

Vision

The Town of Concord envisions a non-motorized multi-use trail (a rail trail) to serve as a historical, recreational and alternative transportation resource for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. The design of the rail trail will balance the benefits and the drawbacks of such trails and will balance needs of the users with any impacts on Concord residents and the natural environment. The trail will, to the greatest degree possible, retain the look and feel of a Concord woods path where appropriate; we are particularly interested in alternatives to asphalt. It will serve walkers, joggers, bicyclists, children in strollers, cross-country skiers, people on snow shoes, wheelchair users, and others as may be identified during this phase of study. The trail will connect West Concord Center (a vibrant commercial area that includes the MBTA commuter rail station) to neighborhoods, playing fields and conservation lands that are located along the railroad right-of-way. It will provide non-motorized access to Concord open spaces and beautiful vistas, as well as to those of Acton, Sudbury and other communities located along and served by the trail. The trail will provide opportunities for nature education, quiet reflection, minimal-impact enjoyment of flora and fauna, and exercise that refresh and strengthen mind, body and spirit.