



Upper Charles Rail Trail Holliston, Massachusetts

October 16, 2020

What is the Upper Charles Rail Trail?

The Upper Charles Rail Trail is a proposed multi-use trail approximately 24 miles long that will connect the towns of Sherborn, Holliston, Milford, Hopkinton, Framingham, and Ashland. The Trail in Holliston is completed, with 6.7 miles stretching from the Sherborn to Milford town lines. The Trail accommodates a variety of non-motorized uses such as bicycling, walking, jogging, and cross-country skiing. The use of motorized vehicles on the Trail is prohibited. E-bikes are permitted Class 2 and below and speeds must be kept low, below 20 mph.

What is the surface in Holliston?

The 6.7 miles of trail in Holliston have been completed with a hard-packed, stone dust surface, about 10 feet wide.



Phipp's Tunnel constructed 1847
Photo courtesy of Richard Kosian

Activities

The Friends of Holliston Trails and other community groups hold many events on the Trail including fun runs, the annual First Night Trail Walk, Spring and Holiday Strolls, the Walk Against Breast Cancer, and the Great Pumpkin Trail Walk. Follow the Friends of Holliston Trails on Facebook for the latest events. A permanent Story Book Walk is located at the Cross Street trailhead, where children can read along at different stations. The Holliston Lions

Club curates the Walk and changes the story every few months.

Benefits

Recreational trails are known to provide multiple benefits, including significant safety benefits, to the towns along the corridor. The Trail provides safe routes to school, increased tourism, economic benefits, historical preservation, and a boost to health and well-being. The Holliston Trail has a wider right of way in the center of Town (named Blair Square in honor of Bobby Blair, a Holliston resident who has contributed so much to the Town) that serves as a staging area for fundraising and community events.



Blair Square



Bogastow Brook Viaduct, constructed 1846

Trail Etiquette

Everyone has the right to safely use the Trail for these activities; following some simple rules will make it safe for all:

- The Holliston Board of Health requires masks to be worn during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Keep to the right at all times; pass on the left.
- The Trail passes nearby residents. Please respect their privacy and pass by quickly and **QUIETLY**. Do not loiter behind residences, especially at the bridges.
- Stop at **ALL** stop signs.
- When walking or stopping on the Trail, move to the side and do not block the Trail.
- Keep control of small children so that they do not run out in front of an approaching runner or cyclist.
- Look before passing.
- Use an audible signal when passing, such as a bell, horn, or simply speaking loudly "on your left" to warn others of your approach.
- Keep audio volume of earbuds to a minimum so that you may hear others signaling their intentions.
- Bicyclists shall yield to pedestrians.
- Bicyclists should wear safety helmets. State law requires children under 17 years of age to wear a helmet.
- Dogs should be kept on a short (6-foot or shorter) leash and not be allowed to run free on the Trail or impede other trail users.
- Pet owners must pick up pet waste and take it with them for proper disposal in the trash. Do not leave bags of pet waste along the Trail or toss into the wooded areas or wetlands.
- Do not litter. The Trail is a "carry in, carry out" facility. Do not put litter in dog-waste containers
- Be courteous to other trail users.
- If you are in a group, please do not wait at an intersection to gather the group together, as to not cause vehicles to stop unnecessarily.

Acquisition and construction of the Trail was funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation Recreational Trails Program in partnership with:



Community Preservation Committee



The Fredy & Regula Lienhard Foundation

