

METACOMET GREENWAY ASSOCIATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Rail Trail Expenses

Who is responsible for paying for the design/construction?

Much remains to be determined regarding the cost, design and general construction of the project. What we do know is that rail trail projects are constructed in phases over time and there will be no exception with the Metacomet Greenway. We hope to have certain phases captured within developments adjacent to the trail when possible, and have been working closely with town officials to try to facilitate these options.

We also have a strong group of volunteers with professional experience in grant writing and plan to leverage their expertise to apply for grants to help with planning and construction costs.

Lastly, as has been done to help fund the cost of feasibility studies in Norfolk and Wrentham, we plan to work closely with town Community Preservation Committees with the goal of using CPA funds to assist with various costs.

None of the above-mentioned methods relieve us of the possibility that some funds will need to come from local taxpayers.

Rail Trail Facilities

Where will parking be available?

While still in planning, we hope to have multiple options for trail head access along the trail in each town.

Are there public restrooms along the trail?

Typically, restrooms are not located along rail trails, however we hope to incorporate the proposed trail with access to many existing parks which have public access to restrooms.

In addition, some businesses welcome use of their restroom facilities along current trails, and the MGA aspires to develop similar partnerships along the Metacomet Greenway.

Who should I contact in the case of a non-emergency/maintenance public safety issue?

Each town will determine their own policies, but in general emergencies should be reported to the local police dispatch number. Other communities utilize Parks, Recreation Departments, Highway/Public Works Departments, established Trails Committees, or local organizations like the MGA.

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Rail Trail Guidelines

Which side of the trail are people supposed to walk on?

Unlike on the roads, all trail users should keep to the right-hand side of the trail.

Are there trail rules?

Trail rules will be established at a later time, but generally there are common rules for rail trails.

Can I ride my adaptive bicycle or motorized wheelchair on the trail?

Yes we anticipate these will be allowed. Motorized assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, "scooters", etc.) specifically designed for use by handicapped/disabled persons are allowed on most accessible trails with a safety flag attached to such a device for increased visibility. It should have a quiet electric motor to minimize disturbances to wildlife, and there will be speed limitations posted.

Are skateboards allowed on the trail?

Yes, we anticipate skateboards will be permitted.

Can local associations or groups have organized activity on the trail?

Yes, we anticipate that many local organizations, businesses and sport teams would like to hold organized activities on the trail, including Fun Runs, 5K's, Library Story Walks, Pumpkin Walks, Holiday strolls and numerous other events.

Who maintains the trail?

The Towns will likely have primary responsibility for maintaining the rail trail and these discussions are ongoing. The Metacomet Greenway Association will assist the Towns with maintenance.