

Constitution Hill

Originally called Bald-headed Hill, the 303-acre Constitution Hill reserve got its current name in 1788. A Lanesborough delegate to the convention in Boston weighing state ratification of the proposed new US Constitution arranged for a bonfire to be lit atop the hill if Massachusetts approved it. The state did, and the signal could be seen for miles.

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Directions: Follow Bridge Street in Lanesborough west to its end at the BNRC trailhead and kiosk. The trailhead is about 0.8 miles from Main Street.

GPS: 42.5238, -73.2423 (trailhead parking)



Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

WELCOME! WE INVITE YOU TO...

ENJOY this property on foot, bike, horseback (except when trails are muddy), 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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Constitution Hill

Lanesborough



BERKSHIRE
Natural Resources Council

THE LANDKEEPERS

CONSTITUTION HILL



Trail Description:

Constitution Hill Trail: 1.7 miles, roundtrip

Difficulty: Moderate (uneven footing, elevation changes)

Field Trail: 0.9 miles, roundtrip

Difficulty: Easy (gentle grades, smooth footing)

The **Constitution Hill Trail** takes visitors past the **Constitution Oak** tree and a large rock outcrop. Beyond the summit, the trail turns westward past an old stone wall before bringing hikers back on a wood road. Keep an eye out for chunks of slag glass, which is a byproduct of iron production that was used as fill on old roads.

The **Field Trail** is a mowed path that parallels **Bridge Street** before veering downhill through the hedgerow and winding around the field. This trail has great views of Mt. Greylock.

Natural History:

Deer are abundant on Constitution Hill, whose diverse habitats are home to white and yellow birches and other hardwoods, as well as Dutchman's breeches. In 2006, the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, with the help of the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife's Landowner Incentive Program, began reclaiming parts of the property's abandoned orchards and fields to create early successional habitat.

