

Batchelder Mill Road Trails

Access to the trails:

To get to the Batchelder Mill Road Trail from East Concord, take Shawmut Street from Route 132 at the outlet of Exit 16 on I-93. Go about 0.5 miles on Shawmut Street from Route 132. Turn right onto Batchelder Mill Road. At the end of the road, there is a small area to park. Proceed to the small bridge over Mill Brook. OR From East Side Drive take Portsmouth Street easterly to South Curtisville Road and turn left. Drive past the entrance to Broken Ground and Mill Brook Schools. The gated end of N. Curtisville Road will soon appear on the left. Park alongside the approach to the gate and walk up N. Curtisville Road. The entrance to the trails is about 800 feet to the north on a discontinued road. OR From East Side Drive turn onto N. Curtisville Road and proceed to the cul-de-sac at the end. Park at the gate and walk to the trailhead.

The trails:

Hiking travel time: about 2 hours

Distance: about 2.5 miles for the trail system.

The Batchelder Mill Road trail system is the by-product of logging that occurred some years ago. The trails were made when logs were dragged from where they were cut to where they were loaded onto trucks. The official trails have been marked with colored blazes. Stay on the blazed trails if you are concerned about getting lost.

History:

Mill Brook, which is located near the entrance to the trails on Shawmut Street and Batchelder Mill Road, played a significant role in the history of Concord. On the westerly side of Mill Brook are remnants of an old brick mill where bricks were manufactured as early as 1734. This was one of several areas in the City where clay deposits were readily available. Near the bridge to your left is a rise in the earth. This was an old dam, believed to be the first in Concord. It was created to hold back the water, in order to run a water wheel at one of the many mills that lined Mill Brook. An observation deck now overlooks the wetland that was once the Mill Pond.

The land where a majority of these trails are located, called Broken Ground, is the remnant of a glacial delta which was once known as the Dark Plains, and now as Concord Heights. It is a pine barren with soils of deep, fine sand and vegetation of scrub pine and scrub white oak. Early explorers described this land as having little value. Legend has it that prisoners in Concord's early days were never found after they broke out of prison and made their way across the Merrimack River into the Dark Plains. The premise was that the area was so rugged one would become disoriented and lost forever.



**Concord Conservation
Commission
225-8515**

Map 15

Concord Trail System

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