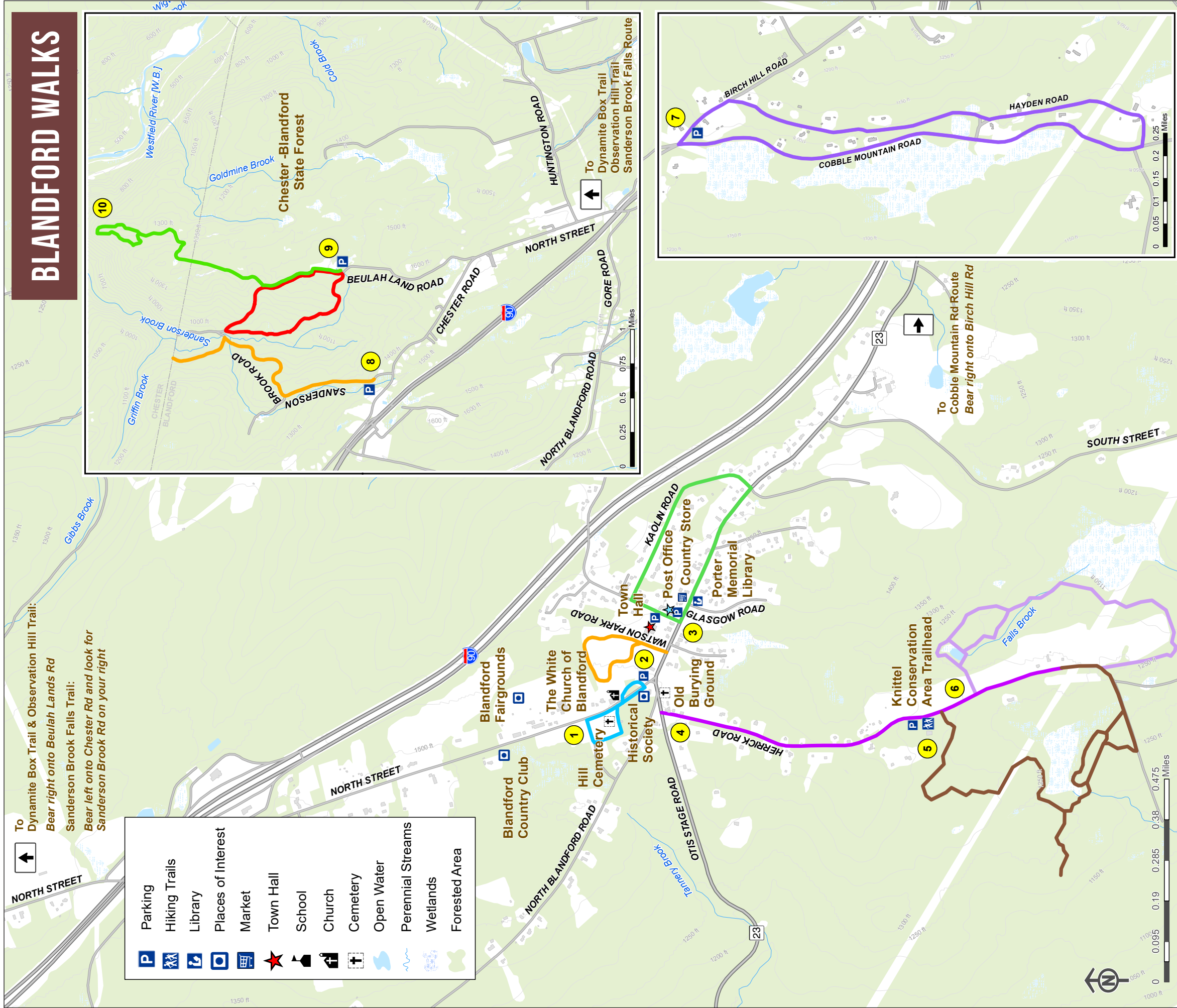


# BLANDFORD WALKS



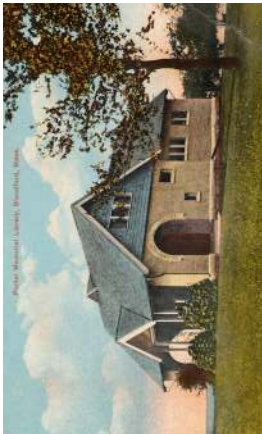
To  
Dynamite Box Trail & Observation Hill Trail:  
Bear right onto Beulah Lands Rd  
Sanderson Brook Falls Trail:  
Bear left onto Chester Rd and look for  
Sanderson Brook Rd on your right

- Parking
- Hiking Trails
- Library
- Places of Interest
- Market
- Town Hall
- School
- Church
- Cemetery
- Open Water
- Perennial Streams
- Wetlands
- Forested Area

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis.

- 1 Hill Cemetery & Church Loop - Easy (0.5 Miles) - 15min
  - 2 Watson Memorial Park Loop - Moderate (0.5 miles) - 15min
  - 3 Kaolin Rd Loop - Easy (1.0 miles) - 30min
  - 4 \*Herrick Rd Route - Moderate (1.0 miles) - 30min
  - 5 \*Knittel: Western Trail - Moderate (1.75 miles) - 52min
  - 6 \*Knittel: Eastern Trail - Moderate (1.25 miles) - 37min
  - 7 Cobble Mountain Rd Route - Easy (2.25 miles) - 1hr 7min
  - 8 \*Sanderson Brook Falls Trail - Easy to Moderate (2.0 miles) - 1hr
  - 9 Dynamite Box Trail - Moderate (2.25 miles) - 1hr 7min
  - 10 \*Observation Hill Trail - Moderate (2.5 miles) - 1hr 15mins
- \* Distance and time estimates are for one-way

A half mile equals approximately 1,000 steps based on an average person's height, weight and moderate pace.



Porter Memorial Library

**PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY** – The Porter Memorial Library was built in 1892 as a gift to the people of Blandford from Josephine Sheffield Porter, in memory of her son, Edgar Sheffield Porter, who died the year before. See website for hours: [www.portermemoriallibrary.org](http://www.portermemoriallibrary.org)

**CHESTER-BLANDFORD STATE FOREST** – With trails for all experience levels, Chester-Blandford State Forest is perfect for hiking or walking. Take in the Sanderson Falls, go mountain biking, enjoy a picnic or do some hunting and fishing. Snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are available in the winter. [www.mass.gov/locations/chester-blandford-state-forest](http://www.mass.gov/locations/chester-blandford-state-forest)

**THE BLANDFORD FAIR** – The Union Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Fair is an annual Labor Day weekend event and has been operating since 1867. This is an event you won't want to miss! [www.theblandfordfair.com](http://www.theblandfordfair.com)

**THE WHITE CHURCH OF BLANDFORD** – Built in 1822, this original meetinghouse was fully renovated in 1993. The White Church is on the National Register of Historic Places. See the website for summer concert series and hours: [thewhitechurch.org](http://thewhitechurch.org)

**BLANDFORD COUNTRY CLUB** – Blandford Country Club, established in 1909, is a unique PGA approved golf club nestled on a hilltop overlooking the Pioneer Valley. [www.blandfordcountryclub.com](http://www.blandfordcountryclub.com)



# ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

## 1. HILL CEMETERY & CHURCH LOOP – EASY

Park your car in the lot across from the Blandford Historical Society to begin this walk through history! Cross North St. and follow the uphill path through the tall pine grove. Look to the east at the top of the hill, and on a clear day, you will see Springfield. Notice the oak tree surrounded by a metal fence, planted in 1935 in commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Loop through the Hill Cemetery, cross the road, and circle around The White Church of Blandford, owned by the Blandford Historical Society. 2022 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



## 2. WATSON MEMORIAL PARK LOOP – MODERATE

Park on the side of the paved road just inside the park gate. For a gradual ascent, take the left at the fork. Reversing the direction provides an initial steep climb.

## 3. KAOLIN RD LOOP – EASY

This route includes a paved sidewalk followed by a lightly trafficked road that passes the library, store, and other community spots.

## 4. HERRICK RD ROUTE – MODERATE

Park at the trailhead for the Knittel Conservation area and enjoy this pleasant country walk with a minor hill that links to the center of town. Please be aware not to park at the gate at the dead-end of Herrick Rd; this is a Springfield Sewer and Water access point.



**KNITTEL TRAILS:** A parking area for access to these trails is on the right side of Herrick Rd, about halfway down. This trail system includes a main trail loop that is approximately 1.8 miles in length that straddles Herrick Rd. The eastern side of the trail is flatter and easier than the western side. For complete information, see [townofblandford.com](http://townofblandford.com)

## 5. KNITTEL: WESTERN TRAIL – MODERATE

The western trail travels through some steeper terrain, near a beaver pond, power lines, and dense Mountain Laurel. A side trail runs directly along the shore of the beaver pond where you can often observe beavers swimming at dusk, nesting great blue herons and other wildlife. Another trail that runs to the west and terminates at the boundary of the Knittel property is a great place to take in sunsets.

## 6. KNITTEL: EASTERN TRAIL – MODERATE

This part of the trail takes you through fields with a great view to the south, by a small pond, through wooded sections along Falls Brook (including several foot bridges), and runs along unique bedrock outcroppings.

## 7. COBBLE MOUNTAIN RD LOOP – EASY

This is an easy route, half on a lightly traveled paved road and dirt road on the return. Park at the intersection of Cobble Mountain Rd. and Birch Hill Rd. on the west side next to the chain-link fence.

## 8. SANDERSON BROOK FALLS TRAIL – EASY TO MODERATE

There is a very small parking area where the trail begins. The walk itself is well cleared, wide enough for 2-3 walkers side by side with a gradual decline and a nice sturdy bridge over a stream. No access to Sanderson Brook Falls as the bridge is still being repaired, but you can hear the water from this point!

### TICK WARNING

- Check your body and clothing for ticks
- Use insect repellent
- Seek medical attention if rash or fever occurs.

### CHESTER BLANDFORD STATE FOREST TRAILS:

Park on Beulah Land Rd. either on the left near #16 (do not block driveway or road) or drive down the narrow road and park near the gate.

## 9. DYNAMITE BOX TRAIL – MODERATE

Near the gate, notice a marker and map for the trail. Proceeding westward, you will pass Sanderson Brook, and at the junction of trails, look for a stone chimney and remains of a lodge. Hiking is moderate up and down, on rock and gravel footing.



## 10. OBSERVATION HILL TRAIL – MODERATE

Follow Beulah Land Rd. northward, enjoying a wide and well-cleared hike on a gravel road. Take a right onto Observation Hill Rd. for wide but steeper terrain. At the "T" take a left onto Mica Mine Rd, which brings you to Observation Hill. Walk around this beautiful area for a view of neighboring mountains.

## TIPS FOR YOUR WALK



### WARM-UP AND S-T-R-E-T-C-H!

Before starting any exercise, move around to warm-up your muscles (walk in place, etc).

**REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING** so you are prepared for any change of plans or weather:

1. Water, food or snack
2. Sunscreen or hat
3. Bring an extra layer (jacket, etc.) and wear comfortable, supportive shoes
4. Walking map
5. Cell phone, emergency numbers

**COOL DOWN** – Slow your pace towards the end of the walk. Stretch your legs and arms.

### BE SAFE!

- Wear bright, reflective clothing
- Walk against traffic on busier routes

# BLANDFORD WALKS



## WALK YOUR WAY TO HEALTH



**WALKING IS** perhaps the simplest positive change you can make to improve your health, and it's an exercise that's easy to stick with.

### WALKING JUST 30 MINUTES A DAY MAY:

- Reduce the risk of heart disease
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Help prevent type-2 diabetes
- Decrease risk of some cancers
- Boost energy levels
- Prevent/manage high blood pressure

### 1 IN 3 AMERICAN ADULTS HAS PREDIABETES. DO YOU?

Visit [doihaveprediabetes.org](http://doihaveprediabetes.org) to find out or call the Hilltown Community Health Center to take the risk test now: **(413) 667-2203**