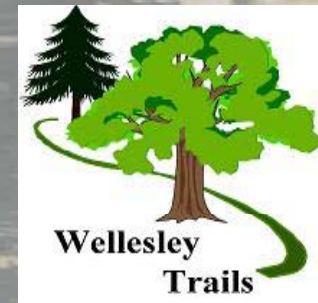
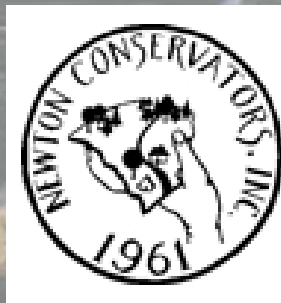


Charles River Lower Falls Rail-to-Trail Bridge Conversion

Proposal to the Newton CPC

January 14, 2009



Proposal Scope

- **This proposal funds converting an unimproved former rail bridge over the Charles River and its approaches into a pedestrian friendly trail, providing excellent recreational and smart growth opportunities to benefit residents.**
- **This conversion will provide a walkable public green space environment to residents of Newton, including Lower Falls and adjacent communities.**
 - Access to trails on DCR land along both sides of the Charles River
 - Access to a mixed-use retail development on the Wellesley side proposed for the near term
 - Reduced traffic and parking congestion accessing Washington Street

Lower Falls Bridge Site Location

DCR Bridge at Wellesley - Newton Border



Disclaimer:
This map is for display purposes only - it is not intended for survey or legal purposes. Questions about specific datalayers on this map should be directed to the respective Town board, committee, or department. The Town of Wellesley expressly disclaims responsibility for damages or liability that may arise from any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided herein.

Lower Falls Former Rail Bridge



Project Benefits

Preserves Community Character:

- Helps to enhance the quality of community life
 - Provides a safe and walkable green trail for community recreation, promoting health and relaxation.
 - Connects Newton Lower Falls to an extended Wellesley trail network
 - Enables car-free strolls to a new mixed development over the bridge, reducing potential traffic and parking congestion
- Preserves opportunities that would otherwise be lost
 - This bridge has been idling under DCR jurisdiction since 1975
 - Unless converted to a pedestrian trail, the structure may need to be removed for the safety risk it poses tempting local children to cross.

Project Benefits

Uses Funds Efficiently:

- Builds on existing resources
 - Extant Charles River rail bridge structure and corridor for conversion.
 - Puts unused DCR land to good use for public benefit
- Leverages other public and private resources
 - Design funds pledged through Wellesley Natural Resources Comm., Newton Conservators, and the DCR
 - Newton CPC funds for conversion to be matched by Wellesley CPC
 - DCR will then match the total to complete the project
 - Leverages funds beyond what Newton could achieve on its own

Project Benefits

Serves Diverse Needs and Offers a Long-Term Vision:

- Improves public access to open space and recreation
 - An extended walking trail network in Wellesley
- Long-term vision of extending a complete trail to Riverside
 - Lengthened opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle recreation
 - Would allow for car-free commuter access to the MBTA
 - Would provide a safe-routes-to-school pedestrian corridor
 - Allow improved public pedestrian access to the golf course & ski track from Lower Falls and from the Riverside MBTA station

This aerial map of Riverside, Massachusetts, illustrates the proposed MBTA Commuter Rail alignment. The rail line, shown as a thick orange line, runs from the left side of the map, through the Leo J Martin Golf Course, and towards the Riverside MBTA Station, which is highlighted with a green circular area. A dashed blue line indicates the Riverside Rail Trail. The DCR Bridge is marked with a red circle at the bottom center. Major roads like Orchard Avenue, Blake Road, and various local streets are labeled. The map also shows the surrounding residential areas and green spaces.

Bridge Conversion Resources

Bridge Detailed Design Study:

- Completion to be funded through \$12,000 already appropriated by the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission and the Newton Conservators, combined with \$24,000 in matching funds from the DCR.

Bridge Conversion Costs:

- Estimate of the bridge conversion alone amounts to \$242,000
- Estimate of bridge & approaches total conversion costs could reach \$400,000

•Newton CPC Funding Request:

- \$100,000 to cover 25% share of bridge conversion
- Wellesley CPC funding a similar 25% share, DCR the remaining 50%

Further Opportunities and Resources

Massachusetts Environmental Bond Bill

- A \$75,000 funding earmark for a design study has been placed in the Massachusetts Environmental Bond Bill to extend this potential green trail from Lower Falls to Riverside.

Future Green Trail Conversion

- A further Newton CPC investment of up to \$600,000 would leverage the approximately \$1.2 million required to develop the entire green trail link from Lower Falls to Riverside.

Project Management and Input

DCR Project Management:

- Project management, budgeting, and updates will be provided by the DCR.
- The converted bridge and approaches will be maintained by the DCR through regular funding appropriated for recreational trail upkeep.
- Partnership Matching Funds program solicits community design input.

Community Input:

- Meetings must be scheduled during the spring of 2009
- Address design issues, air concerns, generate enthusiasm, and build support

Project Timetable

Project TITLE: <i>Lower Falls Rail-to-Trail Charles River Bridge Conversion</i>				
STEPS <i>BIG steps, SHORT descriptions!</i>	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED <i>What must other organizations or City depts. do (raise funds, issue permits, etc.)?</i>	START <i>season/year</i>	COMPLETE <i>season/year</i>	COST <i>estimate</i>
1 DCR matching funds approval for detailed design study		October 2008	Dec 2008	
2 Town of Wellesley approval of CPA funding for construction costs			April 2009	
3 Community meetings on the proposal to air concerns, generate enthusiasm, and build support	Participation from community organizations including the BPTF, Newton Conservators, Green Decade, Bike Newton, CRWA, and Lower Falls neighbors and abutters	Spring 2009	Summer 2009	
4 DCR Bridge Conversion Detailed Design Study	Design participation from the Newton Conservation Commission and the Newton Planning & Development Department	Spring 2009	Fall 2009	\$36,000
5 CPA Funding Available	Newton spending department authority to transfer funds to the DCR partnership program		Fall 2009	\$100,000
6 DCR matching funds approval for construction costs		October 2009	Dec 2009	
7 Bridge and approaches construction	Planning participation from the Newton Planning & Development Department	Spring 2010	Fall 2010	\$400,000