



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Somerville Community Path

Massachusetts



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Running through the city of Somerville, the Somerville Community Path is 3.2-mile paved rail-trail that connects with several other multiuse trails—contributing to the developing trail network in Boston and the surrounding communities.

Together with the Alewife Linear Park and the Fitchburg Cutoff Path, the Somerville Community Path is also part of the 59-mile [Mass Central Rail Trail](#) and forms a seamless paved route connecting northwest 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. In 1985, the first section of the Somerville Community Path was built on the former Fitchburg Cutoff Rail Bed and ran about 1.3 miles between Massachusetts Avenue and Lowell Street. Additional sections of the trail extended the route with the most recent section opening in June 2023. Although it runs along an MBTA-owned right-of-way, the trail is maintained by the City of Somerville.

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.



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States: Massachusetts

Counties: Middlesex

Length: 3.2miles

Trail end points: Alewife Linear Park at Cedar St & Massachusetts Ave (Cambridge) to Paul Revere Park at N Washington St & Warren Ave (Boston)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Massachusetts Bay transit system (MBTA) provides access to the trail via multiple bus lines and the subway (often referred to as the T). 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. The trail also parallels the Red Line between Alewife Station and Davis Station.

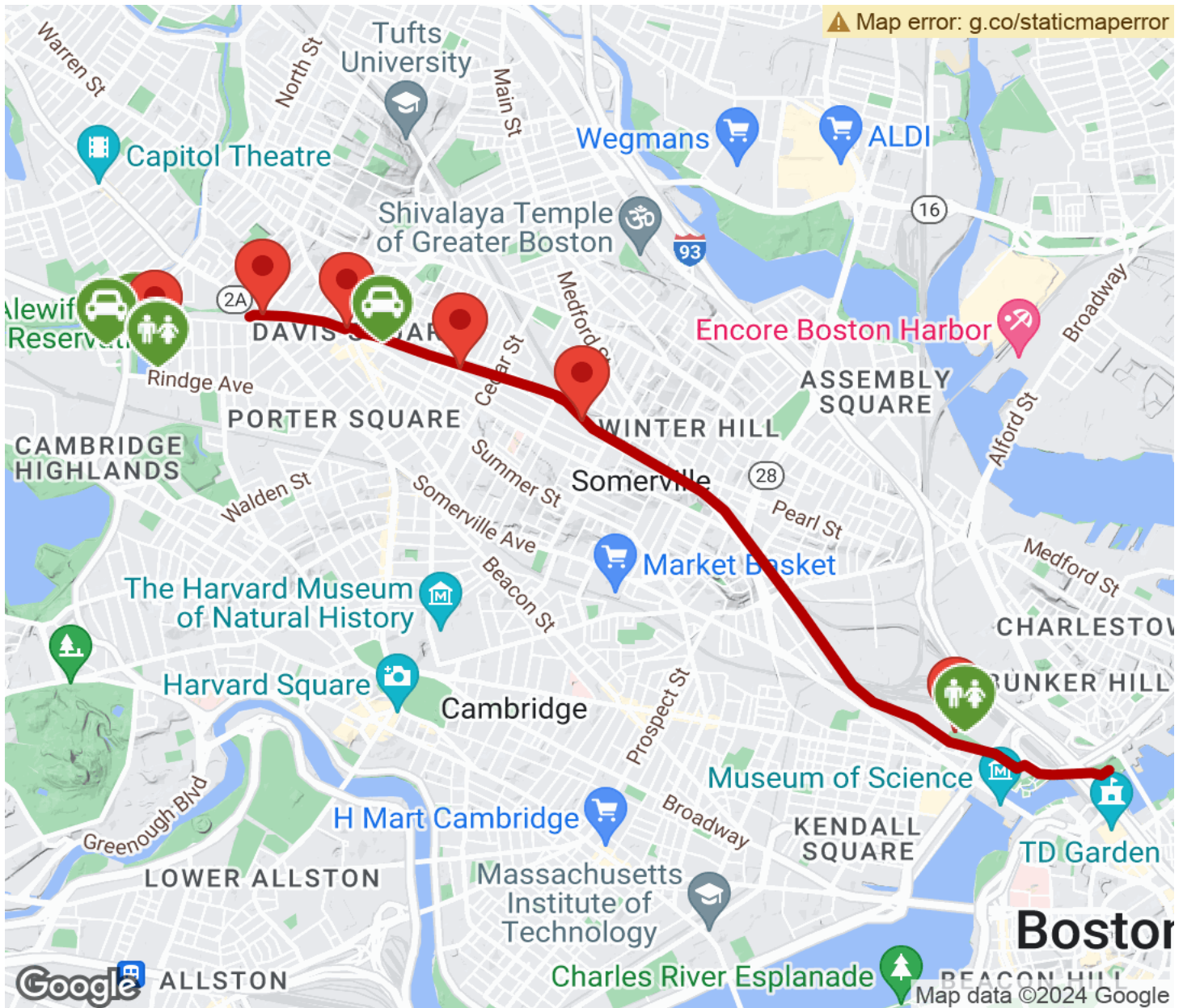
Parking is available at the northwest end of the trail in the Alewife Station parking garage (fee charged) and by Jerry's Pond in Cambridge.

Visit the TrailLink map for all options, available transit lines, and detailed directions.



Somerville Community Path

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com