

Title: Monday – Two Towns, Two Brooks – Wilbraham and Monson– relaxed pace

Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 **Time:** 10 AM **End Time:** about noon

Description: *We are still doing Two Towns Two Brooks, but we will start on Silver Street Monson because the trail is flooded near Crane Hill Road* This hike gives us a chance to see how nature repairs itself after forest management activities, as it passes through pretty properties that have had extensive forest management at different times. The trail follows Twelve Mile Brook for part of the way and has some uphill climbs. From our Monson starting point, we will head back towards Wilbraham until we get to the flooded area and then loop back to Monson. Then, we will head up the farm road to Silver Street in Monson back to our parking area and continue with the Skorupski Woodland Walk (a loop trail which crosses Maxwell Brook in three places, two with small bridges, and one short water crossing where we step over rocks).

*****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: about 3 miles. **Pace/Duration:** relaxed

Terrain: rocks and roots **Cumulative Elevation:** about 350 feet

Difficulty: 8 – high end of easy as calculated at <http://www.nwhiker.com/HikeEval.html>

Gear: Please wear hiking boots for this hike. Although it starts out easy, there are many spots where sneakers just won't do, and it can be muddddy at this time of year. We will cross over one small flowing stream where having a pole or two will be helpful for some folks.

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

Where to meet: ~~Park at the 12 Mile Brook lot. Overflow parking on Squire Rd. DO NOT USE DISC GOLF PARKING LOT.~~ **parking area near (and across the street from) 316 Silver Street Monson, MA 01057**

Directions to event: ~~If you put 241 Crane Hill Road, Wilbraham into your GPS, it will put you across the road from the parking lot for 12 Mile Brook. The house at 241 has its own gated entrance. The trailhead we will use for these trails starts from the parking lot.~~

From Boston Road: Follow Boston Road/Route 20 through Wilbraham past Crane Hill Road. The next right turn is Silver Street. Turn right onto Silver Street and follow it for about 1 mile until you see the Skorupski Woodland kiosk and cleared parking area on the left.

From Monson Road: Follow Monson Road into Monson, where its name changes to Wilbraham Road. Make a left turn onto Silver Street. Continue on Silver Street just past Silver Bell Farm and you will see the Skorupski Woodland kiosk and cleared parking area on the right.

Info about the site and map for 12 Mile Brook portion:

<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/us/massachusetts/twelve-mile-brook-recreation-trail>