

PRIVATE LAND

USFWS CONTE REFUGE  
FORT RIVER DIVISION


Open Fields

# THE SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE

**HADLEY, MASS**

**DISTANCE: 1.1 MILES**

 Suggested Route

 Streams & rivers



NORTH

0

500 FT

BARN

**P**

Parking & kiosk

Gazebo

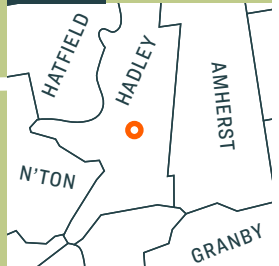
MOODY BRIDGE RD.

PRIVATE LAND

PRIVATE  
PROTECTED  
FARMLAND

USFWS CONTE REFUGE

LOCATOR



## A TRAIL FOR EVERYONE AT

# THE SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE

## HADLEY, MASS

The Fort River Birding and Nature Trail at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge is a universally accessible 1.1-mile loop trail. Meandering through 260 acres of diverse habitat—grassland, floodplain, upland forest, wetlands, and intermittent streams—it was recognized as the best trail under 3 miles in Massachusetts. The trail is constructed of stone dust with wooden edging, and includes eight elevated boardwalks and seven scenic viewing decks with benches. A gazebo at the entrance provides a shaded rest before or after walking. Families with strollers, seniors, and those using wheelchairs or walkers also enjoy this trail.

### SUGGESTED ROUTE

Begin your walk on this flat and easy-to-navigate trail at the gazebo, within sight of the parking area. Beyond the gazebo, the trail soon splits. Stay to the left for a clockwise loop. Go slowly and observe as many habitats as you can along the way. The first **lookout** is on the right. Notice the young forest establishing here. At the next **lookout** you are perched at a bend in the river. Pause to watch the water flow by, and be watchful for wildlife. As you continue along, the next **lookout** is nestled under a large oak tree. Further along you come to **three lookouts** clustered close together, each overlooking a different type of habit – shrubland, wetland, and grassland. After the third, you enter an opening where the trail is lined with sumac, often found growing at the edge of newly establishing habitats. The trail crosses the field, re-enters the woods, and then comes to a **lookout** where wood duck nest boxes can be seen through the trees across the swamp. The next **lookout** is at the edge of a field where American kestrel nest boxes are located on the far side of this open space. At the final **lookout**, you're standing above a stretch of wetland. Soon you complete the 1.1-mile loop and are back at the gazebo.

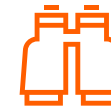
[www.kestreltrust.org](http://www.kestreltrust.org)



### WHAT YOU CAN DO HERE



Walk/Jog



Watch Wildlife



Sit a Spell



Take Photographs



Enjoy Vernal Pools

### DIRECTIONS

- **GPS address:**  
**63 Moody Bridge Rd.,  
Hadley, MA 10135**
- Parking is available down the gravel road, keep right at the fork and the parking lot will be on the left. There is a kiosk that provides information about the refuge before continuing to the trail.

### YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Open dawn to dusk, year round
- Please keep dogs on leash and pick up after your pet
- Respect adjacent private property by staying on the trail

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Seven scenic lookouts with benches
- Kestrel nest boxes

### PARTNERS MAKE CONSERVATION POSSIBLE

Kestrel Land Trust partners with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to create, conserve, and care for public lands to help everyone connect with nature. The conservation lands were acquired by Kestrel with The Conservation Fund and the Trust for Public Land for the Conte Refuge. For more information contact Kestrel or:

**Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge**  
413-548-8002

