

*Group
Hike*



**Housatonic
Heritage**

Chester and Becket Railroad Tour

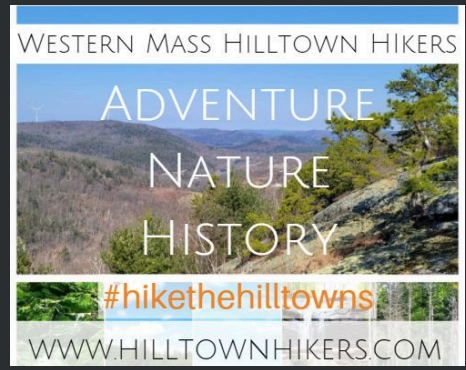
September 29th at 1:00 pm

Parking: On Hampden Street at the Chester and Becket Trailhead Chester 01011

Hike Rating: Easy 2.5 miles in and back, mostly flat terrain on dirt

Join us for a special Housatonic Heritage event to hike on a section of the Chester and Becket Railroad. Built in 1896 as a 5.25-mile spur off the Boston & Albany Railroad to deliver granite from the Becket Quarries to the Chester finishing works. Both Chester and Becket issued bond stock in the quarry company to help in building this line because there was money to be made from the "Chester Blue Granite" for monuments and gravestones. This railroad was blasted out of the steep and winding side of the Walker Brook Valley. The first locomotive to run on this line was a wood burner, eventually upgraded to a coal burning locomotive. We will see the remains of a wooden trestle still standing on the trail and also learn how this route was used in Chester's Emery industry. Donations for the newly conserved Chester Granite Company Finishing Works property are greatly appreciated.

Please Register per car on
<https://westernmasshilltownhikers.ticketleap.com>. Maps and bottled water provided. Be prepared for rocks, roots and some uneven ground. We will hike rain or shine. More information on www.hilltownhikers.com



WWW.HILLTOWNHIKERS.COM

Call/Text 413-302-0312

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