# Corridor Management Plan for Massachusetts Central Rail Trail-Wayside Section and Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project

This Corridor Management Plan (CMP) is consistent with DCR's standard operations and maintenance plan for shared use pathway / rail trails. This plan has been developed specifically for those portions of the existing MBTA corridor where DCR's proposed Massachusetts Central Rail Trail Project will be located along Eversource's proposed Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project in the towns of Sudbury, Marlborough, Stow, and Hudson. This CMP will be shared with DCR and Eversource staff engaged in management activities.

The construction of the MCRT is anticipated to begin within one year of the completion of the Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project and as such, DCR plans to take responsibility for the following along this corridor following construction of both the Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project and the MCRT:

## Every two weeks, or as needed, between Memorial Day and Columbus Day DCR will:

- Pick up trash along the multi-use path.
- Mow the 2-foot wide shoulders on each side of the paved multi-use trail.
- Blow plant debris (leaves, branches, etc.) from paved shared use path (avoid blowing directly into or within 25 feet of vernal pools, in compliance with the Sudbury Order of Conditions).
- Inspect for and remove fallen or immediate hazard trees and limbs that impede safe use of the multi-use trail.
- Remove graffiti and illegal dumping, if it has occurred.

#### Once a year (typically following Columbus Day weekend) DCR will:

- Mow the areas over the Eversource duct bank and stormwater swales (if mowing occurs between April 1 and November 1, then areas within mapped habitat for state-listed turtles will require "turtle sweeps" by trained individuals ahead of the mower and mower deck heights shall be set higher than 10 inches above the ground).
- Follow its best management practices for managing terrestrial invasive plants.

#### Annually DCR will:

- Inspect culverts, swales and other drainage structures and clean as needed (see O&M/LTPPP below).
- Inspect existing paved surfaces of the multi-use trail to identify areas where root damage to pavement is beginning to occur. As appropriate pick / dig / remove roots causing the damage.
- Trim/remove potential hazard trees and those that appear to be causing root damage to the existing pavement of the multi-use trail.
- Inspect trail signs and replace as needed, avoid "sign clutter" and remove excess /old signage.
- Monitor the invasive species management areas outside of the path and submit annual reports to the Sudbury Conservation Office. Any areas found to contain concentrations of invasive species and/or should the plant community within the management area exceed 10% invasive species, the management area shall be treated in accordance with a program developed in consultation with the Sudbury Conservation Commission's representative.

## \*Every 10-15 years, depending on resources, DCR plans to:

- Saw-cut, excavate and repave targeted areas of root damage or cracks.
- Consider mill and overlay to extend pathway life (no expansion or widening of multi-use trail; these activities require agency consultations and potential permitting).
- Repair deteriorated decking on bridges as needed.
- Re-loam and re-seed shoulders to address edge issues.

\*If heavy equipment is used for any of these activities between April 1 and November 1 then "turtle sweeps" by trained individuals are required immediately ahead of any equipment. Conservation Commission will be contacted for activities that may be jurisdictional.

#### Every 25-35 years, depending on resources, DCR plans to:

• Design and implement full pathway reconstruction (if required). This requires agency consultations and permitting and would require the development of turtle protection measures specific to the proposed reconstruction activities.