

Hollow Fields

The linked hayfields and forests of the 660+ acre Hollow Fields reserve offer the Berkshires' best view of Yokun Ridge, and abundant bobolinks nesting in the grasslands. The mown path through the fields connects to trails and wood roads in adjoining forestland, including a 45-acre parcel owned by the Town of Richmond.

Directions: Follow Perry's Peak Road in Richmond for 0.3 miles. Trailhead is signed, on the left.

GPS: 42.4068, -73.3654 (Trailhead parking)



Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

WELCOME! WE INVITE YOU TO...

ENJOY this property on foot, 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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BERKSHIRE
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THE LANDKEEPERS

HOLLOW FIELDS TRAIL MAP



Trail Description:

Trail: 2 miles, roundtrip

Difficulty: Moderate (smooth footing, elevation changes)

The mowed path runs downhill from the barn. Without too much effort, a walk up through some of the 40 acres of fields provides a profile view of Yokun Ridge and a bench to enjoy it from. Higher up, there is a view of the crenelated hills of South Berkshire. After the summer haying season, the mown path can sometimes be difficult to make out. Trail blazes on the bluebird birdhouses mark the trail direction. From the trailhead to the most distant point of the uppermost meadow is about two miles. More ambitious hikers can explore the wood roads that branch off from the mown path and head towards the Richmond Overlook (aka Scotty's Lookout) and Perry's Peak. Trail improvements will take place in the near future. Please note: This property is open dawn to dusk. No overnight parking.

Natural History:

The fields host a variety of important and declining wildlife, including bobolinks and Savannah sparrows, which nest only in grasslands. Milkweed, a food source and habitat for Monarch butterflies, is abundant in the fields. The scrub and young forest offer breeding sites for indigo bunting and eastern towhee. The forest stands include northern hardwoods, spruce plantations, and some hemlock. Blueberries can be found in higher exposed areas. From the settlement of Richmond in 1765, its forests have come and gone as land was cleared first for agriculture, then abandoned, and then cleared for charcoal to fuel the long-since stilled Richmond Iron Works.

