

## The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Is Now Under Construction

The long wait for construction to begin on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is over! Construction started on January 20, 2023. I expect it will be completed in about 18 months, by the summer of 2024.



*Looking north along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail where it will cross the Mass Central Rail Trail, a work crew clearing brush from the corridor, January, 20, 2023.*

Here are some basics of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury:

- Distance: 4.4 miles, (north-south)
- Northern end: Sudbury / Concord town line
- Southern end: Station Road, near the former AAA Limo building
- Surface: 10-foot wide paved, with 2-foot packed shoulders
- Brook Crossings: Pantry Brook, Hop Brook
- Activities: Non-motorized uses; walking, jogging, cycling, & roller blading

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail road crossings:

North Road/Route 117

Pantry Road

Haynes Road

Morse Road

Hudson Road/Rt. 27

Old Lancaster Road

Codjer Lane

What is the Bruce Freeman near? This spotting map may help:

## Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury



### CONNECTING

- Frost Farm (residential)
- Davis Field (recreation)
- Haynes Elementary School
- Lincoln-Sudbury High School
- Featherland Fields & Recreation Area
- Nixon Elementary School
- St. Elizabeth Church
- Parkinson Fields (recreation)
- Sudbury Town Square (commercial)
- Town Center, Town Hall
- Noyes Elementary School
- Heritage Park
- Police & Fire Department Headquarters
- Chiswick Park Area (commercial)
- Sudbury Commercial District
- Meadow Walk, residential and commercial

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Funding:

- Complete. Sudbury has paid for the design, about one million dollars. State and federal funds will build the entire trail, including the two bridges, at a cost of over ten million dollars.

Tell me more:

- When fully built out, the BFRT will be 24 miles long, from Lowell to Framingham, with a specially built bridge over Route 2 in Concord for trail users.

- When the BFRT opens in about 18 months, a section of the Mass Central Rail Trail, the Wayside Branch, should be opening at about the same time.

What is the Mass Central Rail Trail?

- A rail trail, just like the Bruce Freeman, but it runs east-west. It will be paved, 10-foot wide, with shoulders. When complete, the Mass Central will go from Boston to Northampton, more than 100 miles, through 26 central Massachusetts communities.

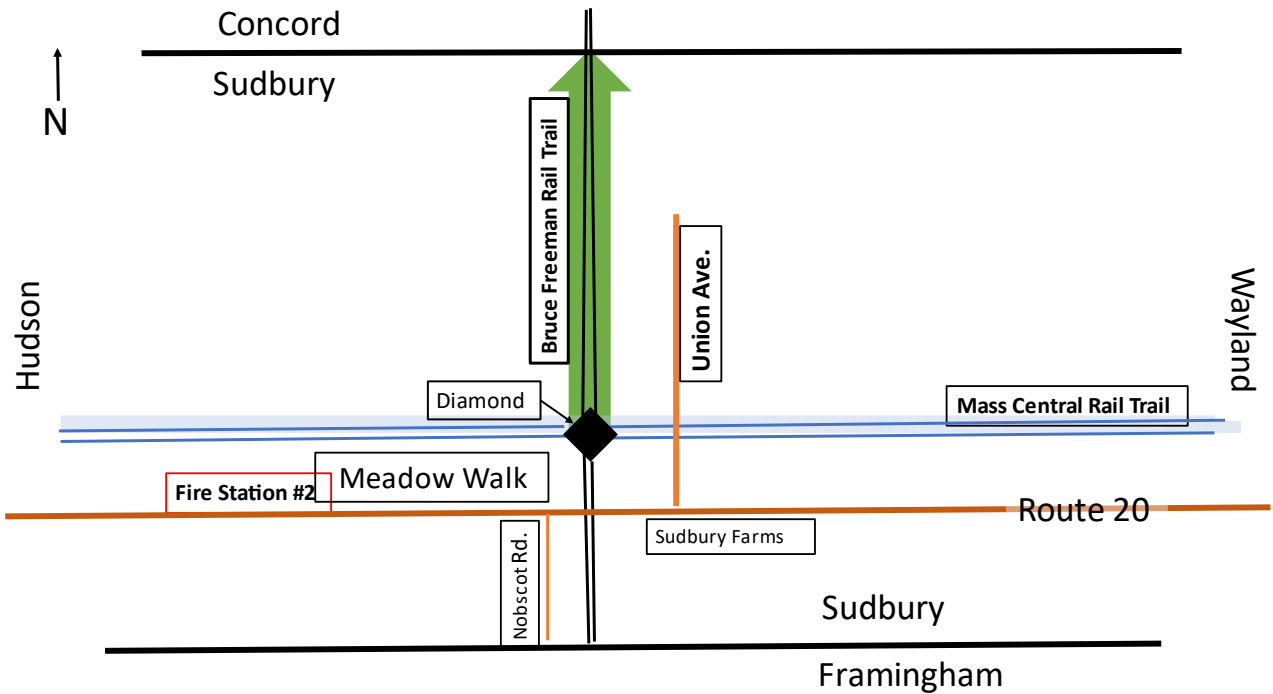
Why are you talking about the Mass Central Rail Trail now?

- Because the *north-south* Bruce Freeman will intersect with the *east-west* Mass Central right here in Sudbury! The cross-track is in the foreground of the picture above. The intersection of the two rail trails, known as the 'diamond', will have a roundabout and rest areas nearby. When all is said and done you will be able to walk, ride, or run on 125 contiguous miles of the most gorgeous rail trails in Massachusetts. The diamond is less than a quarter mile north of Rt. 20 and downtown Sudbury. You will be able to swing down for an ice cream, a snack, or a meal.

How come we didn't hear much about the Mass Central Rail Trail before?

- The Mass Central will be a paved, multi-use path the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will build above the underground transmission line Eversource is installing.

This diagram, not to scale, may help:



Does the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail go all the way to Route 20?

- Not yet. However, the town owns the land (former CSX corridor) and plans to extend the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail across Rt. 20 and then down to the Framingham city line.

Then what?

- Framingham recently bought 3.5 miles of the CSX corridor and plans to continue the BFRT south to Route 30.

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