



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Mass Central
Rail Trail**
Massachusetts



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. The Mass Central Rail Trail runs for 36.36 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.

[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 a 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, trail users will have to dismount (or take alternative on-street routes) as they 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 western 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 border between Weston and the City of Waltham, the 10-foot-wide paved path travels through forests, fields, and wetlands.



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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Mass Central Rail Trail

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States: Massachusetts

Counties: Hampshire, Middlesex, Worcester

Length: 56.36 miles

Trail end points: Paul Revere Park (Boston) to
S Main St. (Leeds)

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

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Horseback Riding, Mountain

Parking & Trail Access

The Mass Central Rail Trail runs between Paul Revere Park (Boston) and Main St. (Leeds).

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.

Parking is available at:

- 51 Church St. (Weston)
- 47 Miles Rd. (Rutland)
- Connecticut River Greenway State Park, 136 Damon Rd. (Northampton)

There are numerous parking options along the route, see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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