

## Northfield Ramble from Mt. Sugarloaf

Total Distance: **41.2 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1539 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1539 ft / 41.2 mi = 37.54 ft/mi**

Terrain: **Rolling**

Killer Hills: **None**

Geographical Region: **Central Massachusetts**

City/Town: **Sunderland, Massachusetts**

**Starting Location: Roadside parking area on Rt. 116 about 0.2 miles west of the Connecticut River in Sunderland, Massachusetts. From I-91 northbound take Exit 24 and go north (right) a short distance on Routes 5 and 10 to traffic light. Turn right onto Route 116 and follow for about 1.5 miles down to roadside parking area on left about ¼ mile short of the bridge across the Connecticut River.**

**Ride Description: This is a lovely ride through several towns in the Connecticut River Valley in Massachusetts. The ride is on mostly flat to rolling terrain and features a great snack/lunch stop overlooking the Connecticut River at a Northfield river side park. After this stop the ride route heads north up to Northfield before turning west briefly and then south through Gill to Turners Falls. There is a very scenic cascade waterfall on Falls Rd near the end of the ride.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
0.2	<i>Bridge across the Connecticut River</i>
6.2	Montague Mini Mart on left
6.4	<i>Montague Center; neat little New England village green</i>
11.5	<i>Pedestrian bridge over the Miller's River; note confluence of Miller and Connecticut Rivers to the north</i>
11.6	<i>Go under the French King Bridge (State Route 2) supporting truss</i>
13.3	<i>Suggested lunch stop at Northfield picnic area overlooking Connecticut River; views; bathrooms</i>
23.6	Village of Gill; general store may (or may not) be open; alternate lunch/snack stop
27.3	<i>Immediately after crossing the Connecticut River, the Great Falls Discovery Center is on the right, and Northeast Utilities' fish ladder is on the left. The fish ladder has an underwater viewing window for migrating shad and salmon. To reach the fish ladder, use Gatehouse Road to the left of Town Hall.  The fish-way relies on the ability of migrating fish to make the climb using their own power. They swim over a series of rising pools in much the same way they would have overcome the natural rises in the river before dams were built.  At the spillway ladder, the fish climb 42 pools, passing through the gatehouse fish way. The fish then swim past a viewing area, a counting area, and exit the fish-way above the Turners Falls dam.</i>
27.3+	Turners Falls main drag; various stores for the next mile
28.2	Convenience store on right
37.5	<i>Lovely cascading waterfall on Falls Road stop to enjoy, but remove bikes from road surface</i>
40.0	<i>Large (historic) sycamore tree on the right; check it out "up close &amp; personal"</i>
40.5	Convenience store on right at Route 47 & 116 intersection
40.8	<i>Bridge across the Connecticut River</i>