



Northampton Rail-trail News

Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways, Inc. (<http://www.fntg.net>) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports the expanding network of rail-trails in Northampton, Massachusetts. Volume 6, Summer 2011

In time for summer: new map and brochure

Our new map and brochure is hot off the press and ready for Bike Week and the ribbon-cutting. It includes a Five College area map, a large map of Easthampton and Northampton, as well as downtown maps.

We're pleased as punch to be able to bring this to you. It was made possible by the work of Jon Caris (from Smith College's Spatial Analysis Lab) to create some really useful maps to help guide people to the wonderful system of trails that are now available in our community. In addition, our partnership with the Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail led to incredibly helpful feedback that improved the look, feel, and accuracy of the maps (which now cover almost all of Easthampton and some of Southampton).

The map couldn't be made available for free without the generous support of our sponsors. These include: A2Z Science and Learning Store (Northampton), Bidwell ID (Florence), Construct Associates (Northampton), Cooper's Corner (Florence), East Village Cafe (Easthampton), Florence Soft Serve, FJ Rogers (Florence), Good for the Soles (Northampton), Hott Productions (Florence), MassBike/Pioneer Valley, Mill River Greenway, Modern Myths (Northampton), Mt Tom's Homemade Ice Cream (Easthampton), Northampton Bicycle, Northampton Cycling Club, Paradise Copies (Northampton), Pedal to Properties (Northampton), Riffs Joint (Easthampton and Northampton), Serio's Market (Northampton), Sugar Maple Trailside Inn (Florence) and Southampton Bicycle Center. Please stop by any or all of them to pick up a copy and let them know that you appreciate their support.

The Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways was established in 2006 to help support this growing network of transportation and recreation paths. Your volunteer efforts and financial support help to extend them even further.

See you on the trails!

Nicholas Horton, President

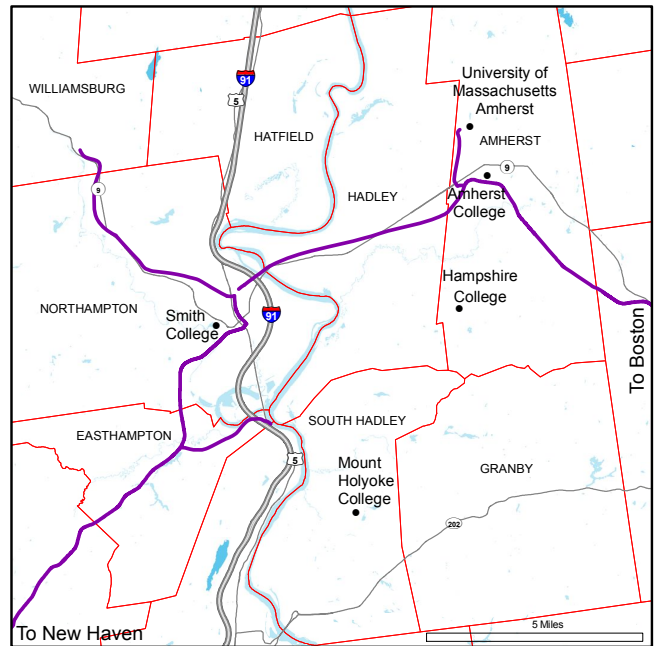


Figure : The Five College area map included in the new brochure

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Ribbon cutting on Sunday, May 22nd

Be sure to join the festivities for the ribbon-cutting of the new trail and bridge to Easthampton on Sunday, May 22nd. The grand opening rolling party will mark the completion of the Manhan Rail Trail extension from Easthampton to Northampton. The day will begin at 10:00am at the Millside Park (corner of Ferry Street and Pleasant Street) in Easthampton with music and light refreshments at the band shell. Other musical groups will be performing along the trail between the park and the big bridge over Route 10 in Northampton.

At noon, a brief ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on the bridge, with Easthampton and Northampton mayors, state officials and other politicians and dig-

nitaries in attendance. The new kiosks (and their innovative and attractive structure) will be unveiled as well.

Then the party will roll along to Veterans Field in Northampton (just off Route 66 next to the Felt Building and Smith College) where more music and food will be available from 1:00-2:00pm.

The whole day promises to be a chance to explore and enjoy these new paths. The Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail website (<http://manhanrailtrail.org/>) has further details (as well as rain plans, in the unlikely event of bad weather). Kudos to Juliane Casey from Smith College, the Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail and the Cities of Easthampton and Northampton for their work to make this happen.

Trail neighbor award to Smith College

FNTG is pleased to award Smith College our Trail Neighbor award for 2011. This is given annually to an individual, family, or organization that works on behalf of the Northampton rail trail network. There are lots of ways that many people and institutions support this burgeoning network, and this award lets us publically recognize those who have played a part. Past recipients include the residents of Six-Eight High Street in Florence, Craig and Kathy Della Penna, and the City of Northampton Department of Public Works.

Smith College is being honored for the multiple ways that it supports the trails, most notably funding the new crosswalks and bike lanes on Elm Street (just repainted this week), providing pro-bono assistance with

the creation of the maps for our new brochure, supporting the Bike Kitchen project, creating multiple opportunities for interns working at the Office of Planning and Development, formalizing the existing trail right of way from Prince Street/Route 66 to Olander Dr/Northampton State Hospital and investigating the feasibility of creating a spur off the trail to connect to South Street via Hebert Avenue as part of an Engineering design clinic project. These efforts, in addition to sustainability initiatives at the College, are helping to make a better community for us all.

The award will be presented as part of the Bike Week festivities at the Northampton Bike Breakfast (which runs from 7:00-10:00am on the Courthouse Lawn).

Northampton is Bike Friendly Community



Figure : The logo (included on our new brochure) for Northampton's new honor

A new distinction for Northampton is formal recognition that it is a great place to ride a bike. In April, the League of American Bicyclists named Northampton a Bike Friendly Community at the Bronze level. This acknowledges the work that the City and its partner organizations (including the Bike/Ped subcommittee of the City Transportation Committee, the Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways as well as Mass-Bike) have undertaken to improve bicycling infrastructure. We look forward to further improvements to allow us to get to Silver status in future years.