

From Rails to Trails

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Eversource Underground Transmission Line and the Mass Central Rail Trail

After many years of planning and permitting, December saw the commencement of the construction of the Eversource Underground Transmission Line which will be followed by the installation of the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT).

Tree and invasive species removal started at the substation near the Wayland Town Line on December 19th and proceeded to Bridge 127. After one month of construction, all trees have been removed, erosion controls have been installed, and the rails and ties have been removed within this segment of the project (Segment 14). Following completion of tree removal within this segment, the tree operation

moved to the Hudson Town line and will continue west to east through the remainder of the corridor. Clearing is currently underway in Segment 10, which is between Peakham Road and Horse Pond Road, and is proceeding about 1,000 linear feet at a time, followed by a couple days of chipping the woody material up. All work is proceeding in compliance with required permits. Environmental Compliance Reports and construction schedules are updated weekly and posted to the Conservation Commission website at:

<https://sudbury.ma.us/conservationcommission/?p=2496>

Some photos of the ongoing activities are below. The anticipated construction timeline for this project is 18-24 months, closely followed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation paving the gravel path and installing trail amenities, which is anticipated to take an additional year.



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Work on the Eversource underground transmission line project shown left to right:
1) During Tree Removal, 2) Following Chipping Operation and 3) Following Rail/Tie Removal

From Rails to Trails continued...

During construction, public access is not permitted within the corridor. However, the contractor is permitting access across Segment 7, which runs from the Hudson Town line to Bridge 128, at two trail connections, during time-of-year restrictions

when construction activities are not permitted. The two access points are at the major trail junction at the Hudson/Sudbury Town line and at the Desert Loop. Access across the corridor at these two locations is permitted from May 1 through July 31st.



The historic Diamond, where the BFRT and MCRT will meet.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

On January 23rd, work commenced on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT). Work started at the southern most portion of the project, where the trail will intersect with the Mass Central Rail Trail. Work will commence south to north to where the trail stopped in Concord. Currently chain saw crews are removing small trees and invasive species on foot. This phase will take about three weeks. Staff is working with the contractor to determine future phases of the project. A new webpage has been created on the Commission's website to provide information of this project as it becomes available: <https://sudbury.ma.us/conservationcommission/bruce-freeman-rail-trail/>.

Construction of Sudbury's portion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will complete the trail from Lowell to Union Road in Sudbury. With the recent purchase of the CSX corridor, the Town is working on extending the BRFT to Route 20 in the next phase, followed by the completion of the trail to the Framingham Town line in future years.