

Minuteman Bikeway

America's Most Celebrated Bike Path

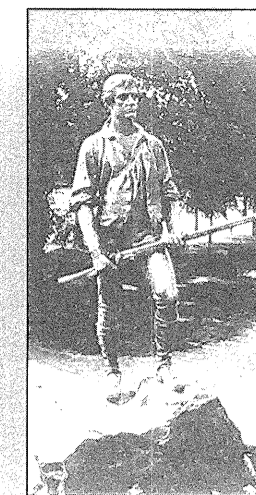


www.MinutemanBikeway.org

The Minuteman Bikeway passes through the historic area where the American Revolution began in April 1775. Today, the bikeway is one of the most popular and successful rail-trails in the United States, enjoyed by thousands of people each day for both healthy recreation and transportation. It has become a new type of "Main Street" where neighbors and strangers alike come together while riding, walking, or skating on the path.

Built by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on an inactive railroad corridor, the Minuteman Bikeway has become a treasured regional resource, used by local residents and visitors from near and far. Connecting to the Alewife "T" Station in Cambridge, the bikeway provides an easy way for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel to subway and bus lines, serving to reduce automobile traffic in the area.

The bikeway is collectively managed and maintained by the four communities it passes through: Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge.



Minuteman Statue, Lexington Center.

Bikeway Basics

Location: Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Length: 11 miles, with mile-marker posts.

Terrain: Level.

Surface: Asphalt pavement, 12 feet wide.

Hours: Open 5:00am-9:00pm, year-round.

Uses: Bicycling, walking, jogging, in-line skating, cross-country skiing. No motorized vehicles allowed, except for powered wheelchairs. The bikeway is not plowed in winter (except near Alewife Station).

Website: www.MinutemanBikeway.org

Map: See reverse side for a detailed map and directions.

Refreshments and toilets: Available at Bedford Freight House (seasonal outhouses), Lexington Visitor's Center, Alewife Station, and nearby business districts along the bikeway.



The Minuteman Bikeway connects to the Alewife MBTA Station in Cambridge, providing transportation access to subway and bus service.

Guidelines for Sharing the Path

General Guidelines for ALL Bikeway Users

- **EVERYONE:** KEEP TO THE RIGHT except to pass.
- Look carefully before entering or crossing the bikeway.
- Pass on the left, only when safe. Give an audible warning before passing another bikeway user.
- Make a complete stop at all intersections.
- When stopping, move off the pavement to allow other bikeway users to pass.
- Yield to emergency and maintenance vehicles.
- For bikeway updates on the web, see www.MinutemanBikeway.org.

Bicycling

- Helmets are recommended for all cyclists and required by state law for children under 13.
- Stop your bicycle, if necessary, to yield or to prevent an accident. Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians.
- Bicyclists may ride two-abreast only when safe (when the bikeway is uncrowded). Never ride three or more abreast.
- Bicycle headlight is required when riding at night.
- Ride at a safe speed. (When the bikeway is crowded, you might need to slow down.)

Walking / Jogging

- Keep to the right when walking or running on the path.
- Look before entering the bikeway or changing direction.
- Don't walk or run more than two abreast.

In-Line Skating

- Helmets, kneepads, and wristguards are advised.
- Keep to the right so that other users may pass safely.
- Skate single file when the bikeway is busy.
- Skate at a safe speed, and be prepared to stop suddenly.

Common Courtesy

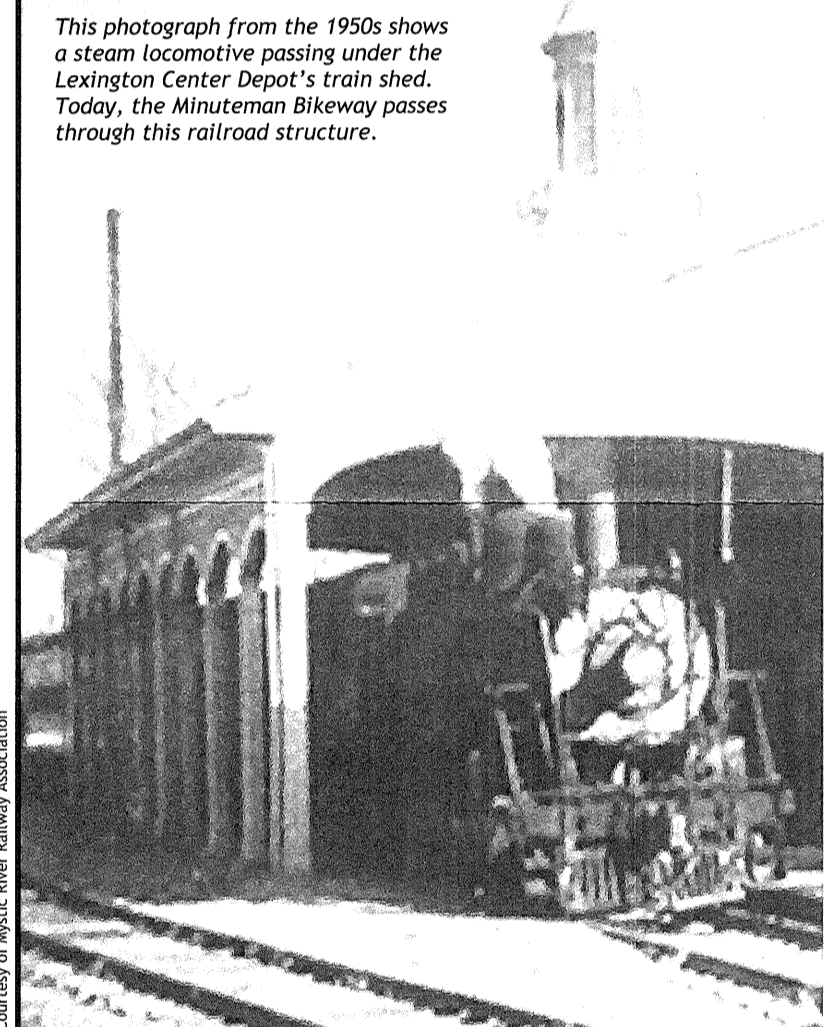
- Do not litter or trespass on private property.
- Keep your dog on a leash. Pick up after your dog.
- Respect other bikeway users. Share the path.



Minuteman Milestones

- 1775** American Revolution started along the historic corridor where Minuteman Bikeway passes today.
- 1846** Railroad built, providing both passenger and freight service.
- 1974** Concept first proposed to convert the rail corridor to a commuter bicycle path.
- 1981** Rail service discontinued.
- 1991** Final plan for rail-trail conversion approved, and construction started on Minuteman Bikeway.
- 1992** Minuteman Bikeway officially dedicated and named the 500th rail-trail in USA.
- 1993** Bikeway construction completed.
- 1994** Bikeway honored for Urban Design Excellence, Boston Society of Architects.
- 1998** Bikeway extended from East Arlington to Alewife Station in Cambridge.
- 2000** Minuteman Bikeway recognized as a Millennium Trail by the White House and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.
- 2002** More than 1,150 rail-trails now developed across USA, with even more coming soon!

This photograph from the 1950s shows a steam locomotive passing under the Lexington Center Depot's train shed. Today, the Minuteman Bikeway passes through this railroad structure.



See you on the bikeway!



Above: Police officers escort a community bike tour near the bikeway. Most towns along the bikeway operate Police Bike Units.

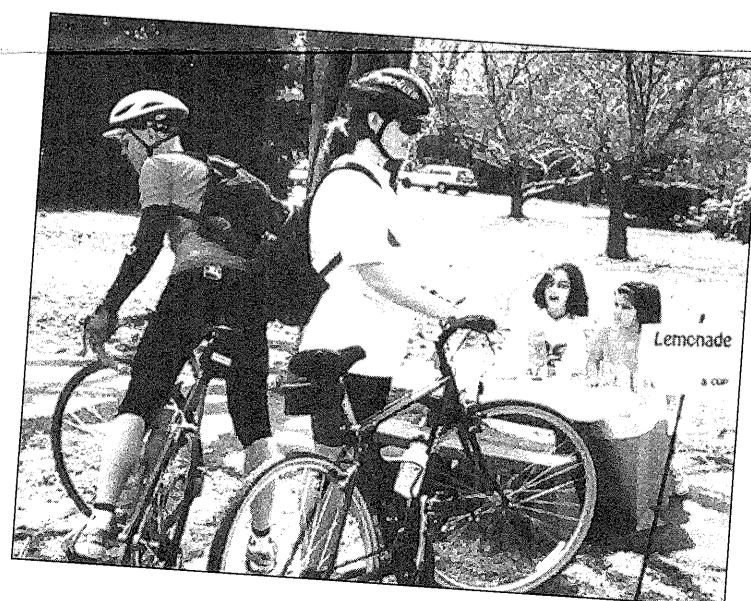
Left: Cyclists stopped for a break at the Minuteman Bikeway terminus in Bedford. Refreshments and railroad-related souvenirs are available in the Bedford Freight House.



Above: After a snowfall, the Minuteman Bikeway turns into a scenic trail for cross-country skiing. The bikeway is not plowed or treated with harsh roadway chemicals in winter.

Right, top: Volunteers clean up the MassBike/Wald Memorial area, beside the bikeway in East Arlington. Many community groups assist with the bikeway's upkeep.

Right: Bicyclists stop to buy some lemonade from some enterprising youngsters along the bikeway.



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Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee
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Lexington Town Offices
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Bedford Bicycle Committee
Town Administrator's Office
Bedford Town Hall
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Dedications

In Lexington in 1992, the Minuteman Bikeway was dedicated to the memory of **Jack Eddison**, who served many years as a Selectman.

In Arlington in 2000, the bikeway was dedicated to **Donald Marquis**, who served 34 years as Town Manager.

Twenty years in planning, the Minuteman Bikeway might still be a dream if not for the tireless efforts of two community advocates: **Tom Fortmann** of Lexington and **Alan McClennen, Jr.**, of Arlington.

Tom and Alan, we thank you for making your dreams of a bikeway come true. We gratefully dedicate this publication to you.

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based inks.

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Cambridge Savings Bank is pleased to support this guide for the Minuteman Bikeway.

Our bank offices are located in Cambridge, Belmont, Arlington, Lexington, Bedford, and Burlington. Main tel. 888-418-5626.

For locations near the bikeway, see the map on the reverse side.

www.cambridgesavings.com

Courtesy of Mystic River Railway Association

Courtesy of Arlington Advocate newspaper

Courtesy of Friends of Bedford Depot Park

Courtesy of Larry Whipple