

Old Mill Trail

The Old Mill Trail of 127 acres is your best way to get at the upper reaches of the Housatonic River. Crane and Company conserved the land with MassWildlife and collaborated with the Housatonic Valley Association to build the trail. The Housatonic River suffers image problems due to PCB contamination south of Pittsfield, but the East Branch is clean and fast-flowing as it descends from Hinsdale. This accessible trail is a treat for trail users of all abilities.

Directions: From the center of Dalton: take Route 8 south to the Hinsdale line. From the town line, continue 4/10 miles to a left on Old Dalton Road. The trailhead parking is the first, immediate left.

GPS: 42.4480, -73.1305 (Trailhead parking)

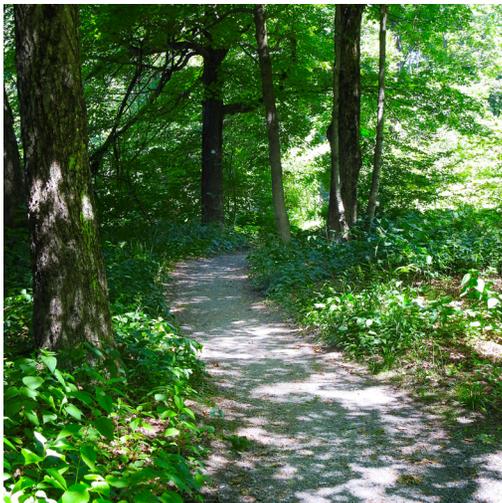


Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

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.

TAG US now on Instagram and Facebook with [#landkeepers](https://www.instagram.com/landkeepers) and [#bnrc](https://www.facebook.com/bnrc).

SUPPORT this work at bnrc.org/donate.

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FIND our app in the app stores by searching for "BNRC trails."



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Old Mill Trail

Hinsdale | Dalton



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Natural Resources Council

THE LANDKEEPERS

OLD MILL TRAIL



Trail Description:

Old Mill Trail (entire trail) 1.5 miles, one way

Difficulty: Easy (gentle grades, smooth footing)

Accessible Section: 0.7 miles, one way

Difficulty: Accessible

The first 0.7 miles of the **Old Mill Trail** is an accessible trail that follows the river north. After the accessible trail ends, the Old Mill Trail continues for 0.8 miles, crossing Route 8 and following the river downstream. After the Route 8 crossing, the first several hundred feet of beautifully crafted trail is at the river's edge. The entire trail, out-and-back, is 3 miles and offers great views of the East Branch of the Housatonic River.

Natural History:

Visitors and residents alike are drawn to the Housatonic River because of its natural beauty and recreational opportunities. The 149-mile river begins its journey to Long Island sound with its three headwater branches. The East, West, and Southwest Branches meet in Pittsfield to form the main stem of the Housatonic River. Cottonwoods, ash, willow, and silver maple along with shrubs such as honeysuckle and gray-stemmed dogwood tolerate the floodplain environment. The plant communities create specific wildlife habitat. Songbirds such as song sparrows share the floodplain with voles, hawks, and muskrat.

