

**Do you feel like getting out? Try this walk back into
Boylston history.**

*Walking Trails to
Old Sawyer's Mills
Area
Boylston, MA*



Some History

Sawyer's Mills was Boylston's other town center. In 1728, Joseph Sawyer built a saw mill in this location on the Nashua River. Over the following decades the business was passed down through the family and by 1817 it consisted of a saw mill, a grist mill, a clothier, a fulling mill, an oil mill, a blacksmith shop, a country store, barns and dwelling houses. In 1822, the mills were sold to James and William Lees and then in 1830 they passed into the hands of the Clinton Company. Clinton Company then sold the complex to Lancaster Mills in 1862 which remained the owners until the taking in 1897 by the Massachusetts Water Works for the purposes of flooding the Wachusett Reservoir to provide drinking water for city of Boston, Massachusetts. At the time of the taking, the village also contained a chapel, a railroad station and a school house.

About the trails

The trails on this Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation land are mostly old road beds, so they are wide, even and pleasant to walk on. If you leave from the parking area and head to the edge of the water on any of the trails, the terrain is flat until you near the shore at which point all the trails head moderately downhill. The hills are easy walking (but can be challenging for the cross-country skier). Once you get to the water's edge the views are wonderful and the sound of the water lapping on the shore will soothe your soul. You may be lucky and see the loons or the bald eagles that are living in the area. This is a year-round destination. From April through November fishermen abound. In the winter, it is popular with snowshoers and skiers. (Note: please do not walk or snowshoe in the ski tracks.) Whenever you go, heed the (DCR) signs for allowed activities and so sorry, NO dogs.