



## the fund for north Bennington

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P. O. BOX 803, NORTH BENNINGTON

VERMONT 05257

### The Mile-Around Woods and The Short Aldrich Trail

The Mile-Around Woods. This carriage road was laid out by Trenor Park, the builder of the Park-McCullough House. From the Park-McCullough House entrance, walk west on McCullough Road for about 200 yards. Enter the farm road on your left between the two stone gateposts. At the first intersection (about 50 yards), turn right and uphill on the farm road lined by maple trees. Go straight between the two stone gateposts at the entry to the woods. (An immediate and hard right leads to field trails and the Trillium Woods.) For the Mile-Around Trail, continue straight ahead. There is an intersection about 30 feet into the woods. Go either way. The Mile-Around trail is a loop. (The loop itself is less than a mile. The mile is measured from the bottom of the maple-lined farm road.)

The Short Aldrich Trail. This trail circles the valley of Paran Creek. If you follow the entire route, it will take approximately 2 to 2½ hours. The route includes deep woods, farm fields, millponds, wetlands, village streets, and views of historic mansions and 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial sites.

Go to the Mile-Around Trail as described above, but bear right at the intersection located about 40 feet into the Woods. Where the carriage road bears left and uphill, the Short Aldrich Trail enters the Woods. (There should be a sign.) Follow the trail about 75 yards to an intersection. Bear right and down to the edge of the field by a bench. Follow the trail the entire length of the field, keeping the tree line on your left. (Do not turn right at the intersection at the center of the field) There should be a sign where the trail enters the Woods. In the woods, the Short Aldrich Trail is marked with blue blazes painted on trees. Follow the trail through the woods. The trail will gradually head uphill and to the left. After several hundred yards, it will bear sharply right on to a broad path. Then, after a gentle descent, it will bear sharply left again into the woods. The trail then descends steeply to Park Street. Remember, keep following the blue blazes.

At Park Street, you can return to the P-M House by turning left and following Park Street uphill to the intersection with West Street. To continue on The Short Aldrich Trail, turn right on Park Street and walk about 100 yards to the intersection with Hillside Street. Turn left and walk down Hillside Street. At Route 67A, use caution. Stay on the right side of 67A and head along the side of the road toward the

small bridge over Paran Creek. Be sure to cross the bridge on the right side where there is a pedestrian walkway. After crossing the bridge, again using great caution, cross Route 67A and walk up Scarey Lane. You will go by several houses and then the rear of the mill owned by the Bennington County Industrial Commission. There will be a staircase on your left, which descends to the milldam.

Turn right at the base of the stairs, just before the dam. You are now again on the Short Aldrich Trail, and again it is marked with blue blazes. Follow the trail north along the slope above the reservoir and then into deeper woods. Keep following the blue blazes. This trail will emerge, finally, in a field behind the old Jennings mansion at Bennington College. Turn left along the trail that borders the field, keeping the field on your right. You will soon enter woods, and then emerge at the top of Prospect Street in the Village. Turn left and descend Prospect Street to Pangea restaurant. Cross Route 67A and then walk up West Street to the Park McCullough House.