

Alford Springs

Alford Springs, 899 acres of mostly forested ridgeline, has more than seven miles of trails for hikers, snowshoers, seasoned cross-country skiers, mountain bikers, hunters and berry-pickers. The reserve, named for feeder streams of Alford Brook and the Green River, offers vistas of Greylock and Tom Ball mountains and Alford Valley.

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Directions: Follow Mountain Road in Alford for 0.8 miles, bearing left at the first "Y" and left again at the sharp right turn at 0.8 miles (Father Loop trailhead). Alternatively continue right to reach a second, three-season parking lot further down the road (Mother Loop trailhead). Saddle trailhead is off West Road.

GPS: 42.2482, -73.4458 (Father Loop)
42.25240, -73.43861 (Mother Loop - 3 season)
42.274919, -73.427083 (Saddle Trail)

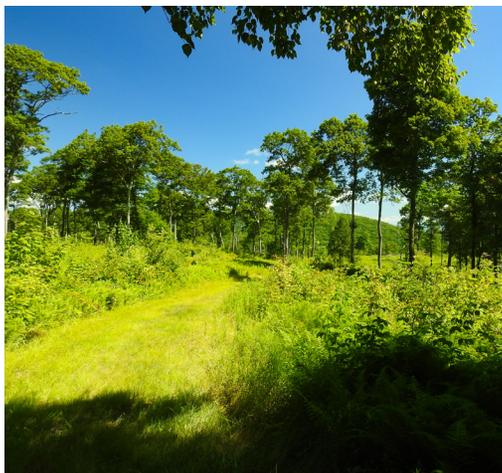


Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

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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Alford



BERKSHIRE
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THE LANDKEEPERS

ALFORD SPRINGS TRAIL MAP



Trail Description:

Father Loop: 4.3 miles, round-trip

Difficulty: Difficult (strenuous due to length)

Mother Loop: 2.4 miles, round-trip

Difficulty: Moderate (uneven footing, elevation changes)

Saddle Trail: 1 mile, one-way

Difficulty: Moderate

Visitors can choose from a buffet of options: the 4.3-mile Father Loop, the 2.4-mile Mother Loop, and the 1-mile Saddle Trail. The **Father Loop** has vistas to the north, south, and east and is lined with paper birch trees on the west ascent. The **Mother Loop** offers a view to the east, an old foundation, and open field. The **Saddle Trail** is an access route to the Father Loop. It utilizes a small saddle in the topography, winding through hemlock forest and past old stone walls and paddocks. The southeast corner of the property also has unmarked wood roads.

Natural History:

In 2016, a 25-acre forestry project on the Father Loop created early successional habitat along with excellent views of Mt. Greylock. Wild berries are abundant at Alford Springs, which is one reason you may see sign of bear. Deer and bobcat also frequent the reserve. Hardwoods here include northern red oak, white oak and chestnut oak, as well as beech, black birch and red maple. A coldwater brook and several intermittent streams tumble down from Alford Springs to feed Alford Brook, a coldwater fishery.