

# DESTRUCTION BROOK WOODS

## DNRT

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Please support our mission to preserve and protect Dartmouth's natural resources for people and nature forever. Become a member of DNRT today!

Destruction Brook Woods is DNRT's largest Reserve and offers a variety of walks along what remains of the old Duff Estate's bridle paths. The 280-acre property was purchased in 2000 by DNRT and The Trustees of Reservations as "Phase Three" of the Slocum's River Conservation Project. While DNRT owns the property, The Trustees and the Town of Dartmouth co-hold a conservation restriction on it. The Dartmouth Conservation Commission also owns an adjoining 44-acre parcel at the north end of the property.

Destruction Brook, a short, scenic tributary of the Slocum's River, originates in Deerfield Swamp and flows through farmland and woodlands past a historic grist mill to join the Slocum's near the Town Landing in Russell's Mills. The brook supports a diverse wildlife community and was once Dartmouth's only freshwater hatchery for alewife.



Photo by Tim Sylvia

Four blazed trails lead through varied topography and wildlife habitats. Entering from the parking area on Slade's Corner Road, you will find a mixed evergreen and deciduous forest that slopes gradually toward the Brook. Note the stands of Atlantic White Cedar, a rare ecosystem. In early summer, admire but don't pick the abundant pink lady's slippers in the Pine Glade.

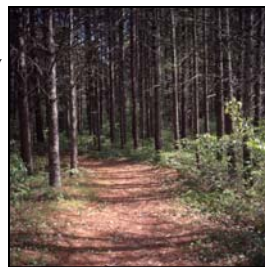


Photo by Tim Sylvia

Park at the Dartmouth Grange on Fisher Road and discover "Happy Valley", a rocky, often steep area of ledges, ferns, a vernal pool cupped by rock outcroppings and a large stand of American beech trees. Enter from the Fisher and Woodcock Roads parking area and the trail winds through wetlands, over bridges and stone sluiceways built to control waterpower for the mills along the brook.

Notice the wide variety of ferns, lichens, wildflowers and trees. Look for spotted salamanders in the vernal pool and for the Great Blue Heron, American Black Duck and Mallards on the historic mill ponds. Listen for the Wood Thrush and Veery. Be alert for the Great Horned Owl, a nesting pair of Cooper's Hawks, deer, coyote, Box Turtles and all sorts of insects.

The woods are crisscrossed by many unmarked trails in addition to the marked ones. We have placed rocks at key intersections, labeled A-D to help orient you. Use the map, be aware of your surroundings and, if disoriented, listen for traffic on Fisher Road and remember that the brook runs southward.

Lyme disease is a serious disease transmitted by the deer tick. Always check yourself and your family for ticks after walking in the woods.



From left to right: deer tick adult female, male, nymph and larva on centimeter scale

Destruction Brook Woods is used and loved by many visitors. Please be considerate and allow all who are here to enjoy it.

**Dogs and their human companions are welcome.** To preserve the enjoyment of all visitors, please remember to keep your dog under your control at all times and remove your dog's waste from the trail.

**Horseback riding is allowed—please stay on existing trails only.** Take care to avoid muddy areas to minimize the damage to the trails during the wet seasons. Please give walkers the right of way.

**Bicycle riding is allowed—please stay on existing trails only.** Please be considerate of other visitors and reduce your speed or stop upon approaching walkers, dogs or horses.

**All visitors:** Please respect any signs regarding trail closures or reserve closed areas. Picnicking, birding, photography and quiet contemplation are encouraged!

To protect the historic and ecological values and unparalleled beauty of Destruction Brook Woods, please observe the following rules:

- No fires
- No consumption or possession of alcohol
- No hunting, trapping or possession of firearms
- No littering, including in the parking lot – and please carry out any trash you might find
- No motorized vehicles of any kind
- No removal of vegetation, rocks or any other material from the property
- No paintball
- No metal detecting
- No conduct that disrupts the tranquility of the area or its enjoyment by others
- No unauthorized commercial activities

***Spend an hour or a day at Destruction Brook Woods!***