

The Boulders

Located close to Berkshire County's population center, the 645 acres of The Boulders provide more than six miles of trails plus the dramatic boulders that give the area its name and offer a vista to the west. The trails lend themselves to hiking, biking, hunting, jogging, dog walking and cross-country skiing.

Directions: Access the property from the east side of Gulf Road in Dalton, opposite the parking for the Appalachian Trail.

GPS: 42.4816, -73.1783 (trailhead parking on Gulf Road)

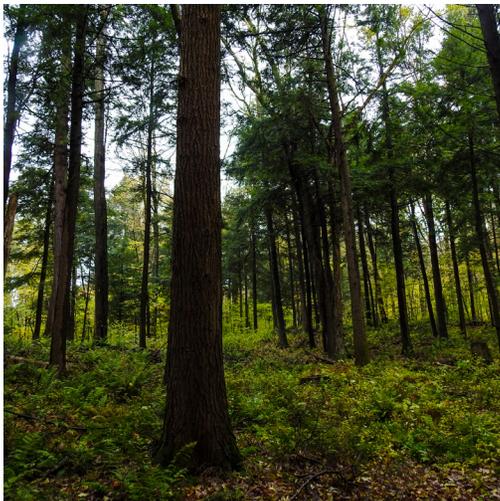


Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

WELCOME! WE INVITE YOU TO...

ENJOY this property on foot, bike, 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
Natural Resources Council

THE LANDKEEPERS

THE BOULDERS TRAIL MAP



Trail Description:

Heart Healthy Trail: 0.5 miles, roundtrip

Green Trail: 1.4 miles, roundtrip

Difficulty: Easy (gentle grades, smooth footing)

Blue Trail: 2.8 miles, roundtrip

Red Trail: 2.4 miles, roundtrip

Difficulty: Moderate (uneven footing, elevation changes)

From the southern trailhead on Routes 8/9, the **Blue Trail** to the boulder ridge is a hike of about 45 minutes. That trail provides a gradual ascent to the 1,395-foot high ridge. From that point visitors, after the leaf-fall, can make out the Taconic Range to the west. The northern trailhead on Gulf Road gives access to an easy walk on the **Heart Healthy Trail** or an extended hike on the **Green** and **Red Trails**.

Natural History:

The Boulders' weathered chunks of gray rock are a handy rest stop after a moderate climb. The bedrock of this property is primarily pelitic rock, a metamorphosed fine-grained sedimentary rock. The large outcrops on the boulders ridge show part of a concentric arcing called a "lunate fracture." These form from an interaction between ice, pressure, and a very hard rock like the quartzite found here. Deer and barred owls are among many animal species here; red trillium and pink lady-slippers show up in spring among many other ephemeral wildflowers.

