

Bedford Cultural District Assets Map Key

Key	Cultural Asset Name	Discipline	Description
1	Minuteman Commuter Bikeway	History	The bikeway extends from Bedford to the Redline MBTA station going through the historic towns of Bedford, Lexington, and Arlington. The trail closely approximates the route that Paul Revere took on his famous ride in 1775, which heralded the beginning of the American Revolution. It is nearly 10 miles long, with 1.1 miles in Bedford, 5.2 in Lexington, and 3.3 in Arlington. It was the 500th Rails to Trails converted in the US and within its first year of operation it was reported to be the busiest of the trails. The bikeway terminus is at Bedford's historic Depot Park. During summer months on a typical weekend day, there can be up to 1,800 recreational bicyclists who use the Minuteman Bikeway in Bedford on weekends and 600 bicyclists visiting Depot Park. An extension of the Bikeway to Concord is planned.
2	Depot Park	History/ Architecture	Bedford's Depot Park is a National Register Historic Landmark. It is located at the Bedford terminus of the popular Minuteman Bikeway with facilities for pedestrians and cyclists in a surrounding that recalls the railroad history of the corridor. There is a visitor's center as well as an attractive outdoor seating area for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Depot Park is also the location of the 1870s Railroad Station and Freight House buildings. Visitors can enter the vintage Boston & Maine Railroad passenger car now on display alongside the Freight House.
3	Depot Park Railroad Station	Visual Arts	The Historic Depot Park Rail Station is home to several businesses. The Glass Cooperative, Inc., is a non profit stained glass studio providing stained glass artists and students with a place to work, create and share. Contains a fully functional stained glass studio accessible 7 days a week. Hosts a community of artists with a shared focus on glass who continue to expand their craft through shared knowledge, resources, expertise, and support. Scott's Stone Carving Classes & Art Centers' offers sculpture classes and workshops for kids and adults. There is also a local barbershop called For the Boyz Barbershop.
4	Depot Freight House and Welcome Center	History/ Architecture	<p>Friends of Bedford Depot Park operates the historic Freight House as a public service to Minuteman Bikeway users and the general public. It includes a visitor center where visitors can learn about the railroad history that predates the bikeway, ask questions, and receive local travel information. Old photos and railroad artifacts are on display. Cold and hot beverages, snacks, and historical merchandise are available.</p> <p>The Freight House building was built in 1877 as the Engine House for the narrow-gauge Billerica & Bedford Railroad. The Town of Bedford purchased the Freight House in 1999 as part of the Depot Park project. It was renovated by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the Town in 2008.</p>

Bedford Cultural District Assets Map Key

Key	Cultural Asset Name	Discipline	Description
5	Depot Park Budliner Train	History/ - Architecture	A vintage Boston & Maine Railroad passenger car was acquired from the MBTA for Depot Park. Rail Diesel Car #6211 formerly operated on the old commuter rail line between Bedford and Boston. It's now on static display alongside the Freight House. At Bedford's 2003 Special Town Meeting, \$125,000 was appropriated for cosmetic restoration of the car.
6	Narrow Gauge Rail Trail	History	<p>The Bedford Narrow-Gauge Rail-Trail shares its trailhead at Depot Park in Bedford with the Minuteman Bikeway and Reformatory Branch Trail. Serving mainly as a commuter route, this trail extends just over 3 miles north, past woods and residences to the Billerica town line. It also makes a nice diversion for Minuteman Bikeway users looking to picnic at Fawn Lake.</p> <p>The trail follows the bed of the 1877 Billerica & Bedford Railroad, the nation's first 2-foot narrow gauge railway. In 1885, the Boston & Lowell Railroad built a standard gauge extension of the line. The Lexington Branch served five passenger stations: Bedford Springs, South Billerica, Turnpike, Billerica and Bennett Hall. The railroad abandoned the extension in 1962, and the town of Bedford purchased it to create the trail.</p>
7	The Patriot Statue	Visual Arts	by Bruce Papitto (2000) at Veterans Memorial Park
8	Veterans Memorial Park	History	In 1950 Bedford's Annual Town Meeting voted to establish a memorial park to honor those Bedford citizens who honorably served their country during WWII. The park was established on a portion of Page Field bordering Great Road. Since then, the park's purpose has been expanded to honor all veterans who have served their country. In 2010, the Bedford Selectmen voted to officially name the park Veterans Memorial Park. It's time to let everyone know the name and location of Veterans Memorial Park and to honor Bedford veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice.
9	Jonathan Bacon Homestead	History/ Architecture	This grand house, with its two-story Ionic columns, could stand as a symbol of the industrial success of Bedford and of its builder, Jonathan Bacon. Bacon was an entrepreneur in the handmade-shoe trade, the most important industry in Bedford in 1830-1870. He also invented and manufactured large quantities of Bacon's Blind Fasteners. His prosperity enabled him to move his family here from a modest house at 65 South Road.

Bedford Cultural District Assets Map Key

Key	Cultural Asset Name	Discipline	Description
10	Domine Manse	History/ Architecture	The oldest building in the center of town after the Fitch Tavern, it was built for the town's first minister, Rev. Nicholas Bowes (hence the name Domine Manse, meaning the minister's home). Not long out of Harvard and still in his middle twenties, upon his appointment he immediately became the town's most important citizen. Though a professional man, he also farmed his land as did all the other townsmen of the time. Later, this was also the home of the town's first schoolmaster. Under the ownership of John Reed, Committees of Correspondence and Safety met here during the Revolution. In the early 20th century the house was a restaurant.
11	Old Burying Ground	History	The town's first cemetery, with grave sites dating from 1731. An estimated 1,400 people were buried in this tiny lot, though only about 400 are in marked graves. The northeast corner, called the African Reservation, was set aside for African-Americans. The slate gravestones in this cemetery feature winged skulls, wreathed urns, and other characteristic funerary symbols. The few limestone monuments were considered innovative in their time.
12	Hayden Fountain	Historic	Historic water trough at Great Road and Springs/South Roads
13	Old Town Hall	History/Culture	Built in 1856, Old Town Hall is one of the finest examples of mid-19th century municipal construction in the area. It was renovated in 2004 keeping the historic character of the structure while at the same time providing an elevator for handicapped accessibility and a full equipped catering kitchen. The second floor has been leased to Bedford Community Access Television, Inc.. The beautifully decorated third floor Great Room has been designated for party, recitals, and other event rentals.
14	Bedford TV	Media Arts	Bedford TV is a membership based, non-profit community access television station serving the town of Bedford. The Bedford TV mission is to make media available, reflective and responsive to the needs of the Bedford community. Broadcasts on three channels on both Comcast and Verizon cable systems. Bedford TV covers happenings around town in education, the arts, government, cultural events, social services and community activities, and hosts student interns interested in media arts.
15	Town Common	History	Early residents of the newly-created town donated the land for the Common. At various times the Town Common (originally much larger than today) was the site of the first meeting house, which stood in the northwest corner; a schoolhouse; carriage houses; a free-standing bell tower; the town pound; a militia training ground; and a liberty pole. In colonial times it was criss-crossed by unpaved, muddy tracks and dotted with puddles. It did not acquire the trim, neatly-fenced appearance that we now associate with Old New England until the mid-1800s. The Town Common also is home to a World War 1 Monument.

Bedford Cultural District Assets Map Key

Key	Cultural Asset Name	Discipline	Description
16	Second Meeting House (First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church)	History/ Architecture/ Culture	Typical of colonial New England towns, Bedford was founded as both a town and a parish, with little separation between the two institutions. The founders of the town were required by the Great and General Court, as a condition of the town's incorporation, to build a house for worship, settle a minister, and establish a school, all within three years. The original meeting house built on the Town Common was badly damaged in a windstorm in 1815 and replaced with the current structure. The First Parish Church is an active congregational community, and also home to a rotating art exhibit as well as many concerts and events that are open and free to the public.
17	Kopjafak, Transylvanian Monuments	Visual Arts	Given as gifts from Hungarian Unitarian community in AbEsfalva, Hungary in a unique decades-long partnership with the First Parish Church in Bedford. Six-foot-plus kopjafak or Hungarian Unitarian grave markers (a man and a woman) that were a gift from AbEsfalva were installed in the First Parish Memorial Garden. These carved wooden structures are similar to the Pacific Northwest Coast Native American Totems and have intricate carvings that symbolically tell the story of life in Bedford. The Hungarian wood carvers guild in AbEsfalva requested detailed information about the Bedford community before creating these gifts. Other gifts from AbEsfalva include: Hungarian tapestry made by the minister's wife, Edit BarabEs, decorates the walls of the sanctuary, and as Sharon McDonald notes there is love in every stitch. Throughout the church are other examples of affection from AbEsfalva and between the partners: over two hundred embroidered hymnal covers, wall tapestries, pillows on benches, and photograph albums.
18	Town Hall	History/ Government	Bedford's town hall was built in 1857 as a school, and has seen a variety of civic uses before housing town offices. The Town Hall features historic photos of Bedford's Town Day and Parade in the early 20th century as well as 19th Century Rufus Porter murals displayed in the Reed Room.
19	Sculpture by Madeleine Lord	Visual Arts	Outside Town Center, funded by the Bedford Cultural Council to commemorate Center School
20	Town Center	Visual Arts	Adult, seniors, and children's arts classes
21	Activity Complex	Music	Outdoor summer concert series by Recreation Department begins in and continue every Thursday through the beginning of August.
22	Dance Rhythm	Visual Arts	Sculpture by Chaim Gross (1966) Town Campus
23	Jenks Arboretum Trail	History/ Science	The Arboretum Trail is a historic nature trail near Bedford High School. The stone walls between the trees on either side of the path delineated the original "cow run." Now it serves high school students and their teachers, children on their way to play in nearby fields, library visitors and citizens on their way to Town Meeting.

Bedford Cultural District Assets Map Key

Key	Cultural Asset Name	Discipline	Description
24	Bedford Free Public Library Gallery	Culture/Literary	Wide range of artist and author presentations and community programming. There is a rotating exhibit curated by Bedford Library Arts Committee
25	Bedford Flag at Bedford Library	History/ Architecture	Bedford is home to the oldest complete flag known to exist in the United States, the Bedford Flag. The Bedford Flag was carried by the Bedford Minuteman, Nathaniel Page, to the Concord Bridge on April 19, 1775, and helped mark the beginning of the American Revolution. The flag was made for a cavalry troop of the Massachusetts Bay militia early in the colonial struggle for the continent during “the French and Indian Wars.” Depicted on the flag are a mailed arm emerging from clouds with three cannonballs in the air. Encircling the arm is a gold ribbon on which the Latin words “VINCE AUT MORIRE” (Conquer or Die) are painted. The Bedford Flag is now located in the Bedford Public Library in Town Center.
26	Historical Society Museum at old Town Hall	History	Hosted by the Bedford Historical Society, the museum displays key artifacts from Bedford's colonial past including books, artwork, historical documents, antique dolls, and clothing. There is also a historically accurate diorama.
27	Willson Park and Liberty Pole at the junction of Concord Road and North Road	History/ Architecture	On this site, Bedford’s military men gathered on the morning of April 19, 1775, before marching to the “Concord Fight.” A modern Liberty Pole was erected as a memorial to Captain Jonathan Willson whoe was the only Bedford Minuteman who died in the battle. An annual Pole Capping ceremony held each spring still honors Revolutionary resistance to British rule.
28	Fitch Tavern	History/ Architecture	The oldest building in the town center. On April 19, 1775, the town’s Militia and Minuteman companies (these were two separate military units) breakfasted here before marching to the Battle of Concord. The house once held a school for young ladies. There is a ballroom upstairs.
29	First Church of Christ	History/ Architecture	Home to Annual Strawberry Festival
30	Bedford Marketplace District	Retail Shopping Centers	Whole Foods, Marshalls, Red Heat Tavern, Posto, Subway, B.Good Restaurant, Learning Express, Hand and Stone Spa, Breuggers Bagels, Starbucks, Mike's Subs, Domino's Pizza
31	Bedford Center Businesses	Restaurants and Small Shops	Ken's NY Deli and Pizzeria, Ginger Japanese Restaurant, KB Jewelers, FetchIt, Wearovers, TL Nails, Judit Redl Hair Salon, Clayful Expressions
32	North Road Business District	Restaurant and Ice Cream	Holi Indian Restaurant, Bedford Farms Ice Cream

Bedford Cultural District Assets Map Key

Key	Cultural Asset Name	Discipline	Description
33	Depot Park Businesses	Restaurants, café and stores	Short Stop Café, Express Pizza, Bikeway Source, For the Boyz Barbershop, Scott's Stone Carving Studio, The Glass Cooperative