



## River Trail at Mink Brook Trails Challenge Hike

*37 acres owned by the Town of Hanover*

This town-owned property is located at 121 S. Main St in Hanover. Park in the gravel lot at the power substation. Follow the trail as it winds along Mink Brook. A significant portion of this popular trail was enhanced by the town in 2019 and is now a fully ADA compliant accessible path. This is an easy, out and back 1.5-mile hike. Stay on the path and be mindful of poison ivy in some areas.

**Destination:** After you round the bend where the town's Water Reclamation Facility is in view, the trail narrows and enters the woods. Boardwalks guide you over wet areas. After a small uphill climb to the ridge, turn left on to a short trail amidst towering pines and views of the Connecticut River. You'll find the destination marker here at the trail's end.

**Features and History:** This section of Mink Brook begins at a marshy estuary and then widens on its way to the Connecticut River. Beaver and mink can be found here along with many other wildlife species. Water levels fluctuate widely due to the Wilder Dam built in 1950 on the Connecticut River. Following passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act, Hanover constructed its sewer system and treatment facility. Over time, Mink Brook and the Connecticut River were restored from the severely polluted waters cause by open sewers to the improved waterways we have today. This Town-owned property was assembled from land gifts by several residents and Dartmouth College. The Hanover Conservancy contributed half the purchase price for the 15.7 acre former Edgerton property along the brook. The River Trail, which follows the sewer line, was formalized in 1988.

