

Corridor Management Plan for Massachusetts Central Rail Trail and Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project

This Corridor Management Plan (CMP) has been developed specifically for those portions of the existing MBTA corridor where DCR's proposed Massachusetts Central Rail Trail Project will be located along Eversource's proposed Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project in the towns of Sudbury, Marlborough, Stow, and Hudson. This CMP will be shared with DCR and Eversource staff engaged in management activities.

The construction of the MCRT is anticipated to begin within one year of the completion of the Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project and as such, DCR plans to take responsibility for the following along this corridor following construction of both the Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project and the MCRT:

Once a week DCR plans to:

- Empty trash receptacles, if present; and
- Check and restock brochures

At least once every two weeks between Memorial Day and Columbus Day DCR plans to:

- Mow the 2-foot wide shoulders on each side of the paved multi-use trail
- Blow debris from paved and stabilizer pathways
- Inspect for and remove fallen or immediate hazard trees and limbs that impede safe use of the multi-use trail
- Remove graffiti and dumping, if it has occurred

Once a year (typically following Columbus Day weekend) DCR plans to:

- Mow the areas over the Eversource duct bank and water quality swales (if mowing occurs between April 1 and November 1, then areas within mapped habitat for state-listed turtles will require "turtle sweeps" by trained individuals ahead of the mower and mower deck heights shall be set higher than 10 inches above the ground)
- Follow its current Best Management Practices for Managing Terrestrial Invasive Plants

At least every two years DCR plans to:

- Inspect culverts, swales and other drainage structures and clean as needed
- Inspect existing paved surfaces of the multi-use trail to identify areas where root damage to pavement is beginning to occur. As appropriate pick / dig / remove roots causing the damage.
- Trim/remove potential hazard trees AND those that appear to be causing root damage to the existing pavement of the multi-use trail
- Inspect trail signs and replace as needed, avoid "sign clutter" and remove excess /old signage

***Every 10-15 years DCR plans to:**

- Saw-cut, excavate and repave targeted areas of root damage or cracks
- Consider mill and overlay to extend pathway life (no expansion or widening of multi-use trail; these activities require agency consultations and potential permitting)

- Repair deteriorated decking on bridges as needed
- Re-loam and re-seed shoulders to address edge issues

**If heavy equipment is used for any of these activities between April 1 and November 1 then “turtle sweeps” by trained individuals are required immediately ahead of any equipment.*

Every 25-35 years DCR plans to:

- Design and implement full pathway reconstruction (if required). This requires agency consultations and permitting and would require the development of turtle protection measures specific to the proposed reconstruction activities.

If DCR’s MCRT is not constructed for unforeseen reasons, then every four years from completion of Eversource’s transmission line project, Eversource plans to:

- Manage the herbaceous community over the duct bank only. All other previously disturbed areas, outside of the 14-foot-wide gravel access road associated with the Project will be allowed to revegetate with woody species.
 - Vegetation management will be conducted as part of the Company’s Vegetation Management Plan that is approved by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources in compliance with 333 CMR 11.00.
 - The Company is required to present annual Vegetation Management Plans (VMP) to the NHESP for review and approval as per 321 CMR 10.14 (16). MNHESP sends a formal written response and attaches management guidelines that the Company must follow when performing routine vegetation management activities. In general, routine vegetation management is completed through a combination of mechanical mowing and targeted spot treatments with herbicides. As per past management guidelines related to state-listed turtle species imposed by NHESP along other utility corridors, the Company will avoid mowing between April 1 and November 1, conduct turtle sweeps prior to mowing, and set mower blades 10 inches above the ground.