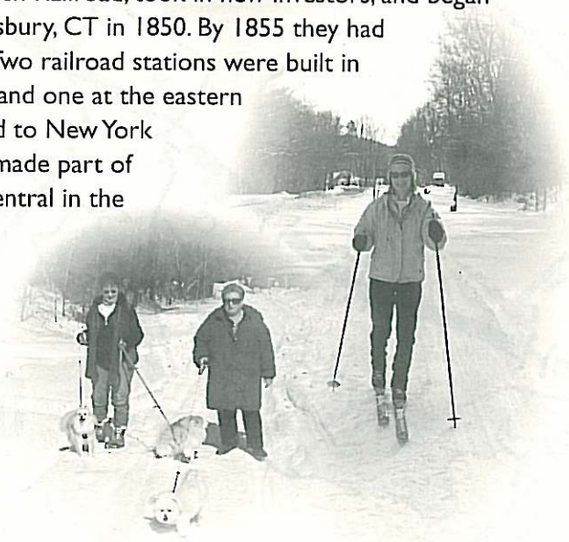
Managed & cared for by your Town's **Park & Recreation Commission.**

Rails to Trails
The "JOG"

The rail trail that passes on the west side of the Congamond Lakes extends six miles across Southwick in a north-south direction from Connecticut. It follows, in large part, the path of the New Haven and Northampton Railroad, which, in turn, had followed a portion path of the Hampshire and Hampden Canal. The story of this transportation corridor started in 1826 when the Farmington and the Hampshire and Hampden Canals were built to carry goods up and down between Northampton, MA and the Long Island Sound at New Haven, CT. For just over twenty years, canal boats loaded with goods were pulled along the canal by horses on towpaths. These goods otherwise would have had to be carried overland to the Connecticut River or to the Hudson River for shipping to Long Island Sound. The canal was a boost for manufacturing and agriculture and proved the point that impoved transportation would be beneficial to a small agricultural town like Southwick. But it was an expensive solution, so the canal was gradually closed between 1842 and 1848. Over the next ten years the Canal Company became the Northampton and New Haven Railroad, took in new investors, and began building their railroad in Connecticut reaching Simsbury, CT in 1850. By 1855 they had passed through Southwick and reached Westfield. Two railroad stations were built in Southwick: one at the Lakes on Congamond Road and one at the eastern end of Depot Road. In 1887 the railroad was leased to New York New Haven and Hartford Railroad. In 1969 it was made part of the Penn Central Railroad. With demise of Penn Central in the early 1970's, much of the line was abandoned. The Connecticut-Southwick section is now being converted to a rail trail, which is scheduled for completion in 2011.

(Information provided by Southwick Historical Commission)



For more information on how you can get involved please visit:

www.southwickma.org/park

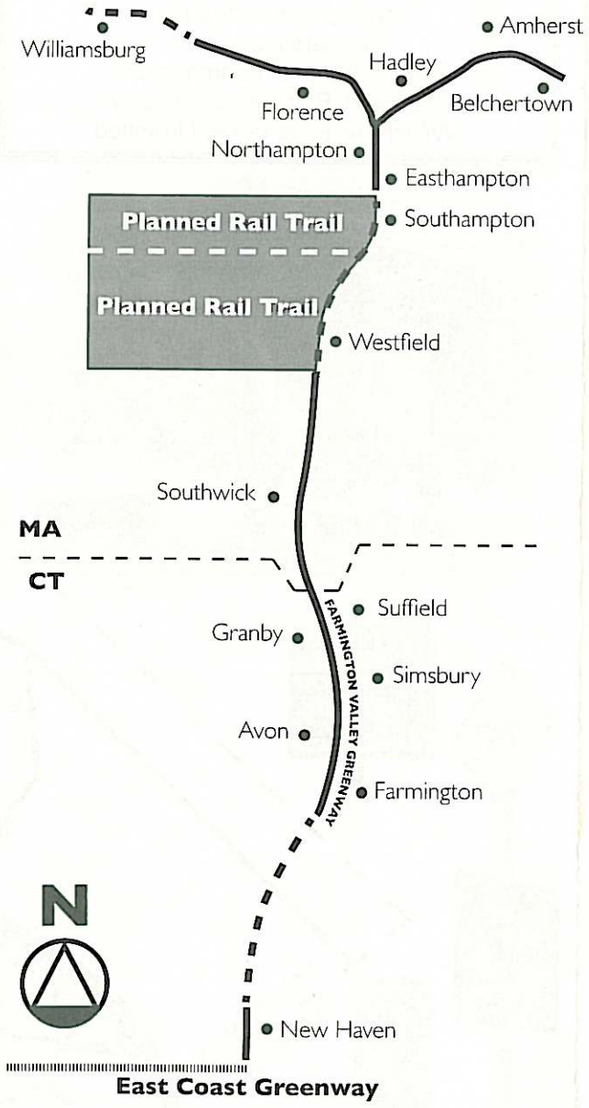
Southwick Town Hall
454 College Highway • Southwick, MA 01077
(413) 569-5701
parkandrec@southwickma.net

COMMISSIONERS

Michelle Ackerman • Kelly Magni • Susan E. Grabowski
Daniel D. Call • Li-Ling L. Waller • Tracy Cesan - Secretary

Massachusetts • Connecticut

MULTI USE RAIL TRAIL COORIDOR



Trail enhancements due in part from a Coca Cola Corporation Grant Award through National Rails to Trails Conservancy

Welcome to
The "JOG"

Enjoy Southwicks New
MULTI USE RAIL TRAIL

Outdoor Recreational Trail System

for Non-Motorized Use ***Only***

Published 2011

User Guidelines

NON-MOTORIZED USE ONLY

For the safety of all, please stay on the trail. Be courteous and respect the rights of adjacent property owners.

- Rail Trail is open for recreational use between the hours of sunrise & sunset, unless otherwise posted.
- **NO Motorized vehicles, horses or livestock.** (Exception: Emergency & maintenance vehicles)
- Snowshoeing & cross country skiing permitted.
- Walk, run, jog, bicycle or rollerblade on the right side of the yellow line. Before passing alert others by bell, horn or verbally.
- Bicycle riders are encouraged to wear protective headgear. **Helmets are required by State Law for bicycle riders 16 years & younger.**
- Be sure young children are properly strapped into child carriers attached to or behind a bicycle.
- All users should help in keeping the trail clean & safe for all. **What you bring in, you take out.**
- Use trash containers provided on the trail.
- **Dogs and cats shall be kept on a leash at all times.** Please clean up after your pets. Animal pet stations are provided along the trail.
- Report trail maintenance problems to the Park & Recreation Commission at (413) 569-5701
- **Report any incidents or accidents on the trail directly to the Police Department by dialing 911**
- NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, HUNTING TRAPPING, FIRES, LITTERING, CAMPING, REMOVAL OF PLANTS OR JUMPING FROM BRIDGES. VIOLATERS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE.

Funding and support for this brochure was provided by:

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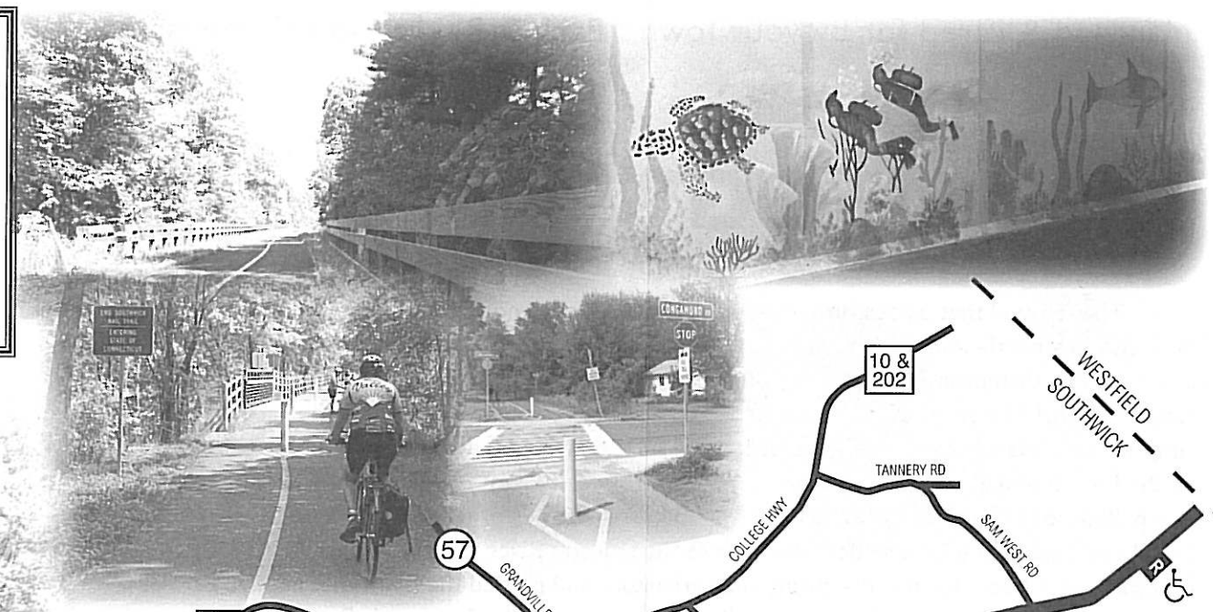

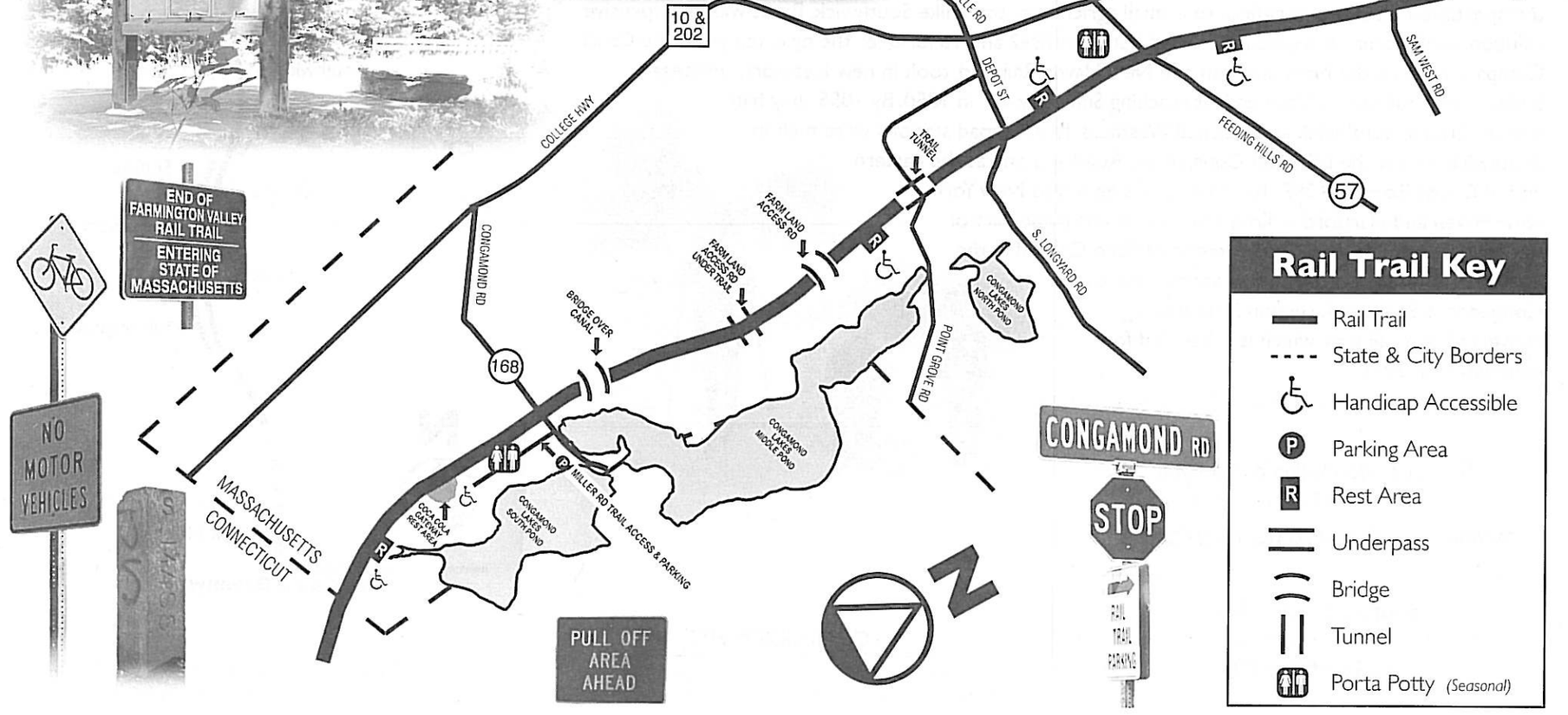

Rail Trail Key

- Rail Trail
- State & City Borders
- Handicap Accessible
- Parking Area
- Rest Area
- Underpass
- Bridge
- Tunnel
- Porta Potty *(Seasonal)*