

The Becket Land Trust Historic Quarry & Forest

Becket Land Trust

456 Quarry Road

42° 16'37.24"N 73° 03'30.38"W elevation 1516 feet

The Becket Land Trust was founded in 1991 by several Becket families. It is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation whose purpose is to protect the rural character of the town, help educate the public about the town's natural resources and forest and wildlife management, and to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and enjoyment. It owns and manages the 300+acre nature preserve located in the southeast corner of the town known as The Becket Land Trust Historic Quarry and Forest.

Ten years after being formed, the Becket Land Trust purchased the Becket Quarry property when the town's Board of Selectmen assigned their right of first refusal, under Chapter 61, to the trust. For those who were in town then, it was an exciting time for a major land conservation effort. There were the remains of a once thriving entity that had been asleep for half a century. So, the Land Trust volunteers worked to incorporate miles of old railroad beds, wood trails and logging roads into a network of well-marked trails that serve the community well as a site for recreational hiking and nature enjoyment. The Trust also envisioned cross country skiing, markers identifying geology, flora, and fauna, beautiful scenic vistas, and an open-air museum to illustrate the history and apparatus of the quarry.

Today, there is a self-guided historical quarry walk with explanatory signage. Remnants of a wide span of the industrial revolution are described on the signature stone pillars. There was equipment that was first powered by steam and then later converted to diesel powered compressed air. Some of the pieces were good examples of early electric power. One of the last remaining, still-standing wood mast guy derricks in New England towers over the quarry pit and is reflected in the water below.

The Land Trust quarry is open to the public year-round and has added a New England Cottontail habitat reserve and an Oak Regeneration forestry project as well.

During the summer months there is a parking fee to help defray the costs of a ranger attendant, garbage removal, and supplying a portable toilet for the public.

The Trust also has a Becket Quarries Museum housed in the [Mullen House Education Center, Inc.](#) at 12 Brooker Hill Road in North Becket Village. Generally, it is open to the public on Saturdays from 12-3 during the summer months.



Additional links:

<https://becketlandtrust.org/historic-quarry/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Becket-Land-Trust-Becket-Land-Trust-Historic-Quarry-Forest-307370995955806/>

For further information email the Becket Historical Commission:

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