

A scenic photograph of a river flowing through a lush, green landscape with tall grasses in the foreground and dense trees on the banks.

Town of Hingham Comprehensive Trails Plan

Draft Plan
October 5, 2015

Agenda



- **Project Background**
- **Recommendations from the Trails Plan**
 - General Trail Improvements
 - Park Specific Improvements
 - Implementation Strategies
 - Appendix – supporting data
 - Parcel Links
 - Other
- **Public Feedback**

Recommendations: Improvements to Existing Open Spaces



General Trail Improvements:

- Maintain open trail corridor
- Improve signage (Branding, Trail Blazing, Kiosks, Interpretation)
- Maintain existing structures (benches, bridges, culverts, steps)

Park Specific Improvements:

- Improve, sign and designate parking areas
- Consider upgrading to ADA standards
- Consider multiuse access
- Consider a rotating off leash dog park or off leash trail days
- Improve water access
- Negotiate public access/public parking

Recommendations: Improvements to Existing Open Spaces



Open Space Property	Recommendations	Goals	Priority	Cost
Triphammer Pond	Improve portage and other water access areas.	3,7,8	M	L
	Manage vistas.	3,8	L	L
	Consider multi use access.	3,8	M	L
	Improve stormwater flow in the parking lot.	3,6,8	H	M
	Maintain an open trail corridor throughout the park.	3,6,8	H	M
	Improve signage (trail kiosks, trail blazing and informational signs).	3,8	H	L
	Manage vegetation on the dam.	3,6,8	H	L
	Improve trail tread along the eastern portions of the park.	3,6,8	H	L
	Update wayfinding signs along public ways (town roads).	3,6,7,8	H	L



Resources: Trails Plan and Appendix



- Trail maps with park information
- Funding opportunities
- Trail building contractor and expert volunteer groups
- Best Management Guidelines for Trail Maintenance, Creation of New Natural Surface Trails, Trail Tools and Working with Volunteers

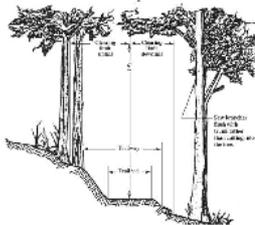
Resources: Trail Maintenance and Tools BMP



Trail Features and their Maintenance

Trail Corridor

The trail corridor include the trail's tread and the area above and to the sides of the treat. The edges of the trail corridor are typically the clearing limits. Vegetation is trimmed back and obstacles like large boulders and fallen trees are removed to provide safe passage.



The dimensions of the corridor are determined by the needs of the target users and the layout of the trail. In Hingham, natural surface trails range between 3' and 5' while paved paths range between 8' and 15'. A vertical clearance of 10-12 feet is recommended in Hingham due to the presence of horses on the trails. Vegetation clearing typically occurs within 1' to 3' of the edge of the trail. Plant material should be cleared all the way to the ground. Fallen logs should be removed to the clearing limit.

Usually trees growing within the trail corridor should be removed. Limbs of trees proximate to the trail corridor should be pruned. Tree pruning should occur as close to the trunk as possible. Always stub cut the branch first, then finish the cut close to the trunk. This prevents stripping the bark of the trunk of the tree. If more than half of the tree needs pruning, it is usually better to cut it down. Cut trees off at ground level and do not leave pointed stubs.

Trail Tread:

The trail tread is the travel surface of the trail. Tread is constructed and maintained to support the designated use of the trail. The best soil type for multi-use trails is a mixture of clay, silt and sand. A combination of these provides for good drainage and durability.

A brief description of the soil series occurring in the Town of Hingham include the sandy Warwick and Quonset soils in our Zone 2 aquifer protection district. These consist of excessively drained soils developed in water sorted sand and gravel occurring on glacial outwash plains, eskers and kames. The newly defined Broadbrook soil series is an example of soils formed on drumlins. These are very deep, well drained soils formed in silty sediments underlain by loamy dense glacial till. Areas within these soils series can be sustainably developed into natural surface trails.

Some other soil series found in Hingham include salt marsh soils classified as Ipswich/Pawcatuck/Matunuck, a complex soil consisting of very deep, level, very poorly drained soils in tidal areas subject to daily inundation by salt water. Trails within the Ipswich/Pawcatuck/Matunuck complex soil units require more complex planning to ensure sustainability.

An outloped trail surface is the objective of trail tread maintenance. An outloped tread is one that is lower on the outside or downhill side of the trail than it is on the inside of bankside. Outloping lets

Trail Maintenance Tools

A wide variety of tools are available for trail maintenance. A trail maintainer needs to learn how to choose the correct tool for the job, use it effectively and safely, care for and store it properly. The right tool should be used for the right job.

Loppers

Uses: Cutting selected limbs or saplings during construction and maintenance phases. Larger models can cut limbs approaching 2" in size. Maintenance Tips: High quality loppers with replaceable parts should be used. Saplings should be clipped flush to the ground and limbs flush to the tree. Loppers must not be thrown on the ground as this may clog the head and dull the blades. At the end of the day, the blade should be cleaned and wiped with light oil.



Hand Pruner

Uses: Cutting small branches encroaching on the trail. Also useful for cutting protruding roots that are tripping hazards. Mostly used for trail maintenance. These are handier and lighter to carry than a lopper when only minor pruning is needed—it should be carried in hand while hiking to clip small branches as encountered.



Pruning Saw

Uses: Cutting limbs encroaching on the trail. Can also be used for cutting small trees or shrubs at the base and removing small to medium sized windfalls. Pruning saws come in a wide variety of sizes and tooth patterns. They range from small folding models with 6" to 8" blades to those with blades up to approximately 26" in length. Blades are curved and cut only on the back-stroke—a handy feature when removing hard to reach limbs. Maintenance Tips: Pruning saws should be resharpened often. A light coat of oil should be applied to the blade after each use.



Bow Saw

Uses: Cutting limbs, small trees, and small to medium sized windfalls—essentially the same as pruning saws except that bow saws can cut larger material. Bow saws have blades ranging from about 21" to 36" in length. The smaller saws are generally triangular in shape and work well for pruning. Their shape limits the length and depth of the stroke to material less than 4" to 5" in diameter. The larger saws are bow-shaped and can cut material up to 8" in diameter, but are more prone to twisting and binding in the cut.



Resources: Trails Plan and Appendix



- Trail maps with park information
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- **Trail Kiosk and blaze design with maps for recommended kiosk locations**

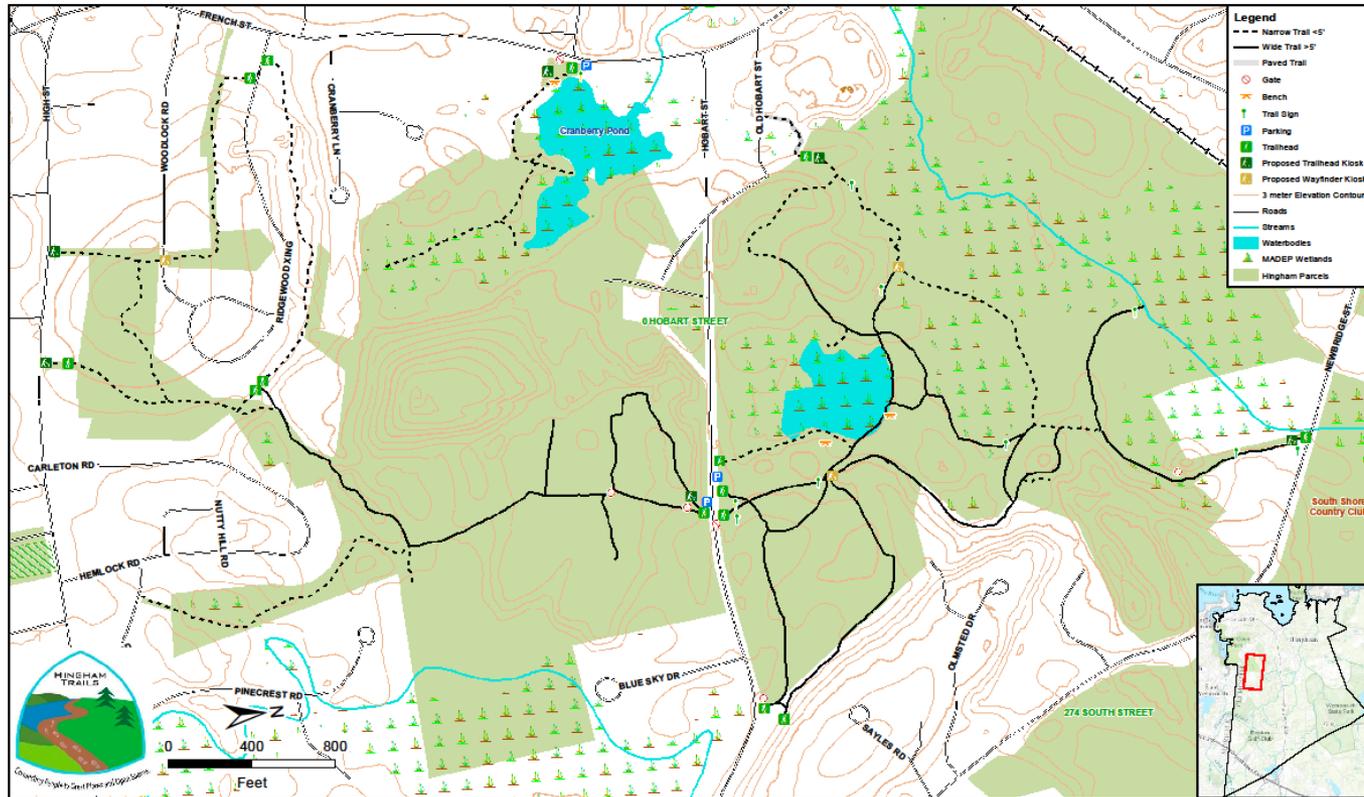
Resources: Recommended Kiosks More Brewer Park Cluster



Open Dusk to Dawn
Hingham Conservation Commission
Contact: (781)741-1445

MORE-BREWER PARK Cranberry Pond (Approx 0.4 miles) Approx 4.9 miles Hobart Street/French Street

Deer hunting is allowed on this property between
October 19 and November 28. Special permit by
the Conservation Commission is required for this activity.



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- **Design scopes for boardwalks, trestle bridge and natural surface multiuse/ADA trails**

Implementation



Volunteer Stewardship (Individuals/Groups)

- Maintenance
- Trail Watch
- Grants and other funds
- Parcel Conservation/Public Access



2015 CPC Grant Application

- Bouve Conservation Area
- Branding (kiosks and blazing)
- Community Innovation Challenge Grant



Proposed Links



Major Links

- Harbor Walk
- Recreation Road/Debry Street Shoppes/Kress Field
- Town Forest/Wompatuck State Park
- Liberty Pole Community/South Elementary School/Cushing Street
- GW Boulevard to Wompatuck State Park
- Bare Cove Park to Plymouth River Complex
- Bare Cove Park to Triphammer Pond

Proposed Links



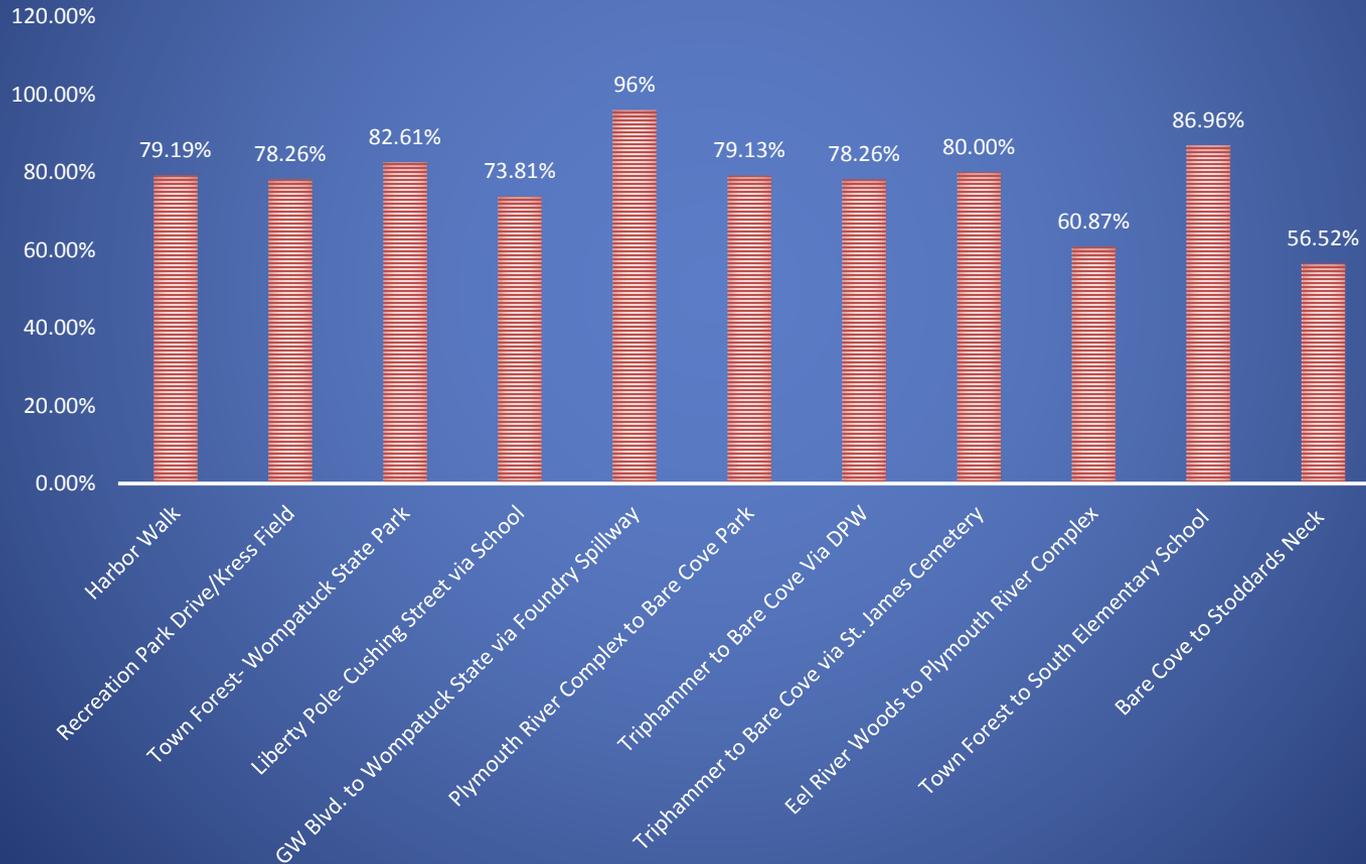
Minor Links

- Eel River Woods to Plymouth River Complex
- George Washington Forest to South Elementary School/Main Street
- Bare Cove Park to Stoddards Neck
 - Underpass
 - Back River Park Unification (Weymouth/Hingham/DCR)

Proposed Links



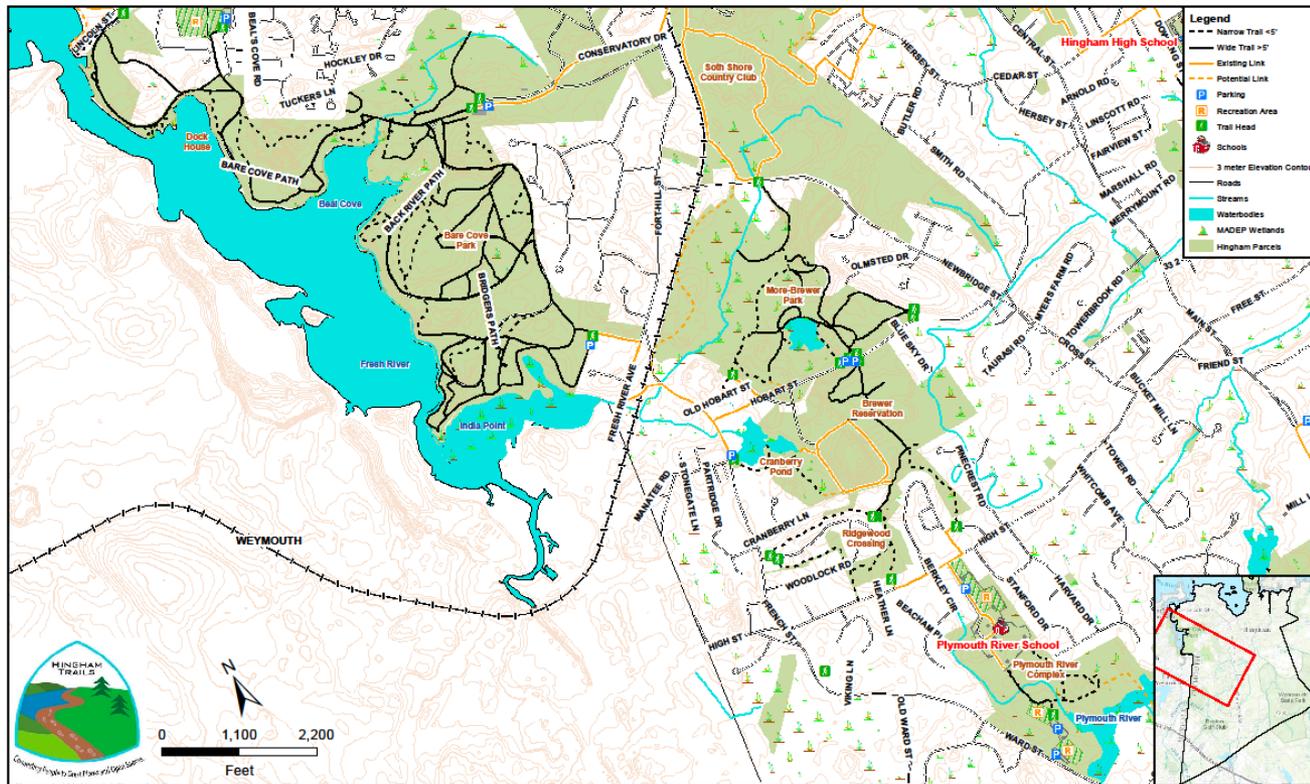
Trail Link Prioritization



Proposed Links



PLYMOUTH RIVER COMPLEX TO BARE COVE PARK



Next Steps



- Public Presentation “Final” Plan
- Call for Civic Engagement:
 - Trail Watch
 - Adopt a Trail
 - Friends of Hingham Trails
 - Support Future Grants
 - Open Space Plan Update
- Branding!

Hingham Trails Branding, Logo and Website

- Logo
- Trail Blazing
- Trail Head Kiosks
- Wayfinding Kiosks
- Grants, funding and volunteer efforts
- Website
 - <http://www.hingham-ma.gov/Committees/Trails/index.html>



Stewardship Opportunities Volunteers Needed!



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