

Welcome to Brushy Brook

Mechanic Street Access

Located at 8 Mechanic Street

Rules and Regulations

- Area closed dusk (½ hour after sunset) to dawn (½ hour before sunrise)
- Dogs allowed on leash only; collect and remove dog waste
- Leave no trace; **Please** carry out trash; used fishing lines
- PROHIBITED**
- Motorized vehicles
- Fires, camping and swimming
- Dumping, littering, and trash disposal
- Removing, cutting or damaging trees, shrubs, and vegetation
- Disturbing archaeological and sacred sites, stone walls, cellar foundations, dams, mill sites, grave sites, and stone constructions
- Moving or piling stones
- Metal detectors, digging or removing of objects and minerals

Incident Reporting

For Emergencies **ONLY**: Call 911. Report incidents to
Hopkinton Police immediately (401) 377-7750.

Take photos and get names if possible.

Please consider adding the incident reporting numbers to your phone **before** hiking.

History

This area along the Wood River matches the documented criteria for a Native American occupation site (a village): 0-3% slope, well-draining soil, intersection of a smaller stream (Brushy Brook) with a larger navigable stream (Wood River), near both swamp and uplands. The Rhode Island Colony began selling off the Vacant Narragansett Lands which included Hope Valley in 1711, 35 years after King Phillip's War. The first dam and water power mill site in Hope Valley dating from 1755 can be viewed downstream from the fishing platform. The trail follows the Right-of-Way of the Wood River Branch Railroad which served passengers and freight from Depot Square to the main line at Wood River Junction 8 miles away from 1880-1946.

Ecology

Brushy Brook was dammed to create Locustville Pond in the center of Hope Valley (just across Main Street behind the brick mill). Fast draining soils and denser village housing around the pond have led to nitrate pollution of the pond and excessive growth of milfoil. A public water system has been installed to protect the health of the residents from polluted wells. Wood River is the most pristine of Rhode Island's rivers. The watershed quality is largely protected by thousands of acres of upstream forests. Beaver are often active along this section of Brushy Brook and Wood River. Look and listen for water spilling over their dams. Birding enthusiasts will find prime viewing of the spring migration along this trail system.

Parking

P1 - Next to Fire Station and Depot Square Park

1 Handicapped space and 2 regular spaces

P2 - Upper Lot on Mechanic Street

1 Handicapped space and 6 regular spaces

Please respect the private parking for the nearby businesses



Hopkinton
Outdoors

Trail Information

Fishing Platform Access Route - 1,709 feet
Brushy Brook Accessible Trail - 401 feet

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Please feel free to contact the organizations below for more information

Friends of Hopkinton Land Trust - 401 539-9091
friendsofhopkintonlandtrust@gmail.com

Kiosk and map designs by Educational Mapping Service using RIGIS Data.
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