

Swope Park Trails

Access to the trails:

From Hopkinton Road, head north onto Long Pond Road, go about 0.75 miles and look for the trailhead parking on your left. From Little Pond Road/Lakeview Dr., head south onto Long Pond Road, go about 0.5 miles and look for the trailhead parking on your right.

The trails:

Hiking travel time: About 1.5 hours

Distance: 1.75 miles

The trail system in Swope Park consists of a 1.5 mile loop trail and 2 summit trails. The trails are moderately hilly with some steady inclines and declines. The blue loop trail offers stunning views over Penacook Lake. The orange and yellow trails go to the summit of Jerry Hill, with excellent views of southwestern New Hampshire. On the yellow summit trail you'll pass the foundation of an observation tower that formerly provided 360-degree view from the summit of Jerry Hill. The park is open to the public year-round for non-motorized recreation, mountain biking, hiking, snow shoeing and cross country skiing.

Marjory Swope Park is dedicated to the memory of Marjory Mason Swope (1940 - 2007) in celebration of her life as an impassioned environmentalist, dedicated conservationist and civic leader in the City of Concord. The land for the park was gifted to the City by her loving husband John Swope and their children, and dedicated on June 29, 2012. The park encompasses 77 acres protected with a conservation easement held by Five Rivers Conservation Trust. The park is open to the public year-round for non-motorized recreation, mountain biking, hiking, snow shoeing and cross country skiing, and includes stunning views over Penacook Lake.

History of Jerry Hill

Formed 350 to 430 million years ago, Jerry Hill is comprised of two types of layered metamorphic sedimentary rock and the famous Concord granite, which formed when magma intruded into sediments during the last collision of the American and European continents in the late Devonian period. Examples of the oldest layered metamorphic sedimentary rock can be observed at the northern junction of the loop trail, on the trail over the summit, and in the ledges on the summit's northeast side. The summit also includes a small outcropping of granite. The soil and boulders on the hill were deposited by a receding glacier around 12,000 years ago. When the ice was finally gone, forests developed, favoring hardwoods — especially chestnut and red oak. When the Concord area was first settled by Europeans in the early 1700s, much of Jerry Hill was cleared for pasture. Other than a small area at the corner of Long Pond Road and Lakeview Drive, there is no evidence that crops were ever grown here. In the mid to late 1800s, white pines took over the abandoned fields. After they and the remaining chestnuts were harvested for lumber around 1920, a forest fire allowed an oak dominated forest to return. A few large pines that escaped the fire can be found in the northwest portion of the loop trail.



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

Map 25

Concord Trail System

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