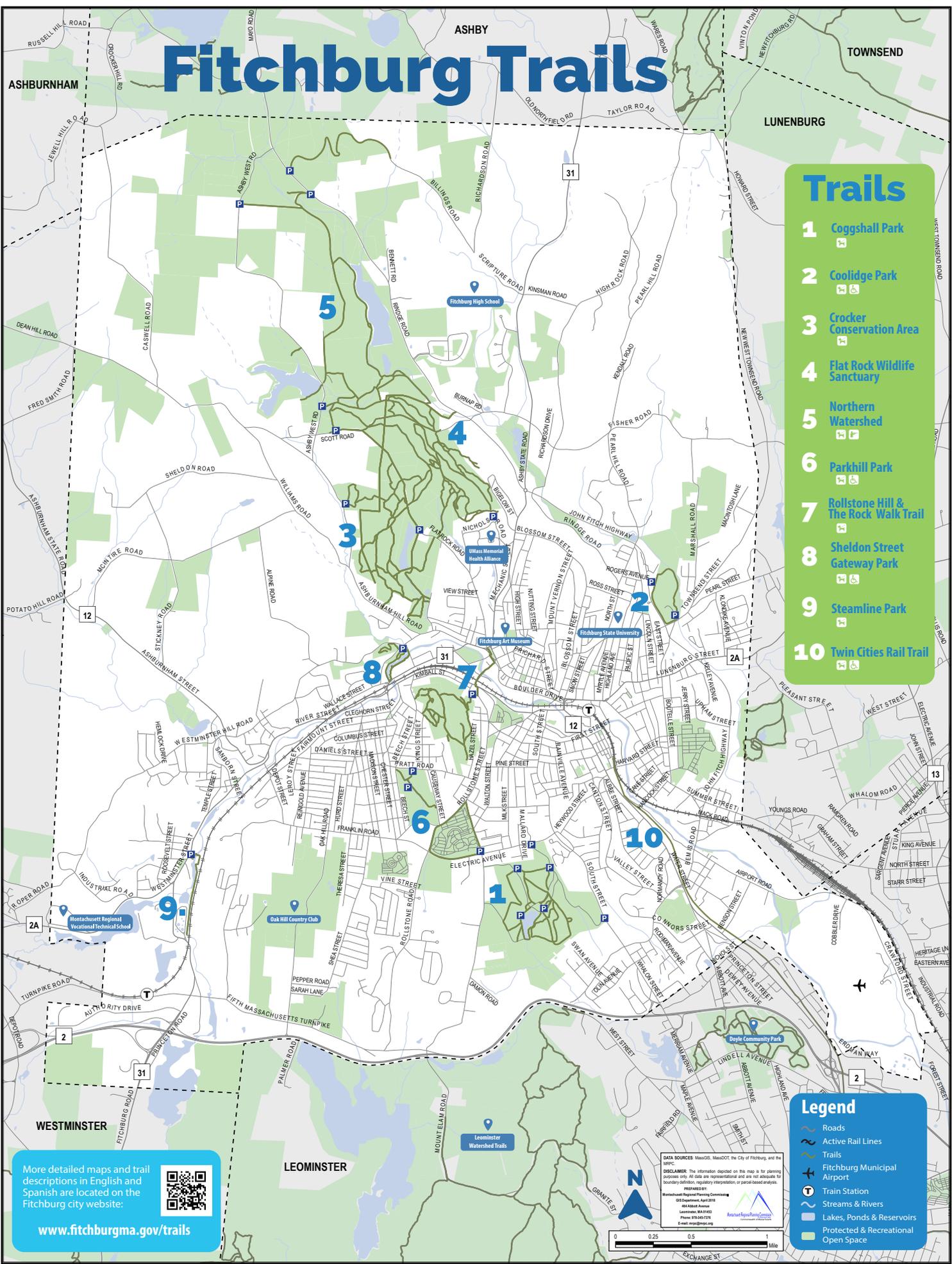


# Fitchburg Trails



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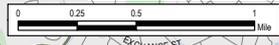
More detailed maps and trail descriptions in English and Spanish are located on the Fitchburg city website:

[www.fitchburgma.gov/trails](http://www.fitchburgma.gov/trails)

**DATA SOURCES:** MassGIS, MassDOT, the City of Fitchburg, and the MPOC.

**DISCLAIMER:** The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It does not constitute an official representation of the boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-based analysis.

**PREPARED BY:**  
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 GIS Department, April 2018  
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### Welcome to the City of Fitchburg,

a community well known for its rich industrial past and diverse urban character. Fitchburg is truly fortunate to offer a wealth of both urban and rural trails for walking, hiking, biking, and commuting. Oftentimes visitors to our region are not familiar with the full scope of recreational opportunities the city offers. Thanks to the work of many volunteers and organizations, this is no longer the case. I encourage you to use this trail guide as a means of discovering the great beauty that exists in our city, from our historic downtown to our vast and picturesque New England countryside.

It is my sincere hope that this map will open up a world of opportunity and discovery for all who use it.

Sincerely,  
Stephen L. DiNatale, Mayor



### FITCHBURG GREENWAY COMMITTEE



Mass Audubon  
Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY



massDOT  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

2018

## Fitchburg Trail Guide



### Rules & Regulations

- All parks and trails follow the Carry-in Carry-out policy
- Properties are open from dawn to dusk
- Stay on designated trails to protect fragile natural systems and reduce potential exposure to Lyme disease
- Observe the permitted modes of use on the trails
- Dogs must be kept on leash at all times
- Pick up after your dogs
- Parking is limited to the designated areas
- Hunting is allowed in designated areas only

#### The following are prohibited:

- Alcoholic beverages and banned substances
- Motorized vehicles
- Cutting or removal of shrubs, plants, or trees of any kind
- Creating unauthorized trails
- Digging, mowing, or altering the natural landscape

Please visit the corresponding link for the park you wish to visit for their specific rules and regulations

## More Map Information

More detailed maps and trail descriptions in English and Spanish are located on the Fitchburg city website:

[www.fitchburgma.gov/trails](http://www.fitchburgma.gov/trails)



You may also wish to refer to Mass Audubon and North County Land Trust.

[www.northcountylantrust.org](http://www.northcountylantrust.org)

[www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)

### Goal

This trail map/guide represents the collective efforts of a number of individuals and organizations participating in the Fitchburg Trail Vision Committee. Our goal is to provide user-friendly maps and guides to residents and visitors to encourage them to enjoy the many trails and recreational opportunities available in our city.

## Get Involved!

Committee members meet regularly in a continuing effort to map, describe, improve, maintain, and promote the use of Fitchburg's many trails. We welcome the participation of all at our meetings and would love to have you join our effort. For more information, please contact the Fitchburg Recreation Department at:

Recreation@fitchburgma.gov or (978)-829-1815



### 1. Coggs Hall Park

Coggs Hall Park's trails consist of 5 natural-surfaces, woodland, pedestrian loop trails, and a loop trail that is accessible around 1/2 of Mirror Lake. The 3 mile network is designated as "easy" to "moderate" difficulty for the average user. While hiking these trails, users will experience the park's most significant and interesting features and habitats including woodland, habitats, rock outcrops, and ledges, and Mirror Lake. Additional trails are planned. Park on the west side of Mirror Lake and locate the trail head kiosk by the Stone House for a map of the trails.

Location: 159 Electric Avenue  
Distance: Varies  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

### 3. Crocker Conservation Area

The 150-acre Crocker Conservation Area offers a gateway to over 2,000 acres of protected land. The central feature of the conservation area is the beautiful Overlook Reservoir, and walking the relatively flat trails around its perimeter provides a favorite loop for many local people. The trails range from cart roads to single track trails, which cover a wide variety of terrain and provide many options for other loops. Crocker Conservation Area welcomes non-motorized multi-use recreation and is a favorite destination for dog walkers.

Distance: Approximately 4 Miles of trails  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate  
Location: Northern dead end of Flat Rock Road

## Trail Descriptions

Detailed maps and trail descriptions, in English and Spanish, are available at [www.fitchburgma.gov/trails](http://www.fitchburgma.gov/trails)

### Pick your trails

Choose a trail or a network you would like to explore

### Research

Plan your hike by visiting the provided web links to make sure its the one for you

### Go

Lace up your shoes, grab a compass, water bottle and GO

### 6. Parkhill Park Trail

The path through Parkhill is a mostly flat, asphalt pathway, a portion of which runs adjacent to Sand Brook. The brook at this point flows through a man-made, rock-lined channel with some stone bridges and pools. The path can also be accessed from two locations off of Beech Street. Hikers can add a 1.1 mile loop around the adjacent Forest Hill Cemetery.

Location: Across from 228 Pratt Road  
Distance: 0.6 Miles out and back  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

### 8. Sheldon Street Gateway Park

A paved, accessible trail runs from the park entrance on Sheldon St., along the N. Nashua River, via the independent Cleaners parking lot, to the River St. Bridge. A parallel trail along the other bank of the river, behind Riverside Commons, completes a loop back to the starting point. The trail offers scenic views of the river, benches, and picnic tables. The Knoll Trail begins above the Gateway Park parking area, crosses West St. (Use caution), and climbs rather steeply through mature woods to the Knoll. It is not an accessible trail at this time.

Location: 19 Sheldon Street  
Distance: Loop Trail: 0.6 Mile; Knoll Trail: 0.3 Miles  
Degree of Difficulty: Loop Trail: Easy; Knoll Trail: Moderate

### 10. Twin Cities Rail Trail

The Twin Cities Rail Trail is a proposed 4.5 mile multi-use trail that will connect the Intermodal Station in Fitchburg to Carter Park in Loominster. The trail will be paved and meet accessibility guidelines throughout. Several small parking areas will be located along the trail. Construction of this trail is estimated to begin in Spring of 2019.

Location: 100 Main St.  
Distance: 4.5 Miles  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

### 2. Coolidge Park Loop Trail

Located off of Pearl Street in Fitchburg, the loop trail is a level, stone-dust path that encircles Coolidge Park. A section of the path parallels Falulah Brook. The park features several sports fields, a small play structure, a beach volleyball court, dog park, and more. There is ample parking available at the Pearl Street entrance.

Location: The intersection of Pearl Street and John Fitch Highway

Distance: 0.9 Miles  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy

### 4. Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary

Mass Audubon's Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary offers a variety of terrain ranging from early successional habitat on Flat Rock Road to mature white pine/hemlock forest and a bog/shrub swamp accessible from the Main Path. Trails connect with Crocker Conservation Area and the Northern Watershed.

Location: Park beyond UMass Memorial Health Alliance (Burk Hospital) Urgent Care facility, off the end of Flat Rock Road, or off the entrance of Ashburnham Hill Road

Distance: 6 Miles of Trails on 326 Acres  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

### 5. Northern Watershed

The 2,000-acre Northern Watershed lands are owned by the City of Fitchburg. There are ten designated trails or trail loops totaling about 10 miles in length: six relatively short trails or trail loops in the southernmost portion, and four longer trails or trail loops leading north of Lovell Reservoir, and across Rindge Rd. While none are currently marked with signage, none of the trails described here are difficult to follow for those who are familiar with them or somewhat adventurous. To the south, these trails connect with the Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary.

Location: Refer to Map  
Distance: Varies  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

### 7. Rollstone Hill & Rock Walk Trail

All trail entrances to Rollstone Hill lead to the summit of the hill and back down. The Rock Walk Trail, a self-guided, 2-mile pedestrian loop trail expected to be completed in 2020, will be the primary trail and will have trail heads at Bruce and Shattuck Streets. A third of the trail will travel over city sidewalks starting at the Rollstone Boulder at the Upper Common. Highlights of the trail include the stunning views of the surrounding countryside and downtown Fitchburg, the unique landscape of an abandoned quarry, and the flavor of local artists' creations on the hill.

Location: Refer to Map  
Distance: 2 Miles  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

### 9. Steamline Park Trail

This trail starts at the bridge over the Nashua River near the entrance and offers views of the Nashua River and Fitchburg's industrial past. Portions of the former steam pipe remain in place, along with some descriptive historical signage along the trail. Near the halfway point, view the dramatic confluence of the Whitman River and Flag Brook flowing together at a mill pond and dam to form the North Nashua River. The trail currently dead-ends opposite Fitchburg's West Wastewater Treatment plant at a stone culvert RR bridge.

Location: 465 Westminster Street  
Distance: 0.6 Miles out and back  
Degree of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate (Some rolling terrain)