The Nunckatessett Greenway

BRIDGEWATER & WEST BRIDGEWATER, MA

A network of land and water trails connecting the Town River and the Bay Circuit Trail to public conservation areas and urban centers

www.nunckatessettgreenway.org

RIVER ACCESS

- ★ 1 - Lakeside Drive
- ★ 2 - Skim Milk Bridge
- ★ 3 - Comfort Bridge
- ★ 4 - Holmes Hill
- ★ 5 - War Memorial Park
- ★ 6 - Trucchi's Landing
- ★ 7 - Reynold's Landing
- ★ 8 - Iron Works Park
- ★ 9 - Town River Landing
- ★ 10 - Hayward Street
- ★ 11 - Tuckerwood

PARKLANDS

- A - Skim Milk Bridge
- B - Forest / Clinton
- C - Holmes Hill
- D - Flaggy Meadow
- E - War Memorial Park
- F - Iron Works
- G - Stiles & Hart
- H - Tuckerwood
- I - Carvers Pond

LEGEND

Local Trails
- Existing Local Trail
- Proposed Local Trail
- State Road

Parcels of Interest
- APR Lands
- River Bend Golf Course
- Dept. of Fish & Game Lands
- Bay Circuit Trail - Proposed
- Bay Circuit Trail - Existing
- Town Centers
- School Zones
- Bridgewater State University
- WB Parklands

Esther Drive Trail

C.C. Ready Farm

Beaverton Woods

River Bend

River Bend G.C.

Flaggy Meadow Parkland

Cochesett Trail

Haseotes MassWildlife Trail

Mollie Ground

Hockomock Swamp

Lake Nippenicket

Town River

Matfield River

Satucket Hunting Grounds

Taunton River

Great Hill Trails

BSU

Carvers Pond

EAST BRIDGEWATER

WEST BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER

Wild & Scenic Taunton River
www.tauntonriver.org

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Sites of Special Interest

Holmes Hill

Holmes Hill overlooks the Town River at the intersection of River and Forest Streets and is the location of the first stockade / fort in Old Bridgewater. It was here that colonists sought refuge during King Phillip's War, both for the settlers at times of siege and for the Native American prisoners of war when settlers wanted to execute them. The Town of West Bridgewater now owns a portion of this site and has created a small parkland here.

War Memorial Park

Located on River Street, this park saw intensive industrial activity as early as 1662 when the first grist mill was built; eventually 17 different mills were on site. The Ames Shovel Company operated here through the 19th century, producing shovels used across the nation to build railroads, canals, subways, and farm land. War Memorial Park is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Iron Works Parkland

Iron Works Park is located on High Street and is on the National Register of Historical Places. The first iron rolling mill was built on the Town River in 1695; by 1875 it ranked the largest iron concern in New England, covering over 70 acres. This mill was chosen to produce armor plating for the USS Monitor and later wrought iron for the USS Constitution. An official Bay Circuit Trail head is proposed for this site as the BCT networks through the park.

Stiles & Hart Parkland

Stiles & Hart Parkland was once home to the Plymouth County Agricultural Society Fairgrounds - complete with an exhibition hall, grandstand, and ¼ mile trotting track. In 1895 it became a clay - mining industry, producing bricks until into the early 1900s. Today this site is part of the Nunckatessett Greenway close to Bridgewater State University in the heart of downtown Bridgewater. A pedestrian bridge is proposed to link the parkland to the downtown at the Town River Landing on Spring Street.

Trail Spur / Carver's Pond

Carver's Pond, once home to Bridgewater Cotton Gin (1816 to 1822) and subsequently used for ice harvest, is located on Summer Street south of Bridgewater State University. Public trails around the pond bisect scenic woodland with diverse plants and wildlife including swan, osprey, fox, muskrat, turtles, and birds. This parkland is in Bridgewater's water supply district, with 5 wells located on the south side. Carver's Pond is also an *Outdoor Classroom* for the university and public schools and used for picnicking, fishing, canoeing, and ice skating.

Trail Spur / Great Hill

Bridgewater State University has more than 3 miles of trails in the area surrounding Great Hill. These trails, located behind the Adrian Tinsley Center, are suitable for walking, running, mountain biking, snowshoeing and back-country skiing. There are 6 different loops encompassing a variety of terrain and plant life. The trails are open year round.

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The Town River - Protected at Both Ends

Known today as Town River, the Nunckatessett originates in the Hockomock Swamp. This meandering, 14-mile river corridor is one of the earliest areas of colonial settlement dating back to the mid-1600. Before then it was home to the Pokanoket and other Native American civilizations that existed in southern New England for thousands of years. The Town River, with several Colonial Era industrial sites on the National Register of Historic Places, flows through the centers of both West Bridgewater and Bridgewater before converging with the Matfield River to form the Wild & Scenic Taunton River, now federally protected under the National Park Service.

Bay Circuit Trail

The 200 +mile Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) is a permanent recreation trail extending through 34 towns in Eastern Massachusetts, linking parks and open spaces surrounding metropolitan Boston. Recognized nationally, the BCT travels through sections of the Nunckatessett Greenway in West Bridgewater and Bridgewater. Promoting BCT stewardship is a goal found in both communities' Open Space & Recreation Plans. The Bay Circuit Alliance has partnered with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), their combined 200 years of natural resource protection experience ensuring sustainability and stewardship of the BCT.

Greenways

Greenways are corridors of land and water and the natural, cultural, and recreational resources they link together. A riverfront walkway, a bicycle path, an urban walking trail connecting historical sites and neighborhood parks, a wildlife migration corridor, and a series of open spaces joined by trails are all examples of Greenways. The Nunckatessett Greenway is a network of trail spurs connecting the Town River and Bay Circuit Trail to municipal and state conservation areas, historical sites and urban centers, school districts and Bridgewater State University, the Hockomock Swamp and the Wild & Scenic Taunton River. With selected parcels set aside for passive recreation by private land owners and both the Town of West Bridgewater and the Town of Bridgewater, the Nunckatessett Greenway connects people to the natural world. This special place is *where history and nature meet*.

Nunckatessett Greenway Committee - Partners in trail development

Harmonizing individual planning goals, the Towns of West Bridgewater and Bridgewater formed a coalition with Bridgewater State University and the Bay Circuit Alliance, combining efforts to establish a sustainable recreational / educational greenway along the Town River and Bay Circuit Trail in the two towns. Other like-minded nonprofits joined in: Wild & Scenic Taunton River Stewardship Council / National Park Service, Appalachian Mountain Club, The Trustees of Reservations, AmeriCorps groups, local businesses and service organizations, and countless volunteers.

Working as a subgroup of the 501 (C) (3) Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater, this coalition is known as *Nunckatessett Greenway Committee.*

The Nunckatessett Greenway in West Bridgewater and Bridgewater, MA

Today there is a Vision …

and a huge effort across the state to link hundreds of open spaces through:

- ❖ Parks and Trails
- ❖ Natural Resource Areas
- ❖ Important Community Features

The Towns of West Bridgewater and Bridgewater embrace this Vision with the goal of linking private and town-owned conservation areas to the nationally recognized Bay Circuit Trail and the historically important Nunckatessett (Town River) in order to satisfy diverse environmental, economical, educational, recreational, and social needs.

Hockomock Swamp

As the largest remaining fresh-water swamp in Massachusetts, this 16,950 acre wetland is a protected Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), a huge, 7 ½ billion-gallon water reservoir. It is a unique and irreplaceable wildlife habitat, home to at least 13 rare and endangered species - a vast natural and scenic area, an oasis of peace and quiet. For thousands of years the Hockomock has remained close to primeval wilderness, a soggy, trackless woodland of white cedar, red maple, cat-tail marsh, small ponds and meandering streams. During the Woodland Period, people depended on this swamp as an abundant source of game; they believed that if they camped once a year in an area known to them as 'Mollie Ground,' the good spirits of the swamp would stay with them for the rest of the year. The significance of the Hockomock's archaeological resources is enormous; small stone hearths 15" in diameter, a plummet stone fishing sinker, an ulu stone knife and other artifacts have been unearthed, indicating a very early civilization. The Mass Division of Fish & Game own approximately 5000 acres of this swamp, providing public access to recreational areas along the Nunckatessett Greenway. The swamp is popular for hunting, hiking, fishing, boating, canoeing, swimming, and for the observation and study of plants and animals. The fertile agricultural fields adjacent to the Hockomock's wetlands and rivers are of prime importance, with West Bridgewater using its Community Preservation Fund to secure permanent protect of 116 acres in the town's first Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) agreement.

National Park Service - Wild & Scenic Taunton River

The National Wild & Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values, keeping them in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act safeguards the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. The **Taunton River** received Wild & Scenic River status and was placed under the National Park Service in 2009; **as a key tributary, the Town River (Nunckatessett) is also recognized** and afforded protection.