

MAP SET - BIKE

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



BIKE

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

As shown on Bike Map 3 updated February 2024, text updated February 2023

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:

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.

Boxford, Andover, North Andover:

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.

Bike Notes:

The BCT can be traversed by bike but it is highly recommended that you research the segments you'll be biking for the level of difficulty/technical skill required. Much of the BCT is passable by road/gravel bike, but some off-road sections include boardwalks, steep hills, mud, and rocky terrain. These guides can provide you with brief descriptions of the trail and recommendations, but they should not be your only guide/resource. Check out the Trail Forks and All-Trails apps (open source, citizen resources), local guidebooks, and additional maps for detailed trail ratings/recommendations.

Terrain Labels:

R = Road

OFR = Off Road

PRT = Paved Rail Trail

URT = Unpaved Rail Trail

Boxford Center to Sharpner's Pond Rd

*Note: Boxford State Forest and Georgetown Rowley State Forest are popular mountain biking spots.

A N42 39.754 W70 59.864

0.0 **R. Boxford Center.** Boxford Bay Circuit Trail map & Boxford Community Store on right (food, restroom, parking (P=25+) available).

0.1 **R/OFR.** 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+). Trail re-enters woods on left at entrance to Boy Scout Park. Follow marked rail to junction with woods road, bypassing parking lot and playground area. At junction with the woods road, turn left and follow gravel path. Turn sharp left at field with pavilion and pass through campfire circle. Follow blazes to exit between two houses onto Dana Rd.

**Note: If Boy Scouts are using park, bypass the park via Dana Rd*

0.7 **R.** Right onto Dana Rd, then go thru the cul-de-sac and bear left onto the Dana Rd extension.

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- 1.2 **OFR.** 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 **OFR.** Right onto Lockwood Lane for 400 ft crossing 2 bridges. Resume trail on left (south) side of the street. Head around the gate and follow the trail 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 to Middleton Rd.

B N42 38.408 W70 59.447

- 2.5 **R/OFR.** Follow Middleton Rd. briefly. Take a right on Moonpenny Drive, another right on Crooked Pond Drive. The Trail head will be on your right
Enter the trail on the right into the Wunnegen Conservation Area. Take a right at the first fork to walk towards a driveway. Turn left at the junction away from the driveway. The bike route intersects with the BCT on the right 600 feet after the driveway at marker 10W
- 2.6 **OFR.** At marker 8W, turn following the trail on the right. At marker #12, go left on to woods road. Stay straight past #11, stay straight at marker #10, and continue straight past marker 9. (*For Bald Hill with partial view in winter, go right at #10 and #27 to summit.*) and continue past marker 8A 0.2 mile west of #8A, jog left to cross bridge below beaver dam, continue straight past marker 8.
- 4.6 **OFR.** Continue straight at #8A (number not on DCR map but sign on tree) along the main woods road.
- 5.6 **OFR.** After DCR marker #8, turn left at marker #7A and, continue through Boxford State Forest and onto Greenbelt's Wilmot property. Just after passing the border between North Andover and Middleton (large tree), turn right at the next trail intersection. You will now be on private property, please stay on the trail. After noticing stone walls to your right, you will be entering DCR Lost 50 property. Continue straight at the next trail intersection, and bear slightly left at the next trail intersections to stay on the main trail until you exit the forest and arrive at an un-signed un-paved road

(North Liberty Street).

**Note: To get the Sharpner's Pond Road parking area, do not turn left at marker 7A, but continue straight, turn right at marker #7, left at marker #6, left at #2, when you enter a more graveled road. Follow this a short distance to a metal gate and the parking lot.*

C N42 37.984 W71 01.819

- 6.9 **R.** Turn right on to North Liberty Street. After 0.2 miles and at the 3-way intersection, turn left onto Watkins Way. After 0.3 miles, turn right to stay on Watkins Way (despite the confusing street signs). Continue to bear right at all other street intersections to stay on Watkins Way until it ends at Sharpner's Pond Road.
- 7.4 **R.** Cross Sharpner's Pond Road and turn left.
- 7.5 **OFR.** After 0.1 miles (and before reaching the intersection of Essex and Salem Streets), re-enter the woods on the right. It is sometimes hard to find the entrance; look for the BCT markers in the woods not on the street.
- 7.6 **OFR.** Cross Salem St to enter state forest land. Cross under power lines to the left. Right at woods road fork.
**CAUTION: dangerous road crossing*
- 8.2 **OFR.** Turn right at a trail intersection. Then cross a boardwalk with a rope railing and follow the trail through the woods for about 0.5 miles.
**Note: boardwalk is passable but has been dislodged by an uprooted tree.*
- 8.8 **OFR.** Turn left at a trail intersection. Continue to follow the trail through the woods for about 0.4 miles.
- 9.2 **OFR.** Turn right at end of the trail and follow a dirt road to the Berry St parking area. Cross the parking area, diagonally to the left, and re-enter the woods for just a few yards, exiting on Berry St; turn left towards Rte. 114. Then cross Route 114.

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

Harold Parker State Forest, Mass. DCR

D N42 37.764 W71 03.903

- 9.5 **OFR.** Head down Harold Parker Road for about 250 feet, and re-enter the woods on the right. You are now in Harold Parker SF. Cross over the boardwalk and continue until marker # NA 29
**Caution: There are many intersecting trails in Harold Parker SF. The BCT has many turns as it winds around water areas and traverses' rocky*

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ledges in this area. Watch carefully for the BCT markers, especially for turns, to ensure staying on the BCT.

- 9.8 **OFR.** Turn right at the T-junct., marker # NA 29. Turn right at trail junction, marker # NA 27. Bear left at marker # NA 26. Left to climb up a rocky ridge; many turns through this rocky section. Bear left at marker #25. Bear left at marker # NA 24 and over a foot bridge.

E N42 37.239 W71 05.014

- 12.2 **OFR.** At marker # NA 23 cross Middleton Road. (Paid parking and picnic pavilion just visible to the right, about 500 yards.) Directly opposite and at marker # NA 22 re-enter Harold Parker SF on a woods road. At marker # A 5 (sign for Stone Dust Trail on tree), cross Berry Pond Road (paved but seasonally open to traffic)

- 12.7 **OFR/R.** Right; pass thru two 19th century granite quarries. Cross small woods rd then downhill to footbridge. Here, the bike and hike routes split. For bike route, cross the footbridge and go right, following the red blazing and black arrows. You will pass posts with numbered labels. At post A11 go straight, at A12 go left, and at A14 stay left. Then you will reach an intersection with a wide woods road, also named Phillips Road.

**Note: Post A16 is missing from this intersection but is noted on the Harold Parker SF official maps.*

Turn right and follow the woods road until reaching the cul-de-sac of Tamys Lane. Take a right onto Cameron Rd and then a second right onto Wethersfield Dr. At the intersection of Wethersfield Dr and Salem St, go left onto Salem St.

**CAUTION – fast traffic*

**Note: Turn right onto Salem St to reach Skug Parking lot your right.*

- 13.5 **R.** Turn Right on Gray Rd.
13.7 **R.** Turn Left on Tucker Rd.

Chas. Ward Reservation, The Trustees of Reservations

- 14.3 **OFR.** 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.

- 14.4 **OFR.** Right onto grassy rd in woods. Proceed

along lower edge of field; right into woods. Trail ascends through field.

- 14.6 **OFR.** Tricky trail jct. Private residence to left (west). Take level wide woods rd. coincides with Yellow Tr. Stay on path thru field to top of Holt Hill (elevation 423 ft).

- 14.7 **OFR.** Solstice stones; view of Boston to South. Sharp left to BCT sign at edge of field.

**Note: There is a dedication stone for Al French, the influential founder of the Bay Circuit Alliance and conservation leader, at the top of Holt Hill*
Descend thru woods.

- 14.8 **R.** Left onto paved access road, closed to traffic.

H N42 38.453 W71 06.586

- 14.9 **OFR.** 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).

- 15.0 **OFR.** Left at trail jct. #22.

- 15.3 **R.** Right onto Prospect Rd (reservation parking lot is 0.25 miles on left).

- 15.6 **R.** Cross Rte. 125

**CAUTION: fast moving traffic*

Right on trail beside fence, parallel with Rte. 125. Ride on highway briefly past wetland, then reenter woods.

- 15.8 **OFR.** Left onto woods rd.

- 16.1 **OFR.** 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)

- 16.3 **R.** Right onto Salem St to connect back to BCT on Main St.

J N42 38.671 W71 07.933

- 16.9 **R.** Right onto Main St a short distance to crosswalk. Cross to other side and continue on Main St to Phillips St.

- 17.1 **R.** Left onto Phillips St. (on-street parking) BCT blazes are on utility poles.

- 17.6 **R.** Turn left on Torr Street and then a quick right at the fork. Turn left at Central Street

K N42 38.856 W71 09.078

- 18.1 **R.** 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)

Bike Map 3 - Boxford, No. Andover, Andover - THE JEWELS (NOT ALL BIKE FRIENDLY)

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 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:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/trails/harold.pdf>

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 or online at:
<https://thetrustees.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Weir-Hill-Trail-Map.pdf>

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

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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 Center for History and Culture. 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 Rt. 125 and Gould Rd, across Rt. 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.

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

Trail markings: In AVIS reservations, other trails may also be marked with vertical white blazes; look for Bay Circuit logo markers. Trail thru Phillips Academy campus is sparsely marked. Please follow signage and take care to avoid construction as well as athletic and student events.

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 does not allow 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
- 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. Map online www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/trails/harold.pdf
- Free maps of **Boxford State Forest** are available at Bradley Palmer SP headquarters, off Asbury St. 978-887-5931 Map online: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/trails/boxford.pdf>
- Large map of **Charles Ward Reservation** is posted at the parking lot, Prospect Rd. Maps at: <https://thetrustees.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ward-reservation-trail-map.pdf>
- TTOR map of **Weir Hill** available at Stevens Coolidge Place near Old No. Andover Center

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- Maps of **North Andover** properties are available for photocopying in the maps file at the reference desk of Stevens Memorial Library.
- **Walking tour maps** of several historic neighborhoods in **Andover** are available at Andover Center for History and Culture, 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 <https://www.btabolt.org> for current sources and prices. 978-887-7031.
- **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 <https://andovertrails.org>. This book includes maps and descriptions of over 40 properties, with history and natural features as well as suggested trail routes.

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. <https://www.fonat.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

Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS) owns over 1200 acres in 30 reservations that are open to the public for walking, skiing, and enjoyment of nature.

Membership information, events, and maps online. <https://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). The Trustees 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. <https://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 <https://www.crw.org>

BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL & GREENWAY

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Website: www.baycircuit.org