

Shirley Trails Information

Did you know that there are 812 acres of public conservation land in Shirley? There are also many acres of private conservation land. Much of this land is open to the public through trail systems.

General information about access to some of the trails and open space in Shirley is provided here. At this time, we are unable to provide trail maps. As more information becomes available, it will be added or linked from here. Our "Formal Trails" as provided to MassGIS are shown on this map:

http://www.mrpc.org/sites/montachusettRPC/files/file/file/shirley_trailinventory_11x17p.pdf

Trail use disclaimer: It is the personal responsibility of the trail user to verify that the trail is designated for the specific use of interest. Respect property owners' rights. Conservation areas are generally open to hunting in accordance the Massachusetts law, unless POSTED otherwise. Be aware of hunting seasons and regulations. All-terrain-vehicle (ATV) use is generally not permitted in Shirley conservation areas.

More detailed information about Shirley open space is included in the 2014 Draft Open Space and Recreational Plan: http://www.shirley-ma.gov/Pages/ShirleyMA_ConCom/shirleyosrp_2014.pdf

Squannacook River Trail Network (Shirley, Townsend) Town of Shirley, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife •Well-used trail network •Signed trailhead and parking on Daniel Drive off Squannacook Rd •Additional access off Squannacook Rd (near Trap Swamp Brook) •There are two additional access points with parking on Shirley Road in Townsend •Be aware of hunting seasons and regulations

Pumpkin Brook Link Conservation Area (Shirley) Town of Shirley •Existing trail system largely overgrown •Signed trailhead and parking off Townsend Rd

Holden Road and Ronchetti Conservation Areas (Shirley) Town of Shirley •A combination of well-used and less-used trails •The outer loop at Ronchetti was recently re-blazed •Connects to trails at Valley Farm, Robbs Hill (Lunenburg), Old Town Line and Birchwood Hills •Signed trailhead with no parking on Holden Rd •Also accessible via Robbs Hill in Lunenburg, with parking and trailhead on Catecunemaug Rd.

Townsend Rd Conservation Area and Hunting Hill Wildlife Management Area (Shirley, Lunenburg) Town of Shirley, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife •A combination of well-used and less-used trails •Connects to additional trails in Lunenburg and Townsend •Unmarked trailhead with no parking on Townsend Rd •Also accessible from trailhead with parking at the end of Hunting Hill Rd in Lunenburg



Esker Loop, (Ayer, Shirley) Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge/US Fish & Wildlife •Trail follows an unpaved roadway then an esker along the Nashua River •Parking at the gate off Walker Rd •If you park inside the gate, you risk being locked in

Farandnear (Shirley) Trustees of the Reservations •Well maintained trail system •Parking and trail information at Farandnear on Center Rd.:

<http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/central-ma/farandnear.html>

Links

If you're interested in trails, you may want to look into these other information resources for nearby areas:

- Groton Trails Network: <http://www.grotontrails.org/Welcome.html>
- Littleton Conservation Trust. <http://littletonconservationtrust.org/trail-guide/>
- Mass Audubon. <http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/trails>
- Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/oxbow/>
- Devens Open Space. <http://www.devenscommunity.com/recreation/open-space>
- Lunenburg Conservation Commission, including trails information: <http://www.lunenburgma.gov/content/204/222/default.aspx>
- Ayer Conservation Commission, including trails information: <http://www.ayer.ma.us/conservation-commission>
- Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition. <https://www.facebook.com/MontachusettTrails>



Shirley Trails Group

We all know Shirley is a great place to live, and it is also a great place to walk in the woods! Did you know Shirley has beautiful trails that go by ponds, streams, forests, and meadows? We have about 800 acres of protected land that can be explored, during all seasons, and the beautiful Nashua and Squannacook Rivers form our eastern boundary.

We are very lucky to have these natural resources, but it is not always easy to know where to go to walk, to park, and to make sure you don't get lost. Are you interested in Trails? Did you know that a group of Shirley residents have been meeting since the fall of 2015 and are working with the Shirley Conservation Commission to improve signage, access to, and information about our Trails? We want to make sure they are well maintained, marked, and get people out on them. If you want to support this effort and become involved, there are three main areas of activities: planning, trail management, and partnering/liasons.

Please contact Renee Cook at rcook0374@gmail.com or call 978-425-2036 (messages only) for more information.