Welcome to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. The trail is a former railroad corridor, now converted into a paved 10-foot-wide, 12.2-mile-long, universally accessible path. It is part of the Massachusetts State Parks, and runs parallel to Route 8 through the towns of Cheshire, Lanesborough and Adams.

History of the Rail Corridor
In 1845, the Pittsfield & North Adams Railroad developed this corridor with the goal of extending the Housatonic Railroad north to Rutland, Vermont. While the track was under construction, the company was acquired by the Western Railroad, which used the corridor as a secondary line.

In 1867, the Western Railroad became known as the Boston & Albany Railroad. During this time, mineral traffic developed on the line and a number of limestone operations went into business. The New York Central took over the B&A Railroad in 1900, and upgraded the line.

New York Central became part of Penn-Central (later Conrail) in 1968. The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) took over Amtrak operations in 1990, and upgraded the line. Boston & Maine Railroad ran the line as a connection to an existing track in North Adams, with declining success until the company abandoned rail service in 1990.

Seeing the potential for recreational use of the corridor, citizens organized to preserve the right-of-way. The Ashuwillticook River Trail Committee soon formed and worked to gain the local and political support needed to make this rail trail a reality.

Volunteers Welcome
The Berkshire Bike Path Council (BBPC) is a non-profit membership organization, formed in 1998, dedicated to facilitating and maintaining bike path development in Berkshire County and having fun along the way. Its website offers regular updates on trail conditions and events.

Contact the BBPC to find out how to support the Ashuwillticook and future bike paths in Berkshire County.

www.berkshirebikepath.com
e-mail: info@berkshirebikepath.com

Amazing Scenery
The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail passes through the Hoosic River Valley, between Mt. Greylock and the Hoosac Mountains. Cheshire Reservoir, the Hoosic River, and associated wetland communities flank much of the trail offering outstanding views and abundant wildlife.
TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

To ensure the safety of all trail users please observe the following guidelines:

• Stay on the trail and respect adjacent private property
• Keep to the right
• When stopped do not block the path
• Alert others before passing by bell, horn, or verbally
• Stop at intersections and obey all signage
• Wear protective headgear. This is required by state law for children 16 years and younger on bicycles
• Make sure young children are strapped into child carriers attached to or behind your bicycle
• Clean up after dogs and keep them on a leash
• The trail is open dawn to dusk
• Commuters, with appropriate lights, may use the trail after dark at their own risk
• Carry out what you carry in

Please no:

• Motorized vehicles
• Feeding the geese or any wildlife
• Horses
• Alcoholic beverages
• Fires
• Hunting or trapping
• Removal of any park resources

DIRECTIONS TO ASHWILLICOOK RAIL TRAIL

From the south: take the Mass Pike to exit 2, then Route 20 west to Route 7 north, Route 9 east to Route 8 north. Signs for Ashuwillticook parking areas are located on Route 8.

From the north: take Route 2 to Route 8 south, look for signs for Ashuwillticook parking along route 8.

For more information on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, contact the DCR Regional Headquarters at 413-442-8928, Box 1433, 740 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01202

ASHUWILLICOOK RAIL TRAIL

Map provided by the National Parks Service Rivers and Trails Assistance Program

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