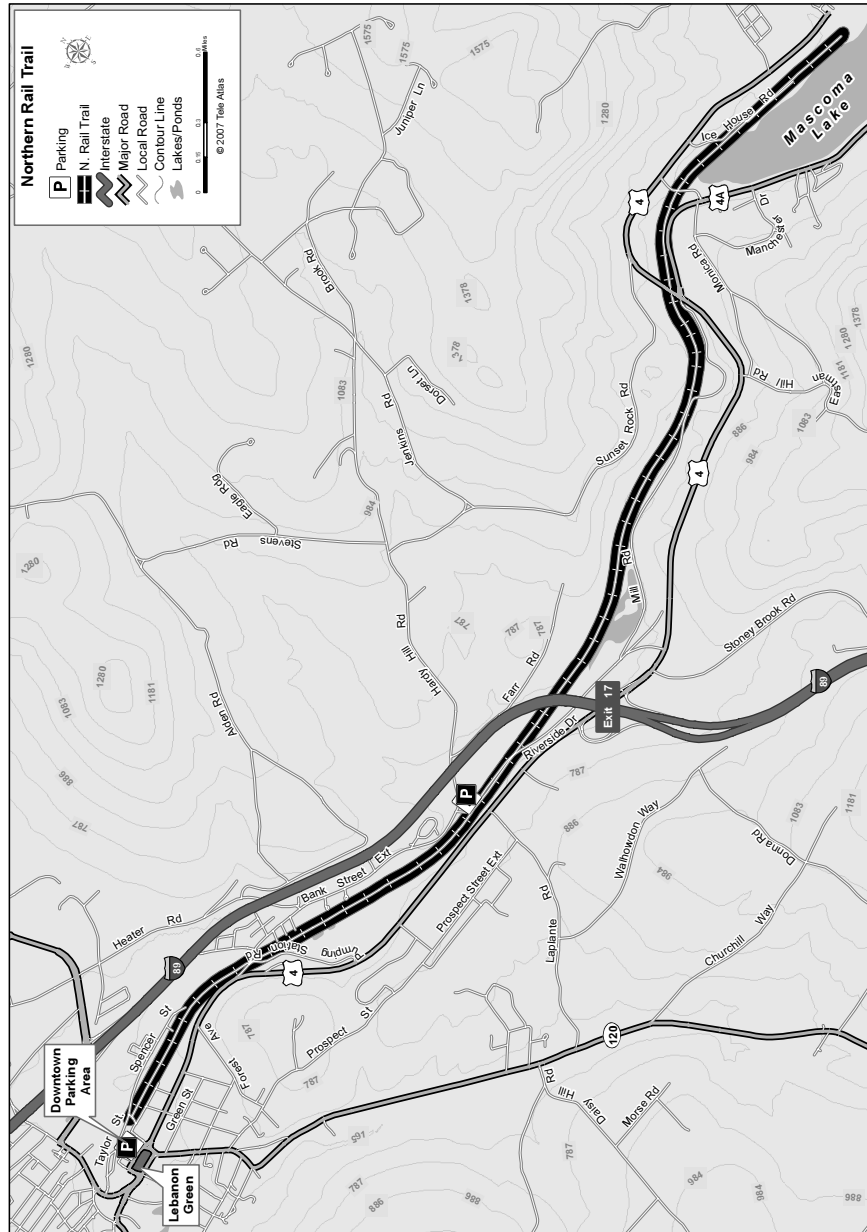


Northern Rail Trail - Lebanon, NH to Grafton NH



Uses: Hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing as well as snowmobiling, horse-back riding, and other modes of travel that are not motorized. Wheeled vehicles are permitted.

Ownership: State of New Hampshire, managed by the NH Bureau of Trails in cooperation with the Friends of Northern Rail Trail

Distance: 23 miles

Directions

Parking is available in downtown Lebanon along Taylor Street (in front of the CCBA), and in the two lots behind Lebanon City Hall. Additional parking is available near the trail gate east of Packard Hill Covered Bridge on Riverside Drive. Parking is also available at other trailheads along this route; call the local town highway departments to find out if trailheads are plowed and accessible in the winter.

Description

Of the three rail corridors laid out west and north from Concord in central NH to points on the Connecticut River, the Northern survived the longest. It was completed in 1847, with Daniel Webster delivering the keynote address in downtown Lebanon, at a spot just a few yards from where the trail begins today. Acquired by the Boston & Maine in 1887, the line flourished for about forty years, until the Depression, when the Northern Branch began a long decline toward oblivion. Passenger service ended in 1965, with a few freight runs operating into the early 1970s. In 1996, sixty miles of the corridor were acquired by the State of NH for five million dollars in Federal transportation enhancement funds, to be converted to a recreation trail.

