

A community newsletter from the Natick Cochituate Rail Trail Advisory Committee about the upcoming Cochituate Rail Trail. Visit our website at natickma.gov/crt

The Cochituate Rail Trail: Arriving Soon!

The CRT will be a 4-mile multi-use paved path/park from Natick Center to Saxonville in Framingham, with the Wonderbread Spur connecting to the Natick Mall and beyond. The Framingham section is built and open; the Natick section will be built in just a few years, although it is open now as an unimproved, interim-use trail.

The Town now owns the former CSX right-of-way, following 2016 votes by Natick Town Meeting and the Board of Selectmen. Design will continue for another year, with federal- and state-funded construction to start in late 2018/early 2019.



The CRT will be for runners, walkers, bikers and strollers, and people of all ages and abilities. When completed around 2020, the CRT will end at

Willow Street, and then connect to North Main Street and Natick Center.

A future connection to the Natick Center MBTA station will await a full station redesign for accessibility, a project now getting underway.

Future off-road connections from Saxonville may require Framingham to buy CSX land, develop the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and connect it to the CRT, part of a growing regional trail system. ■■■

Designing the CRT

The CRT design process is moving ahead. In January 2017, MassDOT and BETA (the Town's design firm) held a "25% design" public hearing. The most significant recent change is a full replacement of the bridge and bridge supports at Route 9, to allow for safe pedestrian/bicycle access under the bridge to meet MassDOT standards.

Another change includes Route 30 upgrades from Speen Street to the TJX entrance, including turning

lanes, sidewalks and bike lanes. Additional minor design revisions are likely in the coming year.

The final design will be complete by early 2018, and will include a 12-foot wide paved path, new bridges, scenic lookouts and safe grade crossings.

Many CRT neighbors have questions and concerns about the design. To get your questions answered, please send an email to crt@natickma.org and attend a meeting or schedule a site visit.

The CRT also includes new bridges across two of the busiest roads in the area, Routes 9 and 30.

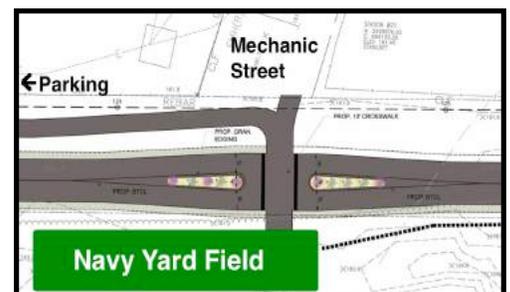


Route 30 bridge joining Framingham and Natick

Learn more at natickma.gov/crt. ■■■

Access to Recreation

The Recreation and Parks Department has begun a redesign of Navy Yard Field, alongside the CRT. The Town owns a nearby parking lot on Mechanic Street, which will serve park visitors and CRT users with a safely designed crossing.



The Town and BETA are also working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to help encourage and manage access to Lake Cochituate State Park and the trailside lakefront. ■■■

The CRT is now open!

The Town has approved use of the CRT before construction, with certain conditions. The DPW has cleared brush, with signage on the way, while volunteers will be helping to keep it in passable condition. The Route 9 bridge is currently closed, although temporary improvements are planned. Please respect trail neighbors, and only get onto the trail safely from public property. Under interim use, bike riding will not be easy on the CRT.

For safety reasons, the CRT is not accessible to the public between the Natick Center MBTA Station and Willow Street. Do not cross train tracks! ■■■



Cochituate Rail Trail Interim Use Regulations

- Open Dawn To Dusk
- No Motorized Vehicles
- Leash Pets
- Stay On Trail Area
- Do Not Disturb Soil
- Respect Private Property

Per Order
Natick Board of Selectmen
natickma.gov/crt

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the trail be open to motorized vehicles?

- Only for public safety. (Electric wheelchairs and electric bicycles don't count as motor vehicles.)

Will the CRT be used for public transit?

- The Town has voted to limit the CRT to non-motorized and recreational use.

Will the trail be illuminated?

- Current plans only include street lighting at grade crossings. This will be reviewed during final design.

Can I connect to/fence off the CRT from my land?

- That is each abutter's choice. In general, the design only includes fences for public safety

reasons, and it is up to abutters to decide if and when they want to connect to the CRT.

Where will people park?

- Public parking is planned at Mechanic Street in Natick Center; other locations will be considered.

Will there be police patrols?

- The Natick Police will patrol the CRT, and asks users and neighbors to report any concerns.

Who will maintain the CRT?

- Volunteers such as the Friends of Natick Trails are expected to help maintain the CRT and fundraise, while the Natick DPW will be responsible for performing major repairs.

Ask crt@natickma.org your questions! ■■■

Meet the Friends of Natick Trails

A new, non-profit Friends group supports the CRT and other area trails. The Friends will help with volunteer efforts, fundraising and support for other trail projects. Learn more and sign up at FriendsofNatickTrails.org to help support the CRT!

Strong Community and State Support

The Advisory Committee thanks the Selectmen, Town Meeting and many committees, including the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, Open Space, Recreation and Parks, and Board of Health, as well as Community Development, Administration, and Public Works.

Our state legislative delegation and staff have been steadfast supporters. Thanks to the individuals and businesses that have helped bring this project close to fruition. We also acknowledge Framingham's leaders and its CRT committee, MassDOT and the District 3 staff, and the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization for their assistance. ■■■

Like the CRT on Facebook

Visit [Facebook.com/crtrail](https://www.facebook.com/crtrail) to stay up to date. ■■■

Contact the CRT Advisory Committee

The CRT Advisory Committee, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, holds public meetings monthly or as work requires. You are welcome to participate as this project comes down the home stretch! Visit natickma.gov/crt for more information, or email crt@natickma.org. ■■■