



FARMINGTON VALLEY TRAILS COUNCIL

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State of the Trails 2016

The approximately **80.2 miles** of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT) from New Haven, CT to Northampton, MA, and the **16.1 miles** of the Farmington River Trail (FRT) is one of the most picturesque and historic greenways in New England. Chart as of February, 2016.

Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

<u>Town</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Remaining</u>	<u>Designed</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Funded</u>
Northampton	3.5	3.5	0		100	
Easthampton	3.7	3.7	0		100	
Southampton	3.9	0	3.9		0	
Westfield	7.4	2.6	4.8		35	
Southwick	6.2	6.1	0		100	
Total (MA)	24.7	15.9	8.7	0.0	63%	
Suffield	1.2	1.2	0		100	
Granby	1.1	1.1	0		100	
East Granby	5.3	5.3	0		100	
Simsbury	7.5	7.5	0		100	
Avon	4.7	4.7	0		100	
Farmington	4.8	2.3	2.5	2.5	48	\$5.1m
Plainville	4.3	0	4.3	0	0	Yes, plan
Southington	6.6	4.0	2.6	2.6	61	
Cheshire	7.1	3.9	3.2	2.5	55	Yes
Hamden	9.5	9.5	0		100	
New Haven	3.4	1.8	1.6	1.6	47	Yes
Total (CT)	55.5	41.3	14.2	7.2	73%	
TOTAL	80.2	57.2	22.9	10.1	71%	

Farmington River Trail

Farmington	3.7	3.7	0		100	
Burlington	2.3	2.3	0		100	
Canton	4.3	3.1	1.2	0.2	72	
Simsbury	5.8	1.7*	3.1		29	*Stone dust
TOTAL	16.1	10.8	4.3	0.2	67%	

Note: 43 miles of the FCHT is designated as part of the 2,900-mile East Coast Greenway

From South to North:

FARMINGTON CANAL HERITAGE TRAIL *fygreenway.org*

New Haven (1.6/3.4 miles; 47% complete)

- Bridges at Hillhouse Ave., Temple and Prospect Street are done.
- Section IV to Long Wharf is designed and funded but held up by abutting landowners.
- There are occasional closures in the southern part of this section while Yale University develops two new residential colleges in the area.

Hamden (9.5 miles 100% complete)

- The tunnel under Skiff St. is done and farther north, the construction at the West Woods Road/Mt. Carmel Avenue intersection is now complete. The trail now runs farther to the west, away from Whitney Avenue.

Cheshire (3.9/7.1 miles; 55% complete)

- Cornwall to W. Main: CTDOT has completed preliminary design internally. Part of this work-around Dalton Industries (.67 miles) will be elevated boardwalk through the abutting swamp. Estimated to start construction in 2017. Still requires permitting and construction funding.
- West Main to Jarvis: Complete early spring 2016. 1.5 miles. It includes building a pedestrian crossing with a "HAWK" beacon (pedestrian activated red) instead of a conventional traffic signal for safe passage across West Main St. by trail users.
- Southington to Jarvis: Funding is in place. Design by DOT internally, 77-space parking lot at terminus, with restrooms. Construction by autumn 2016; 2.5 miles.

Southington (4.0/6.6 miles; 61% complete)

- Hart/Curtiss St. to Lazy Lane (SRS parcel in part): Arcadis Engineering was hired by Solvent Recovery Services to complete trail design from pavement to pavement on this "brownfield" land. Funding is in place. Expected completion in 2016. A new bridge to the south has been constructed on DEEP land.
- What was two sections have been made into one from West Queen St. across Townline Road ending 1,500 feet into Plainville. The Town has selected a consultant to design this section of trail.
- At Center Street, demolition of the Ideal Forging site has commenced. A mixed use residential, retail and parking complex is in the works, to occupy both sides of the trail. The selected consultant will also develop a preliminary design for this segment.

Plainville (FCHT 4.3; 0% Completed)

- Plainville, through the Capital Region Council of Governments is nearly finished with hiring a consultant to finalize the route of the FCHT through the town.
- The project will be from West Queen St. in Southington to south of Northwest Dr. in Plainville, meeting the 2016 Farmington FCHT project parking lot.
- Given the absence of a traditional path for the trail along an abandoned RR right-of-way, part of the gap solution will be on-road, and must, therefore, be designed to be as attractive and safe as possible so that the route is palatable to the casual trail user as well as the serious cyclist.

Farmington (FRT 4.3; 100% Completed, FCHT 5.0; 52% Completed)

- The Town received bronze Bike Friendly Community Status in May 2014.
- The 2.5-mile section south from Red Oak Hill Road past Northwest Drive into Plainville is 100% designed, including a 125-foot bridge over RT 6. The plans include a terminus with a 40- space parking lot and pavilion. Funding is in place in a brand-new CT bonding initiative where the total cost of \$5.1 million. This is the first time in state history that the state has completely funded a section of trail without using federal money. Completion date is estimated by mid-2017.
- Note that Mile 0 (north) for both the FCHT and the 28.5 mile FRT (Loop Trail) starts at Red Oak Hill Road/New Britain Ave.

Avon (FCHT 4.7; 100% Completed)

- The Town is in design process for an exciting new “Town Center Plan” and the trail will run through the new area, avoiding the police station and providing a safer, easier route.

Simsbury (FCHT 7.5; 100% Completed; FRT 5.8; 0%)

- The town awaits approvals for final design and construction funding for the eastern and western pieces of the East Coast Greenway spur from RT 315 to the parks in Tariffville and from Governors Bridge to the Bloomfield line. Bloomfield expects to start construction of approx. 2 miles of the trail in 2016.
- River Trail interim sharrows painted for on-road route. Upgraded stone-dust park trails finished in the Town Forest portion.
- Town received Silver Bicycle Friendly Community Status and is the first such Community in CT.

East Granby 5.3 & Granby 1.1 (FCHT 6.4; 100% Completed)

- The historic Salmon Brook Bridge was completed in 2009 with a \$70,000 grant from the FVTC. Note the trail follows the outside borders of Imperial Nurseries after negotiations on the ROW.

Suffield (FCHT 1.2; 100% Completed)

- The Coca-Cola North America grant of \$55,000 was used for a new parking lot & Info Center near Phelps Road (we supplied an \$8,000 kiosk) and a granite CT/MA border crossing monument.
- The FVTC is providing a bicycle Fix-It station at the parking lot in 2016.

Southwick (6.1; 100% complete) *southwickrailtrail.org*

Westfield (2.6/7.4 miles; 35% complete) *columbiagreenway.org*

- Phase I of the Columbia River Trail (1.1 miles) is complete with parking at Shaker Farms Country Club (the only at-grade crossing in town).
- Phase II involved renovation and rehabilitation of two bridges across Little River. It is now up to the Town Center and a ribbon-cutting was held in Nov. 2015. This piece ends at Stop & Shop Plaza at Main St.

- Phase III requires a bridge over the Westfield River north.

Southampton (3.9; 0% complete) *fofsg.org*

- Recent Open Space Master Plan calls for the purchase of the ROW from the Pioneer Valley RR, owned by Pinsky RR Company. Voters approved the purchase in November 2012, but negotiations drag on, luckily with funding still in place.

Easthampton (3.7; 100% complete) *manhanrailtrail.org*

- The **Manhan Trail** is now 6 miles long and is part of the FCHT.

Northampton (3.5; 100% complete) *fntg.net – masscentralrailtrail.org*

- The **Norwottuck Trail** is now the **Norwottuck Branch of the Mass Central Rail Trail**. It is complete and is the terminus of 80.1 miles of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. Northampton now has over 11 miles of trail.

FARMINGTON RIVER TRAIL

Collinsville/Canton (FRT 2.9/4.9; 59% Completed)

- The FVTC and the Town are proposing a River Trail parking and information area to be in the Shoppes at Farmington. Negotiations substantially complete, awaiting final approval.
- Collinsville Center Information Project includes \$5,000 RTC grant and matching funds from FVTC for a kiosk. Completed as an integral part of the Collinsville Center reconstruction project. The FVTC will also install a bicycle Fix-It station as part of this project in 2016.
- Interim sharrows to be painted for on-road FRT route to the Simsbury line.
- Canton to propose funding for 1,400' of trail in front of new playing field up Lawton Rd.

Burlington (FRT 100% Completed)

- The FVTC donated an \$8,000 information Kiosk to the town which has been installed at the northern terminus of the FRT in Burlington at Arch St.
- A ribbon-cutting for the reconstruction project was held in the fall of 2015.