

Title: Sunday at the Fort River Loop in Hadley – easy amble

Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 **Time:** 10 AM **End Time:** about 11:30 AM

Description: This very short walk is on the accessible (ADA-certified) trail created within the Fort River Division of the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge. When there is no snow, the trail is fully accessible. In the short space of a bit over a mile, it covers many habitats in a very inviting way. If your town is thinking of putting in an accessible trail, it's worth seeing this one to consider what aspects of it are worth adopting. Following heading around the trail one time, those with time and interest can take a trail spur which leads to the portion of Moody Bridge Road (where traffic has been blocked) for additional walking and more opportunities to view the Holyoke Range.

*****Please refer to <https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/304/Wilbraham-Hiking-Club>** for things to keep in mind on all hikes. Remember that no dogs, except service dogs on leash, are allowed on town-sponsored hikes.

Length: 1 mile for the Fort River Loop, another mile on Moody Bridge Road **Pace/Duration:** relaxed

Terrain: The loop is covered by crushed gravel and boardwalks. The spur leads through a field to a paved blocked-off road **Cumulative Elevation:** primarily flat

Difficulty: 2 – easy as calculated at <http://www.nwhiker.com/HikeEval.html>

Gear: sneakers are fine for the loop. If you plan to continue to the spur, there are small sections which may be very muddddd at this time of year. For both, microspikes will be needed if conditions are icy.

Leader/Contact: Sue Burk smburk43@gmail.com 413-530-3434

Where to meet: parking lot off of Moody Bridge Road.

Directions to event: the nearest address is 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley, MA

Info about the site and map: <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/us/massachusetts/fort-river-birding-and-nature-trail>