



DIRECTIONS

From the intersection of Route 275 and Route 32, head south on Route 32 for 1.9 miles. Turn left onto Mansfield City Road. Go 1.3 miles and turn left onto White Oak Road. Go .2 miles; parking is on left.

Suggested Park Activities



Hiking



Picnicking

Prohibited Park Activities

Unleashed Dogs
Mountain / Motor Biking
Camping / Camp Fires
Horseback Riding



**Mansfield
Parks &
Recreation**

10 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield CT 06268
860 429-3015 • fax 860 429-9773
www.mansfieldct.org/parksandpreserves/
email: preserves@mansfieldct.org

Made possible through a grant from the
National Recreational Trails Program,
the Federal Highway Administration,
and the Connecticut Department
of Environmental Protection



US Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

*For up-to-date trail information or to download maps
click on www.mansfieldct.org/trailguides/*

Dunhamtown Forest

Mansfield, CT

Dunhamtown Forest is a 226-acre ridge and valley preserve, which offers hiking trails and historic features that reflect its agricultural past. Today this preserve contains 50-to-130-year-old trees offering habitat for deep-woods wildlife and a demonstration forest providing educational opportunities for local forestry students.



trail guide

There are 3.9 miles of trails within the Town and abutting Joshua's Trust properties. The Town trails are blazed in white, Joshua Trust trails in yellow. They wind through the following points of interest:

1. Old Logging Road - This trail begins on an old logging road used for a timber harvest in the 1990's.

2. Hardwood Forest - Different types of woodlands occur depending on the soil type and moisture content. Here is a good example of a well-drained hardwood forest containing oaks, beeches and maples.

3. Rock Outcrop - A melting glacier deposited this large rock formation.

4. Steep Slope - This slope, along with much of the state's topography, was carved by the advance of the glaciers over 18,000 years ago.

5. Old Property Boundaries - While many of the old stonewalls signify the edges of crop fields or pastures, they were also used to mark the edges of ownership. Here the stonewall follows the edges of the park, indicating this was an original property boundary.

6. Old Stone Wall - Generally these stonewalls were used to mark property boundaries, or to contain livestock. Now this area is a mature forest. Stop to listen for bird songs of the thrushes and warblers, which survive best in deep woods and are abundant here in spring and summer.

7. Forest Management - In this area many felled trees remain on the forest floor due to forest management practices. To improve forest preservation and rejuvenation, the trees were cut down to provide more light for the remaining trees. By leaving the fallen trees in place, the forest biomass is retained while increasing the organic matter and habitat value of the forest floor.

8. Old Stone Foundation - A former home site lies a short distance towards the east. This cellar hole is rather small when considering present day building foundations.

9. Old Cemetery - This square enclosure is the site of the former Dunhamtown Cemetery. (The graves were moved to the Pink Ravine Cemetery). This area was known as "Dunhamtown" because the Dunham family had a farm here from 1695 to 1873. When it was abandoned, the forest returned, including the nearby large, 80-to-120-year-old oak trees.

10. Native Hemlocks - A moist area can be recognized by the evergreen hemlock trees. While these trees are native, they are currently being threatened by a non-native insect, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

11. View of Dunham Pond - While resting here at the stone bench, look over Dunham Pond and view birds and other wildlife in the woods and on the pond.

12. Wetland Boardwalk - Note the lush vegetation in the wet soil: Native skunk cabbage, jack-in-the-pulpit, wild violets and other water-tolerant plant species.

13. Stone Dam - Gardiner Brook tumbles over an old mill dam. This old town road was known as Donovan Road because the Donovan family owned the farm from 1885 into the 20th century.

14. Overlook - The trail climbs to an overlook with views of the Willimantic River Valley in fall and winter.

