

# Concord Trail System Guidebook & Maps

September 2010



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
**Concord, New Hampshire**  
*7<sup>th</sup> Edition* *PRICE \$5.00*



# Concord Trail System Guidebook & Maps

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## **Acknowledgements**

This is the seventh edition of the Concord Trail System Guidebook. New trails have been added and improvements have been made to the existing trails, and there was a need to update the guidebook. A volunteer Trails Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission facilitated the updating process in cooperation with the Planning Division. The Trails Subcommittee reviewed the existing guidebook and made recommendations for revisions and additions to the document. The Subcommittee meets on a monthly basis and consists of volunteers who oversee the maintenance of the trails, reports trail related concerns to the City, and constructs and blazes new trails.

The Conservation Commission hopes the guidebook will encourage people to develop an appreciation of the City's conservation lands and natural resources, while also providing opportunities for recreation, health and fitness, and socialization.

The Commission is thankful for the services of Rebecca Hebert, Planner; Ron Klemarczyk, City Consulting Forester; Seth Pingree, GIS Analyst; and Molly Parsons, Plymouth State University Intern.

For the production of the maps within the guidebook, the City utilized existing GIS data and located via Global Positioning System (GPS) all of the trails to ensure their accurate depiction. The base data consists of US Geological Survey (USGS), City's transportation infrastructure and parcel data, hydrography, and topography information.

## **A History of Open Space in Concord, New Hampshire**

In 1971, when the ordinance establishing the Concord Conservation Commission was created, the City Council specified that “The Commission shall prepare, adopt, and from time to time, review and amend a conservation and open space plan that is generally consistent with the land use plan for the City of Concord, and shall submit said plan to the Planning Board for consideration as part of the comprehensive plan for the City of Concord. In the preparation of said plan, the Commission shall also obtain information pertinent to the proper utilization of open areas in the City, including lands owned by the City and by the State. The Commission shall make recommendations for the better promotion, development or utilization of natural resources and open areas of the City and shall, inasmuch as possible, base its plan and related programs on the concept of multiple uses of natural resources and open space.” In 1993, the Conservation Commission adopted the *Endowment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Conservation and Open Space Plan*. The document was subsequently adopted by the Planning Board as an element of the City’s Master Plan Year 2010 Update. In 2008, the Planning Board adopted the *Master Plan 2030*, which contains a chapter entitled “Conservation and Open Space” and currently serves as the updated open space plan for the City of Concord.

Since its establishment, the Concord Conservation Commission has acquired over 5,000 acres of open space land for forestry, recreation, and watershed protection, and maintains over 56 miles of trails throughout the City. The City harvests timber from the open space land for financial gain, creating wildlife habitat and opening up land for hiking and cross-country skiing. In 1986, a professional forest consultant was hired to assist the Conservation Commission manage its multiple uses of the land. Many of the trails that have been created are a result of skidder trails from logging operations. The related parking areas once were “log yards” for temporary storage of logs prior to trucking them to market. All funding for the management of these forest lands comes from the income received from timber, cordwood, and biomass sales.

The Concord Trail System Guidebook was prepared by the Concord Conservation Commission and the Trails Subcommittee for use by residents of and visitors to the City of Concord. The Commission oversees development of trails and encourages multiple uses of City forest lands.

We are pleased to extend our appreciation to the private landowners, the NH Fish and Game Department, New Hampshire Audubon Society, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and to the NH Division of Forests and Lands for generously permitting Concord to incorporate their trails into our Trail System.

## **Concord's Trails and City Conservation Lands: A Shared Appreciation of Our Legacy**

Maintenance of the trails after they are constructed is primarily accomplished by volunteers. The Conservation Commission hopes you enjoy your hikes, and that you appreciate the many volunteer hours involved in designing, constructing, and maintaining the trails. We appoint volunteer "trailmeisters" for each trail, whose duties are to occasionally check the trails and to advise the Commission when work is needed.

### **In order to preserve our conservation land, please note that City Ordinances prohibit the following on City lands and trails:**

- Motorized wheeled vehicles**
- Camping without permission**
- Fires**
- Littering (including failing to pick up after your pet)**

### **In addition, please adhere to these guidelines to ensure that the trails remain in their natural state and open to the public:**

- Please stay on the marked trails.**
- Please do not disturb the plants and wildlife.**
- Please respect the private property that surrounds the trails.**

As you walk along the trails, please help the volunteers by carrying out everything that you bring in. If you see any rubbish along the trail, please pick it up and take it out. Thank you for helping keep your trails clean.

Some hiking trails will be periodically used for the City's timber harvesting program and will be unavailable for public use during those times. The trail will be posted with signs notifying the public of forestry activities.

Make sure you are properly equipped and prepared for country hiking. Some of our trails are long, rough, or steep and are not suited for novice hikers or cross-country skiers. Be sure to read the trail descriptions, view the topographic contours of the maps, and follow the trail blazes. The Table of Contents provides a list of trails accessible to people with disabilities.

Thank you for your cooperation and happy hiking!

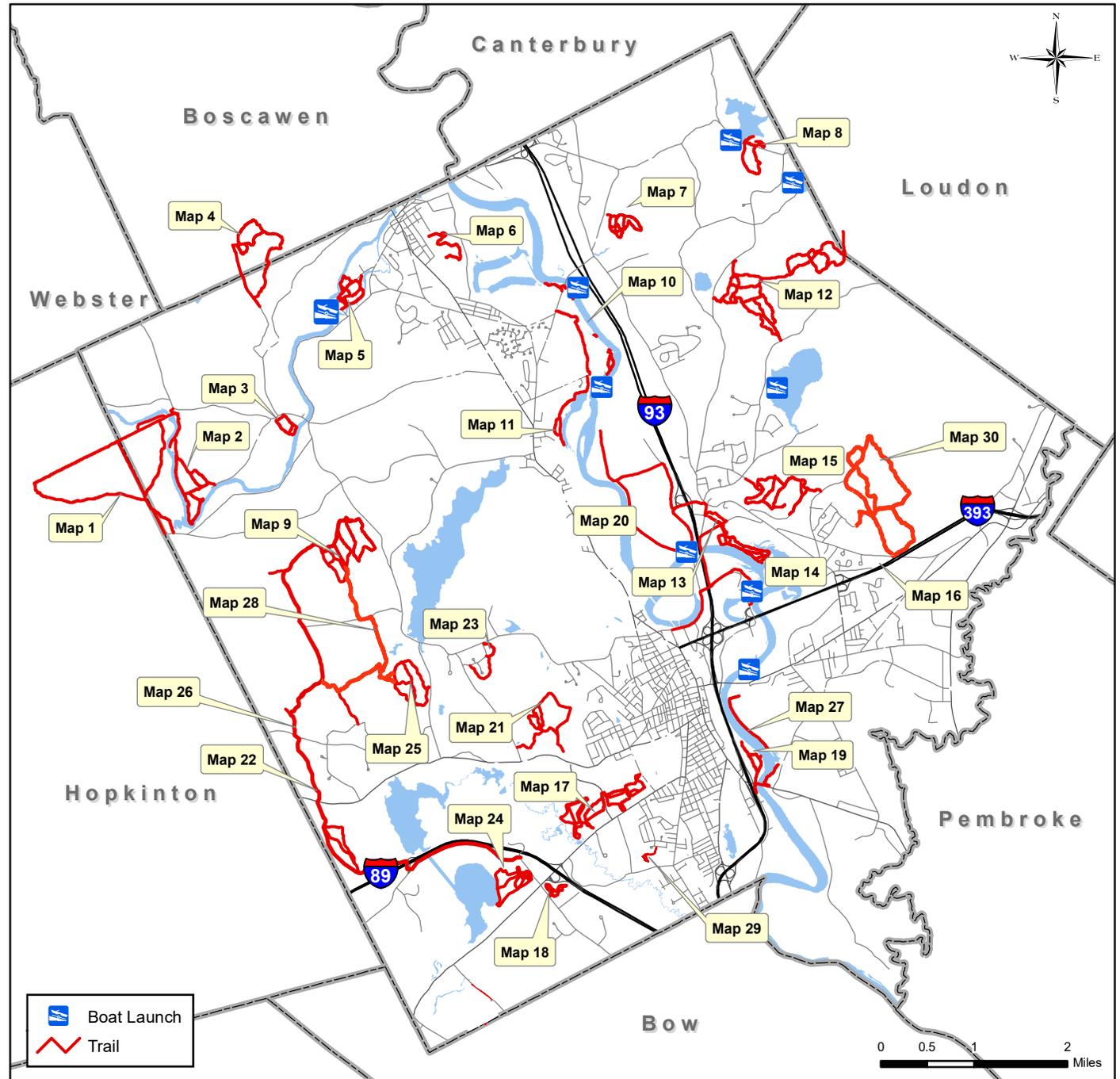
**If you would like to adopt and help maintain a favorite trail, if you have any comments, or would like to report a problem with a trail, please call the Conservation Commission at 225-8515.**

# Index Map Concord Public Trails



Concord  
Conservation  
Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515

Map	Trail System
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30	Broken Ground Trails



## Mast Yard State Forest Trails

### Access to the trails:

From Carter Hill Road, take Broad Cove Drive to its junction with West Parish Road or connect directly to West Parish Road off of Carter Hill Road. Turn right onto West Parish Road. About 1000 feet from the intersection with Broad Cove Drive, there is an opening on the north side of the road, a small area to park your car. Step over the large log to begin your walk.

### The trails:

Hiking travel time: about 2 hours  
Distance: about 5 miles total

The Mast Yard trail on the Concord side is a loop starting at the northwest corner of the parking lot, taking the left fork after crossing Dolf Brook, turning right onto the old railroad bed, right again at the power lines and returning over Dolf Brook. A total of about five miles, the trails also travel into Hopkinton and are flat and excellent for hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing with children. The N.H. Heroes Recreational Crossing bridges the Contoocook River and connects the Mast Yard State Forest with Lehtinen Park. (See Map 2)

### History:

According to *Bouton's History of Concord*, in the early 1800's this area was famous for supplying trees, two to three feet in diameter, that were used as masts for "His Majesty's Royal Ships" and later as masts for various other vessels built on the seacoast. The best masts were from the northwesterly side of Horse Hill. The trees were "drawn" to the Contoocook River to an area now called the "Mast Yard"; then floated down to the Merrimack River. Larger logs were drawn by 52 teams of oxen (104 animals) along Borough Road to the sandbanks below Sewalls Falls and there "thrown" into the Merrimack River and floated to the coast.



Concord Conservation Commission  
225-8515



NH DRED  
271-2214

Map 1

## *Concord Trail System*

# Mast Yard State Forest Trails



New Hampshire Department of  
Resources and Economic  
Development  
Division of Forest and Lands  
Forest Management Bureau  
(603) 271-2214

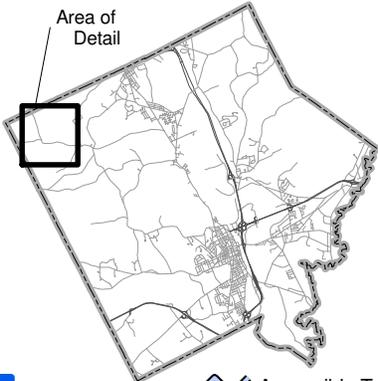
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September 2010

# Mast Yard State Forest Trails

Map 1



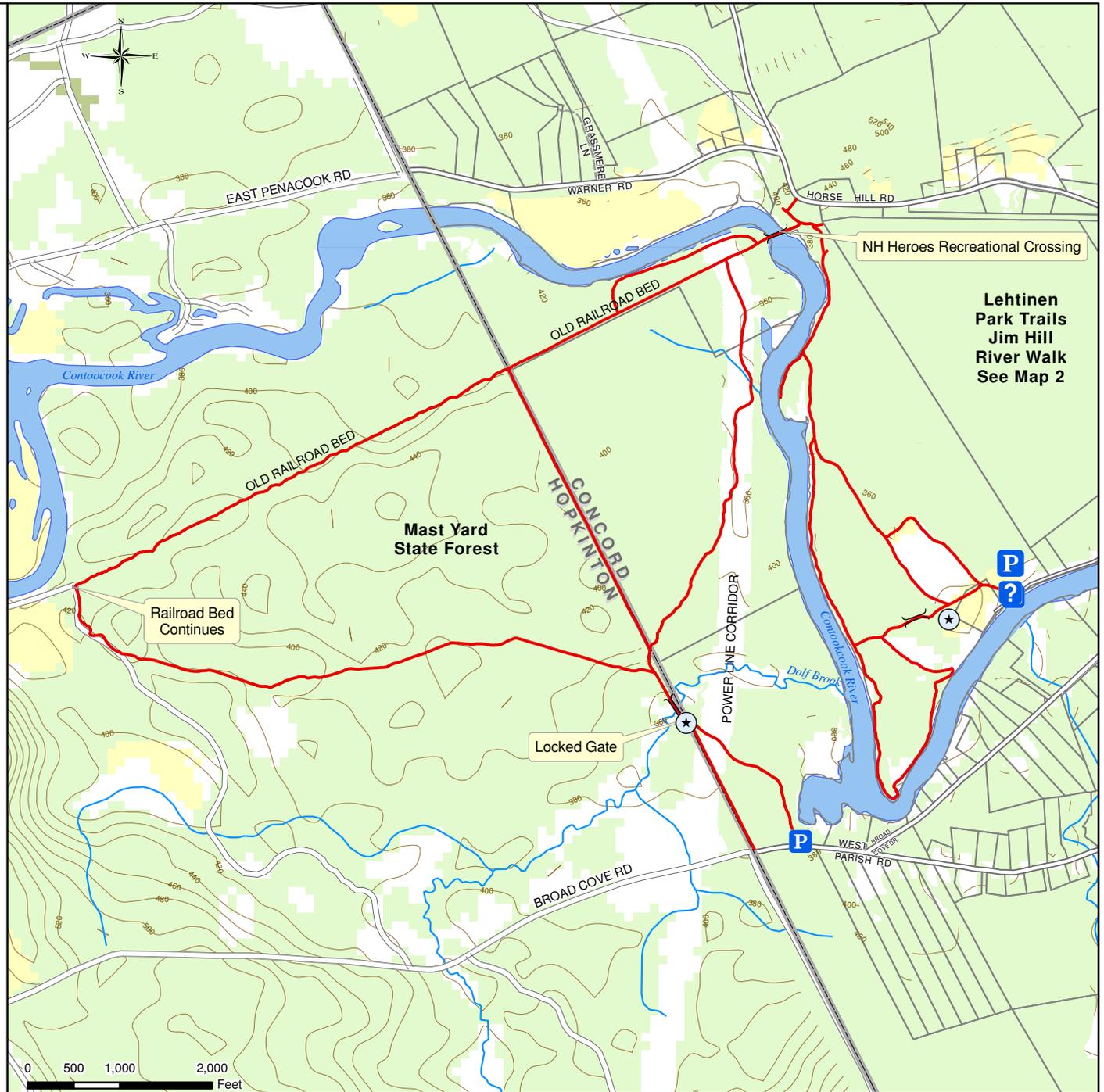
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Concord, NH  
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- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land;
- Do not disturb plants or animals;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Lehtinen Park Trails and Jim Hill River Walk Trials**

### **Access to the trails:**

From Penacook, take Washington Street to River Road. Cross the Horse Hill Bridge over the Contoocook River. The Horse Hill Grange is uphill from here. Take the next left onto Runnells Road. Just before the end of Runnells Road is a field on your right. There is a small clearing to park your car.

The second access is off Horse Hill Road. From Runnells Road, continue on Horse Hill Road for about a mile. At the top of a small hill is a sharp turn. The Lehtinen monument is on the left. Park in the small area near the monument.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 1.5 hours  
Distance: about 3 miles total

Some of these trails follow along the Contoocook River. The trails pass near areas where the Contoocook River floods during the spring. Parts of the trail follow old railroad tracks. This area is full of wildlife; bears have been seen frequently in this area. The N.H. Heroes Recreational Crossing connects these trails with the Mast Yard State Forest. (See Map 1)

### **History:**

According to *Bouton's History of Concord*, in the early 1800's this area was famous for trees that supplied masts for "His Majesty's Royal Ships" and later masts for various other vessels built on the seacoast. The best masts were from the northwesterly side of Horsehill. The trees were "drawn" to the Contoocook River to an area now called the "Mast Yard", then floated down to the Merrimack River. Larger logs were drawn by 52 teams of oxen along Borough Road to the sandbanks below Sewalls Falls and there "thrown" into the Merrimack River and floated to the coast. The mast trees are described as being two to three feet in diameter. Most of this lot was once used for agriculture, including pasture and cornfields.

Lehtinen Park was named in honor of Gustaf Lehtinen, who was the City of Concord's first Planning Director, from 1936 to January 1976. Examples of Gus Lehtinen's foresight can be seen throughout the city.



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225-8515

*Map 2*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Lehtinen Park & Jim Hill River Walk Trails**



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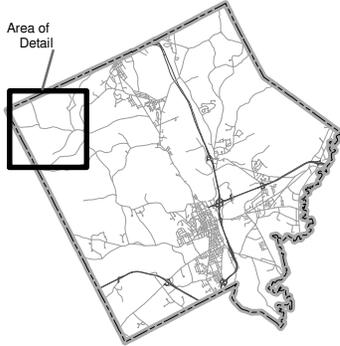
# Lehtinen Park Trails/ Jim Hill River Walk

Map 2



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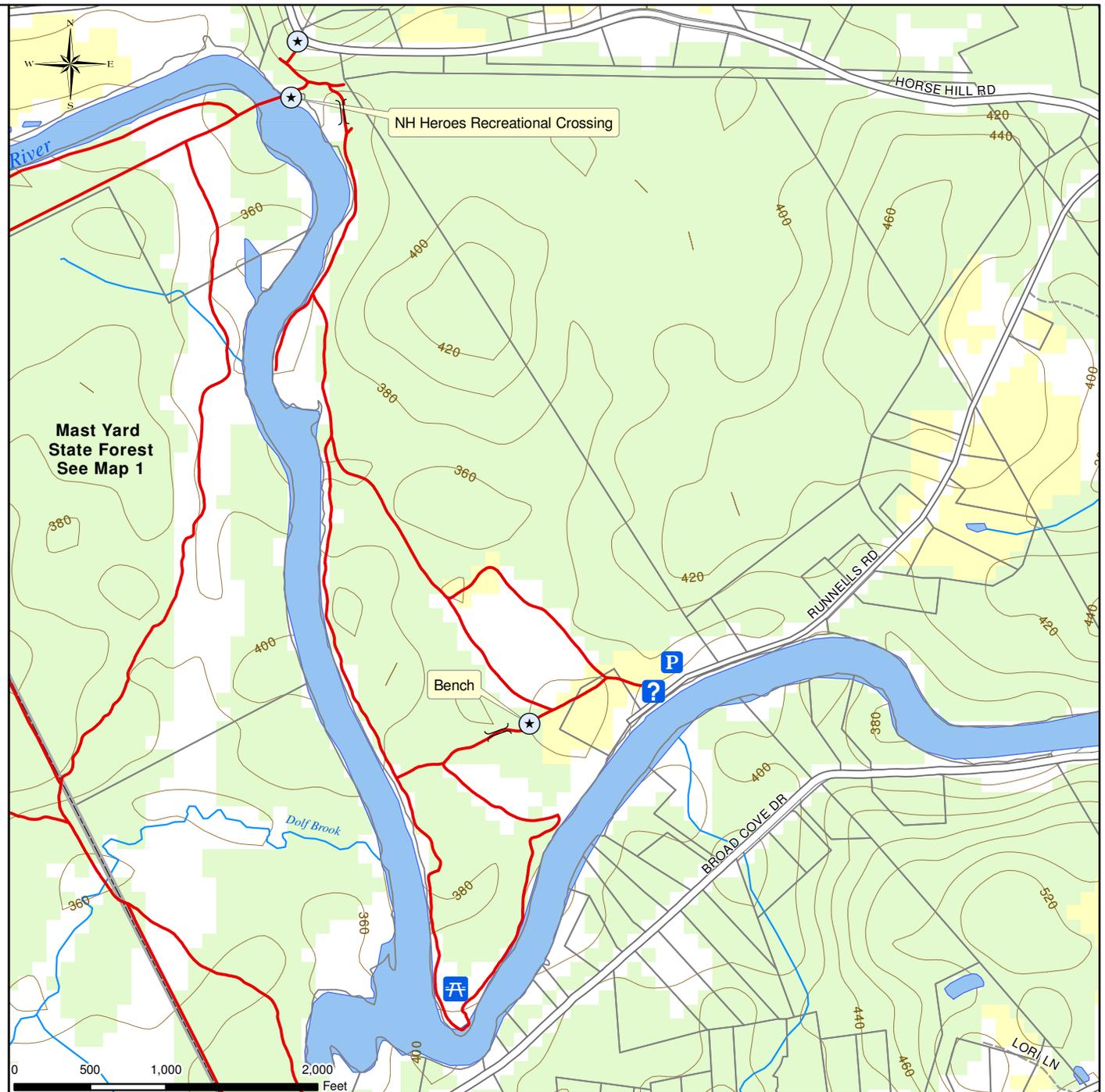
Area of  
Detail



Accessible Trail	Accessible Trail
Boat Launch	Hiking Trail
Bridge	Contours
Information	City Boundary
Parking	Streams
Picnic Area	Water Bodies
Point of Interest	Field
Vista	Forest
	Brush

**To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:**

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- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **O'Reilly-Fleetham Trail**

### **Access to the trail:**

From Penacook, take Washington Street and River Road. Turn right across the Contoocook River onto horse Hill Road, travel 0.3 miles to the parking area on your left.

### **The trail:**

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour

Distance: about 0.75 miles

Cross the grassy area southward to an opening onto the woods road with a deep ravine on the right. Yellow blazes lead you down the hill. Bear left where you will cross over a snowmobile trail which can be used to bypass the trail along the river during times of high water. Many varieties of ferns and flowers decorate this path. Bring along your plant identification books to enhance your enjoyment.

Lush ferns edge an overflow area on your right and bunchberry plants on the ground lead you to a wooden bridge. Notice the snag full of holes made by pileated woodpeckers looking for insects. The holes shelter small birds and animals. A picnic lunch can be enjoyed at the tables.

Follow the river beneath towering white pines. Don't trip in the animal holes, probably made by bank beaver. Notice partridgeberry and Canada mayflowers along the way.

Cross a granite footbridge, reportedly weighing 4500 pounds, moved into place by the Boy Scouts, and go up the hill on the cinder path. At the top of the hill, turn left for a lunch break or snack overlooking the river and the steep abutments of the old railroad bridge.

Turn right to continue your walk on the abandoned rail bed. Those small round clumps of moss are called helmet moss by some, and there are also star flowers, goldthread and club mosses under foot.

Cross another wooden bridge and walk uphill into another pine grove. The trail bears right along the back of an ancient cemetery. Notice

the tombstones now buried in the roots of the large white pine. Was the tree there when the stones were first placed?

Stroll back to the opening where you left your car, through a patch of clover, meadowsweet, goldenrod, evening primrose and toadflax.

### **History:**

The O'Reilly-Fleetham Trail was cleared and blazed by Shawn Hartford and members of Boy Scout Troop # 81, as part of Shawn's Eagle Scout project. They also built the informational kiosk and the bridges on the trail.

The trail was named for George O'Reilly and Dan Fleetham, long time Scout Masters and mentors of Shawn. Both men have been awarded Scouting's Silver Beaver Award. Shawn was awarded his Eagle Scout Award.

Bridge abutments in the river and cinders on the path bear witness that parts of this trail are on the former Concord to Claremont rail bed. For 90 years, until 1961, the railroad carried freight and passengers. Today the trail has tall trees, a wealth of wildflowers, ferns, birds and riverside views.



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225-8515

**Map 3**

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **O'Reilly-Fleetham Trail**



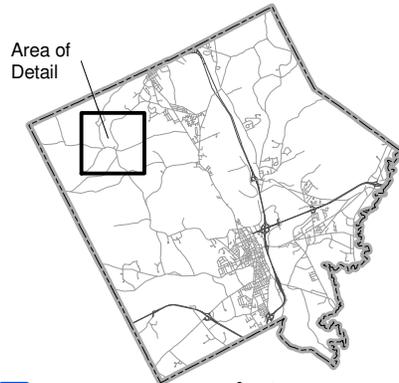
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# O'Reilly-Fleetham Trail

Map 3



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- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Accessible Trail  | Hiking Trail  |
| Boat Launch       | Contours      |
| Bridge            | City Boundary |
| Information       | Streams       |
| Parking           | Water Bodies  |
| Picnic Area       | Field         |
| Point of Interest | Forest        |
| Vista             | Brush         |

**To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:**

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- Be equipped for country walking.



### **Weir Road-Boscawen Town Forest Trails**

The City of Concord, Town of Boscawen, and the State of New Hampshire Fish and Game manage a total of 649 acres for your enjoyment.

### **Access to the trails:**

From Route 3 in Penacook, take Washington Street and River Road to Riverhill. Cross the bridge over the Contoocook River to Horsehill Road and travel uphill to Elm Street. Take a right on to Elm street and drive to Weir Road. Bear left onto Weir Road to a clearing and park your car. Weir Road continues, but must be traveled on foot. **OR** To start this walk from Boscawen, take Queen Street off Route 3 in Boscawen. Turn left off Queen Street onto Weir Road, which leads you to the Boscawen Town Forest and trailhead parking.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 2 hours

Distance: about 3 miles total

From the Concord side, walk straight down the grassy, but not driveable road bordered by stone walls that once edged farmland. You will reach a sign on a tree on your right, with a yellow blaze and an arrow directing you to turn right (east).

Follow yellow blazes throughout the trail. There is a bridge at the outlet into the marsh, and there are flowers to be noticed and enjoyed in the spring: wild oats, wintergreen and partridge berry. A marsh appears on your left and you soon reach a pool where the bridge crosses the outlet. Lemna minor, minute green flowers, float on the surface of the pool. Cattails edge the marsh.

The trail continues uphill, past a patch of mayflowers. When you see red paint on the trees you have reached the border of the Boscawen Town Forest. Painted yellow blazes indicate a turn around to return the way you came. **OR** continue to follow the yellow blazes; the Boscawen Conservation Commission has blazed through the town forest. Please respect the abutting owners; town forest boundaries are marked with red blazes.

### **History:**

The City of Concord bought the land off Weir Road, where this trail is located, from Carter Hill Associates with open space funds. Previously, the land had belonged to Walter E. Sweatt. Part of it was probably on the Weir Farm, now part of the Boscawen Town Forest. The old stonewalls you will walk beside are relics of a time when these woods were clear and were part of an important dairy farm that provided milk to southern Boscawen and Penacook.

Robert and Hannah Hoit sold the Weir farm to James William John Landrick Weir and his sister in June, 1854. It remained in the Weir family and was fully operational until the late 1930's, when John Weir had to give it up for health reasons. The remaining foundation of the farmhouse is an interesting feature of this trail.

The Boscawen Town Forest is owned and managed by the Town of Boscawen, which began to amass the Town Forest property in the 1930s. The majority of the forest consists of the 230-acre former Weir farm and the 180-acre Barnard lot. The land was designated as a Town Forest in 1975; and in 1982, the Boscawen Conservation Commission was given permission to manage the forest and established a Town Forest Management Fund.

Please abide by the Boscawen Town Forest restrictions as noted on the accompanying map.



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
225-8515

**Boscawen Conservation Commission**  
796-2615

*Map 4*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Weir Road - Boscawen Town Forest Trails**



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
September 2010

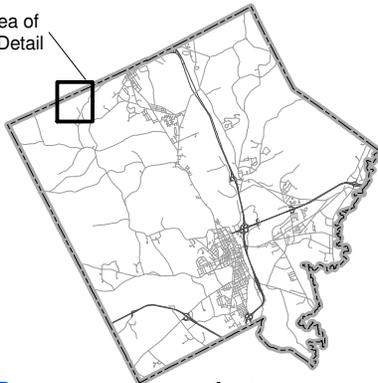
# Weir Road-Boscawen Town Forest Trails

Map 4



Concord  
Conservation  
Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
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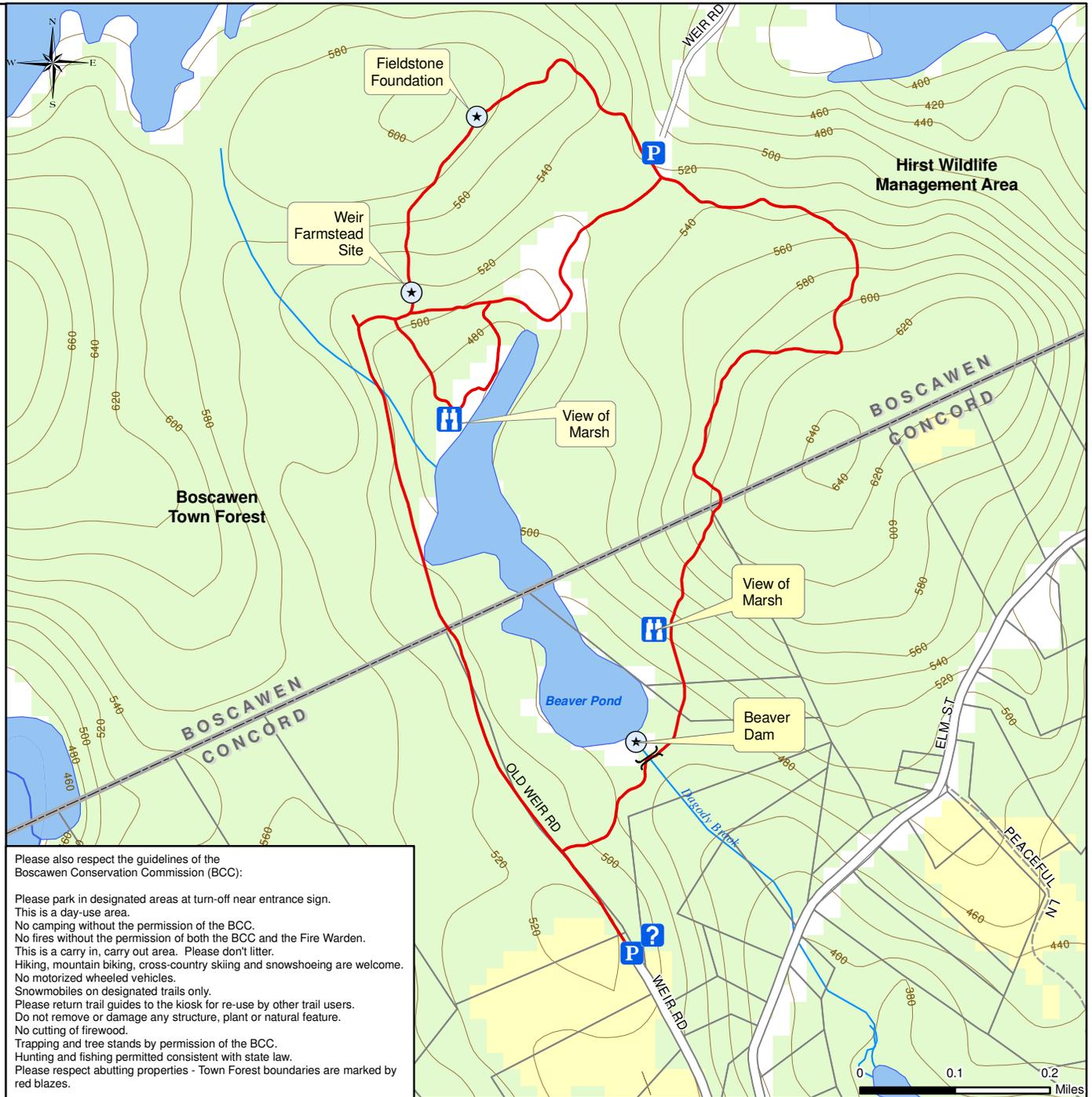
Area of  
Detail



	Accessible Trail		Accessible Trail
	Boat Launch		Hiking Trail
	Bridge		Contours
	Information		City Boundary
	Parking		Streams
	Picnic Area		Water Bodies
	Point of Interest		Field
	Vista		Forest
			Brush

**To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:**

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- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



Please also respect the guidelines of the Boscawen Conservation Commission (BCC):

Please park in designated areas at turn-off near entrance sign. This is a day-use area.  
 No camping without the permission of the BCC.  
 No fires without the permission of both the BCC and the Fire Warden.  
 This is a carry in, carry out area. Please don't litter.  
 Hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are welcome. No motorized wheeled vehicles.  
 Snowmobiles on designated trails only.  
 Please return trail guides to the kiosk for re-use by other trail users.  
 Do not remove or damage any structure, plant or natural feature.  
 No cutting of firewood.  
 Trapping and tree stands by permission of the BCC.  
 Hunting and fishing permitted consistent with state law.  
 Please respect abutting properties - Town Forest boundaries are marked by red blazes.

## Contoocook River Park Trails

### Access to the trails:

From the center of Penacook, drive 0.6 miles on Washington Street to Electric Avenue on your right. Take Electric Avenue 0.2 miles to a gate and parking area across the road.

### The trails:

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour

Distance: about 2 miles

Follow the road past the gate for less than a minute, watching for a path on the right which runs northwesterly past Canada mayflower and wintergreen on the ground, through maples, birch, and hemlock trees, down into a boggy area passable on a wooden plank bridge. Soon, you will reach the end of the trail and its junction with a path that goes both left and right along the river. Turn left.

You are high above the rapids in the river. Notice a rocky outlook and great cliffs, locally known as "The Palisades," rising across the river. There are blueberry bushes along the trail. When you reach the road, proceed in the same direction you have been traveling until you arrive at a clearing at the end of the road. To your right, you will view a dam and waterfall on the river.

Follow the road back to your car or extend your walk east of the clearing at the end of the road, an old road goes into the woods. Follow this road along an old canal. You will reach an opening and an old woods road that goes left along the hydroelectric canal. There are deep blue, closed gentians at the edge of the woods and in the spring, pale blue flag on the water's edge. The road bears left and soon reaches Electric Avenue a few yards past the parking lot. **OR:** East of the circle and a little distance onto the same road from the dam, there's a fork onto a narrower path on the left. This path makes a loop through a patch of lady's slippers and ends on the old trolley track road. Turn right to return to the parking lot. There are also two unmarked short-cut trails that connect the previously mentioned two trails.

### History:

What now looks like just an old dirt road through the forest used to hold trolley car tracks. In the woods along the river was the much-loved Contoocook River Amusement Park. For twenty cents in 1893, and up until the 1920's, you could ride the trolley from downtown Concord to enjoy swimming, dancing, boating, roller-skating, bowling, and even a steamboat ride up the Contoocook River. The park closed in 1925.

Today the area is still popular with boaters and fishermen, but little trace of the park remains. If you follow the well-used trail along the banks of the river into the woods and beside the hydroelectric canal, the shore remains a lovely place to walk, ski or snowshoe.

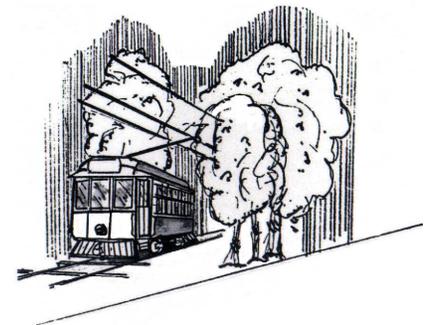


Concord Conservation Commission  
225-8515

Map 5

## *Concord Trail System*

# Contoocook River Park Trails



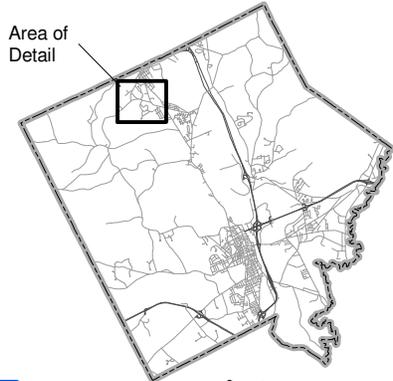
*Concord Conservation Commission*  
*September 2010*

# Contoocook River Park Trails

Map 5



Concord  
Conservation  
Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515



- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

**To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:**

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land;
- Do not disturb plants or animals;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Rolfe Park Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

There are no clear access points, but the trails can be found from the following areas.

1. Follow Penacook Street almost to the base of a hill where the brook crosses under Penacook Street. The trail starts on the west side of the street and follows the brook.
2. As you turn into the driveway of the Merrimack Valley High School, there is a patch of woods directly in front of you which serves as a trail access.
3. The third access point is from the back parking lot of the high school. Head south to the edge of the tree line, then follow the tree line to your left until you find the trail.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour

Distance: about 1 mile total

These trails are not for the faint of heart. Some of the areas are very flat while others areas are quite steep. The most interesting trail is off Penacook Street along the brook. Because of the sensitive sandy slopes and highly erosive nature of the soil, we ask that mountain bikes not be used on these trails. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### **History:**

Abial Walker Rolfe donated the land in 1920, "to be used for a Park, Playground, and Athletic Field." He stated that this donation was "for the moral, physical, and social welfare of all, especially the younger element in the community."

The Rolfe family had much to do with the development of Concord. Henry Rolfe was the first town moderator. Benjamin, his son, born in 1710, was one of the first town clerks. The family purchased hundreds of acres of land in the Penacook area from 1736-1806. Around 1770, Nathaniel Rolfe built a house off Penacook Street. In Penacook, Abial's grandfather Henry and father Nathaniel were born. In 1866, Abial and his brother Charles formed the mill C.M. & A.W. Rolfe, which ran until 1940 and later

became the basis of Riverside Millwork Co. (Rivco).

Another notable member of the Rolfe family was Robert Abial Rolfe, better known as "Red" Rolfe, the New York Yankees' all-time great at third base. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1931, and in the 1950's became the Director of Athletics there.



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225-8515

*Map 6*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Rolfe Park Trails**



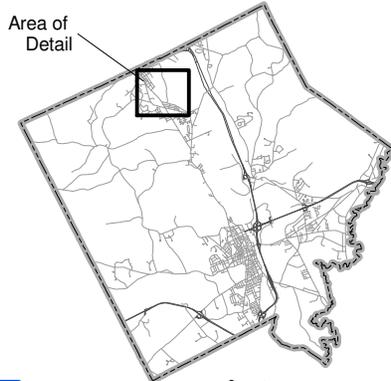
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***September 2010***

# Rolfe Park Trails

Map 6



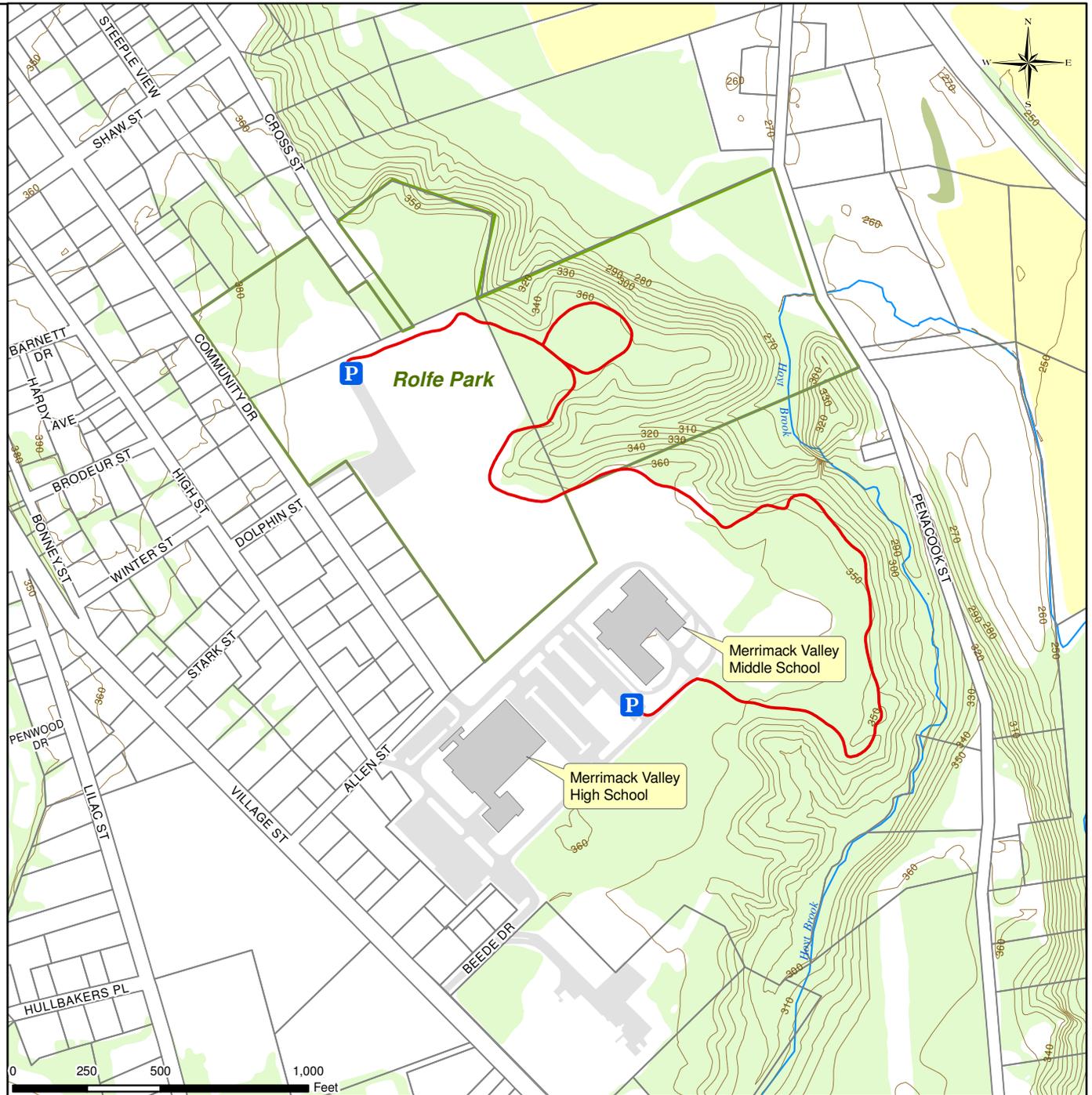
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Conservation  
Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
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- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Accessible Trail  | Accessible Trail |
| Boat Launch       | Hiking Trail     |
| Bridge            | Contours         |
| Information       | City Boundary    |
| Parking           | Streams          |
| Picnic Area       | Water Bodies     |
| Point of Interest | Field            |
| Vista             | Forest           |
|                   | Brush            |

**To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:**

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land;
- Do not disturb plants or animals;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Spear's Park Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

From Mountain Road/Route 132, head north onto Sanborn Road, go about 0.3 miles and look for a trailhead on your right, turn right up a small hill to a parking area. The trails are straight ahead.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour  
Distance: about 2 miles total

The Spear's Park trails are a series of small loops all moderately flat to moderately hilly terrain. The trail system in Spear's Park consists of several foot trails, snowmobile trails and logging roads that connect to the powerline corridor that travels through this area. In general, these trails are easy, except where trails get narrow. They only get narrow for 30 to 40 feet at a time. The major hill is on the powerline tree edge.

As you start on the trail, look for field sparrows and juncos at the entrance near the parking area. Forty feet into the trail is a white mailbox where the trail splits. Many kinds of wildlife and birds are observable in this park. Look along the wood line and see if you can see the brown creeper, woodpeckers, white winged cross bills or saw-whet owls.

### **History:**

Lester Spear, a tree farmer, owned and nourished this property for many years. In 1995, he was named Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Merrimack County Tree Farm Committee. Lester and his wife Yvette were deeply concerned that the farm they loved never be developed. They first gave a conservation easement on the land to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Later, the Spears gave the land to the City of Concord, in memory of Lester's parents, to be designated as Spear's Park and to be forever open to the public for recreational and educational purposes.



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*Map 7*

***Concord Trail System***

## **Spear's Park Trails**



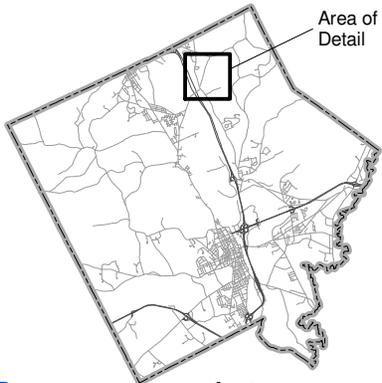
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September 2010***

# Spear's Park Trails

Map 7



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Area of Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

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## **Riley Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

From East Concord take Shaker Road to Hoit Road. Turn left on Hoit Road. There will be a clearing on your right, which is an old home site. The trail to the marsh is in front of you. **OR** From Mountain Road, follow Hoit Road, go past the Marsh and start up the rise. The open area will be on your left. The trail to Snap Town Road will be on the west side of Hoit Road. There is a handicap accessible trail that leads from the parking area to the viewing platform on Hoit Marsh.

The Hoit Marsh Trail is a relatively easy walk, as is the Snap Town Road trail, which travels through some upland property. Please do not hike on the Snap Town Road past the City's trail, as the road is now on private property.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: The Hoit Marsh Trail will take about 20 minutes. The Snap Town Road Trail will take about 45 minutes.

Distance: The Hoit Marsh Trail is about 0.5 miles.

The Snap Town Road Trail is about 0.75 miles.

### **History:**

This property was conveyed to the City of Concord in the will of Paul Riley with the condition that the real estate be used as conservation open space.

This area of Concord was known as "Snap Town." No one is sure how it got its name. One story has it that a man by the name of Blanchard had a habit of snapping his eyes or winking quickly. Another is that an early settler thought that others moving in within a half-mile of his residence were crowding him. He became cross or "*snappish*."

Hoit Marsh is owned and managed by the NH Fish and Game Department. This is a great wildlife area, particularly in the spring and fall when the birds are migrating.

There is evidence throughout the Snap Town Road area of wildlife, including deer, coyote, raccoon and moose.



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New Hampshire  
Fish and Game Department

**NH Fish & Game Department**  
271-3211

**Map 8**

## **Concord Trail System**

# **Riley Trails**



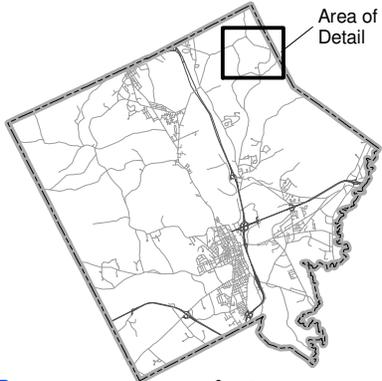
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# Riley Trails

Map 8



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Area of  
Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

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## **Carter Hill Orchard Trails**

### **Access to the trail:**

From Concord, take Penacook Street off North State Street. This road turns into Little Pond Road, then into Lake View Drive, then into Carter Hill Road. As you approach the top of the hill the driveway is a sharp “hair pin” turn to the left. It is 4.5 miles from the corner of North State Street and Penacook Street to the farm.

### **The trails:**

Hiking Travel time: about 1.5 hours

Distance: about 2 miles total

The numbered interpretive signs describe the orchard.

1. The block of trees to your right is called Malling 7A. These are semi-dwarf trees that grow 15' tall and produce 7-10 bushels of apples per tree. The trees are planted 15' apart and the rows are 25' apart (110±/acre). Macintosh and Cortland are the only varieties planted here.

2. As you turn left at Arrow (2) you are walking through 15 acres. of Malling 26. These trees will grow to about 8' tall and will need help to support the weight of the crop; that is why you see a stake is tied to each tree. Planted in this block are Macintosh, Cortland, Fuji, Gala, Elstar, John-A-Mac, Liberty and Rome. The trees are planted 10' apart and rows 18' apart (250±/acre). They produce + 4 bushels per tree

3. At this arrow take a right. To your left is a 3-acre block of Mark Trees (a little smaller than the Malling 26). These trees are planted 8' apart and the rows are 18' apart (300±/acre). These trees will grow to 6' tall and will also need assistance supporting crop weight. These trees will produce 2-3 bushels per tree. If you look to your left you will see Penacook Lake, the city's water supply.

4. At this arrow you are half way home. You are at the top of what is called the 75 block, named for the year it was planted. There are 8 acres of Malling 7A consisting of 700 Macintosh and 100 Cortland trees. Looking behind you, a great maple stands in front of the farm with the distant mountains as a backdrop.

5. This was a 1.5 acre parcel of old trees, which were pulled out and in their place

four kinds of squash planted. It is anticipated that new trees will be planted here soon.

6. This is the site of a 10.5-acre block of Malling 7A consisting of Macintosh, Macoun, Cortland, Rome, Empire, Mutsu, and Delicious. Each row has 110 trees. Walking towards the farm stand, you will have a fine view of the White Mountains, and the farm pond is to your left.

Continue around the woods, take a right and you have reached the end of your walk. We encourage you to climb the observation platform and have a look at the mountain range that includes 19 of New Hampshire's mountains.

In addition, there is a nice looping hike through the woods that you can take as an alternative to browsing through the groves.

### **History:**

The high point of this property is known as Parsonage Hill, once belonging to the farms of Nathan K. and Jeremiah S. Abbott. It is one of the highest points of land in Concord. A 1902 map shows it as having an elevation of 800'. The farm in recent times was known as the Little Farm. The previous owner was the Farnum family. Sunnycrest Farms later owned and operated the orchard and now the property is named Cater Hill Orchard. The existing farm has been at this location for over 75 years.



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**Map 9**

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Carter Hill Orchard Trails**



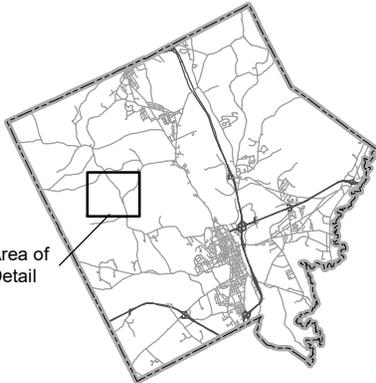
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# Carter Hill Orchard Trails

Map 9



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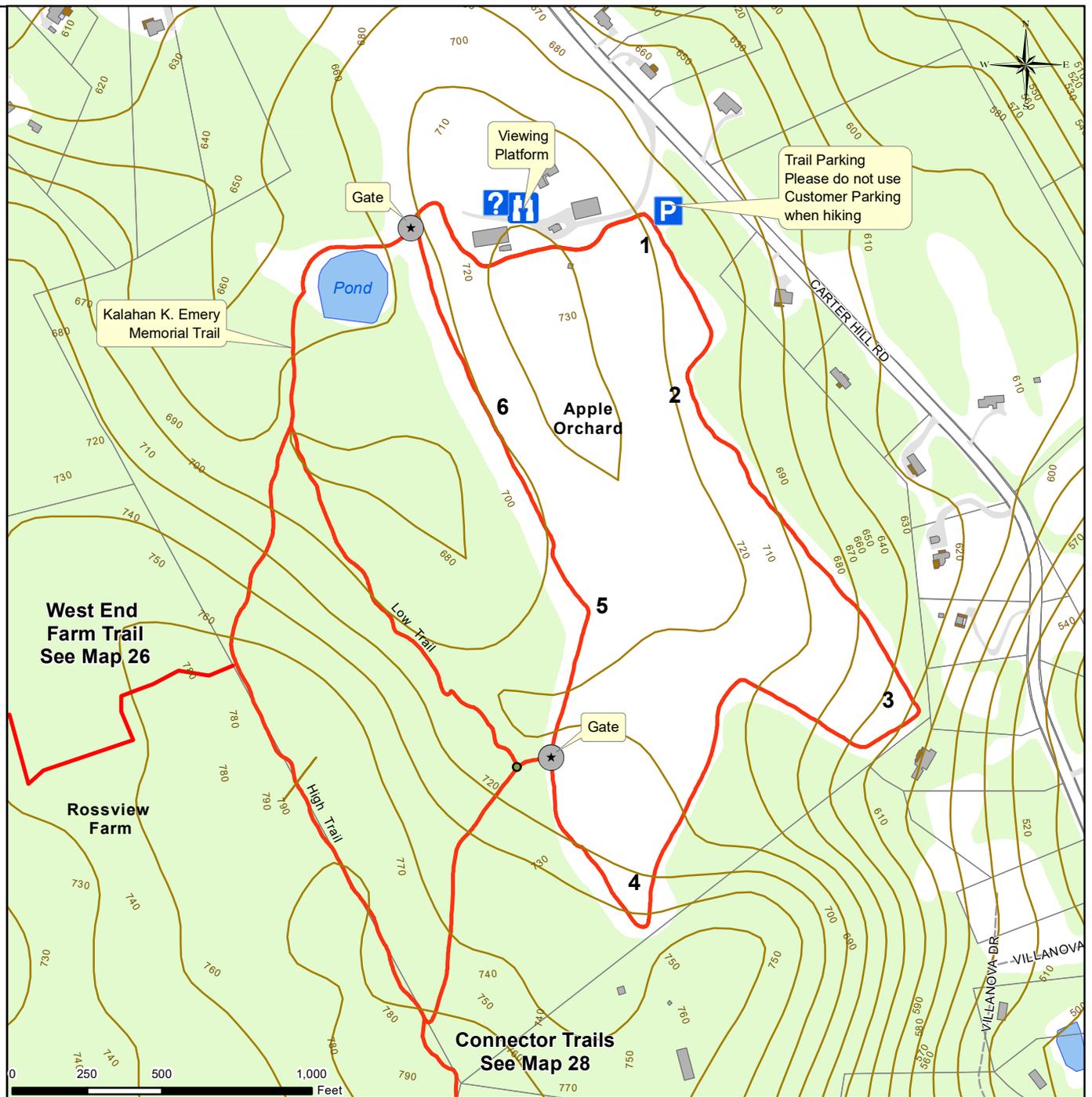


Area of Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Bridge            |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Information       |  | Contours         |
|  | Parking           |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land;
- Do not disturb plants or animals;
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- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



West End Farm Trail  
See Map 26

Connector Trails  
See Map 28

## **Sewalls Falls Park Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

This trail system can be accessed from the bottom of the hill at the end of Second Street. In addition, it can be accessed from Sewalls Falls Road, west of the Sewalls Falls Bridge spanning the Merrimack River, by entering the NH Fish and Game Recreational Area.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour  
Distance: about 3 miles round trip

The main trail, which is mostly flat, begins behind the restrooms building. Walk or ski along the river. An open grassy spot provides a good place to take in the view or have a snack. Next, cross a brook that feeds into the river and goes up a long hill that soon drops down and then levels out to lead you to the trail's end. A loop walk, for about ten more minutes, takes you past picnic tables, beyond the old dam. **OR** Drive down Second Street to the left parking lot. The picnic tables and a beach are just beyond. You can walk the aforementioned trail from here in reverse. At the NH Fish and Game parking lot, a trail leaves the northeast corner for a short additional walk.

Because of the interesting features along the trail, plan a longer stay. It is an easy trail for hiking and cross-country skiing. Fishing areas are available. See Map 11 to extend your walk to Morono Park.

### **History:**

In 1657, this land of 500 acres was surveyed and laid out under a right granted to Massachusetts Governor John Endicott. In 1668, the land was conveyed to John Hull, a wealthy mintmaster from Massachusetts. Upon his death, the property was willed to his daughter Hanna, wife of Samuel Sewall, a judge in the days of witchcraft. Legend has it that this land was the favorite abode of Indian Chief Passaconaway. The area was also used to launch logs from the mast yard into the Merrimack River to float downstream to be used for the construction of Royal Navy vessels.

The Sewalls Falls site was also the site of the longest rock crib dam in the world. Constructed in 1894, the dam was 633 feet of timbers and hand packed stones. On April 7, 1984 pressure from spring floodwaters breached the dam. Much of the hydroelectric canal and gates still exist. It is planned that the site will be redeveloped with a historic museum giving the history of the dam and hydroelectric power in New Hampshire and further providing a wildlife area for all to enjoy. The State of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is developing fishing piers and canoe access points near the hydroelectric plant.

The dam was constructed as part of a plan of the first in Concord major industrial and residential development; however it was never completed.



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**NH Fish & Game Department**  
271-3211



New Hampshire  
Fish and Game Department

*Map 10*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Sewalls Falls Park Trails**

*(Heritage Trail Segments)*



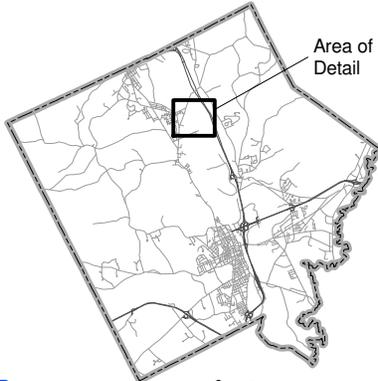
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# Sewalls Falls Park Trails

Map 10



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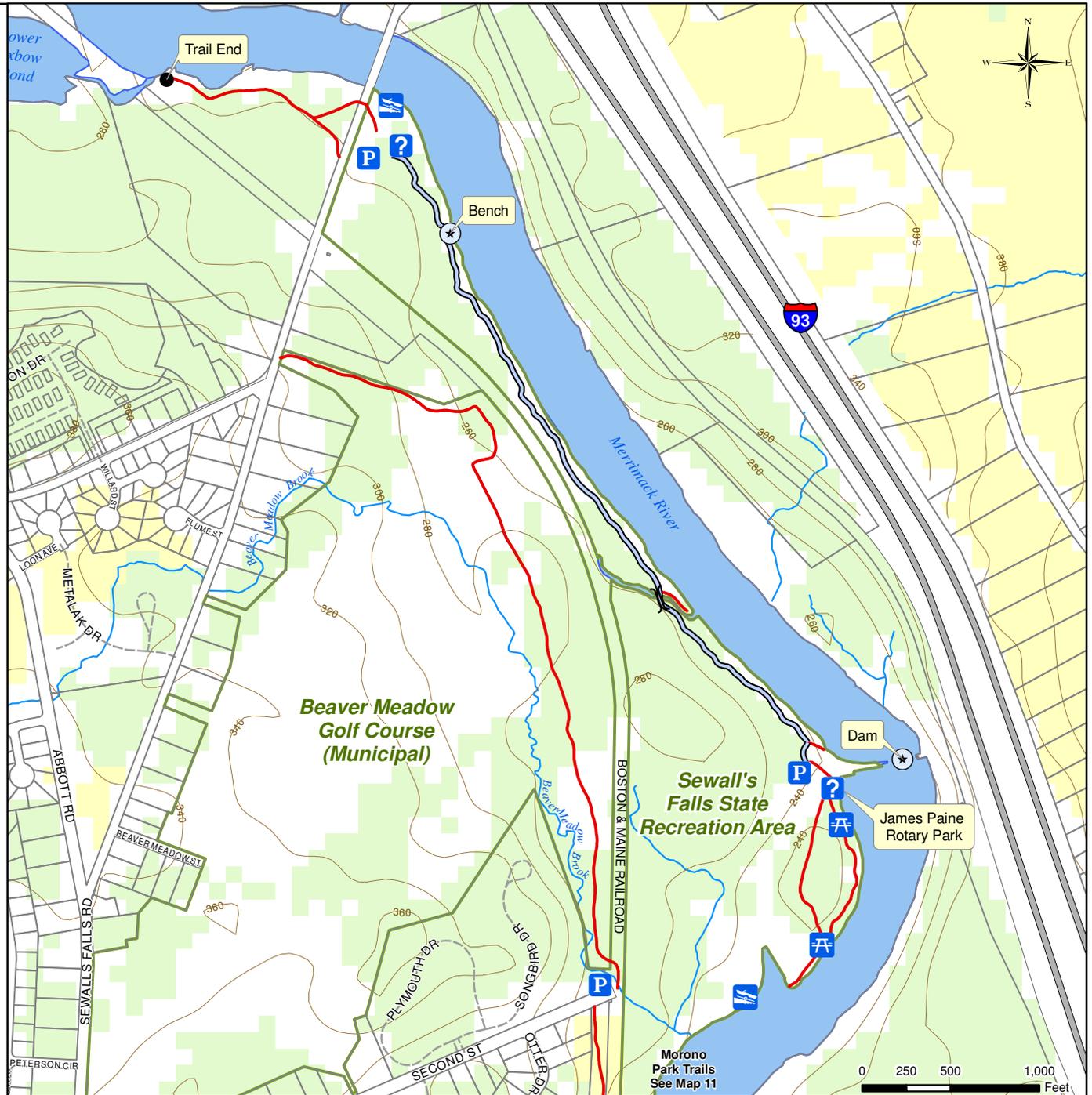


Area of  
Detail

	Accessible Trail		Accessible Trail
	Boat Launch		Hiking Trail
	Bridge		Contours
	Information		City Boundary
	Parking		Streams
	Picnic Area		Water Bodies
	Point of Interest		Field
	Vista		Forest
			Brush

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- Be equipped for country walking.



Morono  
Park Trails  
See Map 11

0 250 500 1,000  
Feet

## **Morono Park Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

The Morono Park trail can be accessed from Second Street. Take Route 3 to Sewalls Falls Road and turn right onto Second Street (between Beaver Meadow School and Beaver Meadow Golf Course). Park in a small parking lot, on the left, just before the railroad tracks. The Morono Park Trails are on the south side of the street before the railroad tracks. There is additional parking further down the road on the right in the NH Fish and Game parking area.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 1.5 hours round trip

Distance: about 2 miles round trip

A wide path goes down a small hill, parallel to the railroad tracks. The trail bears right around the old river channel. Sewall's Island lies between the old river channel and the Merrimack River. Continue along the trail for about ten minutes to reach a wide path to the right. This leads to private property and is not an exit or entrance to the park. In a few minutes, a junction with a narrower trail that also goes to the right is reached. This trail winds through a field below the bluff. It then returns to the main trail. The trail continues south to end at the State Prison property. **DO NOT CROSS ONTO THE STATE PRISON PROPERTY.** Return the way you came.

From the NH Fish and Game Department parking lot, there is a trail to the right of the kiosk that leads down to the river to two handicapped accessible fishing piers, with a short path between them. See Map 10 for more details.

Because of the interesting features along the trail, plan a longer stay. It is an easy trail for hiking and cross-country skiing.

### **History:**

The Morono Park was named after Frank Morono who worked for the City of Concord for 34 years. He was a member of the Fire Department from 1947-1964, building inspector from 1965-1978, and head of the City Building Department from 1979 to 1981. He spent a lot of his free time fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing in this area.



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**Map 11**

## **Concord Trail System**

# **Morono Park Trails**

*(Heritage Trail Segments)*



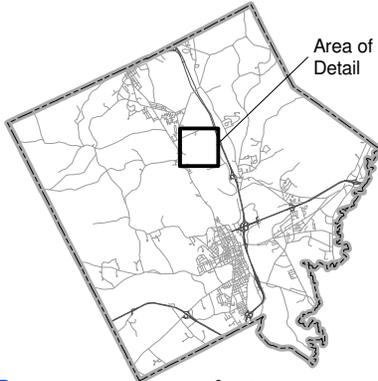
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*September 2010*

# Morono Park Trails

Map 11



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41 Green St  
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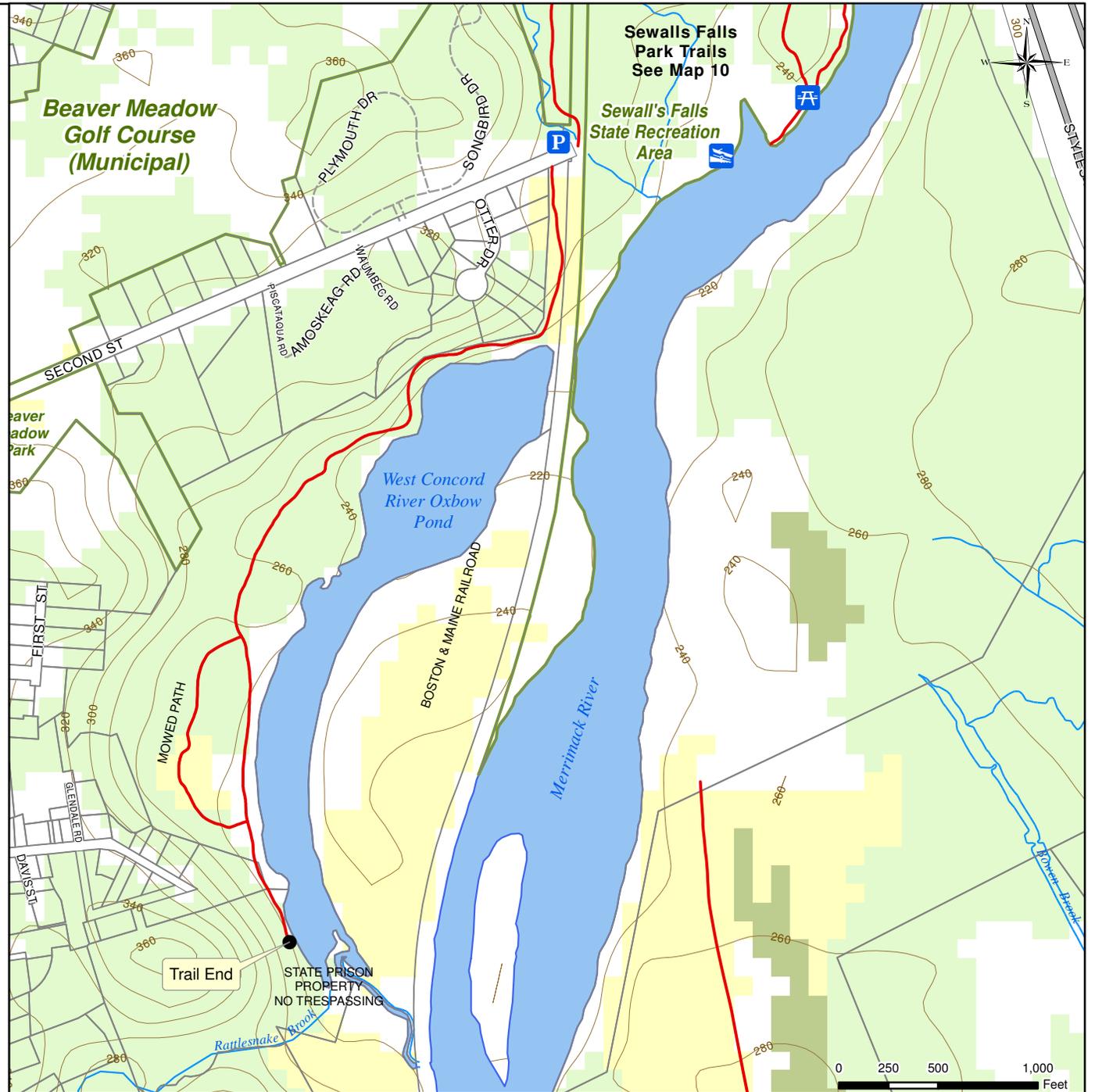


Area of Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

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## Oak Hill Trails

### Access to the trails:

Take Exit 16 off 93N to the stop sign. Turn left onto Mountain Road. Take the second right onto Shaker Road. The trailhead to the Vista Trail is in the southern former log yard on Shaker Road. The trailhead to the Upper Trail and Dancing Bear Trail can be found further north on Shaker Road. This is the main trailhead for the Oak Hill area.

### The trails:

Hiking travel time: several hours, depending on your route

Distance: about 7 miles total

The trail system is designed and cleared for hikers and experienced cross-country skiers. Beginner skiers should not attempt this trail system. The trails were cut during the summer of 1989 and include part of the skidder trails used to harvest the timber in 1988. Since this time, the Krupa Loop and the Dancing Bear Trail have been added providing additional interest to the hike. Trees have been cleared just below the granite ledge outcropping at the vista, affording a view of Mt. Kearsarge. Off the Dancing Bear Trail is a vista with a view of Mt. Kearsarge to the northwest, Ragged Mountain and Mt. Cardigan to the north.

The Way-to-go Trail leading to the Oak Hill fire tower in Loudon and a second connection to Krupa Loop have also been added. These trails were developed with the cooperation of the landowner and the Loudon Conservation Commission. The private road leading down from the Fire Tower is usually gated.

### History:

Oak Hill is a unique area that has gone through many historical changes. In the 1800's, this area was mainly open pastureland. Networks of stone walls and stone cellars can still be found today. The forest used to be American chestnut trees, until the Asiatic blight killed them off in the 1920's. Today Oak Hill has an unusually high number of Chestnut saplings, a reminder of earlier times. This area is also home to one of Concord's largest white oak trees. This landmark

Oak has a diameter of 44.3 inches at breast height (4').

The trail system was color-coded in 2007. The Luti Loop, Ovenbird Scuttle, and Murray Bluff trails may also be accessed from Oak Hill Road.



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225-8515

*Map 12*

**Concord Trail System**

# **Oak Hill Trails**

J.E.H.



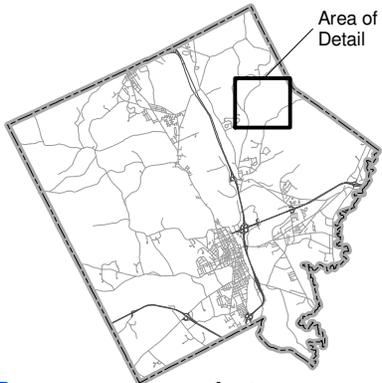
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# Oak Hill Trails

Map 12



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Conservation  
Commission  
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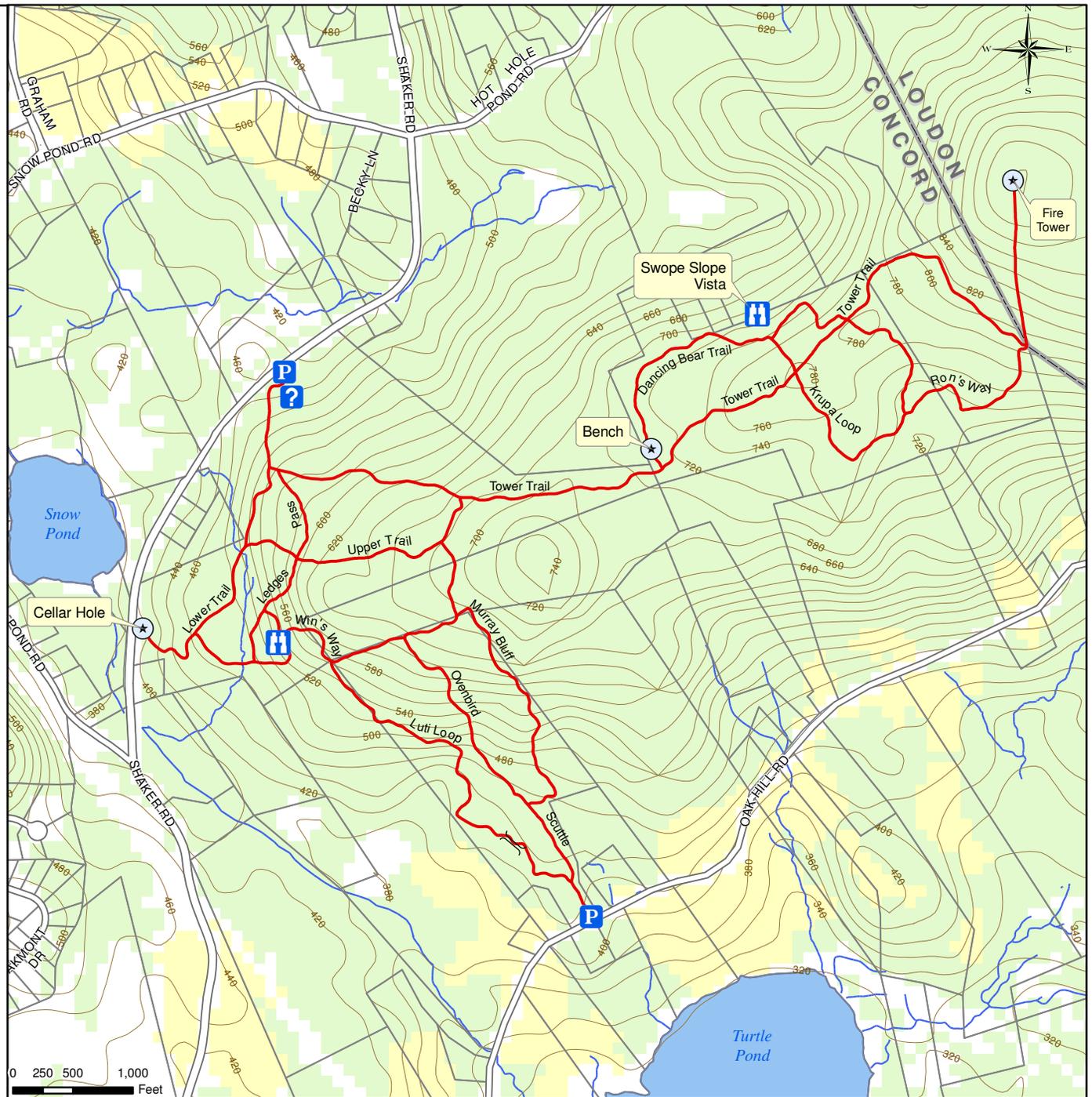


Area of  
Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

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## **Merrill Park Trail**

### **Access to the trail:**

From I-93, take Exit 16, turn right onto Eastman Street, Merrill Park will be on your left.

### **The trail:**

Hiking travel time: about 10-15 minutes for the Merrill Park loop, about 1 hour additional time for the SPNHF trails (Map 15)

Distance: about 0.7 miles on the loop

Leave the parking lot from the Eastman Street side. Cross the culvert at the end of the pond and look for the map box across the clearing. The trail goes into the woods at the north edge of the pond. Parts of the trail are steep and slippery as it winds up and down and along the bank of the brook. Take a right and walk about 100 feet on the road, and then take the loop back along the other side of Mill Brook. This trail will take you on level ground through the woods and back to the park playground and parking lot. **OR** To extend your walk significantly, you can continue on the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) trails along the Merrimack River floodplain by crossing Portsmouth Street into the SPNHF parking lot.

### **History:**

East Concord was along the main route to Portsmouth. Produce of various kinds was hauled to market from north and west on a road that ran through Sanbornton, Canterbury, and the northeastern part of Concord. On this route in East Concord, John Hoyt built a tavern that was famous in its day. The oven was so large that a boy of 12 years old could enter it and turn around. This tavern remained in operation from 1780 until Mr. Hoyt's death in 1805.

The route to Portsmouth eventually became the beginning of the first east-west turnpike from Concord to Portsmouth. Just south of the park at the intersection of Eastman Street and Portsmouth Street, there is a marker recognizing the turnpike. The property where Merrill Park is located was first used as a hayfield by the Hoyts. It was then purchased by William Pecker, who was appointed to the first Board of Fire Engineers in 1845. When the City Charter was

approved in 1845, William Pecker was appointed as Ward 2 representative to the Board of Assessors. Through Jonathan Pecker, who acquired the property in 1873, the land was conveyed to the Episcopal Church with the provision that when the church had no further use of the property, the land would "revert to the City of Concord for a public park". On February 11, 1938, the provision was carried out. The following year, the City began to draw plans for the park.

In 1960, the park was named Merrill Park after Harold D. Merrill, a resident of East Concord and a member of the Board of Aldermen from 1932 to 1942. A pioneer in outdoor recreation, Merrill devoted 25 years to promoting public recreation and guiding youth to use leisure hours to build healthy bodies and good habits.



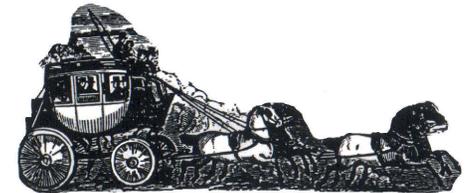
**Concord Conservation Commission**  
**225-8515**

**Map 13**

## **Concord Trail System**

# **Merrill Park Trail**

**(Heritage Trail Segments)**



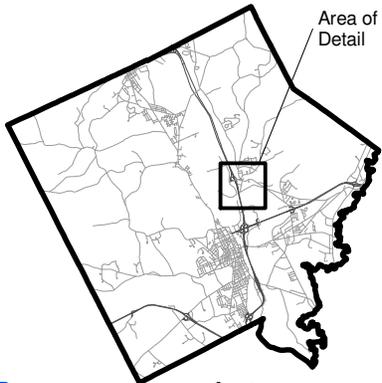
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**September 2010**

# Merrill Park Trail

Map 13



Concord  
Conservation  
Commission  
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Concord, NH  
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Area of  
Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

**To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:**

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land;
- Do not disturb plants or animals;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



SPNHF Trails  
See Map 14

**Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
Trails**

**Access to trail:**

Take 93 to Exit 16. Take a right at the lights onto Eastman Street. Continue to Portsmouth Street and follow the brown and white "Conservation Center" signs. The parking lot will be on the right after a small bridge.

**The trail:**

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour  
Distance: about 1.5 miles

Magnificent white pines surround the Conservation Center atop the bluff, while hardwoods - oak, maple, ash, birch, basswood and hickory - dominate the slope. In spring, a spectacular display of yellow trout lilies may be seen; in autumn, the color show of maples takes over. The trail follows the edge of a beaver pond, along the brook and ends in the Merrimack River, through a spectacular wetland with one beaver dam and several old beaver lodges. Watch for ducks and herons.

Standing on the floodplain of the Merrimack River, notice bittersweet vines entwining the smaller trees, the large dead trees are remains of American elms, killed many years ago by the accidentally imported Dutch elm disease. These snags have considerable value as den trees for mammals and as a source of insect food for the big, red-crested pileated woodpecker and other birds.

Birds can be seen along the trail. Year-round residents and migratory species both take advantage of this varied landscape near the heart of the city. Especially attractive are summer visitors, such as the cardinal, oriole, and rose-breasted grosbeak.

Most mammals prefer to come out at night and are often detected by their tracks in mud or snow. Deer are often observed along the edge of

clearings, and beaver workings can be seen in many locations. As you walk, keep a keen eye out for these signs, as well as for the turtles, frogs, toads, snakes, salamanders, and insects that make the floodplain their home too.



**Concord Conservation Commission  
225-8515**

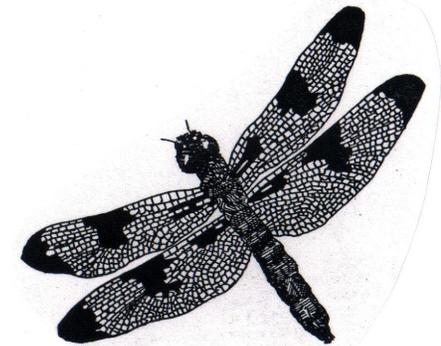
**Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
54 Portsmouth Street  
Concord NH, 03301  
(603) 224-9945**

*Map 14*

***Concord Trail System***

**Society for the  
Protection of  
New Hampshire  
Forests Trails**

**Les Clark Nature Trail  
(Heritage trail segments)**



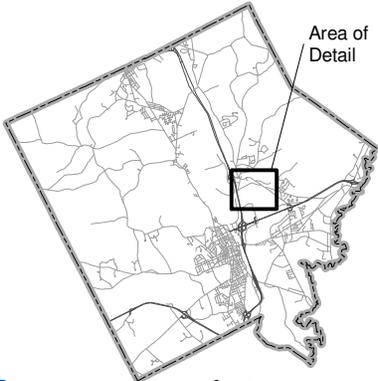
**Concord Conservation Commission  
September 2010**

# Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests Trails

## Map 14



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515

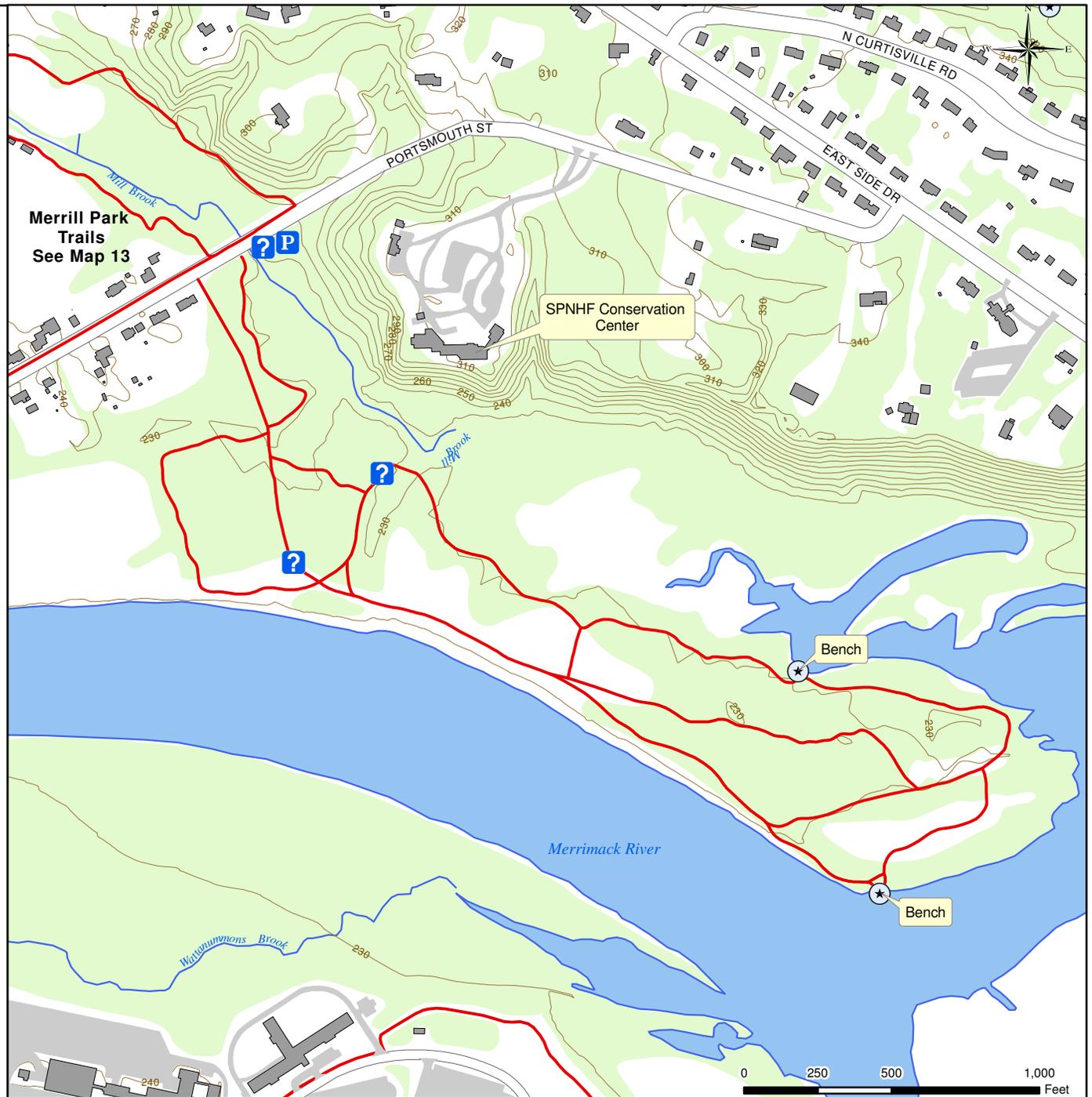


Area of Detail

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Accessible Trail  | Hiking Trail  |
| Boat Launch       | Contours      |
| Bridge            | City Boundary |
| Information       | Streams       |
| Parking           | Water Bodies  |
| Picnic Area       | Field         |
| Point of Interest | Forest        |
| Vista             | Brush         |

**To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:**

- All wheeled vehicles are prohibited on SPNH land;
- Do not disturb plants or animals;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Curtisville & Batchelder Mill Road Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

To get to the Curtisville Road Trail, take Portsmouth Street easterly to South Curtisville Road. Follow South Curtisville Road for about half a mile, almost to the end, where there will be a substantial beaver dam on the right. Drive about 0.10 miles from the dam. The trail access will be to the left.

To get to the Batchelder Mill Road Trail from East Concord, take Shawmut Street from Route 132 at the outlet of Exit 16 on I-93. Go about 0.5 miles on Shawmut Street from Route 132. Turn right onto Batchelder Mill Road. At the end of the road, there is a small area to park. Proceed to the small bridge over Mill Brook. **OR** From East Side Drive take Portsmouth Street easterly to South Curtisville Road and turn left. Drive past the entrance to Broken Ground School. The gated end of North Curtisville Road will soon appear on the left. Park alongside the approach to the gate and walk up North Curtisville Road. The entrance to the trails is about 800 feet to the north on a discontinued road.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 0.5 hours for the Curtisville Road Trail and about 2 hours for the Batchelder Mill Road Trail.

Distance: about 0.7 miles for the Curtisville Road Trail and about 2 miles for the Batchelder Mill Road Trail system.

The Curtisville Road Trail is flat and easy to walk. Parts of the Curtisville Road trail are used by snowmobiles. Please use caution during the winter months.

The Batchelder Mill Road Trails are the by-product of logging that occurred some years ago. The trails were made when logs were dragged from where they were cut to where they were loaded onto trucks. The trails have been marked with colored painted blazes. Stay on the blazed trails if you are concerned about getting lost.

### **History:**

Mill Brook, which is located near the entrance to the trails on Shawmut Street and Batchelder Mill Road, played a significant role in the history of Concord. On the westerly side of Mill Brook are remnants of an old brick mill where bricks were manufactured as early as 1734. This was one of several areas in the City where clay deposits were readily available. Near the bridge to your left is a rise in the earth. This was an old dam, believed to be the first in Concord. It was created to hold back the water, in order to run a water wheel at one of the many mills that lined Mill Brook. An observation deck now overlooks the wetland that was once the Mill Pond.

The land where a majority of these trails are located, called Broken Ground, is the remnant of a glacial delta which was once known as the Dark Plains, and now as Concord Heights. It is a pine barren with soils of deep, fine sand and vegetation of scrub pine and scrub white oak. Early explorers described this land as having little value. Legend has it that prisoners in Concord's early days were never found after they broke out of prison and made their way across the Merrimack River into the Dark Plains. The premise was that the area was so rugged one would become disoriented and lost forever.

The land that the Curtisville Road Trail was blazed upon was purchased using Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds.



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
**225-8515**

*Map 15*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Curtisville & Batchelder Mill Road Trails**

**(Heritage Trail Segments)**



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
**September 2010**



## **East Sugar Ball Road Trail**

### **Access to the trail:**

This very short trail connects East Side Drive and Portsmouth Street. From East Side Drive, go east to the end of East Sugar Ball Road. The paved path is in front of you.

### **The trail:**

Hiking travel time: about 10 leisurely minutes  
Distance: about 1200 feet.

Most people use this trail as part of an exercise route. At the end of the path turn left on Portsmouth Street to Broken Ground Drive. Take Broken Ground Drive to East Side Drive, then left on East Side Drive to East Sugar Ball Road, back to the area where you parked your car. The whole loop is an easy 1.5-mile walk.

### **History:**

This trail is short, but is long on history. Penacook Indians constructed a fort on the Sugar Ball bluff from which they could watch the whole river valley. The Penacooks and the Mohawks were at war in 1623. Through clever maneuvering, the Mohawks were able to “flush” the Penacooks from their fort to the valley below and attack the fort. The artifacts that have been recovered near the fort site seem to indicate this battle may have further weakened the Penacook tribe. Archaeologists are not sure of the exact location of the fort.

On Friday May 13, 1726, 26 potential settlers, including surveyors and chain men arrived at the bluff called the Sugar Ball to begin to lay out the settlement of Penny Cook.

Shortly thereafter, a meetinghouse was built in which Timothy Walker held his first church service, establishing what is now the First Congregational Church in Concord. On the west side of East Side Drive, there is a monument marking this spot.

Portsmouth Street itself was the first east-west turnpike in the state.



**Concord Conservation Commission  
225-8515**

*Map 16*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **East Sugar Ball Road Trail**



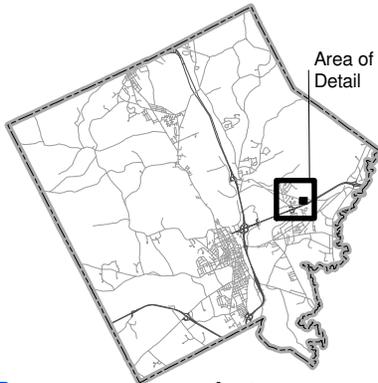
***Concord Conservation Commission  
September 2010***

# East Sugar Ball Road Trail

Map 16



Concord  
Conservation  
Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515

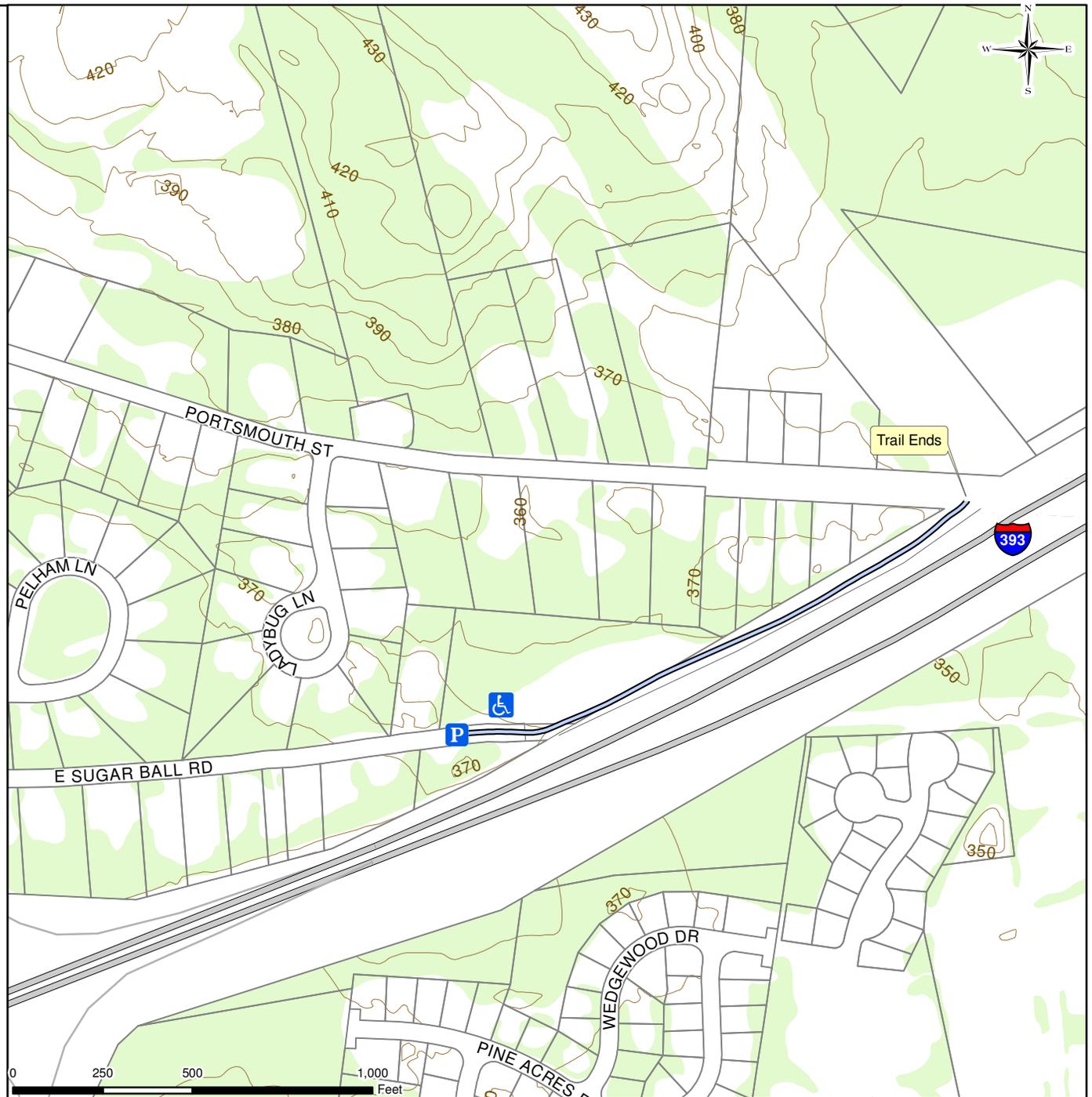


Area of  
Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

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- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Turkey River/White Farm Winter Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

There are two access points for the Turkey River/White Farm Winter Trails. The first is from Memorial Field. Park at the Memorial Field parking lot; and the trails begin just past the ticket booth.

The second access is at White Farm (State Surplus property). Park on the left after turning off of Clinton Street, before the gated entrance to the State Surplus facility, the trails begin to the left of the barn.

Winter trail conditions are weather dependent, ski at your own risk.

### **The Trails:**

The groomed trail system has approximately 6.5 km of ski trails and 3.5 km of multi-use trails. The ski trails are marked with yellow signs and are maintained for skiing only. Please no pets, walking, or snowshoeing on the groomed ski trails. The Green signs mark the multi-use trails, which are provided for all other trail users. Cross country skiing enthusiasts volunteer to maintain the ski trails. Please respect the trail signage.

The Memorial Field trails connect with the trails on the White Farm property through a tunnel under Langley Parkway. The ski trails generally follow the perimeter of the field, and the multi-use trails are usually the interior loop. At the eastern entrance to the tunnel under Langley Parkway, a ski trail extends up through the woods to the lawn behind the Pleasant View Retirement Center. Backcountry skiing and snowshoeing are popular activities in the wooded area to the north of the agricultural fields.

### **History:**

Nathaniel and Armenia White owned this property. It was described as a farm that was spotless. The farm was opened in the 1840's and eventually became a stop on the Underground Railroad for slaves fleeing the south. The Whites

led efforts in the temperance and women's suffrage movements. Armenia established the Centennial Home for the Aged, now known as the Centennial Inn. Nathaniel White, from Lancaster, N.H., was born poor, but died in 1880, as one of the wealthiest men in New Hampshire. He started as a dishwasher at the Colombian Hotel in Concord; became a leader in Concord-Boston Coach lines; took a position as railroad director; became an "Old Guard Republican"; and, was later selected head of the electoral tickets for Garfield and Arthur.



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
225-8515

*Map 17*

**Concord Trail System**

# **Turkey River White Farm Winter Trails**



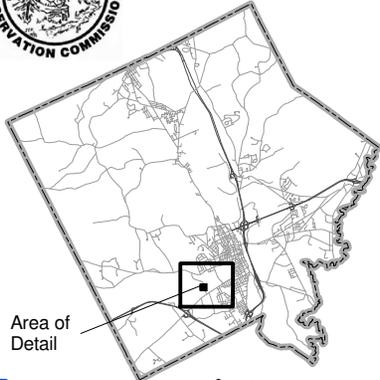
**Concord Conservation Commission**  
September 2010

# Turkey River/ White Farm Winter Trails

Map 17

Concord  
Conservation  
Commission

41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515

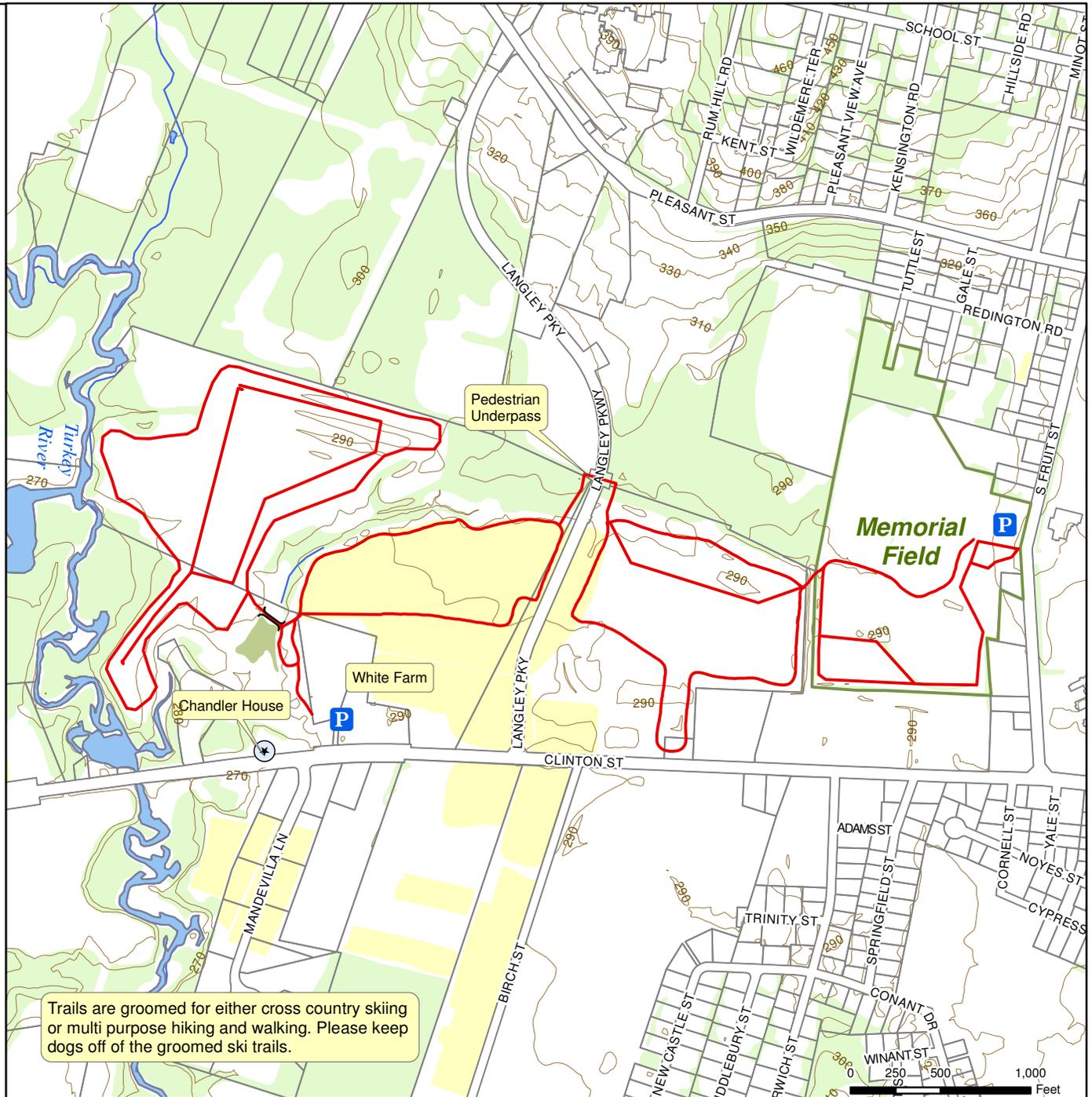


Area of  
Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

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- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Upton-Morgan State Forest** **Interpretive Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

This trail is on Silk Farm Road. From Concord travel west on Clinton Street (Rt. 13) and pass under I-89. Turn left at the blinking light onto Silk Farm Road. After a very short distance, there will be a wooden sign on your left reading Upton-Morgan State Forest; there is a parking area that will accommodate several cars.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 0.75 hours (leisurely walking)

Distance: about 0.75 miles

This trail is a very nice, interpretive trail with clearly marked signs delineating various natural phenomena. There are three trails, the white blazed access trail which leads to two trails on the left, the red and the yellow trails to the right. On the red trail, you will see American Chestnut, raptor's nests, signs of a pileated woodpecker and old snags. On the yellow trail, you will find a pine forest, aspen forest, cavity trees, regeneration forest, oak forest, and deer barking. This forest offers a wonderful introduction to the woods for young children. Because of tight turns and a narrow bridge, the trail is recommended for walking only.

### **History:**

In 1835, entrepreneurs Isaac Hill, Able Cady, G. Parker Lyon, Stephen Brown, Moses G. Atwood, Samuel Evans, Charles Smart, and John Whipple wanted to develop a unique industrial base for the City. They purchased the Ballard Haselton farm at the intersection of the road leading to Dunbarton (Clinton St.) and the road from St. Paul's School to Bow (now Silk Farm Rd). They paid either \$25,000 or \$75,000 for the farm depending on the reference. The intended purpose was to cultivate silkworms to produce silk. Hundreds of Mulberry Trees were planted to feed the silk worms. Unfortunately, a few years after the start of the Silk Farm, the manufacturing of silk failed. The name of the road still survives.

David Morgan and Mark Upton purchased the land in 1901. They held it until 1917, when they conveyed the land to the Asylum for the use of its patients. In 1972, the NH Health and Welfare Department no longer needed the property and transferred it to the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands who developed the trail. The interpretive signs were an Eagle Scout project of Addison Whitworth, of Boy Scout Troop 81 in West Concord.



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
225-8515

**New Hampshire Department of  
Resources and Economic Development  
Division of Forest and Lands  
(603) 271-3456**

*Map 18*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Upton-Morgan State Forest Interpretive Trails**



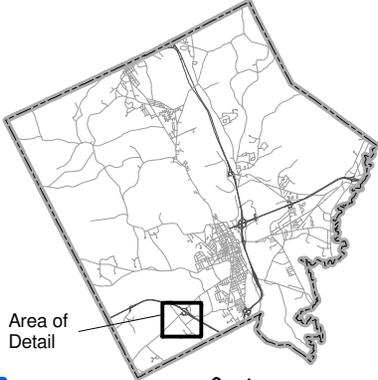
***Concord Conservation Commission***  
***September 2010***

# Upton-Morgan State Forest Interpretive Trails

Map 18



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515



Area of Detail

- |  |                   |  |               |
|--|-------------------|--|---------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Hiking Trail  |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Contours      |
|  | Bridge            |  | City Boundary |
|  | Information       |  | Streams       |
|  | Parking           |  | Water Bodies  |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Field         |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Forest        |
|  | Vista             |  | Brush         |

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- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Healy and Terrill Park Trails**

### **Access to the trail:**

The two trails are linked together via the Manchester Street bridge sidewalk and can be accessed from two locations. The Healy Park trailhead is located at the end of Basin Street, and the Terrill Park trailhead is located on the west side of Old Turnpike Road, at the northern end of Terrill Park.

### **The trail:**

Hiking travel time: approximately 1 hour  
Distance: approximately 2 miles

### **Description:**

Healy Park is a naturalized area on the west side of the Merrimack River, where hikers can see a wide variety of plants, animals, and birds. The Healy Park Trails flood during the spring and fall, and are not accessible during periods of high water along the Merrimack River.

The Terrill Park trail is surfaced with stonedust, and the trail may be suitable for handicapped users. The trail meanders through the park and provides beautiful views of the Merrimack River and the State House.



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
225-8515

*Map 19*

***Concord Trail System***

# **Healy and Terrill Park Trails**



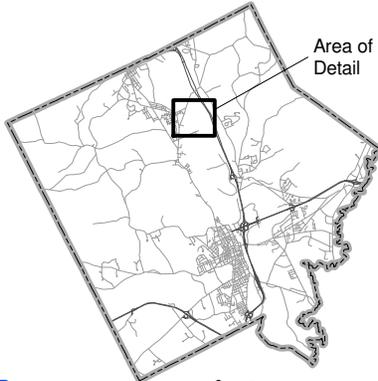
***Concord Conservation Commission***  
*September 2010*

# Healy and Terrill Park Trails

Map 19



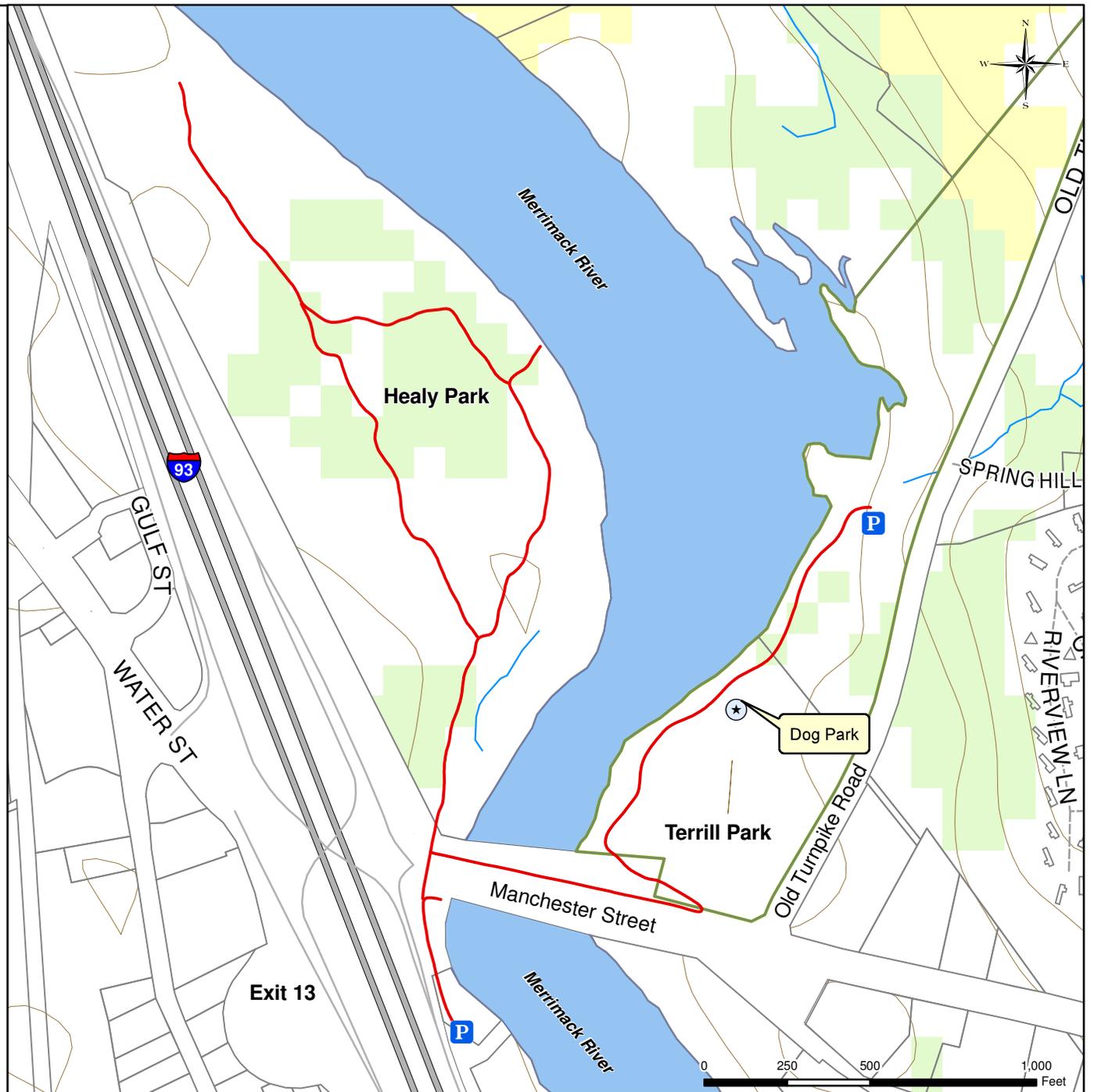
Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515



- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Accessible Trail  | Accessible Trail |
| Boat Launch       | Hiking Trail     |
| Bridge            | Contours         |
| Information       | City Boundary    |
| Parking           | Streams          |
| Picnic Area       | Water Bodies     |
| Point of Interest | Field            |
| Vista             | Forest           |
|                   | Brush            |

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- Be equipped for country walking.



## **East Concord Heritage Trail**

### **Access to the trails:**

To access conservation land along the Merrimack River, take Exit 16 off of I-93. Turn west towards the river, and then turn right onto Locke Road; park at the trailhead adjacent to the gated entrance to West Locke Road. Walk westerly along the dirt road towards the river. For the urban segments of the Heritage Trail, public parking is located at the NH Technical Institute (NHTI).

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: about 2 hours

Distance: about 3 miles total

The trails consist of off-road and on-road sections. The trail segments that follow pathways or sidewalks adjacent to existing roads include the sections from West Locke Road to West Portsmouth Street and the section from Horseshoe Pond to I-393 through the New Hampshire Technical Institute. The trail segment from West Locke Road, westerly to the Merrimack River, and then southerly along the river to reconnect with West Portsmouth Street is more rural.

### **History:**

European settlers arrived in 1726 to find Penacook Indians farming the broad, fertile floodplains of the Merrimack River. House lots were laid out along Main Street on a bluff above the interval that was divided into tillage plots. In the 1800's, this agrarian community became the State's capital, as well as the railroad center of northern New England. The Abbott & Downing Company gave Concord national stature with the manufacturing of the Concord Coach, and Concord granite was quarried (and still is!) and used in prominent buildings throughout the country. Additionally, President Franklin Pierce practiced law here. His home, office, and gravesite are located in and adjacent to the Historic District at the north end of North Main Street.

Much of the floodplain is still used for agricultural purposes. The river valley is framed by steep sandy bluffs to the east of downtown

and in the area of West Concord and Penacook. There are a number of oxbow ponds left from the river's meandering.

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests owns a substantial area of riverfront below the Conservation Center and holds easements on Horseshoe Island. The State of New Hampshire owns land occupied by the NHTI, site of the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium, as well as farmlands associated with the State Prison, and the Sewalls Falls Recreation Area. The City of Concord owns Terrill Park and Arena Park as well as conservation lands. Boat ramps are located at the City parks, Sewalls Falls, NHTI, and at a site off West Portsmouth Street maintained by the NH Fish and Game Department.

The Heritage Trail is a proposed 230-mile walking trail from the Massachusetts line to the Canadian border, many miles of which are complete.



**Concord Conservation Commission**  
225-8515

*Map 20*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **East Concord Heritage Trail**

*(Heritage Trail Segments)*



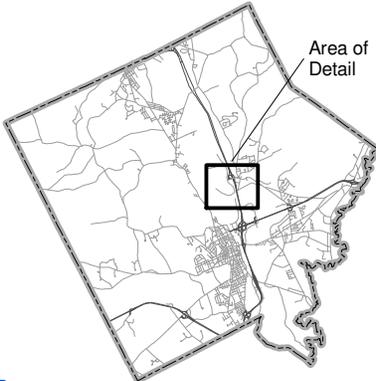
***Concord Conservation Commission***  
***September 2010***

# East Concord Heritage Trail

Map 20



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515

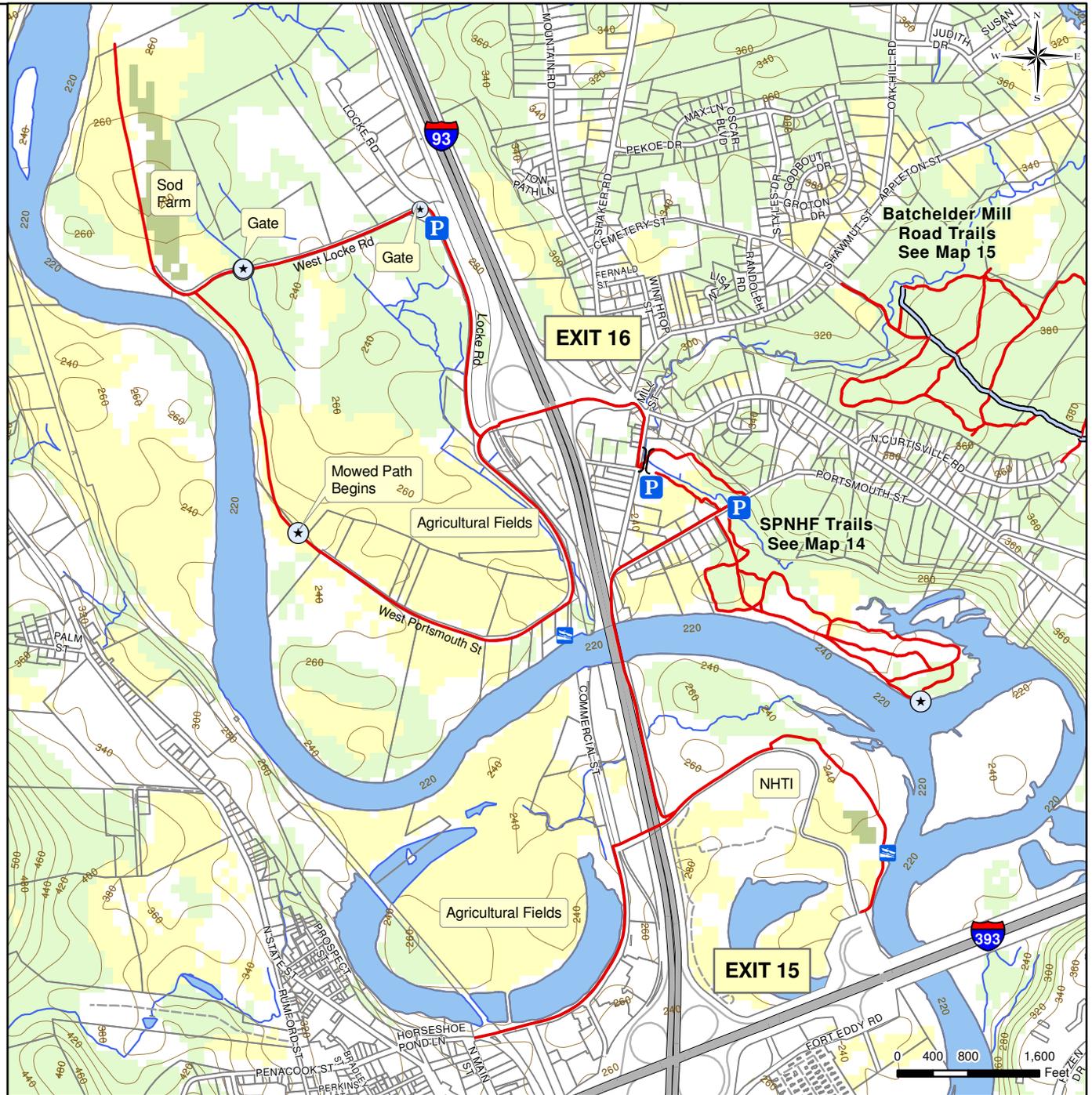


Area of Detail

- |  |                   |  |               |
|--|-------------------|--|---------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Hiking Trail  |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | City Boundary |
|  | Bridge            |  | Streams       |
|  | Information       |  | Water Bodies  |
|  | Parking           |  |               |
|  | Picnic Area       |  |               |
|  | Point of Interest |  |               |
|  | Vista             |  |               |

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## **Winant Park Trails**

### **Access to the trail:**

The main parking area is located at 38 Fisk Road. Travel westerly on Pleasant Street, cross through the Pleasant Street/Langley Parkway intersection, and continue in a westerly direction. Take the next right onto Fisk Road. The parking area will be approximately 0.15 miles on the right.

Caution: The gate at the parking area is locked daily at sunset and unlocked at sunrise.

### **The trail:**

Hiking travel time: About 2 hours

Distance: If one was to hike all of the trails from the Fisk Hill parking lot, a round trip estimate of the distance is approximately 2.6 miles. However this can be shortened by not hiking all of the trails.

### **History:**

In 2009, Rivington Winant and his wife Joan donated the 85-acre parcel to the City of Concord, for the creation of a park in honor of former New Hampshire Governor John Winant and his wife Constance. The conservation of the property was a collaborative effort between the Winants, the City, St. Paul's School, and the Five Rivers Conservation Trust.

The entrance to the park is located on St. Paul's School property on which an access and trail easement was conveyed to the City of Concord. The Five Rivers Conservation Trust holds a conservation easement on the 85-acre parcel.

In addition to the gift of the land, the Winants funded the construction of the trailhead, informational kiosk, and interpretive signs throughout the park. The kiosk and interpretive signs tell the life story of Governor John Winant. The trails include forested walking paths leading to a hilltop with open views towards the St. Paul's School campus and the easterly to the State House.



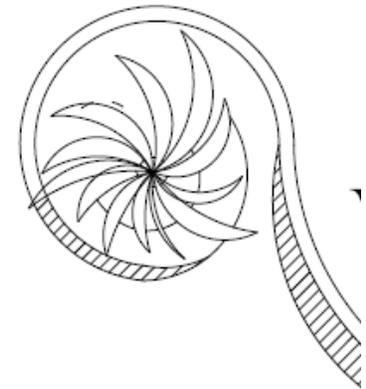
**Concord Conservation Commission  
225-8515**

**Five Rivers Conservation Trust  
225-7225**

*Map 21*

***Concord Trail System***

# **Winant Park Trails**



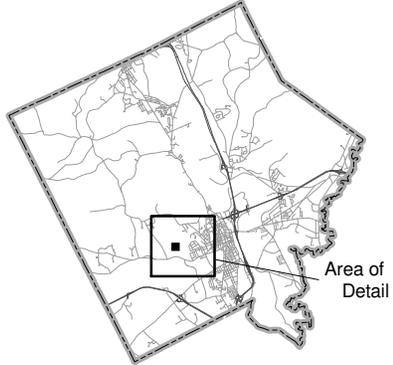
***Concord Conservation Commission  
September 2010***

# Winant Park Trails

Map 21



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515



Area of Detail

- |  |                   |  |                  |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Accessible Trail |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Hiking Trail     |
|  | Bridge            |  | Contours         |
|  | Information       |  | City Boundary    |
|  | Parking           |  | Streams          |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Water Bodies     |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Field            |
|  | Vista             |  | Forest           |
|  |                   |  | Brush            |

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- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Dimond Hill Farm Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

On Route 202/9 (Hopkinton Road) in Concord, approximately 2 miles west of Concord Hospital and 3 miles east of Hopkinton village. The farm is located to the north and south of Hopkinton Road.

### **The trails:**

Hiking travel time: About 1 hour  
Distance: 1.5 miles

The parking area is on the north side of Hopkinton Road to the right of the yellow barn. Park head-in by the kiosk. From the parking area continue along the road past the barn and then straight past the picnic tables to the stone wall beyond. Looking right, there is a spectacular view over Concord and the hills to the east. At the stone wall, go through the gate and do not turn left, but continue straight through the next field, still heading north. At the end of the field you will see a path leading north which becomes a woods road leading to the old ice pond and Currier Road.

The Diamond Hill Trail ends at Currier Road, but a snowmobile trail continues to the north through the city-owned land off of Currier Road. This area is wet during the spring and early summer, but the trail is passable in the winter. If you follow the trail, you will see that it opens up into to an amazing view of a marsh.

If you are hiking south on the West End Farm Trail, park at the kiosk and cross Hopkinton Road (adjacent the yellow farm building). Follow the farm road the length of the field. At the end of the field, pass the storage shed on your right and follow the farm road through a short section of woods and into the field beyond. At the far end of that field, there is an opening in the stone wall, and the trail continues as a footpath to Exit 3/Stickney Hill Road and the bike path.

### **History:**

Dimond Hill Farm has been a working farm since the 1700s. The farm first acquired its name from Ezekiel Dimond, who was one of Concord earliest settlers. In 1827, he sold the farm to Joseph Story Abbott. When Joseph passed away in 1878, he left the farm to his son Isaac Newton Abbott, who purchased an additional 57 acres to be added to the property for harvesting timber, pasture land and hay fields. The farm was passed down from generation to generation, and today it is operated by Jane Abbott Presby. In June of 2006, the farm was put into a conservation easement, held by the Five Rivers Conservation Trust. Today, the farm contains approximately 107 acres.

Dimond Hill Farm is mainly used for growing vegetables such as raspberries, pumpkins, sweet corn, as well as a variety of winter vegetables. The farm is also home to a variety of animals such as llamas, pigs, chickens, horses, geese and sheep. Occasionally the farm hosts special events such as weddings, retreats, small dinner parties and so much more!

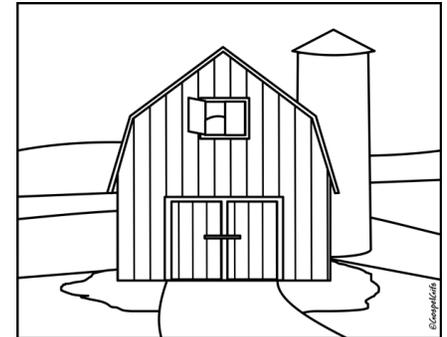


**Concord Conservation Commission**  
603-225-8515

*Map 22*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Dimond Hill Farm Trails**



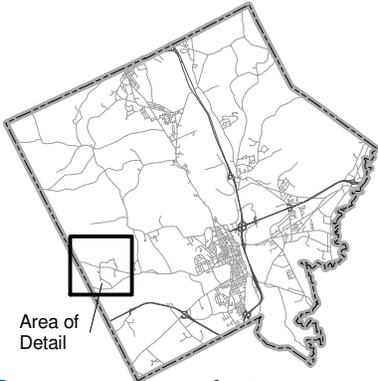
***Concord Conservation Commission***  
***January 2013***

# Dimond Hill Farm Trails

Map 22



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515



Area of Detail

- |  |                   |  |               |
|--|-------------------|--|---------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Hiking Trail  |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Contours      |
|  | Bridge            |  | City Boundary |
|  | Information       |  | Streams       |
|  | Parking           |  | Water Bodies  |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Field         |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Forest        |
|  | Vista             |  | Brush         |

To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land;
- Do not disturb plants or animals;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Walker's Reserve Trails**

### **Access to the trail:**

The trails are located in the Walker's Reserve subdivision, which is located off of Fisk Road and Little Pond Road. The trails can be accessed at three locations off of Thackeray Road, which is the main road through the subdivision, connecting Little Pond Road to Fisk Road.

### **The trail:**

Hiking travel time: About 20 minutes.  
Distance: 0.77 miles

### **History:**

The trails were constructed as part of the Walker's Reserve cluster subdivision development, which was approved by the Planning Board in 2002. The trails cross through the open space behind the residential properties and are primarily pathways that connect to connect the streets within the development. The land abuts the Walker's State Forest to the east.

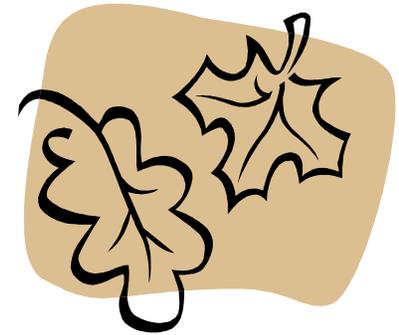


Concord Conservation Commission  
225-8515

*Map 23*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Walker's Reserve Trails**



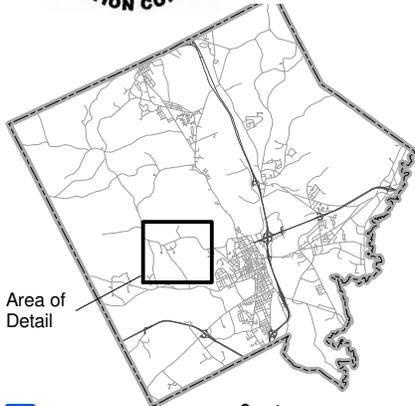
***Concord Conservation Commission***  
***September 2010***

# Walker's Reserve Trails

Map 23



Concord  
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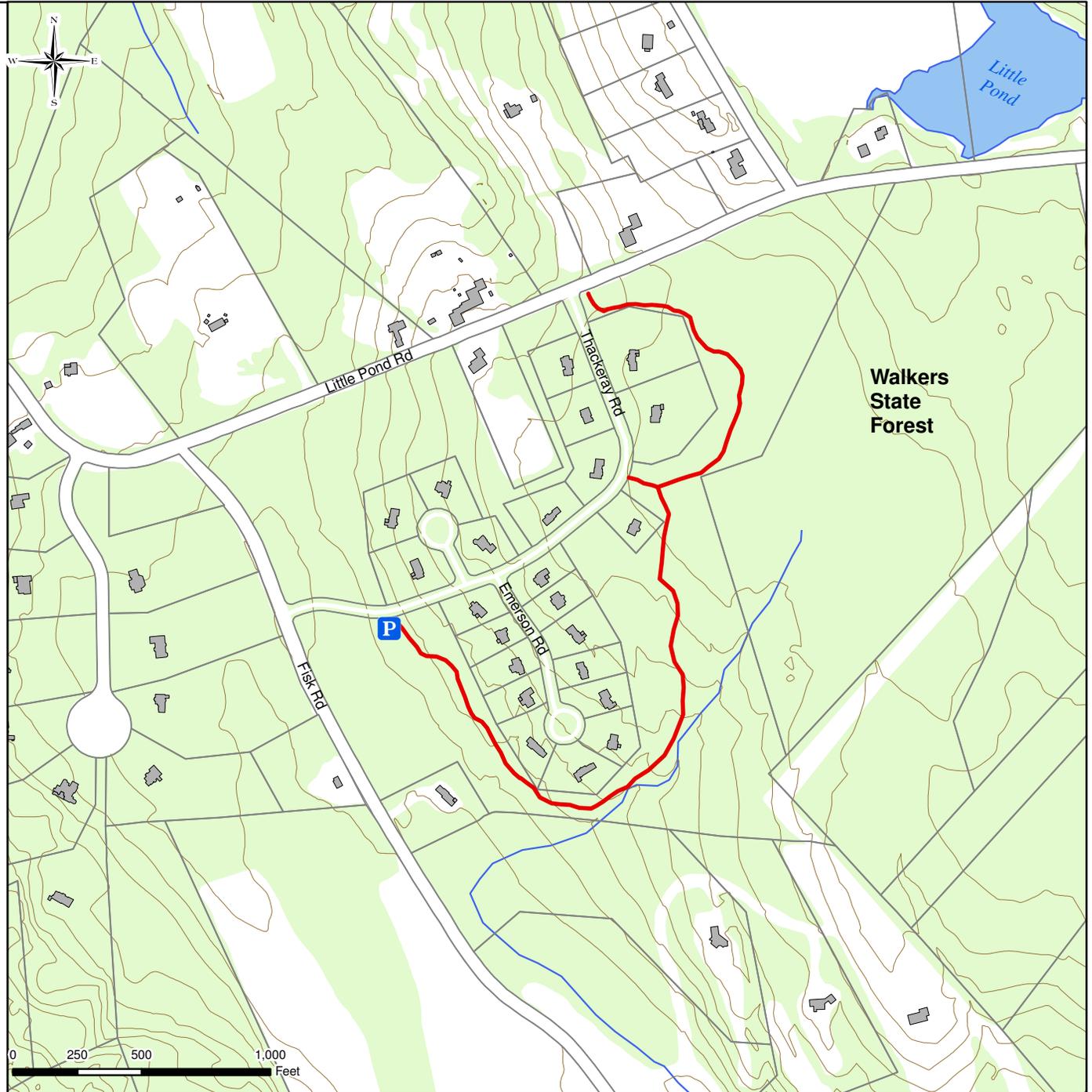


Area of  
Detail

	Accessible Trail		Hiking Trail
	Boat Launch		Contours
	Bridge		City Boundary
	Information		Streams
	Parking		Water Bodies
	Picnic Area		Field
	Point of Interest		Forest
	Vista		Brush

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## **Silk Farm Audubon Center and Wildlife Sanctuary Trails**

### **Access to the trail:**

Take I-89 to exit 2, turn left off of the ramp onto Clinton Street. At the first blinking light, turn right onto Silk Farm Road. The entrance to the McLane Center is on the left. Most trails begin at the trailhead near the kiosk.

**Forest Floor Trail (Red Markers):** This trail is a short, easy walk through a white pine forest. Wildflowers are abundant during the spring and summer. This trail begins behind the building by the raptor mews.

Hiking travel time: About 15 minutes  
Distance: 0.4 miles

### **Great Turkey Pond Trail (Yellow Markers):**

This trail leads you through a mixed hardwood forest to the shores of the Great Turkey Pond. The pond offers opportunities for bird watching and is a breeding area and migration stopping point for a variety of species.

Hiking travel time: About 55 minutes  
Distance: 1.2 miles

**Old Orchard Trail (Blue Markers):** This is a great trail for birding and leads you through a variety of habitats. The trail leads to an overlook of the open agricultural field and through a white pine forest and an old orchard. The trail then descends through a wet forest to the shores of the Great Turkey Pond. The trail merges with the Great Turkey Pond Trail, which returns to the Visitors' Center.

Hiking travel time: About 45 minutes  
Distance: 1.0 miles

### **History:**

In 1835, a silk farm was located in the vicinity of what is now the Silk Farm Audubon Center. Mulberry Trees were planted and silk was produced, but the farm was unsuccessful and abandoned the silk production after only a few years.

In 1938, a hurricane felled millions of trees across the state. The Great Turkey Pond was

used to store the logs until they could be cut into lumber. Throughout the state, logs were submerged in water bodies to salvage the wood. The Great Turkey Pond held more wood than any other water body in New Hampshire.

In 1972, N.H. Audubon purchased the 15 acre property with a small house; the house became the visitors' center and land became the wildlife sanctuary. The property is surrounded by land owned by St. Paul's School. The School granted a license to allow Audubon to use the land to create nature trails to the Great Turkey Pond.



N.H. Audubon  
224-9909



Concord Conservation Commission  
225-8515

## **Map 24**

### **Concord Trail System**

# **Silk Farm Audubon Center and Wildlife Sanctuary Trails**

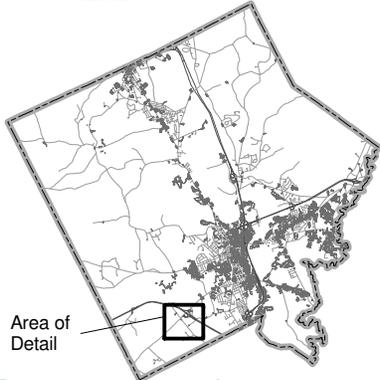


# Silk Farm Audubon Center and Wildlife Sanctuary Trails

Map 24



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515

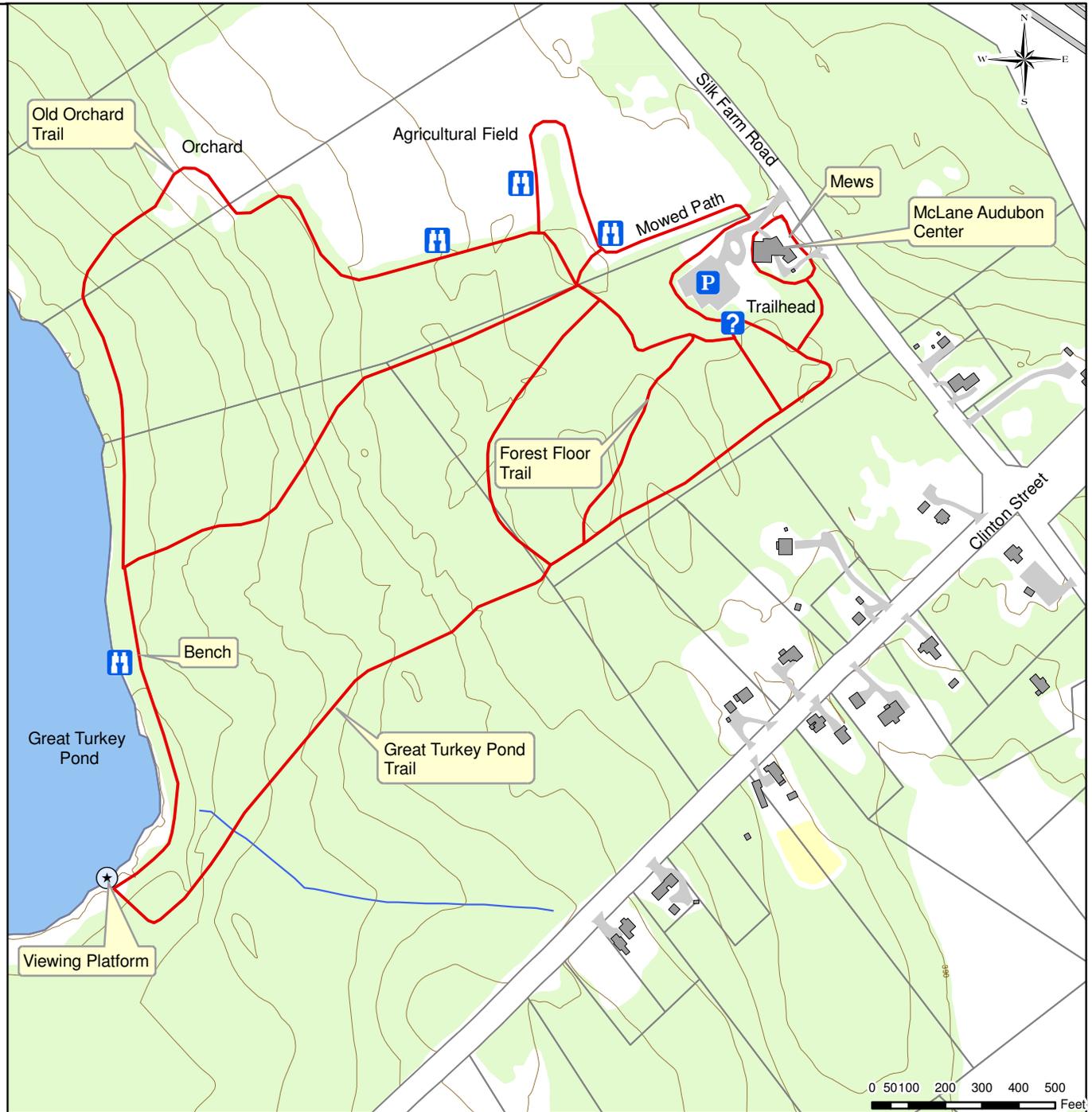


Area of Detail

- |  |                   |  |               |
|--|-------------------|--|---------------|
|  | Accessible Trail  |  | Hiking Trail  |
|  | Boat Launch       |  | Contours      |
|  | Bridge            |  | City Boundary |
|  | Information       |  | Streams       |
|  | Parking           |  | Water Bodies  |
|  | Picnic Area       |  | Field         |
|  | Point of Interest |  | Forest        |
|  | Vista             |  | Brush         |

**To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:**

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land;
- Do not disturb plants or animals;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



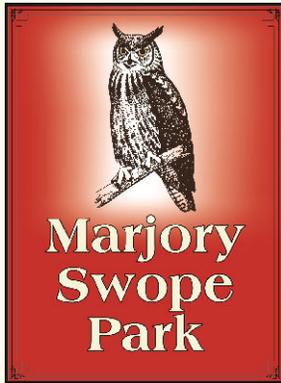


# Marjory Swope Park Trail

Map 25



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green Street  
603-225-8515



## Legend

Information	City Boundary
Parking	Streams
Point of Interest	Water Bodies
Vista	Field
Hiking Trails	Forest
Contours	Brush

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- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.





# West End Farm Trail

Map 26



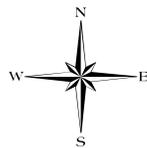
Concord Conservation Commission  
Concord, NH  
41 Green Street  
603-225-8515



## Legend

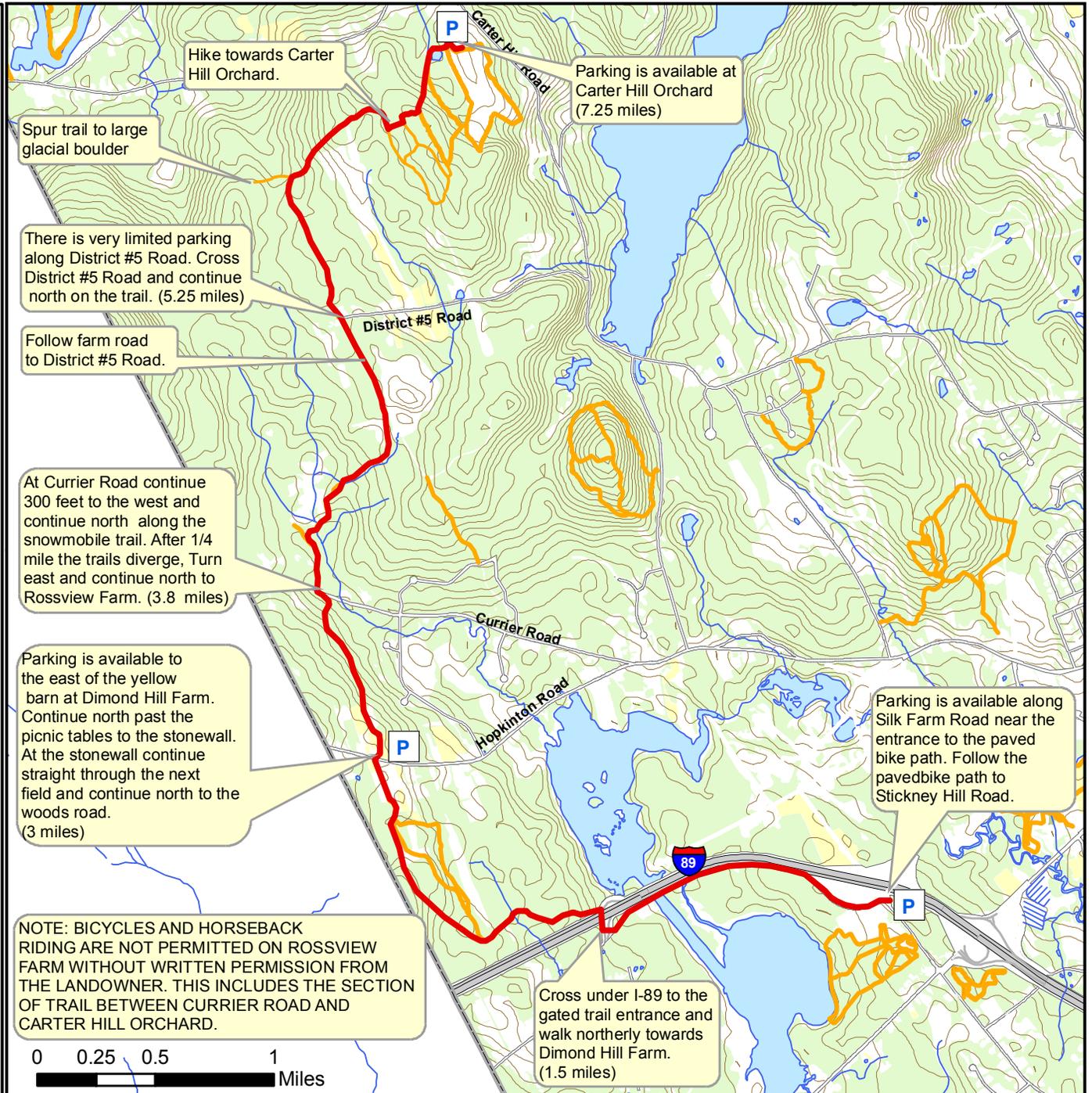
- West End Farm Trail
- Existing City of Concord Trails

- City Boundary
- Streams
- Water Bodies
- Field
- Forest
- Brush



To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:

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- Do not disturb plants or animals;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



## **Merrimack River Greenway Trail**

### **Access to the Trail:**

To access the Merrimack River Greenway Trail, take Exit 14 off of I-93. Turn east onto Loudon Road and cross the river, then make the first right onto Gully Hill Road (the entrance to the commercial center at 6 Loudon Road). A large kiosk marking the trailhead is visible at the southern edge of the parking lot facing Loudon Road. Parking is available for patrons of Gully Hill Rd establishments with additional parking available across Loudon Road at the Everett Arena.

### **The Trail:**

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour

Distance: about 1.5 miles roundtrip from the kiosk to the edge of the wetlands and back.

The Merrimack River Greenway Trail will ultimately be a 4-season paved off-street path that follows the Merrimack River from Pembroke to Boscawen and will serve bicyclists, pedestrians, skiers, snowshoers and wheelchairs. Completion is still a few years away, but a beautiful section of the trail can be enjoyed by residents in its current dirt-path form affording generous views of the river and the cityscape beyond it.

Starting at the large kiosk, the trail follows the farm road along the perimeter of the fields. The trail starts at the kiosk and parallels the edge of the field until it reaches the tree-lined shore of the river. Either continue along the farm road or walk along a footpath among the giant silver maples (some with a 9' girth). This footpath can be easily accessed from the farm road after passing the utility easement. I-93 can be seen and heard from the trail, but it is largely hidden by trees on the west side of the river and serves as white noise as you enjoy the view of the NH State House's gold dome among steeples and brick buildings.

At the southern edge of the cornfield there is a row of evergreens, six-tenths of a mile from the kiosk, and the trail continues until the ground

gives way to wetlands. This area is a rare natural plant community known as a *Silver maple – false nettle – sensitive fern floodplain forest*. The plant species here are well adapted to seasonal river flooding, which maintains this community typified by dense fern growth under widely spaced silver maples, green ash and willow trees. The floodplain forest, and the adjacent open fields and other wetlands attract numerous migrating bird species as they follow the river north to nesting grounds and south to wintering areas. In winter when the river is frozen, the wetlands can be traversed by snow shoes and cross-country skis to reach Terrill Park.

### **History:**

The cornfield was known as the "Middle Intervale" and recognized by the early settlers of Concord as prime agricultural land. The property was once divided into individual farm plots which were later consolidated when residents no longer needed to grow their own food. The fields are owned by the City of Concord. Between 2007 & 2010 Conservation Commission purchased the land to preserve the prime agricultural soils. The fields are now leased to a local farmer.

In March 2011, a feasibility study for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail was prepared. As a result, Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (FMRGT) was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the objective of the development, maintenance, stewardship and promotion of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail.

The Trail will eventually connect to the Northern Rail Trail terminus in Boscawen and the Salem to Concord Bikeway in Pembroke. The first phase of construction is the section between the northern edges of the cornfields (south of Loudon Road) to Terrill Park.

The Trail will be funded through private donations and grants, which FMRGT will provide to the City of Concord. The City will then build, own, operate and maintain the Trail. For more information, please go to [www.mrgt.org](http://www.mrgt.org).

*Map 27*

## ***Concord Trail System***

# **Merrimack River Greenway Trail**



***Friends of the Merrimack River  
Greenway Trail***

***Conservation Commission  
May 2014***

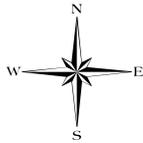
# Merrimack River Greenway Trail

Map 27



## Legend

Parking	Accessible Trail
Boat Launch	Information
Bridge	Existing City of Concord Trails
Picnic Area	Pavement
Point of Interest	Water Bodies
Vista	
Trail End	

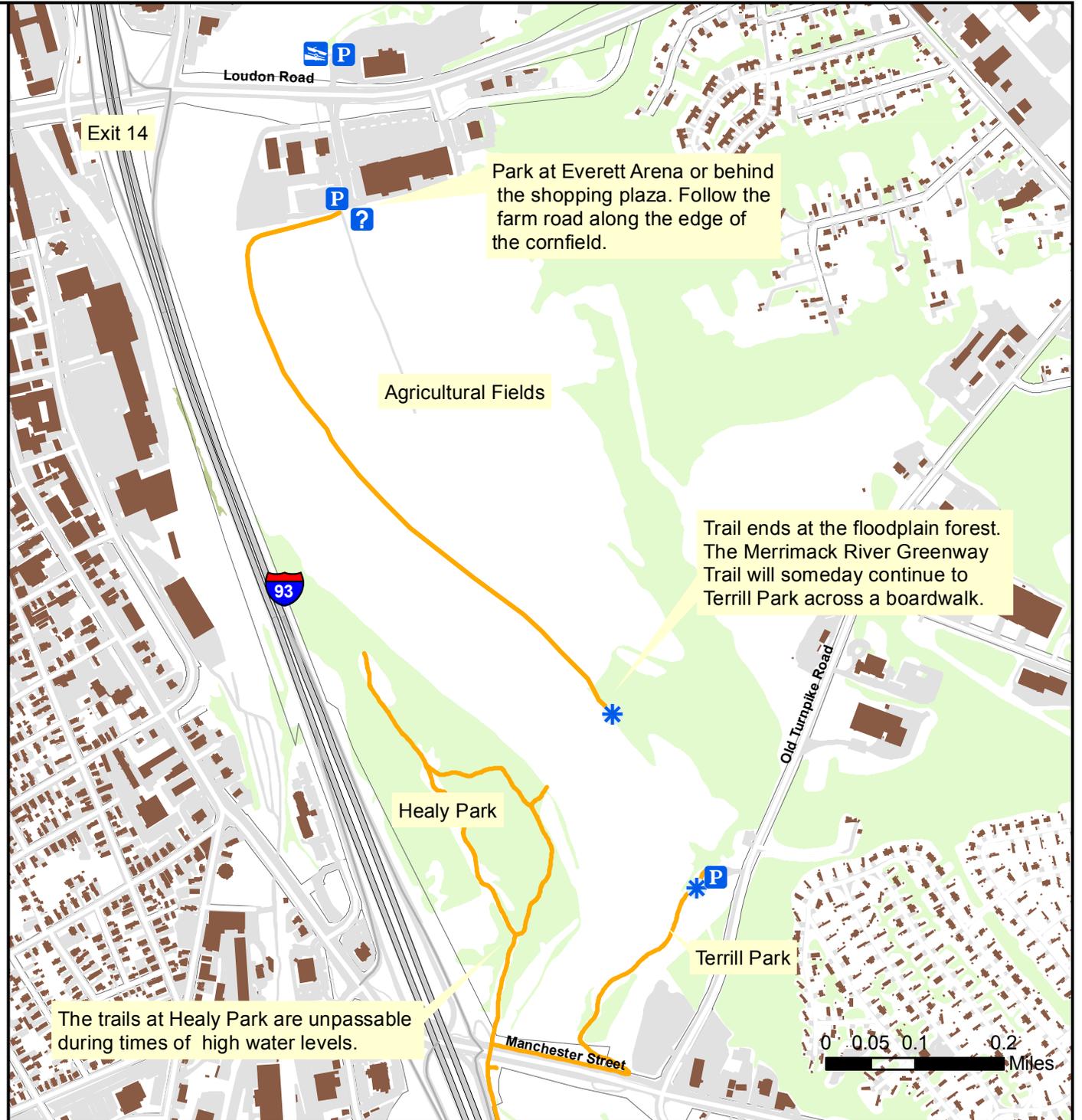


To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others who will follow you, please observe the following:

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land;
- Camping is not allowed without a permit;
- Keep to marked trails;
- Respect private property near the trails;
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet; and
- Be equipped for country walking.



Concord Conservation Commission  
Concord, NH  
41 Green Street  
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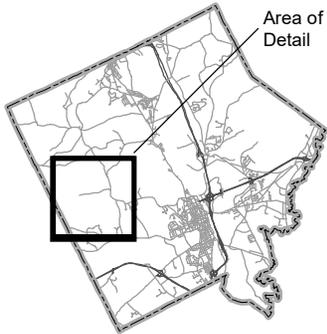


# Swope Park and Carter Hill Connector Trails

Map 28



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515



- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Parking               | Water Bodies |
| Streams               | Field        |
| Contours              | Forest       |
| West End Farm Trail   | Brush        |
| Swope Park Connector  |              |
| Carter Hill Connector |              |

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- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet.
- Be equipped for country walking



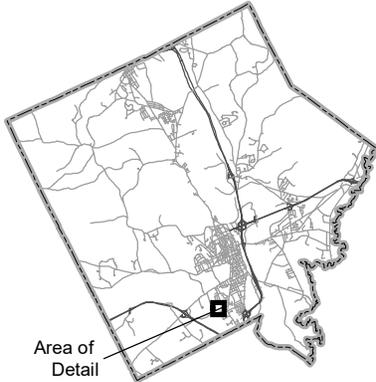


# Russell Martin Park Trails

Map 29



Concord  
Conservation  
Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515



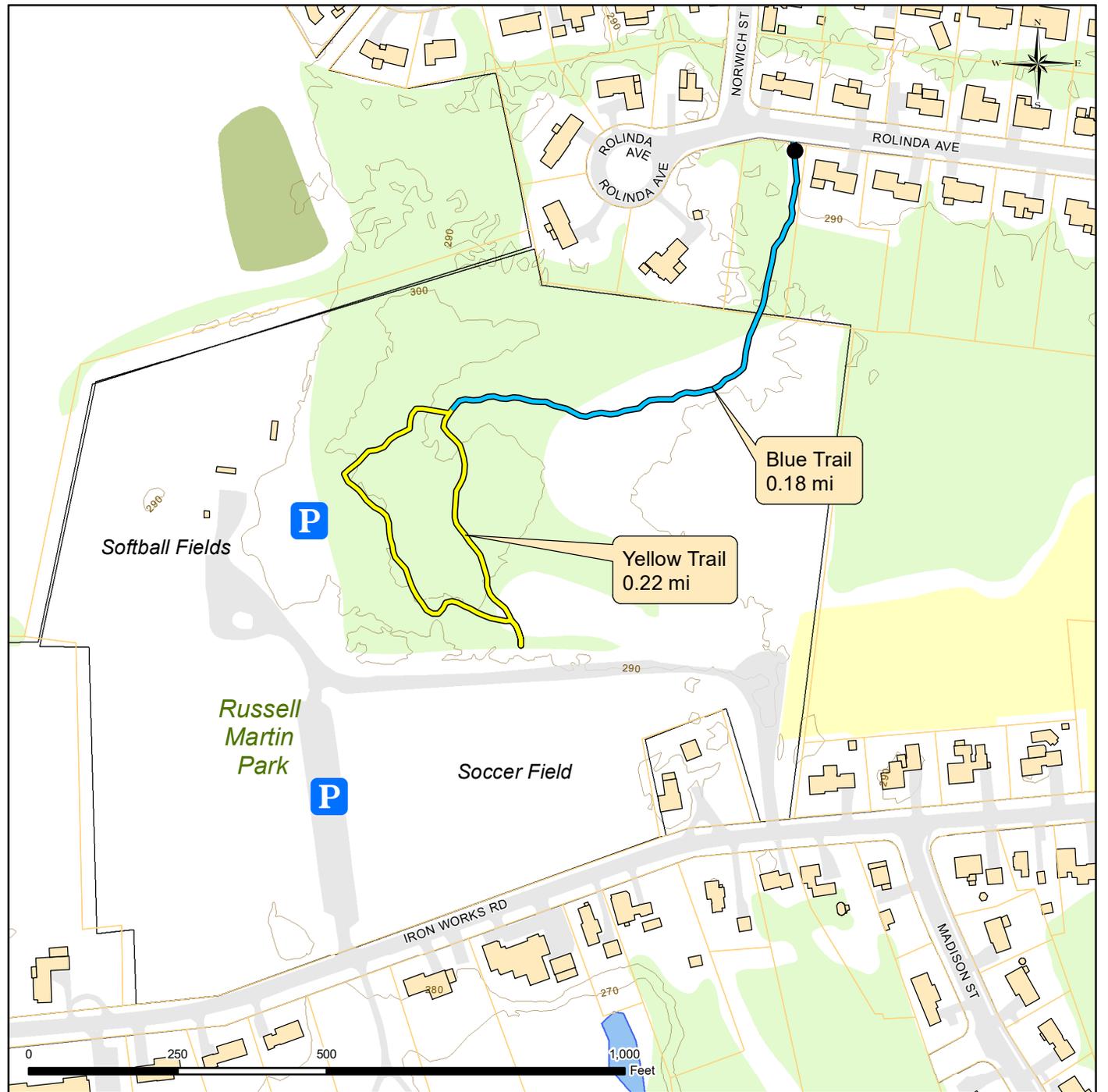
Area of  
Detail

- |  |              |                     |              |
|--|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
|  | Parking      | <b>Hiking Trail</b> |              |
|  | Picnic Area  |                     | Blue Trail   |
|  | Contours     |                     | Yellow Trail |
|  | Streams      |                     |              |
|  | Water Bodies |                     |              |
|  | Field        |                     |              |
|  | Forest       |                     |              |
|  | Brush        |                     |              |



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- Be equipped for country walking



# Concord Trail System Broken Ground Trails

## **Broken Ground Trails**

### **Access to the trails:**

#### *Directions to Curtisville Rd Trail-Head Parking*

From I-393, take exit 2, East Side Dr. Turn right, then take the 3rd right onto South Curtisville Rd. Continue straight to the trail-head parking on the left side, just beyond the beaver pond. From East Concord village, just past the gas station, go up East Side Dr. (Rt 132), take the 2nd left onto Portsmouth St., then at the stop sign, a left onto South Curtisville Rd. Continue to the trail-head parking.

#### *Directions to Portsmouth St Trail-Head Parking*

From East Side Drive, turn onto Portsmouth St. The trailhead parking is on the left by the power lines just before the Interstate 393 overpass.

### **The trails:**

#### **Curtisville Road Trails - easy to moderate**

The **Red Trail** begins off the west side of the parking lot and loops back to Curtisville Rd by way of a woods road.

The **Blue Trail** is a loop beginning and ending at the parking lot. As you leave the lot, note the remains of the Edmond Curtis homestead on the right. The trail bears left onto a woods road and then turns south about a 1/2 mile up the hill on the right. Rambling gently up-hill, it passes a stone wall and rock pile on the right, indicating a farm boundary. Also notice boulders left by a retreating glacier. This trail continues southerly, merges onto a well-used trail, makes a small loop off to the right and then continues on Frost Rd. going past the Frost Farm. (The Orange Trail to Portsmouth St. leaves on the left.) Continuing on the Blue Trail, it leaves Frost Rd. on the right and eventually skirts the east side of the beaver pond (environmentally sensitive - no unleashed dogs, please) back to Curtisville Rd. In season, look for a variety of wildflowers, enjoy the ferns along the pond's edge and seasonal wildlife in the active beaver pond.

The **Yellow Trail** leaves Curtisville Rd. just west of the beaver pond, passing between the foundations of the Benjamin Kimball homestead and barn. The trail meanders along the edge of the pond and marsh, then crosses Frost Rd. and the power line to the Portsmouth St. parking lot. A turn left on Frost Rd, and a left on the Blue

Trail makes a lovely loop around the pond and marsh

#### **Portsmouth Street Trails - easy**

From the parking area at Portsmouth St., the **Orange Trail** can be reached by walking east on a paved dead-end road parallel to I-393. Pass around a large metal gate and continue walking to the marked trailhead on your left shortly after passing a small pond. Watch for great blue herons in the pond. Upon leaving the paved road and entering the woods, the Orange Trail goes northeasterly, passing a wetland on the left with many snags. Stop and check for birds or a beaver. Following the trail further brings you to a woods road. (The road heading to the left is to the UNITIL substation site.) Turning right brings you to the junction with Frost Rd., and the Blue Trail loop to Curtisville Rd. in both directions as described above. Taking the Blue Trail to the left and then the Orange Trail to the left brings you to the power line and a path back to the parking lot.

The **White Trail** connects Frost Rd. with Profile Ave. crossing the power line.

### **History:**

The Broken Ground, named for its diverse physical features, is an area of land of approximately five square miles bounded by Oak Hill Rd., the Loudon town line, Interstate 393, and the Power Line. With its unique topography and natural features, it has remained undeveloped since Concord was first settled by Ebenezer Eastman in 1725 - except for farming in the 19th century. On two occasions since 1980, large-scale developments were attempted on the easterly edge of the land. The failure of both due to poor economic conditions has allowed it to remain virtually untouched forest - other than managed timber sales. In 2013, the City Council approved the purchase of 272 acres east of the power lines between Curtisville Rd. and Portsmouth St. The existing trail system was completed in 2016 by the Concord Trails Subcommittee and friends.

**Concord Conservation Commission  
225-8515**



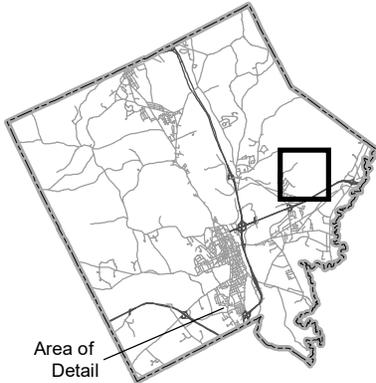
**Concord Conservation Commission**

# Broken Ground Trails

Map 30



Concord Conservation Commission  
41 Green St  
Concord, NH  
(603) 225-8515



Area of Detail

- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Contours
- Streams
- Water Bodies
- Field
- Forest
- Brush
- Wetlands



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- Be equipped for country walking

