

## Directions

Head north from center of Great Barrington and proceed onto Route 41. Turn left onto Christian Hill Road and follow until Division Street, where Christian Hill changes to Long Pond Road. Continue about 0.6 mile. Look for Pfeiffer Arboretum sign and small pullout on left; limited parking.

## Trail Description

This property offers a quiet 0.7 mile walking loop and a unique and beautiful view of pristine Long Pond, a private reservoir and protected water supply for the village of Housatonic. The trail, accessed via Long Pond Road, slopes gently with minimal elevation change. Some exposed roots, rocky areas, and short sections of elevated boardwalk make this trail only suitable for foot travel. Wet areas are augmented with sections of bog bridging and boardwalk. A spur off the main loop trail brings you to the Long Pond observation platform. Visitors will enjoy diverse forest and wetland ecosystems and see evidence of ongoing forest management and invasive plant control efforts.

Special thanks to: the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the Massachusetts Environmental Trust; Fields Pond Foundation; The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program; The Berkshire Natural Resources Council; Greenagers, Peter S. Jensen, Trail Designer/Builder; Bill Allen, and our other contributors and volunteers who support Pfeiffer Arboretum.



# Pfeiffer Arboretum at Long Pond

## Trail Use Guidelines

- Leave only footsteps, take only pictures.
- No hunting, fires, or camping.
- Take precautions to avoid poison ivy and ticks.
- Respect the privacy of adjacent land owners.
- Long Pond belongs to the Housatonic Water Company. Swimming, boating, and or fishing are prohibited in this protected water supply.

## *Great Barrington* Trails & Greenways

Great Barrington Trails and Greenways is a collaborative that supports the development of an interconnected, town-wide trail system to encourage walking, biking, and paddling. Existing trails provide safe opportunities to actively explore Great Barrington's rich historic and natural resources. GB Trails partners provide seasonal guided hikes throughout the Berkshires as we work to engage the community and visitors in the appreciation and stewardship of these special places.

## Get Involved

We need you! Help maintain this trail and support our efforts. To volunteer or donate:  
[www.gbtrails.org](http://www.gbtrails.org)

This resource is provided for you in partnership with

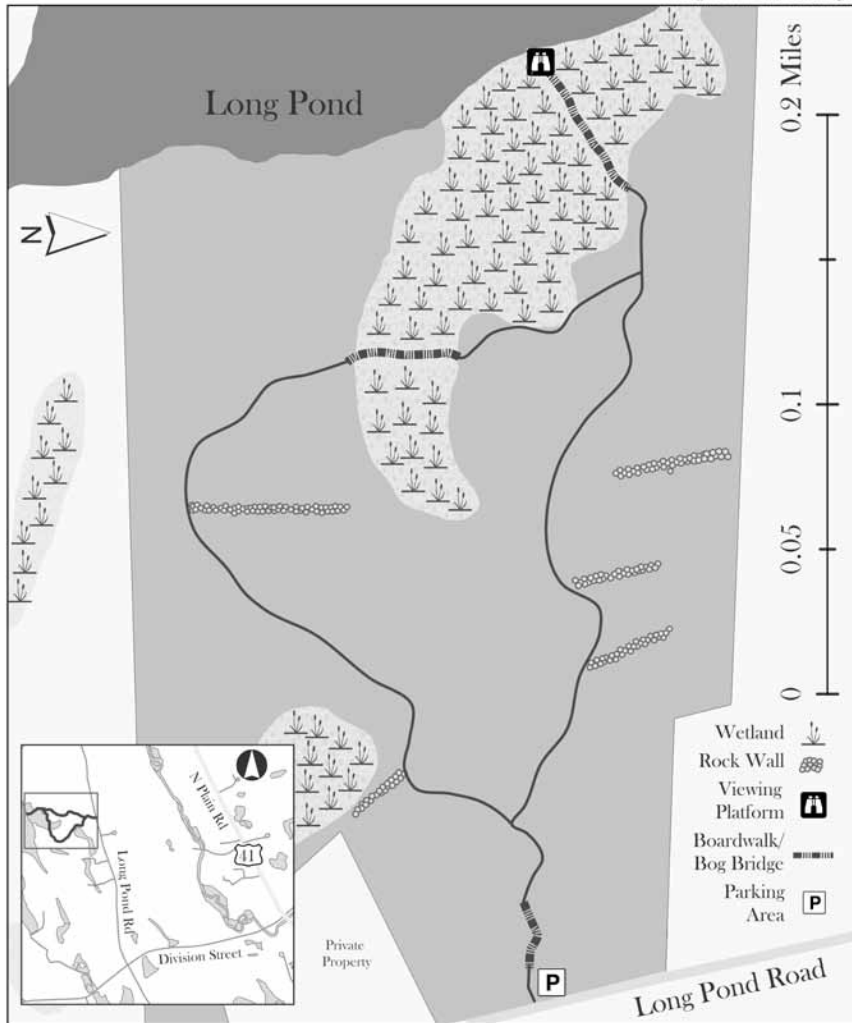


# *Great Barrington* Trails & Greenways Pfeiffer Arboretum at Long Pond



# Pfeiffer Arboretum

Pfeiffer Arboretum trail traverses property owned by Great Barrington Land Conservancy. Stewardship provided by Great Barrington Trails and Greenways.



## What to Look For

Pause at the trail entrance and scan the canopy above for the Sassafras tree; its distinct leaves come in three shapes: turkey track, oval, and mitten. This uncommon tree offers the first hint of the diversity that gives this property its "arboretum" name. You are entering a unique woodland, home to many native trees including maples, white ash, eastern white pine, hemlock, yellow birch, tulip poplar, hornbeam, and oaks. In the shady understory, witch hazel and spice bush thrive. Many varieties of ferns are found here: sensitive fern, Christmas fern, lady fern, and maidenhair fern. Along the trail edges you can find many seasonal wildflowers

including star flower, trillium, bloodroot, Jack-in-the-pulpit, violets, wild geranium, and wood asters.

Along the trails you will experience forests with very different compositions and feel. A young pine forest near the front of the property indicates fairly recent disturbance. Farther along a hardwood stand dominated by sugar and red maples and an old stone wall tell the story of forests regenerated after clearing for pastures by farmers hundreds of years ago. In other areas, dark green foliage and dense shade of hemlock trees provide shelter for deer and other animals from winter storms.

Long Pond is visible from the observation platform. Tom Ball Mountain rises up on the western shore. Seasonal migrating waterfowl rest on these sheltered waters in spring and fall. Bald eagles and osprey perch along the shores. Many warblers nest in this diverse woodland. Decaying trees provide food and nesting space for pileated woodpeckers and other birds and mammals. Listen for the low drumming of the ruffed grouse, rarely seen but often heard!

As you return to Long Pond Road you will pass through areas where active management is underway to control bittersweet, Norway maple, buckthorn, barberry, and other invasive species that threaten the preserve's native plants.

## Property Stewardship

In 1997, the 38-acre Pfeiffer Arboretum property was donated to the Great Barrington Land Conservancy by the Pfeiffer family, who had owned and enjoyed the property for many decades. In 2002, the Land Conservancy constructed a loop trail and pond-view spur trail for public enjoyment. In 2010, the Conservancy received a three year NRCS grant for the removal of invasive plants. This effort has led to a significant reduction of invasive species on the property, but the management is ongoing. Each year this preserve needs many hours of maintenance and stewardship. We invite you to lend a hand with this effort on workdays held in spring and fall. Thank you for visiting Pfeiffer Arboretum.

## To Report a Problem on This Trail

[info@greatbarringtonlandconservancy.org](mailto:info@greatbarringtonlandconservancy.org)  
or [info@gbtrails.org](mailto:info@gbtrails.org)

## To Learn More about Membership & Trail Steward Opportunities

[www.greatbarringtonlandconservancy.org](http://www.greatbarringtonlandconservancy.org)



Historic information from *Great Barrington: Great Town, Great History*