



February 21, 2020

www.middletonrailtrail.org

Dear Middleton Resident/Business;

Back in 2013 a group of Middleton residents organized to explore the feasibility of building a Rail Trail on the abandoned rail bed in Middleton. The rail bed runs from the Danvers line, along Maple Street, to the town line in North Andover by Sharpners Pond Road - a stretch of approximately 4.5 miles. After preliminary work, the group disbanded. In 2018 the idea of a Rail Trail was revived and the Middleton Rail Trail Alliance (MiRTA) was formed by another group of Middleton residents. MiRTA is a volunteer, citizen based grassroots effort.

In 2019 MiRTA was formally recognized by the IRS as a non-profit 501c organization and is now eligible to receive tax deductible donations as well as other funding sources and grants. Much of the work and surveys completed by the earlier group were combined with new ideas and an updated plan has been developed.

MiRTA's plan is to develop the trail in phases. Phase one will be in the center of town and run from Central Street, behind Howe Manning School, to Essex Street. While still in development, we wanted to share our progress and plans with the many groups and stakeholders in Middleton. The goal is to keep the trail as natural as possible. Only crushed stone substrates and materials will be used for trail surfaces. Asphalt or other synthetic materials will be used **only** where necessary, such as at street crossings.

The next few years are especially important for the Rail Trail with the upcoming Maple St bridge construction and road improvements planned on Route 62 at Liberty and Maple Streets. The trail crosses Route 62 near Liberty Street. MiRTA has support from and is collaborating with Middleton Electric Light Dept. (MELD), the Town of Middleton and MassDOT to accommodate the crossing in their designs as part of phase two.

Visit **MiRTA's** website at middletonrailtrail.org !! On the website you can make tax-deductible donations and find more about the proposed trail, maps and other details. We invite your input, donations and welcome volunteers willing to help. Monthly meetings are held Thursdays, 7pm at the Flint Library.
Thank you.

Checks payable/mail to: **MiRTA**, PO Box 821, Middleton MA 01949

Contact us: middletonrailtrail@gmail.com