

The Canal Aqueduct & Henry Mason Trail 0.8 miles



A trailhead well maintained by the FLT



Aqueduct site & bridge to Henry Mason Trail --->

Off road parking is located 100 feet south of the Farmington Aqueduct state road sign on route 10 (41.754000 -72.818000). Both of these trails are great to visit year round because they are well maintained by the Farmington Land Trust. The 0.2 mile Aqueduct Trail ends next to the east abutment for the Farmington Aqueduct completed in 1828. You will be walking on the towpath that was used by horses to pull the 75 foot long canal boats at speeds up to 4 mph. The Aqueduct was only wide enough for one boat at a time, so they built a wide basin where the canal boats would wait for their turn (note the photo of the trailhead: the towpath is on the left and the wide basin is to the right behind the large historic marker). Half way down this trail is an excellent kiosk on native wildflowers. You will also notice the Farmington Canal behind the kiosk is wide enough for only one canal boat. Just before you reach the river, there is a second historic marker with more aqueduct information and photographs. As you pass the abutment on your right (photo), you will see 5 stepping stones that brings you over a brook to the bridge at the start of the Henry Mason Trail . This 0.4 mile loop trail includes about 20 new signs that identifies the tree next to it. All of them have a cover on a hinge to protect the sign. If you would like to get a little more exercise for your body and mind, take the loop a second time to see if you can remember the name of the tree as you approach it and before you lift up the cover.

4 Historic Markers provide additional information of the Canal Era:

<http://hdl.handle.net/11134/660002:2688>

<http://hdl.handle.net/11134/660002:2689>

<http://hdl.handle.net/11134/660002:2683>

<http://hdl.handle.net/11134/660002:2691>