



# The Western New England Greenway – A Heritage Bikeway

# HERITAGE RIDE 2016

*Saturday, 23 July - Sunday, 31 July 2016*

*Start: Weir Farm National Historic Site, Wilton, CT*  
*End: Montreal, QC, Canada*

**Please note** – while there is a daily itinerary, this is simply a group of friendly cyclists on an organized ride. Lodging and meals are not arranged (though most meals are taken as a group), and are the responsibility of each rider. Other than your personal expenses – there is no cost to ride along!

- **Route for the Tour**

Saturday, 23 July: Weir Farm NHS to Cornwall Bridge  
Sunday, 24 July: Cornwall Bridge to Lenox  
Monday, 25 July: Lenox to Williamstown  
Tuesday, 26 July: Williamstown to Manchester  
Wednesday, 27 July: Manchester to Fair Haven  
Thursday, 28 July: Fair Haven to Ticonderoga  
Friday, 29 July: Ticonderoga to Burlington  
Saturday, 30 July: Burlington to St.Jean-sur-Richelieu  
Sunday, 31 July: St.Jean-sur-Richelieu to Montreal

- The WNEG route links the following existing or conceptual trails and routes along the way from New York to Montreal:

East Coast Greenway  
Merritt Parkway Trail Alliance  
Norwalk River Valley Trail  
Still River Greenway  
New Milford River Trail  
HouBike Walk Trail  
Ashuwillticook Rail Trail  
D & H rail trail  
Lake Champlain Bikeway  
Burlington Bike Path  
Island Line Trail  
Route Verte in Quebec

**Saturday, July 23: Wilton to Cornwall Bridge, CT**

## What is the Western New England Greenway?

The Western New England Greenway (WNEG) is a bicycle route in progress, connecting the East Coast Greenway at Norwalk to the Route Verte in Quebec Province, Canada.

The WNEG concept really came into being at a conference held in November 2011 at Bennington, VT attended by different bicycle organizations working on trail development and bicycle routes in western CT, MA and VT.

The existing or conceptual routes along the WNEG include, going from south to north: the Merritt Parkway Trail Alliance, the East Coast Greenway, the Norwalk River Valley Trail, the Still River Greenway, the New Milford River Trail, the Hou Bike Walk Trail, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, the Lake Champlain Bikeway, the Burlington Bike Path, the Island Line Trail and La Route Verte.

About 56 miles. From Weir Farm it is about 6 miles across to WNEG route at the Saugatuck reservoir, then on to New Milford (good coffee stop) passing by the Still River Greenway along the way. From New Milford we visit Sega Meadows along the New Milford River Trail, through the covered Bull's Bridge in Kent (good coffee stop), then on to Cornwall Bridge.

**Sunday, July 24: Cornwall Bridge to Lenox, MA**

The ride is on relatively level terrain and about 47 miles riding. From Cornwall Bridge along the Housatonic then through the West Cornwall covered bridge, along River Road, Weatogue Road into Massachusetts, through Great Barrington and along Route 183 past the Norman Rockwell Museum and Tanglewood to Lenox.

**Lodging suggestion:** the Rookwood Inn

**Monday, July 25: Lenox to Williamstown, MA**

Today is quite a short day at about a 37 mile ride. In 2015 we had a great ride with members of the Berkshire Bike Path Council riding with us, and more joining us at the Ashuwillticook Trail. This is all to be discussed. Today's ride circles Pittsfield, passing along the way the Herman Melville house where "Moby Dick" was written, take the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail to North Adams, and along to Williamstown. Williamstown area is great for art lovers: the Clark Institute is well worth a visit, the Williams College of Art is nearby, and in North Adams is MASS MoCA, the Museum of Contemporary Art.

**Dinner:** There are plenty of places to eat in the university area and we could again discuss en route.

**Lodging suggestion:** Williams Inn (413-458-9371)

**Tuesday, July 26: Williamstown to Manchester, VT**

Today we leave Massachusetts and ride into Vermont! Bennington is always interesting (good coffee shops) and worth visiting are the Battle Monument and Robert Frost's grave. Again not a long ride at around 37 miles, but this is Vermont and the terrain is definitely not flat. East Road takes us to Manchester.

**Dinner:** Manchester has numerous superb eating places and we will discuss somewhere to eat as we ride along.

**Lodging Suggestion:** Manchester is full of places to stay, and this is open for discussion

**Wednesday, July 27: Manchester to Fair Haven, VT**

Through Dorset, Pawlett, Wells, Lake St. Catherine, East Poultney and along the D & H trail we arrive in Fair Haven after about 40 miles riding.

**Dinner:** I think that we will all eat at the Greek restaurant as last year – not many options and this place was good!

**Lodging Suggestion:** Marble Mansion Inn (518-585-2378 Sharon Park), and the rate is the same as last year \$109, to include breakfast and Vermont tax.

**Thursday, July 28: Fair Haven to Ticonderoga, NY**

There are few places to stay on the Vermont side, and the approximately 45 mile ride includes an interesting inexpensive ferry ride to New York, and the chance to visit historic Fort Ticonderoga. Bruce Lierman is also looking into the option of camping at Mt. Independence, National Historic Landmark on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain. More to follow.

**Dinner:** Not an easy one, depends on where we are all staying – will discuss en route.

**Lodging Suggestion:** the Best Western is where we stayed last year, but they have a policy of two night stays in July. The person who can and has waived that in the past, Alison Kapuelis, Director of Sales and Marketing was out when I phoned and so I do not know the score on this at the moment. Details on this to follow once I discuss with Ms. Kapuelis.

**Friday, July 29: Ticonderoga to Burlington, VT**

It is about 50 miles to Burlington, and we have to option of either taking the ferry if it is dry and riding the dirt road on the Vermont side, or if wet ride north to the bridge at Chimney Point, then through Vergennes, Charlotte and along the Bike Path to the Local Motion Trailside Center in Burlington.

**Dinner:** Suggested dinner ideas are welcome - last year we dined at Ri Ra, the Irish pub on Church Street.

**Lodging Suggestion:** Burlington has a mass of places to stay. For discussion.

**Saturday, 30 July: Burlington to St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec**

This is a long ride, about 71 miles, but mostly flat - hopefully the wind will not be in our faces. Good lunch stop at the Hero's Welcome on North Hero.

**Dinner:** to be discussed

**Lodging Suggestion:** The Auberge Harris is the most bike friendly place I have stayed at and I recommend it. We have not booked yet.

**Sunday, 31 July: St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec to Montreal, Quebec**

About 35 miles, easy ride into Montreal, the Chambly Canal is a very interesting ride and the fort at Chambly is worth visiting.

**Dinner:** to be discussed

**Lodging Suggestion:** There are a number of hotels recommended as “Bienvenue Cyclistes” by Velo Quebec, and may be found online. I am going to ask Jean-Francois Pronovost which he recommends and let you know.

**Getting home:** To be discussed! We may even ride back to Burlington - open to all ideas !

- Maps and cue sheets may be downloaded from [www.wnegreenway.org](http://www.wnegreenway.org) , and we will be distributing 5,000 copies of each of the six maps which make up the WNEG route to tourist offices and bike shops along the way.
- To make further inquiries please contact us on our Facebook page – [Western New England Greenway](#), or by email at [avoca5@me.com](mailto:avoca5@me.com)

## Background Info:

The inaugural ride of the WNEG from Norwalk to Burlington took place in August 2013. Ten riders took part, using color maps and cue sheets developed over the year and it was a wonderful experience. At the November 2013 conference we reviewed the ride, the route and made some changes. In July 2014 a dozen of us rode south from Burlington to New Milford, a wonderful ride and we picked up riders who joined us along the way, some only riding along for the day.

This year we are doing the ride again, and at present we have 14 riders, some of whom are doing a few days, some of whom are riding the route from Norwalk to Burlington and on to Quebec. We have again revised the color maps and cue sheets, and these may be downloaded from [wnegreenway.org](http://wnegreenway.org). Photos of the previous rides may be looked at on our Facebook site, Western New England Greenway.

## Notes & Disclaimer:

Although we are not organizing the ride as such, we welcome anyone who would like to ride along with our core group, be it for a few hours, a few days, or the entire route. Such persons would have to be responsible for themselves, and also make their own arrangements for transport and accommodation. Apart from the first day we do not have long rides, as the route includes so many interesting places to stop and visit as we ride through the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut, the Berkshires in Massachusetts and then the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership in Vermont. There are also great coffee stops along the way and our intention is to enjoy the journey.