

Housatonic Flats

The nearly mile-long loop trail through Housatonic Flats' 26 acres gets you up close and personal with more than a half-mile of Housatonic riverbank. The floodplain is now reverting to the forest that prevailed before settlers cleared it for pasture. Attractions include abundant birdlife, fish, otter, beaver and deer.

Directions: From Great Barrington: From the Price Chopper, head north on Route 7 for less than half a mile. Parking will be on the left.

GPS: 42.216357, -73.343895 (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.

LEARN MORE 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

309 Pittsfield Road, Suite B | Lenox MA 01240 | 413-499-0596
bnrc.org

Housatonic Flats

Great Barrington



Berkshire Natural Resources Council



HOUSATONIC FLATS TRAIL MAP



TRAIL DESCRIPTION

Trail: 0.9 miles, round-trip

Difficulty: Easy (gentle grades, smooth footing)

Walking clockwise, the loop trail heads due south through a seasonally flooded oxbow on a narrow causeway. Beyond the oxbow, the trail winds through abandoned pasture surrounding a silver maple floodplain forest. The trail first reaches the river at another oxbow, where there is a bench. The trail then follows the river upstream, and heads north through abandoned pasture before turning east to return to the trailhead. Several short spurs offer views of the river. Walking the whole loop takes 20 to 30 minutes.

NATURAL HISTORY

The variety of habitats in the flats—river, forest, nearby farmland, oxbows, patches of shrub and old pasture—attracts a broad array of breeding and migratory birds. The river itself is home to wood ducks, common carp, smallmouth bass, among other species. Beaver are also abundant in and around the river, though you won't see lodges like on a pond here. Keep your eye out for bank lodges, also known as bank burrows, that are built by beavers burrowing into the bank. Milkweed draws monarch butterflies.