

BWALT Multi-use Trail Explorations

BWALT is a multi-use trail proposed to go from Framingham to Worcester, with side trails to Marlborough and Berlin. The trail follows the route of the Boston and Worcester Air Line Trolley (BWALT). The trail utilizes the Wachusett Aqueduct and the former second track of the rail line from Framingham to Clinton for parts of its route. BWALT will connect a number of other multi-use trails in the area together. The concept plan for the complete trail is available on the Town of Westborough website under the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (https://www.town.westborough.ma.us/sites/westboroughma/files/uploads/bwalt_v2.pdf).

The Town of Westborough Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, in cooperation with the other towns, is hosting a series of walks and talks this year to introduce people to the proposal for the trail.

Walk - A look at the trolley line as a multi-use trail in Westborough

Sunday May 6th Car Shuttle 1:30PM Walk 2PM to 4PM Rain date May 20th

Meet at 2000 West Park Drive, a car shuttle will be organized

Distance: 2 ½ miles

This will be a walk on the right of way of the Boston Worcester Air Line Trolley which the Town of Westborough is working to make a trail. We will discuss the progress and the problems of building on an old right of way that was broken up and sold off over 85 years ago. We will highlight our initial construction of the trail and what our plans are for connecting the MBTA station to the various office parks in Westborough. This is a fairly easy walk, good walking shoes are required.

Talks - A look at the Boston Worcester Airline Trail and its status

Thursday May 17th 7PM in Westborough at the Westborough Town Hall - Memorial Hall

Thursday June 14th 7PM in Northborough at the Northborough Town Hall – Selectmen’s Meeting Room

Thursday August 9th 6:30PM in Shrewsbury at the Shrewsbury Town Hall - Selectmen’s Meeting Room

Thursday September 27th 7PM in Southborough at the Southborough Library

Each talk will look at the history of the trolley, the aqueduct and the railroad that form the infrastructure of the proposed multi-use trail. The talk will discuss approaches to building the trail and the challenges and benefits of having the trail. The current status of the trail, and the plans for the immediate future will be discussed. Each talk will concentrate on the town it is being hosted in.

Walk - A look at the Wachusett Aqueduct as a multi-use trail in Northborough

Sunday June 10th Car Shuttle 1:30PM Walk 2PM to 4PM Rain date June 16th

Meet at Casey Field parking lot off East Main St, a car shuttle will be organized to Cedar Hill Parking

Distance: 3 ¼ miles

This will be a walk on the right of way of the Wachusett Aqueduct which the Town of Northborough has made a walking trail and is working to make it a multi-use trail. We will discuss the problems of building on the aqueduct, and the wonderful possibilities for linking much of Northborough together. This is a fairly easy walk, good walking shoes are required.

Future Events

We hope to have a walk in Shrewsbury in August, and a walk on the west end of the trail in Westborough in September. We are exploring the possibility of additional talks about bicycling and multi-use trails.