

Cat Hollow Park Over the Bridge



45 Cat Hollow Rd in Dayville section of Killingly,
Entrances where Cat Hollow Road intersects with
Dog Hill Road and Valley Road

www.killinglyconservation.org

Learn about mill history, mill site ruins, two
dams, unique plantings from the former
owner and view the stunning babbling
Whetstone Brook from a different
perspective.



Ways to Enjoy Cat Hollow

A. (1) Leisurely walk along the existing paved road (Purple). View breached stone mill dam, unique plantings, site of "Lucas Mill"(2) to Old Trolley Bridge Site (3). This first section is handicapped accessible, about half a mile.

B. From entrance down a paved driveway to site of Killingly Worsted Mill (4) and new bridge (6) view the 35 ft. high stone dam (5).

C. For those wanting to **hike**, about one mile, cross the new bridge (6) and walk on moderately rough trails. After crossing the bridge (2018) turn right to the easy loop trail (7) to woodland "Cart Path" (Green) Turning left is a steep rocky, slippery path to the top of the big dam. (Red)

D. Walk "Pond Path" (Blue) along the mill pond.

E. Explore breached mill dam, cistern, plantings. (8)

HISTORY- High Dam (Killingly Worsted Mill site) 4

This dam was built during the 1870's for the Sayles and Potter Woolen Mill. According to Richard Adams in *Mills Along the Whetstone Brook*, Phebe Sayles and Sarah Potter had a mill erected here in the late 1860's. It was a large 3 story wood structure measuring 40 ft. by 150 ft. Before the present dam was built, water had to be drawn from upstream by means of a long canal. This dam gave the mill greater quantities of water.

By 1889 Timothy E. Hopkins had acquired the mill and used it to produce fancy cassimere's.

By 1915 William Litch was operating this mill as the Killingly Worsted Mill. The Hale Manufacturing Company occupied the site from the 1950's through the 1970's. A number of fires gutted the mill in 1978, and 2 years later it was torn down. All that remains of this industrial site are a raceway and beautiful waterfall.

5 Top of High Dam a footbridge once crossed the dam Note the gears that formerly raised the gate that allowed water to flow through the raceway to power the mill.



2 Lucas Mill site (Sayles & Sabin Mill site)

Land records indicate that both sawmill and grist mill were in existence in the vicinity of the former Sayles & Sabin Mill by the end of the 18th century. About 1875 a mill was erected on this site and was utilized in conjunction with the Dayville mill. The site was utilized to manufacture nails and later used as a storage facility for the Cliquot Club Soda Company.

Robert Lucas, a local artist, and master gardener, lived in the mill that occupied this site from 1965 to the late 90's. Notice the unique plantings. The mill was destroyed by fire December 4, 2001.

Dam near Lucas Mill was breached by powerful water flow in the spring of mid 2010's.

3 Old Trolley Bridge Site

The Providence to Danielson Trolley crossed the Whetstone at this point, connecting Providence to the Elmville station at the corner of Dog Hill and Rte 12.

Historical research by Killingly Municipal Historian Margaret Weaver and Charles Weaver; Richard Adams, *Mills Along the Whetstone Brook*.

Cat Hollow Park was acquired by Killingly around 2000 and is overseen by the Parks & Recreation Dept. 860-779-5390

