

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.



Allowed Uses:



**Map 5B - Lowell, Chelmsford, Carlisle,
Westford - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route**
(as shown on map 5B dated March 2013)
(text updated November 2020)

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.

North to south:

Dedicated BCT from Andover to Lowell (east to west) follows the Merrimack River for about 6 miles along the Merrimack River Trail (MRT).

From Lowell, the trail heads 13 miles south to Acton. There are 3 sections to this trail (north to south):

- 1) **Concord River Greenway**—4 miles from Lowell to Chelmsford.
- 2) **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**—7 miles from Chelmsford to Westford
- 3) **Acton Connector**—2 miles from Westford through Carlisle to Acton.

Currently only the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is open and is marked with BCT logos. Other two sections are proposed trail under development, with some partially completed legs.

Merrimack River Trail, dedicated trail, mileage is continuation of Lowell trail from Map 4:

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 Fayette St.
2.2 Fayette St., current end of this section of BCT.

Concord River Greenway Park (CRG), partially completed and proposed trail:

The BCT will continue at Fayette St in downtown Lowell along the Concord River Greenway Park (CRG). Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust is working in partnership with the City of Lowell to complete the CRG that will be the eventual BCT route linking to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at Cross Point.

Continue on Fayette St, turning right onto Andover St. Take an immediate left onto Perry St., before the river. Take a right onto Rogers St. and cross over the Concord River on the Rogers St. bridge. Take a left onto Merrill St and an immediate left into Jollene Dubner Park, follow paved Concord River Greenway to the Centennial Apartments, take a right to follow parking lot entrance out to Lawrence St, then left onto Lawrence St. Cross back over the Concord River and immediately left into the small park and bike path to the Wamesit Falls overlook (follow this to a fence to see where new connection will be June 2021).

Retrace your steps to Lawrence St. and back over the Concord River. Then turn left onto Moore St. Turn left onto Meadowcroft, then right on Lundberg Street to cross over active commuter rail line, follow Lundberg St. Turn left onto Gorham St. Eventually, you will walk parallel to the St. Patrick's Cemetery. Turn right onto Spencer St, which is between St. Patrick's Cemetery and Edson/ Westlawn cemeteries, and turn left onto Boston Rd. Walk parallel alongside the Westlawn Cemetery and take a right onto Swan St. and then left onto Industrial Ave. E. After going under the Lowell Connector, go around the rotary (roundabout). Take the left onto Reiss Avenue and you will see the Cross Point Tower towards the right across the large parking lot. There are two small bridges, one a footbridge, over River Meadow Brook. Take either and you will see the Tavern on the Square restaurant at the street level of the Cross Point Tower. Turn left along the trees and cross the parking lot. The entrance to the small parking area for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is on the left.

(Proposed trail routes online at www.lowelllandtrust.org).

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT), dedicated trail:

Bike path has mileage markers along trail.

D N42 36.757 W71 19.618

- 0.0 Start of rail trail at Cross Point Office Park (no trail parking permitted). From edge of the office parking lot, go thru tunnel under Rte 3 and under I-495 bridges to Chelmsford
- 1.3 Join Chelmsford St (Rte 110), follow sidewalk, cross Chelmsford St, and rejoin rail trail

E N42 35.819 W71 21.150

- 1.7 Cross North Rd at intersection of Rte 4 and Rte 110 (*CAUTION: Busy intersection, use pedestrian crossing signals*). Parking (P=25+) southeast at municipal lot behind Sovereign Bank, 5 Billerica Rd in Chelmsford center. Food, restrooms, trail art, bike repair.
- 3.7 Side trail: From the Center across Beaver Brook, before the 3.75 mile marker on the left, the TWIN OAKS Trail through Bartlett Woodlot; Circle trail through the woodlot with access to Acton Road and Bartlett Park; Seats overlooking Beaver Brook and Ice Dam. Wildflowers in Spring.
- 3.8 Side trail: At mile marker 3.8 on left, trail to Red Wing Farm, Conservation land, meadow and orchard with picnic tables/benches. Easy rejoin to BCT across Maple Road. Limited parking.
- 4.2 Cross Maple Rd., Parking at Byam School (non-school hours only), 25 Maple Rd, northwest of rail trail and road intersection. Ice cream.
- 4.3 Side trail: Just past mile marker 4.25, on left, LT. BOVEY Trail through Bovey Woodlot. Pleasant hilly walk to High Street.

F N42 34.099 W71 22.865

- 4.4 Cross Pond St. Parking in dirt lot (P=25+) for Heart Pond Beach. Picnic benches and portajohn (seasonal).
- 6.4 Cross Rte 27. Rail trail crossing signal with motion detector.

G N42 32.181 W71 23.847

- 6.8 Current end of BFRT at intersection of Rte 225 and Rte 27 (no parking available).

Acton Connector, proposed trail (expected to be complete by the end of 2014 along with phase 2 of the BFRT):

Cross Route 225 and continue on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Westford, thru northwest corner of Carlisle, and into Acton. Before BFT crosses Rt. 27, trail

branches off the BFT to the east and follows an easement along the Acton/Carlisle line to Carlisle Rd. Follows Carlisle Rd. to parking area on south side of Rd. near junction with Rt. 27. Follows east side of Robbins Mill Pond to Wheeler Lane trailhead parking.

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/parks/trails.htm

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>](mailto: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 (CRG) – 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 and River Meadow Brook. The CRG features a multi-use rail trail with multi-lingual exhibit signage, public art by Wopo Holup and Jay Hungate, and an outdoor classroom (also see Greenway Classroom web site for historical and environmental information on the Concord River corridor in Lowell at www.lowelllandtrust.org). Negotiations continue to include several parcels of industrial and rail right of way property along the Greenway. Those interested in the latest information should contact Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust: 978-934-0030 or www.lowelllandtrust.org

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 across from parking lot. Picnic benches and portajohn (seasonal).

Chelmsford Land Conservation Trust:

Archer Meadowbrook Preserve - 12.74 acres located about 1 mile southeast of the center of town on East Putnam Ave.

Bartlett Park - 3.25 acres located in the center of town at intersection of Acton Road and Adams Road. Pleasant pasture, stream, benches, near restaurants, library, toilets, etc. Across Acton Road from Bartlett Woodlot.

Bartlett Woodlot - 10.47 acres located near the center

of town on Acton Road. Woodlot with trails. Old ice dam. Access to BCT on Twin Oaks Trail

Miriam E. Warren Wetland Preserve - 3.0 acres located west of the center of town, on Littleton Rd (Rt 110) abuts the BCT. Good bird watching.

Lt Edward Hope Bovey Woodlot - 8.88 acres located west of center at intersection of High St and Ray Hill Rd. Abuts BCT with an uphill trail to High St.

Bovey Woodlot - 1.86 acres located west of the center at intersection of High St and Ray Hill Rd.

McDermott Woodlot - 0.93 acres located west of center at intersection of High St and Ray Hill Rd.

Kroll, Calder, Larter Pasture - 14.12 acres in South Chelmsford on Proctor Rd. Lovely pasture, trail

Warren Wildlife Sanctuary - 24 acres located off Boston Road and accessible via Janet Rd. Good kayaking, canoeing; good access ramp.

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)

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) - follows the old New Haven Railroad Framingham & Lowell Line thru the communities of Lowell, Chelmsford, Westford, Carlisle, Acton, Concord, Sudbury, and Framingham in Massachusetts. Phase 1 (6.8 miles in Chelmsford and Westford) is now open. Phase 2 in Westford, Carlisle, Acton, Concord, and Sudbury (13.1 miles), phase 3 in Sudbury and Framingham (4.6 miles), and the Concord River Greenway Connector Trail in Lowell and Chelmsford are proposed extensions. Maps online at: <http://brucefreemanrailtrail.org/trail-map/road-crossing-map-trail/>

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 \$10 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 small fee 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; small fee, 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/parks/trails.htm
- Map of Great Brook Farm State Park at HQ (Lowell St., Carlisle) and online www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/trails/greatbrook-summer.pdf
- Some Carlisle Cons.Com maps on-line www.carlisle.org
- Some Carlisle Conservation Foundation maps online www.carlisleconservationfoundation.org
- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail - Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee trail information online at www.townofchelmsford.us/Bicycle.cfm

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 & 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 Thad Soule 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

Chelmsford Land Conservation Trust - a private, non-governmental organization to preserve open space for our children and future generations. Trust ownership of nine properties.
www.chelmsfordlandtrust.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

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 Bay Circuit area. Excellent website lists rides, other information, and membership info. www.crw.org

BAY CIRCUIT ALLIANCE, INC
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