

# Fitchburg Trails Vision Public Forum

Fitchburg Trails Vision Committee  
(a Subcommittee of the Fitchburg Greenway  
Committee)



March 8, 2017, 6:30 pm

# Agenda

- Introduction to the Trails Vision – Ralph Baker, Chair of Fitchburg Trails Vision Committee
- Purpose and Goals of the *Trails Vision Plan*
- The *Survey* (please pass it in before you leave!)
- The City of Fitchburg's Role – Nathan LaRose, Fitchburg Recreation Director
- Breakout Session to Solicit Public Input – Sheri Bean, Senior Planner, MRPC
  - Reconvene and Summarize public input
- Informal Q&A following the Public Forum

# What is a Trails Vision?

- A trails Master Plan document that is being developed by the Fitchburg Trails Vision committee and the City of Fitchburg
- A summary of what trails infrastructure currently exists and a vision of how it could be improved to benefit Fitchburg's residents
- A summary of City regulations and community priorities that promote or impede improvements to the trails infrastructure
- A compilation and rank ordering of potential trail improvements (new trails, enhancements to existing trails, new connections to/from existing trails) based on agreed-upon criteria
- A high-level implementation plan

# Vision Plan: Purpose and Goals

1. Help the City of Fitchburg to preserve and improve our quality of life by:
  - a. Identifying and inventorying the existing walking, hiking and recreational (non-motorized) trails within the City, linkages among them and to points of interest, as well as interconnections between the City and surrounding communities, and
  - b. Recommending potential new trails.
2. Support the regional trail plan – contributing to the region’s Trails Vision.
3. Create an initial implementation plan for our Trails Vision – identify basic resource needs, set priorities (short, medium and long term), and suggest a timeline for possible implementation.
4. By identifying and prioritizing our trails, improve our City’s ability to access public and private funding sources.



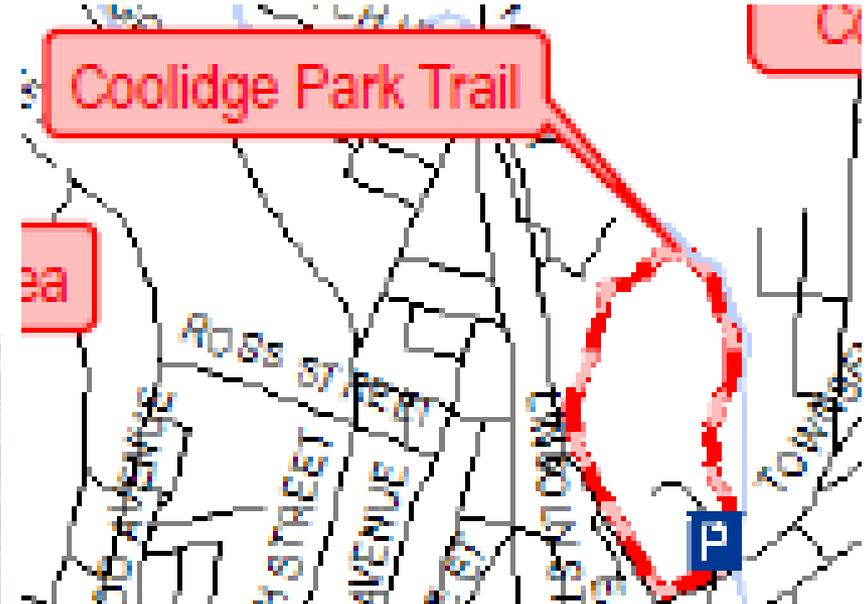
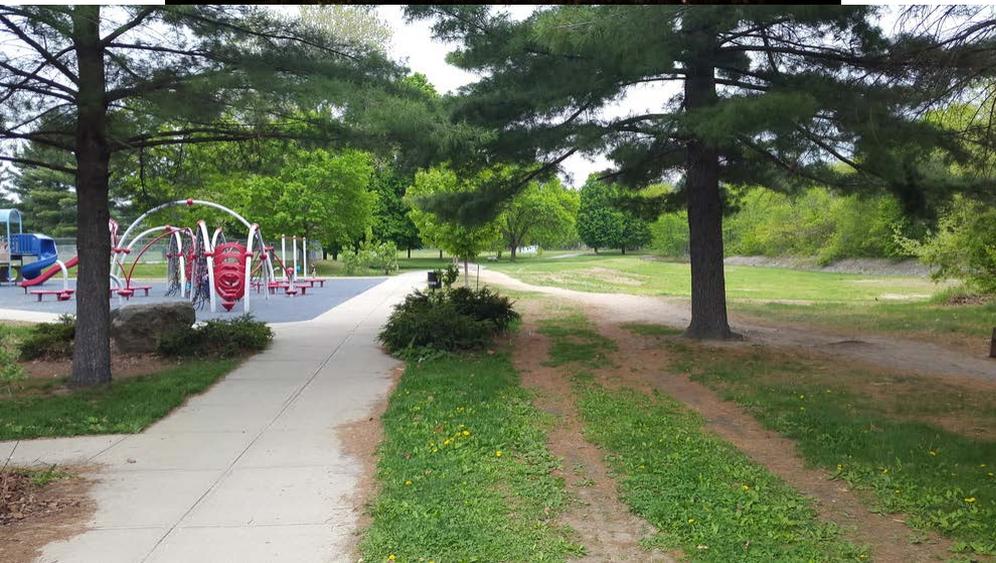
# Coggshall Park

Maintained by the City of Fitchburg and the Friends of Coggshall Park



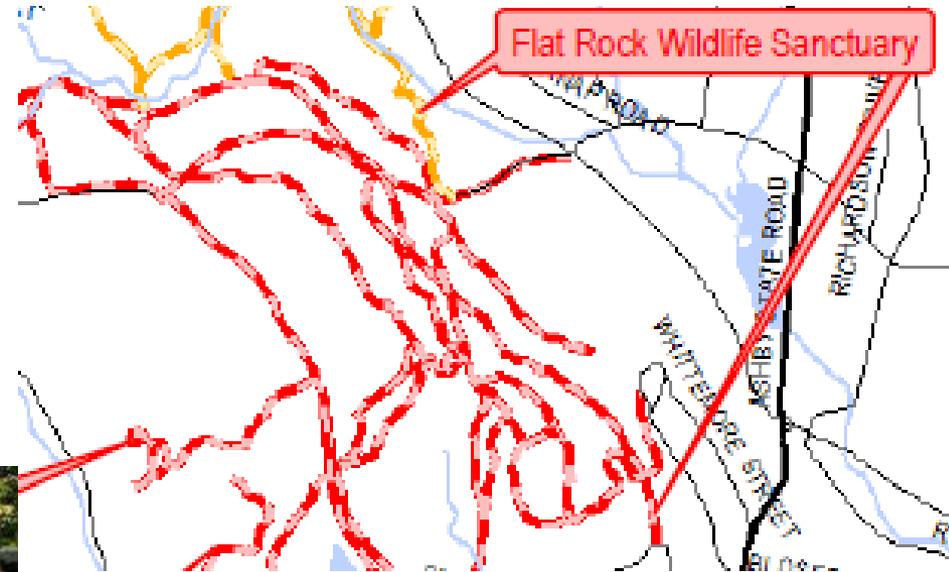
# Coolidge Park

Maintained by the City of Fitchburg



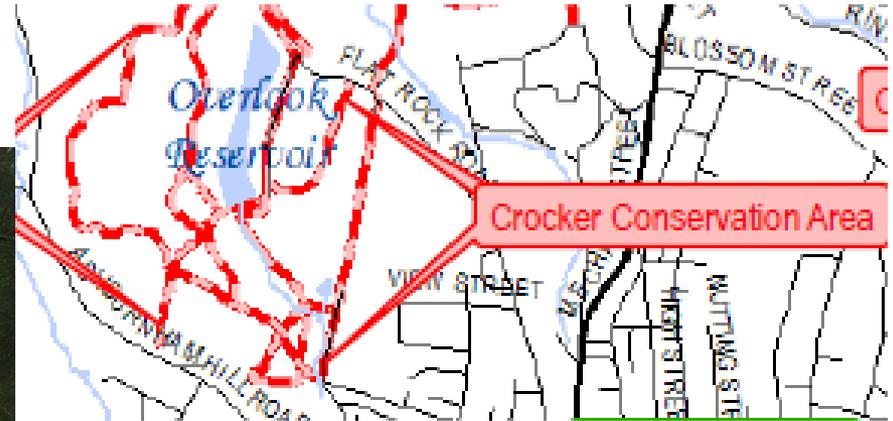
# Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary

Maintained by the Massachusetts Audubon Society

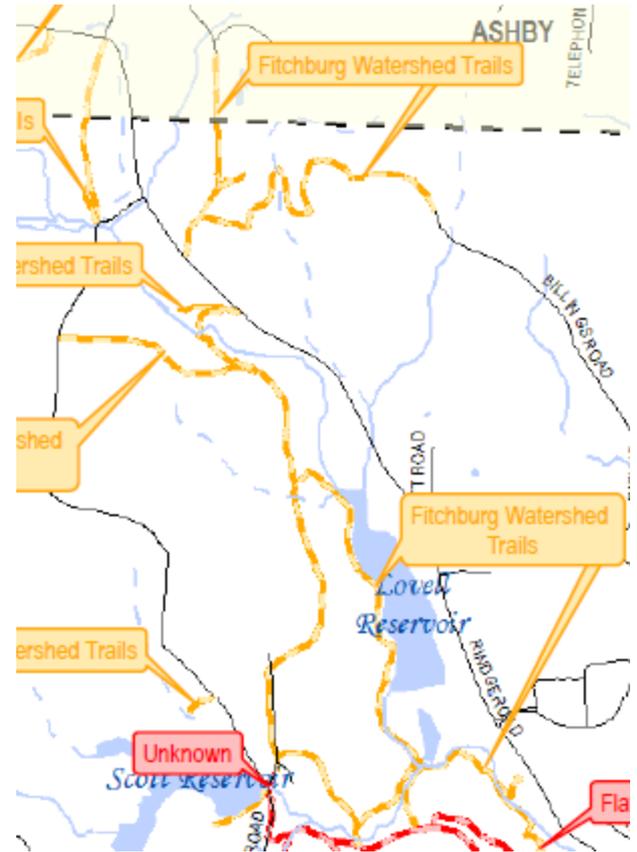


# Crocker Conservation Area

Maintained by the North County Land Trust

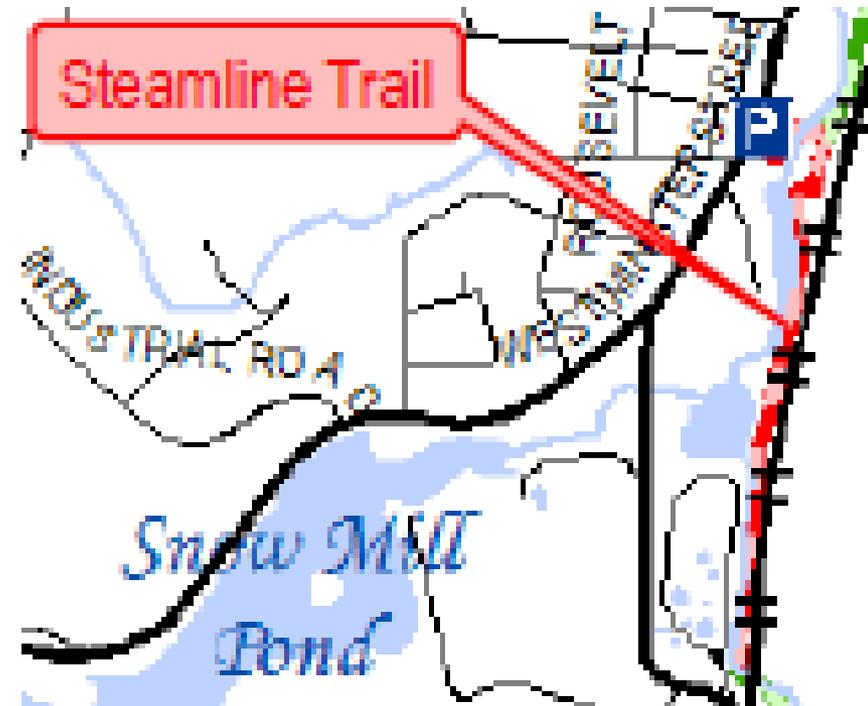


# Northern Watershed Trails Maintained by the City of Fitchburg



# Steamline Trail

Maintained by the City of Fitchburg



# Rollstone Hill Trail (proposed)



# Urban Trails / Connections (proposed)





# City of Fitchburg

1. Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale and the Fitchburg Board of Park Commissioners fully support efforts by the Fitchburg Trails Vision Committee to map and identify Fitchburg's current trails, and explore their current and potential future uses by Residents.
2. The City of Fitchburg manages over 20 parks with 100s of acres of land and miles of trails.
3. The Trails Vision Document can serve to provide educational material about the many amazing recreational opportunities available to Fitchburg Residents and will hopefully encourage future efforts to improve existing trails and create new links between them.



# Tourism & Economic Development

- Tourism is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest industry in Massachusetts, and such local attractions as ***Great Wolf Lodge, Fitchburg Art Museum, Hollis Hills Farm, and Coggshall Park*** (disc golf course) represent unique “draws” to North Central MA as a region and to Fitchburg as a place.
- Recreational tourism is a segment of Fitchburg’s economy that continues to grow, as evidenced by the recent development proposal by “*Game On Fitchburg*” for a tournament level soccer complex that will support commercial recreation in West Fitchburg.
- The City’s existing network of trails and open spaces add greatly to the quality of life in Fitchburg, which make the city a desirable place to live, work and visit.
- The “*Twin Cities Rail Trail*” that will connect downtown Fitchburg to downtown Leominster will support these two key commercial centers within the region by offering a safe transportation option (for both employees and consumers) that will double as a recreational amenity.
- Such periodic guided tours as the “Rock Walk” hosted by Peter Capodagli (owner of Boulder Art Gallery) have introduced many locals and visitors to the beautiful vistas that can be enjoyed atop Rollstone Hill following a relatively short walk from the Upper Common in the downtown.

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For more information about the efforts of the Fitchburg Trails Vision Committee please visit:

<http://www.FitchburgMA.gov/707>

Breakout Session – to solicit your input

# Fitchburg Trails List (Draft, 3/3/17)

In each case, as applicable, we will work on identifying connections to adjacent and nearby trails and community centers.

## Existing

1. Coggshall Park trails
2. Coolidge Park loop trail
3. Parkhill Park trail
4. Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon Society) trails
5. Crocker Conservation Area (North County Land Trust) trails
6. Steamline Park trail
7. Gateway Park loop trail
8. Fitchburg Northern Watershed trails

## Potential/Under Development (examples, not comprehensive)

9. Gateway Park Knoll trail
10. Twin Cities Rail Trail
11. Rollstone Hill Trail
12. Development of trails on Fitchburg State University property
13. Marion Stoddart Greenway trail (concept)