

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 4 - Andover, Tewksbury, Lowell - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route

*(as shown on map 4 dated July 2016)
(text updated September 2021)*

Trail marking:

Andover: Other trails on some AVIS properties are also marked with BCT's once standard white blazes, but Bay Circuit logos are prominent 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, Rt. 133, High Plain Rd

Tewksbury: BCT marking in process

Lowell: BCT is unmarked.

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 north of RR bridge on Red Spring Rd shoulder).

Indian Ridge Reservation, AVIS. – No bicycles

on AVIS properties. Bicycles should proceed along Reservation Road to West Parish Cemetery, point **B** on map, then along Cutler Road to intersection with Lowell Street (Rt. 133).

- 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 to the left and follow boardwalk to Reservation Rd.
- 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 Rt. 133 (*CAUTION: fast traffic*) to

enter Doyle Link.

- 1.95 At first trail junction, take left fork.
- 2.38 Sharp right (tricky spot, 2 sharp rights within a few feet), trail slopes uphill about 200 ft through a stone wall, then sharp left thru another stone wall, then bear right.

Bicycles (prohibited on Doyle Link boardwalk) should follow blazes to High Plain Road - **D**

Walkers follow blazes to logging road and downhill to 700-foot boardwalk with view of wetland. Exit woods between house number 182 and 184 High Plain Road. Turn left on High Plain Road, heading west. Over I-93 and I-495.

D N42 39.794 W71 10.924

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

E N42 39.515 W71 11.906 – **ANDOVER JUNCTION to BCT Route 5a (via Tewksbury, Billerica, Bedford to Concord)**

(As of September 2021, blazed to the Andover/Tewksbury town line)

Haggett's Pond Rail Trail, Andover Conservation Commission

- 3.9 Smooth but unpaved trail on left leading along Haggett's Pond, with pretty views and good picnicking. This is Andover's water supply. Dogs must be leashed, and their waste removed. Fishing is allowed but no swimming, wading, or boating. Strictly enforced.

- 6.0 Cross Haggett's Pond Road (caution: traffic) to extension of rail trail. Cross Rt. 133 (caution: fast-moving traffic).

Lowell and Lawrence Railroad Reservation, AVIS

- 6.5 Cross Bellevue Road (use extreme caution: oncoming drivers at speed may be blind to pedestrians in roadway)

Boardwalk to **Bellevue Trail** (Tewksbury)
(As of September 2021, blazed to the Andover/Tewksbury town line.)

OR - PROCEED .3 MILE ALONG HIGH PLAIN ROAD TO

F N42 39.572 W71 12.248 – ANDOVER JUNCTION – to BCT Route 5b via Tewksbury, Lowell

- 4.2 Right into woods. Parking available at Andover Dog Park or Community Garden at Bald Hill.

**Virginia Hammond Reservation, Andover Conservation Commission
Harold Rafton Reservation, AVIS**

- 4.82 Left at trail junction and cross under power line.
4.94 Left at trail junction 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 on woods road.
6.2 Enter field, cross to corner of River Rd and Chandler Rd (P=4, rough shoulder).

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

- 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 junction, downhill toward Merrimack River. Continue following river trail for 2.5 miles to the Tewksbury pumping station. Ignore occasional white blazes to mark egress trails to the left.

H N42 39.722 W71 14.463

- 8.6 Trail passes under power lines. (Take steep side trail up bluff just before (east) of power lines (not marked) for scenic birds-eye view of river and for parking (P=4) on River Rd shoulder at power lines, 0.15 mile from BCT).

Tewksbury BCT route to Merrimack River Trail in Lowell

K N42 39.382 W71 15.280

- 9.5 Tewksbury pumping station. Left and leave **Merrimack River Trail** at the Tewksbury pumping station (designated parking P=3, just outside gate). Take Merrimac Dr to River Rd, turn right and cross River Rd to

use sidewalk on south side.

- 10.7 At St. Mary's Cemetery main gate, right on driveway and take the left-hand paved lane, bearing left, and following along past the office/chapel building. There, stay straight (do not follow paved road to the right) pass through a gate by an outbuilding, where a dirt path continues north to a path along the Merrimack River. Go left on that path, following it west to Burnham Rd in Lowell.
11.6 Burnham Rd at Tewksbury town line.

Lowell BCT route along the Merrimack River, northeast to southwest

L N42 39.297 W71 16.532

- 0.0 Lowell Transit bus stop. Exit the trail at Burnham Road and turn right on River Rd.
.31- Veer left at Raven Road
.85- Turn Right on Andover St.
1.05- Turn Right at Rivercliff Rd. and take veer left on E. Merrimack St.
1.7- Turn right on Stackpole St.
2.3- Cross Brown St and continue at point M.

M N42 38.739 W71 18.219

- 1.8 Cross Brown St, bear right to behind the Lowell Memorial Auditorium esplanade, and left along the Concord River. Continue around the auditorium, and past the front entrance to East Merrimack St. Cross East Merrimack St at the crosswalk, short right, then left onto Davidson St. Follow Davidson St for 100 ft and right on driveway to Concord River Greenway (CRG). Left along the pathway and parkland overlooking the river to Howe St.
2.2 Howe St, current end of this section of BCT.

Proposed Trail in Lowell under development:

1. Connection to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The BCT will continue at Howe 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. New section completed fall 2009: Trail closely follows the edge of the Concord River from just south of East Merrimack St to Howe St, and includes multi-lingual signage and public art, including a long text fence and bollards with native bird 'caps'. Proposed trail routes online at www.lowelllandtrust.org.

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. No bicycles permitted.

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. No bicycles.

West Parish Meadow Reservation (AVIS; 28 acres)

One of the few true meadows remaining in town. Several small ponds, wildflowers, and many birds. Parking lot at Andover High School. No bicycles.

Doyle Link (Andover Conservation Commission; 75 acres) - Pleasant woodlands, two ponds, several streams. Red maple swamp on the Greenwood Rd end. Beautiful autumn foliage. No bicycles on boardwalk.

Haggett's Pond (Andover Water Dept) - Wide unpaved level path from High Plain Rd. to Haggett's Pond Rd near junction with Rt. 133. Picnic spots, views of pond. Fishing allowed. No swimming. Limited parking on Haggett's 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. 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.

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 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, and the Greater Lawrence Technical 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 trail guides:

Relevant USGS **topo maps** 7.5 x 15 are Lawrence, Lowell, Reading, Billerica

Andover Trails Guide is available at many local retail outlets or by mail. See andovertrails.org for details. Online maps and descriptions also available at andovertrails.org.

The **AVIS map of Andover** is available at 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. Monthly meetings. Excellent website www.shawsheen.org

Andover Trails supports Bay Circuit projects, supports and advocates for responsible public access to conservation land, and works on the Shawsheen River Greenway initiative. Membership is informal. www.andovertrails.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. P.O. Box 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 info@baycircuit.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 at www.crw.org

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