

River Road Preserve

57 Acres

Erbacher Preserve

296 Acres

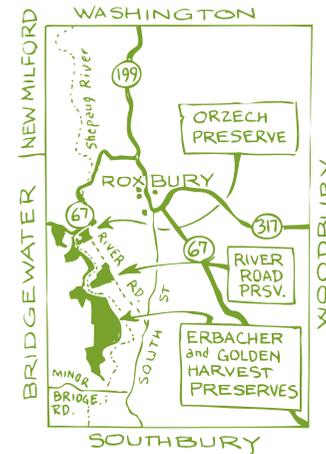
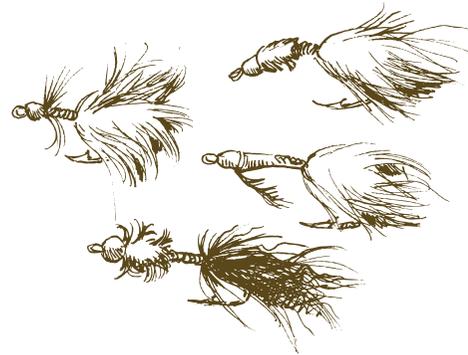
Golden Harvest Preserve

100 Acres

Orzech Family Preserve

112 Acres

Together, these four preserves protect in perpetuity nearly 600 acres and two miles of the Shepaug River. Accessed in multiple ways, the preserves are connected by almost six miles of trails, including the old Shepaug Railroad bed.



River Road Preserve

Access From the Roxbury green, go west on Weller's Bridge Road. At the base of the hill, turn left onto River Road. Parking is 0.6 miles on the right.

Donor 57 acres – Gift of Frasier McCann in 1982

Erbacher Preserve

Access Entry is from River Road Preserve across Volunteers Bridge or from Minor Bridge Road. Parking at Roxbury Falls is for Roxbury residents only.

Donors 262 acres – Gift of Joan Erbacher McMahan and Edward Erbacher in 1984. 34 acres – Gift of Lawrence Tuchman and John Lamb in 2003.

Golden Harvest Preserve

Access Entry is from River Road Preserve across Volunteers Bridge or from Botsford Hill Road through the Orzech Family Preserve.

Donor 100.5 acres – Gift of Golden Harvest Farm Ltd. Partnership in 1993

Orzech Family Preserve

Access Park near blue barns at intersection of Route 67 and Botsford Hill Road and walk past metal gate to the railroad bed along the Shepaug River.

Donor 112 acres – Acquired in 2002 from Ed Orzech with a State of Connecticut grant and gifts to *The Campaign to Save Our Farms*.



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River Road Preserve
Erbacher Preserve
Golden Harvest Preserve
Orzech Family Preserve

Trail Map



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River Road Preserve

Bordering the eastern bank of the Shepaug River, this preserve affords beautiful views of the river, farmlands and hemlock-covered knolls. The trail starts at the parking lot and overlooks the town pond, which is open to Roxbury residents for swimming June-September. After circling the pond, the trail enters the woods. At the trail loop sign, bear right to hike first along the river. Please note that fly-fishing only is allowed in this section of the river.

The south end of the preserve is the site of a picnic table, map kiosk and Volunteers Bridge. Built entirely by volunteers from the Town of Roxbury during 1991, the bridge connects River Road Preserve to Erbacher, Golden Harvest and Orzech Family Preserves. At this point, hikers have three choices: 1) retrace their steps for the easiest way back, 2) complete the loop, knowing that a steep climb and descent are ahead, or 3) cross the bridge and explore the other three preserves.

Distance: 1.5 mile loop

Difficulty: Moderate. Some steep climbs. Sturdy shoes are recommended

Erbacher Preserve

There are several access points and distance opportunities available to hike the Erbacher Preserve:

Access from *Volunteers Bridge*. For a loop hike, cross Volunteers Bridge and turn left on the old Shepaug Railroad bed. About 0.4 miles ahead, the rail turns right and begins to climb to its highest point. Watch for signs where the trail turns sharply to the left and begins a gradual descent back down to the river. When you reach the loop to the open meadow, you have two options: 1) finish the loop to the railroad bed and return back to Volunteers Bridge, or 2) follow the signs along the edge of the meadow. The trail then leads to an old stagecoach road and out to Minor Bridge Road.

Distance: Loop Trail – 1.2 miles. Hikers must first walk 0.75 miles through the River Road Preserve.

2.75 miles from Volunteers Bridge to Minor Bridge Road

Difficulty: Easy to moderate with some hilly terrain

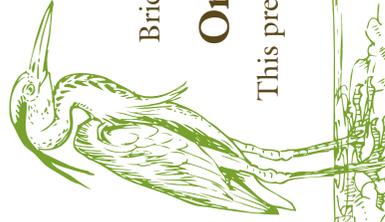
Access from *Minor Bridge Road*. From the parking lot at Roxbury

Falls, walk up Minor Bridge Road for about 700 feet to the trailhead on your right. Walk along the trail, passing large glacial boulders and several small streams to an old stagecoach road, where you will bear left. Follow the trail out to the large meadow and walk along the left edge of the field to connect to the trail loop. At this point, turn left to connect to the loop and bear slightly right to connect to the railroad bed. Turn left on the railroad bed and continue to access the River Road, Golden Harvest and Orzech Family Preserves.

Distance: Minor Bridge Road to Volunteers Bridge: 2.75 miles

Volunteers Bridge to Orzech Family Preserve trailhead: 1.4 miles

Difficulty: Easy to moderate with some hilly terrain



Golden Harvest Preserve

To access this preserve, turn right after crossing Volunteers Bridge and follow the railroad bed to the farm fields on the right. The preserve also lies along the Shepaug River to the left of Volunteers Bridge.

Orzech Family Preserve

This preserve can be accessed in one of two ways: 1) by walking first through the River Road and Golden Harvest Preserves, as described above, then continuing to walk along the railroad bed and Shepaug River, or 2) by parking near the blue barns on Botsford Hill Road and walking to the railroad bed beyond the metal farm gate and field. The railroad bed is excellent for gentle walks and cross country skiing.

Legend

- PARKING
- UNPAVED ROAD
- PICNIC TABLE
- INFO KIOSK
- UNMARKED FIELD
- BLUE TRAIL
- R.R. BED

Distance: 1.4 miles from Botsford Hill entrance to Volunteers Bridge.

Difficulty: Easy



Volunteers Bridge connects the preserves

