Welcome to MassTrails

Trails are the intersection of conservation, community, transportation and recreation. They connect Massachusetts residents and visitors to the places in which we live, learn, work, shop and play.
MassTrails Goal

Create one trails team, one vision, and one action plan to maintain and continue to build a trail network in the Commonwealth
Baker–Polito Administration Trails Initiative

- Environmental
- Transportation
- Municipal Partnerships
- Public Health
- Economic Development
- Recreation
- Ecological restoration
- Public safety
One Trails Team

• Collaboration between Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

• Active participation from the Governor’s Office and Administration & Finance

• Meet every two weeks to discuss priorities, policies, & implementation.

• Engage with other state agencies on specific topics
Agency and Municipal Roles in Trail Creation in MA

- Executive Office of Energy and Environment
  - Sets policy, permits projects, provides grants

- Department of Conservation and Recreation
  - Acquires corridors, builds and maintains trails
  - Owns many trails

- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
  - Funds trails, sets policy and standards, reviews trail designs, and constructs multi-use paths

- Municipalities
  - Own many trails
  - Fund design and right-of-way acquisition

- Friends groups / Greenway organizations
Different Kinds of Trails

Separated bike lanes; side paths

Greenways

Unimproved, natural trails

Improved, unpaved trails
One Vision

To expand and connect the Commonwealth’s networks of off-road, multi-use pathways for people of all ages and abilities across Massachusetts.
One Action Plan

What would you like to do?

Top tasks

Apply for a MassTrails Grant ➔
Build a Shared Use Path ➔

All other tasks

Learn about the MassTrails Conference ➔
Find Trails in Massachusetts State Parks ➔
Explore Regional On-Line Trail Map ➔

Search Trail-Related Resources ➔
Find Trail-Related Events ➔

www.mass.gov/masstrails
Existing Multi-Use and Improved Trail Map

Existing Multi-Use Paths
Building Networks
Closing Gaps
Building a *Network* of Trails

Build regional network of trails for recreation

Create transportation routes
Don’t want to see...

Can you imagine a road that just... ends?
More of this...
Building networks: Northampton, MA
Building networks: Watertown-Cambridge Greenway
Building Networks: DCR Neponset River Greenway
Building Networks: Blackstone Valley Corridor

Segment 7 (2.6 Miles)
Design: Complete
Construction On-Going by MassDOT: $5 Million

Segment 8 (4.0 Miles)
Construction Completed: 2006
Transfer to DCR Pending

Segments 3, 4, 5 (13 Miles)
Design: Suspended to be Re-evaluated

Segment 2 (7.7 Miles)
Design: $1 Million
Construction/Acquisition (Projected): $10 Million

Segment 1 (4.2 Miles)
Design: $2.5 Million
Construction: $22 Million

Existing
In Construction
In Design
Envisioned
Building Networks: Cape Cod Rail Trail Extension

Cape Cod Rail Trail

Legend
- Orange: Existing Cape Cod Rail Trail
- Green: Phase 1
- Blue: Phase 2
- Purple: Phase 3
- Teal: Phase 4
- Yellow: Service Road Shared Use Path
“Build Out” of Key DCR Trail Corridors

• “Major Trails” line item in the Capital Budget

• The 2019 Capital Budget includes $2 million for:
  o Conant Road Underpass on the Mass Central Rail Trail
  o Mystic Link
Fix it First: Investment in Maintenance

Under the Baker-Polito Administration, DCR has for the first time prioritized maintenance of the existing DCR trail system.
Coordinated Permitting and Mitigation

• Working to streamline environmental permitting & coordinate mitigation

• Met with MEPA & DEP to collaborate on permitting questions

• Trails network will provide clear signals about desired mitigation strategies
Partnerships with Philanthropic Groups & the Private Sector

- Build on existing partnerships with philanthropic organizations
- Consciously build partnerships with the private sector
EEA manages both the Chapter 91 and MEPA processes and decides on appropriate mitigation for permitted projects.

- Further develop sponsorships
- Coordinate with local governments on mitigation strategies

Example:
DCR Greenough Boulevard Greenway Project is model for a public-private effort to build the trail system.
Editorial

The Malden River, coming to life

Community Corner

Malden River Greenway Gets Green Light Of Sorts
National Grid must build and maintain a 10-foot wide half-mile pathway along the Malden River.

AUGUST 13, 2018

Big Win for the Malden River Greenway

DEP ISSUES CHAPTER 91 LICENSE CONDITION TO NATIONAL GRID

It’s been nearly two years since MyRWA and partners packed Everett City Hall for the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Chapter 91 License Application Public Hearing about the National Grid site located along the Malden River—and we finally have some good news.

Everett Independent – Everett Massachusetts Newspaper

Published by the Independent Newspaper Co.

State Orders National Grid to Build Riverwalk Path, Unlocking Key Piece to the Malden River Greenway Plan

August 15, 2018

By Seth Daniel

It was just one year ago when residents of Everett and neighboring communities joined Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Marty Sunberg on the ENY Melton property on the banks of the Malden River to dream about future access along the River.
Municipal Partnerships

- Cities and towns own the majority of paved trails in Massachusetts
- Multi-use, paved trails often promoted and advanced by municipalities
- Trails Team aims to become a better partner to cities and towns

Town of Wellesley
- Built more than 46 miles of biking and hiking trails to create a bicycle/pedestrian network
- The Fuller Brook Trail (shown) serves as the major sewer line, stormwater retention system, and an improved trail
Core Funding Streams that Support Trails

- Federal Funding via MassDOT
  - Federal government pays 80% of construction cost
  - Massachusetts matches 20%
  - Allocated through the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) and MPO process

- EEA and DCR Capital Funding
  - Municipal grants
MassTrails Grant Program Overview

The next grant round will be open soon with an application deadline of February 1, 2019.

MassTrails provides grants to support recreational trail and shared-use pathway projects across the Commonwealth. Grant amounts are dependent on the project and its needs, but generally range from $10,000 to $100,000 with grants of up to $300,000 awarded to high priority projects.

Eligible grant activities include project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance of recreational trails, shared use pathways, and the amenities that support trails.
MassTrails Grants

- Funded through FY23 in the Governor’s Capital Budget. Authorized in the Environmental Bond Bill

- Funded by Federal Recreational Trails

- Applications available this November; due February 1, 2019
Past Funding

Recreational Trails Program Grant Awards (2015 - 2017)

Existing Facility Type
- Shared use path

Planned Facility Type
- Shared use path

Map showing locations of grant awards across Massachusetts from 2015 to 2017.
• Does not include recently announced Recreational Trails Grants
2018 Trail Grant Communities

2018 Trail Grant Awards
96 Communities within Project Areas
Priorities for MassTrails

- **To provide funding** to municipalities and non-profits to support the design, construction, and maintenance of all trail networks across the Commonwealth;

- **Consolidate the public face and application processes** for multiple trail funding programs into one user-friendly and simplified process.

- **Provide access to technical expertise** including publications and trainings

- **Collaborate through one inter-agency team** consisting of representatives from the Governor’s Office, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).
Discussion

www.mass.gov/masstrails

Grant applications opening later this month, November 2018
Grant applications due February 1, 2019

Contact masstrails@mass.gov