

MAP SET - HIKE

Disclaimer and Cautions: The Appalachian Mountain Club, 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.



HIKE

Hike Map 9 - Sherborn, Medfield - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route

As shown on Hike Map 9 updated February 2024, text updated February 2024

Know Before You Go:

All section guides provide written directions for the trail in a **North to South (Southbound)** direction unless otherwise noted.

There are two sets of BCT maps and guides. The Hike Map Set and The Bike Map Set. Each set shows the route for its specific use. Much of the bike route overlaps with the hike route, but the separate map sets clearly display each route independently. To see where the trail uses overlap or differ, compare the map sets OR refer to the BCT Interactive Map on the Bay Circuit Trail website (<https://www.baycircuit.org>) to see the routes, and other trail use allowances, simultaneously.

Note about Trail Marking

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 Notices tab. Please review them for updates to the trail guide and maps.

Notes by Town

Sherborn and Medfield:

Blazed with traditional BCT logos at key trailheads and white dollar-bill blazes painted or nailed on trees. Double blazes offset indicates a turn in the direction of the upper blaze.

Sherborn

A N42 14.692 W71 24.421

0.0 Parking lot (P=10 cars) on west side of Western Ave

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at Stevens Lane jct. From **Barber Reservation** entrance, cross Western Ave. Walk along Stevens St to jct; right on Harrington Ridge Rd; left on Oldfield Dr; left on Dexter Dr. After #20 Dexter Dr, turn right onto trail into woods and onto a farm field (private property). Turn right along edge of field and continue along edge; before end of field, trail bears gently right into a White Pine grove on equestrian trail. Go over “Harley’s Hollow” horse bridge, then straight thru gap in stone wall and enters **Brush Hill Reservation** on other side of stone wall. Head generally north thru woods following BCT signs to navigate trail junctions, crossing the new Course Brook bridge and continuing along stone wall east of horse farm to Brush Hill Rd. Cross Road and continue straight then right to follow BCT trail uphill thru woods 0.4 mile to Perry St.

B N42 15.481 W71 23.675

1.9 Cross Perry St, descend on curving woodland path southeast through **Sherborn Town Forest** to gravel service road. Turn left on gravel road, then right and uphill on service road to summit of Brush Hill. Bear right around communications tower. Trail continues counterclockwise around tower site and descends thru woodlands. Turn left at first trail junction, then right onto broad pipeline trail for 300 ft, then right onto a short loop trail that descends a steep hill before crossing the pipeline again. Continue on the main trail east until it crosses RR tracks, then emerges on No. Main St (Rte. 27). Turn right on the Rte. 27 sidewalk for 200 feet, then cross the street to continue east on the trail crossing over the new Perry St bridge over Indian Brook. The trail rises sharply before crossing a major road (Route 16) to reenter the woods.

C N42 15.138 W71 22.131

3.9 Trail skirts Indian Brook wetlands and passes Sherborn highway garage. Follow pipeline to Eliot St (Rte. 16)

4.2 Cross Eliot St (Rte. 16); follow pipeline east for 450 feet. Right onto gravel emergency access road for 300 ft to trailhead on left.

4.5 Start of the Rim of Fire Leg - (To reach from Pine

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Hill School parking lot (P=10): from Rte. 16, take the access road, Pine Hill Lane, past the school to the extreme back of the parking lot next to the woods, walk along gated emergency access road, and in 300 ft look right for trail into the woods). Ascend trail to wide cart paths in Sherborn Town Forest. At highest point look right for steep drop off at the edge of ridge line (ridge traces the fault line that marks the edge of the newer volcanic rocks to the east, which are the remains of the Boston Volcano of 600 million years ago). The trail meets up with the pipeline right for about 100-ft, then left on the trail heading south to Farm Rd.

- 5.4 Cross Farm Rd.; continue on trail to the pipeline follow for 0.2 miles; turn right off pipeline, passing wetlands and much ledge. Right on Lake St for 60 yds, and left on Goulding St to Forest St.

E N42 13.561 W71 21.234

- 6.7 Parking area for **Rocky Narrows Reservation** on Forest St (P=5 cars). This beautiful section of Bay Circuit trail looping thru the Rocky Narrows Reservation. You may want to consult the maps in "Sherborn Walks" (about \$20 at town hall,) or get a map from The Trustees of Reservation. A kiosk is adjacent to the parking area, where the trail turns right. Proceed on the trail and turn left at the intersection. The trail parallels a wetland then zigzags to the **King Philips Overlook**, elevation 260', with a dramatic view of the Charles River and Medfield's Noon Hill (on the BCT) appearing on the horizon. The trail continues through a striking hemlock grove paralleling the Charles River with steep drops, including the Rocky Narrows Overlook, a high subtle vista. The trail descends to a flat area onto the Red Trail with Charles River wetlands to the right. If you deem the water to be too high on the way to Location "F", please return on the Red Trail and go east until you come to Location G.

- 8.6 Rocky Narrows Canoe and Picnic Area. The trail passes by the Trustees canoe/kayak takeout on the bank of the Charles River and continues east to Location "G".

F N42 13.390 W71 20.609

- 8.7 Here, the trail has two diverging routes due to occasional Charles River flooding, with the primary route paralleling the Charles River. **When planning your hike, please see the link** <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/01103500/> to get the daily Charles River

"gauge height." If the height is above 3 feet, please plan to avoid the Recommended River Walk route and instead use the Alternative route.

Recommended River Walk Route:

Continue straight across the wetlands on the causeway. Turn right to follow the River Trail paralleling the Charles River for a little less than a mile up to Sherborn's Farm Road shoulder parking.

Alternative Forest St/Farm Road Route:

Turn left at Point F and proceed up the trail that eventually intersects with Forest Street, just east of the Rocky Narrows Forest Street parking lot. Turn right on Forest St. and proceed about a mile to just shy of Sherborn's Farm Road, where you'll turn right into the meadow. Go left for a few steps to arrive at the Farm Road shoulder parking. *Alt route is approx. 1.6 miles.*

Cont. from Recommended Route Mileage

- 9.5 Sherborn's Farm Road parking (P=5) on south shoulder of Farm Road. The trail turns right towards the Charles and parallels Farm Road through the "Grandfather's Field" meadow for a short distance to the bridge crossing over the Charles River into Dover.
- 9.7 Charles River Bridge Crossing. Immediately after crossing the Charles River Bridge **CAUTION- DANGEROUS ROAD WALK** turn right into a Porter Woodlands meadow. Follow the trail providing views of the Charles.
- 10.0 Look for a BCT left turn trail sign. Please do not enter the adjacent fields as they are private and not open to public use. Proceed up the steep hill in the woods along a stone wall. Shortly after a small wooden bridge, enter a meadow to the right. Look for a BCT sign across the meadow and proceed towards the sign. On leaving the meadow, go left onto Smith St. and then right on Dover's Farm Street.

G N42 13.192 W71 19.289

- 12.3 Dover/Sherborn Middle and High School. No BCT parking permitted here. Here, the BCT joins the route of the Charles River Link Trail (CRLT). (*Charles River Link connects to Newton and eventually will connect to Boston.*) Turn right to enter the school grounds and proceed through the parking lots, following the BCT and CRLT signs to a road leading to a soccer field. Cross the soccer field to pick up the trail again, where it enters the

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DCR Medfield Charles River Reservation.

- 12.8 DCR Medfield Charles River Reservation. From the soccer field follow the BCT and CRLT signs across a meadow and downhill, then through woods around to the scenic Rocky Narrows overlook directly across the Charles River from the corresponding overlook on the Sherborn side where the BCT also passes. Continue on a wide, flat path along the river, go past a canoe launch, and enter the town of Medfield just north of Medfield Location A. In 0.2 miles, the trail enters Medfield.
- 13.0 The trail emerges at the Charles River Gateway parking area (P=10+) and Promontory, with a beautiful view over the Charles River looking to the west. The area is accessible by car through the Medfield State Hospital property (now being redeveloped) and represents a successful environmental restoration project of the former landfill associated with state hospital operations. From the information signs, follow BCT and CRLT markers around the Promontory and continue on a former hospital road that is now a path. The trail comes to a gate at Hospital Road, and here the CRLT ends (P=2-3).
- H** N42 12.57 W71 20.373
- 14.8 Cross Hospital Road and turn to the left. Before starting uphill on Hospital Rd, right onto dirt road. Follow dirt road along edge of field and circle left around base of sledding hill. Right at two mowed cross-country paths, and cross field to paved drive in McCarthy Park (Town of Medfield). Right on drive and follow along playing fields.
- 14.9 Go thru two parking areas (P=20+) to the Warren Field at the far end of the complex (look for sign on baseball fence). Turn right along the edge of field and onto a tr heading into the woods. At clearing, bear left onto dirt road, which becomes paved Ice House Road. Pass the trailhead for Medfield Rail Trail (P=10) and continue to West Mill St.
- 15.2 Right on West Mill for 0.1 mile
- 15.9 Turn left onto Adams St. Along Adams St. for 0.4 mile, then right at stop sign onto West St.
- 17.6 Follow West St for 0.1 mi, then left onto trail about 100-ft after crossing RR tracks. Follow trail to back of DPW holding area, and at dirt road, right to landfill, a large hill looming directly ahead. Left on the dirt rd and go thru DPW yard. Right onto DPW garage driveway to Rte. 27.
- 18.0 Left along Rte. 27 short distance to traffic light,

then right onto Dale St at signalized crosswalk. Then take a left off Dale into **Vine Lake Cemetery** at Charlesdale Rd intersection. At flagpole, turn right and head downhill to pond, circle pond to the right and cross over footbridge. Take driveway to gated cemetery entrance on Rte. 109.

- J** N42 11.095 W71 18.691
- 18.3 Left on Rte. 109, then quick right onto Causeway St for 1.2 miles. At wetlands, Causeway St crosses over the Stop River that flows into the Charles River 0.1 mile downstream.
- 19.0 Right at Dwight's Causeway (abandoned roadway) (P=4, daytime, no overnight) for 75 yds then left onto trail into **Shattuck Reservation**. Trail crosses extensive boardwalk over wetlands and over dike to high ground overlooking wetlands along the Charles River. Right turn at next intersection, and continue to Charles River (right for overlook on side trail). Left on trail that follows the river and wetlands to canoe landing at intersection marked #17. Follow trail straight thru #16 and #15 to #14 at Causeway St.
- 21.0 Cross Causeway St, and follow trail from #13 to #12, left at #12, and left at #11 to follow shoreline on the west side of Holt Pond, then across dam to parking lot on Noon Hill Rd.
- K** N42 09.887 W71 19.110
- 22.1 **Noon Hill Reservation** parking (P=8) on Noon Hill Rd (dirt road) at Holt Pond. Take trail to left of map kiosk, follow straight thru intersections marked #1 thru #5, and left at #6.
- 23.0 Right at #7 to Noon Hill summit (370 ft) and scenic overlook. Continue northeastward along ridgeline and turn right onto main trail to #8A. Follow trail downhill to rejoin Noon Hill Rd at parking area (P=12). Right on Noon Hill Rd, crossing Stop River again, to South St.
- L** N42 09.565 W71 18.064
- 23.9 Right on South St, then quick left onto Rocky Lane for 0.5 miles to Granite St.
- 24.5 Left onto Granite St.

(continue on Hike Map 10)

Hike Map 9 - Sherborn and Medfield - THE

JEWELS

Sherborn:

Rocky Narrows Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 157 acres) and adjacent **Sherborn Town Forest** (Cons.Com; about 150 acres) - Complex network of trails, mostly easy or moderate difficulty. One steep trail ascending to dramatic vistas over the Charles River, passing thru hemlock groves (unusual this far south). Canoe landing and picnic area.

Parking area (4-5 cars) on Forest St near jct with E.Goulding St. Map online: <https://thetrustees.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/rocky-narrows-trail-map.pdf>

Sherborn Town Forest (3 sections) - This winding set of properties follows the Shell Oil pipeline, the result of a farsighted deal negotiated in 1940. The forest takes trail users from the southern to the northern part of town. Some of the trails follow the "Rim of Fire," the fault line between the older Precambrian rock on the west and the newer volcanic rock on the east, the remains of the cataclysmic Boston Volcano of 600 million years ago.

Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts Audubon; 772 acres) - Well-marked trails; map available at visitors' center and online. Educational programs. Horses, dogs, and bicycles are not allowed. Parking lot on Eliot St (Rte. 16) in Natick. 508-655-2296

Barber Reservation (Cons.Com; 189 acres) - Large variety of landscapes and habitats; fun place for children with open meadows and easy paths. Frequently used by equestrians. Parking on Western Ave behind rail fence.

Bailey Trail (Cons.Com) and adjacent **Pleasant St. Trail** (Sherborn Rural Land Foundation) - Easy to medium walks, gentle hills and trails thru granite ledge. Visit "Balanced Rock." Pond with swans. Parking on west side of Old Orchard Rd, close to Rte. 16.

Brush Hill Trail (Cons.Com) - Seldom used trails because parking on adjacent narrow streets is difficult. However the sense of wildness it offers should appeal to those who walk to it.

Hildreth/Schoolhouse Trail (Cons.Com) - Some steep grades near the power lines, but a good variety of habitats. Good birdwatching, wildflowers. Dramatic rock ledge at northernmost point.

Parking on Pleasant St.

Leland Reservation (Cons.Com) - Easy walks thru a meadow across the street from parking. Some bushwhacking may be needed to reach ruins of old mills near Upper Mill Pond.

Parking in lot on west side of Mill St, next to Lower Mill Pond.

Little Farm Pond (Massachusetts Audubon) - Short walk suitable for children to pond's edge, a seemingly "wild" spot close to town. Dogs and horses not allowed. Parking in small lot on Farm Rd, 100 yds east of jct Lake St and Farm Rd.

Peters Hill (Cons.Com) - Steep rock faces make this moderately difficult trail dangerous for careless children. Parking in lot on Coolidge St across from Prospect St.

Pine Hill Cemetery - beautiful pink granite monuments and stately trees grace the grounds

Medfield:

Noon Hill (The Trustees of Reservations and Medfield Cons. Com; 590 acres) - Several miles of trails through woodlands, fields, wetlands, and around Holt Pond. Good views from top of Noon Hill. Contiguous to Corps of Engineers land along the Charles River and Stop River. Small parking lots on Noon Hill Rd. Map online: <https://thetrustees.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/noon-hill-shattuck-medfield-rhododendron-trail-map.pdf>

Shattuck Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 235 acres) - On the opposite side of Causeway St. from Noon Hill area adjacent to the Charles River. New trail developed in 2012 with partial Recreational Trails Grant funding to relocate the Bay Circuit Trail off Causeway St and along the Charles River.

Medfield Rhododendron Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 196 acres) - Visit in early July to enjoy 50 acres of rhododendron in bloom. Accessible only through wetlands.

Rocky Woods Reservation and Fork Factory Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 488 acres and 144 acres) - beautiful and extensive trail system on eastern side of Medfield. Hills, wetlands, lakes, wildlife, and history. Take Hartford St north from Rte 109 to parking areas for both reservations. Map online:

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<https://thetrustees.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/rocky-woods-fork-factory-brook-trail-map.pdf>

Causeway Street – This road offers a pleasant walk east of the Charles River and crosses the Stop River, with some very nice views of wetlands. BCT follows this road to Noon Hill Rd.

Charles River Link trail connects with the Bay Circuit Trail at Medfield State Hospital on Hospital Road and runs 16 miles through 6 towns to Newton where it will eventually connect with the Charles River Reservation Path into Boston. See <https://wellesley.ma.gov/806/Charles-River-Link-Trail> for trail maps and guide.

Millis:

Bridge Island Meadows (The Trustees of Reservations; 80 acres) - Accessible only by canoe or kayak from the Charles River, then west via a stream into South End Pond, this wooded upland rises to the east of the pond. If one can land and then bushwhack to the tree-covered knoll at the south end, the reward is a view of the surrounding floodplain.

Hike Map 9 - Sherborn and Medfield - FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maps and trail guides:

- Relevant USGS topo maps 7.5 x 15 for this area are Framingham and Medfield
- **Sherborn** properties maps online: www.sherbornforestandtrail.org/
- **Broadmoor Sanctuary** maps are available at the visitors center and online from Mass Audubon www.massaudubon.org
- A 32-page waterproof map booklet, **Charles River canoeing guide** (2010 edition) is available for about \$13 from the Charles River Watershed Association. Sold at their website www.charlesriver.org. Also sold at Broadmoor and at some area outdoor stores
- **The Trustees of Reservations** publish individual maps of most of their reservations, including Noon Hill and Shattuck in Medfield and Rocky Narrows in

Sherborn. Can be ordered online www.thetrustees.org

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Trail and land/water protection organizations:

Sherborn Rural Land Foundation, established in 1974, has acquired land and buildings of particular aesthetic, environmental, and historical significance. www.sherbornruralland.org

Sherborn Forest and Trail Association - Equestrians and hikers provide volunteer trail maintenance. New members welcome. PO Box 477, Sherborn MA 01770
Maps online: www.sherbornforestandtrail.org/

Sherborn Open Space and Recreation Plan Implementation Committee - town appointed group that oversees Sherborn's section of BCT and other projects. Town Hall: 508-651-7850

Medfield Open Space Committee is the town-appointed group that is working to protect more land in town. Call Town Hall for more information.

Friends of Medfield Forest and Trails Assn is a non-profit group that organizes trail projects and does trail maintenance.

Massachusetts Audubon, the largest conservation organization in New England, works to preserve the natural world through conservation, education, and environmental advocacy. It protects more than 34,000 acres of land in 90 communities in MA in wildlife sanctuaries that are open to the public. Members receive a beautiful bi-monthly magazine and reduced fees for programs. Frequent programs for individuals and families at Broadmoor on Rte. 16 in Natick, as well as at other sanctuaries. To become a member call 1-800-283-8266 or visit the web site: www.massaudubon.org

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. They sell accurate maps of most of their reservations for a small fee (order

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online). For membership information contact headquarters at 572 Essex St., Beverly MA 01915. 978-524-1858 www.thetrustees.org
Southeast Region TTOR office at 2468B Washington St, Canton 02021 781-821-2977

Charles River Watershed Association - member supported non-profit river protection organization. Since 1965 members have been protecting the health, beauty, and accessibility of the Charles and its tributaries. Volunteers welcome for river clean-up events. For membership info call 617-965-5975. 2391 Commonwealth Ave, Newton MA 02466
www.charlesriver.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 TRAILS & GREENWAY

E-Mail: info@baycircuit.org

Website: www.baycircuit.org