

Bailey Trail North

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.

What to look for on the Bailey Trail North

At Trailhead 1 follow the trail south, first along a small stream which soon joins the river. Where the stream and river join are the stonework remnants of a mill (see Historical Feature below). At the point where the trail and river meet, a glance upstream reveals the bridge over Rt. 80, and the dam for the Hammonasset Reservoir. The river slows as it enters large pools bordered by ridges and ledges on both sides.

South of the pool the river narrows and drops over a short run of rapids into a large, flat pool and then broadens. The trail here rises over an outcrop and then drops once more to pass close to the river's edge. The mossy cliff-faces to the east rise sharply here, as the trail nears another beautiful broad, flat pool below the rapids where kingfishers are often seen. The trail passes good examples of rock fractured and moved by nature.

The deep, cool, moist ravines favor northern tree species. Hemlock, yellow birch, beech and some sugar maple, as well as the oaks, black birch, red maple and ash are common. Here, as in many other areas along the trail, hemlocks have been seriously affected by the introduced hemlock wooly adelgid insect.

In the shallows along the pool's west bank, and further along, on the east bank also, red osier dogwood and other wet site shrubs have established a dense thicket. The trail passes over glacier-smoothed boulders and continues south along the river, where soon, it enters a broad flood plain. Exposed roots, sand, and drifts of detritus attest to the high water table and to the frequent flooding here. A cascading stream enters the river from the east.

Junction at Shepards and Bailey Trail North

At the northern junction, ascend the steep slope, following several switchbacks to mid-slope. The trail passes through an area where death of many hemlocks has created an opening allowing young birches, beech, sassafras and other species to develop.

Follow the blue trail markers to the ridge top to the Shepards-Buck Hill overlook. There are great views here of Long Island Sound. To return to your car, retrace your steps and descend to the East to the Junction of Bailey Trail North and head North to Route 80 or descend West to Shepards Trail Trailhead Road.

Historical Feature

The entrance to the upper Bailey Trail off of Route 80 at the bridge over Hammonasset River, accesses the area where water once tumbled over Ninevah Falls, providing power for early industries. On both sides of the river, remnants of old mills can be seen. These are probably the remains of a saw mill under the ownership of Mr. Stone and Mr. Munger. Downstream, on the Killingworth side of the river, the foundations of a tannery are clearly visible.

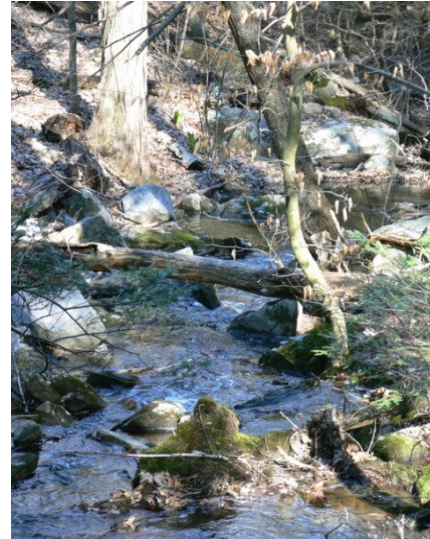


Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

The Bailey Trail system: (Hammonasset River Trail and Cider Mill Spur Trail) follows the west bank of the Hammonasset River from Rt. 80 to lower Summer Hill Road just north of Chestnut Hill Road. Because of its length, the trail is described in two separate sections: Bailey Trail North (Rt. 80 south and back); and Bailey Trail South (Georgetown Circle south to lower Summer Hill Road, including the Cider Mill Spur Trail).

Bailey Trail North: This section includes a gentle 0.6 mile walk south along the Hammonasset River from Rt 80 with views of the river's deep gorge and floodplain, providing a remarkable contrast to the ridge on either side.

GPS Directions: 790 Old Toll Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Easy river walk with an optional more challenging ridge loop.

Start: Trailhead 1 on Rt. 80, just west of the Hammonasset River Bridge.

Distance: About 0.6 miles, one-way to Georgetown Circle; including the Buck Hill Loop adds 0.5 miles.

Approximate Time: About 2 hours if the loop is included, round trip.

Parking: Turn-outs on north side of Rt. 80, just west of bridge.

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964



For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust

www.madisonlandtrust.org





MLCT
Madison Land Conservation Trust

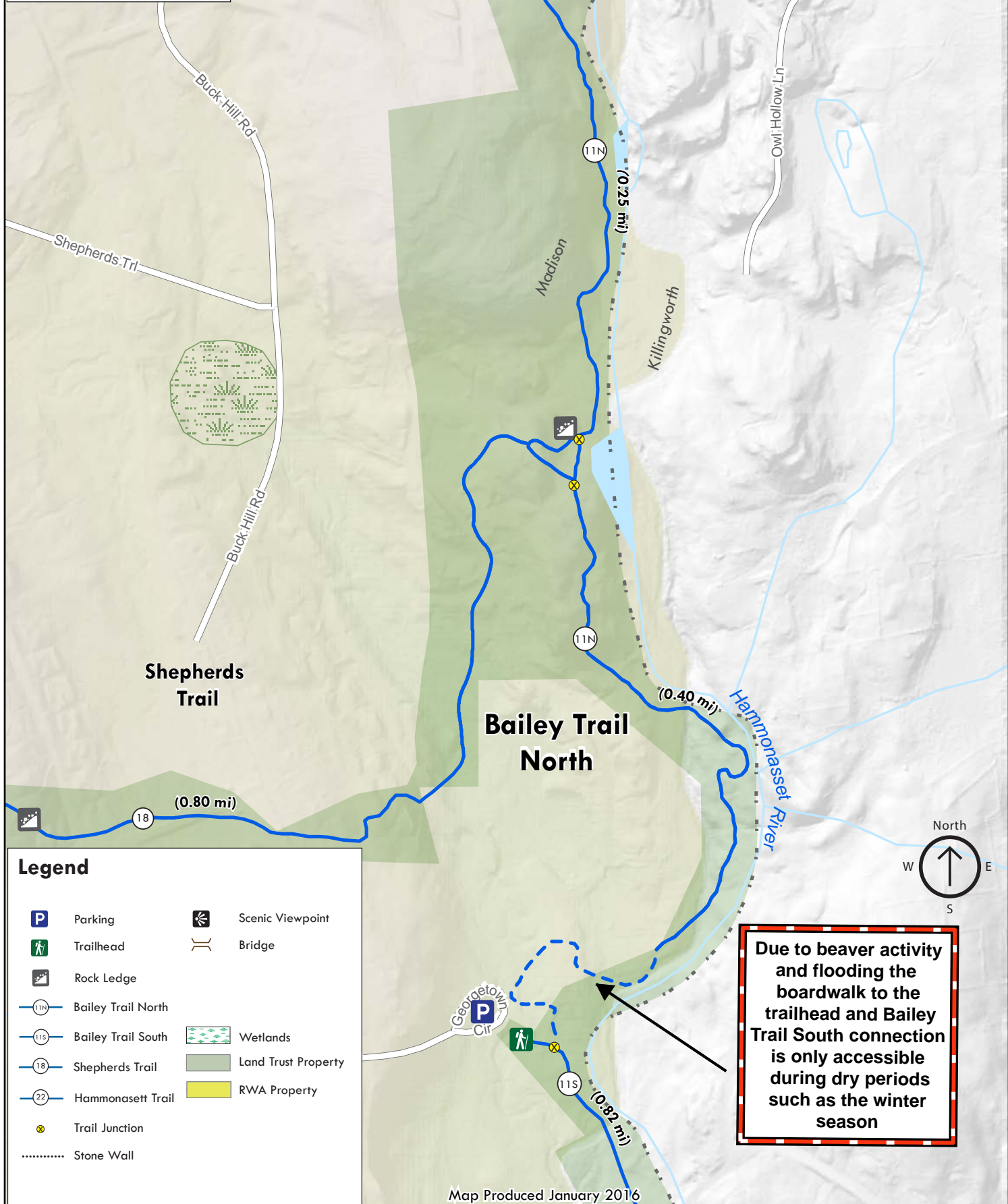
RWA Property
Permit Required

Lake
Hammonasset

Bailey Trail North

Old Toll Rd

State Hwy 80



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Rock Ledge
- Bailey Trail North
- Bailey Trail South
- Shepherds Trail
- Hammonasset Trail
- Trail Junction
- Stone Wall
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Bridge
- Wetlands
- Land Trust Property
- RWA Property



Due to beaver activity and flooding the boardwalk to the trailhead and Bailey Trail South connection is only accessible during dry periods such as the winter season