

# Constitution Hill

Once called Bald-headed Hill, the 303-acre Constitution Hill reserve got its current name in 1788.

A Lanesborough delegate to the convention in Boston awaiting 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.

**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.

**LEARN MORE** Please visit [BNRC.org](http://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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**FIND** our app in the app stores by searching for "BNRC trails."



**Berkshire Natural Resources Council**

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[bnrc.org](http://bnrc.org)

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Lanesborough



**Berkshire Natural Resources Council**

# CONSTITUTION HILL TRAIL MAP



## TRAIL DESCRIPTION

**Constitution Hill Trail:** 1.7 miles, round-trip  
**Difficulty:** Moderate (uneven footing, elevation changes)

**Field Trail:** 0.9 miles, round-trip

**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 woods 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.

