



Hiking is an activity most people of all ages can enjoy. It provides good exercise and time to appreciate the beauty and serenity of the natural environment.

The Town of Wilbraham is fortunate to have a variety of easy to moderate trails within its boundaries.

Hiking tips and guidelines are available from the Wilbraham Hiking Club at:

[www.wilbraham-ma.gov/hiking](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/hiking)

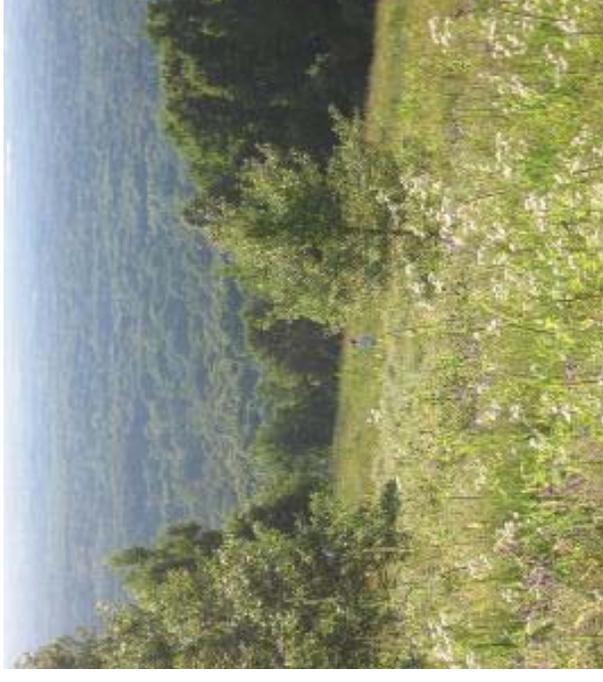


## Hiker's Responsibility Code

- Be responsible for yourself and your safety. Before you hike, learn about the terrain, elevation, local weather, and equipment you will need. More details about each trail are available at trail kiosks and at the Wilbraham Open Space web site: <http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=120>
- Whenever possible, do not hike alone. Accidents happen when you least expect them. Carry a first aid kit.
- Tell someone where you are going, when you will return, and what your emergency plan is.
- Be prepared to turn back as weather, fatigue and unexpected conditions can affect your hike. Know your limits.
- Take out what you take in; leave what you find.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Be considerate of others; if you are talking, use your “whisper” voice so as to not disturb the solitude of nearby hikers.
- Bring adequate water and food. Wear proper footwear and layer clothing for the season. Pack raingear, insect repellent/mosquito netting, toilet paper in your backpack. Bring a hat and sunglasses.
- If available, use trail maps. Stay on marked trails.
- ENJOY!

Information Compiled by the  
Wilbraham Open Space and Recreation  
Plan Committee

## Wilbraham Hiking Trails



# Hike for the Health of It!

## For the Scenic Beauty, Discovery of Nature, Serenity of the Woods, & Hiker Companionship



**Alton's Way Trailwalk** traverses wide open vistas of hay fields, beautiful woodland walks, and the historic McDonald barn. It provides easy hiking on flat meandering trails; the main trail is 2.5 miles, one way. Parking is available at the entrance to the McDonald Preserve (east end of Washington Rd) and at the Wilbraham Middle School. Connects to the White Cedar Swamp Trailwalk.



**Fountain Park** was originally a state-run pheasant farm, now run by the Wilbraham Nature and Cultural Center. Four trails are under a mile, and a fifth 1.5 mile trail rings the park perimeter. There is easy hiking on old farm roads with a few gullies. Park at the entrance, 883 Tinkham Road in Wilbraham. A portable toilet is on site.

**Rice Nature Preserve / Sunrise Peak Trailwalk** provides open vistas on Rattlesnake Peak out to Springfield, the Berkshires, and Amherst; also good views from Sunset Peak to Monson, Hampden and beyond. The main trail is 2.6 miles round trip, with many alternative trails. The first part is uphill and rocky with several raised boardwalks to traverse wet spots, later opening up alongside a peach orchard. Hiking poles or a walking stick are helpful, especially on the descent from the peak. Park at end of Highmoor Drive. No toilet facilities.

**Crane Hill / Twelve Mile Brook Recreation Area** features old growth trees, rock outcroppings, babbling brook vistas, trout fishing, and stone walls. An 18 hole disc golf course in the Crane Hill area is free and open to the public. There are 4 miles of easy to moderate trails. Parking on Crane Road in field on right .6 miles south of rt 20. No toilet facilities.

**White Cedar Swamp Trailwalk** is a cedar bog with stands of white cedar trees. It is considered the highest quality and most extensive cedar wetland in the Connecticut Valley. Connects with Alton's Way Trail. Park at the end of Decorie Drive, or at the Wilbraham Middle School.

**Thayer Brook Trailwalk** is an easy hike meandering through woods, passes several stone walls on the way to Whale Rock: a glacial erratic (large rock) resembling a whale. 3.2 miles round trip. Park by the kiosk at the Wilbraham Community Gardens. A portable toilet is available.

