Outdoor Recreational Resources

CHAPTER 4
Route 116 Scenic Byway

Introduction

The many outdoor recreational resources along the Route 116 Scenic Byway include both popular and less-known places and activities. Additionally, the recreational resources are closely tied to the seasons and the rural landscape of the corridor, creating an ever-changing place for recreation. Winter brings opportunities to cross-country ski and snowshoe, while spring provides warmer weather for wildflower hikes. Summer is an excellent time to fish and paddle on rivers and lakes, and autumn provides opportunities to view the Byway’s spectacular foliage. This chapter details the outdoor recreational resources along the Byway, and discusses potential issues and concerns that could affect the quality of these resources over time. The chapter concludes with recommendations to protect, maintain, and enhance the Byway’s recreational resources.

Resources located directly on or within a half-mile radius of the Route 116 Scenic Byway are noted with this roadway symbol. While the Corridor Management Plan focuses on resources within a half-mile radius of the Route 116 Scenic Byway, this section of the report also includes attractions that are located outside of the study area boundary, but within the towns along the Byway. Activities at each site are shown in italics.

Resources with recreational access for people of all abilities (universal access) are noted with this symbol. Information on sites with universal access is located on pages 22 through 24.

State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces

Sunderland

Connecticut River Greenway State Park (Multiple Towns)
The Connecticut River Greenway is one of Massachusetts' newest State Parks. It connects open spaces, parks, scenic vistas, and archaeological and historic sites along the length of the Connecticut River as it passes through the state. There are over 12 miles of permanently protected shoreline, and numerous river access points along the Greenway, including one that is within the Byway study area. Visitors can access the Connecticut River via a dirt road ramp at the end of School Street in Sunderland. Parking is available.
Mt. Toby State Forest
At more than 1,200 feet in height, Mt. Toby looms over the middle Connecticut River Valley offering panoramic views to those who will make the trek on a moderate hiking trail of about 6 miles. There are shorter hiking trials as well. Mt. Toby features cliffs, caves, waterfalls, wetlands and open fields. Cranberry Pond is a small pond at the foot of Mt Toby and offers opportunities for kayaking. Parking is located off Route 47 about one half mile east on Reservation Road. Birding, hiking, and wildlife viewing.  
http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/crgw.htm • 413-586-8706 x12

Deerfield

Mahican-Mohawk Trail (Multiple Towns)
The Mahican-Mohawk Trail is envisioned as a 100-mile long trail from the Connecticut River to the Hudson River that follows the corridor of an historic Native American path. Currently only about 34 miles are open. Some trail segments follow roads and rivers and do not connect to one another. The trail can be accessed in Deerfield on Hoosac Road, just west of Stillwater Road. From this trailhead, a 3.5 mile trail follows an old railroad bed to Bardwell’s Ferry Road. Hiking.  
http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/greenway/mahicanmohawk.htm#Where

Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation
Offering commanding views of the Connecticut River, the Pioneer Valley, and the Pelham and Berkshire Hills, Mount Sugarloaf boasts over 500 acres of park land used primarily for hiking and scenic viewing. The hiking trails can be accessed from the parking area located on Sugarloaf Street at the base of the mountain and at the summit. An auto road winds to the summit, making South Mount Sugarloaf accessible by private automobiles from spring to fall. The auto road is also popular for hikers. Once at the summit, visitors can utilize the parking areas, restrooms, and a pavilion for scenic viewing and picnicking. Auto trail, hiking, pavilion, picnicking, scenic overlook.  
www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/msug.htm • 300 Sugarloaf Street, South Deerfield • 413-665-2928

Whately

Conway State Forest (West Whately and Conway)
This state forest is made up of nearly 2000 acres of land with trails, streams and extensive forests. See complete listing below in Conway section.

Graves Farm Wildlife Sanctuary (Whately and Williamsburg)
This 650-acre sanctuary contains rich forest with pristine cold-water. The property features beaver meadows and old fields, now managed by Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary for bluebirds, bobolinks, swallows, and butterflies. A mile-long trail leads from the parking
area along a field, and enters a mixed forest of pine, oak, and beech trees. Because the sanctuary abuts several parcels of preserved land, large mammals such as bear, deer, fishers, coyotes, bobcats, and moose are present. Public programs are scheduled for the property each season through Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton. Access is via Adams Road in Williamsburg where there is a small parking lot on the south side of the road at the Mass Audubon sign. Birding, hiking, and wildlife viewing. No hunting, fishing, or trapping, and no dog walking.

www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Graves_Farm/index.php • 413-584-3009

**Whately Wildlife Management Area**

This 243-acre wildlife area is composed primarily of steep, hilly terrain with some areas of plateau and hilltop. Mixed hardwood forests dominate the area and there are several acres of wooded swamp. The headwaters of Ground Brook and Grass Hill Brook are also located on this property. The area is situated between Grass Hill, Williamsburg, and Webber Roads. Access is best off Grass Hill Road, a discontinued dirt road which is still passable with a good 4WD vehicle. Birding, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw

**Conway**

**Conway Hills Wildlife Sanctuary**

This property was once cow pastures and hay and tobacco fields. The spirit of the farm is still captured in old foundations, rock walls, and mature sugar maples. While the large field continues the agricultural tradition of the western hill towns, the forested areas of the sanctuary provide habitat for wildlife including black bear, fisher, coyote, moose, and bobcat. Mill River flows through the property and supports brook trout, stone flies, salamanders, frogs, dragonflies, and other riparian species. Parking is available on grassy area in front of the sign. Birding and hiking.

**Conway Town Ball Field**

The Conway Town Ball Field is located adjacent to the Town Commons. Parking is available on Academy Hill Road. Ball field and passive recreation. Route 116

**Conway State Forest (Conway and West Whately)**

This forest is owned and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR). The Conway State Forest is comprised of nearly 2,000 acres with trails, streams, and extensive forests and is located on West Whately Road in Conway. Parking is available on a set-aside near the end of Cricket Hill Road. Fishing, hiking, and hunting. Whately Road • 413-268-7098

**Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area**

Owned and managed by the Massachusetts Division of Wildlife, this 664-acre area was once a dairy farm. Some fields are leased to farmers and others a kept mowed to benefit wildlife. The area can be reached 1.9 miles south of Route 116, at the junction of North

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Poland Road and Main Poland Road, where parking is available. *Birding, fishing, hiking, and hunting.*  
www.timberdoodle.org/demo/poland-brook-wildlife-management-area-franklin-county-massachusetts • North Poland and Main Poland Roads

**South River State Forest**
This forest is divided into two sections with a sliver of the property located on the South River Gorge and the other section bordering the Deerfield River, in the northern section of Conway. The South River State Forest can be reached by taking Bardswell Ferry Road to South Station Road. Station Road ends at the very point where the freight yards and passenger station existed, where steam rail and electric met and where the South River enters the Deerfield one hundred feet below. Immense granite bridge abutments, remnants of the High Bridge, still stand. Parking is available at the Old Station. *Birding, fishing, and hiking.*  
http://southriver.franklinsites.com/ • South Station Road

**Whately Great Swamp Wildlife Management Area (Conway and Whately)**
This 298-acre area is made up of several disjunct parcels and is mostly swamp, with some upland in the northern parcels. The Great Swamp is owned by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game and the forests on this site include mixed hardwoods, beech, swamp maple and conifer. Several beaver impoundments are located in the Great Swamp, as are portions of the Mill River, which is a fish-stocked river. Wildlife includes turkey, bear, and stocked pheasant. The northern end of the property is located one-half mile from Route 116. Parking is available at a pullout on Routes 5 and 10 near Swamp Road. *Fishing, hiking, and hunting.*  
www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/valleywma/whatelygreatswampwma.pdf • 508-389-6300 • Routes 5 and 10 in Whately

**Ashfield**

**Ashfield Trails**
Ashfield Trails is a volunteer collaborative which for several years has been working to establish a community network of trails and footpaths in and around the Town of Ashfield. There are a number of trails that are popular and widely used that link to the other hiking trails in Ashfield. The trails include: from Sanderson Academy through Bug Hill to Bear Swamp; from the Bullitt Estate to Chapel Brook; from Chapel Brook to DAR State Forest; from the Trustees of the Reservation overlook (off Hawley Road) through the northwest cemetery, over the stone bridge to Route 112 at Stroheker Road.  
http://ashfield.org/about/community-groups/ashfield-trails.html

**Bear Swamp**
This 285-acre reserve is managed by The Trustees of Reservations. Three miles of trails, some moderate to strenuous, include the Fern Glade Trail, which passes through carpets of ferns and wildflowers and the Beaver Brook Trail, which leads to Apple Valley Overlook. From this perch, a panoramic view takes in apple orchards in the near distance and, on the northern horizon, the Green Mountains of Vermont. There is a picnic table at the Overlook. Bear Swamp is located on Hawley Road, 1.7 miles from the Byway.
Parking is located along the road. *Birding, dog walking, hiking, hunting, picnicking, regional trail link, skiing (cross-country), and snowshoeing.*

www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/pioneer-valley/bear-swamp.html • Hawley Road • 413-532-1631

**Belding Memorial Park and Ashfield Lake**

Belding Memorial Park is located on Main St. (Route 116), just east of the intersection with Route 112. The park wraps around the southeast side of Ashfield Lake and includes frontage on both Main Street and Buckland Road. The Main Street side includes a boat launch (5 horsepower or less), parking area, picnic area, memorial and gazebo, while the Buckland Road side includes a public beach at the Ashfield Lakehouse Restaurant, parking, tennis courts and a lawn area that slopes down to Bronson Brook, the outlet of Ashfield Lake. *Beach, boating (non-motorized), boat ramp, picnicking, and tennis.*

ashfield.org/townlife/parks.html • Main Street (Route 116)

**Bullitt Reservation**

This almost 265-acre Ashfield property was once a poor farm and is now part of nearly 3,000 acres of protected land. Managed by The Trustees of Reservations, this Reservation is an ecologically rich site that features a fields and farm buildings, woodlands, and Poland Brook. The Trustees are designing trails to showcase the reservation and to connect to a larger network of footpaths in Ashfield and beyond. Bullitt Reservation is located on Bullitt Road, about one mile from the Byway. Parking is available on site. *Birding, hiking, historic structure, hunting, regional trail link, and scenic vistas.*

http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/pioneer-valley/bullitt-reservation.html#t1 • Bullitt Road • 413-532-1631

**Chapel Brook Reservation**

Managed by The Trustees of Reservations, Chapel Brook Reservation is a 174-acre property that contains two acres of hiking trails. Summit Trail leads a hiker to the top of Pony Mountain (1,420 feet) where panoramic views and the rock face of Chapel Ledge await. A less-daunting, half-mile trail leads around the western side of Pony Mountain to its summit. The Reservation is also renowned for its seasonally-torrential Chapel Falls on Chapel Brook, a tributary of the South River. The Reservation located 2.2 miles from the Byway on Williamsburg Road and parking is available on both sides of the road. *Birding, dog walking, fishing, hiking, hunting, picnicking, regional trail link, rock climbing, scenic vistas, and swimming.*

www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/pioneer-valley/chapel-brook.html#t1 • Williamsburg Road • 413-532-1631

**Chapel Brook to West Road Trail**

This trail is the result of collaboration by Ashfield Trails, The Trustees of Reservations, and the Franklin Land Trust. The trail is the first phase of a planned link between Chapel Brook Reservation and the DAR State Forest. The trail is slightly less than 2 miles long and is of moderate difficulty. Located 2.2 miles from the Byway on Williamsburg Road, parking is available on both sides of the road. *Hiking and scenic vistas.*
DAR State Forest (Ashfield and Goshen)
Owned and managed by the MA DCR, the 1,770-acre Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) State Forest is located in Ashfield and Goshen. There are fifteen miles of mixed-use trails that wind through northern hardwood-conifer forest and past two lakes. Upper and Lower Highland Lakes offer a beach, swimming and non-motorized boat launches. Spectacular views of the Connecticut River Valley and five states can be seen from the Goshen fire tower. The campground includes 51 wooded campsites, with wheelchair accessible sites and features comfort stations with showers and a private beach. Biking (mountain), boating (non-motorized), boat ramp, camping, fishing, hiking, horseback trails, fishing, pavilion, picnicking, skating, skiing(cross-country), snowmobiling, snowshoeing, swimming, and universal access.
http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/darf.htm • 413-268-7098

John Field Field
Located on the grounds of the Old Sanderson Academy ‘The Field’ – as it is known to locals – was donated to the Sanderson Academy trustees in 1885 by John Field, a wealthy Ashfield summer resident, to ensure that children had a safe, desirable place to play ball. The 3.5-acre field includes two ball fields, play structures, a half basketball court, picnic table and benches. The Old Sanderson Academy bell tower is also located on the site. The Field is used for sports programs, various pick-up ball games, and for dog walking and other leisure activities. The Field is on Buckland Road, just off Route 116, with a small, gravel/asphalt parking area (12-15 spaces) on site and an overflow gravel parking area for ball games on nearby Bronson Avenue (10 spaces). Ball field, dog walking, historic structure, picnicking, and playground. Buckland Road

Plainfield
Crooked Pond
This pond provides a warm water fishery supporting fish such as yellow perch, largemouth bass, sunfish, brown bullhead trout, and chain pickerel. The pond can be accessed primarily on the northern side of Stetson Avenue. Boats are limited to canoes and car top boats that can be carried to the pond’s edge. Boating (motorized and non-motorized), and fishing. Stetson Avenue (1 mile north of Byway)

Deer Hill State Reservation
Deer Hill State Reservation in Cummington is an 89-acre state forest, open to the public for hiking, walking, and bird watching. There are no marked trails and very steep terrain. Given these challenging conditions, the Reservation is primarily used by hikers who do not mind bushwhacking. There is limited parking available at the gate to the Reservation on Route 9. Birding, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Route 9, Cummington (4 miles south of Byway on Prospect Street in Plainfield) • 413-268-7098

http://home.comcast.net/~wwtc/maps/chapelbrook.html

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Guyette Farm Preserve
This historic 107-acre farm is a conservation area owned by the Franklin Land Trust. The farm was gifted to the Franklin Land Trust by Evelyn Guyette in honor of her husband, Harry. The Guyettes owned the land for over 70 years, growing vegetables and raising cattle. On site is a barn built in the 1800s and considered to be one of the most historically and archeologically significant in western Massachusetts. The barn is in need of significant repair and the Franklin Land Trust is currently in the process of raising funds for its improvement. A community garden has also recently been started. Hiking, historic structure, picnicking, and snowshoeing. http://www.franklinlandtrust.org • Gloyd Road and South Central Street • 413-625-9151

Hallockville Pond
This pond provides a warm water fishery supporting yellow perch, largemouth bass, sunfish, brown bullhead, trout, and chain pickerel. Shoreline development is minimal and access for shore fishermen is unlimited. Boat access is limited to canoes and car top boats that can be carried from the parking area at the pond’s northern end to the informal launching site at the dam. The average depth of the pond is seven feet. Walk-in access for swimming is provided off of Hallockville Road at the border between Hawley and Plainfield. Boating (motorized and non-motorized), fishing, and swimming. Hallockville Road (1 mile north of Byway)

Kenneth M. Dubuque State Forest (Plainfield and Hawley)
Note: Call ahead for availability due to Tropical Storm Irene damage. This 7,882-acre forest provides 35 miles of mixed-use trails, six miles of hiking trails, and a one-mile interpretive trail loop around Hallockville Pond. Plainfield Pond and Crooked Pond are accessible from the State Forest. Access to the forest includes paved, unpaved, and multi-use trails. Parking is located at Route 8a at King Corner and Hallockville Roads or at the intersection of Plainfield and Kiln Roads. Biking (mountain), boating (non-motorized), camping (wilderness), fishing, hiking, horseback trails, hunting, skiing (cross country), snowmobiling, and wildlife viewing. www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/dubq.htm • Route 116, Hawley (adjacent to Byway) • 413 339 5504

Plainfield Pond
Plainfield Pond is a shallow 57-acre body of water situated adjacent to the Byway. Most of the shoreline is protected by the heavily wooded Kenneth M. Dubuque State Forest (see earlier description), but shore fishing is possible along most of the southern edge where the road parallels the pond. The average depth of Plainfield Pond is five feet. Public access is provided at the southeast corner of the pond off Route 116. There is a gravel boat ramp with parking at this site, however the ramp is not officially maintained by the Massachusetts Office of Fishing and Boating Access. Boating (non-motorized), fishing, and swimming. Route 116, Plainfield (near Stetson Avenue)

Shaw Memorial Library Recreational Field and Playground
The land adjacent the Shaw Memorial Library includes a playground and ball field. 312 Main Street • 413 634 5406

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West Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary
Owned by the Mass Audubon Society, this 1,500-acre sanctuary is open to the public for hiking and passive outdoor recreation. The Sanctuary is dedicated to the preservation of the region’s wildlife and abuts the Dubuque State Forest. The Sanctuary has been expanded from its original 200 acres via conservation restrictions from private land owners. There is no designated parking and the trailhead signs are minimal. The park’s wildlife includes black bears, bobcats, moose, barred owls, fishers, and wood ducks. Hiking, passive recreation, and wildlife viewing. Route 116 (adjacent to Dubuque State Forest and Byway) • 781-259-9500

Savoy

Borden Mountain
The peak of Borden Mountain is accessible via car or foot trails. There are panoramic views spanning VT, NY, NH and MA from a fire tower. The International Mountain Bicycling Association describes the mountain biking experience as a rolling single track, double track, and fire road through Savoy Mountain and Mohawk Trail State Forests that redefine the term deep woods. Biking (mountain), hiking, and passive recreation. Borden Mountain can be accessed at Adams Road, off Route 116, where parking is available. www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/svym.htm • Adams Road and Route 116 • 413-663-8469

Burnett and Bog Pond
Accessible via Savoy Mountain State Forest (see the description on the following page), Burnett and Bog Pond offer access for canoeing and kayaking. A national on-line trail guide, www.trails.com, describes the area as one of the best places in Massachusetts to spot a moose. Visitors can also observe rare plant and bird species, as well as a beaver lodge. Rare plant species include pitcher plants and sundews, plant species typical to bog ecosystems. Year-round parking is available. Boating (non-motorized), fishing, hiking, horseback trails, passive recreation, skiing (cross-country), and snowmobiling. www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/svym.htm • 260 Central Shaft Road, Florida • 413-663-8469

Cold River and Black Brook
The intersection of Cold River and Black Brook offers scenic views and trout fishing with a small (fits three cars) rest stop. Cold River and Black Brook can be accessed at along Route 2 and parking is available at the roadside rest stop. Fishing. Route 2

Mohawk Trail State Forest
Mohawk Trail State Forest is in the northern section of Savoy. A clear, cold river cascades through Mohawk Trail State Forest along a rocky streambed. This State Forest is one of the of the most scenic woodland areas in Massachusetts and offers visitors a taste of real wilderness in a rustic setting. There are over 6,000 acres of mountain ridges, deep gorges and towering old-growth trees that support a diversity of plant and animal
life. The campground includes 56 wooded campsites that are available seasonally, and six overnight log cabins, available year-round. Reservations for campsites are recommended. There is excellent trout fishing, a swimming area, and a day-use picnic area. The state forest is located along and named for the Mohawk Trail, an historic Native American foot path that connected the Connecticut and Hudson River Valleys. The Forest can be accessed via Routes 8, 2, and 116, and by foot or bicycle from Savoy. Parking is available at the park center in Charlemont. Camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and swimming. www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/mhwk.htm • 175 Mohawk Trail/Route 2, Charlemont • 413-339-5504

Savoy Mountain State Forest
Savoy Mountain State Forest offers tranquil places to fish, picnic and swim. Natural features include Bog Pond, with its floating bog islands, and Tannery Falls, the state's highest waterfall. Forty-five campsites, one group site, and four log cabins are available for year-round rental. Over 50 miles of wooded trails offer year-round recreational access. Savoy Mountain State Forest can be accessed at the formal gateway, in Florida, as well as via extensive trail networks via hiking. Parking is available at the park gates, along Florida Road, as well as by the changing station near North Pond, along Central Shaft Road. Biking (mountain), birding, boating (non-motorized), camping, fishing, hiking and walking trails, hunting, horseback trails, nature trails, picnicking, skiing (cross-country), rest rooms, snowmobiling, and swimming. www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/svym.htm • 260 Central Shaft Road, Florida • 413-663-8469

Savoy Town Park
This community park is located directly on the 116 Scenic Byway, and with walking and hiking loops available for residents and visitors. It also offers a natural amphitheater and fishing access. Parking is available. Fishing, hiking, and passive recreation. http://www.townofsavoy.org/index.html • Route 116 • 413-743-4290

Savoy Wildlife Management Area
This is a hilly area of mixed hardwood and softwood forests with a few abandoned fields and shrubby swampland. Savoy Wildlife Management Area can be accessed at Harrington Road. Parking is available near the gate on Harrington Road. Hiking trails and snowmobiling. www.mass.gov/dfw/ele/dfw/habitat/maps/wm a/western_maps.htm • Harrington Road • 508-389-6300

The Savoy Town Park is permanently protected open space, and offers residents and visitors opportunities to enjoy an open meadow, trails and river access immediately along the Route 116 Scenic Byway.
South Pond
Within Windsor State Forest (see the description on the following page), South Pond boasts 24 acres of swimming in clear waters with average depths of 5 to 20 feet. Look out for a precariously balanced rock, or glacial erratic, reminding observers of the region’s glacial history. The state campground at South Pond includes 45 camp sites, flush toilets, showers, picnic tables, and fireplaces. Four year-round cabins can house up to 16 visitors; one group campsite can comfortably fit 30 people. More information can be obtained through the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife. See Windsor State Forest for contact information for South Pond. Fishing, ice-fishing, rest rooms, skiing (cross-country), snowmobiling, and swimming.

Windsor State Forest
Windsor State Forest features Windsor Jambs Brook which plunges through a 25-foot-wide gorge, with 80-foot-high granite walls rising on either side. The popular day-use area along the Westfield River includes a 100-foot sandy beach for swimming with wooded picnic sites. Berkshire County State Parks Campground at the Windsor State Forest offers twenty-four limited-service campsites (no showers or flush toilets). Trails and old dirt roads that wind through the "The Bush" are favored by hikers, cross-country skiers, and snowmobiles. Fishermen and hunters are also welcome. The forest is accessed on River Road in Windsor, with parking available at the day-use area, along the Westfield River and River Road, or by Windsor Jambs along Schoolhouse Road. Biking (mountain), camping, fishing, hiking and walking trails, horseback trails, hunting, picnicking, skiing (cross-country), snowmobiling, and swimming.

www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/wns.htm • 1838 River Road, Windsor • 413-684-0948 for summer months • 413-442-8928 for mid-October to mid-April

Cheshire

Chalet State Wildlife Management Area and Forest Reserve
Accessible via Notch Road in Cheshire, this Wildlife Management Area consists of 6,437 acres, divided by the Appalachian Trail corridor, and is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife. Parking is available on Notch Road, off of Route 8. This area is home to deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hares, bears, bobcats, fishers, beavers, and moose. Streams host brook trout. Fishing, hunting, and day hiking.

http://www.mass.gov/dfwle/dfw/ • Dalton, MA

Cheshire Lake (Also known as Cheshire Reservoir)
This up-to-14-foot-deep lake spanning 418 acres is the fourth largest water body in the state. Cheshire Lake traditionally provides cold-water fishing for species such as northern pike and is a valuable recreational resource for swimming, boating, fishing, and ice fishing. Parking and access are located at a rest stop along Route 8. A boat ramp is available. Boating (motorized and non-motorized), fishing, ice fishing, and swimming.

http://hoorwa.org/recreation/paddling-the-hoosic • Along Route 8 • 413-458-2742
Cheshire Town Hall/Police Station/Town Hall Annex
The Cheshire Town Hall offers passive recreation, with buildings, park benches, and a monument. *Passive recreation. www.cheshire-ma.com* • 80 Church Street • 413-743-1690

The Cobbles
The Cobbles scenic area offers stunning views of the Hoosac Valley. The Appalachian Trail passes over the ridge, and campers sometimes can be found enjoying the space. Visitors can take in a ‘steep quartzite slope’ which is located atop North Mountain, in Cheshire’s eastern section. The Cobbles trailhead is located behind the Post Office and can be found by following Church Street from Route 8. No formal parking area is available and access to the Cobbles is via hiking trails. *Hiking and passive recreation. http://www.appalachiantrail.org/hiking/find-a-hike/hikes---ma*

Kitchen Brook
Kitchen Brook is a trout stream stocked annually with brook trout and accessible via foot paths. The area surrounding it hosts a mile or so of off-road vehicle trails. Kitchen Brook has no formal parking and can be accessed by hiking off of Route 8 or from the Appalachian Trail segment running through Cheshire. *Fishing, hiking, and off-road vehicles. http://www.appalachiantrail.org/hiking/find-a-hike/hikes---ma*

Stafford Hill Wildlife Management Area
Managed by the state department of Fish and Wildlife, Stafford Hill is recognized as an example of old-field growth with tall grasses, goldenrods, dogwoods, sumacs, and other herbaceous and woody species’. *Fishing, hunting (stocked w/ pheasant).*

Windsor

Eugene Moran Wildlife Management Area
Located just north of the Windsor town center and accessible via Route 116, the Eugene Moran WMA is a former dairy farm and consists of a hilly 1,147 acres. It is home to 99 breeding bird species and other wildlife species, and offers views of Mt. Greylock. Visitors can see marshes, spruce stands, low-bush blueberry, and managed pheasant habitat. Hunting is allowed for the stocked pheasant. Group activities. Parking available in the Moran Lot off of Route 8A. *Hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and wildlife viewing. Route 8A*

Notchview State Reservation
Notchview is a part of the Hoosac Range, an extension of Vermont’s Green Mountains and is managed by The Trustees of Reservations. With more than 3,000 acres of rolling terrain, Notchview offers an idyllic seventeen kilometers of cross-country ski trails (track, skate-skiing, and skiing with dogs) and snowshoeing. Although some fields are kept open, most of the reservation is covered with a red spruce and northern hardwood
forest. The landscape has been influenced by years of timber, fuel wood, and charcoal production. The fields and forests are home to many wild species and are ideal for wildlife viewing. The Reservation can be accessed via Route 9 in Windsor. A large, dirt parking lot is located on site. Hiking and walking trails, skiing (cross-country), warming hut, and wax room.

http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/berkshires/notchview.html • Route 9

Peru State Wildlife Management Area
Within the Peru State WMA in Windsor, visitors can fish for trout in Trout Brook and Fuller Brook, and view beaver ponds and beaver infrastructure. Visitors may spot deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hares, bear, bobcats, otters, fishers, beavers, ducks, geese, and the occasional moose. It is also a good place for bird watching. This site is located at Peru Road in Windsor with parking at an informal pull off along road. Birding, fishing, and hiking. http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/western_maps.htm • Bauman Road, Peru • 508-389-6300

Wahconah Falls State Park
Located in the heart of the Berkshire Hills, Wahconah Falls offers visitors spectacular scenic views anytime of year. Wahconah Falls Brook flows over several smaller tiered falls then cascades about 40 feet into a deep pool. The falls "roar," especially during spring run-off. Visitors can relax, picnic, or fish in the shade of the northern hardwood-conifer forest, or take a hike on the 0.5 mile loop trail (moderate difficulty) through open woods and along upper portions of the falls. Pets, picnicking, and universal access. www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/wahf.htm • Off Route 9/8A, Dalton • 413-442-8992

Windsor Town Park
The Windsor Town Park offers various amenities for both passive and active recreation. Broad jump pit, horse shoes, little league/softball diamond, pavilion, picnic tables, playground, sandbox, and volleyball/tether ball. Peru Road

Cheshire and Adams

Appalachian Trail
There are 240 acres of this internationally acclaimed trail that travel through Cheshire. The Appalachian Trail, a long-distance national scenic trail, runs from Georgia to Maine. The trail is managed by the National Park Service. It offers significant recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, and is a natural highway connecting thru-hikers to Cheshire. Trail heads can be accessed via Route 8 on Windsor Notch and West Mountain Roads. Camping, day hiking,
scenic views, and long-distance hiking.  www.nps.gov/appa/index.htm • www.upperhousatonicheritage.org • www.appalachiantrail.com

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail
The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a former railroad corridor converted into a 10-foot wide paved, universally accessible, passive recreation path and offers views of scenery and abundant wildlife. The Ashuwillticook (ash-oo-will-ti-cook) runs parallel to Route 8 through the towns of Cheshire, Lanesborough and Adams. The southern end of the trail begins at the entrance to the Berkshire Mall off Route 8 in Lanesborough and travels 11.2 miles north to Adams. The trail can also be accessed in Adams at the Public Lot on Depot Street or at Russell Park on American Legion Drive. Biking, restrooms, rollerblading, skiing (cross-country), and walking trails.  www.upperhousatonicheritage.org • www.appalachiantrail.com

Mount Greylock State Reservation
Managed by Greylock Park Association and Massachusetts DCR, Greylock State Reservation contains the states’ highest peak - Mt. Greylock - at 3,491 feet. The peak offers stunning views of surrounding mountains and valleys. Greylock Glen is a 10,610-acre parcel at Mt. Greylock’s base in Adams and contains many unique water and geologic features. Bascom Lodge offers locally sourced dining fare and hosts cultural and natural history interpretive events. The Adams Events Committee hosts an annual Greylock Ramble in the fall. For more information regarding Bascom Lodge, please the Tourism and Traveler Services Chapter. Biking (mountain), fishing, food, hiking, hunting, passive recreation, picnicking, rest rooms, scenic overlook, skiing (cross-country), and swimming.  www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/western/asrt.htm • Adams, Cheshire, Lanesborough • 413-442-8928

Adams

Adams Town Common
Town Common is approximately one half acre and is one of 12 municipal parks in Adams that offers a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Town Common offers amenities including a landscaped gazebo, hardwood benches, waste receptacles, old-style light posts and a brick paved walkway. The Common hosts outdoor concerts and film viewings in summer months. The Common is located between Route 8 and the end of Route 116, with parking available at nearby businesses and through Adams center. Passive recreation. Routes 8 and 116

Bassett Brook Watershed
Owned by the Adams Fire District, this area includes hiking and mountain biking, and is managed by the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife as a coldwater fishery resource. Area can be accessed via Route 8 and Reservoir Road; it is also close to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. Informal parking is located along Reservoir Road. Fishing. Route 8 and Reservoir Road
Bellevue Falls
Bellevue Falls is a small but popular local waterfall for sunning and swimming. It is located within Bellevue Cemetery. Swimming is at one’s own risk, with no life guard present. Located on Dry Brook, the swimming hole can dry up during a hot stretch of summer weather to a mere trickle of water. There is easy daytime access with no formal facilities. *Swimming and fishing*. Bellevue Avenue (south of the Routes 8 and 116 intersection)

Bellows Pipe Watershed
Managed by the City of North Adams, owner of the water rights, this area within the Town of Adams features hiking and mountain biking. Permanently protected, and within Greylock Glen, visitors are likely to see the falls while ascending Mt. Greylock on foot. The area is also said to be haunted by a Civil War veteran. Parking is available at the trailheads at Bascom Lodge, and at the Visitors Center in Lanesborough. More information can be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. *Biking (mountain) and hiking*. [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/mtGreylock/](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/mtGreylock/) • 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough • 413-499-4262

Bowe Field
Bowe Field is a thirteen-acre regional park and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Parking is available on site. *Field house, playground, and rest rooms*. Old Columbia Street

East Street Community Center
East Street Community Center is a community park just over four acres and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. *Sitting area, picnic, and child playground*.

Memorial Park
Memorial Park is approximately one and a half acre neighborhood park and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. *Benches, wastebaskets, and drinking fountain*.

Pecks Falls
A dramatic series of waterfalls, cascading across massive boulders in Pecks Brook make up Pecks Falls which is located within Greylock Glen. See Greylock Glen for more information. Pecks Falls can be reached via informal trails on Route 8 with parking available at the trailhead. *Hiking, scenic views, and wading*. West Mountain Road and Route 8

Quality Playground
Quality Playground is a half acre neighborhood park and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Parking is available on the street or in a pull off. *Fishing and playground*. Quality Street along Route 8
Reid Field
Reid Field is a neighborhood park just under four acres and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Parking is available on the street. Ball field, playground, rest rooms, and sitting area. Sparrow and Crouteau Streets

Renfrew Athletic Field
Renfrew Athletic Field is a regional park just over five acres and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Parking is available on site. Children’s playground, baseball/softball field with enclosed batting cages, football field with regulation lighting, skateboarding, soccer, field house with hot food facilities, broadcast booth and handicapped rest rooms. Burt and Field Streets

Russell Field
Russell Field is a community park just less than four acres and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Parking is available on the street. Ball field, basketball court, community park, hiking/walking, playground, sitting area, and tennis courts. Forest Park Avenue

Siara Street Field
Siara Field is approximately one half acre and is one of 12 municipal parks in Adams that offers a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Passive recreation.

The Thunderbolt
From the Mt. Greylock summit, residents and visitors access an old ski trail on the mountain’s east slope, known as ‘The Thunderbolt’. Traditionally, a popular run on the season’s first snow fall. Maintained by the Thunderbolt Ski Racers, the trail was originally created by the Mt. Greylock Ski Club in the 1930s. It is recommended that visitors are experienced skiers. During non-snow periods, it is popular hiking trail. The Thunderbolt is located on the eastern slope of Mt. Greylock, with parking available at various trailheads, at Bascom Lodge or at Mt. Greylock State Reservation visitors center in Lanesborough. Hiking and skiing (downhill). [http://thunderboltskirun.com/summit.html](http://thunderboltskirun.com/summit.html) and [http://www.thunderboltskirunners.org/](http://www.thunderboltskirunners.org/)

Valley Street Field (also known as Soldiers Memorial Field)
Valley Street Field is four-acre regional park and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Parking is available on Lincoln Street. Baseball/softball, sitting area, and soccer. Lincoln Street

Wacky World
Wacky World is approximately two acres and is one of 12 municipal parks that offer a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. Wacky World is an elaborate playground located behind CT Plunkett Elementary School on Commercial Street. It offers an extensive child-play area. Parking is available at the school, although the public
is discouraged from using the playground during regular school hours. *Playground.* Commercial Street

**Boating and Public Boat Access Sites**

Boating and public boat access sites are noted in italics throughout the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces descriptions.

**Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing**

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are noted in italics throughout the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section.

**Golfing**

*Ashfield*

**Ashfield Community Golf Club**
Located on Norton Hill Road, this 9-hole course contains all the great features of golfing in Massachusetts. The course originally opened in 1927.
http://www.hidden-hills.com/ashfieldcommunitygolfcourse • 413-628-4413

**Edge Hill Golf Course**
This challenging 9-hole golf course offers beautiful majestic views of the mountainous Western Massachusetts country side. Nine holes are under construction and planned to open in summer 2013. Golf Digest says of Edge Hill, *"The golf course is a picturesque challenge with water coming into play on several holes."* [www.edgehillgolfcourse.com](http://www.edgehillgolfcourse.com) • 413-625-6018

**Adams**

**Forest Park Country Club**
Forest Park Country Club is a nine-hole golf course open to the public. It has been described as “a user friendly, yet challenging course”. Forest Park Country Club was founded in the year 1900 is one of the oldest clubs in the United States. The Country Club is located near the base of scenic Mt Greylock, the highest peak in Massachusetts. The Function Room can host parties up to 100 people. Forest Park is open for guest play from 8:00AM until sunset everyday. [http://forestparkadams.com/about/](http://forestparkadams.com/about/) • Forest Park Avenue, Adams • 413-743-3311
Disc Golfing

Conway

The Highlands of Conway Disc Golf
The design utilizes much of the 45 acre site to challenge players with natural fairways and elevation changes. Hemlocks, white birches, and veins of white quartz offer a gorgeous setting. www.highlandsdiscgolf.com • 94 Newhall Road • 413-369-4718

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting
Hunting is permitted in all of the Massachusetts state forest areas and wildlife management areas along the Byway in accordance with the state’s regulations and permitting requirements. There are twelve different hunting seasons. Detailed information regarding these individual seasons and licensing is available from the MassWildlife District Office in Pittsfield. http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/licensing/licensing_home.htm • 413-323-7632

Fishing
Fishing is a year-round recreational activity in Massachusetts. To increase the chances of catching trout, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocks several waterways in the region. Fishing sites along the Corridor include Ashfield Lake, South River, Bear River and its tributaries, the Swift River system, and Taylor Brook. The following is a list of stocked waterways in the Route 116 Byway Corridor:

- Deerfield: Mill River
- Conway: Bear River, Deerfield River, Mill River, Poland Brook, South River
- Ashfield: Ashfield Pond, Clesson Brook Upper Branch, South River, Swift River
- Plainfield: Mill Brook
- Savoy: Westfield River (East Branch), Cold River, Chickley River
- Cheshire: Hoosic River (South Branch), Dry Brook, South Brook, Green River, Kitchen Brook, Bassett Brook
- Adams: Hoosic River (South Branch)
Fishing locations are indicated in italics in the State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section at the beginning of this chapter
http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/licensing/licensing_home.htm • 413-323-7632

Bicycling on Roads and Bike Paths

Bicycle touring can be an excellent way to explore the Byway area. However, the hilly terrain can make bicycling on some roads a challenge for even the most experienced cyclist. While some cyclists seek challenging terrain, others prefer a less arduous bicycling environment. Route 116 is hilly, narrow, and winding in some locations. Also, there are some sections of Route 116 with little or no shoulder. Despite these challenges, the scenic beauty and rural surroundings make the area attractive for bicycling. This section provides information about cycling on Route 116 and also surrounding routes that might provide bicycle touring opportunities for varying levels.

Sunderland, Deerfield, Whately, Conway, and Ashfield

The Franklin County Bikeway

In 2009, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments completed an update of the Franklin County Bikeway Plan. The Plan Update identified a region-wide bicycling network with connects to the neighboring counties and states. The varying terrain and roadway conditions in the region were taken into account, and the recommended routes were rated as “novice”, “intermediate”, or “advanced” based on their suitability for different level bicycle riders. Subsequently, four sub-regional Franklin County Bikeway maps (the Franklin County Bike Map, the Eastern Franklin County Bikeway Routes Map, the Central Franklin County Bikeway Routes Map and the Western Franklin County Bikeway Routes Map) were created to depict the routes that were identified in the Bikeway Plan Update. The suitability ratings for the routes were included on the maps in order to provide information on the difficulty level for each ride to the potential cyclist.

The Route 116 Scenic Byway area is included on or near three of the four bikeway maps. The three maps that include sections of the Byway area are the Franklin County Bikeway Map, the Central Franklin County Bikeway Map and the Western Franklin County Bikeway Map. The Franklin County Bikeway Map depicts the routes that were part of the original 44 mile section of the Franklin County Bikeway that is centered along the Connecticut River. This original part of the bikeway consists of both off-road multi-use trails and shared roadway routes. The off-road paths have already been constructed and the shared roadway routes are marked with Franklin County Bikeway logo signs. The routes included on the Eastern, Central and Western Franklin County Maps have not yet been denoted with Franklin County Bikeway logo signs. It is anticipated that these routes will be marked with signs in the future.

The following describes the Franklin County Bikeway routes within or near the Byway area:
• The Canalside Trail Bicycle Path (3.27, Novice) is a multi-use trail that can be accessed from McClelland Farm Road (located off of River Road) in northeast Deerfield. The Greenfield-Montague Loop (Novice/Intermediate) is on Route 5/10 in Deerfield to the north of the Byway area and connects to the Riverside Greenway in Greenfield. Additionally, the southern terminus of the Connecticut River Route (Novice /Intermediate) is accessed at the intersection of Route 116 and Route 47 in Sunderland Center just east of the Byway area. This is a shared roadway route and travels north along low volume scenic roads in Sunderland and Montague. All three of these facilities are constructed and/or marked with Franklin County Bikeway logo signs.

• River Road Loop northern section in Deerfield and Sunderland (18.7 miles, Intermediate) includes River Road north on the west side of the Connecticut River (in Deerfield) and North Main Street (in Sunderland) which is also the Connecticut River Route (as previously described). The loop connects the southern end of the Canalside Trail Bikepath to the Connecticut River Route via River Road in Deerfield.

• River Road Connection into Hampshire County (15 miles, Intermediate) travels south on River Road from the intersection of Route 116 and River Road. This section of River Road travels into Whately and Hatfield (in Hampshire County). This route provides a link to Hampshire County and Northampton (a regional destination). It is possible to use the parking area at the Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation and cycle east on Route 116 to access either the River Road north or south routes.

• The Deerfield Upper Road–Lower Road Loop (12 miles, Novice) is accessible from Historic Deerfield located a short distance from the Byway. All three of these routes are included on the Central Franklin County Bikeway Map, and are shared roadway routes. They have not been marked with Franklin County Bikeway logo signs but there are plans to do so in the near future.

• The Whately-Conway Loop (17.2, Intermediate) is a shared roadway route that travels on a section of Route 116 through the southeastern portion of Conway into Whately. The route travels on Route 116 from South Mill River Road to Whately Road. At the southern end of the loop (from Haydenville Road) it is possible to connect to the Hampshire County and the Pioneer Valley bicycling routes. In Northampton connections can be made to the Northampton Bike Path in Florence. From the Northampton Bike Path, connections can be made to various off-road (bike path) facilities including the Norwottuck Rail Trail (via downtown Northampton), the Manhan Rail Trail in Easthampton and the extension of the Northampton Bike Path that travels to the Leeds area of Northampton. Note that Haydenville Road (in Whately) has high traffic volumes and no clear shoulder markings, and therefore caution should be used on this road.
The **West County Greenfield Connector** *(10.2 miles, Intermediate)* links Conway Center to downtown Greenfield. This route links the Scenic Byway in Conway center to Greenfield. The route travels to Greenfield via Shelburne Falls Road, Bardswell Ferry Road, and Taylor Road. This route travels over the historic Bardswell Ferry Bridge, and arrives in Greenfield near the Interstate 91/Route2/Route 2A rotary. There are some steep, but short hills along the way.

The **Buckland-Ashfield Loop** *(24.7 miles, Advanced)* is a shared roadway loop that connects Conway Center (Route 116) to Shelburne Falls. This loop travels through the towns of Buckland, Shelburne, Conway, and Ashfield.

**Williamsburg Connector** *(9.5 miles, Intermediate)* travels from Route 116 in Ashfield on Williamsburg Road to Williamsburg Center. This route travels on Williamsburg Road to Ashfield Road in Williamsburg. It is winding and has a narrow shoulder but is a low volume road. It is a popular bicycling connection and provides a link to Route 9 in Hampshire County and the greater Northampton area and the extensive network of off road multi-use trails. This bike route on Williamsburg Road will bring bicyclists to the center of Williamsburg which within five miles of the terminus of the newly constructed Leeds extension of the Northampton Bike Path.

The **Western Franklin County Loop** *(30 miles, Advanced)* is a shared roadway loop that travels from Ashfield Center (on Route 116) to Charlemont (on Route 8A). This route brings bicyclists through the hills of western Franklin County. The route travels from Route 116 to Route 112 north to Upper Street in Buckland and onto Charlemont Road/South River Road, which follows the Deerfield River in Charlemont. A small portion of this road has rough pavement with large potholes. This road turns into Route 8A in Charlemont. Bicyclists ride south on Route 8A to Plainfield, and then turn onto Route 116/West Main Street to head east back to Ashfield. This is a very hilly and is strenuous route, and Route 8A does not have shoulders.

**Plainfield**
Road bicycling in Plainfield, the Hampshire County section of the Byway, is accessible for the cyclist as traffic is generally light on the Byway and its side roads. Paved side roads including Central Street, Union Street, Prospect Street, and Middle Road can be used to create loops.
Adams

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail
The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a former railroad corridor converted into a 10-foot wide paved, universally accessible, passive recreation path including bicycling. See additional information on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail earlier in the chapter.

Berkshire County

Berkshire Bike Path Council
The Berkshire Bike Path Council is a volunteer organization working to promote the establishment of a Vermont to Connecticut multi-use recreational path.
http://www.berkshirebikepath.com • info@berkshirebikepath.com

Mountain Bicycling

Sites where mountain bicycling is permitted are noted in italics throughout the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section.

Trail Running

All Counties

Western Mass Athletic Club
The Western Mass Athletic Club primarily caters to area trail runners, and is based out of the byway community of Adams. Interested participants can run and hike the rugged
terrain surrounding the byway with like-minded group members. This organization hosts running groups, races, as well as snow shoeing events in winter months.

http://runwmac.com/index.html

Rock Climbing

Ashfield

Chapel Ledge
Part of Chapel Brook Reservation, Chapel Ledge is tucked away in the quiet hills of Ashfield, MA. Chapel Ledge has been a popular climbing locale in western Mass and has evolved into one of the area's premier beginner crags and offers spectacular settings.

http://www.climbgneiss.org/index.php/crag-info

Swimming

Sites where swimming is permitted are noted in italics throughout the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is important to the economy of many of the towns along the Route 116 Scenic Byway. There is an extensive network of trails through and between towns and many businesses along the Byway post signs to welcome snowmobilers to their establishments.

Snowmobile trails along the Byway - and in the region - are seasonal trails. Trails on private property are often governed by written agreements with the property owner stipulating maintenance responsibilities in return for access. For the most part, neither the public nor the private trails serve as off-road vehicle (ORV) trails in warmer weather. There are several locations along Route 116 where snowmobile trails cross the road or where riders typically pull off the trail to gas up. These crossings may or may not be well marked to warn motorists. Both drivers and riders should exercise caution and busy crossings should be adequately marked for safety.

Up-to-date information on local snowmobile trails, conditions and purchasing a pass can be obtained from the following organizations:

- Greater Whately Snowmobile Club Snowmobile • 413-665-3846
- Association of Massachusetts • www.sledmass.com • 413-369-8092
- Hilltown Snowmobile Club • Ashfield • 413-337-5389
- Conway Snowmobile Club • http://www.sledconway.com/
- Hawley Snowmobile Club
- Kanary Kats of Savoy • 413-448-8866
Off-Road Vehicles

Off-road vehicles (ORVs) are allowed in a limited number of the state forests and parks in Western Massachusetts, none of which are located in the Byway Corridor Study Area.

Horseback Riding/Horseback Trails and Access Areas

Sites where horseback riding is permitted are noted in italics throughout the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section. Additional horseback riding and horseback trail descriptions follow.

Plainfield

Back Acres Farm
Back Acres Farm is a horse farm offering boarding and training facilities as well as events, clinics, and classes. Open to the public. Farm is run by Penn Moulton. [http://backacresfarm.com/](http://backacresfarm.com/) • 27 Broom Street (1/2 mile south of Byway) • 413-634-5686

Peace Haven Farm
Peace Haven Farm is a 77-acre horse farm that offers educational events, clinics, and private lessons on natural horsemanship. The site is open to the public by appointment and is run by R.J. Sadowski. [www.peacehavenfarm.com/index.html](http://www.peacehavenfarm.com/index.html) • 71 Pleasant Street (1 mile south of Byway) • 413 634 8800

Camping

Sites where camping is available are noted in italics throughout the preceding State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Other Open Spaces section. Additional camping site descriptions follow.

Whately

White Birch Campground
White Birch Campground is a privately owned facility open for business from April through October and has both tent and RV sites. *Camping, swimming.* [http://www.whitebirchcamp.com/](http://www.whitebirchcamp.com/) • 214 North Street • 413-665-4941
Plainfield

Peppermint Park Camping Resort
Peppermint Park Camping Resort offers over 150 campsites at its 800-acre facility and includes a recreation hall, swimming pool, playground, ball field, and hiking trails. Peppermint Park is open Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day weekend for its summer season, with opportunities for winter camping during snowmobile season, weather permitting. Ball field, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, swimming. http://peppermintpark.net/ • 169 Grant Street • 413-634-5385

Savoy

Shady Pines Campground
Shady Pines Campground is a privately owned recreational facility open for business year-round. There is a panoramic view of the nearby hills to the west from the campgrounds. The property is protected and operated under a family trust outlined in the property deed. Ball field, camping, hiking, picnicking, swimming. www.shadypinescampground.com/ • 547 Loop Road • 413-743-2694

Universal Access

DCR’s Universal Access Program is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts state parks for visitors of all abilities. Accessibility to the state parks and forests is achieved through site improvements, specialized adaptive recreation equipment, and accessible recreation programs. DCR Park Interpreters include visitors with disabilities in nature walks and interpretive programs scheduled seasonally around the state. Assistive listening equipment is available upon request at many parks. Recorded brochures, walks, and tours are also available at some parks. 413 545-5353 voice • 413-577-2200 TTY

For information on recorded indoor and outdoor park tours around Massachusetts for visitors who are blind, contact the Universal Access Office. To receive a free copy of the booklet "Hiking Trails for the Blind with a Sighted Guide" call 413-442-8928. This booklet offers hiking information in the Berkshires.

In the Route 116 Scenic Byway region, some recreational resources provide universal access to recreational facilities. The Plainfield outdoor facilities do not accommodate people whose mobility is limited, partly due to the steeply sloped and rocky terrain found in the region, limiting the opportunities to build fairly level trails.
Deerfield

Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation
This State Reservation provides access to the summit and scenic views via a paved road. More information is available in earlier description.

Ashfield

DAR State Forest
The DAR provides universal access to many recreational activities. This facility provides accessible beaches, boating (flatwater kayaking), camping, fishing, picnicking, rest rooms and hiking trails. The State forest features an accessible one-half mile stabilized stone dust trail that travels through the woods alongside Upper Highland Lake. The trail includes benches, a fishing pier, and lakeside views. More information is available in earlier description.

Adams

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail
The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a former railroad corridor converted into a 10-foot wide paved, universally accessible, passive recreation path. See additional information on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail earlier in the chapter.

Adams & Savoy

Savoy Mountain State Forest
Accessible camping in cabins is available year round. Yurts are available during the main recreation season. Tent camping has been made more accessible to wheelchair users with some designated hard-packed level sites featuring pedestal grills and accessible picnic tables. www.reserveamerica.com • 877-422-6762

Accessible trails include a quarter mile of stabilized stonedust trail through scenic woods. Accessible picnicking is available via picnic sites featuring wheelchair accessible tables and pedestal grills. Savoy Mountain State Forest also includes accessible restroom facilities. See additional information on the Savoy Mountain State Forest earlier in the chapter.

Savoy

Windsor State Forest
Windsor State Forest has accessible restroom facilities. See additional information on the Windsor State Forest earlier in the chapter.
Issues and Recommendations

Issues

- There is a concern that visitors to the area do not know about the recreational resources that are available.
- There is a lack of centrally located information for the byway traveler.
- There is a lack of informational and interpretive signage for the resources.
- There is a potential for conflicts between bicyclists and motorized vehicles due to winding roads and the lack of a roadway shoulder in some locations.
- There are numerous motorcycles that use the Byway driving too fast and are noisy.
- There is a lack of public restrooms available along the Byway.
- There is limited maintenance of the existing recreational facilities along the Byway.
- There is inconsistent information about resources on the websites of the towns along the Byway.
- Deer Ticks pose a threat to people who use the outdoor recreational resources along the Byway.
- There is a lack of dog-friendly recreational resources.
- The Mahican-Mohawk Trail is unfinished with sections not connected to one another.
- There are a limited number of recreational resources that have universal access.
- There are access and parking limitations at the West Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary.
- There is a need for better signage at Plainfield Pond.

Recommendations

- Provide information on the recreational resources in the Byway area.
- Assess the existing directional signs that provide information about how to get to recreational areas and develop recommendations for additional signs that are needed.
- Mount a publicity campaign to ensure that visitors and residents are aware of the dangers of Deer Ticks and what preventative measures can be taken to avoid being bitten.
- Advocate for and seek adequate funding to maintain and operate the existing recreational facilities.
- Encourage towns to prioritize land for open space, and natural, cultural, and scenic resource protection and for recreation purposes.
- Seek to acquire conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions or land from willing property owners for the protection of recreational and natural resources within the Byway region through existing programs and grant sources.
- Improve access to parks and recreational areas within the Byway region for disabled populations, senior and children.
- Develop and maintain multi-use and limited-use trails to provide access to natural, scenic and recreational areas where appropriate.
- Link the Byway with community development and preservation efforts by utilizing resources such as eco-tourism, heritage tourism, and the marketing of local products.
- Enhance the public visibility of agricultural and forestry businesses in the Byway region and promote the purchase of local farm and forest products.
- Encourage the investment of federal, state, municipal and private dollars for the purpose of developing, maintaining, and expanding recreational areas, facilities and programs within the Byway region.
- Maintain safe bike routes within the Byway towns that connect the village centers and places of interest.
- Explore options to expand the dog-friendly recreational resource options.
- Coordinate with regional, state, local and non-profit land protection efforts in order to ensure the continued conservation of important recreational, scenic, natural and open space resources.
- Improve access to West Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and provide a designated parking area and/or trailhead signage.
- Provide better signage to Plainfield Pond to differentiate between swimming and boating areas.
- Improve interpretive signage and wayfinding for recreational resources in the Byway area in order to provide directions and proximity to the Byway.
- Review the recommendations of the 2000 Savoy Town Park Plan that was compiled by the Conway School of Landscape Design.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4-1: Route 116 Scenic Byway Recreational Resources Inventory</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUDBURY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut River Greenway State Park</td>
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<td><strong>DEERFIELD</strong></td>
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<td>Franklin County Bikeway (also in Conway and Ashfield)</td>
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<td>Mt. Tom State Forest</td>
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<td>Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation</td>
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<td><strong>WHATELEY</strong></td>
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<td>Conway State Forest (See Conway)</td>
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<td>Grinnell Farm Wildlife Sanctuary (also in Winfield)</td>
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<td>Whately Wildlife Management Area</td>
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<td>White Birch Campground</td>
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<td><strong>CONWAY</strong></td>
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<td>Conway Hills Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Conway Town Hall Field</td>
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<td>Dorr State Forest</td>
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<td>Franklin County Bikeway (also in Deerfield and Ashfield)</td>
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<td>Highlands Dorr Golf</td>
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<td>Poland Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA)</td>
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<td>South River State Forest</td>
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<td>Whately Great Swamp WMA</td>
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<td><strong>ASHFIELD</strong></td>
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<td>Ashfield Community Golf Club</td>
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<td>Bear Swamp</td>
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<td>Balding Memorial Park and Ashfield Lake</td>
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<td>Ballast ResERVation (also in Conway)</td>
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<td>Chapel Brook ReservAtion</td>
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<td>Chapel Brook to West Road Trail</td>
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<td>Chapel Ledge</td>
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<td>Dorr State Forest (also in Groton, MA)</td>
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<td>Edge Hill golf Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin County Bikeway (also in Deerfield and Conway)</td>
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### Table 4-1: Route 116 Scenic Byway Recreational Resources Inventory (continued)

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