

Directions

Travel South on Route 7 through downtown Great Barrington and turn right onto Taconic Avenue. Take 1st right onto Castle Street bearing left around turn. Go right onto Castle Hill Avenue and proceed to stop sign. Turn right onto Lake Mansfield Road, then travel along the lake to the parking area. The forest trailhead is located at the beach area.

Trail Description

The Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest features a trail network within a 29-acre woodland. The majority of the trail is built to accessible standards, including gentle slopes and a crushed stone trail surface. The shady trails provide a complement to the open lake which features a picnic area and sandy beach.

The main trail (.36 miles) is broad and provides access to a bridge-boardwalk crossing over the Lake Mansfield Outlet Brook; a natural footpath connects the bridge to the Christian Hill Road trail entry, this trailhead has a few steps that bring you to a crosswalk allowing safe access to Welcome Street. Within the forest, and connected to the main trail, is a .34 mile forest loop trail. The accessible portion of the loop trail ends at the big boulder. Currently there is a total of .35 miles of accessible trail.

The trail system can be used as a portion of a 3.5 mile loop connecting the lake and forest to River Walk, downtown shops, and surrounding neighborhoods. This route includes a variety of surfaces (trails and sidewalks). Go to www.lakemansfield.org for complete directions.



Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest

Trail Use Guidelines

- Leave only footsteps, take only pictures.
- Dogs on leash are allowed; clean up pet waste.
- No hunting, fires, or camping.
- Take precautions to avoid poison ivy and ticks.
- Respect the privacy of adjacent land owners.

Great Barrington Trails & Greenways

Great Barrington Trails and Greenways is a collaborative that supports the development of an interconnected, town-wide trail system to encourage walking, biking, and paddling. Existing trails provide safe opportunities to actively explore Great Barrington's rich historic and natural resources. GB Trails partners provide seasonal guided hikes throughout the Berkshires as we work to engage the community and visitors in the appreciation and stewardship of these special places.

Get Involved

We need you! Help maintain this trail and support our efforts. To volunteer or donate: www.gbtrails.org

This resource is provided for you in partnership with

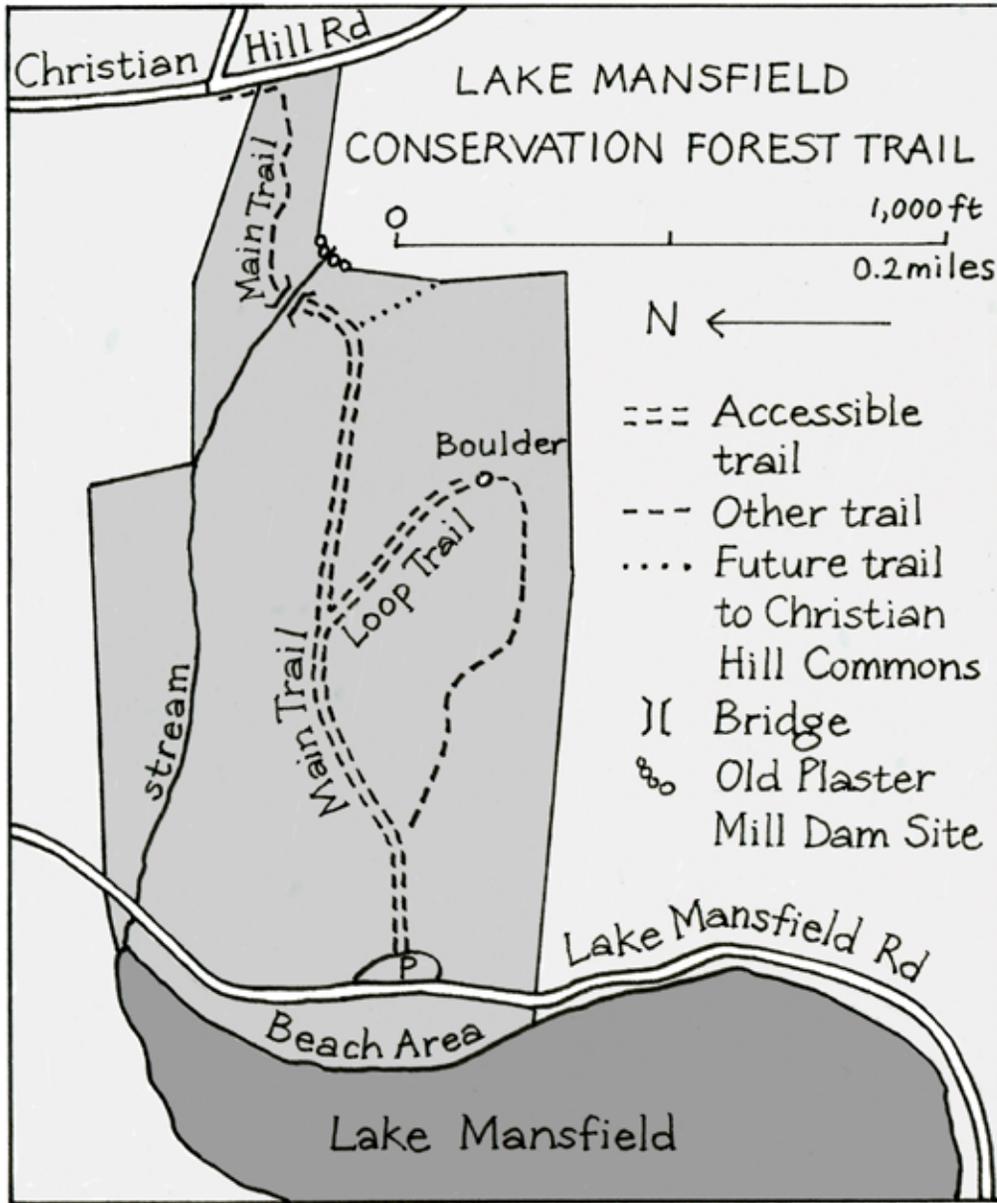


Great Barrington Trails & Greenways

Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest

design by BillAllenGraphics.com





What to Look For

The Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest features two distinctive woodland areas. A large stand of evenly-aged white pine casts deep shade along the main access trail. The loop trail moves through a mixed hardwood forest consisting of cherry, birch, maple and ash. Here, ferns carpet the hilly ground and surround

a large and inviting boulder; a glacial erratic, deposited by the flow of prehistoric ice.

From the bridge-boardwalk, we see evidence of the Joseph Johnson plaster mill, which was located on the Lake Mansfield outlet stream in 1876. The plaster probably served the town's relatively rapid residential development during the 2nd half of the 19th century, due in turn to the growth of larger mills along the Housatonic River.

Look for a wide variety of understory plants: early spring flowers include Starflower, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Solomon's Seal, and Canada Mayflower; several fern species dominate in the summer; understory shrub species include Striped (Goosefoot) Maple, Spice Bush, and Witch Hazel.

Listen for our woodland birds: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Titmouse, Veery, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, and Barred Owl to name a few.

Search for signs of white-tailed deer, fox, coyote, and brown bear.

Property Stewardship

The Lake Mansfield Conservation Forest is owned by the town of Great Barrington, overseen by the Conservation Commission, and stewarded by Lake Mansfield Alliance, a partner of Great Barrington Trails and Greenways. The trails were designed and installed by Peter S. Jensen along with many community volunteers and built through the support of the MA DCR Recreational Trail Program, Berkshire Environmental Fund, and the Fields Pond Foundation.

To Report a Problem on This Trail

Call 413-528-1619 x122
(Great Barrington Conservation Commission)
or email: info@gbtrails.org

To Learn More About the Lake Mansfield Recreation Area

www.lakemansfield.org



Historic information from *Great Barrington: Great Town, Great History*