

Shoddy Mill Preserve

The Shoddy Mill Preserve, consisting of 77 acres, was acquired by the town in the late 1960's as part of an overall plan to create a greenbelt along Roaring Brook. Interesting features include the beautifully constructed Shoddy Mill dam, and a high gravel ridge paralleling the brook to the west. The mill produced "shoddy" (reclaimed wool, usually made from rags, which can be processed into felt or fabric of inferior quality).

The West Trail (blue and white blazes) enters along the west side of the brook, turns left on the gas pipeline for about 70 paces before turning north into pine forest and looping up over the gravel ridge and around back to the beginning point. It is a moderately easy walk with a total distance round trip of just less than a mile.

The best approach to the Shoddy Mill dam is via the East Trail (blue blazes with two white bars) which enters 250 feet east of the brook. It is an easy quarter mile round trip. You may want to sit on the dam a few minutes and watch for ducks or great blue heron.

