



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Clipper City
Rail Trail**
Massachusetts



Clipper City Rail Trail

Massachusetts

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Almost complete, the Clipper City Rail Trail will be a multiuse trail loop through Newburyport. Currently 3.5 miles, the rail-trail connects the waterfront, downtown Newburyport, the Newburyport MBTA Station, residential neighborhoods, businesses, schools, shops, restaurants, recreational facilities, parks, and more. The rail-trail includes the scenic Harborwalk, which follows the shoreline of the Merrimack River and offers beautiful views of the water.

About the Route

Along the route, stairways and spur trail provide connections to side streets and to amenities such as Haley's Ice Cream and the Henry Graf Jr. Rink, an ice-skating rink. Access the trail via a paved connector path

from behind the northeast corner of the skating rink facility. A boardwalk continues along the river and connects the rail-trail to Cashman Park.

While delivering wonderful views of the Merrimack River, the trail is set apart by its trailside art. More than a dozen sculptures, ranging from figurative to abstract to interactive art for children and families, are installed along the Clipper City Rail Trail. The sculptures serve as visual focal points that enhance this unique public space and draw people along the trail. The murals, custom planters, garden installations, custom signage, boardwalk, pedestrian bridge, and other functional elements are all designed with a special touch.

When complete, the Clipper City Rail Trail will be a full loop. At present, 3.5 miles of the loop are complete, starting at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Newburyport Station and ending at Parker Street at the base of the Oak Hill Cemetery. If you are a confident road cyclist, however, you can travel the last 0.5 mile on-road to complete the loop.

There are only a few parking spaces at the Parker Street endpoint adjacent to Oak Hill Cemetery, so it is recommended to start at Newburyport Station or from the center of Newburyport, as there are only six blocks from the trail in either direction. (Note that the Newburyport Station parking lot charges a daily fee.)

If arriving by MBTA train, the adventure starts immediately upon debarking because the route starts at the station platform. On the other side of Newburyport Station is the trailhead for the 3.4-mile trail within the Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area. This rail-trail, while more isolated and primitive, is an enjoyable experience nonetheless.

Descending the platform's northern ramp, there are large and unique outdoor sculptures along its wider greenway. The



Clipper City Rail Trail

Massachusetts

States: Massachusetts

Counties: Essex

Length: 3.5miles

Trail end points: Merrimack River
(Newburyport) to MBTA Commuter Rail Station
(Newburyport)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Boardwalk

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Clipper City Rail Trail runs between the Merrimack River (Newburyport) and the MBTA Commuter Rail Station (Newburyport), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

- Cashman Park, Sally Snyder Way (Newburyport)
- Henry Graf Jr. Rink, 28 Low St (Newburyport)

Free street parking is available along High Street near the High Street entrance to the trail (between Boardman St and Winter St). The trail entrance on Washington Street has some limited street parking and there are a few free parking spaces by the trail entrance on Parker Street (southeast end of the trail).

At the southwest end of the trail, the Newburyport train station provides access to the trail. The station's large parking lots have paid parking available. This includes the MBTA Commuter Parking Lot.

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Clipper City Rail Trail

Massachusetts



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com