

On the **LOST MINE HIKING TRAIL** visitors encounter a mossy stream that runs through a steep-sided ravine, pine and hemlock groves, forest management areas, mature hardwood forest, a high ridgeline and a historic mine.

The abandoned talc production site along this trail is the Gould Mine of the old Carlton Mine, which was started in 1894 and was last operated in the 1930's. The Carlton mine is one of only three known sources of **Chesterite**—a silicate mineral with a unique crystal structure—which was first discovered here back in 1977.



**Trail Length:** 2 miles

**Hiking time:** Approximately 1.5 hours

**Level of Difficulty:** Moderate

**Trail Markers:** Red rectangles on trees

**Highest Point:** 1,560 ft **Lowest:** 1,100 ft



#### **Directions:**

- Take Route 11 West from the edge of town for 1 mile.
- Pass the brick Army Reserve building on the right, then take an immediate right onto Balch Road.
- Go uphill for 8/10ths of a mile and take a right at the fork onto Water Farm Road.
- Travel 4/10ths of a mile from the fork (passed the old reservoir) and park in the small lot on the right near the trailhead.
- If this parking lot is full, please drive back down the hill and use the parking area just below the reservoir dam.

## About the Chester Conservation Committee

The Chester Conservation Committee (CCC) is an informal, independent group of volunteers from this region who meet monthly. We offer public programs for all ages on a variety of topics, including natural history, outdoor recreation, land management, environmental issues and stewardship. We also create opportunities for local citizens and visitors to better explore the natural beauty of Chester.



### *Statement of Purpose*

To conduct and encourage educational experiences, natural resource inventories and community conservation projects that will foster an awareness and stewardship of Chester's rich heritage of nature, culture and history.

This trail guide was produced and funded by members of the CCC. We are grateful to NewsBank for defraying the cost of printing.

# CHESTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE



**Lost Mine  
Hiking Trail**

A beautiful loop hiking trail that traverses a diversity of natural habitats in Chester's 550-acre Town Forest

