

Thomas & Palmer Brook

The 333 acres of the Thomas & Palmer Brook Reserve slope upward from the brook through old pasture, a wetland, and mature forest to a dramatic high point of exposed bedrock. An accessible trail through the meadow leads into the forest, winding past boulders and large sugar maple trees. The Woodland Trail leaves the loof and ends at Whale Rock.

Directions: Parking area is located between 301 and 309 State Road (Route 23) in Great Barrington. Across from the Koi Restaurant.

GPS: 42.1955, -73.3370 (trailhead parking)

ENJOY this property on foot, skis, or snowshoes. Dogs are welcome. They must be under your immediate control and local leash laws apply. Hunting and fishing are permitted, subject to MA state regulations. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

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.

BNRC is completely donor funded by community members like you!

LEARN MORE

Visit bnrc.org or call **413-499-0596** to join, volunteer, explore our free guided hikes, and help us preserve this beautiful landscape.



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Berkshire Natural Resources Council

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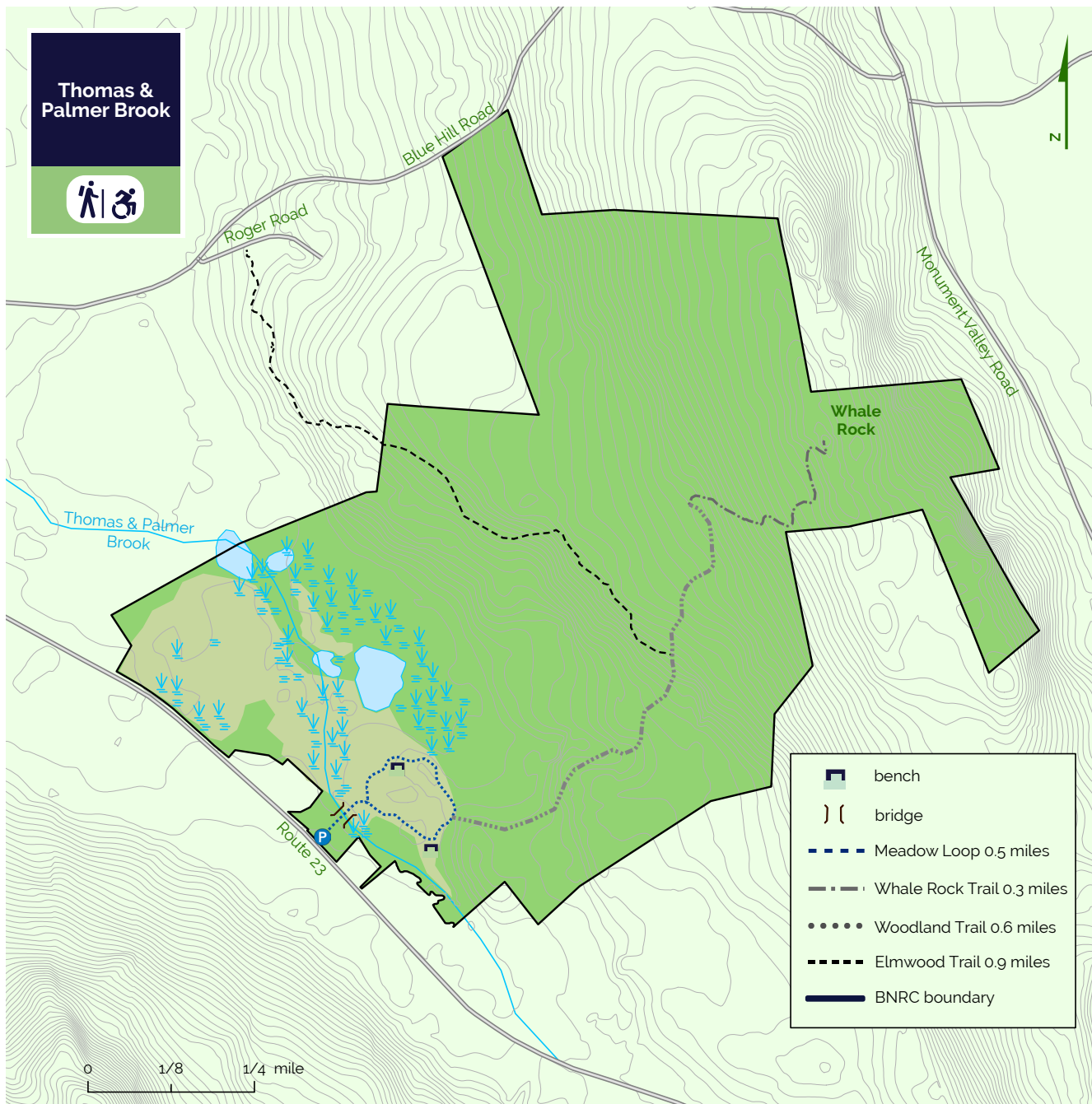
Great Barrington



> Trail Map



Berkshire Natural Resources Council



ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION: The **Meadow Loop** was designed and built in 2020 to U.S. Forest Service Trail Accessibility Standards, and is accessible for wheelchair users, strollers, and other mobility devices. The trail is approximately 0.5 miles of 6-foot-wide crushed stone with a running slope not exceeding 8% and cross slope not exceeding 5%. There are two benches and viewing areas overlooking the wetland and meadow.

As of September 2026

Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy



THOMAS & PALMER BROOK TRAIL MAP



Trail Description

MEADOW LOOP: 0.5 miles, round-trip, accessible, gentle wheelchair and stroller-friendly, crushed stone trail

WOODLAND TRAIL: 0.6 miles, oneway, moderate, uneven footing, elevation changes

WHALE ROCK TRAIL: 0.3 miles, oneway, moderate, uneven footing, elevation changes

Elmwood Trail: 1.5 miles, at 0.5 miles, trail exits Thomas & Palmer Reserve and continues to the **High Road's Great Barrington Community Connector**. This route continues onto Great Barrington town land.

From the trailhead, the accessible path crosses a wide wooden bridge over Thomas & Palmer Brook, a tributary of the Housatonic River. The accessible **Meadow Loop Trail** borders a field, old apple orchard, and wetland habitat. The **Woodland Trail** connects on the east side of the Meadow Loop, through upland forest. At 0.6 miles, the trail transitions to the **Whale Rock Trail**, which gradually climbs to a unique rock feature known as Whale Rock.

Thomas & Palmer Brook is the southern trailhead for **The High Road's Great Barrington Community Connector** route. **The High Road** is a long-term BNRC initiative to make connections from town to trails. For more information, visit bnrc.org/thehighroad.