



Transportation Innovations
MARPA - DLS Conference
October 7, 2025



Clipper City Rail Trail, Newburyport, MA

MassTrails Overview



MassTrails Team: MassDOT, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) representatives to coordinate on trail projects, trail-related policies, and programs to support a common vision for trails

Goal: One trails team, one vision, one action plan to expand, connect, and modernize the Commonwealth's network of shared use paths and recreational trails for people of all ages and abilities

Action Plan:

- Function as one interagency team and coordinate with additional state agencies (e.g., DEP, Fish & Wildlife, MBTA, Rail & Transit);
- Collaborate effectively with municipalities, non-profits and others to advance trail projects;
- Provide funding to support the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of a trail networks (MassTrails Grants Program, Gateway Cities, STIP, etc.);
- Articulate the Priority Trail Network Vision and work toward its realization;
- Provide access to technical resources and expertise including publications and trainings; and
- Consolidate the public face and outreach into one user-friendly platform.



EOEEA Gateway City Parks Program



- \$4 million per year on average to support projects in Gateway Cities
- Gateway Cities = Midsize urban centers that anchor regional economies around the state
- 26 Cities Total

Recent Projects:

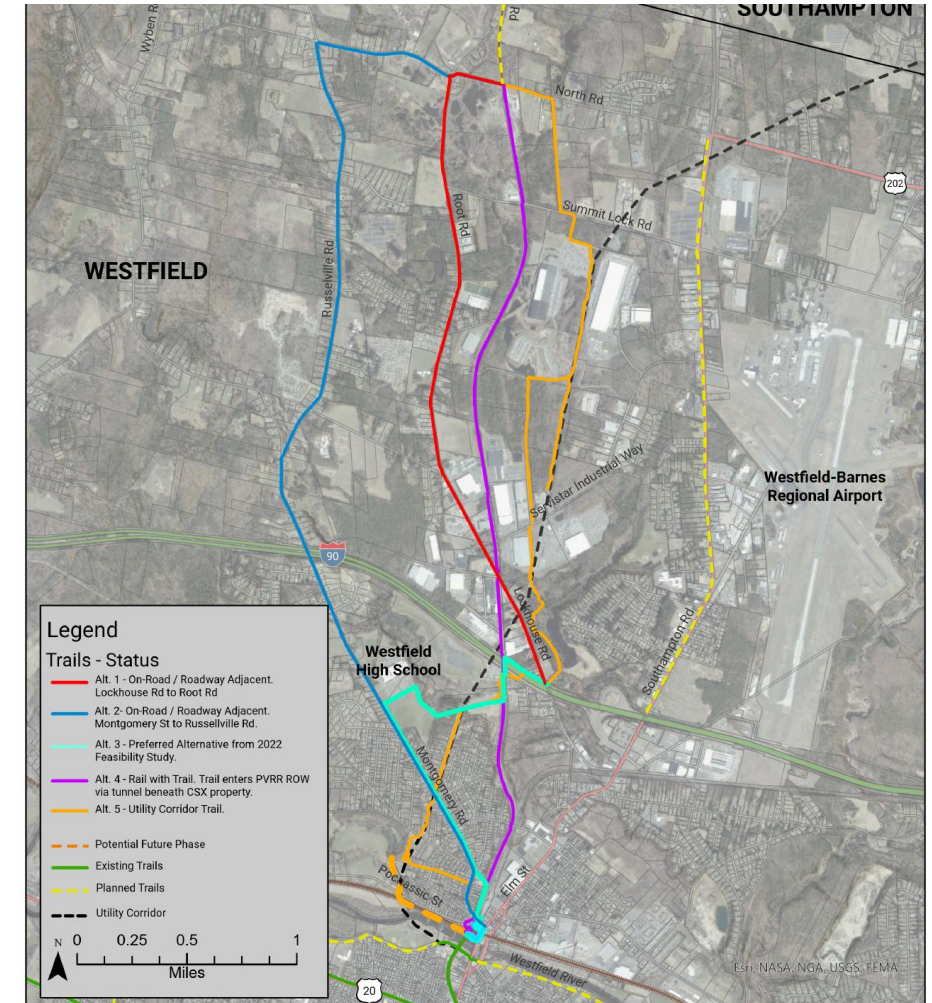
- Northern Strand Community Trail
- Lowell – Concord River Greenway Bridges

Westfield Columbia River Greenway: Extension to Southamptton

Goal: Close the last (very complicated!) gap in the New Haven and Northampton Canal Greenway



Photos/Graphics by Stantec



Trails Team Contact: Kurt Gaertner, kurt.gaertner@mass.gov

DCR Investments in Trails



DCR Greenways Program

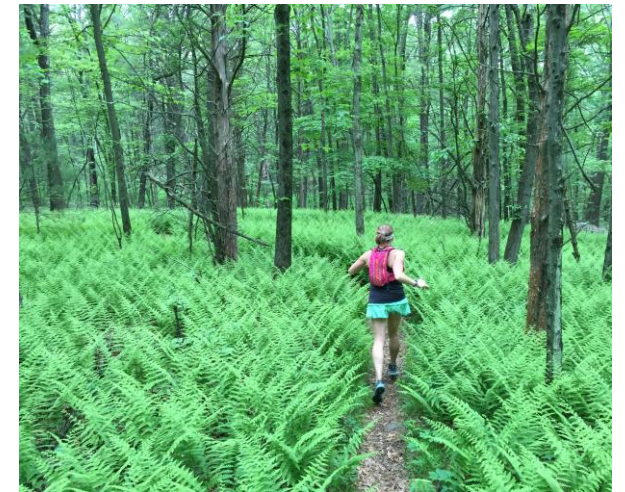
- \$5 million in state funds in FY25
- Design and construction of shared use paths, as well as major improvements, repairs, and reconstruction.

DCR Trail Repair Capital Program / Maintenance

- \$2 million in state funds in FY25 for maintenance of DCR trails
- Trail system planning, natural surface trail repair, bridge assessment/replacement, Student Conservation Association

DCR's Major Parkway Initiative (Green Transportation): 20 years/\$150 Million (goal is to have one major parkway reconstruction each year)

Funding and Partnerships with HubLuv, Solomon Foundation, Barr Foundation, Student Conservation Association, and Others!



Trails Team Contact: Gerald Autler, Gerald.autler@mass.gov

MassDOT Investments in Trails



- Almost all major state and municipal trail projects are constructed by MassDOT and are federal-aid funded through the State and MPO Transportation Improvement Programs (STIP / TIP)
- Federal government provides 80% and state provides 20% match
- Shared Use Path Capital Program is \$321 million in CIP FY25-29
- Projects are selected and prioritized through regional MPO and MassDOT with Trails Team
- Over the last year, 25 miles across 12 communities either constructed by MassDOT or jointly funded through the MassTrails program



Groveland Community Trail

MassTrails Grant Program



- Grants for municipalities, public entities, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations **to acquire land, plan, design, construct, and maintain recreational trails and shared use paths.**
- Deadline is February 1st each year.
- \$5- \$10 million in funds available each year, awarded to approximately 50-70 projects.
- Trail types include shared-use paths, hiker/pedestrian trails, off-road motorized trails and “other” trails including mountain biking and water trails.
- Reimbursement grants with required minimum 20% match.
- Maximum award of \$500,000.



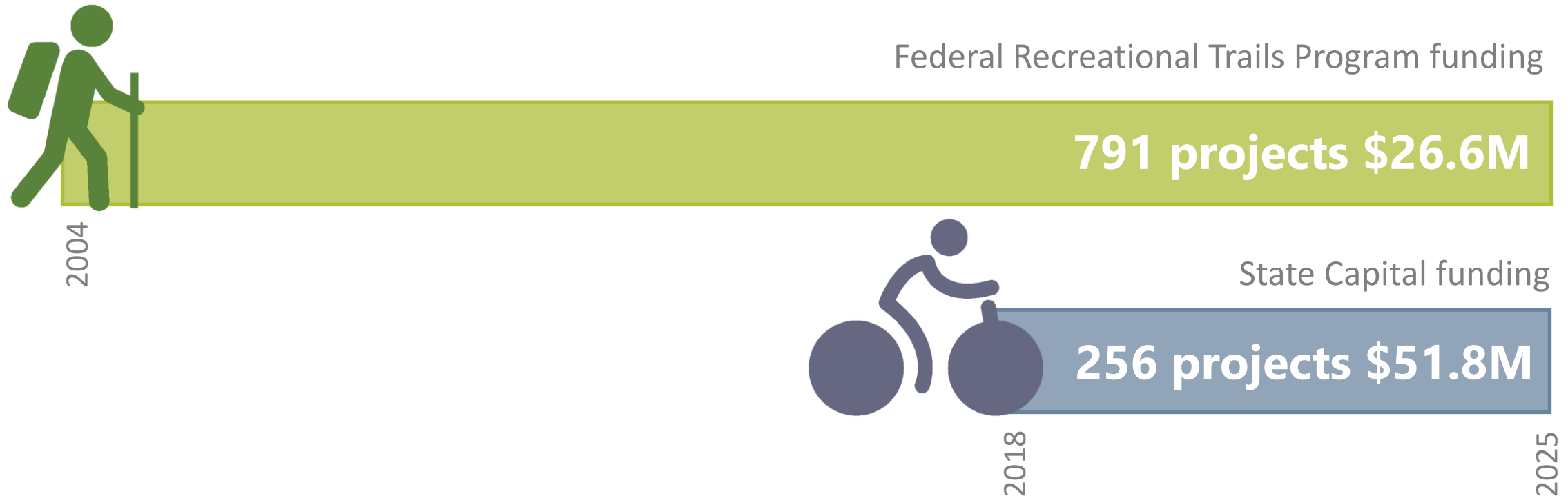
MassTrails 2023 Grant Recipients – 68 awardees

MassTrails Grant Program

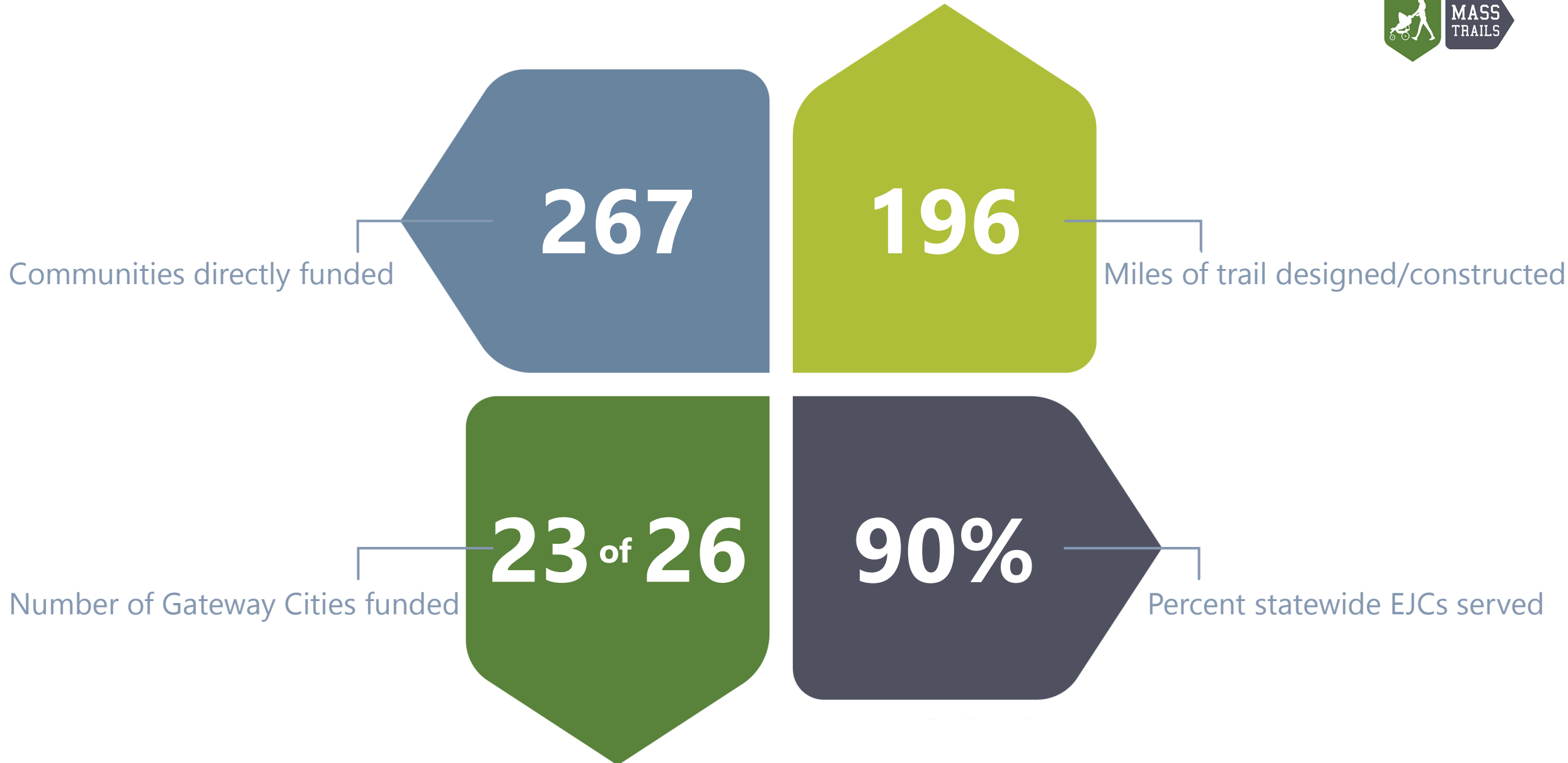
Total Funding To Date

\$78 million in funding awarded over 21 years

\$91 million in match leveraged from grantees



MassTrails Grant Program

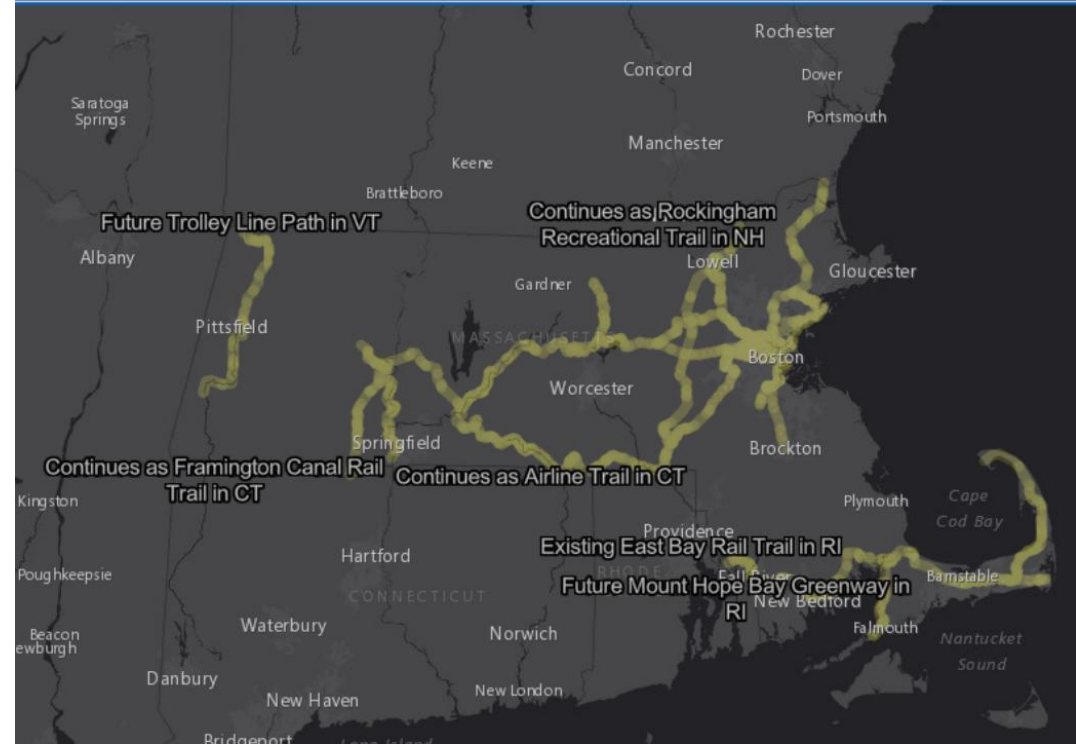


MassTrails Priority Network Map



- The MassTrails Team has identified & mapped a priority network. It represents trails of statewide significance & identifies key gaps.
- This statewide vision consists primarily of existing and to be built trails and greenways that form the core spine route of a statewide connected shared use path network.
- Represent priorities to be a worked toward, but they are not the only places MassTrails Team attention and funding is devoted.
- As segments are completed, new priorities and segments will be identified, added, and pursued.

Massachusetts Priority Trails Network



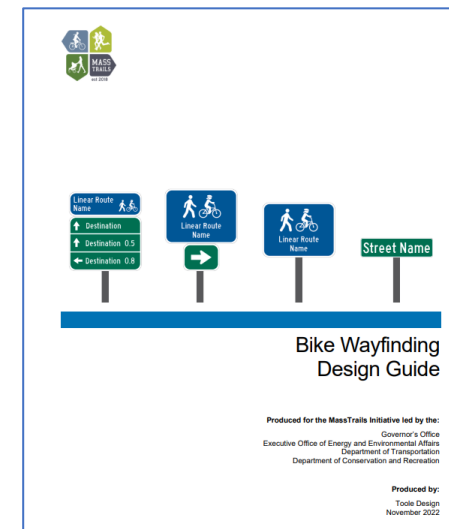
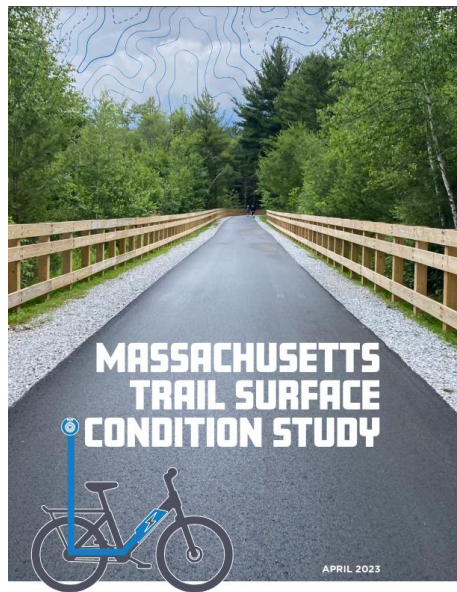
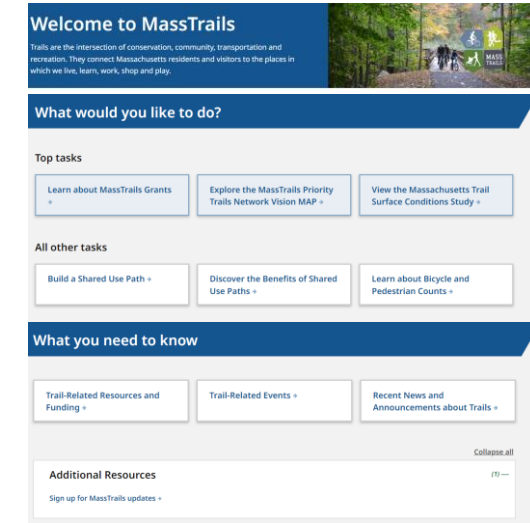
www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-priority-trails-network-vision

Trails Team Contact: Pete Sutton, peter.sutton@mass.gov

Resources & Publications



- www.Mass.gov/MassTrails: One stop shop website
- Shared Use Path Planning and Design Guide (Aug 2018)
- Cost Estimator (Oct 2018)
- Benefits and Impact Study (March 2021)
- Wayfinding Design Guide (Nov 2022)
- Trail Count Primer and Dashboard (active)
- MassTrails Surface Condition Study (2023)



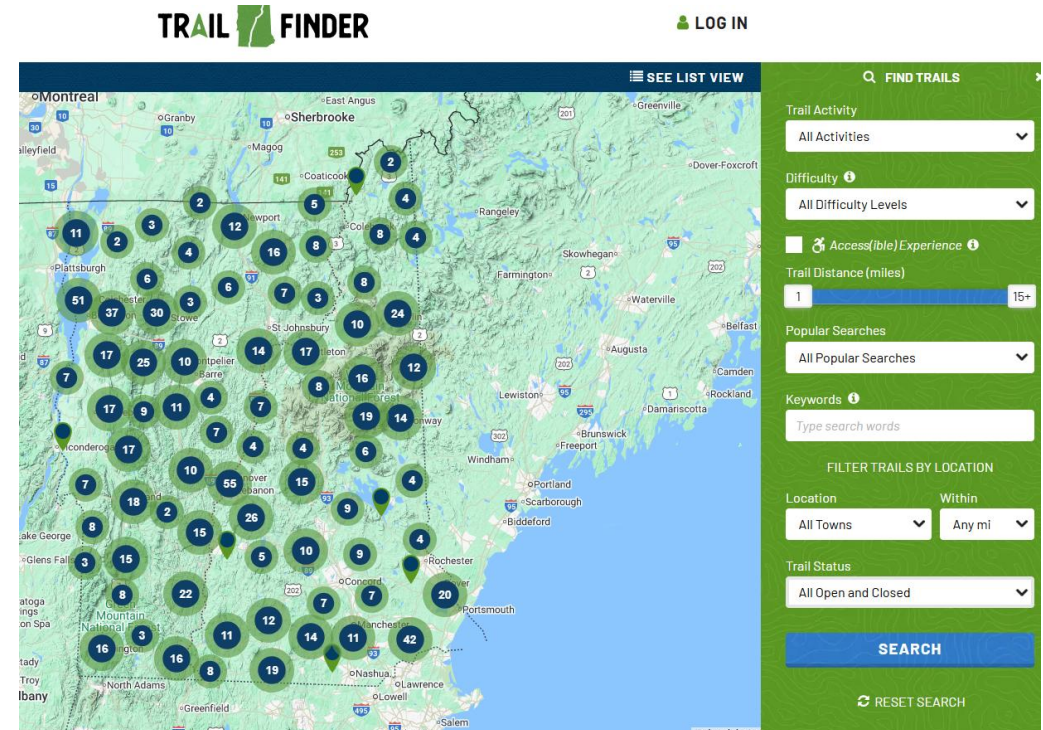
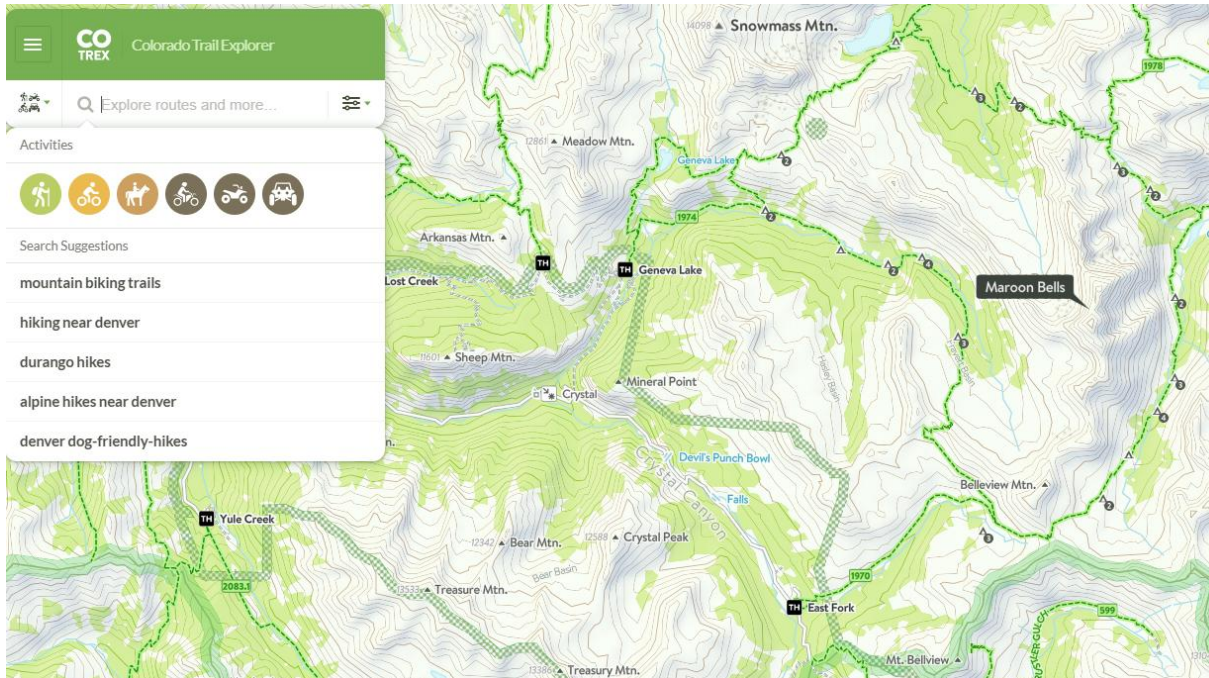
Massachusetts Interactive Trails Map!



Data collection/consolidation by 13 RPA's

Future: Publish a statewide trail-finder map for all trails of all types across Mass

MassTrails funding, private funding



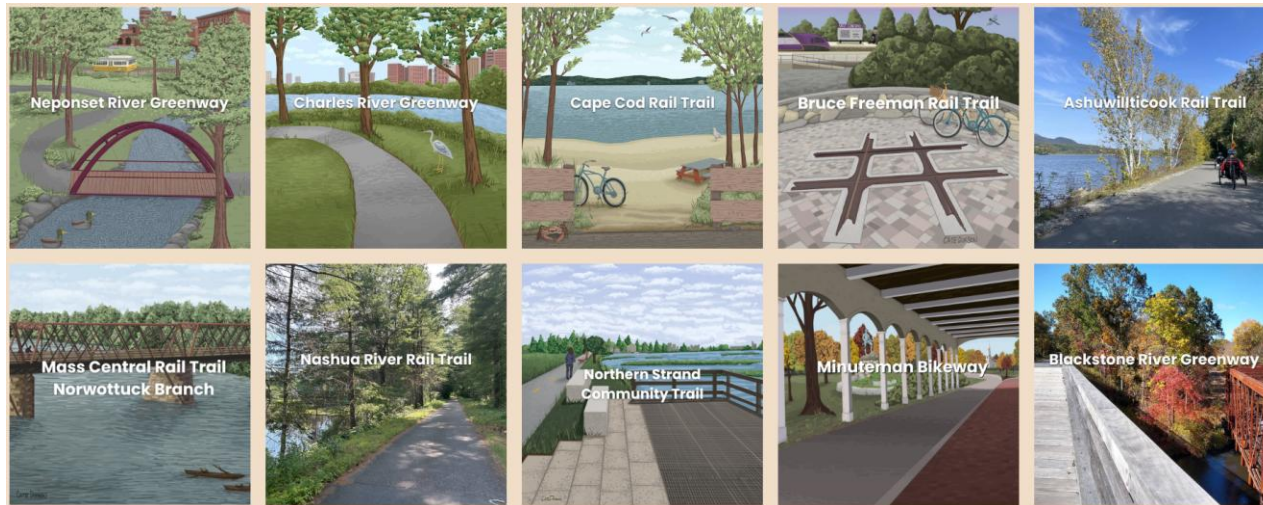
MassTrails 10 and Special Trains!



Promote / Market Trails in Massachusetts: Identify opportunities to market trails in Massachusetts through partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders and other state entities (Office of Outdoor Recreation, Office of Travel and Tourism, Etc.)



MBTA Special Trains – MassTrails 10 Bike Trip!
Tentative: October 25, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail



masstrails10.org



MassTrails is a reimbursement based grant with a match requirement. Online submissions only. Deadline is **February 2nd, 2026 @11:59pm.**

2026

MassTrails Grant Round OPENS NOVEMBER 1st!



Eligible applicants:

- Public entities
- Communities
- Non-profits
- Native nations

The **MassTrails Grant Program** provides funding and technical expertise for project development, design, engineering, permitting, constructions, and maintenance of recreational trails, shared-use pathways, and the amenities that support trails.

www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants

Visit our website for more information on the grant program and upcoming information sessions!



Scan me with your phone camera to visit link!

MassTrails Program Resources and Contacts



Learn more about MassTrails Grants: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants>

Apply for a MassTrails Grant: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-masstrails-grant>

MassTrails Website (Main Page): <https://www.mass.gov/welcome-to-masstrails>

MassTrails Contacts

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