
Formstack Submission For: [MassTrails_Grant_application](#)

Submitted at 02/01/23 5:24 PM

Section I: Applicant Information

1.1 Organization:	Town of Andover
1.2 Contact Name:	Janet Nicosia
1.3 Contact Phone:	(978) 623-8712
1.4 Contact Email:	janet.nicosia@andoverma.us
1.5 Mailing Address:	5 Campanelli Drive Andover, MA 01810
1.6 Has this entity received state trail grant funding in previous years (i.e: MassTrails, Recreational Trails Program Grants)?:	No
1.7 If yes, please indicate the funding source, project name(s) and year(s) awarded.:	

Section II: Project Information

2.1 Project Title:	Haggetts Pond Rail Trail
2.2 Municipality(s) where the project will take place:	Town of Andover

<p>2.3 Brief Project Description:</p>	<p>A new multi-use trail along abandoned railbed beginning at the intersection with Haggetts Pond Road and traveling northerly to a new boardwalk/lookout at Haggetts Pond</p>
<p>2.4 Total Project Value:</p>	<p>735000.00</p>
<p>2.5 Grant Amount Requested:</p>	<p>500000.00</p>
<p>2.6 Matching Amount Committed :</p>	<p>235000.00</p>
<p>2.7 What is the source of Match funding?:</p>	<p>The sources of match funding include Department of Facilities Capital funds dedicated to ADA improvements, walkways and paving, and signage; and in-kind services of earth movement, carpentry, masonry by in-house trade and DPW staff.</p>
<p>2.8 What is the primary activity of the project?:</p>	<p>Construction</p>
<p>2.9 What is the designed use of this trail? Check One.:</p>	<p>Shared Use Path</p>
<p>2.10 What user group will this trail allow? Check all that apply. :</p>	<p>Walkers Runners Hikers Bicyclists Mountain Bikers Cross-Country Skiers</p>
<p>2.11 Briefly describe the project site/location. Include the closest address to the site.:</p>	<p>Along existing abandoned railbed from the intersection with Haggetts Pond Road northerly to a new boardwalk/lookout at Haggetts Pond</p>

<p>2.12 List the name of the landowner(s) and other relevant interest held on the property and by what entity (e.g. Conservation Restriction, Leasehold, Right of Way, Easement).:</p>	<p>The entire corridor is owned and maintained by the Town of Andover</p>
<p>2.13 Has landowner permission been obtained using the MassTrails Grant – Private/Public Landowner Permission Form and/or has permission been obtained for work on land where a Conservation Restriction is held? :</p>	<p>There are no restrictions along the project corridor</p>
<p>2.14 Does this project comply with state and federal guidelines for accessibility? :</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>2.15 Does the project involve the purchase of steel or iron, including construction supplies (e.g. bridges, culverts) or equipment with steel or iron parts (e.g. tractors, snowmobiles), with a value of \$2,500 or more?:</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.16: *Has Buy America documentation been obtained for this project and uploaded to this application? If the answer to question 2.15 above was “yes,” then the answer to this question MUST be “yes,” or this application will be disqualified. If the answer to question 2.15 was “no,” check “Not Applicable” below. :</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>2.17 If applicable, has a Project Need Form (PNF) / Project Initiation Form (PIF) been submitted to MassDOT? What is the project number (if one has been assigned)? :</p>	<p>The Town does not anticipate using funding through the STIP</p>
<p>2.18 If applicable, is this project currently on the regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) or on the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)? :</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Section III: Narrative</p>	
<p>3.1 Describe specifically what kind of trail your project proposes to design and/or build? Describe in detail the characteristics of the proposed trail (including length, width, surface material, grades / terrain, structures, signage, and amenities.):</p>	<p>The project proposes to convert approximately 4500 linear feet of abandoned railbed to a multi-use trail. The trail will consist of a 10' to 12' wide, paved surface with grass shoulders either side. Portions of the trail may require timber rail fencing along either side to provide separation from adjacent environmental resource areas and cross</p>

culverts to allow the trail to span over small streams. The southerly end of the trail (i.e. Haggetts Pond Road) may require a new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) to provide safe crossing of the street and access to vehicular parking. The project will also include installation of interpretive markers/panels and/or kiosks to provide education (historic and cultural) to trail users. The Andover DPW and Facilities Departments commit to the ongoing maintenance of this trail and its amenities.

3.2 Describe the specific tasks required to complete this project.:

The Town intends to utilize all available MassGIS, LiDAR and limited ground survey so their design consultant can develop engineered plans, specifications and cost estimates that can be used to solicit competitive bids from general contractors through a public bidding process to construct the trail. Specific tasks include: Design and specifications for the rail trail, boardwalk, beacons and signage, permitting (building and conservation), construction documents, procurement contracting and purchasing, construction, and closeout. The Department of Facilities employs a full time Construction Project Manager, and the Department of Public Works employs a full time Construction Civil Engineer. In-Kind services and contracted

services will be delineated and managed and employees of the Departments of Facilities and Public Works will each work on this project alongside contractors. Between the two Directors we have successfully completed millions of dollars in construction projects and are well equipped to manage this project.

3.3 Describe how this project will fill in a critical network gap and/or connect directly to other existing trails, trail segments or trail networks, and to residential, commercial and recreational “community anchors.”:

The Haggetts Pond Rail Trail is a first step in an important regional effort to improve rail trails in the region and connect to the Bay Circuit Trail. This phased approach will eventually connect Bay Circuit Trails from Andover to Tewksbury and Billerica reaching to Concord, Massachusetts. The 2012 Andover Master Plan set goals to strengthen the extensive trail system of Andover and connect open space; and to also include accessibility for persons with disabilities in both active and passive recreation projects. This project will start the process of developing a 3.5 mile rail section in Andover and beyond. There are also unimproved trails from the rail bed to features such as the Deyermund Recreation Area, eventually connecting another Town asset.

3.4 Is the project located in or near an Environmental Justice Community or in close proximity to an “underserved” community? If applicable, describe the impacted EJC or underserved community. What is the proximity of the community to the trail (does the trail intersect

The project is not within an Environmental Justice Community however is just 2.3 miles from Lawrence and 3.2

with the population block, run adjacent, or is it a certain distance away?) How will this project improve access, mobility, safety, health and/or quality of life for these populations? :

miles from Lowell, both environmental justice communities. The trail will be open to the public and provide wonderful nature experiences for persons from Andover and neighboring communities. Haggetts Pond is a pristine reservoir of the Town of Andover and as such is excellent habitat for mammals and birds rarely seen by city inhabitants. The accessibility of this trail, both geographically and physically, will bring nature experiences to a diverse set of visitors. The Andover Commission on Disability has identified this site as their number one location for an accessible trail in Andover and are a partner in this grant application and project. Parking and entry to the trail are free so financially challenged individuals will have equal access to this amenity.

3.5 Describe the steps already taken during this project or planned in future steps to ensure that the project is inclusive of under-represented voices and populations in the community, region, or state. :

The Andover Commission on Disability is partnering in the development of this trail, and is committed to inclusion of not only persons with disabilities, but persons of color and non-English speaking. The development of signage will include other languages including braille so that all may enjoy and learn about Haggetts Pond, the Andover Water Department, native plants and animals, and the history of the Massachusetts rail system.

This trail was identified in the 2012 Andover Master Plan meetings, and continues to be voiced in current renewal of that plan as a key goal for the Town of Andover to develop as an accessible path. The Andover Planning Department and Andover Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion works to have a diverse group of voices involved in the planning process.

The proposed trail will meet all state and federal accessibility requirements and provide parking at the southerly end of the project (Haggetts Pond Road). This will be the first accessible trail sponsored by the Town of Andover. It will serve as a corner stone of accessible recreational opportunities in the Town. Meeting the regulations is just the beginning. The trail edges will be striped for persons with low vision. Wooden rails will be installed where there are hazardous drop offs to keep visitors safely on the path. Benches along the trail will offer those with mobility issues a place to sit and rest, and observe wildlife while sitting safely. The destination boardwalk and Haggetts Pond overlook will include dropped rail at the view so that persons in wheelchairs, of short stature, or children, will be able to view the pond and its wildlife equally to those able

3.6: How does this project specifically address or improve accessibility for people with disabilities? Does this project meet all state and federal accessibility requirements? :

to stand at average height. Sitting areas will also be a part of the boardwalk for resting.

The Town has completed a feasibility study for the entire corridor that identifies existing conditions and challenges that will need to be addressed including wetlands, stormwater management, safety, ADA accessibility and compliance, and parking. In addition, conceptual plans using MassGIS have been developed for the entire project corridor as well as the portion from Haggetts Pond Road to the boardwalk/lookout at the Pond the Town is requesting funding.

3.7 Describe the "readiness" of this project for the proposed phase. :

Next steps will include advancing the plans to identify limit of work, disposition of the work, developing typical sections and construction details, detailed construction cost estimate using the latest MassDOT standard nomenclature and special provision to the latest MassDOT standard specifications that will allow the Town to implement the proposed improvements thru the public bidding process. The Town of Andover Facilities and DPW team is ready to begin this work immediately and is committed to the long term maintenance of this amenity in perpetuity.

Facilities has a robust software supported preventative maintenance program which will ensure periodic checking of the trail. Andover also has a citizen notification software Q-Alert, where residents get immediate action for reporting of issues at any Andover property, and the residents are extremely active.

A conceptual plan has been completed and endorsed for many years. This phase is the consensus starting point of the rail trail development in Andover due to its already busy use, its sheer beauty, and the desire for accessible trails where a rail bed offers such a great opportunity. FEMA maps were consulted and do not impact the trail area.

3.8 Describe community support for this project.:

This project has received unanimous support from the community. Letters of support included in this application include Andover officials: Town Manager, Director of Public Works, Director of Conservation, Director of Planning and Land Use, Fire Chief, and important Andover community leaders: State Representative Tram Nguyen, Chair of the Andover Commission on Disability, Board Chair of Andover Trails, and Trustee of Andover Village Improvement Society. The project also has the support of the Council on Aging, Police Chief, and through the Master

Plan in process, numerous members of the community.

This location has long been identified as the best location for an accessible trail, and the needed first phase of the rail trail system development in Andover. No votes are needed to move forward with this project, all funds are already in place to provide match. There is no opposition to the project. The planning team of the Director of Public Works, the Director of Facilities, and the Chair of the Commission on Disability support and pledge to work to make this project a success. Many departments have been involved in the identification of this location over the years, including site tours and many meetings. We are now ready to act.

3.9 Does this project specifically address an existing or potential safety issue? If yes, describe the proposed installation / enhancement and how it will improve safety on the trail. :

The trail is currently being used by the public as an unofficial trail. There is one at-grade crossing at Haggetts Pond Road that will need to be addressed with regard to safety for users who may utilize the existing parking along the south side of the street. A new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon, advanced warning signing and ADA Pedestrian Ramps will be installed at this intersection to allow for safe crossing of the street by trail users.

Dedicated accessible parking will allow safe travel from

vehicle to trail. Safety features along the path include some guard rails at some edges where there are drop offs, signage, and pavement markings for persons with low vision.

The trail will provide a safe use area free from traffic conflicts.

The Haggetts Pond Rail Trail is unique because of the natural habitat value of the area that persons of all abilities will be able to experience, free of charge, just a few miles from busy cities. The remote beauty of this area lets the visitor see migrating waterfowl, catch a glimpse of wild mammals and watch fish jump and birds soar all on a shaded walk under a soaring canopy of trees. It is further unique due to the location of the trail in Andover where the nearest rail trail is miles away. This phase of development provides the kickoff of a unique opportunity for future connection to the Bay Circuit Trail nearby. It also provides a 1.2 mile out and back paved accessible and multi-use path that a diverse group of users can enjoy.

3.10 What distinguishes this project as a unique, high-quality recreational experience for the visitors and residents of Massachusetts?
:

Section IV: Cultural and Natural Resources Protection

4.1 To the best of your knowledge, is your project near any historic or archaeological resources?:

No

4.2 If Yes, please describe the resources and how your project will avoid, minimize or mitigate any impacts to these resources.:

<p>4.3 Will your project involve even minimal digging or excavation?:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>4.4 Please describe the locations and extents of digging and excavation.:</p>	<p>It is anticipated the top 3-4 inches of the existing abandoned railbed will need to be removed to eliminate weeds, leaves and debris. The scarified surface will be topped with new gravel borrow to fill in any holes, undulations and allow for fine grading and compaction and placement of a new 3.5" depth hot mix asphalt in 2 lifts. There may be some minimal digging for the installation of signage along the path, supports for the boardwalk, and for the benches along the rail trail.</p>
<p>4.5 Will your project require Wetland Protection Act permitting (i.e. will any part occur within 100 feet of a wetland or 200 feet of a perennial stream?):</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>4.6 If yes, please describe what communications you have had with the local Conservation Commission, if permitting is required and whether it has been obtained, and what steps you are taking to avoid wetland impacts. :</p>	<p>The Town has been in contact with Conservation to this point to better understand the project and potential impacts to environmental resources. It is anticipated a full Notice of Intent will be required to permit this project.</p>
<p>4.7 Will the project occur within Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and/or Priority Habitats of Rare Species, according to MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife’s Natural Heritage Atlas? (available at https://maps.massgis.digital.mass.gov/MassMapper/MassMapper.html by clicking on the “Regulated Areas” drop down menu and selecting “Natural Heritage Data”):</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>4.8 If yes, please describe what communications you have had with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, the status of permitting, and what steps you are taking to avoid impacts to rare species.:</p>	<p>There has been no communication with MassNHESP to this point. The Town intends to initiate this</p>

	process over the next few months.
4.9 Does the project meet or exceed any thresholds for MEPA review set in 301 CMR 11.03? List all relevant thresholds and indicate if ENF and/or EIR are required. :	No
4.10 Are there any other permits required for this project? Please indicate the permit type and how/when it will be obtained. :	No
Section V: Trail Accessibility Guidelines Checklist	
5.1 Organization / Agency::	Town of Andover
5.2 Project Title:	Haggetts Pond Rail Trail
5.3 Project Location:	Abandoned railbed from Haggetts Pond Road northerly along abandoned railbed to the existing boardwalk/lookout at Haggetts Pond Road intersection to High Plain Road
5.4: Designed Use of Trail (Check ONLY one)::	Shared Use Path
5.5 Project Activity (Check all that apply):	Design/Engineering/Permitting Construction
5.6 Length of New/Altered trail (feet)::	4500
5.7 Does the trail connect directly to a trailhead or trail that complies with accessibility guidelines without any exceptions? :	No
5.8 Is the trail tread firm and stable?:	Yes
5.9 If not, what is the length (feet) of trail tread that is NOT firm and stable: :	
5.10 Is the full trail width at least 36 inches? :	YEs
5.11 If not, what length (feet) of trail is NOT 36 inches wide?:	

5.12 If/where the trail is not 36 inches wide, what is the width (inches) of the trail?:	
5.13 Are there tread obstacles on the trail greater than 2 inches in height? :	No
5.14 Does the trail slope exceed 5% for any segment of the trail? If NO, proceed to Question 5.19. IF YES, answer questions 5.15 through 5.18.:	No
5.15 Does trail slope exceed 12% for any segment of the trail? :	No
If yes, provide length (ft) of each segment::	
5.16 Are there segments of trail longer than 10 ft that are between 10 and 12% slope? :	No
If yes, provide length (ft) of each segment: :	
5.17 Are there segments of trail longer than 30 ft that are between 8.33 and 10% slope? :	No
If yes, provide length (ft) of each segment: :	
5.18 Are there segments of trail longer than 200 ft that are between 5 and 8.33% slope? :	No
If yes, provide length (ft) of each segment: :	
5.19 Is the trail tread width less than 60 inches? :	No
If yes, are passing spaces utilized to comply with FSTAG guidelines? :	
5.20 Are there openings in the trail tread, resting, or passing areas of the trail? :	Yes
If yes, are openings smaller than 1/2 inch? :	Yes
If yes, are openings placed perpendicular to the direction of travel? :	Yes
5.21: Where one or more of the following conditions exists on a trail, an “exception” for that specific requirement can be used where that condition exists. All appropriate design options should be considered	

before applying the exception. Check all that occur at least once within the project::

5.22 After assessing projects to determine conditions for exception, one of two general exceptions may be applied. These exceptions are determined based on five Limiting Factors for Determination of Impracticability. Check all Limiting Factors for Determination of Impracticability that apply to this project::

5.23 If NO Limiting Factors apply, check General Exception 1. If one or more Limiting Factors apply, choose General Exception 2.:

5.24 Use the space below to describe any additional conditions that make it impracticable to comply with the guidelines.:

5.25 Use the space below to describe alternatives considered. Explain why alternatives were not chosen.:

Name of person(s) filling out Section 5::

Janet Nicosia

Position / Title of person(s)::

Director of Facilities for the Town of Andover

Date of signature::

Feb 01, 2023

Signature:

[View Signature](#)

Section VI: Equipment Worksheet (Required for Equipment Purchases Only)

6.1 Have three quotes been obtained for this particular piece of equipment?:

6.2 What need will the purchase of this equipment fulfill? For multiple pieces of equipment, describe the individual benefit for each. :

6.3 Describe the trail or trail system where the equipment will be used. Include the type of trail, length, surface, user groups and condition of the trail/system. :

6.4 What is the estimated daily use of the section of trail/system where the equipment will be used?:

6.5 Where and how will the equipment be stored (during both the winter and summer months, if different)? :

6.6 Is this equipment replacing an older piece of equipment that was purchased using previous grant funds (i.e., Recreational Trails Program)? If so, what is the plan for that piece of equipment's disposal/re-allocation?:

6.7 If proposing to purchase accessories, justify each individual addition with an explanation, if applicable.:

6.8 Is this equipment "Buy America" compliant? :

Section VII: Required Documents and Supporting Materials

7.1 MassTrails Grant Budget and Timeline Worksheet (Required - *Note that there are two (2) tabs on this worksheet- BOTH should be filled out):

[View File](#)

7.2 Project Map(s) (Required):

[View File](#)

7.3 Documentation of Landowner(s) Permission / Authorization (Required):

[View File](#)

7.4 If applicable: Buy America Documentation (Required for applicable projects):

7.5 Project Documents (Photos, Plans, Drawings, etc.):

[View File](#)

7.6 Additional Project Information - A:

[View File](#)

7.7 Additional Project Information - B:

[View File](#)

7.8 Additional Project Information - C:

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