

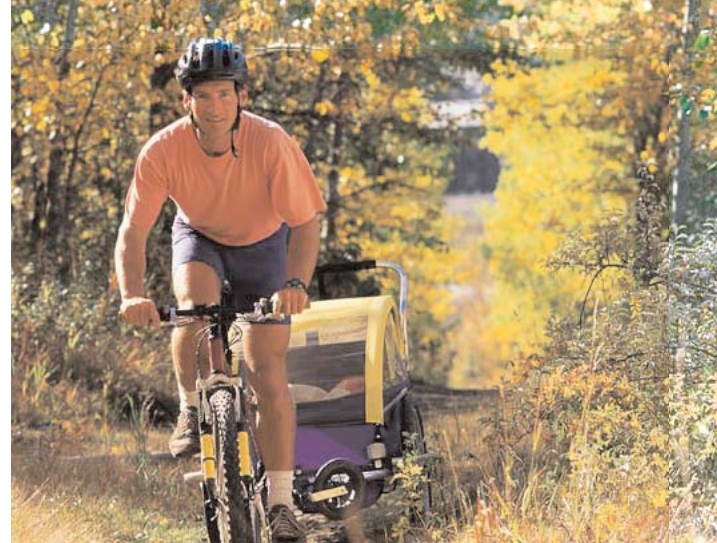
We hope that these guidelines are helpful,
and we appreciate your cooperation.

National Grid is committed to providing
safe, reliable electrical service and being
a responsible corporate citizen.

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25 Research Drive
Westborough, MA 01582



Recreational Trails Policy

Information for Towns and Organizations
About Recreational Trails in the
Utility Corridors of National Grid.

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National Grid operates a network of high and low voltage electrical transmission lines, and gas pipelines, throughout New England and New York.

These lines and utility corridors (also commonly referred to as rights-of-way) are a critical part of the region's electrical grid. To operate the grid in a safe and reliable manner, National Grid needs to manage its rights-of-way.

National Grid limits activities within the rights-of-way in order to protect the public and avoid damage to the electrical system.

Although rights-of-way are sometimes viewed as public lands, they are actually the private property of National Grid. National Grid evaluates proposals to use its utility corridors for recreational trails on a case-by-case basis.

The following guidelines will assist you in submitting a proposal for a recreational trail on a National Grid right-of-way.

WHAT'S ALLOWED

Limited activities that do not interfere with the safe operation, maintenance and future use of the right-of-way may be permissible. To the extent that a proposed recreational trail can coexist on the right-of-way, we will consider it.

Typically walking, jogging, bicycling and similar uses may be acceptable. **No motorized vehicles will be allowed**, except for wheelchairs or other devices which allow handicapped people access to the recreational trail.

For safety reasons or to minimize the risk of damage that could cause power outages, we sometimes must decline requests for recreational trails.

HOW DOES NATIONAL GRID EVALUATE A REQUEST FOR A PROPOSED RECREATION TRAIL?

A number of factors are considered when evaluating a proposal for a recreational trail, including:

- ◆ **Safety** - Federal and state law governs how far people and equipment must remain away from utility wires. A proposed activity must meet all safety code requirements and not create a hazard to National Grid workers or the public in order to be considered.
- ◆ **Protection of Utility Structures and Facilities** - Public activities on our rights-of-way cannot create a risk of damage to the utility structures or wires. For example, they cannot destabilize the soil surrounding the structures or be located too close to the structures, including guy wires. The activities also cannot preclude the future construction or reconstruction of our utility lines within the right-of-way.
- ◆ **Access** - Access to and along the right-of-way must be maintained for maintenance work and future construction or reconstruction of the lines.
- ◆ **Environmental Impact** - National Grid is committed to protecting the environment and being a good steward of the lands it owns. Any proposal for a recreational trail must address how the requester plans to safeguard natural resources, collect and dispose of trash, and prevent or mitigate erosion control.

WRITTEN PERMISSION IS REQUIRED

In order to install, maintain, and operate electrical lines safely and reliably, National Grid must restrict activities within rights-of-way. Typically, the actual right-of-way extends a considerable distance beyond the company's actual facilities.

If the company agrees to allow specific activities within a right-of-way, a written agreement detailing the work to be done must be executed by the company and the applicant. The written agreement explains the specific activities that are allowed.

No activities on a right-of-way are allowed without written permission from the company.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

An application is required of anyone requesting permission to conduct activities within the right-of-way. All applications must be in writing and include:

- ◆ **A cover letter with the following:**
 - Name of organization proposing activities within the right-of-way
 - Location (town/city and state) of the proposed activity
 - A list and description of the proposed activities within the right-of-way
- ◆ **Complete project details with specifications including:**
 - Scope of work
 - Project schedule
 - A full set of plans
 - Approved funding commitment for construction and maintenance
 - Applicant contact information
 - Entity that would execute the agreement
- ◆ **Send two copies of the application materials to:**
 - Property Assets and Real Estate**
 - National Grid**
 - 25 Research Drive**
 - Westborough, MA 01582**

We will carefully evaluate the proposal and provide the applicant with a written answer.

TO CONTACT US

If you have additional questions, please call us at 508.389.9119