

Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Chelmsford and Westford Trail Crews

Maintenance Guidelines

Thank you for volunteering to be a Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (FBFRT) Trail Crew member. You are helping make the trail more pleasurable for others. You are also helping the Towns reduce maintenance costs.

FBFRT Trail Crew light maintenance activities include:

- Picking up litter and obsolete signage along the trail
- Sweeping debris off the trail
- Removing weeds by hand or with a weed whacker
- Mowing grass with a push mower (motorized or non-motorized)

Light maintenance does not include activities performed by the Towns, specially trained volunteers, and MassDOT. Those activities are listed at the end of these guidelines.

There are no requirements for what type(s) of light maintenance you perform or how often you perform it. You may choose to restrict your maintenance activities to litter pickup once a month. We are grateful for any and all help. If you weren't doing it, it wouldn't be done. We do ask that you follow the guidelines below.

For additional information, please contact the Trail Crew Coordinator for your Town by sending an email to info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org.

Appearances

- You are an ambassador for the rail trail, please be courteous to all trail users and abutters
- When practical, wear a FBFRT t-shirt and/or cap when performing maintenance activities. These articles of clothing will be provided free of charge.
- Be prepared to answer the following questions:
 - 1) *When will the trail be extended?*
Not as soon as we would like:
The portion from Rt. 225 into Concord is in the design phase.
Construction is tentatively scheduled for the 2021-2025 timeframe
Practically speaking, no sooner than 5 years to completed construction, given successful advocacy efforts by the FBFRT.
Check www.brucefreemanrailtrail.org for up-to-date status.
 - 2) *Why don't the mile markings begin at 0.0?*
0.0 is at the railroad terminus in Lowell; Phase 1 begins at mile 1.6
 - 3) *What is the distance between two points on the trail?*
Reference the trail map to estimate distances

4) *What is the length of the trail?*

Phase 1: 6.8 miles

Final completed total: 25 miles to Rt. 9 in Framingham

5) *What is the appropriate trail etiquette?*

Reference signs on the trail

6) *How to volunteer?*

Contact info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org

Subject: BFRT Maintenance

7) *How to have concerns about the trail addressed or items added to the trail?*

Chelmsford: Chelmsford.BPAC@gmail.com and

CMcLain@TownofChelmsford.us

Westford: psavage@westfordma.gov and eteller@earthlink.net

Know what to do in an emergency

- Dial 9-1-1 to summon police/fire/medical assistance.
- Provide information regarding the specific location on the rail trail that assistance is needed, such as the mile marker or cross street.

Be courteous and respectful of abutters and their property

- Limit use of motorized yard tools in residential neighborhoods to between 7AM and 7PM on weekdays and 9AM to 7PM on weekends.
- Don't use backyards, wetlands, or the trail as a bathroom.
See the trail map for the locations of restroom facilities.
Also, some businesses may allow you to use their restrooms.

Maintain awareness of activity on the trail

- Avoid performing maintenance when the trail is busiest, particularly for activities other than litter pick up.
- Yield to trail users.
- Avoid any actions that might impede the progress of trail users.
- Stop mowers or weed whackers as trail users approach and while they are passing.

Use appropriate tools and techniques

- No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail.
- No chemical weed killers, no pesticides, no insecticides.
- Use manual tools where feasible.
- Clean up any debris on the trail resulting from your maintenance activities.
- Stay out of wetland areas.
- Remove rubbish and debris only when it can be easily reached without disturbing property or vegetation along the trail.

- Note the location and alert the Trail Crew Coordinator when rubbish needs to be removed from wetland areas.
- No chain saw use without authorization by the Trail Crew Coordinator.
- No riding mowers; use a push mower instead. Motorized and self-propelling push mowers are ok.
- Clip weeds in the shoulder area instead of pulling them out with the roots. Pulling weeds out by the roots will destabilize the surface of the shoulder, increasing the opportunity for erosion.

Use appropriate precautions

- Use thick gloves and/or a grabber to pick up litter and debris.
- Don't pick up anything that seems dangerous.
That includes needles and syringes, suspicious containers, gas cylinders, broken glass, and animal remains.
Note the location and contact the Trail Crew Coordinator.
- Wear safety glasses and closed-toe shoes when using weed whackers and mowers.
- Avoid loose stones and rocks when using weed whackers and mowers.
- Contact the Trail Crew Coordinator about any trail maintenance issues (lights out in Rt. 3 tunnel, graffiti, fallen and falling trees, pavement problems, potentially dangerous items, etc.).
- Contact the Trail Crew Coordinator about acceptable parking options.

Dispose of material properly

- The Trail Crew Coordinator will provide information about disposal facilities.
- Mulch or remove brush, leaves, and weed trimmings from the site.
- Do NOT dispose of branches, weeds, leaves, grass clippings, etc. in wetland areas.
- Properly dispose of trash collected along the trail.
- Contact the Trail Crew Coordinator to arrange disposal of tires, bulky items electronic items, and hazardous material.
- Contact the Trail Crew Coordinator or appropriate store for pick up of shopping carts in good condition.
- Contact the Trail Crew Coordinator about removal of unofficial signs on the trail.

Activities beyond the scope of light maintenance

The Town and/or specially trained volunteers provide support for the following activities:

- Full sweeping of the trail twice per year
- Repairing damaged pavement
- Repairing damaged shoulders
- Repairing damaged railings
- Installing signs
- Stenciling the pavement (e.g., mile markings)

- Removing large and/or potentially hazardous debris (e.g., falling or fallen trees, needles and syringes)
- Removing debris, litter, and invasive species from wetland areas
- Removing graffiti

MassDOT is responsible for the following:

- Removing graffiti from the Rt. 495 overpass
 - Maintaining the Rt. 3 tunnel infrastructure, including replacement of lights
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If you are interested in helping with more extensive maintenance, please contact the Trail Crew Coordinator for your Town at info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org.

Thank you very much for your help!!
