

Welcome to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. The trail is a former railroad corridor, now converted into a paved 10-foot-wide, 12.2-mile-long, universally accessible path.

It is part of the Massachusetts State Parks, and runs parallel to Route 8 through the towns of Cheshire, Lanesborough and Adams.



The Trail’s gentle grade and smooth surface create perfect conditions for cyclists, skaters, walkers, runners, and cross-country skiers of all ages and abilities.

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail stretches from the southernmost entrance of the Berkshire Mall in Lanesborough to the center of Adams.

The word *Ashuwillticook* (ash-oo-WILL-ti-cook) is from the Native American name for the south branch of the Hoosic River and literally means “at the in-between pleasant river,” or in common tongue, “the pleasant river in between the hills.” The name was adopted for the trail as a way to reconnect people to local history and the natural environment.

## History of the Rail Corridor

In 1845, the Pittsfield & North Adams Railroad developed this corridor with the goal of extending the Housatonic Railroad north to Rutland, Vermont. While the track was under construction, the company was acquired by the Western Railroad, which used the corridor as a secondary line.

In 1867, the Western Railroad became known as the Boston & Albany Railroad. During this time, mineral traffic developed on the line and a number of limestone operations went into business. The New York Central took over the B&A Railroad in 1900, and up-graded the line.

New York Central became part of Penn-Central (later Conrail) in 1970 and sold the line to Boston & Maine Railroad in 1981.

Boston & Maine Railroad ran the line as a connection to an existing track in North Adams, with declining success until the company abandoned rail service in 1990.

Seeing the potential for recreational use of the corridor, citizens organized to preserve the right-of-way. The Ashuwillticook River Trail Committee soon formed and worked to gain the local and political support needed to make this rail trail a reality.



The Berkshire Bike Path Council (BBPC) is a non-profit membership organization, formed in 1998, dedicated to facilitating and maintaining bike path development in Berkshire County and having fun along the way. Its website offers regular updates on trail conditions and events. Contact the BBPC to find out how to support the Ashuwillticook and future bike paths in Berkshire County.

[www.berkshirebikepath.com](http://www.berkshirebikepath.com)  
[email: info@berkshirebikepath.com](mailto:info@berkshirebikepath.com)

## Volunteers Welcome

## Amazing Scenery

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail passes through the Hoosic River Valley, between Mt. Greylock and the Hoosac Mountains. Cheshire Reservoir, the Hoosic River, and associated wetland communities flank much of the trail offering outstanding views and abundant wildlife.



*Top: Fishing at Farnum’s Crossing is a popular activity for trail users.*

*Top left: A fall ride on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.*

*Left: The trail’s paved surface makes it universally accessible.*

*Above: The trail offers outstanding views of the Hoosac Mountain Range.*



Ayer – Dunstable, 11 miles  
Nashua River Rail Trail,  
Dennis – Wellfleet, 23 miles  
Cape Cod Rail Trail,  
Northampton – Belchertown, 10.5 miles  
Norwottuck Rail Trail,

## Other Massachusetts State Parks and Recreation Rail Trails

are open seasonally during daylight hours.  
Mall Road and Farnams Road. Comfort stations located at the trail parking areas off Berkshire

## Public Restrooms/Comfort Stations/

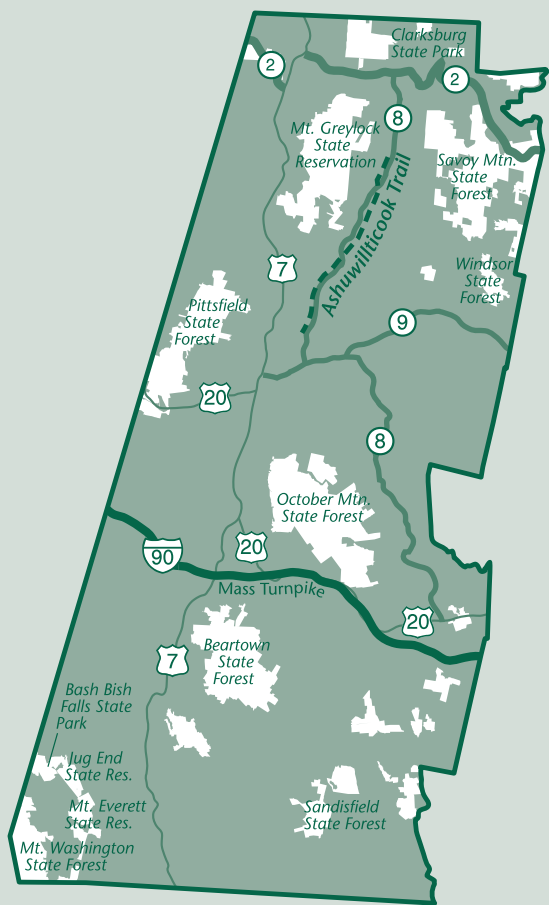
The trail, restrooms and amenities are universally accessible.

## Universal Access

Parking areas are located just off Route 8 at the trailhead on Berkshire Mall Road in Lanesborough, on Farnams Crossing in Cheshire, at Church Street in Cheshire, Harmony Street in Adams and the Adams Town parking lot off Hoosac Street.

## Parking





DIRECTIONS TO ASHUWILLTICOOK RAIL TRAIL

**From the south:** take the Mass Pike to exit 2, then Route 20 west to Route 7 north, Route 9 east to Route 8 north. Signs for Ashuwillticook parking areas are located on Route 8.

**From the north:** take Route 2 to Route 8 south, look for signs for Ashuwillticook parking along route 8.

For more information on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, contact the DCR Regional Headquarters at 413-442-8928, Box 1433, 740 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01202

ASHUWILLTICOOK RAIL TRAIL

	Paved Rail Trail
	Hiking Trail
	Major Road
	Other Road
	State Property
	Parking
	Restrooms
	Railroad
	Mountain Summit
	Town Boundary
	Lake, Reservoir
	River, Brook
	Contour Line

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TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

To ensure the safety of all trail users please observe the following guidelines:

- Stay on the trail and respect adjacent private property
- Keep to the right
- When stopped do not block the path
- Alert others before passing by bell, horn, or verbally
- Stop at intersections and obey all signage
- Wear protective headgear. This is required by state law for children 16 years and younger on bicycles
- Make sure young children are strapped into child carriers attached to or behind your bicycle
- Clean up after dogs and keep them on a leash
- The trail is open dawn to dusk. Commuters, with appropriate lights, may use the trail after dark at their own risk
- Carry out what you carry in

Please no:

- Motorized vehicles
- Feeding the geese or any wildlife
- Horses
- Alcoholic beverages
- Fires
- Hunting or trapping
- Removal of any park resources

Sponsored by:

