



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Mass Central Rail Trail

Massachusetts



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The Massachusetts Central Railroad was destroyed by a hurricane in 1938, but the 104-mile corridor is being reborn as a cross-state rail-trail. Currently, nearly 60 miles from Boston to Northampton have been converted to trails, often by dedicated local groups that are piecing together this important part of the Bay State's history. Here, we outline the open segments of the Mass Central Rail Trail from east to west.

Visit the [Mass Central Rail Trail Coalition](#) website for the most recent information on temporary trail closures.

[Somerville Community Path](#), Alewife Linear Park, and Fitchburg Cutoff Path

The easternmost section of the Mass Central Rail Trail

offers a seamless paved route utilizing the Somerville Community Path, the Alewife Linear Park, and the Fitchburg Cutoff Path to link between the cities of Boston, Somerville, and Cambridge. This unique rail-trail follows an old railway corridor above ground while trains run in the subway tunnels below. The Boston & Lowell Railroad built this spur in the 1870s, and it was later acquired by the Boston and Maine Railroad. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) purchased the line in 1973 and began using it for commuter trains in the 1980s.

Serving as the trail's eastern endpoint, the waterfront Paul Revere Park is located in Boston's historic Charlestown neighborhood—a small peninsula situated where the Charles River, Mystic River, and Chelsea Creek converge before flowing into Boston Harbor. Leaving Boston and heading northwest through the city of Somerville, the rail-trail provides an important green recreational space and vital transportation link for the surrounding communities.

Many buildings date to the late 1800s in this district, which is a destination for shopping, dining, and nightlife. Given its proximity to Tufts and Harvard Universities, it has a strong arts and culture vibe. If you're traveling by bicycle, you'll have to dismount (or take alternative on-street routes) as you approach Seven Hills Park and Davis Square, as cycling is prohibited on the path in this congested area.

The 3.2-mile [Somerville Community Path](#) meets the Alewife Linear Park at the intersection of Cedar Street and Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge. This section gets a lot of use as it connects with the popular [Minuteman Bikeway](#) near the station. The trail continues as a tree-lined pathway to its end at Brighton Street on the eastern border of Belmont.

Weston Branch

This 4.9-mile section of trail runs between the towns of Weston and Wayland. Heading west from Stony Brook at the



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States: Massachusetts

Counties: Hampshire, Middlesex, Worcester

Length: 59 miles

Trail end points: Paul Revere Park at N
Washington St & Warren Ave (Boston) to S
Main St, 0.1 mile south of Fort Hill Rd (Leeds)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Cinder, Crushed
Stone, Dirt, Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline
Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Parking & Trail Access

As the Mass Central Rail Trail spans much of Massachusetts, there are numerous parking options.

In Boston, Cambridge, and Weston, the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) provides access to the trail via multiple bus lines and the subway (often referred to as the T). All stations and stops are visible on the TrailLink map.

Below are a few key parking waypoints and transit stations; visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking locations, transit options, and detailed directions.

Cambridge: Take the Red Line (subway) to the Alewife Station. The trail actually parallels the Red Line between Alewife Station and Davis Station. Bicycles are permitted on the subway on weekends and during off-peak hours on weekdays. The Alewife Station also has a bike-share station and a parking garage (fee charged). Parking is also available at Jerry's Pond.

Southeast of Davis Square to Cambridge Crossing, the trail parallels the Metford Branch of the Green Line—direct trail access is available from the Magoun Square, East Somerville, Gilman Square, and Lechmere Stations.

Weston: In Weston, parking can be found on Church Street with additional parking in downtown Weston on Town House Road and at the Town Center. Parking in Wayland is available on Concord Road and on Plain Road.

Sterling: Parking is available by the former mill (17 Waushacum Avenue, Sterling); look for an old red shed just off the road. Another parking lot is located on Gates Road, about a quarter mile south of its intersection with MA-12/Worcester Road.

Holden: In northeast Holden, parking is available in a gravel lot at 124 River St, Holden.

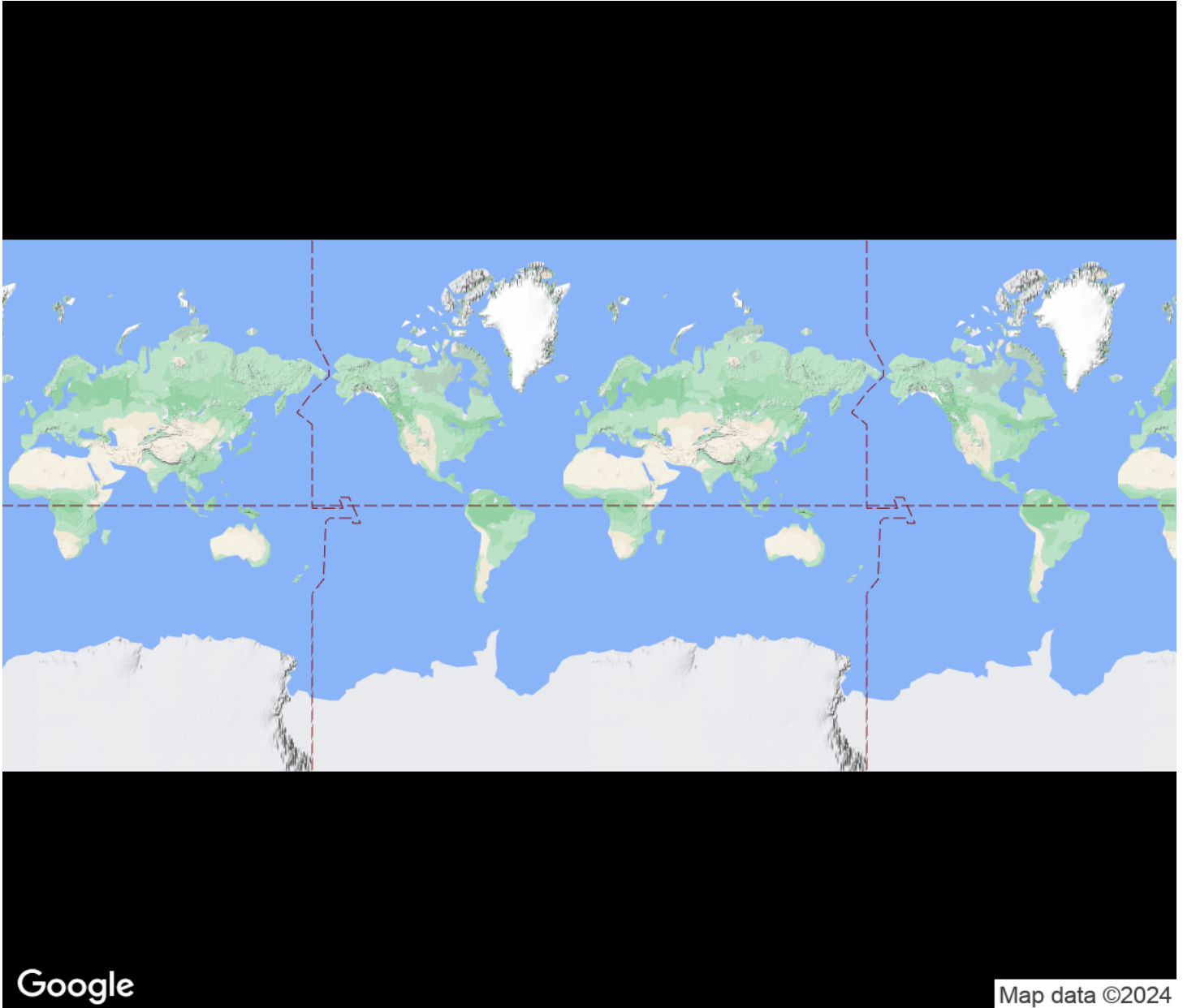
Rutland: There is a parking lot at 47 Miles Rd, Rutland, which is shared by those visiting the Thayer Pond Wildlife Management Area.

Northampton: Parking is available at several locations, including in a lot at 446 Damon Rd, Northampton.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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