landscape tour brochure

Elisha Jones "Bullethole House" - although built in 1865, this building contains pre-1775 materials. Tradition holds that the hole visible in center of the diamond shape to the left of the door was made by a musket ball fired by the retreating Redcoats in 1775

4.5 **Monument Square** - includes monuments to Concordians killed in wars. Also a small white stone toward rear of field on right marks the spot where Henry David Thoreau spent a night in jail, prompting his "Essay on Civil Disobedience." Adjacent to the square is the red brick **Concord Town House** (1852), the site of lectures by Emerson, Thoreau, Amos Bronson Alcott, William Lloyd Garrison, John Brown, and many others

Rte 62, 3 blocks NE of town center is **Sleepy Hollow Cemetery** - graves of Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorne, the Alcotts, Margaret Sidney, and Daniel Chester French

4.6 **Wright Tavern** (1747) - meeting place for committees of the First Provincial Congress and gathering place for both Minutemen and British officers at different times on April 19, 1775 **Monuments** to Concord war dead from WWII to VietNam

4.9 **Concord Independent Battery Gun House** (1960) - at far corner of Heywood Meadow red brick building holds brass cannons of the Concord Independent Battery

5.0 Home of **Ralph Waldo Emerson** (1828).

Across the street is the **Concord Museum**
5.0 **Mill Brook** – flowing from Crosby's Pond through Concord it was the source water for a mill pond once at Heywood Meadow that powered a gristmill from as early as Concord's founding.

5.3 **Cargill Farm Ditch** – excavated in the early 1800s to drain excess ground water from a swampy farm that was left to Concord by Revolutionary War patriot Hugh Cargill for the benefit of the poor.

5.7 **Fairyland Pond** – the 2.75 acre pond was built in the late 1800s by damming Hubbard's Swamp, then part of a continuous woodland to Walden Pond that Henry David Thoreau and the Alcott girls fancifully called "Fairyland".

6.0 **Brister's Spring** – in a shallow ravine along Brister's Hill a post identifies "Brister's Spring", named for the freed slave Brister Freeman and frequented for its refreshing water by Henry David Thoreau.

6.1 **Brister Freeman Home Site** – a ground stone just off the BCT beside Walden Street marks the approximate location of Brister Freeman's early 1800s home site. Brister was a slave who gained his freedom following his service in the Revolutionary War, then became the second freed slave to own land in Concord.

6.2 **Walden Woods Interpretive Site** – a chained gate off Walden Street marks the entry point to trails with ground-mounted plaques inscribed with Thoreau's insights, leading to a reflection circle of stones inscribed with quotations of thinkers and leaders whose words echo Thoreau's.

Map 6 – Billerica, Bedford, Acton, Carlisle, Concord - FOR MORE INFORMATION

Transportation to Concord:

MBTA commuter rail information: MBTA Commuter Rail service between Concord and

North Station, Boston is available on the Fitchburg line. From Concord Station on Thoreau Street, it is 0.5 mile to **J** where the BCT crosses Main Street. Turn right (east) on Thoreau Street to the traffic light on Sudbury Road. Make a left turn onto Sudbury Road which then merges into Main Street. Reach a round-about at the end of Main Street at **J** where the BCT crosses along the sidewalk – left on Lowell Road (BCT north), right on Lexington Road (BCT south).

Maps and trail guides:

- Relevant USGS **topo** maps 7.5 x 15 are Billerica and Maynard
- **Great Meadow National Wildlife Refuge** maps available at the headquarters/ visitor center, Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury. 978-443-4661 Online at www.fws.gov/northeast/greatmeadows/
- **Trails in Carlisle** available for \$10 at Carlisle Town Hall.
- **Acton Guide to Conservation Lands**, about \$10, spiralbound, and may still be available at Recreation Office, Acton Town Hall.
- **Acton Conservation Land Maps** online www.actontrails.org/CasM.htm
- **Bedford** Trail Guide available for \$10 at Bedford Town Hall or DPW
- **Concord** overall cons lands map online www.concordnet.org/ Click on Natural Resource Dept
- Map and brochure of **Minuteman National Historical Park** with Battle Trail route and historic sites is available at National Park Headquarters on Rte 2A, west of jet with Rte 95. 978-369-6993. Also at North Bridge Visitor Center (just north of Concord center)
- **Trustees of Reservations** maps for sale online

www.thetrustees.org

Transportation

MBTA commuter rail information: MBTA Commuter Rail service between Concord and North Station, Boston is available on the Fitchburg line. From Concord Station on Thoreau Street, it is 0.5 mile to **J** where the BCT crosses Main Street. Turn right (east) on Thoreau Street to the traffic light on Sudbury Road. Make a left turn onto Sudbury Road which then merges into Main Street. Reach a round-about at the end of Main Street at **J** where the BCT crosses along the sidewalk – left on Lowell Road (BCT north), right on Lexington Road (BCT south).”

Local trail and land/water protection organizations:

Acton Conservation Commission - 472 Main St 01720. 978-264-9631. Land Stewardship sub-committee

Acton Conservation Trust - new members welcome to support open space protection, educational forums, neighborhood advocacy groups. Newsletter lists guided hikes. PO Box 658 Acton 01720

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 are welcome to help extend bike

trails, encourage biking, improve bike parking and access to stores, advocate for town regulations. Check website <http://bikebedford.org> for current schedule

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

Carlisle Conservation Foundation - non-profit group seeking to permanently preserve open space in Carlisle. Currently owns 125 acres and holds conservation restrictions on another 107 acres. Funding comes from annual dues and donations. New members welcome. <http://ccf.unchi.org/aboutus.html>

Concord Division of Natural Resources - 141 Keyes Rd, Concord 01742 978-318-3285 http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_NaturalResources/index

Concord Land Conservation Trust - member-supported non-profit group protects open space in Concord www.concordland.org/

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (US Fish & Wildlife Service) - Maps of both units are available free at the headquarters/ visitor center, Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury. "Friends of Great Meadows" help increase public awareness of Refuge issues, improve public facilities, and maintain trails at both Sudbury and Concord

units. The group meets monthly at the visitor center and welcomes new members. For more info: 978-443-4661
www.fws.gov/northeast/greatmeadows/

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 111 properties and protects more than 45,000 acres in Massachusetts, including The Old Manse in Concord. 572 Essex St., Beverly 01915. 978-524-1858 www.thetrustees.org

Assabet River RailTrail - a work in progress, this 12 miles long bike and pedestrian path will connect Acton with Maynard, Stow, Hudson, and Marlboro. www.arrtinc.org/

OAR (Organization for the Assabet River) - members represent 19 towns in the watershed. Advocate for water quality, river protection, open space, environmental quality in the watershed. Also organize river trips. New members welcome. www.assabriver.org

SuAsCo Watershed Community Council - collaboration of businesses, towns, environmental groups, and state, federal and regional govt in the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed. Seek to protect natural resources, restore water quality and flow, coordinate land use and water resource planning, encourage stewardship, and channel financial and technical assistance. Task forces welcome volunteers. Suite 200, 118 Great Rd, Stow 01775 www.SuAsCo.org

Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – a non-profit organization working in partnership

with state and local governments toward the completion of the rail trail. This 100% volunteer group is active in moving forward the state and federal issues required for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of the rail trail. For information on the Friends group, status, volunteering, or financial support of the trail, see website: www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org/ or email info@BruceFreemanRailTrail.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, INC
E-Mail: info@baycircuit.org
Website: www.baycircuit.org