



Upper Charles Rail Trail Holliston, Massachusetts

Status of the Trail
September 2015

What is the Upper Charles Rail Trail?

The Upper Charles Rail Trail is a **proposed multi-use rail trail** of approximately 24 miles in length that will connect the towns of Sherborn, Holliston, Milford, Hopkinton, and Ashland. The Trail in Holliston is 6.7 miles stretching from the Sherborn to Milford town lines. **The Trail will primarily be an off-road path separated from traffic.** It is planned to be built as a fully-accessible trail to accommodate a variety of non-motorized uses such as bicycling, walking, jogging, and cross-country skiing.

What will the surface be like?

The Trail in Holliston is proposed to be a 10-foot wide stone dust surface. The first two sections installed with stone dust include the area from Central Street to Cross Street and the area from Hopping Brook Road to the Milford trail.



Stone dust surface, 10-foot wide

Right of Way

The entire right of way in Holliston is either owned in fee or leased. Sections owned include the area from Church Street to the Milford Trail, 4.2 miles of the total 6.7 miles.

Construction

Sections of the Trail may be under construction at various times. **Please stay off the sections of the Trail during construction.**

Benefits

Recreational trails are known to provide multiple benefits to the towns along the corridor. There are significant safety benefits for an accessible multi-use path. It will provide safe routes to school, increased tourism, economic benefits, historical preservation, and a boost to health and well being.

This particular trail has a wider right of way in the center of Town, recently named Blair Square in honor of Bobby Blair, a Holliston resident who has contributed so much to the Town. The park will serve as a staging area for fundraising and community events.



Blair Square

Financing

We have received funding from the Recreational Trails Program and this source requires 20% matching funds. Please consider donating to the Friends of Holliston

Trails, Inc., to help us meet our matching funds and to support improvements (see [TO DONATE](#)).

Trail Etiquette

Everyone has the right to safely use the Trail for these activities and following some simple rules will make it safe for all:

- Keep to the right at all times, pass on the left
- The Trail passes nearby residents. Please respect their privacy and pass by quickly and **QUIETLY**.
- Stop at **ALL** Stop Signs
- When walking or stopping on the Trail, move to the side and do not block the Trail. Do not block intersections and bridges
- Keep control of small children so that they do not run out in front of an approaching runner or cyclist
- Look before passing
- Use an audible signal when passing such as a bell, horn or simply speaking loudly, "On Your Left" to let warn others of your approach
- Keep audio volume of headphones to a minimum so that others signaling their intentions can be heard
- Bicyclists shall yield to pedestrians.
- Bicyclists should wear safety helmets. State law requires children under 17 years of age to wear a helmet
- Dogs should be kept on a short (6-foot or shorter) leash and not allowed to run free on the Trail or impede other trail users
- Pet owners must pick up pet waste and take it with them for proper disposal in the trash. Do not leave bags of pet waste along the Trail or toss into the wooded areas or wetlands
- Do not litter. The Trail is a "Carry In, Carry Out" facility
- Be courteous to other trail users

Acquisition and construction of the Trail was funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation Recreational Trails Program in partnership with:



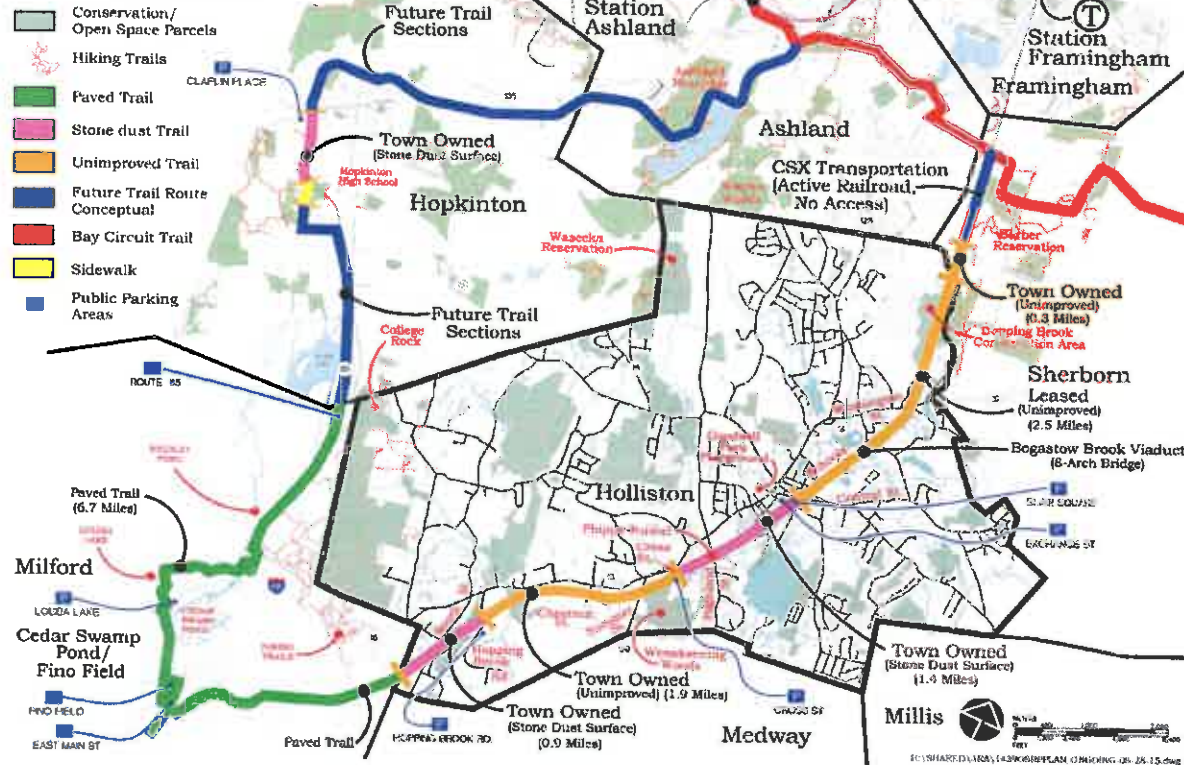
Town of Holliston Community Preservation Committee



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UPPER CHARLES RAIL TRAIL REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP AUGUST 2015



Trail Conditions

As a former rail bed, the ground surface is flat with minimal grade change, making it ideal for all ages and abilities. The Trail is separated from vehicular traffic, except at crossings. There are only 10 at-grade street crossings in 6.7 miles of trail. Sections of the Trail are in various stages of construction.

Sherborn Line to Church Street (2.5 miles): Unimproved, single track, clear ground surface, poor quality surface due to loose ballast stones, marginally usable for walking and rugged mountain biking.

Church Street to Cross Street (1.4 miles): No at-grade crossings for 1.3 miles. Improved stone dust surface installed November 2013, suitable for walking and biking (**Accessible**)

Cross Street to Hopping Brook Road (2.0 miles): Under construction Unimproved, clear ground surface, packed soil surface, undulating profile, suitable for walking or mountain biking.

Hopping Brook Road to South Street (0.5 miles): Improved stone dust surface installed December 2012, firm and hard packed, suitable for walking and street and mountain biking (**Accessible**).

South Street to the Milford Trail (0.3 miles): Improved stone dust surface installed October 2014, suitable for walking and street and mountain biking (**Accessible**). This section joins the paved, 6.7-mile Milford section of the Upper Charles Rail Trail.

Parking

- Blair Square: Off Front Street (do not park at CVS)
- Municipal Parking Lot: Off Exchange Street
- Cross Street: On-street
- Hopping Brook Road: On-street
- Weekend Parking Only: At New England Waterworks Association Building (125 Hopping Brook Road)
- **NO PARKING on South Street, Chestnut Street, Wedgewood Drive or Summer Street**

Bathroom Facilities

There are no public bathroom facilities in Holliston. Various local businesses provide facilities to patrons. Please support local businesses.

Linear Park

The Trail is essentially a linear park that provides a corridor linking the town and conservation areas. As a public park, it is no longer an abandoned corridor. Please treat it as a public park and refrain from dumping in the corridor. Over 300 volunteers have worked over 4,500 hours to make this a usable trail.

Questions?

For more information contact the Holliston Trails Committee, Robert Weidknecht, Chair: rweidknecht@verizon.net

TO DONATE:

Friends of Holliston Trails, Inc. (a 501 c 3 Organization)
www.Hollistontrails.org



Like Us on Facebook: Friends of the Holliston Trails

Thank you for your support

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