

Dorchester Mill Pond

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The Dorchester Mill Pond is a 15 hectare site located in the west end of Dorchester. The mill pond has been in existence since at least 1810 when a saw mill and, later, a grist mill were constructed. The 3.5 km trail loops around the pond close to the water's edge. Hardwood trees shade the trail as it rises and falls gently. A state-of-the-art bridge, built in 2001, takes hikers across the south end of the pond.

The *Habitat and Trail Guide* booklet and *Trail Guide* pamphlet provide information on the history, plants and animals of the Dorchester Mill Pond and are available from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority or the Hearthsides Gift Shop located by the dam.

In 1997 the Mill Pond Committee initiated a stewardship project to protect and restore the site's natural heritage. There are plans to extend the walking trail south to the Dorchester Swamp in the near future.

Distance	3.5 km
Difficulty	Easy to moderate
Trail Use	Walking, pets on leashes, snowshoeing
Trail Surface	Natural, boardwalk, steps
Cost	Free
Directions	Two parking areas are located on the east side of Mill Road off Hamilton Road. Another parking lot is situated off Byron Avenue.
Facilities	Parking, picnic tables
Contact	Thames Centre, (519) 268-7334

