

# 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 & Co. 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.

**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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**Berkshire Natural Resources Council**

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

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Hinsdale | Dalton



**Berkshire Natural Resources Council**



# OLD MILL TRAIL TRAIL MAP



## 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.

**Accessibility Details:** The Old Mill Trail is not currently wheelchair accessible. The parking lot is not accessible and has some broken pavement, and there is a transition barrier where the pavement and trail meet. BNRC has plans to create an accessible parking area and fix these issues in 2024. The accessible section of the trail is crushed stone and between 36"- 60" wide. The cross slope is 0-5% and the grade is 0-11%.