



## The Route

The first sections of the Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway, a 3.7 mile segment in Springfield and a 1.7 mile segment in Agawam, are now open to the public.

For most of its proposed 20-mile corridor, the River Walk will run immediately adjacent to the banks of the Connecticut River, passing through a continuous greenbelt and offering majestic river views. Much of this area is publicly-owned municipal flood control land. Where a riverside route is unfeasible, connections will be made through bike lanes added to town and city streets.

### River Walk Segments Now Open

*Springfield* – 3.7 miles, from the South End Bridge north to Plainfield Street in Chicopee; passes the Basketball Hall of Fame and Riverfront Park;

*Agawam* – 1.7 miles from Borgatti Park north to School Street, running between the riverbank and River Road;

### River Walk Segments Under Design

*Chicopee* – 4.9 miles; the I-391 corridor brings the route north from Plainfield Street to Chicopee downtown; after crossing the Chicopee River, the route uses the riverside land west of the flood control dike between the Medina Street boat ramp and Nash Field;

*West Springfield Riverwalk* – 2.0 miles in a loop around Riverdale Shops;

*Agawam Bikelane Loop* – 3.3 miles linking the Connecticut River Walk to the town center, via Main Street and School Street;

*Chicopee Riverwalk* – 2.1 miles along the Chicopee River, from City Hall to Chicopee Falls;

*Holyoke Canalwalk* – 2.0 miles along the First Level and Second Level Canals in downtown Holyoke;

## The Benefits

The Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway has dramatically enhanced the experience of riverfront recreation creating an inviting, safe and available environment for all. In the participating communities alone, it will serve a population of over 280,000.

Other benefits include:

- reducing auto traffic and emissions by offering opportunities to walk and bike to work;
- stimulating riverfront revitalization in downtown Springfield and other areas, attracting tourist facilities, restaurants, shops and museums;
- providing much needed outlets for recreation in densely urban and suburban areas;
- serving as the foundation for a Connecticut River greenbelt linking new riverfront parks, attractions, recreational facilities and wildlife sanctuaries being planned concurrently with the River Walk.

Throughout the country, abandoned waterfronts are being transformed into vibrant public spaces, greatly adding to the quality of life in their regions. Working together, we can make river revitalization happen here.



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# Connecticut River



## Walk and Bikeway

# The Vision

The longest river in New England, the Connecticut River is the Pioneer Valley's most prominent natural asset. For centuries it's been a source of regional

identity and pride. But in recent times we've been cut off from the river by flood control dikes, railroad tracks, Route 5 and Interstate 91. The Connecticut River Walk & Bikeway has been conceived to revitalize the Connecticut Riverfront, restoring it as a focus of life in the region.

The River Walk is a linear park along both sides of the Connecticut River in the communities of Agawam, Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield and West Springfield.

The River Walk features:

- paved paths for strolling, jogging, bicycling and rollerblading;
- scenic overlooks and nature trails;
- urban promenades with benches and picnic areas;
- safety and security features such as bicycle-mounted police patrols.



# Trail Use

Open sections of the Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway in Springfield and Agawam provide outstanding opportunities to bike, run, walk or rollerblade along 5.4 miles of the riverfront. The

River Walk offers stunning scenic vistas of the Connecticut River, the Springfield city skyline, and Memorial Bridge. These open sections provide direct access to the new Basketball Hall of Fame via a new pedestrian bridge, as well as access to Springfield's Riverfront Park and Agawam's riverfront areas and parklands.

## Trail Access and Parking

The River Walk trail map (to the right) shows locations for public access to the trail and locations available for public parking.

## Rules of the River Walk

To help everyone enjoy the River Walk, there are some basic rules:

- 1) The River Walk is only open during daylight hours.
- 2) Pedestrians and handicapped persons always have the right of way.
- 3) Bicyclists are required to obey all traffic laws and signals. Please be particularly careful crossing Route 20 and only cross using the button to activate the crossing signal.
- 4) No racing on the River Walk. Be courteous of other trail users.
- 5) Bicyclists and skaters should give audible warning when passing others.
- 6) No motorized vehicles are allowed on the River Walk (other than maintenance, police or emergency vehicles).
- 7) Pets should be kept on a maximum 6-foot leash and under control.
- 8) No alcoholic beverages allowed on the trail.

