

Directions

Threemile Hill Trail: The southern end of the trail is on the property of Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, off Route 7 (Stockbridge Road) in Great Barrington. Crissey Road is just north of the Price Chopper / K-Mart Shopping Center and just south of the Jenifer House Commons. Park at the far end of the Berkshire South parking lot. The trailhead is marked by a sign board at the edge of the woods near the Gazebo.

The northern end of the trail is at the parking area for Fountain Pond State Park, off Route 7 (Stockbridge Road), 0.8 miles north of Crissey Road.

CHP Walking Loop: The trailhead is on the north side of the Community Health Programs parking lot. (444 Stockbridge Rd, Great Barrington, MA 01230)

Trail Description

Threemile Hill Trail: From Berkshire South, the 2 mile trail ascends moderately up the ridge for the first ¼ mile, then more or less follows the contours until the last ½ mile, when it drops down a moderate slope to Fountain Pond and the northern trailhead off Rt. 7. The trail is marked with blue rectangular blazes. It can be hiked from either end round-trip, or one way with a second vehicle pre-positioned at the other trailhead. The trail is entirely in woodland with an excellent view of Monument Mountain across Fountain Pond close to the northern end. Note: Hunting is permitted on BNRC and DCR property, but not on Berkshire South. Take appropriate precautions during hunting season.

Distance: Approximately 2 miles one way

Time: 1.5 hours one way, 3 hours round trip

Elevation change: +/- 350 feet



Trail Description

CHP Walking Loop: The trail offers a walk around the fields behind the health center, into the forest and reconnecting to the south end of the property. It's a gentle trail that is easy enough for children and adults, alike. It also connects to the Threemile Hill trail system.

Distance: 0.75 miles

Time: 0.5 hour, round trip

Elevation: +/- 100 feet

Trail Use Guidelines

- Leave only footsteps, take only pictures.
- Stay on the marked trail.
- Dogs on leash are allowed; clean up pet waste.
- No fires, or camping (except with permission in designated area at Berkshire South).
- Hikers are advised to wear orange during hunting season.
- Take precautions to avoid poison ivy and ticks.
- Respect the privacy of adjacent land owners.

Great Barrington Trails & Greenways

Great Barrington Trails and Greenways is a collaborative that supports the development of an interconnected, town-wide trail system to encourage walking, biking, and paddling. Existing trails provide safe opportunities to actively explore Great Barrington's rich historic and natural resources. GB Trails partners provide seasonal guided hikes throughout the Berkshires as we work to engage the community and visitors in the appreciation and stewardship of these special places.

Get Involved

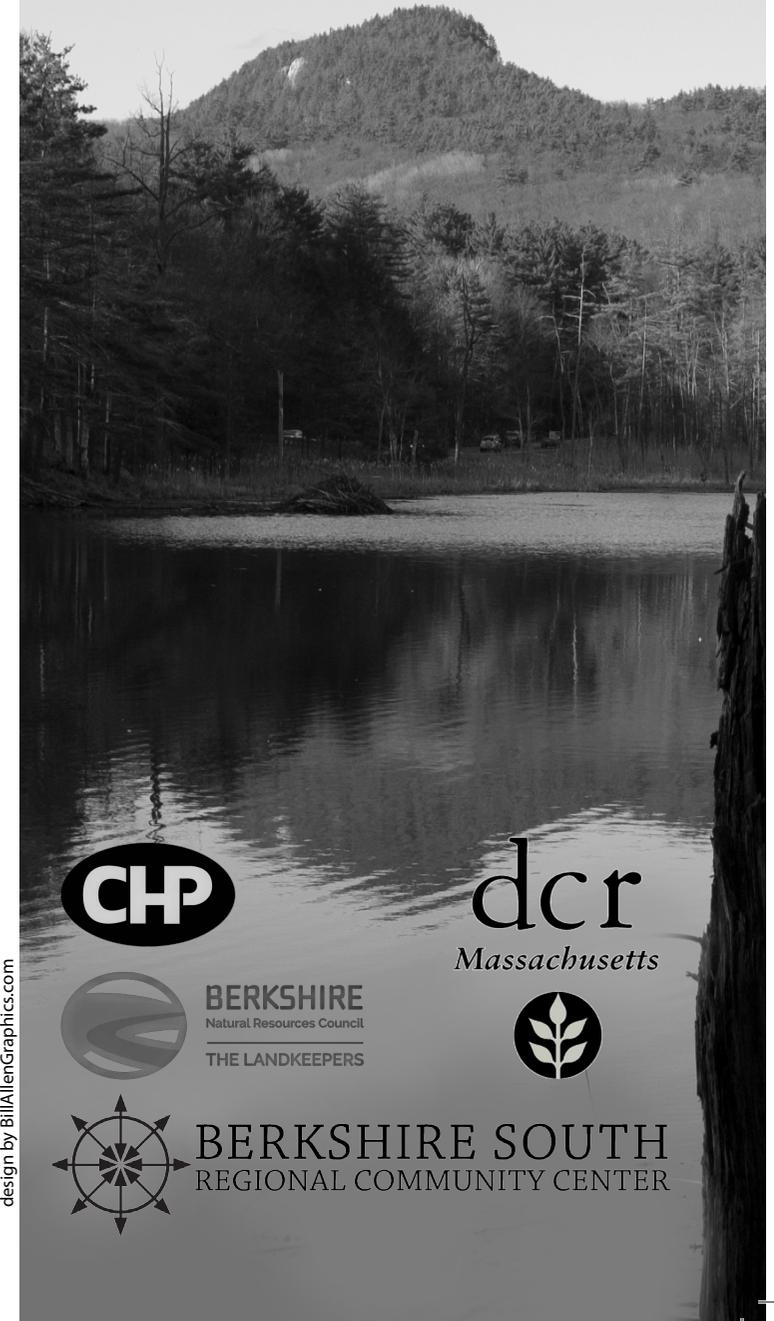
We need you! Help maintain this trail and support our efforts. To volunteer or donate:
www.gbtrails.org

This resource is provided for you in partnership with



Great Barrington Trails & Greenways

Threemile Hill Trail at Fountain Pond & CHP Walking Loop



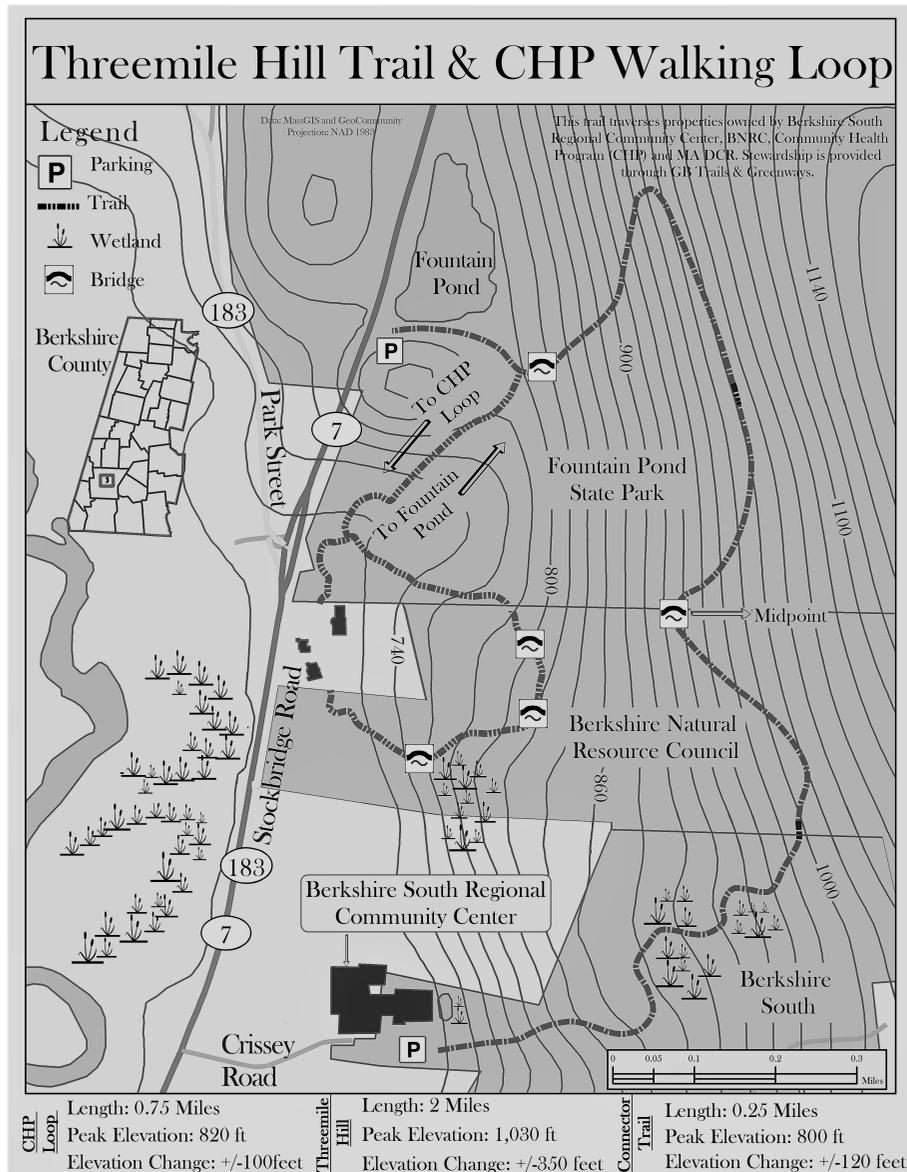
dcr
Massachusetts



BERKSHIRE
Natural Resources Council
THE LANDKEEPERS



BERKSHIRE SOUTH
REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER



What to Look for

The trails pass through a mixed hardwood forest typical of the region. Maple, ash, oak, hickory, and tulip trees dominate the canopy. Scattered white pines and apple trees remind us of a time when the slopes were cleared for agricultural use and charcoal-making to feed the area's iron furnaces. Hemlock, beech, birch, and poplar occupy moist sites. The understory includes small trees such as box elder, hop hornbeam, and striped maple along with mountain laurel, viburnum, and lowbush blueberry.

Woodland wildflowers (mostly spring-blooming), ferns, and mosses abound on the forest floor, on and around the strikingly smooth and rounded quartzite boulders.

This extensive woodland is home to wildlife such as black bear, white-tailed deer, bobcat, weasel, porcupine, squirrels, and chipmunks, forest-dwelling hawks and owls, smaller woodland birds, and butterflies. Stick lodges, dammed culverts, and gnawed tree stumps are evidence that beaver have claimed Fountain Pond as their home, while numerous intermittent streams, seeps and wetlands provide habitat for a variety of reptiles, amphibians, and other small creatures.

Around the turn of the 19th century, Fountain Pond was the site of an unsuccessful attempt to create an entertainment venue complete with open-air theater, dance pavilion, and dining hall. The Berkshire Street Railway provided trolley service to Fountain Park, as it was then known, for a few years in the early 1900's. A white marble fountain was built at the entrance to the park and fed by water from a man-made lake. Poor weather and abundant mosquitoes put a damper on the enterprise, which was abandoned a few years later. Today only a few stone walls, foundation stones, and a lovely view of the pond and Monument Mountain remain.

Property Stewardship

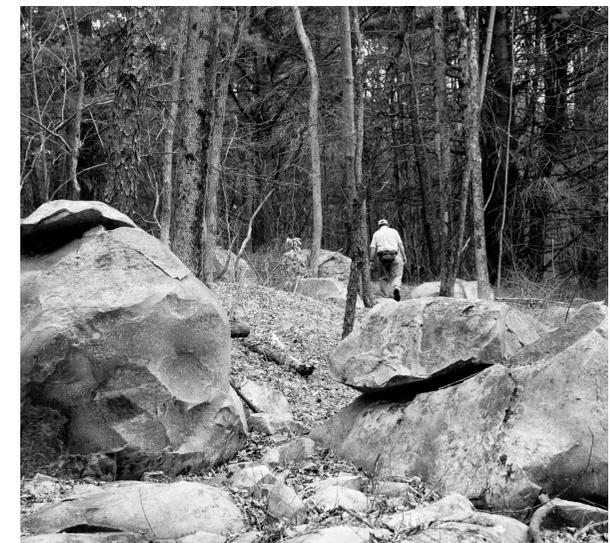
The Threemile Hill Trail and CHP Walking Loop pass through lands owned and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, and Berkshire South Regional Community Center. Please help keep the trail and adjoining lands in good condition for future hikers to enjoy by complying with the rules and regulations of the respective landowners

To Report a Problem on This Trail

Call 413.528.2810 ext. 10
(Berkshire South Regional Community Center)

For More Information Contact

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation 413.528.0904, www.mass.gov/dcr
Berkshire Natural Resources Council 413.499.0596, www.bnrc.org
Berkshire South Regional Community Center 413.528.2810, www.berkshiresouth.org



Historic information from *Great Barrington: Great Town, Great History*

Directions

Travel South on Route 7 through downtown Great Barrington and turn right onto Taconic Avenue. Take 1st right onto Castle Street bearing left around turn. Go right unto Castle Hill Avenue and proceed to stop sign. Turn right onto Lake Mansfield Road, then travel along the lake to the parking area. The forest trailhead is located at the beach area.

Trail Description

The Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest features a trail network within a 29-acre woodland. The majority of the trail is built to accessible standards, including gentle slopes and a crushed stone trail surface. The shady trails provide a complement to the open lake which features a picnic area and sandy beach.

The main trail (.36 miles) is broad and provides access to a bridge-boardwalk crossing over the Lake Mansfield Outlet Brook; a natural footpath connects the bridge to the Christian Hill Road trail entry, this trailhead has a few steps that bring you to a crosswalk allowing safe access to Welcome Street. Within the forest, and connected to the main trail, is a .34 mile forest loop trail. The accessible portion of the loop trail ends at the big boulder. Currently there is a total of .35 miles of accessible trail.

The trail system can be used as a portion of a 3.5 mile loop connecting the lake and forest to River Walk, downtown shops, and surrounding neighborhoods. This route includes a variety of surfaces (trails and sidewalks). Go to www.lakemansfield.org for complete directions.



Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest

Trail Use Guidelines

- Leave only footsteps, take only pictures.
- Dogs on leash are allowed; clean up pet waste.
- No hunting, fires, or camping.
- Take precautions to avoid poison ivy and ticks.
- Respect the privacy of adjacent land owners.

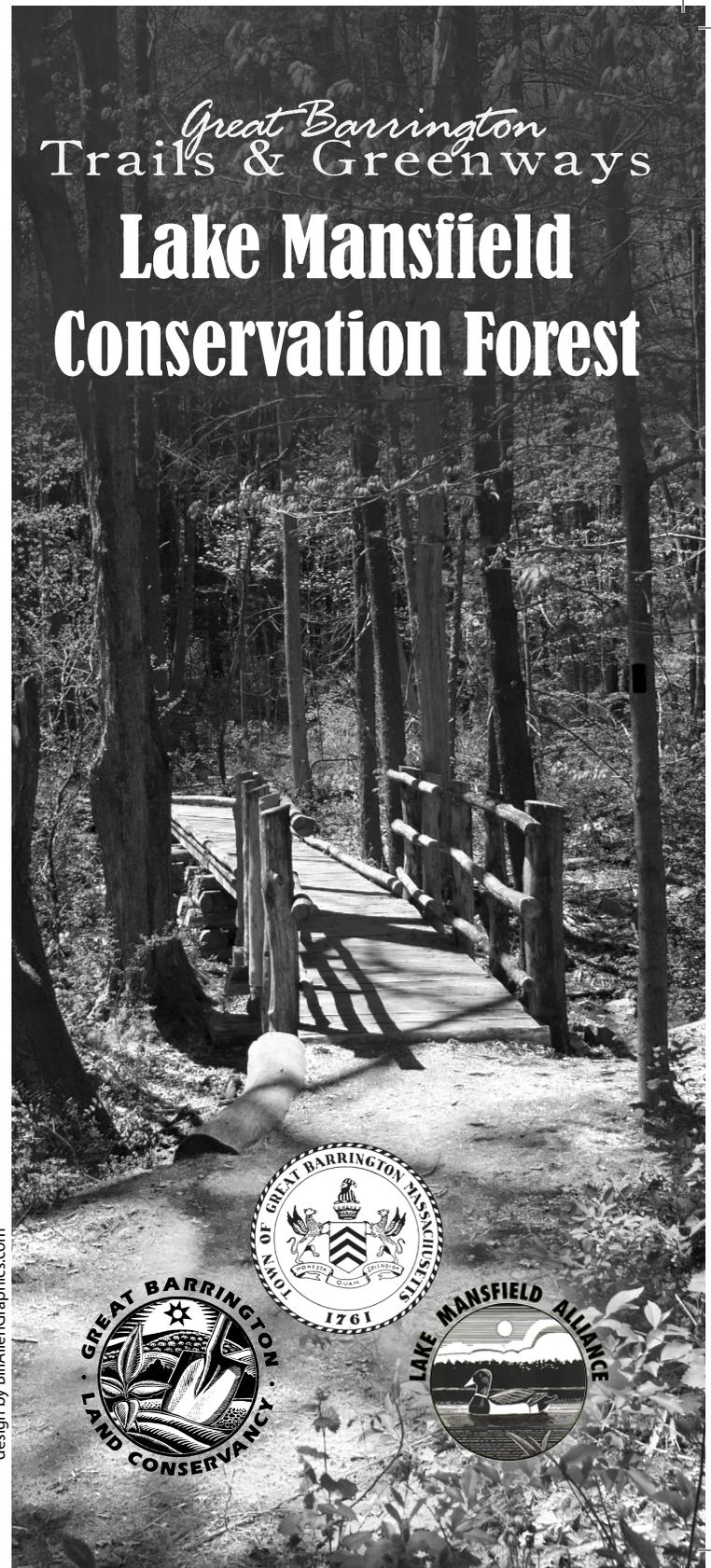
Great Barrington Trails & Greenways

Great Barrington Trails and Greenways is a collaborative that supports the development of an interconnected, town-wide trail system to encourage walking, biking, and paddling. Existing trails provide safe opportunities to actively explore Great Barrington's rich historic and natural resources. GB Trails partners provide seasonal guided hikes throughout the Berkshires as we work to engage the community and visitors in the appreciation and stewardship of these special places.

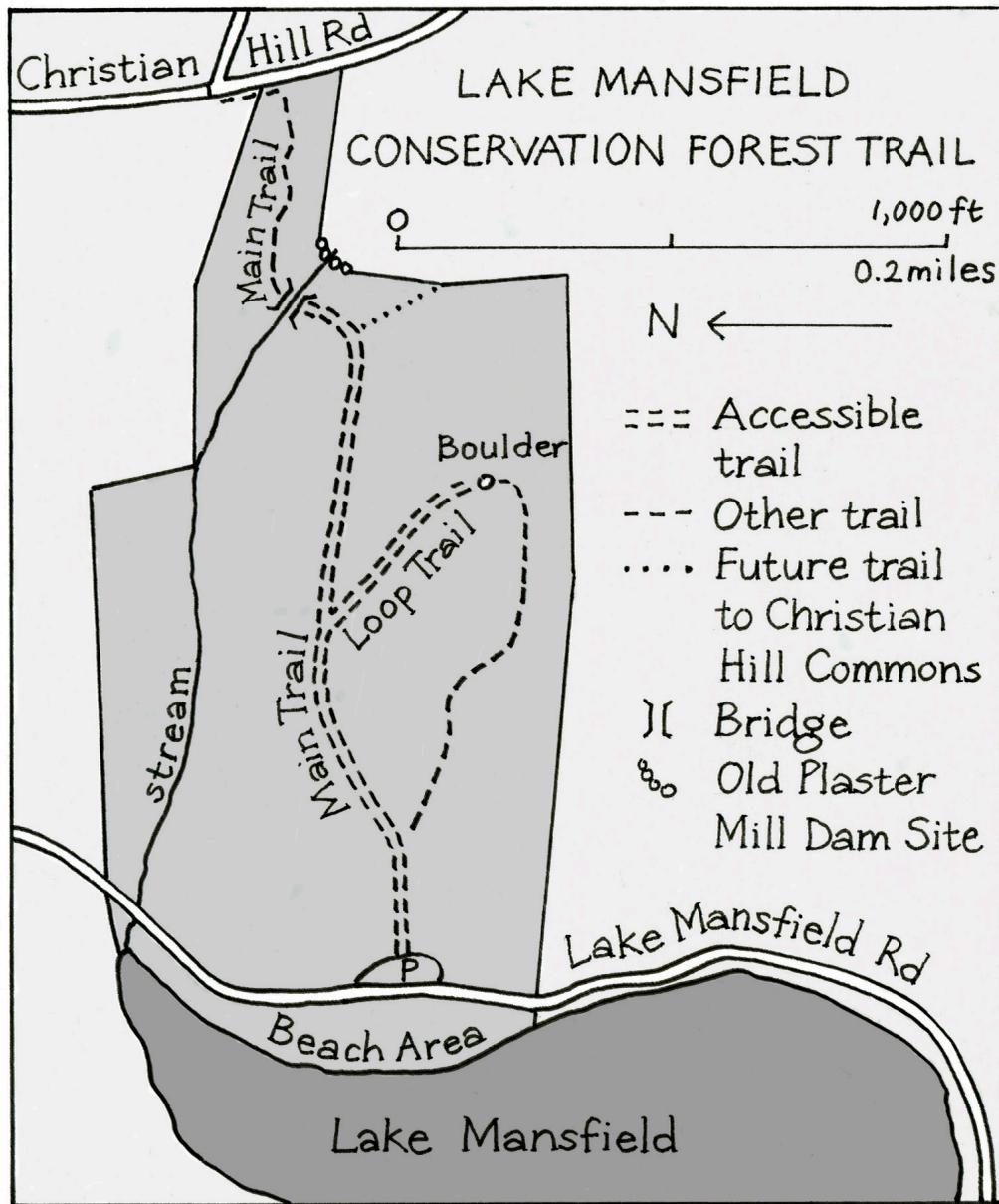
Get Involved

We need you! Help maintain this trail and support our efforts. To volunteer or donate: www.gbtrails.org

This resource is provided for you in partnership with



design by BillAllenGraphics.com



What to Look For

The Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest features two distinctive woodland areas. A large stand of evenly-aged white pine casts deep shade along the main access trail. The loop trail moves through a mixed hardwood forest consisting of cherry, birch, maple and ash. Here, ferns carpet the hilly ground and surround

a large and inviting boulder; a glacial erratic, deposited by the flow of prehistoric ice.

From the bridge-boardwalk, we see evidence of the Joseph Johnson plaster mill, which was located on the Lake Mansfield outlet stream in 1876. The plaster probably served the town's relatively rapid residential development during the 2nd half of the 19th century, due in turn to the growth of larger mills along the Housatonic River.

Look for a wide variety of understory plants: early spring flowers include Starflower, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Solomon's Seal, and Canada Mayflower; several fern species dominate in the summer; understory shrub species include Striped (Goosefoot) Maple, Spice Bush, and Witch Hazel.

Listen for our woodland birds: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Titmouse, Veery, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, and Barred Owl to name a few.

Search for signs of white-tailed deer, fox, coyote, and brown bear.

Property Stewardship

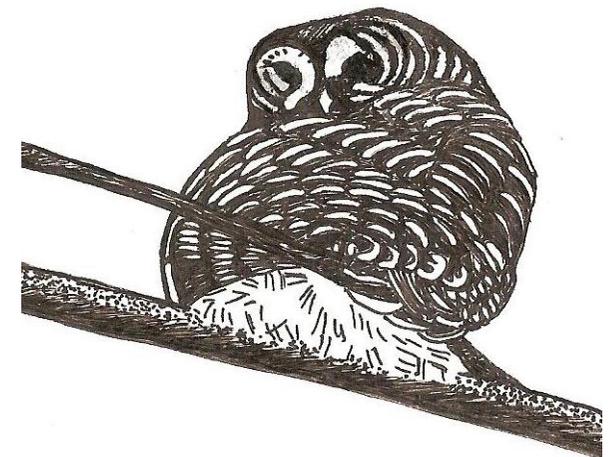
The Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest is owned by the town of Great Barrington, overseen by the Conservation Commission, and stewarded by Lake Mansfield Alliance, a partner of Great Barrington Trails and Greenways. The trails were designed and installed by Peter S. Jensen along with many community volunteers and built through the support of the MA DCR Recreational Trail Program, Berkshire Environmental Fund, and the Fields Pond Foundation.

To Report a Problem on This Trail

Call 413-528-1619 x122
(Great Barrington Conservation Commission)
or email: info@gbtrails.org

To Learn More About the Lake Mansfield Recreation Area

www.lakemansfield.org



Historic information from *Great Barrington: Great Town, Great History*

Directions

Head north from center of Great Barrington and proceed onto Route 41. Turn left onto Christian Hill Road and follow until Division Street, where Christian Hill changes to Long Pond Road. Continue about 0.6 mile. Look for Pfeiffer Arboretum sign and small pullout on left; limited parking.

Trail Description

This property offers a quiet 0.7 mile walking loop and a unique and beautiful view of pristine Long Pond, a private reservoir and protected water supply for the village of Housatonic. The trail, accessed via Long Pond Road, slopes gently with minimal elevation change. Some exposed roots, rocky areas, and short sections of elevated boardwalk make this trail only suitable for foot travel. Wet areas are augmented with sections of bog bridging and boardwalk. A spur off the main loop trail brings you to the Long Pond observation platform. Visitors will enjoy diverse forest and wetland ecosystems and see evidence of ongoing forest management and invasive plant control efforts.

Special thanks to: the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the Massachusetts Environmental Trust; Fields Pond Foundation; The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program; The Berkshire Natural Resources Council; Greenagers, Peter S. Jensen, Trail Designer/Builder; Bill Allen, and our other contributors and volunteers who support Pfeiffer Arboretum.



Pfeiffer Arboretum at Long Pond

Trail Use Guidelines

- Leave only footsteps, take only pictures.
- No hunting, fires, or camping.
- Take precautions to avoid poison ivy and ticks.
- Respect the privacy of adjacent land owners.
- Long Pond belongs to the Housatonic Water Company. Swimming, boating, and or fishing are prohibited in this protected water supply.

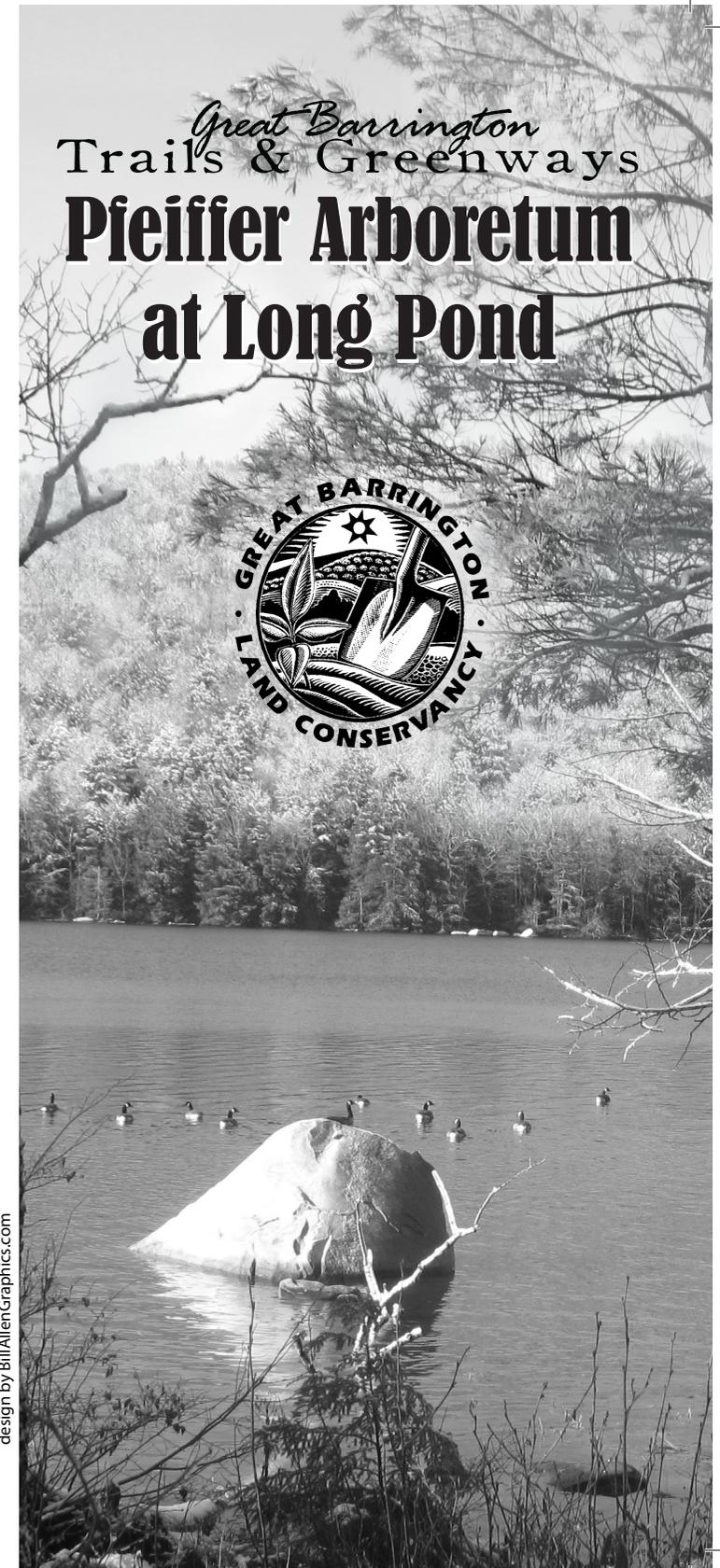
Great Barrington Trails & Greenways

Great Barrington Trails and Greenways is a collaborative that supports the development of an interconnected, town-wide trail system to encourage walking, biking, and paddling. Existing trails provide safe opportunities to actively explore Great Barrington's rich historic and natural resources. GB Trails partners provide seasonal guided hikes throughout the Berkshires as we work to engage the community and visitors in the appreciation and stewardship of these special places.

Get Involved

We need you! Help maintain this trail and support our efforts. To volunteer or donate:
www.gbtrails.org

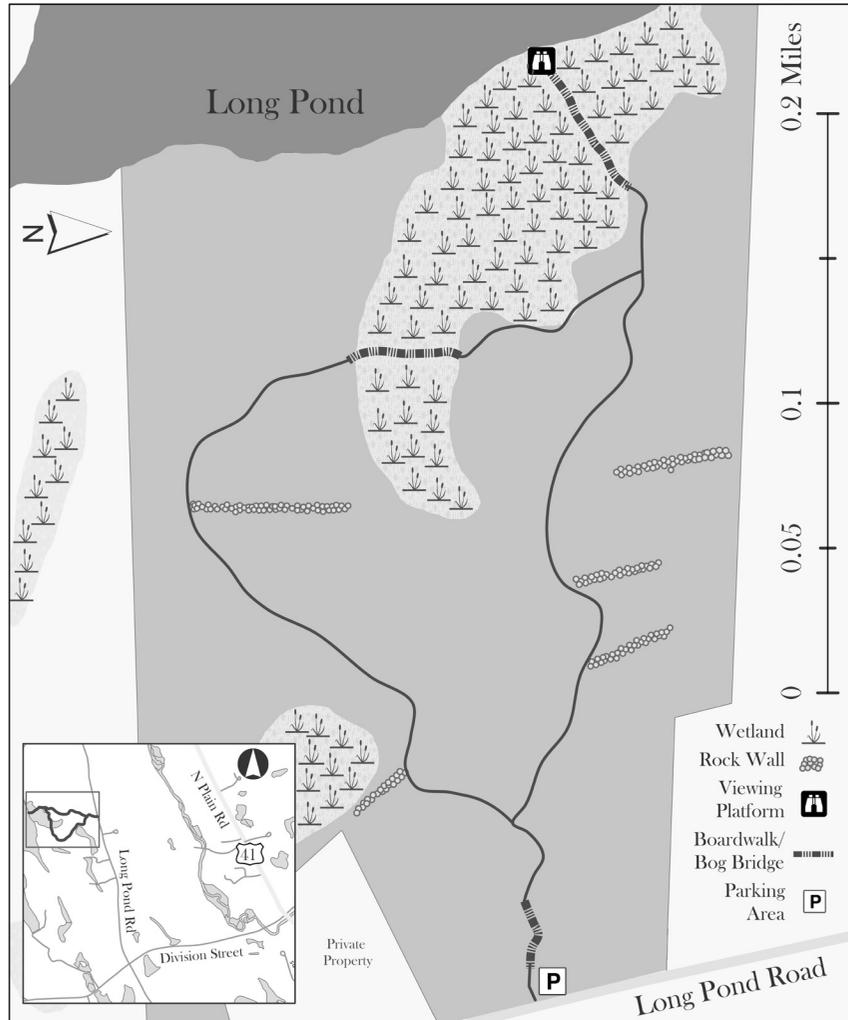
This resource is provided for you in partnership with



design by BillAllenGraphics.com

Pfeiffer Arboretum

Pfeiffer Arboretum trail traverses property owned by Great Barrington Land Conservancy. Stewardship provided by Great Barrington Trails and Greenways.



What to Look For

Pause at the trail entrance and scan the canopy above for the Sassafras tree; its distinct leaves come in three shapes: turkey track, oval, and mitten. This uncommon tree offers the first hint of the diversity that gives this property its "arboretum" name. You are entering a unique woodland, home to many native trees including maples, white ash, eastern white pine, hemlock, yellow birch, tulip poplar, hornbeam, and oaks. In the shady understory, witch hazel and spice bush thrive. Many varieties of ferns are found here: sensitive fern, Christmas fern, lady fern, and maidenhair fern. Along the trail edges you can find many seasonal wildflowers

including star flower, trillium, bloodroot, Jack-in-the-pulpit, violets, wild geranium, and wood asters.

Along the trails you will experience forests with very different compositions and feel. A young pine forest near the front of the property indicates fairly recent disturbance. Farther along a hardwood stand dominated by sugar and red maples and an old stone wall tell the story of forests regenerated after clearing for pastures by farmers hundreds of years ago. In other areas, dark green foliage and dense shade of hemlock trees provide shelter for deer and other animals from winter storms.

Long Pond is visible from the observation platform. Tom Ball Mountain rises up on the western shore. Seasonal migrating waterfowl rest on these sheltered waters in spring and fall. Bald eagles and osprey perch along the shores. Many warblers nest in this diverse woodland. Decaying trees provide food and nesting space for pileated woodpeckers and other birds and mammals. Listen for the low drumming of the ruffed grouse, rarely seen but often heard!

As you return to Long Pond Road you will pass through areas where active management is underway to control bittersweet, Norway maple, buckthorn, barberry, and other invasive species that threaten the preserve's native plants.

Property Stewardship

In 1997, the 38-acre Pfeiffer Arboretum property was donated to the Great Barrington Land Conservancy by the Pfeiffer family, who had owned and enjoyed the property for many decades. In 2002, the Land Conservancy constructed a loop trail and pond-view spur trail for public enjoyment. In 2010, the Conservancy received a three year NRCS grant for the removal of invasive plants. This effort has led to a significant reduction of invasive species on the property, but the management is ongoing. Each year this preserve needs many hours of maintenance and stewardship. We invite you to lend a hand with this effort on workdays held in spring and fall. Thank you for visiting Pfeiffer Arboretum.

To Report a Problem on This Trail

info@greatbarringtonlandconservancy.org
or info@gbtrails.org

To Learn More about Membership & Trail Steward Opportunities

www.greatbarringtonlandconservancy.org



Historic information from *Great Barrington: Great Town, Great History*