

Curtisville & Batchelder Mill Road Trails

Access to the trails:

To get to the Curtisville Road Trail, take Portsmouth Street easterly to South Curtisville Road. Follow South Curtisville Road for about half a mile, almost to the end, where there will be a substantial beaver dam on the right. Drive about 0.10 miles from the dam. The trail access will be to the left.

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 School. The gated end of North Curtisville Road will soon appear on the left. Park alongside the approach to the gate and walk up North Curtisville Road. The entrance to the trails is about 800 feet to the north on a discontinued road.

The trails:

Hiking travel time: about 0.5 hours for the Curtisville Road Trail and about 2 hours for the Batchelder Mill Road Trail.

Distance: about 0.7 miles for the Curtisville Road Trail and about 2 miles for the Batchelder Mill Road Trail system.

The Curtisville Road Trail is flat and easy to walk. Parts of the Curtisville Road trail are used by snowmobiles. Please use caution during the winter months.

The Batchelder Mill Road Trails are 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 trails have been marked with colored painted 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.

The land that the Curtisville Road Trail was blazed upon was purchased using Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds.



Concord Conservation Commission
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Map 15

Concord Trail System

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(Heritage Trail Segments)



Concord Conservation Commission
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