

List of MM Trail closings and changes from 10th edition

Updated to September 16, 2009

"ATTENTION HIKER: Portions of the M-M Trail in sections No. 10, 12, 13, & 14 have been closed, and are not blazed, and where possible changed, at the request of the landowner. This web page describes the changes and alternate routes, where available, for these and other sections of trail. Please respect the property owners rights and refer to the link for the web page below for further updates and re-route information: <http://amcberkshire.org/mm-trail/guide.>"

Section 3 (small relocation) Where the trail turns left off Sykes road and up hill at the Jct. There is now a new dirt service road that ruffly parallels the trail back to the crossing of the sportsman's access road.

Section 5(Small relocation) At mile 4.7 trail description tells of descending on old carriage road under a continuous arch of majestic hemlocks. The majestic trees are mostly dying and should in the near future be replaced by the next generation of trees. At mile 5.5 trail description says trail reaches an opening for a power line and makes a right, but now for about 1000 yards just before reaching the power line you make a right and stay in the woods to the right of the power line almost all the way to Underwood rd.

Section 10 (Unblazed section) (to avoid this section Just make left on Rt. 9 and right on Gulf road about 1 mile down. Follow Gulf road for 2 miles to fork where you make a right and about 1000 yards the trail makes a left.) Between Rt.9 and Gulf road. Just after leaving Holland Glen. For ½ mile it is blazed. You make a left westerly at about the ½ mile mark across a brook and start to turn to the north ascending. You will pass an overlook with nice views to the west and start descending. After about a mile total you will reach a four way intersection at a woods road and make a right here. Follow this road for about 100 yards looking to the left for a path into the woods that should not be blazed. If you miss this and don't want to return you can follow this road up to the next intersection and make a left to return to the trail after about 2 miles. You will pass a pond and a small cabin just before you arrive at Gulf road. Here is a trail relocation because of a new house built and you will make a left for about ½ mile to a turn to the right and up hill to return to the trail.

Section 11 (should be all blazed) Between Packardville road and Pelham road Just after Mt. Lincoln tower. Trail here can be moved to the east about 25 ft in the future, but as you descend the access road for the tower look for right turn after about 200 yards. You will follow a red blazed boundary down hill for about 1/2mile and intersect a wood road where you will take a right and then almost immediately take a left. The camping area here is just beyond this and there should be a fire ring and a brook with good water beyond. This camping area is not mention in the guide book but is approved.

Section 12 (Unblazed sections)(The only way to avoid this section is to start at Sec. 13)
Between North Valley road and Pratt Corner road. I do not have exactly what is not blazed in this section. Hope I can scout to check. I feel that at least 3 places where it is not blazed exist. After crossing North valley road and making a right up the power line there was some logging after about ¾ of a mile and you will find Orange blazing for the Robert Frost trail.

Section 13 (Unblazed sections) Between Pratt Corner rd. and Shutesbury rd. there are two ways to traverse this section. After making left on woods road you will follow the red-blazed boundary of Atkins protected watershed for almost ½ mile. The original trail has some posting just before Hill 790 and mile .7 miles with a section of no blazing. The way you can detour around this section is to continue on the woods road to a power line making a left here and following a climb and a decent you will come across a buried phone line where you make a left and after 100 ft. make a right back on the blazed trail.

Section 14 (Unblazed section)(The best way to hike thru this section is to retrace back to the power line from the Mosher shelter and follow the power line over Brushy Mt. To a road to the left where you will rejoin the trail at Rattlesnake gutter road.) Shutesbury rd. to Rattlesnake Gutter road. This section is blazed from Shutesbury Road to the Blue blazed side trail to the Mosher Shelter. After the shelter turn-off the old

M-M Trail is still blazed, but the white has been painted over with brown paint. If you know this you can still spot the blazes over Brushy Mt. The white blazes start again on Rattlesnake Gutter and head East to the Coop. I recently hiked this section, so my info is up to date. (this is per the trail maintainer for this section)

Section 15 (Relocation to road) North Leverett Rd. to Rt.2 , This section should be all blazed and easy to follow, but there is a posted section at the start of Mormon Hollow brook and the trail will have to follow Farley road down to the Bridge across the Millers river.

Section 17 (2 mile relocation)After descending Brushee Mt., cross Gulf road (at start of Sec.17)going thru the parking area heading initially eastward, but then turn southward. After about a quarter mile, the trail turns eastward again . After about a half mile, the trail descends downhill via a series of switchbacks ending as the trail crosses a woods road. The trail then bends northward, passes a beaver pond and after another half mile begins climbing Stratton Mt. via a large switchback. (The trail winds more or less north-eastward passing 2 viewpoints, the later giving a view of Mt. Monadnock. and ending on Turnpike road which heads eastward crossing Bass Road.) The trail now stays to the right of the power line as it crosses the Bald hills and is mostly on DCR land. It is marked and well blazed and should be easy to follow. Please do not use the old sections of the trail for the first 2 miles here because the property owner has requested the change and posted his land.

Section 18 (Relocation) At 3.3 miles in this section a second stage of the trail relocation was completed in 2007. Now when you reach Richardson Rd. you continue straight across and to the east of the old trail location. There are signs here explaining the change and the fact that there is now an additional 1.3 miles of trail until you regain the old trail near a scenic over look of White hill.

Section 20 (Relocation) Starting with the second non-italics paragraph on page 78 of the Guide book: Take the road left here and continue up the east slope of Grassy Hill to 1.2 mi. Watch carefully for where the trail turns sharply right (E) from the road down an old woods road crossing a stone wall to descend steadily through hardwood forest At 1.4 mi bear to the left onto a recently relocated section. (Follow blazes carefully and watch your footing on the new tread way.) The trail continues through varied hardwood and pine forest, crossing and recrossing a number of old lumber skid roads and crossing 3 seasonal streams at 1.5, 1.6 and 1.9 mi. Reach Tully Brook under a canopy of hemlocks at 2.0 miles. The remainder of the description for Section 20 is the same as in the book, but .1 mile (1/10th of a mile) should be subtracted from each of the mileages given.

Note: Part of the old trail was used as part of a loop hike around the Morgan Reserve. The portion of this loop not on the old M/M Trail has been neglected and is difficult to follow. I am checking with the Morgan Reserve to see if they want to continue to used this trail (and maintain it). It could be made an "official" side trail, but it has little use for access to the M/M Trail as better access is available at the end of Morgan Rd. or from Grassy Hill Rd.