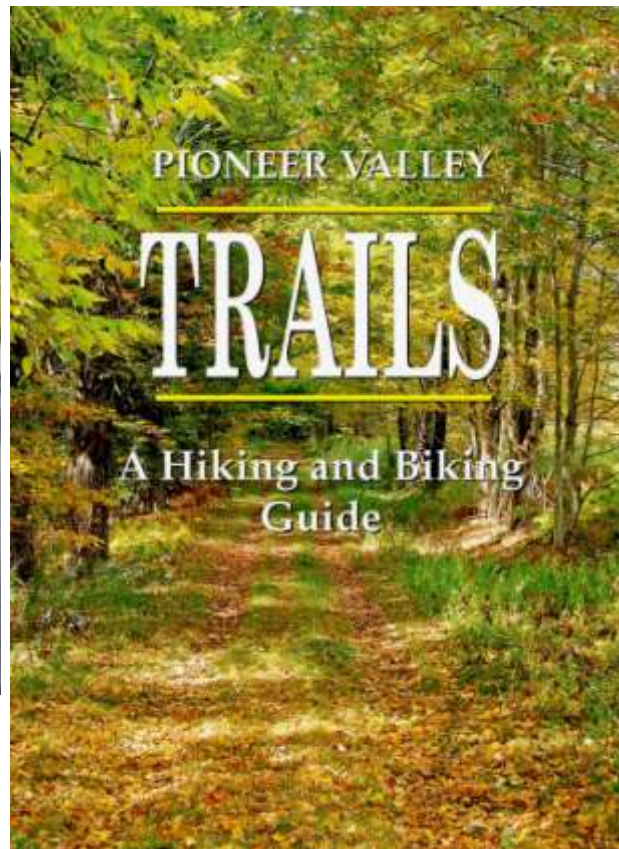


A Web-Based Trail Map for the Pioneer Valley Region



Overview

- Purpose and Goals of Map
- Regional Trails Map Planning Process
- Transition to Web-based Map
- Plans for Future Expansion



Purpose and Goals

Purpose:

- Promote hiking, biking, healthy living and use of trails

Goals:

- Increase public trail awareness
- Get people out on the trails and exercising
- Create guide to the region's trails
- Foster trail connections and network
- Integrate hiking trails with other environmental initiatives

Regional-Scale Trail Map: Planning Process

- Identify all trails on public lands, or open to the public
- Contact landowners for permission
- Collect existing trail maps and data on trail features
- Secure DCR approval to use state lands trails data
- Use GPS to map additional trails
- Develop GIS-based regional trail map



Research and Outreach to Trail Landowners / Managers



- Compile a list of known trails in the region
- Contact trail land owners for existing trail maps, permission to show trails
- Location data came from three primary sources:
 - GIS data
 - Hand-drawn paper maps
 - Satellite imagery

A HIKING AND BIKING GUIDE



Trails Map Features

Regional map information:

- Conservation areas
- State parks
- Hydrology
- Transportation network

Descriptions of individual trails:

- Trail type and length
- Hiking difficulty
- Parking and facilities
- Permitted uses
- Contact information



Westfield River along the East Branch Trail

East Branch Trail (see map C4)

The East Branch Trail in Chesterfield, West Chesterfield, and Huntington runs through the Gilbert A. Bliss State Forest, the Chesterfield Gorge Reservation, and the Knightville Reservoir watershed. The East Branch Trail is located in the scenic Berkshire foothills along the East Branch of the Westfield River. The seven mile trail, closed to motor vehicles, offers many opportunities to walk, hike, ski, and bike. Many miles of secondary trails connect the hundreds of acres of protected lands.

Location: Just off Route 143 in West Chesterfield at the intersection of Ireland Street and River Road. Entrance and parking area located along River Road. From Westfield, west on US Route 20 to Huntington, then north (right) on MA Route 112 about 4 miles to Knightville Dam Road.

Trail Type:	Dirt off-road and some single track
Length of Trail:	Seven miles of primary trail and
Difficulty of Trail:	Easy
Permitted Uses:	Hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking
Parking:	Parking area located on River Road (20 cars capacity)
Facilities:	Public restrooms, picnic tables, fire rings (fuel wood must be brought in).

Further Information: The Trustees of Reservations, Chesterfield Gorge
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation,
(413) 268-7098
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

47 Trail Systems in the Pioneer Valley

- Amherst Trails network
- Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary
- Bachelor Brook Cons Area
- Breckenridge Sanctuary
- Big View Trail
- Bradley Sanctuary
- Brimfield St Forest
- Brynan Cons Area
- Chester-Blandford SF
- Chicopee Memorial SP
- Conant Brook and MBW Trail
- Connecticut Riverwalk
- DAR State Forest
- Fannie Stebbins Refuge
- East Branch Trail
- Fitzgerald Lake
- Glendale Falls Trail
- Granville SF
- Graves Farm Sanctuary
- Hampton Ponds SP
- Hall Conservation Area
- Holyoke Canalwalk
- Skinner SP & Holyoke Range
- Dubuque Memorial SF
- Keystone Arch Bridges Trail
- Knightville Dam Trails
- Krug Sugarbush Trails
- Laughing Brook Sanctuary
- Littleville Lake Trails
- Manhan Rail Trail
- Mount Tom Reservation
- Noble View Center Trails
- Norwottuck Rail Trail
- New England Nat Scenic Trail
- Petticoat Hill Trail
- Peaked Mountain Trails
- Quinebaug Woods Trail
- Redstone Rail Trail
- Robert Frost Trail
- Quabbin Reservoir Trails
- Road's End Sanctuary
- Robinson State Park
- Southwick Rails to Trails
- Stanley Park Trails
- Stevens Hiking Trail
- Tolland State Forest
- Westfield Riverside Trail
- William Cullen Bryant Trails

Funding Sources

- PVPC's Unified Planning Work Program, funded through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- Map sales revenues, set aside in dedicated account



Distribution and Sales through Regional Vendors

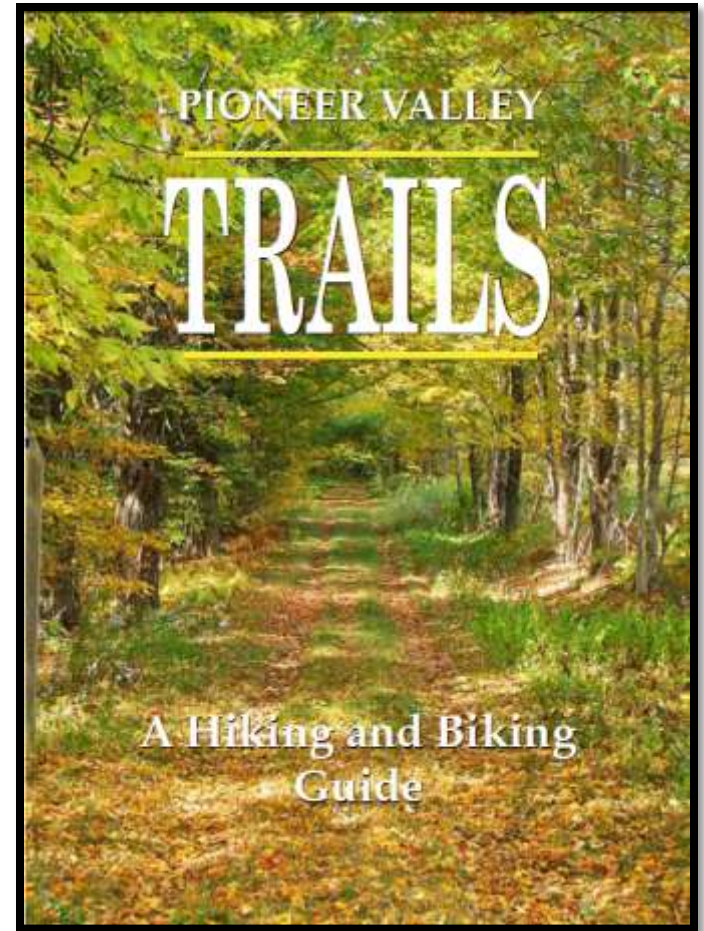
Initial free map distribution to municipal officials, others

Maps are sold through 13 book stores and sports shops in the region.

Stores purchase 30-40 maps at a time from PVPC and then sell them to customers.

Over 1563 copies have been sold, approximately 2000 were printed.



Maps sell for \$7.99, have generated over \$6,300 in revenue for future printing




Web-Based Trail Map System

- Concept is a one-stop location where public can access and print trail maps and trail information
- Website currently being constructed
- Can be accessed at www.connecticutriver.us
- Links to maps and individual trail descriptions
- Where no trail map currently exists, PVPC is working with trail land owners to create one.
- GPS trail data is being collected for use in GIS.





HomeSwimming/BoatingFishingHiking/BikingAbout the riverAbout Us Is it Clean?


Welcome

The Pioneer Valley in western Massachusetts is blessed with an abundance of extraordinary and beautiful rivers. The Connecticut River is the largest river in New England and is one of fourteen designated American Heritage Rivers in the United States. The Westfield River is the home of nationally renowned wildwater races and was the first designated National Wild and Scenic River in Massachusetts. The Chicopee River is clean enough in its headwater streams to provide drinking water to Boston through the Quabbin Reservoir.


Millions of dollars in public funds have been used to clean up the Connecticut River and its tributaries over the past decade and, as a result, the river is now much cleaner. The information on this website will guide Pioneer Valley residents and visitors in using the river for recreation and supporting its continued water quality improvement, including information about:

- River access points for recreation
- [Current water quality data including E. coli bacteria](#)
- [How clean is the river for swimming and boating at specific access points](#)
- [Posted fish consumption advisories](#)
- [Recreational trails in the Connecticut River watershed in Hampshire and Hampden counties](#)
- [Studies and research concerning the Connecticut River](#)
- [News about efforts to clean up and improve water quality in the Connecticut River and its watershed](#)


This website is designed to help you get out and explore the Connecticut River watershed. Our hope is you'll love our watershed as much as we do. ENJOY!




Swimming & Boating



Fishing



Hiking & Biking



Is It Clean ?

Trail-Specific Web Pages

Pioneer Valley Trails

Stevens Hiking Trail Hilltown Land Trust Huntington, MA

Length
1.2 miles

Difficulty
Moderate to difficult

Type
Marked off-road

Permitted Uses
Hiking and snowshoeing

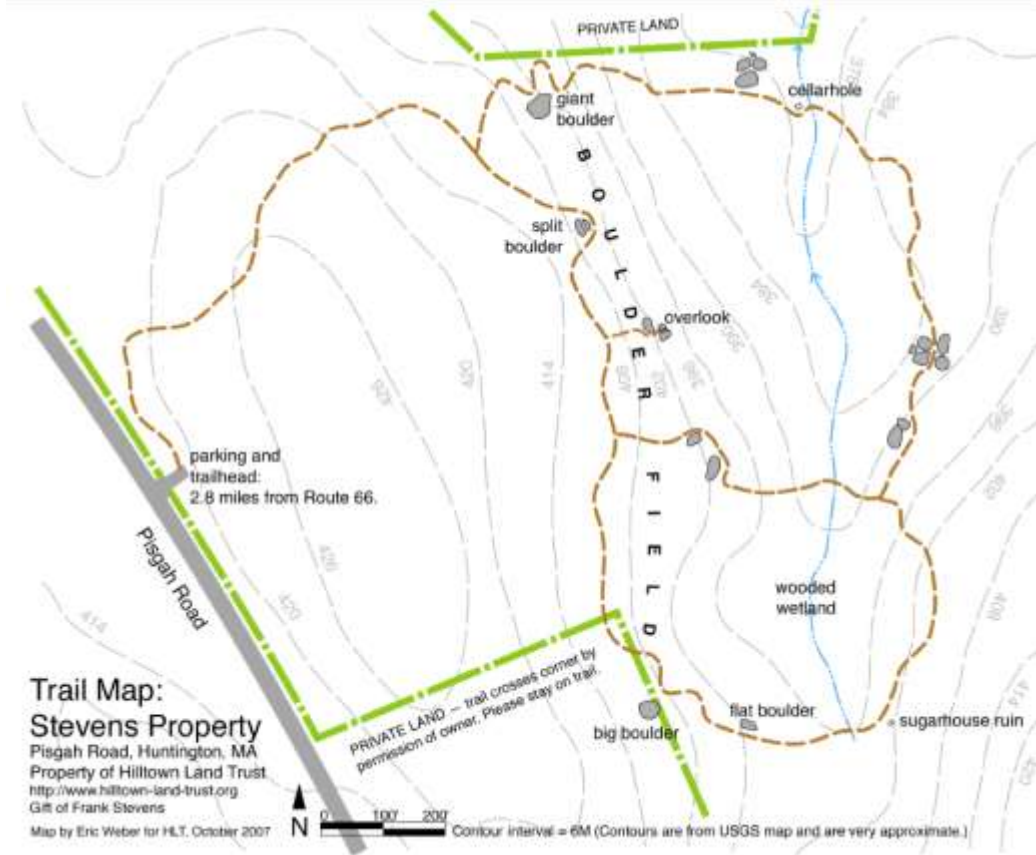
Nearby Points of Interest
Knightville Dam and Reservation, C.M. Gardner State Park, and Huntington State Forest

Description
The Stevens Hiking Trail, in Huntington, is a 1.2 mile walking trail on part of a 379-acre property. This beautiful trail winds through a wooded landscape where hundreds of large boulders can be found that are covered in mosses, ferns, and lichens. Also along the trail an early cellar hole and maple sugar house ruin are located, and the trail climbs up and down steep slopes and crosses a moist stream valley.

Location and Parking

At the highest point on Route 66, 0.4 miles west of the Westhampton-Huntington town line, turn north off Route 66 onto Allen Colt Road. Go 0.4 miles to the intersection with Pisgah Road and bear right onto Pisgah. Go 2.4 miles north from that intersection to Hilltown Land Trust's unmarked parking pullout and small clearing at break in stonewall on the right. There is designated parking, which is unmarked for parking pullout for 2 to 3 cars.

Orientation Map



For more information, contact the Hilltown Land Trust at www.hilltown-land-trust.org. A full set of maps of hiking trails in the Pioneer Valley can be found at www.connecticutriver.us.

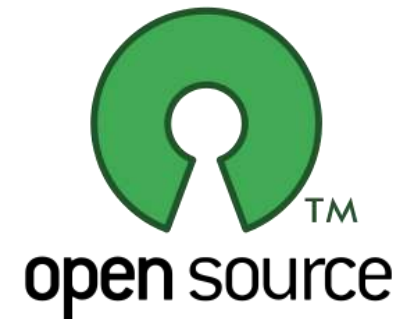


Features of Connecticutriver.us Website

- Website has information about a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, and biking.
- Regional trails map currently accessible for download
- Individual trails will be searchable through an interactive regional map, as well as through pull down menu
- Menu links to specific trails, either through hotlinks to websites or pdf maps
- Other information on individual trails to include parking, directions to trailheads, and a description of each trail.

Website Development and Use of Drupal

- Web development was completed by contractor MRW Connected
- Drupal was specified as the web development platform for the Connecticut River website. This was for the following reasons:
 - Commonly used for web development and is currently outpacing other development platforms (i.e.: Word Press, Joomla, etc.)
 - Drupal is an extremely powerful Content Management System (CMS). It is easy to edit and update for users once site has been launched.
 - Open source software, meaning that it is free to use.
 - Compatible with a wide range of internet browsers
 - Used by virtually every branch of the federal government and many state and municipal agencies



Plans for Future Expansion



Additional trails in the region to be mapped and included on connecticutriver.us website

Update and reprinting of regional trail map

Additional funds from future map sales will pay for reprinting

Q & A

Contact Information

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