



### The Monastery

Our Lady of the Valley Monastery was founded by twelve Nova Scotian monks in 1900. The stone buildings were built over time with stones quarried from the surrounding area and were completed in the 1930s.

The monks abandoned their original monastery after two devastating fires. In the 1950s, here in Rhode Island, history repeated itself and tragic fire claimed the interior of the monastery. The monks left and moved onto Massachusetts to rebuild.

A set of stairs leads to an iron gate preventing visitors from exploring the old church foundation. But the monastery is hardly just a relic of the past, this quiet place of reflection has been repurposed into a wonderful space for Rhode Islanders to enjoy.

### Cumberland Library

Monastery Park is home to the town library. Enjoy browsing the titles and joining in on the many educational programs. The children's room is a cheerful space with plenty of books and activities to keep the younger crowd entertained.

### Trails

More than just a home for the library, the park offers a network of gorgeous walking trails. Explore 12 different scenic paths, the longest at just over one mile.

Crushed stone and hard packed earth make for easy walking along the paths. Wind through the woods or alongside open fields for an incredible journey.

One trail passes by the former quarrying site where monks harvested stone for their magnificent buildings.

Other trails are former cart paths or just paths used by the Monks for meditative strolls. Enjoy spending time in the natural surroundings whether on a family outing or a solitary hike.

### Nine Men's Misery

The Nine Men's Misery trail takes you to the site where nine colonists were tortured by the Narragansett Indian tribe during King Philip's War. A stone marker was placed in 1676 and this is believed to be the oldest veterans memorial in the nation.



## TOWN OF CUMBERLAND

### Playground

Monastery Park also has a playground which is a huge draw for the kids. Swings and climbing structures are great places for the little ones to stretch their legs and blow off some steam.

The playground will be undergoing renovations during the winter of 2019/2020 and will reopen in the spring with new play equipment, climbing structures, musical instruments and seating.

### Friends' Bookstore

You'll also want to pay a visit to the Friends Bookstore. Discover a large selection of hardcovers, paperbacks, audiobooks, and children's titles. Reasonably priced at \$1 or less each, you won't go home empty-handed.

Source: <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/rhode-island/monastery-park-ri/>

### Location

The Monastery is located at 1464 Diamond Hill Rd, Cumberland RI