

Concord Trail System
Broken Ground Trails

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

The **Howard C. Nowell Trail (Blue)** 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 **Pond Loop (Yellow)** 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. Turn left on Frost Rd, and then left on the Yellow/Blue Trail

to make a lovely loop around the pond and marsh

Portsmouth Street Trails - easy

From the parking area at Portsmouth St., the **Marsh Loop (Orange)** 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 Marsh Loop 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 Howard C. Nowell Trail to Curtisville Rd. in both directions as described above. Taking the Blue/Orange 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



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