

“Show me the Money”  
Case Studies in How and Where MassTrails Grants  
Get Spent”

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# MARTAB

## Mass Recreational Trails Advisory Board

- 12 volunteer members reviewing grant applications
  - Over 100 applications (that's a lot of work!)
  - \$5,100,000 grant funds awarded to 71 grants
- assisting with the semiannual MassTrails Conference

# Recreational Trails Scoring

- Connectivity
- Grant Equity
- Accessibility
- Experience
- Readiness
- Efficiency
- Sustainability
- Youth engagement
- Match

# Suggestions for winning a DCR grant

1. Read the instructions and follow them to the letter.
2. Do **not** skip sections.
3. Have the grant proof read to make sure the information is well presented.
4. Expand sections where you do well. For instance with connections to other trails, involving volunteers and especially the youth as they will be taking over your positions in years to come.
5. Support letters from local officials and trail users and groups are very important.
6. Explain in detail how you will attain the required 20% match.
7. ADA is extremely important, if applicable.
8. If you have questions you will find the DCR Recreational Trails department are very helpful.

# Topsfield Linear Common *not without the DCR!*

The “TLC” is about 4 miles in length built on an abandoned railbed connecting the towns of Wenham and Boxford.

The East Coast Greenway’s southern end of the trail is the Florida Keys and, 3,000 miles later, it ends up in Canada.





TOPSFIELD



Linear Common

## TOPSFIELD LINEAR COMMON

PHASE I

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009

ONE O'CLOCK

TOPSFIELD TOWN LIBRARY

1 SOUTH COMMON STREET

Please join us as we gather at the Topsfield Library for a celebration, including a brief presentation on the next sections of the trail to be started and a photo exhibit of scenes along the trail. Following the reception we will walk a short distance along the trail for the ribbon cutting. We hope you can attend this fun and informative event! Refreshments will be served.

*All are welcome!*

# Border-to Boston Trail goes through Topsfield

A progress report on the Border-to-Boston Trail plans



# Volunteers at work - helping to meet the match





# Topsfield DCR Trail Grants & Expenditures

The total cost for the 2.3 miles of completed trail was about \$323,866. An additional 1.6 miles are usable with a grass and single track surface. Major cost factors were stone dust, the purchase & installation of flashing LED lights at three intersections and repair of a bridge abutment for the Ipswich River Railroad bridge.

About 1.5 miles of the trail was built by from the Iron Horse Preservation Society. They removed the rails and ties and spread Topsfield supplied stone at no cost to the Town.

## **DCR Grants**

FY 2007 - \$40,000	design, survey, wetland delineation, remove rails & ties and paint crosswalks
FY 2008 - \$50,000	Wetland survey, Ipswich River Bridge abutment grouting from ice scouring
FY 2011 - \$49,000	Phase III stone dust & wetland work
FY 2013 - \$45,250 + \$4,750	Survey and Nol for parking area and IR Bridge wingwall study
FY 2015 - \$49,000 -> \$69,000	Rebuild IR Bridge wingwall
FY 2018 - \$25,064	Install solar LED lights at 3 road crossings including US.S. Rt. 1.

**Total \$283,064**

**DCR grants not funded  
FY 2009, 2010 and 2014.**

# Be careful what you agree to:

MBTA lease to Topsfield - Rail Trail Committee pays for restoration



*Before*

Built in 1850 the river has scoured an abutment



*After restoration - \$70,000!*