

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 Map 4 - Andover, Tewksbury, Lowell - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route

As shown on Bike Map 4 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

Andover: AVIS properties do not allow bikes. Bike blazing is in progress in Andover.

Tewksbury:

Trail is unmarked

Lowell:

Trail is unmarked

Parking Information:

Parking along the street is possible at some trailheads. Parking lots are indicated in trail description. No parking allowed along Central St, Reservation Rd, Rt. 133, High Plain Rd

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

Andover BCT route from Shawsheen River to Tewksbury

**Note: Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS) properties do not allow bikes.*

A N42 38.856 W71 09.078

0.1 **R.** From junction of Central St, Reservation Rd., Andover St, and Red Spring Rd, continue slightly straight onto Reservation Rd. (P=3 north of RR bridge on Red Spring Rd shoulder).

B N42 39.328 W71 09.824

1.0 **R.** At Jct, continue straight onto Cutler Rd.

1.4 **R.** Turn right on Lowell St.

Doyle Link, Andover Conservation Commission

C N42 39.400 W71 10.230

1.9 **R.** Cross Rt. 133 to enter Doyle Link.

**CAUTION: fast traffic*

2.0 **OFR.** At first trail junction, take left fork.

2.4 **OFR.** Sharp right (tricky spot, 2 sharp rights within a few feet), trail slopes uphill about 200 ft

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through a stone wall, then sharp left thru another stone wall, then bear right.

2.6 **OFR.** Bicycles (*prohibited on Doyle Link boardwalk*)

should follow blazes to High Plain Road

2.7 **R.** Turn left on High Plain Rd. to **Point D**

D N42 39.794 W71 10.924

2.9 **R.** Follow High Plain Rd for 1.4 miles, over I-93 and I- 495.

ANDOVER JUNCTION to BCT Route 5a (via Tewksbury, Billerica, Bedford to Concord... IN PROGRESS)

E N42 39.515 W71 11.906

(As of June 2022, blazed to the Andover/Tewksbury town line)

3.9 **URT.** Turn left here onto a smooth but unpaved trail leading along Haggett's Pond, with pretty views and good picnicking. This is Andover's water supply. Dogs must be leashed, and their waste removed. Fishing is allowed but no swimming, wading, or boating. Strictly enforced.

6.0 **OFR.** Cross Haggett's Pond Road (caution: traffic) to extension of rail trail. Cross Rt. 133 (caution: fast-moving traffic)

Lowell and Lawrence Railroad Reservation, AVIS

6.5 **OFR.** Cross Bellevue Road (use extreme caution: oncoming drivers at speed may be blind to pedestrians in roadway)

OFR. WALK BIKES ON: Boardwalk to **Bellevue Trail** (Tewksbury)

A proposed route through Tewksbury and Billerica is in the works.

ANDOVER JUNCTION – to BCT Route 5b via Tewksbury, Lowell

F N42 39.572 W71 12.248

4.2 **R.** Instead of turning left towards Haggett's Pond, continue straight on High Plain Rd.

4.8 **R.** Veer Right on Cross Street

5.0 **R.** Turn right on Forest Hill Dr.

6.3 **R.** At the bottom of the hill turn left on River Rd.

9.7 **R.** Turn right on Andover St.

10.2 **R.** Turn Right at Rivercliff Rd and veer left on E. Merrimack St. Turn right onto Slackpole St. Continue on Slackpole St, cross the 4-way

intersection and continue straight..

N. N42 38.739 W71 18.219

11.5 **R/PRT.** 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.

11.8 **R.** Fayette St., current end of this section of BCT.

Proposed Trail in Lowell under development:

1. **PRT.** Connection to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The BCT will continue at Howe St in downtown Lowell along the Concord River Greenway (CRG). Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust is working to complete the CRG that will be the eventual BCT route linking to Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at Cross Point. The trail closely follows the edge of the Concord River from just south of East Merrimack St to Howe St, and includes multi-lingual signage and public art, including a long text fence and bollards with native bird 'caps'.

Proposed trail routes online at

<https://lowelllandtrust.org/concord-river-greenway-2/>

2. **OFR.** Merrimack River Trail to Concord River. Instead of leaving the Merrimack River at the intersection of Corrigan Ave and Stackpole St, continue west along the river and under the Rte. 38/110 bridge to the Public Housing building driveway on Stackpole St in the vicinity of St. John's Hospital and Lowell Memorial Auditorium. This part will be opened when the city improves the section under the bridge.

Bike Map 4 -Andover, Tewksbury, Lowell - THE JEWELS (NOT ALL BIKE FRIENDLY)

Indian Ridge Reservation (Andover Village Improvement Society; 23 acres) - Woodland trails along Indian Ridge, a glacial esker 50 feet high. A plaque on a boulder memorializes Alice Buck, one of Andover's first conservationists. Parking lot at Andover High School. No bicycles permitted.

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Bakers Meadow Reservation (AVIS; 59 acres) - Woodland trail circles a created pond and wetlands. Many species of birds, including herons, ducks, and rare snowy owls, have been sighted. Vital habitat for muskrat, mink and beaver. No bicycles.

West Parish Meadow Reservation (AVIS; 28 acres) One of the few true meadows remaining in town. Several small ponds, wildflowers, and many birds. Parking lot at Andover High School. No bicycles.

Doyle Link (Andover Conservation Commission; 75 acres) - Pleasant woodlands, two ponds, several streams. Red maple swamp on the Greenwood Rd end. Beautiful autumn foliage. No bicycles on boardwalk.

Haggett's Pond (Andover Water Dept) - Wide unpaved level path from High Plain Rd. to Haggett's Pond Rd near junction with Rte. 133. Picnic spots, views of pond. Fishing allowed. No swimming. Limited parking on Haggett's Pond Rd and on High Plain Rd

Harold R. Rafton Reservation (AVIS; 226 acres) and **Fish Brook Wetlands** (Andover Conservation Commission; 235 acres) - Once farmland and woodlot. Many old stone walls remain. The ski loop trail passes through lovely hemlock groves. Trails pass beaver-dammed swamps and other wetlands. Fish Brook watershed is part of Andover's public water supply. P=4 at jct. of Chandler Rd. and River Rd.

Shawsheen River and Vale Reservations (AVIS; 75 acres) - **Pomps Pond and Recreation Park** (Andover Conservation Commission; 101 acres) - Pleasant riverside hiking, ski touring, and canoeing. Canoe launch sites for Shawsheen River at end of Dale St and at Central St Bridge. At Recreation Park also tennis, softball, picnicking, swimming, and canoeing. Parking lots at Recreation Park, end of Dale St, and near Ballardvale dam; small lot on Red Spring Rd near RR bridge; along Abbot Bridge Dr.

Wood Hill and Bald Hill (Andover Conservation Commission; 203 acres) - Woodland hiking, partly along old farm roads. Views east from Bald Hill.

Deer Jump Reservation and Spaulding Reservation (AVIS; 163 acres)

Merrimack River Reservation (Andover Conservation Commission; 76 acres) - Several trails coincide here. The Penacook Trail from Lawrence to Lowell Heritage State

Park is part of the larger Merrimack River Trail. The BCT joins these trails near Launching Rd and continues south and west to the Tewksbury line.

North and east of Launching Rd, the wide smooth Merrimack River Trail extends to the end of the Philips complex, offering good views of the river. Popular for hiking and jogging. The Merrimack River Trail then narrows and continues under Rte. 93 and to the Lawrence line. The trail will eventually lead to Heritage State Park in Lawrence and beyond.

Parking: Along Launching Rd., Brundrett Ave., River Rd.; parking lots at New England Business Park, the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, and the Greater Lawrence Technical School

Sewer interceptor trail, Tewksbury & Lowell - Don't let the name fool you. This public path constructed of large boulders and gravel is a scenic 2-mile walk along the south side of the Merrimack River. It serves as the BCT route and the Merrimack River Trail route. Though not uniformly maintained and in places suffering encroachment from neighbors, it is an interesting walk from which to observe the river.

Kerouac Park (off Merrimack St., Lowell) - Small plaza with excerpts of locally born poet Jack Kerouac's work on polished granite monuments. On BCT route. Parking in nearby lots or on street

Lowell National Historical Park and Lowell Heritage State Park - These urban historic parks recount the glory days of the cotton and woolen mills that made Lowell America's first great industrial city and celebrate the present ethnic diversity of the city. Tours of the mills, the mill-girls' housing, and the canals that powered the mills are free. Call 978-459-1000 (LNHP) for information and tour registration. <https://www.nps.gov/lowe/index.htm>

For info on riverfront recreation programs and events call 978-453-0592 (LHSP) or email lowell.heritage@state.ma.us Free parking at Shattuck St. lot. Follow signs from Rte. 495

Livingston Park (Tewksbury Recreation) - Originally part of the Tewksbury Hospital land. Includes playing fields and playgrounds. Parking and access from East St

Tewksbury Hospital land - Prolonged negotiations with the state have resulted in permanent protection of some open space portions of this property, while other portions are put to agricultural and other uses. The proposed BCT

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"eastern leg" will pass through this property when completed

Rogers Fort Hill Park (Lowell Recreation) - Walking paths, hilly site. Access, 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 the cemetery on the west side of the river is the gravesite of poet Jack Kerouac

Great Swamp - A patchwork of public and private wetlands with trails for the adventurous. Can be accessed from the proposed BCT by old railroad beds

Concord River Greenway - A work in progress by the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust. See website for events and special rafting dates.

Bike Map 4 - Andover, Tewksbury, Lowell - FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maps and trail guides:

- Relevant USGS **topo maps** 7.5 x 15 are Lawrence, Lowell, Reading, Billerica
- *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 andovertrails.org.
- The **AVIS** map of Andover is available at the Andover Bookstore.
- Tewksbury Conservation Commission, corner of Whipple and Pine, has an open space map

Local trail and land/water protection organizations

Merrimack River Watershed Council works for protection of the Merrimack River and watershed in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. They lead canoe trips and have an active volunteer stream monitoring program. <https://www.merrimack.org>

Shawsheen River Watershed Association. Active volunteers work to protect and improve water quality and public access. New members welcome. Monthly meetings. Excellent website <https://shawsheenriver.net/>

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. <https://www.andovertrails.org/>

AVIS (Andover Village Improvement Society) owns over 1200 acres in 30 reservations that are open to the public for walking, skiing, and enjoyment of nature. Membership is open to everyone who cares about land preservation. P.O. Box 5097, Andover MA 01810. www.avisandover.org

Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust is a non-profit group "working to protect Lowell's green space." www.lowelllandtrust.org

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. 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. www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/llhp.htm For info on riverfront recreation, programs and events, call 978-458-8750. Free parking at Shattuck St. lot. Follow signs from Rte. 495

Charles River Wheelmen - very active group of bicyclists that lead rides of varying lengths throughout BC area. Excellent website lists rides, membership & other info at www.crw.org

BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL & GREENWAY

E-Mail: info@baycircuit.org

Website: www.baycircuit.org