

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 3 - Boxford, North Andover, Andover BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route

(as shown on map 3 dated May 2014)
(text updated May 2014)

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.

Trail marking: The BCT is marked with white dollar bill-sized blazes, oriented vertically, painted or nailed on trees or poles. Offset blazes indicate a turn in the direction of the upper blaze. In Bald Hill and Boxford SF, use numbered jcts for location. On some AVIS properties other trails are also marked with white blazes; look for the BCT logo at jct.

Parking along the street is possible at some trailheads. No parking allowed along Rte 114, Gray Rd., Rte 125, Main St., or Central St. in Andover.

Boxford Center to Sharpner's Pond Rd

A N42 39.754 W70 59.864

- 0.0 **Boxford Center.** Boxford Bay Circuit Trail map & Boxford Community Store on right (food, restroom, parking (P=25+) available).
- 0.1 Left onto Topsfield Rd. In 0.4 mi turn right onto Cahoon Rd for 0.15 mi; then right into **Boy Scout Park** (P=25+). Pass to left of playground, enter woods southwest corner of parking lot by following service drive. Turn sharp left at field with pavilion and pass through campfire circle. Follow blazes to exit between 2 houses onto Dana Rd. (Note: if Boy Scouts are using park, bypass the park via Dana Rd).
- 1.1 Right onto Dana Rd, then go thru the cul-de-sac and bear left onto the Dana Rd extension.
- 1.2 At break in stone wall, right onto path to enter **Lockwood Forest**, proceed to Fish Brook, then bear left. With Fish Brook on right, in 0.2 mi enter field, proceed along right edge; re-enter woods directly across field from where you entered the field. Shortly, cross a stone retaining wall, bear right, pass old mill site on the right (note: horses not allowed along Fish Brook dam site trail).
- 1.8 Right onto Lockwood Lane for 400 ft crossing 2 bridges. Resume tr on left (south) side of the street. Walk around the gate and follow the tr along the west bank of Fish Brook. Continue straight at 4 way woods rd jct, bear right at fork, to stay on marked main trail up a hill, thru a wet spot, up a small hill past a kiosk (with BCT map) to

Middleton Rd.

B N42 38.408 W70 59.447

- 18.5 Cross Middleton Rd. Enter **Bald Hill Reservation** at steel gate (P=8), where map of reservation is posted. Bald Hill Reservation consists of 5 parcels: JC Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, Fish & Wildlife; Boxford State Forest, DCR; inholding wood lots, ECGB; Wunnegen, Town of Boxford; and Cudhea Woods, New England Forestry Foundation. BCT is marked with standard white blazes and number markers. Follow woods road to #17, turn right and go uphill. Take either path around the small pond, as the trails rejoin. The right hand trail here has a boardwalk. Turn left at #25. Proceed to #24, turn right and right again at #23. Cross over a small stream. Go left at #22. Go left again at #21. Keep left at next fork. Bear right at #26. Turn right at the wooden gate marked "Trail Closed."
- 4.6 Right again at #8A (number not on DCR map, but sign on tree) where the main woods road is rejoined. (*For Bald Hill with partial view in winter, turn left at #8A, past #9, and left at #10 and #27 to summit.*) 0.2 mile west of #8A, jog left to cross bridge below beaver dam. Pass slightly obscured marker #8. Turn right at #7, left at #6, bear left at unmarked jct 100 ft west of #6, then left at #2 when you enter graveled clearing near former ABM site. Continue to bear left at unmarked #1 (ABM Pond is 500 feet to the right (northwest)) and proceed 0.2 mile to exit onto parking lot.

6.4 **Boxford State Forest** Sharpner's Pond Rd parking lot (P=20+).

Boxford State Forest gate to Rte 114

C N42 38.554 W71 02.161

0.0 Cross Forest St onto Sharpner's Pond Rd.

0.8 After a group of mail boxes 0.75 mile along Sharpner's Pond Rd and just before Essex St (aka Salem St), go right into woods on an old RR bed now heavily grown as forest. Left off of rail bed in 600 feet.

0.9 Cross Salem St to enter state forest land.

1.0 Cross under power lines to the left.

1.1 Right at woods road fork.

1.5 Left to road.

1.7 Right onto Sharpner's Pond Rd. for 0.2 mile.

1.9 Right onto driveway for Bud Cyr Recycling Center and Sharpners Pond Athletic Fields

2.0 Pass thru a gate, then sharp left at edge of open area. Bear right onto dirt rd along edge of open area. Enter woods tr at far left (NW) corner of the parking lot. Go right at first jct. At second set of athletic fields, follow tr to left. Emerge at another parking lot (gated).

2.1 Exit the southwest corner to reenter the woods for a few yards and exit on to Berry St at Rte 114.

2.5 Cross Route 114.

Jct Rte 114/Harold Parker Rd (No. Andover) to Shawsheen River (Andover)

Harold Parker State Forest, Mass. DCR

D N42 37.765 W71 03.903

0.0 Jct Rte 114 and Harold Parker Rd. Trail enters forest on right in 70 yds. Use stone wall to cross wetland (cyclists and other users can avoid this section--continue on Harold Parker Rd 0.25 mi, go right onto

trail, join BCT at 0.28).

0.28 Right at T trail jct.

0.36 Left.

0.65 Left.

0.76 Right at trail jct. Follow woods rd.

0.83 Right at trail jct.

1.4 Straight across woods rd

1.34 Bear left

1.41 Left u hill to ridge; many turns.

1.80 Left onto woods rd (stay on trail to avoid adjacent gun club).

E N42 37.239 W71 05.014

2.65 Cross Middleton Rd (picnic pavilion about 100 yds to the right; P=25) Follow blazes thru tricky spot.

2.95 Berry Pond Rd (paved but closed to traffic; public beach, seasonal restrooms, parking lot 0.25 mile along rd on right). Continue straight across then thru several minor intersections.

3.16 Right; pass thru two 19th century granite quarries. Cross small woods rd then downhill to footbridge. Continue to Jenkins Rd.

F N42 37.112 W71 05.603

3.57 Cross Jenkins Rd. Parking available at pull-out (P=2-3) on east side of Jenkins Rd about 75 yds south of trail crossing. Follow new tr around north side of pit, circling back south to large glacial erratic.

3.78 Right at erratic.

3.93 Right (don't cross bridge on left). Pass old mill site.

4.16 Left onto Skug Reservation Trail.

4.59 Left onto old rd.

4.67 Right; cross long boardwalk.

G N42 37.469 W71 06.012

4.79 Salem St (parking lot, P=6)

Hammond Reservation, AVIS; and Mary French Reservation, Cons.Com

4.79 Cross Salem St from Skug parking lot into **Hammond Reservation**, go 0.11 mi to rock wall/trail intersection. Continue straight ahead up slight incline, bear left 0.08 mi. to trail intersection. Turn right to start of stone and earthen former dike (not suitable for bicycles), cross small bridge, and take left onto trail leading to long bog bridge/boardwalk.

This **Mary French Reservation** area offers dramatic views of wildlife. Boardwalk crosses Skug River twice and offers dramatic views of swamp and birds.

Note: This area is sometimes flooded because of beaver activity. If this section is temporarily closed, signs will be posted to guide people around the flooding and back to the trail.

At end of boardwalk follow trail to Korinthian Way (parking on street).

5.23 Left on Korinthian Way to Grey Rd.

5.40 Right on Grey Rd.

5.45 Left onto narrow trail thru Conservation Commission woodlands.

5.90 Left on Tucker Rd for short distance.

Chas. Ward Reservation, The Trustees of Reservations

5.94 Right off Tucker Rd.; bear immediate left at edge of field after crossing stone wall; sharp left after crossing field, then right on to old woods road. Follow blazes to small map

kiosk, turning right and emerging from woods into large open field.

- 6.03 Right onto grassy rd in woods.
- 6.25 Proceed along lower edge of field; right into woods.
- 6.32 Trail ascends through field.
- 6.38 Tricky trail jct. Private residence to left (west). Take level wide woods rd. coincides with Yellow Tr.
- 6.56 Stay on path thru field to top of Holt Hill (elevation 423 ft).
- 6.63 Solstice stones; view of Boston to South. Sharp left to BCT sign at edge of field. Descend thru woods.
- 6.76 Left onto paved access road, closed to traffic.

H N42 38.453 W71 06.586

- 6.81 Right onto trail at #23 (or continue on access road to Prospect Rd, right briefly to reservation parking lot, if that's where you left your car).
- 7.15 Left at trail jct. #22.
- 7.46 Right onto Prospect Rd (reservation parking lot is 0.25 miles on left).
- 7.56 Cross Rte. 125 (*CAUTION: fast moving traffic*) Right on trail beside fence, parallel with Rte. 125. Walk on highway briefly past wetland, then reenter woods.

Phillips Academy

- 7.77 Left onto woods rd.
- 8.12 Follow right edge of; use driveway to reach Salem St. (northbound, use the driveway with iron gate belonging to brick house at corner of Salem and Holt to reach field)
- 8.25 Right onto Salem St, immediate left onto Holt Rd, then right into woods
- 8.31 Enter Phillips Academy athletic fields;

follow right edge of the field along fence and then left onto campus road. Follow campus road along tennis courts, thru brick gateway and up short hill to Main St.

J N42 38.671 W71 07.933

- 8.75 Right onto Main St a short distance to crosswalk. Cross to other side and continue on Main St to Phillips St.
- 9.01 Left onto Phillips St. (on-street parking) BCT blazes are on utility poles. Use sidewalks on whichever side of street is safer.
- 9.61 Cross Central St; enter **Purdon Reservation, AVIS**. Follow BCT blazes on main trail with one left turn.
- 9.81 Left onto Lupine Rd. (exit Purdon Res, P=3 on rough narrow shoulder).
- 10.00 Right onto Central St. Cross Shawsheen River, and go under RR bridge. (*CAUTION: long narrow roadway under RR bridge*).

K N42 38.856 W71 09.078

- 10.10 Junction of Central St, Reservation Rd., Andover St, and Red Spring Rd (P=3 north of RR bridge on Red Spring Rd shoulder)

(*Andover BCT continues on map 4*)

MAP 3 - Boxford, No. Andover, Andover - THE JEWELS

Boy Scout Park - South of the Boxford Historic District lies this mostly forested property which includes a large parking lot, a ballpark, a skating pond and a children's playground. It is used as a

training ground for the Boy Scouts of America. When the Boy Scouts are using the park, it should be should be by-passed by following Dana Rd.

Wildcat Conservation Area - (Boxford; 319 acres) - Trails make a human & wildlife corridor from Four Mile Pond at the Alpers Property, across bridges thru wetlands, to a Stiles Pond access road. Pitcher plants in bogs, lovely hemlock forest, and remains of a wolf pit visible.

Bald Hill Reservation - 1624 contiguous acres, apportioned among the Boxford State Forest, the Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, and Essex County Greenbelt, in the towns of Boxford, North Andover and Middleton. Motorized vehicles NOT allowed. Several historic landmarks, unique geology, 4 ponds, rare wildflowers and other wildlife. Details of these as well as detailed descriptions of the BCT and the many side trails are in the *Boxford Bay Circuit Guidebook*. P=8 at Middleton Rd. entrance, P=29+ at lot at end of Sharpner Pond Rd

Harold Parker State Forest (Mass. Dept of Conservation & Recreation; 3100 acres) - Good hiking, ski touring, horseback riding, mountain bikes; fishing and hunting in limited areas with license. See map at headquarters for seasonal hunting areas. Headquarters are on Salem St., .25 mile south of Harold Parker Rd. Tr maps available. Call for current information about campground and public beach openings. Campground is on Jenkins Rd. Parking: Numerous off-road sites for 1 or 2 cars at trail access points. Several parking lots. Map online: www.mass.gov/dcr Click on Trails

Weir Hill Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 192 acres) - Twin drumlins rise 300 feet above shores of Lake Cochichewick and Stevens Pond. 4 miles of trails. Parking on Stevens St. Map available at Stevens-Coolidge Place.

Stevens-Coolidge Place (The Trustees of Reservations; 91 acres) - Historic house and gardens open to the public. House: Sun. 1-5 and Wed. 2-4 spring to fall; gardens open daily year round. Parking lot across Andover St, near Town Common.

Town Farm/Town Forest (No.And.Cons.Com; 180 acres) - fields, woodlands, wetlands, and ballfields. Access from Dale St and from Carriage Chase Rd off Castlemere.

Mazurenko Farm & Rea's Pond Cons. areas (No.And.Cons.Com; 120 acres) - Abundant wildlife enjoy diverse habitats. Blazed trail from parking lot on Bradford St (north of map 3).

Osgood Hill (No.And.Cons.Com; 165 acres) - Two blazed trails let walkers and skiers (not mountain bikers) enjoy this former estate and its woodlands, including a stretch along Lake Cochichewick. No wheeled vehicles. Map available at town hall. Parking on Osgood St between Prescott St and Chickering Rd. (north of map 3, near Weir Hill)

Den Rock Park (Lawrence; 80 acres) - Well-known rock-climbing site; numerous trails, some illegally used and damaged by ORVs. Small parking lot off Rte 114 in N. Andover

Skug River Reservation (Andover Village Improvement Society) - Over 200 years ago, the Skug River was dammed to power a profitable sawmill and grist mill. The massive stone walls of the millrace can still be seen. Also site of a soapstone quarry. Parking lot on Salem St; parking for 2 cars on Jenkins Rd.

Hammond Reservation (AVIS) - The stone and earthen causeway in Hammond Reservation was originally a dam, creating an ice pond and livestock watering hole. Parking in Skug Reservation lot on Salem St

Mary French Reservation (And. Cons. Com) - Dramatic wetlands abutting the Skug River. Good birding. Easiest access to viewpoint is along wide boardwalk from Korinthian Way. Handicapped accessible. Parking on street

Charles W. Ward Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 700 acres) - Granite solstice stones crown Holt Hill, marking north, east, south and west. The smaller rectangular stones mark the sunrise and sunset directions on the longest and shortest days of the year. Great views. Near the main parking area on Prospect Rd. is Pine Hole Bog, a quaking bog, home to many rare plants including wild calla, horsetails, pitcher plants, and sundews. Ten miles of trails open to hikers, skiers, and mountain bikers. Parking lot off Prospect Rd.

Phillips Academy (450 acres) - PA is a co-ed day and boarding school for about 1100 students from throughout the United States and over 50 foreign countries. Descriptions of walking tours of the Academy and nearby School Street are available from the Andover Historical Society. Cherry and

apple trees bloom in May. Cochran Wildlife Sanctuary blooms with mountain laurel and rhododendron in late June (access from the end of Chapel Ave. off Rte. 28). Wide smooth trails are suitable for walkers with limited vision or people with sports wheelchairs. Also open to the public: PA's Addison Gallery, specializing in American art, and Peabody Museum of Archeology with interesting displays of the local Pennacook tribes.

Purdon Reservation (AVIS; 9 acres) - In 1843, Purdon Reservation's natural amphitheater was the site of a speech by Daniel Webster to an audience of thousands. Parking on Lupine Rd

Lupine Reservation (AVIS; 2 acres) - Look for a plaque near the remaining piers of the Andover Canoe Club, circa 1910. Walkers enjoy a view of the Shawsheen River as it passes under the old stone railroad arch. Good fishing. Parking for several cars on Lupine Rd.

Taft Reservation (AVIS; 60 acres) - Woodlands and wetlands offer scenic walking along narrow trails. Parking on Vine St and Sagamore Dr.

Goldsmith Reservation (AVIS; 142 acres) - Excellent cross-country skiing on varied wooded terrain. Limited parking at corner of Rte 125 and Gould Rd, across Rte 125 from entrance

Peggy Keck Reservation (AVIS; 40 acres) - Loop trail and ancient granite cliffs. Parking corner of Gould Rd and Rte. 125 (across from police barracks)

Robert A. Pustell Reservation (And. Cons. Com; 84 acres) - Vernal pools and sassafras trees, granite cliffs and logging rds. Parking: Regency

Ridge Rd, Arcadia Rd, Carter Ln

Pomp's Pond (Andover's Recreation Park) - Walking trails, tennis, swimming (with sticker or fee). Parking off Abbot Rd.

Map 3 - Boxford, North Andover, Andover - FOR MORE INFORMATION

Trail markings: BCT is marked with rectangular white blazes, painted or nailed to trees or poles. In AVIS reservations, other trails may also be marked with these blazes; look for Bay Circuit logo markers at trail junctions. Trail thru Phillips Academy campus is sparsely marked; use whatever route you find parallel to Salem St to get from Holt Rd to Main St.

Trail uses: All trails are open to the public for hiking and walking. Most are suitable for cross-country skiing (not West Parish Cemetery). AVIS discourages mountain bikes on its properties. Dogs and bicycles not permitted in West Parish Cemetery. Most Harold Parker SF trails are suitable for horses; some other properties have not been cleared to accommodate horses. No motorized vehicles allowed on any trails. Boy Scout camp in Boxford is closed to the public when in use by Boy Scouts.

Public transport: MBTA trains from North Station to Andover; also bus service from Boston

Maps and trail guides:

- Relevant USGS **topo maps** 7.5 x 15 are Ipswich, Lawrence, and Reading
- **State forest and park maps** online: www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/trails.htm
- Free maps of **Harold Parker State Forest** are

available at the park headquarters, Salem St about .25 miles south of Harold Parker Rd. on the Rte 114 side of the forest and online: www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/trails.htm

- Free maps of **Boxford State Forest** are available at Bradley Palmer SP headquarters, off Asbury St. 978-887-5931 Map online: www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/trails.htm
- Large map of **Charles Ward Reservation** is posted at the parking lot, Prospect Rd. Maps are sold at Moor and Mountain in Andover (3 Railroad St.) and online (see TTOR)
- TTOR map of **Weir Hill** available at Stevens Coolidge Place near Old No. Andover Center
- Maps of **North Andover** properties are available for photocopying in the maps file at the reference desk of Stevens Memorial Library.
- The AVIS map of **Andover** is available for at Moor and Mountain and the Andover Bookstore. It is free to new members of AVIS (see below).
- **Walking tour maps** of several historic neighborhoods in **Andover** are available at Andover Historical Society, 93 Main St, for a small fee.
- **BTA/BOLT Guide to the Bay Circuit and to other Walks in Boxford** (BTA/BOLT-2005) includes an excellent detailed guide to the BCT from Willowdale S.F. to North Andover. Map also available of the trails in Boxford, Georgetown/Rowley and North Andover. See www.btabolt.org for current sources and prices. 978-887-7031.
- **Andover Trail Guide** has been updated, will be sold at the Andover Bookstore (93 Main St) and possibly online thru AVIS. This book includes maps and descriptions of over 40 properties,

with history and natural features as well as suggested trail routes. Some maps also online: www.avisandover.org

Local trail and land/water protection organizations

Merrimack River Watershed Council works for protection of the watershed in Massachusetts and NH. Supervise volunteer stream monitors. Also lead canoe trips. www.merrimack.org

Boxford Trails Assn./Boxford Open Land Trust (BTA/BOLT) has been a prime mover and steward of the BCT and other trails in Boxford and surrounding towns. They publish *The Bay Circuit Guide to Walks in and around Boxford*. The groups own or hold conservation restrictions on several properties thru which the BCT passes. www.btabolt.org

The Friends of North Andover Trails is a citizens' group interested in protecting open space, improving public access and trails, and offering public walks. www.fonat.org

Andover Trails Committee publishes *Andover Trail Guide* with AVIS. Citizens' group supports Bay Circuit projects, improves and maintains existing trails on conservation land, and works on the Shawsheen River Greenway initiative. The public is invited to attend meetings and to volunteer for trails projects. Call BCA headquarters in Andover for meeting schedule: 978-470-1982 www.andovertrails.org

Members of the **Appalachian Mountain Club** Andover Committee lead guided walks in the area most weekends from Sept. thru June. Free to the public. Check "Events" column of local

newspapers or join the AMC to receive a monthly magazine, listing walks and events throughout New England, NY, NJ, and PA 617-523-0655 x 303 www.amcboston.org

BAY CIRCUIT ALLIANCE, INC
E-Mail: info@baycircuit.org
Website: www.baycircuit.org

Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS) owns over 1100 acres on 27 reservations that are open to the public for walking, skiing, and enjoyment of nature. Membership information, events, and maps online. www.avisandover.org

The Trustees of Reservations manages Charles Ward Res. in Andover and North Andover, Weir Hill in North Andover (Stevens St.), and the Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover (near the Common). TTOR is the oldest land trust in the country, and has 111 properties and protects more than 45,000 acres in Massachusetts. Membership is open to the public. Quarterly newsletter. www.thetrustees.org

The **New England Mountain Bike Assn (NEMBA)** sponsors many rides, including some in this area. They help maintain trails in Boxford S.F. Monthly newsletter. 800-576-3622.

The **North Shore Bikeways Coalition** promotes both road and mountain biking, as well as development of bikeways in the area. They are working particularly on the proposed Border to Boston Bikeway, which might follow the abandoned rail line in Boxford and Topsfield. Quarterly newsletter. www.massbike.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