

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury

A Visual History

October 19, 2025

**Prepared for the
Friends of the Goodnow Library**

2014: Lawn sign asking Town Meeting for funding the design of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.



COST OF THE BUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL

Design - about 10% of total cost

Cost town about 1.3 million dollars

\$58,700 Seed money from Friends BFRT

Construction – 90% of total cost

Cost about 12 million dollars

20% --- state funds

80% --- federal funds

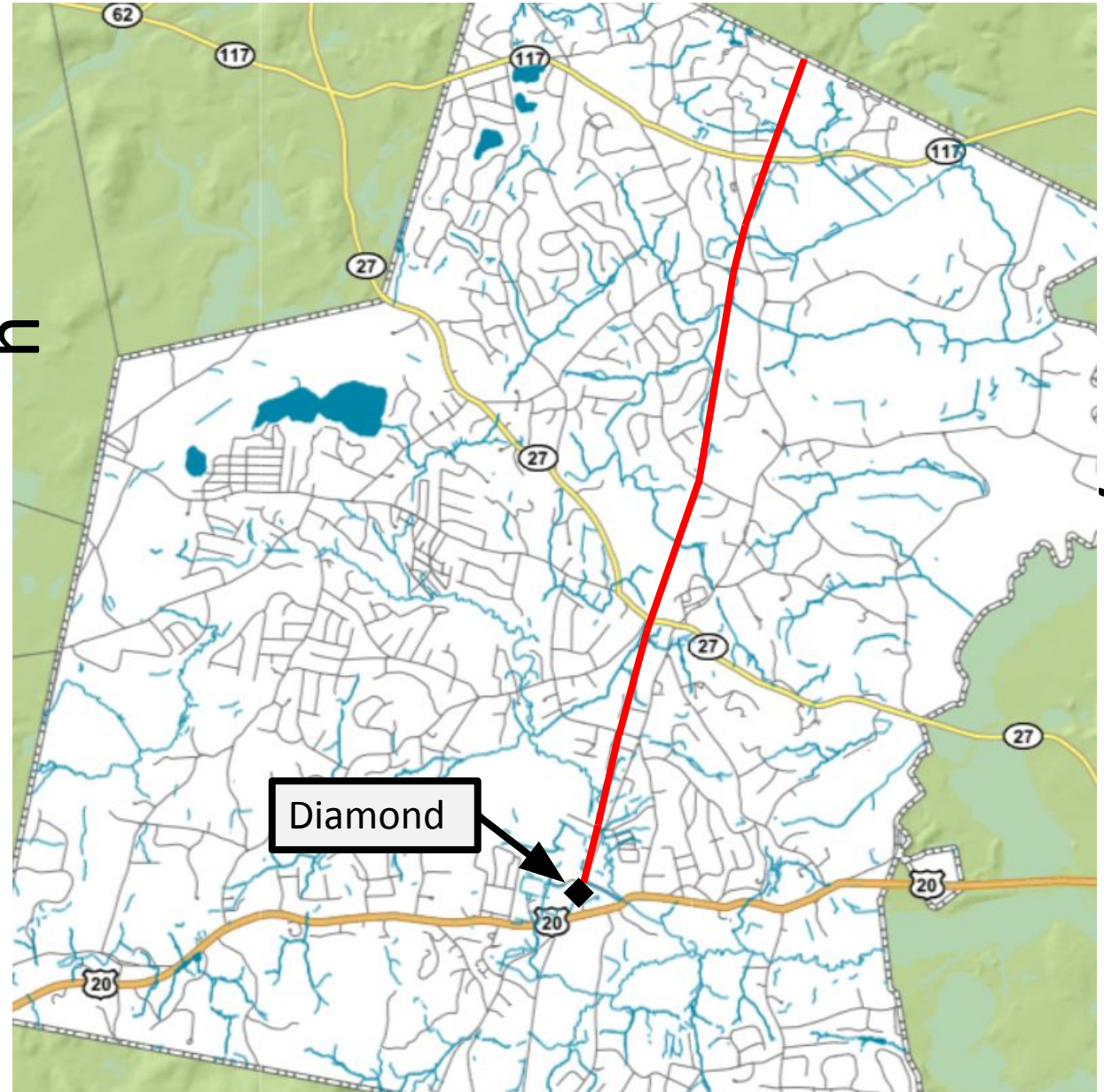
Return on investment was 10 times Sudbury's investment.

Sudbury's segment of the **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**

FEATURES

- 4.4 miles of paved path
From Concord/Sudbury line to Station Road (the diamond)
- Trail is 10 feet wide with 2-foot shoulders
- Trail is fully ADA accessible
- Brook crossings at Pantry Brook and Hop Brook
- Trail is 100% emergency vehicle accessible end-to-end

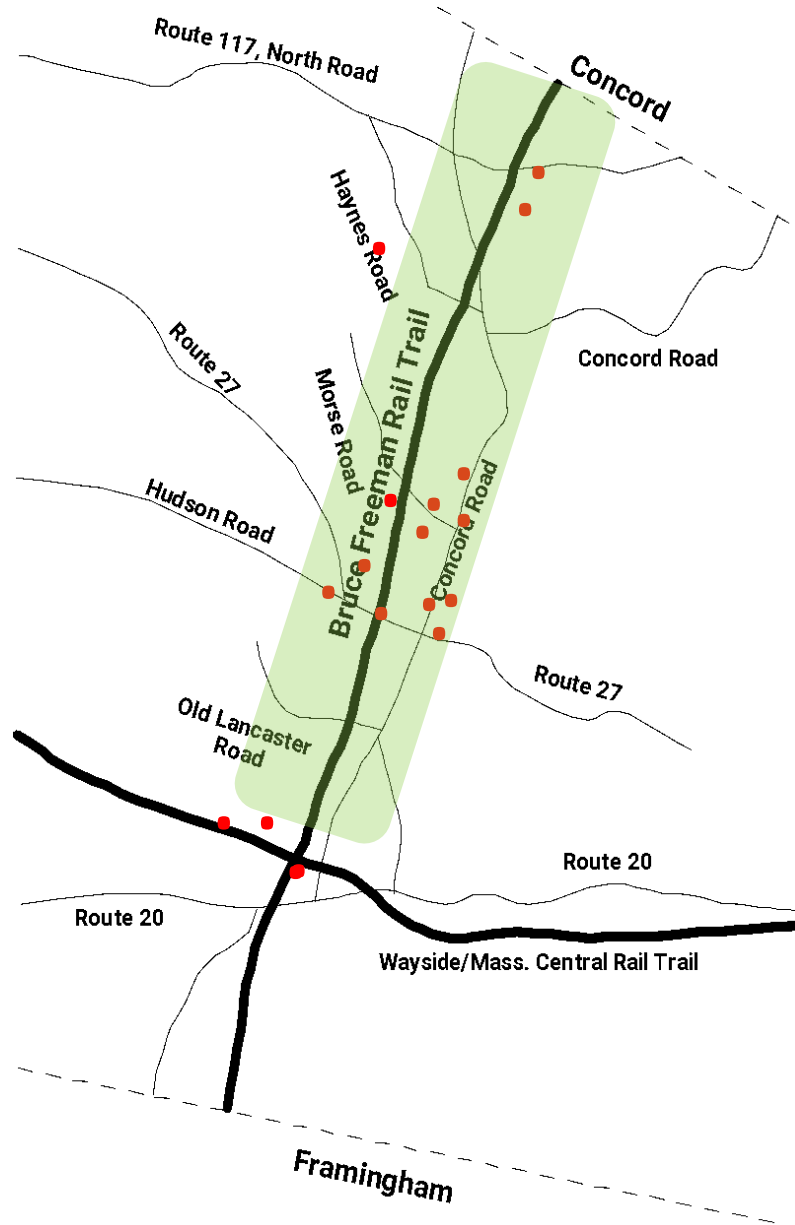
Hudson
Marlboro



Framingham

Wayland

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Sudbury: Spotting map



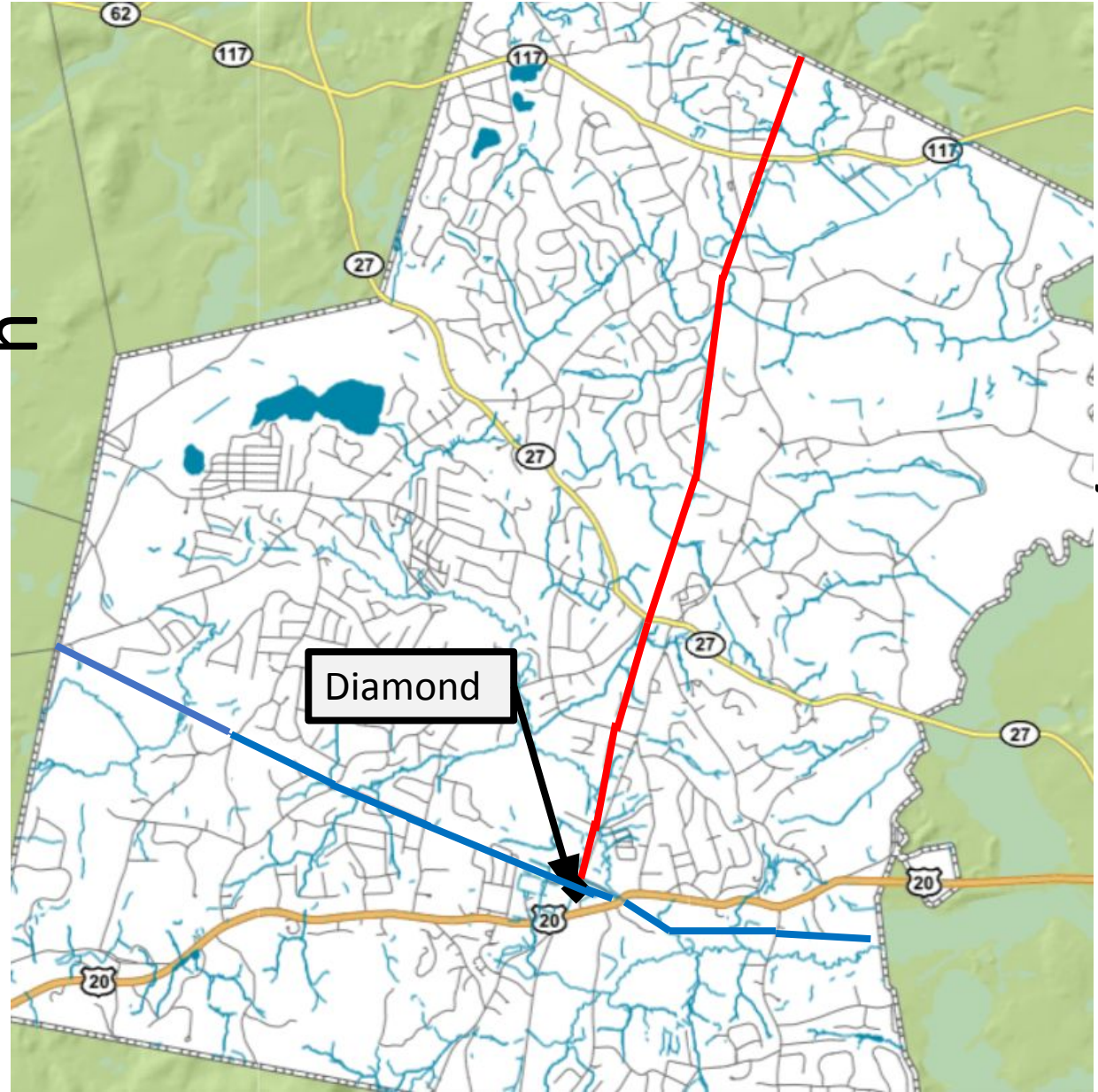
- Frost Farm (residential)
- Davis Field (recreation)
- Haynes Elementary School
- Lincoln-Sudbury High School
- Featherland Fields & Recreation Area
- Broadacres Farm
- Nixon Elementary School
- St. Elizabeth Church
- Parkinson Fields (recreation)
- Sudbury Town Square (commercial)
- Town Center, Town Hall
- Heritage Park
- Noyes Elementary School
- Meadow Walk
- Police & Fire Department Headquarters
- Sudbury Commercial District
- Chiswick Park Area (Commercial)

The two Rail Trails in Sudbury

The **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (in red)** and the **Mass Central Rail Trail (in blue)** are now being constructed.

They will intersect at the “diamond,” just north of Route 20 (in yellow), near Union Ave.

Hudson
Marlboro



Framingham

Wayland

The Diamond

The intersection of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the Mass Central Rail Trail.

October 7, 2025



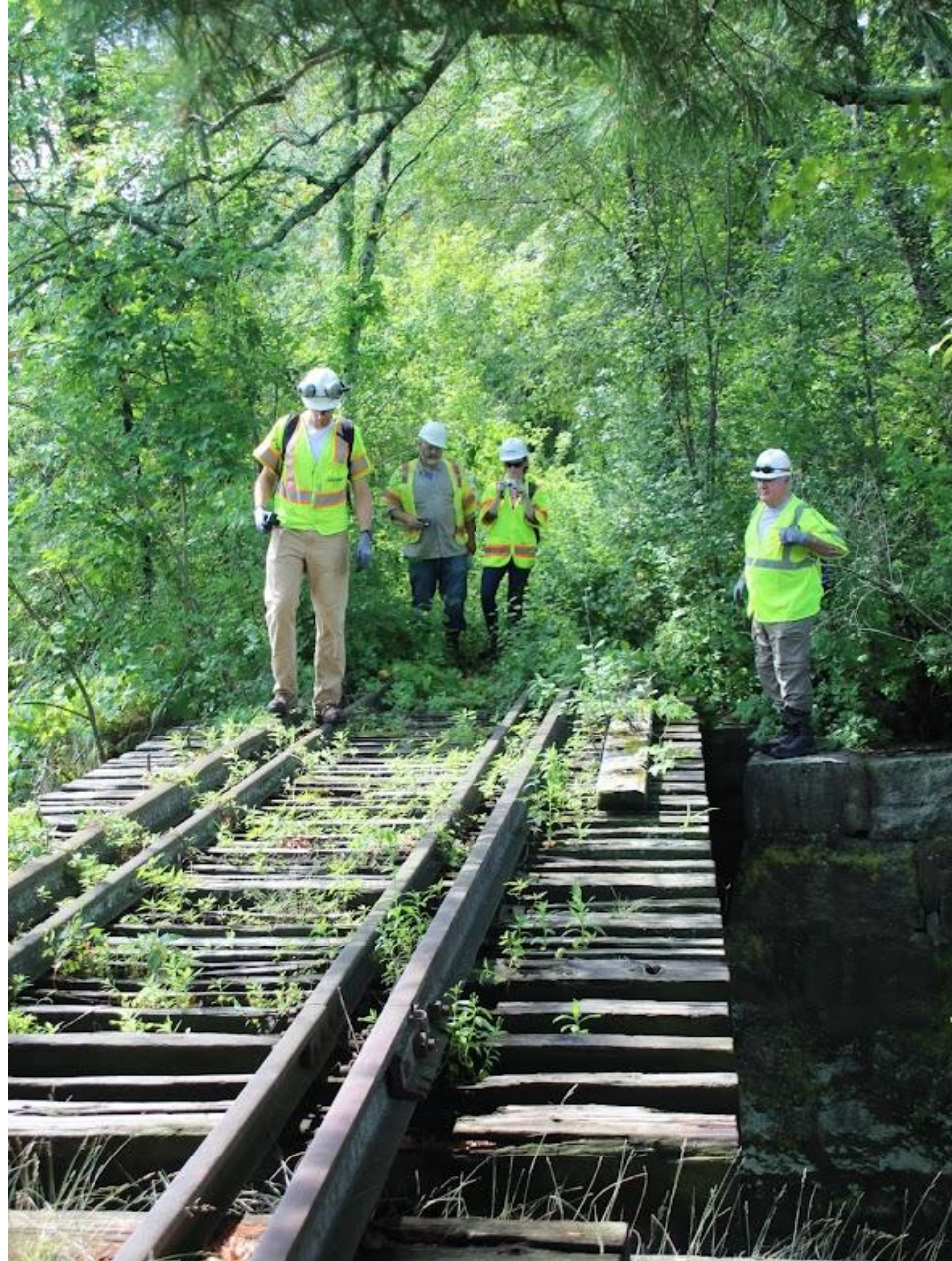
Visual tour of construction of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

2016 to 2025

Hold onto your hats, we're moving fast!



January 5, 2016: Surveying the right of way.



August 9, 2018: Inspecting railroad bridge over Hop Brook.



August 9, 2018: Looking south from Old Lancaster Rd.
toward Hop Brook.

August 14, 2019:
Digging test pits for a
boardwalk south of Hudson Rd.





September 9, 2019:
Equipment for test
borings near Pantry
Brook.



September 9, 2019: Test borings
site near Pantry Brook.



March 10, 2021: Looking north at Pantry Road crossing toward Rt. 117, before start of construction.



March 26, 2021: The Diamond; Intersection of BFRT and Mass Central Rail Trail at Station Road, before start of construction.

Construction begins

January 23,
2023:
At the
diamond,
looking
north.
Clearing
vegetation at
first day of
construction
of the Bruce
Freeman Rail
Trail.



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February 22, 2023: Specialized rail removal equipment near Hudson Road.



February 22, 2023: Disassembling the rails near Hudson Road.

February 22, 2023:
Disassembling the rails near
Hudson Road.





March 11, 2023: Signs on Morse Road



Actual Steel Rail recovered from corridor. Made in 1926. Weight is 107 lbs. per 3 feet of rail.



February 2023: Preparing
for rail removal near
Hudson Road.



February 2023: Stacked
rails near Hudson Road.



February 2023: Stacked
rails near Old Lancaster
Road.



February 22, 2023, Inspection of rails for salvage or reuse by MBTA near Ti Sales.



March 2, 2023, looking north from the diamond near Station Road.



March 2, 2023: Surface preparation: rails removed, ties waiting for removal. Looking south from Hudson Road.



Lori Capone, Conservation Coordinator, at an inspection on March 7, 2023, near Hudson Road.



March 28, 2023, Steel cutting saw removing bolts to disassemble rails.



March 28, 2023, Specialized equipment removing rails for salvage or reuse, Ti Sales.



March 28, 2023, Rails being removed for salvage or reuse, Ti Sales.



March 28, 2023, Rails being removed for salvage or reuse, Ti Sales.



March 28, 2023, Inspection of corridor
in preparation for tie removal.



March 28, 2023, View of rail trail looking north at Ti Sales.
Note: rail siding preserved as historical artifact.



March 28, 2023: Looking north from the diamond, the intersection of Bruce Freeman RT and Mass Central RT. Note: Preserved railroad artifacts at left.



March 29, 2023: Removal of rails near Old Lancaster Road.



April 14, 2023: Clearing the rail trail north of Codger Lane.

A preserved piece of rail from the original track, about 100 years old.





April 24, 2023: Tie removal, preparing the rail trail corridor south of Codger Lane.



April 24, 2023: Surveying the rail corridor south of Codger Lane.



April 24, 2023: Surveying and leveling the corridor north of Codger Lane.

April 24, 2023:
Surveying the
corridor north of
Codger Lane.





April 25, 2023: Removing ties near Hudson Road.



April 25, 2023: Removing ties near Hudson Road.

Rail rest, adjacent to the trail.

Rails were placed on rests for future use when rails needed replacement when the corridor was an active railroad.

Photo: May 2023





May 14, 2023: Water fowl, as seen from Hop Brook Bridge.



Turtles and ducks
at pond north of
Route 117.

March 22, 2025



Turtles and ducks
at pond north of
Route 117.

March 22, 2025



May 14, 2023: Preparing the rail trail corridor, south of Codger Lane. 51



May 14, 2023: Rail rest and mile marker, north of Codger Lane.



May 14, 2023:
Granite mile marker,
north of Codger Lane.



May 14, 2023: Rails and partial bridge artifacts stored near Morse Road. Rails were later sourced for base of sculpture.

May 19, 2023: Grading and preparing the trail north of Codger Lane.





May 20, 2023: Groundbreaking ceremony at Parkinson Field.

June 19, 2023: Mile marker artifact along Mass Central Rail Trail near intersection with BFRT.

‘N’ Northampton
‘84’ is for miles away





July 18, 2023: Work at site of future parking and rest area at Morse Road intersection.



July 19, 2023: looking north, surface preparation at Morse Rd. intersection.



July 19, 2023: AA Will and Mass DOT personnel near Morse Road intersection.

July 20, 2022

Foliage removal at
edge of trail, south
of Haynes Road.



July 20, 2022

Foliage removal at
edge of trail, south
of Haynes Road.





August 7, 2023: Access point, rest area, and ramp to trail under construction at Parkinson Field.



August 7, 2023: Access point, rest area, and ramp to trail under construction at Parkinson Field.



August 23, 2023: Subsurface material delivery at Old Lancaster Rd.



August 23, 2023: Leveling and grading of subsurface material at Old Lancaster Rd 66



August 23, 2023: North end of Hop Brook bridge abutment, year of construction. 67



August 28, 2023: Construction of Hop Brook bridge.

August 28, 2023:
Construction of
Hop Brook
bridge.





August 28, 2023: Construction of Hop Brook bridge.

September 26, 2023
Paving operations of
BFRT begin, south of
Old Lancaster Rd.





September 26, 2023, Paving operations begin, south of Old Lancaster Rd.





October 12, 2024, Hop Brook from the new bridge.



January 2025, BFRT north of Morse Road



Model of sculpture
Commissioned by Friends of Bruce Freeman Rail Trail ⁷⁵



Sculpture commissioned by the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail for Town of Sudbury for beautification and recreation, at a cost of \$10,000.

Phase 3

**Further construction of Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
Slated to begin in 2029**

**Going south from the diamond, 0.25 miles to
Route 20, across Route 20, then 1.1 miles to the
Sudbury/Framingham line.**

Questions