

Hazen Trail and Backwater Trail

1.5 miles (one way on the Hazen Trail)

Moderate

This walk is a rolling dirt trail that passes through forest and farmland above the Connecticut River, connecting Hartford just north of Wilder and Norwich. It can be started at either end, but there is a fee to park in the Montshire Museum parking lot if you start in Norwich. The trail was conserved by the Upper Valley Land Trust and is well maintained. The Hartford end begins at Dothan Brook off of Route 5. There is also another good out and back trail, the Backwater Trail, which can be added for more distance (see route extension).

Directions: Travel on Route 5 to a pullout just north of Wilder Village. There is a sign on the side of the parking lot marking it as Maanawaka Conservation Area.

Parking: Park in front of the gate on the pull out at Dothan Brook. Please be careful not to block the gate.

Uses: Trail is open to foot traffic only. Pets are not allowed on Montshire Museum property.

Route Extension: As mentioned earlier, the Backwater Trail is another great trail in the area. It is shorter than the Hazen Trail (less than a mile each way). It leads down to an area on the bank of the Connecticut River backwater. This trail is also rolling with more climbs on the way back.

Ownership/Maintenance: The land on the Hazen Trail is owned by three separate parties: the Hazen family, the Town of Hartford, and the Montshire Museum of science. An easement held by the Upper Valley Land Trust on sections of the trail and surrounding landscape has allowed for the protection of this beautiful area. The trail is maintained by the Hartford Conservation Commission in collaboration with the Upper Valley Land Trust and the Montshire Museum of Science.

