

The hike is described as entering at Trailhead 1, continuing north along the river to Trailhead 2. The loop section is described in a counterclockwise direction heading south.

Almost immediately upon entering the trail, the foundation ruins of the historic Hammonasset paper mill and its dam system can be seen on the right next to the river. The mill and its history are described below. Once past the mill site, the trail leads north, close to the west bank of the river through second-growth forests typical of this region. Tree species commonly encountered are oaks (red, black, white and chestnut), beech, black and yellow birches, white ash, and red maple. A few sugar maples and sassafras occur and some large sycamores grow along the river banks. Occasional hemlock snags still stand - reminders of their vulnerability to the effects of the gypsy moth defoliation in the 1970s and '80s.

Close to the river's edge, especially in times of high water, the value of this large flood plain becomes clear. Here, potentially destructive torrents of water are slowed and spread. In a practical sense, the flood plain once stored large quantities of water in a "lake" behind the mill dam downstream. In spring, this area abounds with marsh-marigolds, columbine, and trillium.

Where the trail rises a few feet above river level and continues north it passes a group of chestnut oaks, a species common to dry sites. Several stone walls mark old field borders, indicating that the forest here developed on land formerly tilled or pastured.

The trail follows the river, and at about 0.6 mile, divides; the right branch follows the river, while the left proceeds uphill, and then rejoins the main trail. Continue along the river for more glimpses of the flood plain. Along the cool, moist base of the hill to the west, the trail passes through a stand of yellow birch, hemlock (now dead), beech and red oak.

The trail soon curves to the left, and then swings sharply right where, in about 100 feet, it crosses a stream (0.7 mile from Trailhead 1). At this point, the loop section trail (described below) heads south (left) the main trail continues right for another 0.2 mile to Trailhead 2 at Wickford Place. For a short distance, it follows an old logging road, then goes right along steep slopes, and crosses some temporary stream beds, before climbing upslope and along a narrow right-of-way between private residences to the Wickford Place cul-de-sac and Trailhead 2.

### Directions and Parking:

Trailhead 1: On Fawn Brook Circle near junction with Green Hill Road; Trailhead 2: at the cul-de-sac of Wickford Place; Trailhead 3: On Hammonasset Meadows Drive near the trailhead.

### 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.



Hiking



Pets on Leash

### For more information about this trail contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust  
State Forest: Eastern District HQ

[www.madisonlandtrust.org](http://www.madisonlandtrust.org)  
(860) 295-9523

Questions regarding this brochure can be addressed to  
South Central Regional Council of Governments  
Phone: (203) 234-7555/Fax: (203) 234-9850  
E-mail: [trails@scrcog.org](mailto:trails@scrcog.org)

Scan QR Code to access the South Central Regional Council of Governments Recreational Trails Webpage



## Recreational Trails South Central Connecticut

# Papermill Trail



# Papermill Trail



Photo by The Madison Land Conservation Trust

## Trail Description:

### Easy to Moderate Hike

There are four entrances to the Papermill Trails. The trails include a scenic view of the Hammonasset paper mill ruins and the dam system.

Total trails length is approx. 2.15 miles

## Legend

- |  |                     |  |                |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------|
|  | Parking             |  | Trail Junction |
|  | Trailhead           |  | Stone Wall     |
|  | Papermill Trail     |  | Bridge         |
|  | Wetlands            |  | Waterfall      |
|  | Land Trust Property |  | Ruins          |
|  | Town Property       |  |                |

