



Footbridge along East Branch Trail

East Branch Trail

The East Branch of the Westfield River is noted for its remarkable features, including Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway, Windsor Jams, Chesterfield Gorge and many historical and cultural features along the river corridor. The East Branch Trail project seeks to create a regional trail network along the East Branch of the Westfield River that connects remarkable natural, geological, cultural & historical features to the communities of Huntington, Chesterfield, Cummington, Windsor and Savoy. The trail network serves as a recreational asset and educational resource that promotes community stewardship of the Wild & Scenic resources. The existing nine-mile trail segment extends along the East Branch from the Chesterfield Gorge down to the Knightville Dam Recreation Area. Additional trail segments are being considered.

Wild & Scenic

Over 78 miles of the Westfield River's headwater tributaries and three major branches are designated as a National Wild & Scenic River. The Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee (WRW&SAC) provides technical assistance and resources to Wild & Scenic communities on a variety of projects. Enthusiastic members of WRW&SAC, as well as volunteers and project partners, comprise the Trails Sub-Committee, which acts as the steering committee for the East Branch Trail Project.

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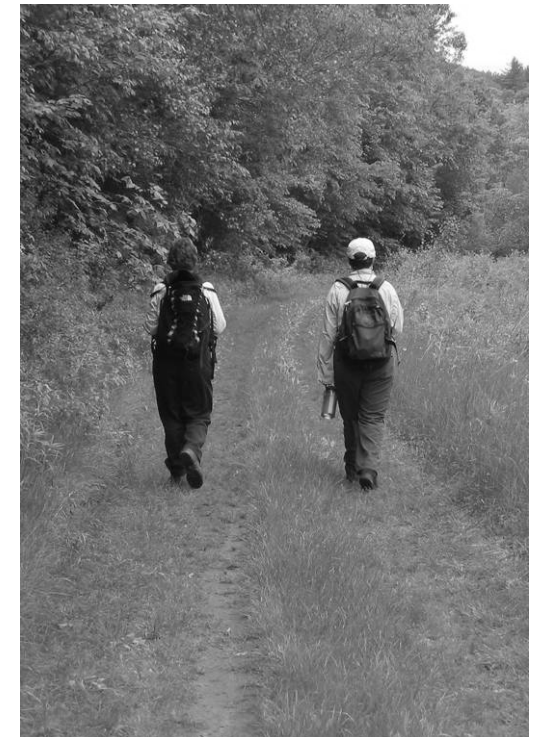
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EAST BRANCH TRAIL

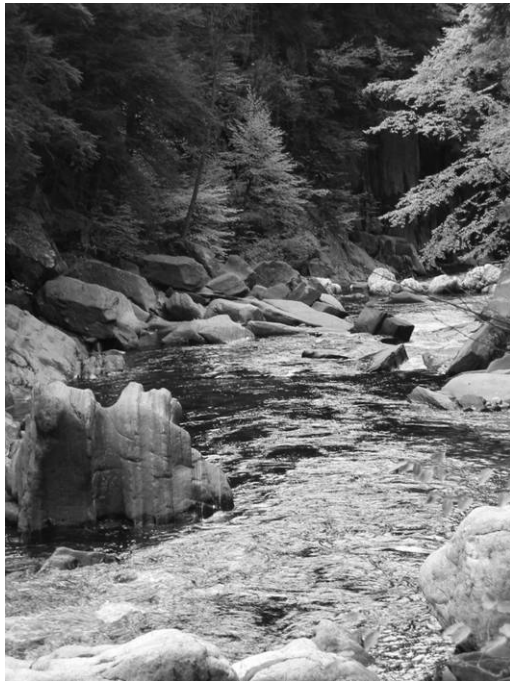
Connecting Trails & Communities



Sponsored By:

*Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory
Committee*

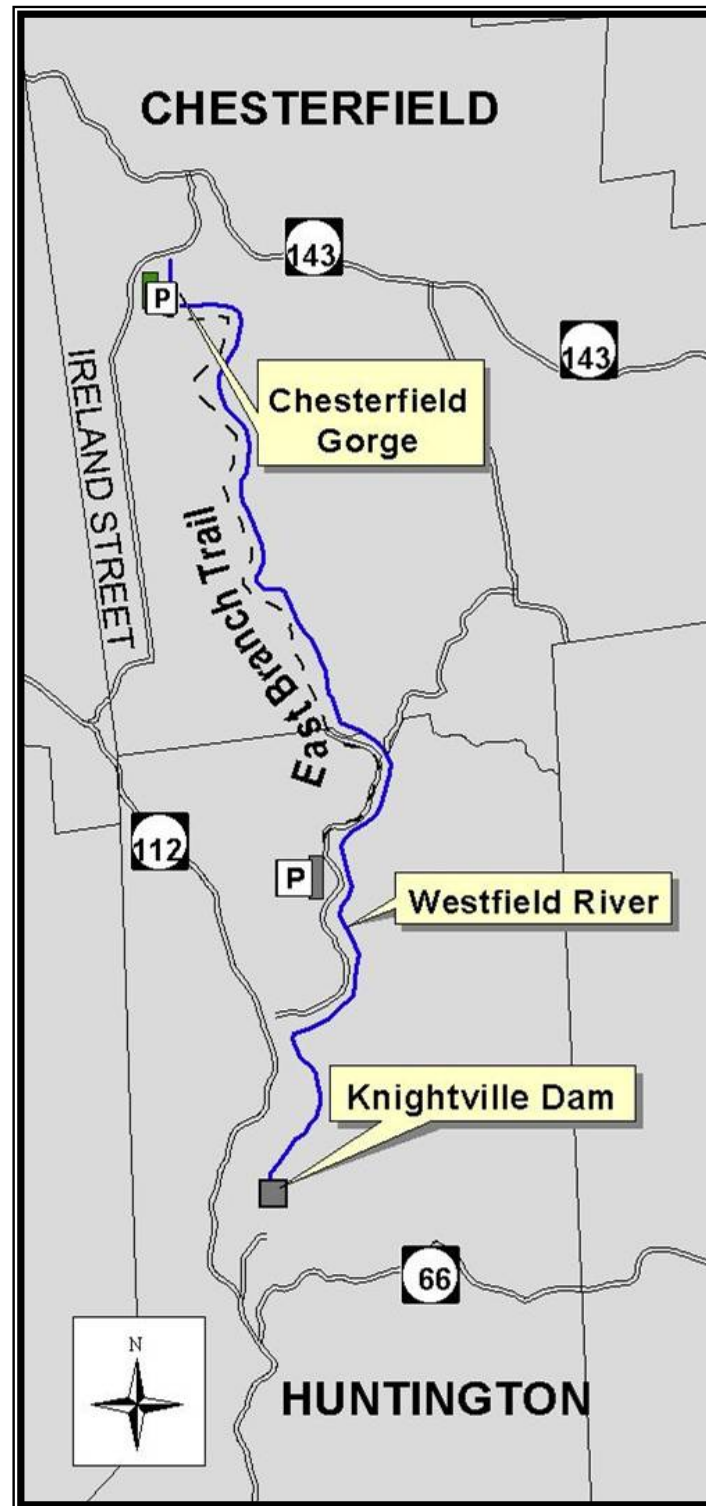
*Funds provided by the New England
Grassroots Environmental Fund, Fields Pond
Foundation and the Rivers, Trails and
Conservation Assistance Program*



Chesterfield Gorge

Chesterfield Gorge to Knightville Dam

Located in the scenic Berkshire foothills along the East Branch of the Westfield River, Chesterfield Gorge is the entrance to an extensive natural recreation area. Known as the Grand Canyon of Western Massachusetts, Chesterfield Gorge has seventy-foot-high granite walls carved by centuries of rushing water. The surrounding forest features hemlock, ash, and oak, and is home to bears, bobcats, and turkeys. Visitors may explore the East Branch Trail corridor that connects the Chesterfield Gorge, to nearby Gilbert Bliss State Forest and the Army Corps of Engineer's Knightville Dam.



Recreational Information

Recreational opportunities include trout fishing (Catch & Release with artificial lures only), wildlife viewing, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and horseback riding along several miles of trails and old country roads. The surrounding hills provide prime upland game habitat, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts stocks pheasants in the fall. Hunting and fishing are permitted, in accordance with posted restrictions and Massachusetts's laws, on the Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Conservation and Recreation properties.

Chesterfield Gorge Property

The Trustees of Reservations manages 166 acres where visitors enjoy a half-mile trail along cliff tops that offer views of the gorge, the river, and the surrounding forest.

Facilities: Basic public restrooms. Picnic tables. Fire rings (fuel wood must be brought in). Informational kiosk with bulletin board and trail maps.

For more information: Contact (413) 684-0148, e-mail: westregion@ttor.org, or visit www.thetrustees.org.

Knightville Dam

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages 2,430 acres of undeveloped land around the Knightville Dam and reservoir.

Facilities: The area just below the dam has picnic tables, fireplaces, universally accessible public restrooms, drinking water and a picnic shelter. Located at the northern end of the reservoir, the Indian Hollow Group Campground is available by reservation to community groups such as churches, schools, scouts and clubs.

For more information: Contact (413) 667-3430, edwin.m.lippman@usace.army.mil or visit www.nae.usace.army.mil.