



**Wachusett**

**Greenways**

[www.wachusettgreenways.org](http://www.wachusettgreenways.org)



Connecting the Community  
with Trails and Greenways





**Mass Central Rail Trail**

TM

**MCRT**

**Northampton to Boston**

**104 miles**

Priority East-West Corridor

In DCR's Commonwealth Connections

Town Open Space and Recreation Plans

Regional Planning Commissions

# **Mass Central Rail Trail**

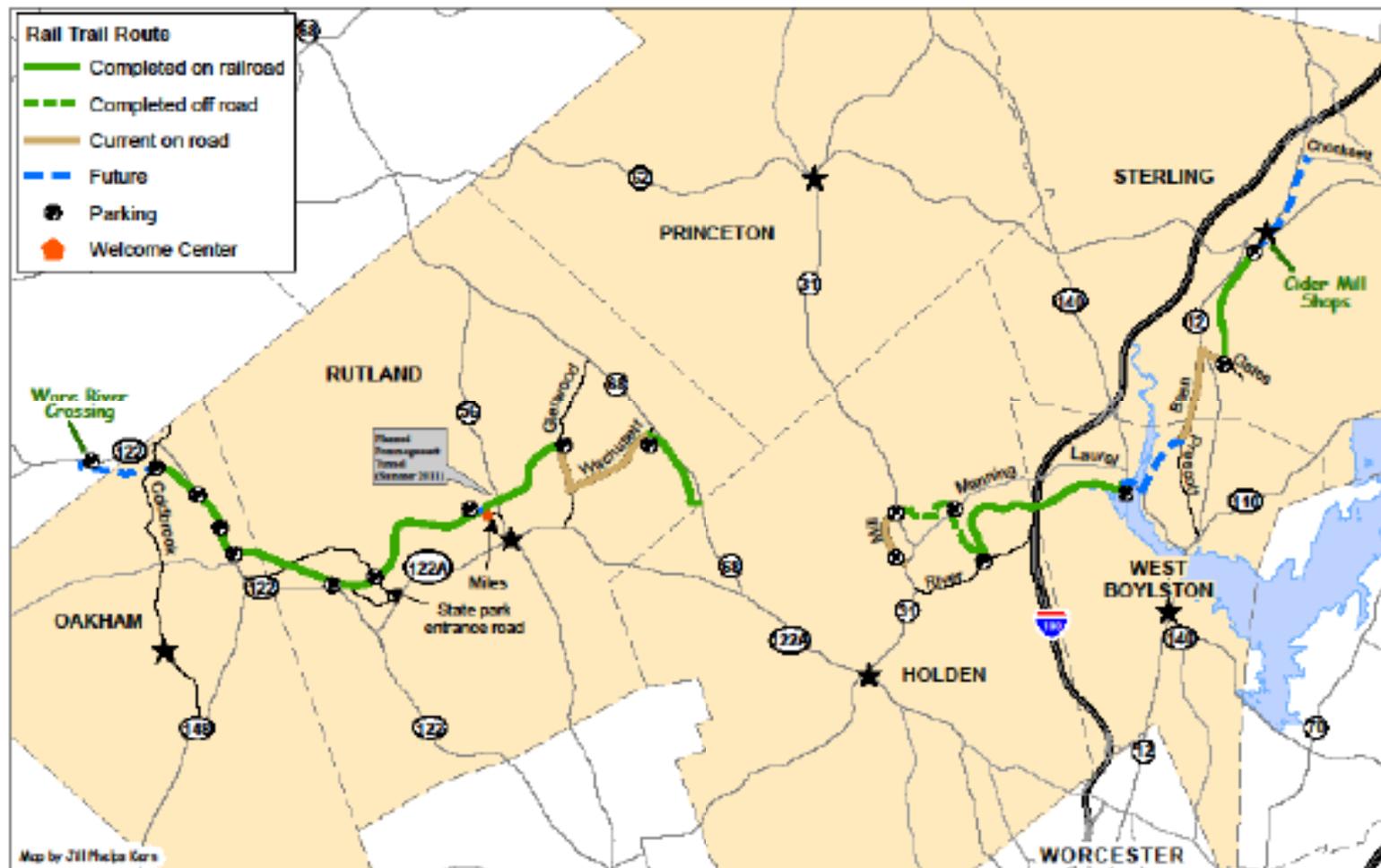
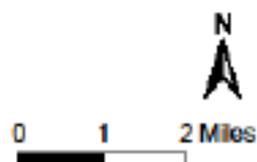
30 miles through

Sterling, West Boylston,

Holden, Rutland,

Oakham, Barre

# Mass Central Rail Trail





# **Partnerships to Build and Maintain Trails**

Connecting

Citizens, Governments,  
Businesses, and Foundations



# How...PARTNERSHIPS

\$2 million in funds

PLUS donated services, easements

- State and Federal Government
- Municipal
- Businesses
- Foundations
- Other non-profits
- Wachusett Greenways Members,  
Donors, Volunteers



FHWA...MDC...DEM...DCR  
...MHD...MDOT  
DFWELE...MA/MOTT

Greenways and Trails  
Demonstration Grants

Recreational Trails Grants

DCR Partnership Grant

# The Towns

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland,  
Sterling, West Boylston,  
Oakham, Barre

Machine maintenance  
and some construction



# **Wachusett Greenways**

All volunteer non-profit group  
established 1995

Began with 47 members in 1997.

Grew to more than  
600 members in 2010



**2400** people  
have become  
Wachusett Greenways  
members  
or contributed to the  
Mass Central Rail Trail  
construction fund



# Volunteers

## THOUSANDS of hours

- clearing and maintaining trails
- writing newsletters
- preparing grants
- managing construction
- designing bridge and culvert projects
- leading trail events
- landscaping entries
- installing fences and benches
- developing an interpretive mill site
- fundraising
- mailing parties
- web site
- membership database,
- working with youth groups
- attending training workshops
- mentoring other groups...



Members and Donors

Gifts range from \$5 to \$160,000  
for rail trail construction

Initiated the MCRT

Maintenance Endowment Fund

\$5 to \$15,000 Gifts

## Mass Central Rail Trail

GEORGE A. DALKO, III

DWIGHT AND SUSAN BLAKE

PAUL AND SALLY BUDKINGHAM

GEORGE T. BOOTH II

DAWN AND JOHN BUDD

DAVID AND JULIE CROWLEY

ABBY AND WILL CSAPLAR

F. F. ENGELSTED AND FAMILY

BOB AND KATHY EVANS

SUE HALL

BRADLEY C. HIGGINS FOUNDATION

HOLDEN WOMAN'S CLUB

CHARLES T. HUGO

ROBERT HSU

MICHAEL AND ANNE KORJITZ

JIM AND IDA NYSTROM

HANK AND VIV DE FLETT

FAITH J. OSBORNE

JOE AND SARAH RIBEIRO

KAREN SHAPIRO AND DAVID ROSENFIELD

GINNY URSIN

ROBIN AND WALLACE WHITNEY

**Connecting  
people to the land**



Connecting  
people to each  
other  
outdoors



**Connecting  
people with  
themselves in  
nature**



**Connecting  
the land  
along  
greenways**



**First section**

**Open 1997 West Boylston**

**Built 16 miles in 16 years**

**Eight bridges**

**Two tunnels**













# Charnock Hill Tunnel





The Springdale Mill  
Interpretive Trail  
1800s Woolen Mill



# Year round events-all free

to introduce neighbors

to walking in the woods, hiking,

snowshoeing, cross-country skiing,

bicycling on trails and roads, canoeing,

photography,

and learning about birds, butterflies, trees,

geology and other

elements of the environment



Eagle Scouts  
Gold Awards  
Bancroft School  
Nativity School  
WPI



Working Together  
on challenges and  
upkeep from  
ice storms and floods  
(and silver linings)



**DANGER**

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**RAIL TRAIL  
CLOSED**

**WASHED OUT  
BY BEAVER DAMAGE**









An aerial photograph of a vast, forested landscape. In the foreground, a large, dark blue lake is surrounded by dense green and brown trees. A winding road or path is visible near the lake. In the middle ground, a small town or village is nestled among the trees. The background shows a hazy horizon under a cloudy sky. The word "Opportunities!" is written in a large, bold, black, serif font across the center of the image.

***Opportunities!***



*V.S. 5 Rutland Station - Dart 1886.*



**Pommogussett  
Tunnel**



**For the future...**



