

## Pedal from Newton to Florida, or Canada, on paths free of autos

By Gil Woolley

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The most ambitious long-distance bicycle path in the eastern US, the *East Coast Greenway*, passes through Newton. When completed you will be able to enjoy riding on paved car free trails to Key West, Florida and to Calais, Maine, on the Canadian border. The twelve-mile *Bikeway* from Boston to Waltham is the longest completed segment of the *Greenway* in Massachusetts. Other completed sections are 4.1 miles of the *Salem- Marblehead-Swampscott Rail Trail* and 2.5 miles of the *Blackstone River Bikeway*. There are a number of short local trails, which will be incorporated into the *Greenway* as links are developed. You can enter the *Greenway* at Albemarle Road, off of Watertown St, where it crosses Cheesecake Brook.

The link between Waltham and the *Blackstone River Bikeway*, near Worcester, will be the proposed *Massachusetts Central Rail Trail*, which will follow the right of way of an abandoned railroad track. Another "Rail Trail", in the active planning stage, will go for thirty miles from Newburyport on the New Hampshire border to Danvers. When completed, the Massachusetts section of the *Blackstone River Bikeway* will take you to a section in Rhode Island which is already in use. More than 20% of the 3000-mile trail is open and Highway links have been designated. A number of cyclists have ridden the entire length, using multi-purpose roads to bridge the gaps.

To learn more about the East Coast Greenway and other trails, see: [www.greenway.org](http://www.greenway.org), [www.massbike.org](http://www.massbike.org), [www.mhd.state.ma.us](http://www.mhd.state.ma.us), and [www.masscentralrailtrail.org](http://www.masscentralrailtrail.org). For the national picture, go to: Rails to Trails, [www.railtrails.org](http://www.railtrails.org), and American Trails, [www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org). From these sites you can get links to trails all over the US and overseas.

*Gilbert Woolley is a retired engineer and longtime member of the Sierra Club.*

# East Coast Greenway®

A Trail Connecting Cities

## Maine to Florida Proposed Route Corridor

Rev. August 2006

