

# Parsons Marsh

Parsons Marsh is part of the Undermountain Valley, a wetland and forest area in the heart of Lenox. Berkshire Natural Resources Council, the Town of Lenox, and private landowners have partnered to conserve this land for farmland soils, wildlife habitat, and recreation. BNRC's 183 acres now offer an accessible trail that is half hard-packed surface and half boardwalk.

**Directions:** 170 Under Mountain Road, Lenox  
From Lenox: From the center of Lenox, head south on Main St. Turn right at the 1st cross street onto MA-183 S/West St and follow for 1.4 miles. Turn right onto Under Mountain Rd. The trailhead is 0.9 miles down the road on the right.



Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

## WELCOME! WE INVITE YOU TO . . .

**ENJOY** this property on foot, skis, or snowshoes. Dogs are welcome. They must be under your immediate control and local leash laws apply. Horses are welcome at Parsons Marsh, but not on the accessible trail. No motorized vehicles are allowed. **Please note hunting and fishing are not permitted at this BNRC property.**

**PROTECT** the trails, wildlife, and land. Carry out what you bring in, take only photos, and leave everything else just as you found it.

**APPRECIATE** that this land provides a home, food, and shelter to wildlife and protection for clean drinking water. Respect wildlife and keep your distance.

**LEARN MORE** Please visit [BNRC.org](http://BNRC.org) or call 413-499-0596 for more information about this property, to learn about upcoming free guided walks and events here and around the Berkshires, and to support BNRC in preserving this beautiful landscape.

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**FIND** our app in the app stores by searching for "BNRC trails."



**Berkshire Natural Resources Council**

309 Pittsfield Road, Suite B | Lenox MA 01240 | 413-499-0596  
[bnrc.org](http://bnrc.org)

# Parsons Marsh

Lenox



Trail Map



**Berkshire Natural Resources Council**



# PARSONS MARSH TRAIL MAP



## TRAIL DESCRIPTION

**Trail:** 1/3 mile, one-way

**Difficulty:** Accessible

On the 1,800-foot (1/3 mile) accessible trail, you will wind through an open meadow to a small pond, then into forested upland and vegetated wetland. Rest on the bench or picnic on the accessible table near the pond. Just beyond the pond, the trail transitions to boardwalk as it enters the forested wetland. The trail ends at an observation platform which provides open views from the edge of the marsh.

*The Parsons Marsh trail and boardwalk were designed and constructed by Peter S. Jensen & Associates, LLC.*

## NATURAL HISTORY

Admire pollinators in the meadow, look for amphibians by the pond, seek skunk cabbage in the wetland, and spot some of the 75 nesting bird species that have been identified at Parsons Marsh. The marsh and surrounding water bodies provide habitat for beaver, mink, and otter. The forest in the southern part of the property is dominated by white pine but also includes such hardwoods as red maple, sugar maple, and black cherry. To the south you'll find large rock outcrops, remnants from the glaciers of 20,000 years ago.

**Accessibility Details:** The Parsons Marsh Trail was designed and built in 2018 to U.S. Forest Service trail accessibility standards (FSTAG). The first 600-feet of trail features crushed stone surfacing with a running slope not exceeding 8% and a cross slope not exceeding 5%. An accessible picnic table and bench are provided on a short spur near the pond. The last section of trail is comprised of 900-feet of curbed boardwalk, with a 41" passable width and grades not exceeding 7%.

As of November 2023