

Thomas & Palmer Brook

The 219 acres of the Thomas and Palmer reserve slope upward from the brook through old pasture, a wetland and mature forest to a dramatic high point of exposed bedrock. A trail through the meadow winds past long-abandoned apple trees. A habitat restoration project removed invasive species in the apple orchard and surrounding area.

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)



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. 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.

BE A LANDKEEPER. Please visit 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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Thomas & Palmer Brook

Great Barrington



BERKSHIRE
Natural Resources Council

THE LANDKEEPERS

THOMAS & PALMER BROOK



Trail Description:

Trail: 0.5 mile path, roundtrip

Difficulty: Easy (gentle grades, smooth footing)

Like the Berkshire Natural Resources Council's nearby Housatonic Flats property, **Thomas and Palmer** is easily accessible from downtown **Great Barrington**. From the trailhead, a path crosses the bridge that spans **Thomas and Palmer Brook**, a tributary of the **Housatonic River**. For adventurous hikers, an unmarked road connects to the east side of the mowed path and winds you through the upland forest.

Natural History:

The old pasture is now dense with goldenrod and milkweed. The forest consists of mixed hardwoods, white pine and hemlock. Beaver activity is visible near the brook. Birds that have been attracted by the property's diverse habitats include the American woodcock, the blue-winged warbler, the chestnut-sided warbler, the eastern towhee and the purple finch. The Thomas and Palmer Brook corridor has been identified as core habitat by Natural Heritage, meaning it is a habitat that could have rare, vulnerable, or uncommon mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, invertebrate, and plant species.

