



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**North Central
Pathway**
Massachusetts



North Central Pathway

Massachusetts

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The North Central Pathway is envisioned as a trail network connecting points of interest through and between Winchendon and Gardner. Several completed sections of trail make for a lovely ride or walk between these two towns, punctuated by a stretch of less than a mile requiring travel on public roads.

Beginning at the northern endpoint in Winchendon at Clark Memorial YMCA on Summer Drive, this well-maintained asphalt trail parallels Whitney Pond before arriving at another parking lot for trail users in 0.9 mile at Glenallen Street and MA 12. Continuing east from here, the path soon enters beautiful bogs where one can easily imagine moose inhabiting—and a close eye may just see one. This stretch of trail is railroad-straight as it sits just above the shallow waters, with light tree canopy allowing

the sun's rays to reach the ground.

Traveling 2 miles past Whitney Pond brings trail users to the terminus of this segment at North Ashburnham Road, where a short gap exists before the next section of designated trail. To access the next section, turn right onto North Ashburnham Road and follow it to make another right onto MA 12/Spring Street. Continue west on MA 12 approximately 800 feet and make a left onto Old Gardner Road. Continuing down Old Gardner Road about 0.5 mile leads to the trail once again.

Another parking lot for trail users is located at the intersection of Old Gardner Road and MA 140/Gardner Road. From this point, whether starting here or having arrived from Winchendon, the route continues as a well-maintained asphalt path through forest and bog. Approximately 2 miles from the Old Gardner Road parking lot, a trailside bike repair station with air and basic tools has been installed, along with a bench for those wishing to rest a bit. Another mile of smooth trail leads to the crossing of MA 140/Green Street, where a small parking area suitable for one or two vehicles is located.

After the MA 140 crossing, the trail turns to packed dirt suitable for many bicycles, though narrow tires may find the terrain challenging. This section of trail is not as inviting or developed as its northern endpoint in Winchendon. It stretches approximately 1.5 miles, ending near Crystal Lake Cemetery in Gardner. Crystal Lake is a beautiful body of water with great views atop the cemetery.

Continuing through Crystal Lake Cemetery brings you to a new short paved section of trail behind Greenwood Memorial Pool and on to the new Park Street Park, where there is ample parking. Heading a few hundred feet east on Park Street, you can turn left into the Gardner Veterans Arena and head behind the building to pick up the paved trail. The trail heads north along the east side of Crystal Lake and comes out on Green Street, where there is an additional parking lot.



North Central Pathway

Massachusetts

States: Massachusetts

Counties: Worcester

Length: 11.2 miles

Trail end points: Summer St behind the Clark Memorial YMCA (Winchendon) to Green St by Crystal Lake (Gardner)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

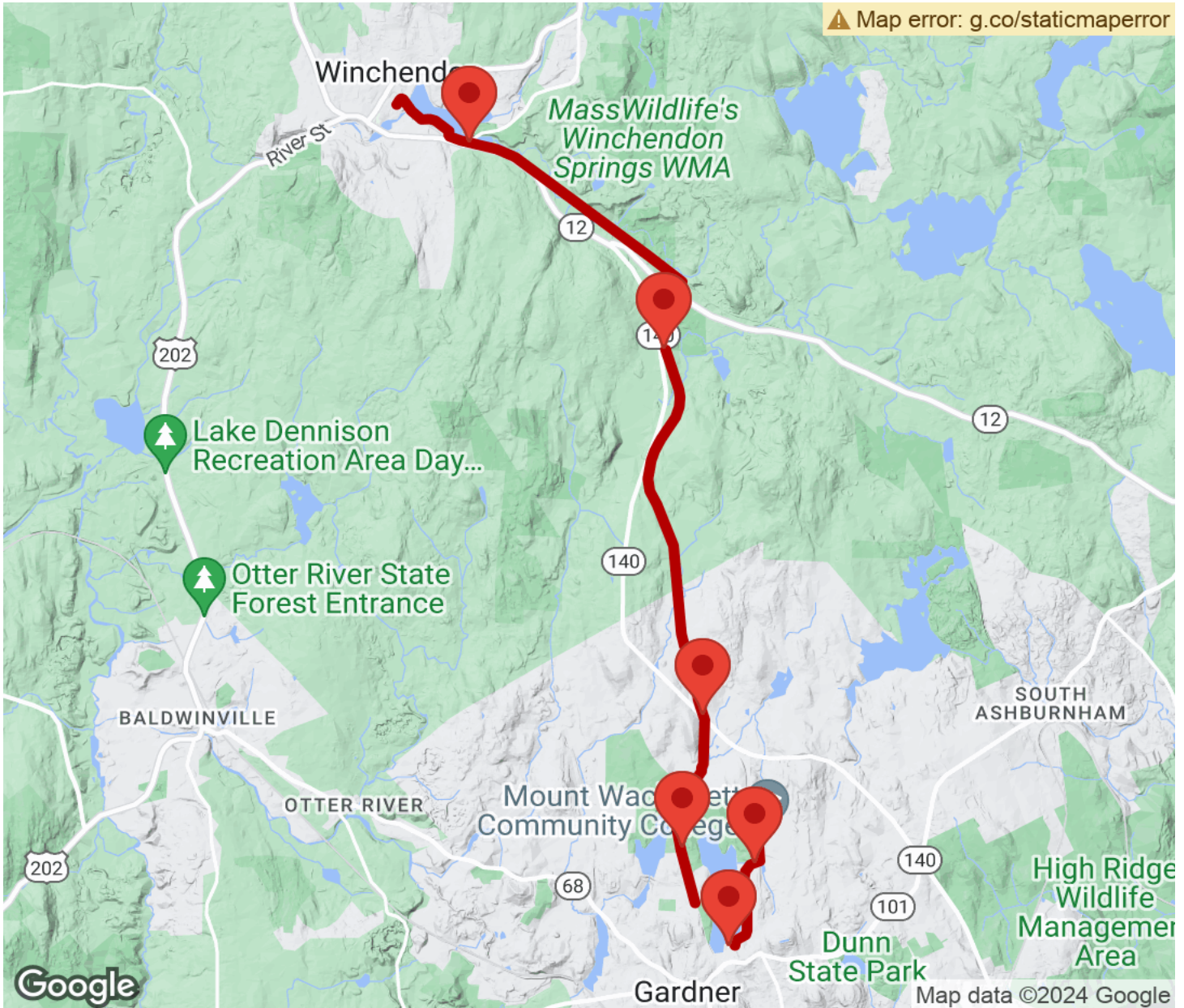
The northern endpoint is located behind the Clark Memorial YMCA on Summer Drive in Winchendon. After curving around Crystal Lake and briefly heading north, the southern end of the trail is on Green Street in Gardner.

Parking and trail access is available at numerous points along the trail. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



North Central Pathway

Massachusetts



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel