



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Narrow-Gauge Rail-Trail

Massachusetts



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Although the Narrow-Gauge Rail Trail traces New England's first narrow-gauge railroad for 3 miles from Bedford toward Billerica, the mostly crushed-stone path is now plenty wide enough to accommodate people passing on foot or bicycle.

About the Route

The route leaves off in the south at Loomis Street across from Bedford Depot Park, where it meets the Minuteman Bikeway. An old railroad building that served as an engine house for the Billerica & Bedford Railroad and later as a freight house for the Boston and Maine Railroad has been restored there and is open on weekends from April–October with displays of railroad memorabilia. Park visitors also can see a restored diesel passenger car that

ran on the line.

The first 0.3 mile of the trail to MA 4/Great Road is paved, but the rest is stone dust. Mountain or hybrid bikes are recommended for this surface. Use caution at this road crossing as a commercial district is located nearby.

Entering a wooded residential area, the trail passes the former site of a passenger station on Springs Road. The trail passes the sprawling Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital (built-in 1928) on the right about a mile past MA 4/Great Road. The York Conservation Area on the left offers a welcome stop for a picnic on the green or a stroll around the pond. Bikes are not permitted on paths in the conservation area, but trail users can explore on foot.

Sweetwater Avenue crosses the trail about 0.8 miles past the hospital. The former site of the Bedford Springs Station, nearby Fawn Lake served as a health resort for well-to-do visitors from Boston and New York in the late 19th century. A self-guided path encircles the pond. The trail ends at Springs Road, just across the Billerica town line.

Connections

The Narrow Gauge Rail Trail connects to the [Minuteman Bikeway](#) at its southern end.

Trail History

The trail follows the route of the Billerica & Bedford Railroad, built in 1877 with a narrow 2-foot-wide track to save money on construction costs. The company soon went bankrupt anyway, and in 1885 the Boston & Lowell Railroad used the corridor to build a standard-gauge railroad. The tracks went out of use in 1962, and the town of Bedford purchased its share of the right-of-way to build a 10-foot-wide trail. The town of Billerica is seeking funds to do the same for a future trail tentatively named Yankee Doodle Bike Path.



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States: Massachusetts

Counties: Middlesex

Length: 3miles

Trail end points: Depot Park at Loomis Street
to Springs Road (Bedford)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Crushed Stone,Dirt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Mountain

Biking,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Narrow Gauge Rail Trail runs between Springs Rd. (Bedford) and Loomis St. (Bedford), where parking is available.

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



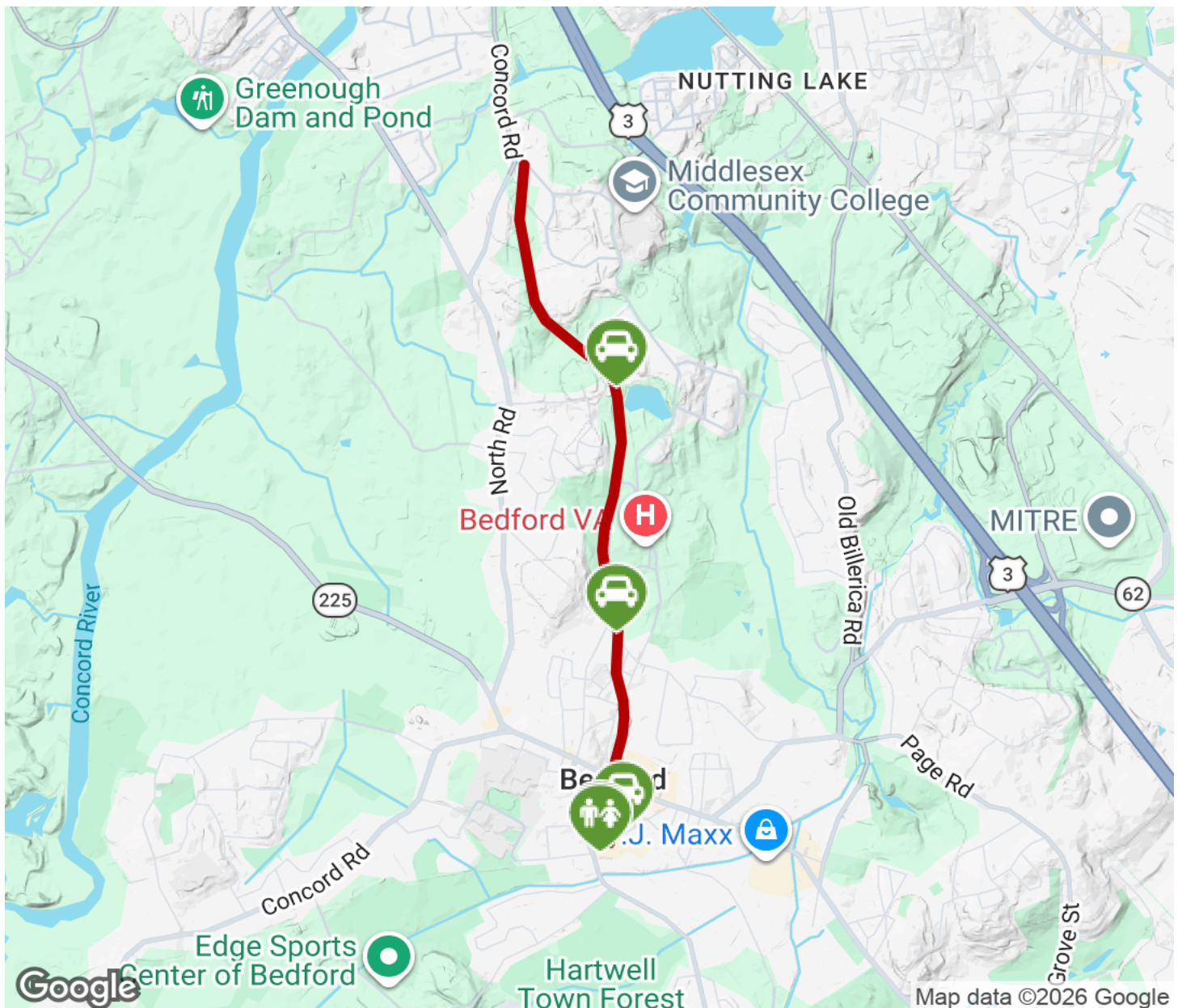
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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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- Trailhead
- Restroom
- Parking
- Water Fountain
- Tunnel