

Welcome to Milford's Hiking Trails



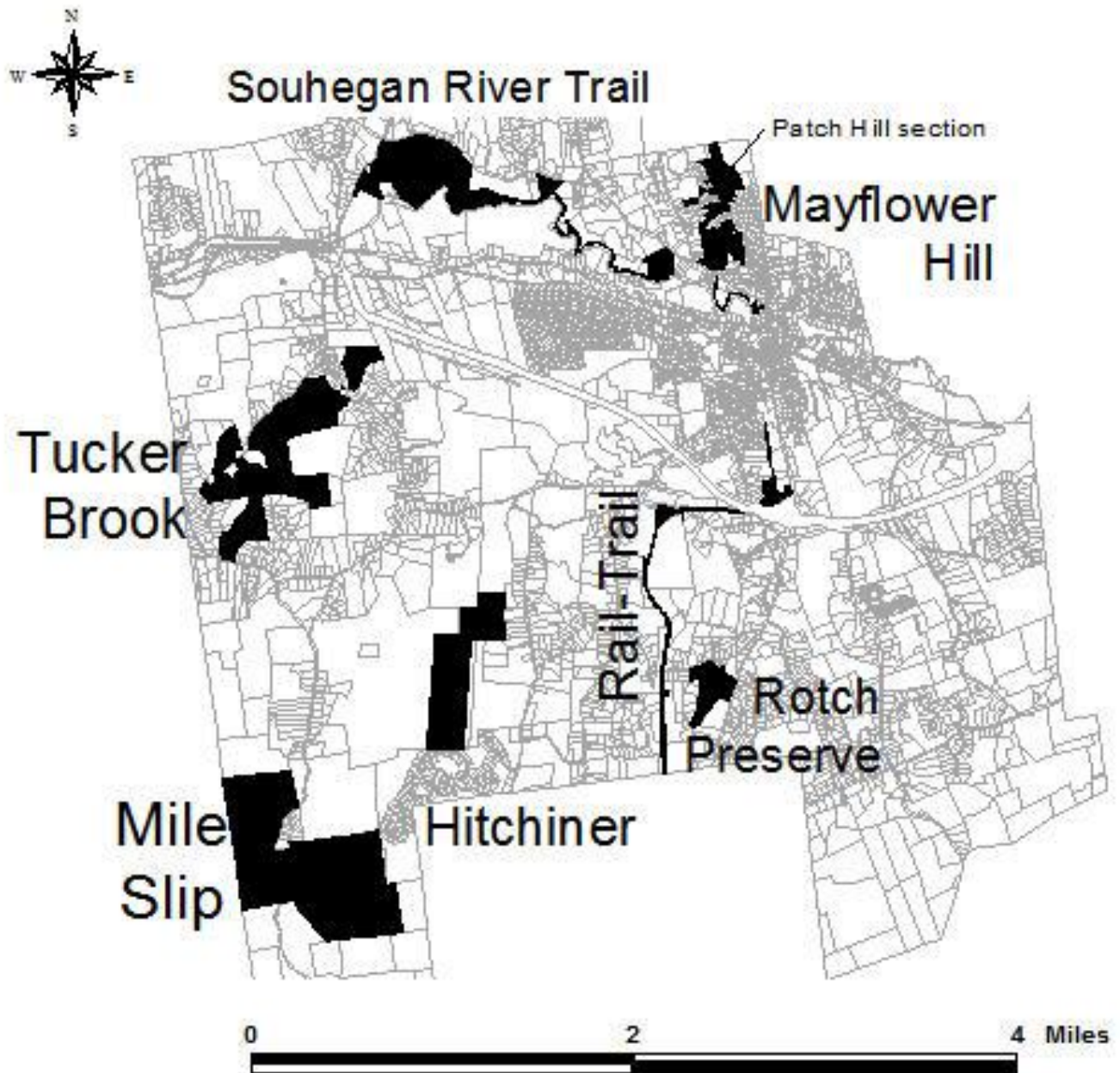
Brought to you by:
Milford Conservation Commission
www.milford.nh.gov/conservation

603.249.0628

Please Protect Your Environment

The Milford Trails

Select your favorite trail - they are included alphabetically in this booklet



Note: The Rotch Wildlife Preserve is the newest addition to the Milford Trail System. The trail system within the Preserve is in the early planning and development stages. When ready, maps and other information will be added to this booklet.

Welcome:

The Milford Conservation Commission would like to welcome you to our trail system. The commission maintains trails in five town forests: Hitchiner, Mayflower Hill, Mile Slip, Rotch Wildlife Preserve, and Tucker Brook. In addition, the commission maintains the Granite Town Rail Trail, an abandoned rail bed beginning behind DPW on South Street as well as the Souhegan River Trail on privately owned land. Please visit us at www.milford.nh.gov/conservation.

We mark our main trails with white blazes and loops or side trails with blue. Yellow blazes denote a trail that leaves the property by an alternate route. Confusing spots have colored arrows signs; let us know if you have any problems.

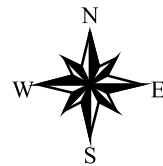
The conservation commission would appreciate receiving reports of any problems you may encounter using its lands or repairs you think need to be done. Please call the Conservation Commission at 603-249-0628 or send us an email at conservation@milford.nh.gov. If you would like to join us for a work day on the trails please contact us.

Caution:

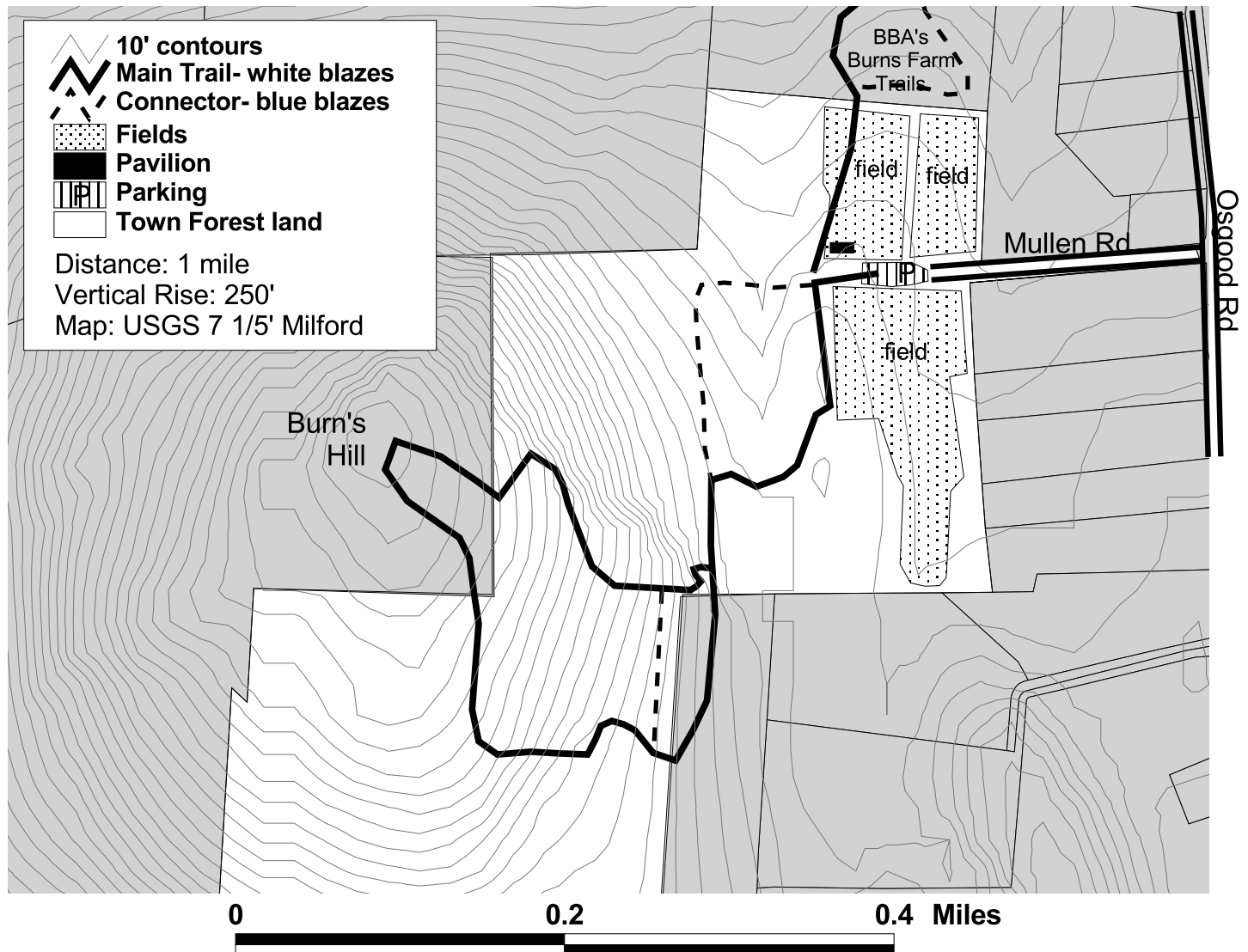
For your hiking safety and enjoyment and that of hikers who come after you, we encourage responsible hiking, 'leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but pictures.' Hunting is allowed in Tucker Brook, Hitchiner and The Mile Slip. Please check with NH Fish & Game at www.wildlife.state.nh.us for dates and precautions to take when hiking during hunting season.

Although the woods are relatively safe, there are inherent hazards which could cause injury. Slips, trips, falls, insect bites, branch scraps, etc. are all very possible in the woods. Pay attention to where you step and to what is in front of you to avoid injury. Hike with a partner whenever possible.

Hitchiner Town Forest



Milford, NH



Trail Information:

Hitchiner Town Forest, a 194 acre property, was once farmland, as evidenced by the fields and many stone walls.

The highlight of the walk is Burns Hill at an elevation of 751'. The hilltop is a delight of exposed granite bedrock, blueberry, ground juniper, red cedar, pitch pine and stunted oaks.

This town land is available for hiking, picnicking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, bird watching and just enjoying nature and the quiet of the forest.

Camping is by permit only.

Hitchiner Trails, Milford, New Hampshire

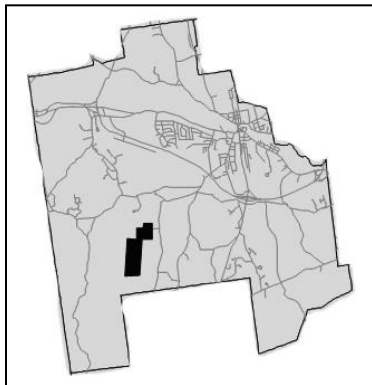
How to get there:

Take Union Street from downtown Milford for half a mile, turn right onto Osgood Road. Stay on Osgood Road for approximately 2 miles, watch the road signs, there are a few jogs. Mullen Road, a dirt road with a brown hiker's sign, is on the right and will bring you into the parking lot.

Trail information:

Hitchiner Town Forest is a 194 acre property that was donated to the town by Hitchiner Manufacturing Company. The property was once farmland, as evidenced by the many stone walls. The highlight of the walk is Burns Hill at an elevation of 751'. The hilltop is a delight with exposed granite bedrock,

blueberry, ground juniper, red cedar, pitch pine and stunted oaks.



The trail to Burn's Hill starts directly ahead on the now discontinued section of Mullen Road. You will pass the pavilion on your right. Watch for signs, the trail turns left and enters the forest. After a short walk along a stone wall that serves as a retaining wall for the field, the trail turns right, crosses a small bridge and rises gently. You will soon come to an old

farm road, turn left. From here the trail forms a loop. You can turn right at the first leg, marked by a white arrow and approach the summit from the east. Continuing along the farm road and then turning right farther along will bring you on a more gentle slope, approaching the summit from the south.

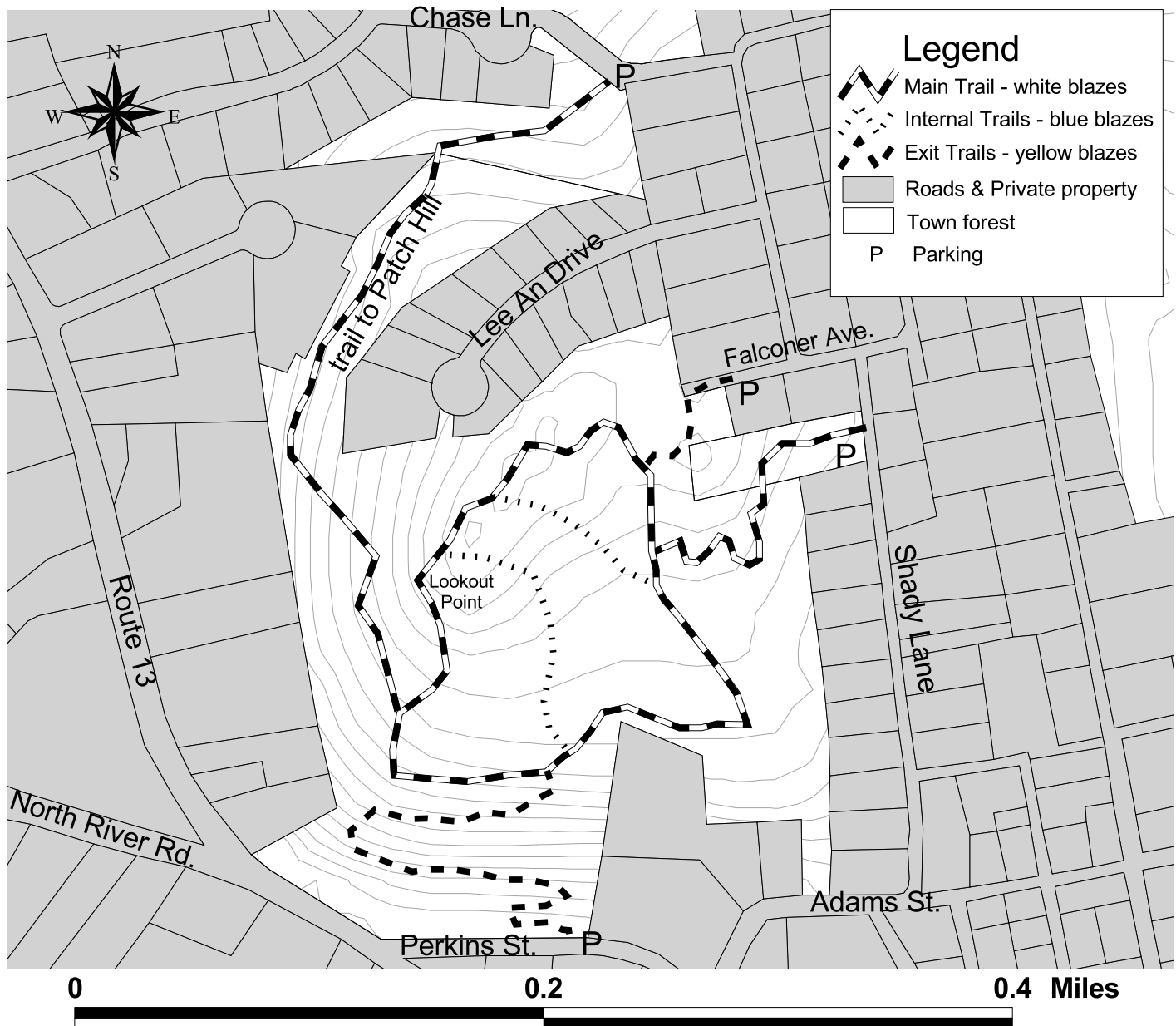
Crossing the field on the right or north side of Mullen Road will bring you to Beaver Brook Association's Burn's Farm trails. This town land is available for hiking, picnicking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, bird watching and just enjoying nature and the quiet of the forest. No drinking, no fires, and camping is by permit only.

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Please follow the blazes, stay on the trails and enjoy.

Mayflower Hill Town Forest

Milford, NH 42 acres



TRAIL INFORMATION:

Mayflower Hill Town Forest is a small gem just half a mile from the Milford Oval. There is much evidence of small winter quarrying operations in this forest.

Quarrymen referred to these sites as 'motions'.

Lookout Point gives the visitor a wonderful view to the west of Temple Mt. and both North & South Pack Monadnock.

Heavy use of this property over the years has created numerous trails, many of them lead to private property. To avoid getting lost or trespassing, stay on the marked trails.

This town land is available for hiking, picnicking, cross country skiing or just enjoying nature.

Mayflower Hill Trails, Milford, New Hampshire

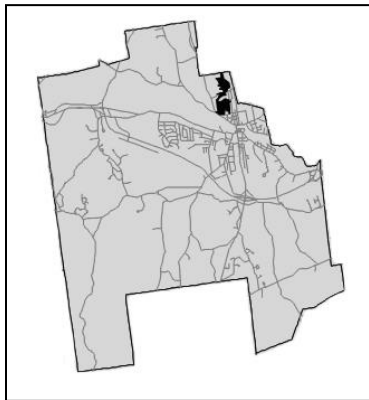
How to get there:

Shady Lane Entrance

Milford Oval, head north, over the bridge and past the post office, bear left and turn right onto Maple St. At the end of Myrtle St. turn left and then an immediate right onto Shady Lane. The main parking area is about a thousand feet up on the left.

Falconer Ave Entrance

Continuing to the end of Shady Lane and turning left brings you to the Falconer Avenue parking and the start of an easy walk to Lookout Point. It may look like you are entering a private driveway but this is a public entrance to the trails. Please respect the landowner, pull up to the 'Trailhead Parking' sign and please do not block the driveway.



Trail information:

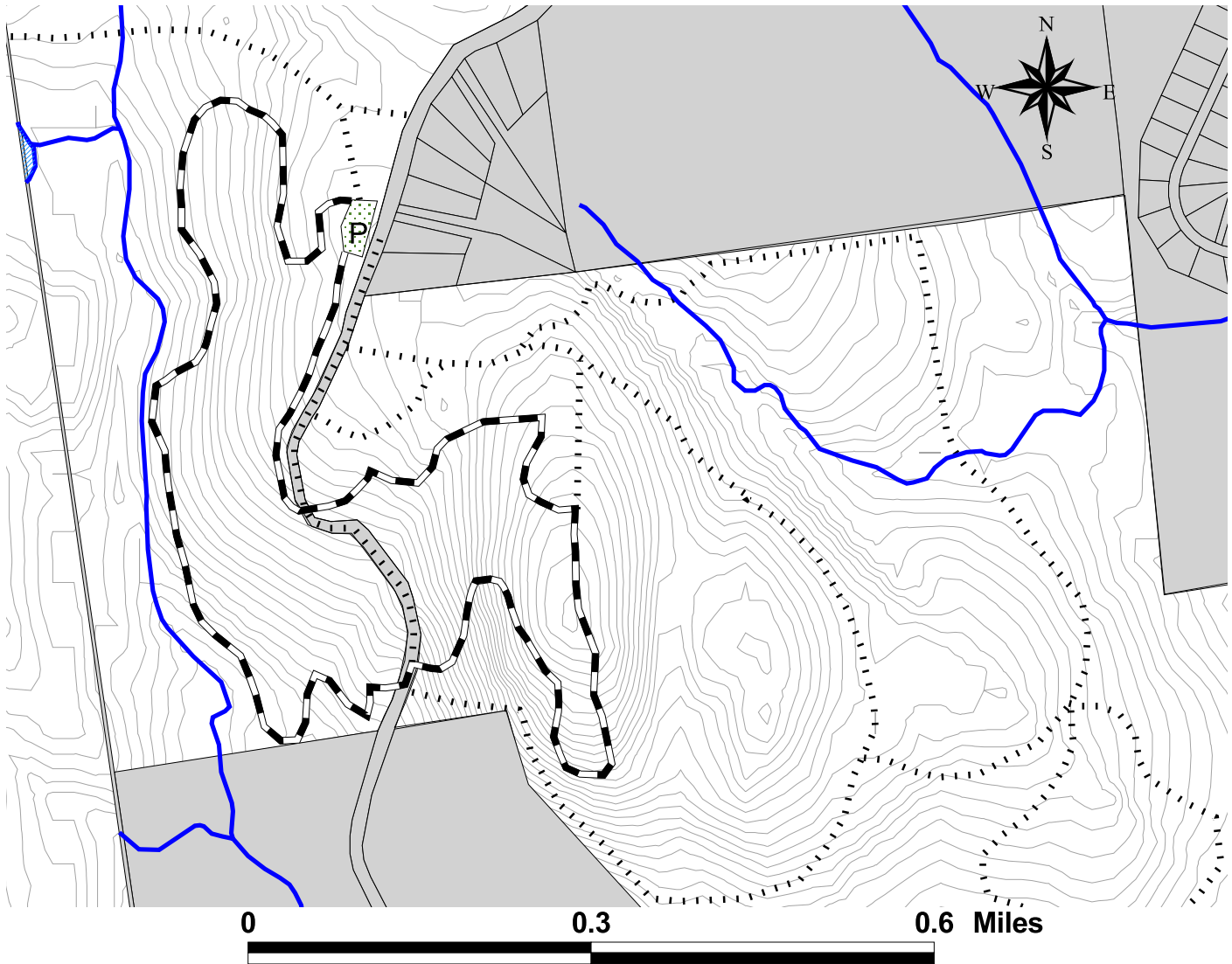
Mayflower Hill is an easy, pleasant walk, close to downtown, great for a lunch time stroll to calm the mind during a busy work day. The main trail is a loop from the parking area, to a scenic overlook and back. There are two shortcut trails crossing the loop. The property can also be accessed from Perkins St. A steep trail brings a hiker up the hill through a pine forest, past large boulders and joins the main loop.

In 2009 a new trail, leaving Mayflower Hill, heading north into Amherst, was built. It can be accessed just below the lookout at Mayflower Hill following signs to Patch Hill.

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Mile Slip Town Forest





Milford, NH 452 acres



This 452 acre property was purchased by the town in 2005. The parking lot is at the end of the maintained portion of Mile Slip Road. Mile Slip continues as a Class VI road to Brookline. There are many old logging roads thru the forest. The new hiking trails are marked but the others are not marked yet. The western boundary is marked by Mitchell Brook and power lines run along the southern boundary.

Motorized, wheeled vehicles are not permitted on this property per town ordinance. Snow mobiles are permitted, with sufficient snow cover, on designated trails maintained by the Wilton Lyndeborough Winter Wanderers.

Legend

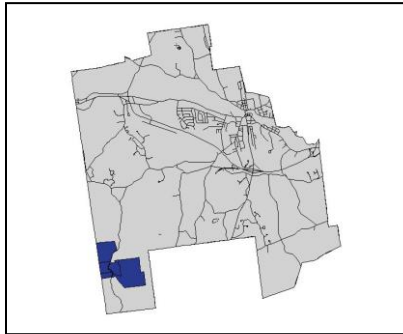
-  **Parking Lot**
-  **10 foot contours**
-  **Hikers Only**
-  **Hikers, Horses, Mt. Bikes, Snowmobiles, Cross Country Skiing**

No fires, no alcoholic beverages permitted on town land. No trash, please carry out what you carry in.
This trail guide prepared by the Milford Conservation Commission, 603-249-0628. Revised 2010

Mile Slip Trails, Milford, New Hampshire

How to get there:

From the Milford Oval go west on Elm Street. Take an immediate left onto Union Street. After half a mile, turn right onto Osgood Road. After traveling under the Rt. 101 bypass, turn right onto Mason Rd. Stay on Mason Rd. for ~2 miles and take a left onto Mile Slip Rd. Travel almost 2 miles, you will come to a cluster of houses on the left. Parking is on the right across from the last house.



Trail Information:

There are several hiking trails on this 452 acres property purchased by the town in 2005. The Mitchell Brook Trail leaves the north-west corner of the parking lot and travels down through the forest to Mitchell Brook and back up to Mile Slip Rd.

Returning to the parking lot along Mile Slip Rd will give you a 1.3 mile hike or you could take the trail

a little way up on the right and add the summit of Badger Hill and another one mile of distance.

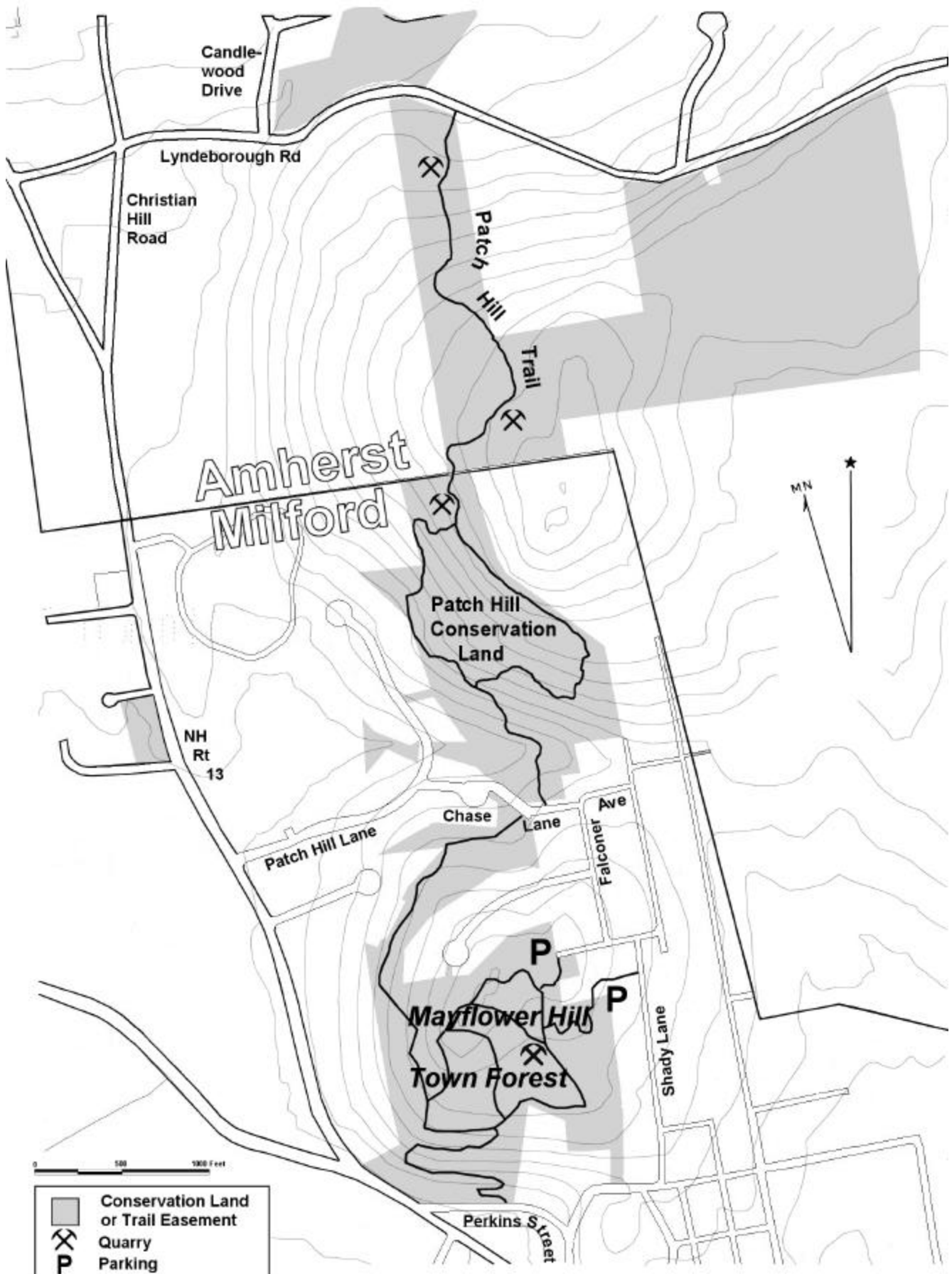
The Summit Trail leaves from the south-west corner of the parking lot, crosses Mile Slip Rd. and continues up to the top of Badger Hill, elevation 782'.

Coming down the southern slope of the hill, the trail is very steep. This section brings you to Mile Slip Rd just north of Mitchell Brook Trail's southern end. There is the North Trail which is in the northern section of the property branching off from the wood's road. It loops back to the Snowmobile Trail labeled as Main on the trail map. As you return to the parking area on the Main Trail, you will see the Short Trail, which will bring you to the Mitchell Brook trail; making for a nice long loop. Mountain bikes, snowmobiles, horses and hikers are allowed uses. Motorized wheeled vehicles are not allowed per town ordinance.

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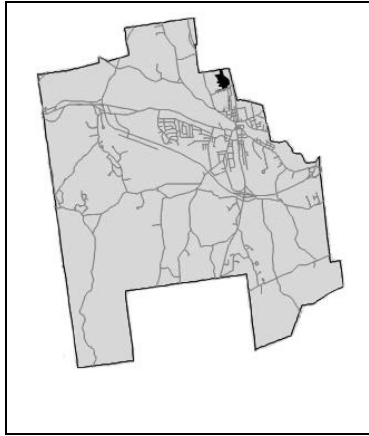
Amherst to Milford via Patch Hill and Mayflower Town Forest



Patch Hill Trail, Milford, New Hampshire

How to Get There:

Chase Lane: Milford Oval, head north, over the bridge and past the post office, bear left and turn right onto Myrtle St. At the end of Myrtle turn left then an immediate right onto Shady Lane. At the end turn left, follow Falconer Ave. to Chase Lane on the left. Turn left onto Chase Lane, look for the trail sign, park along the road on the left side. This road is one-way.



Trail information:

The Trails Committee has been improving Milford's trails since 2007. One of our latest projects was to develop a hiking trail on Patch Hill. This is a must see trail for hikers and mountain bikers! The Mayflower Hill Town Forest and Patch Hill Conservation Land are now connected and join with Amherst's trail system.

On the Patch Hill trail you will view a beautiful babbling brook and a few old granite quarries, vernal pools, mountain laurel and lady slippers, granite rubble piles and hawks overhead.

For a longer trail, you can choose to start your hiking or mountain biking experience at Mayflower Hill Town Forest. Start at either of the trail head parking lots or park at Perkins St.. Hike or bike to the lookout/ summit at Mayflower Hill. After you enjoy the view looking to the west, continue your hike or ride on the "Patch Hill Trail" to Chase Lane. The Amherst trail system ends on Lyndeborough Rd.

These trails can be enjoyed year around. Hike, jog, mountain bike, snowshoe, cross country ski or bird watch, you will enjoy Milford's trail system. Go alone or bring the kids. Get out and take a hike!

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Granite Town Rail-Trail, Milford, NH



Surface: Cinders/organic debris

Use: Foot, bike, ski

Trailhead: West side of Rt. 13, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of Milford's downtown, at the Public Works Garage.

Contact:

Conservation Commission,
1 Union Square, Milford, NH
603-249-0628,
concomm@milford.nh.gov

What to Expect:

Mile 0.0 - DPW Garage - Cross the bridge in the parking area, the trail starts behind the fence, crossing over Great Brook on an old dam.

Mile 0.53 - After crossing Union St. you will come to a concrete span over Great Brook.

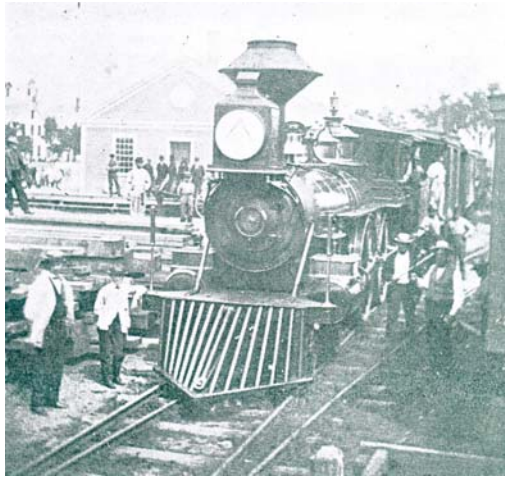
Mile 0.66 - Trail users cross under Rt. 101 in a tunnel 110' long and 6'6" high. We have heard three very differing reasons for this 'tunnel': an over-flow culvert for Great Brook, a snowmobile passage and a bunny tunnel.

Mile 1.2 - South of Armory Rd. the trail leaves the RR grade and passes through private property on a trail easement. Please respect the rights of the landowner and stay on the trail.

Mile 2.17 - The trains used to pass under Melendy Rd. The road cut was filled sometime in the 1940's.

RAILROAD HISTORY

Train traffic began coming to Milford from Nashua in 1850, and by 1852, continued on to Wilton. The station was located on South Street. A new station on Garden Street replaced it in 1853.



Huge quantities of ice were being shipped to Massachusetts on the Brookline-Pepperel Railroad. The ice was cut during the winter months from Lake Potanipo and stored in mammoth houses near the lake. In January, 1893, gentlemen from Milford petitioned the state of New Hampshire for permission to build a railroad line running south to join with this rail line. The new line would give Milford businesses another means to ship goods manufactured here to other markets.

The state agreed in February and work began later in the year. The formal

opening was celebrated November 15, 1894. The town shut down all work so all could enjoy the parade, complete with music by the local Cornet Band, a cannon, and a reception for 400 people at the town house. The new line was known as the Brookline & Milford Railroad or the Fitchburg Line..



A new station was built that year on South Street. It served passengers coming and going from local hotels and also freight. By 1900, 8 trains a day ran on the Brookline & Milford Line. There was both a roundhouse and a turntable just east of the station opposite Lincoln Street.

GRANITE INDUSTRY

Since the early 1800's, granite has been quarried at many places in town. Huge blocks, some as large as 10 tons, were carried by multi-horse drawn wagons to the finishing sheds and up to the Nashua rail line. Spur lines laid to some of the granite quarries heading south along Great

Brook, enabled these companies to transport granite much more quickly, easily and cheaply.

Fine Milford granite from some of the 15 commercial quarries, such as Lovejoy, Kittredge, and Tonella, came in shades of gray, pink, and blue. The granite was used mostly for paving and edging of streets and for building stones. Milford granite was used in at least one building at the West Point Military Academy. Thirty pillars, weighing ninety tons each, were quarried in 1908 at the Lovejoy Quarry. The pillars were used in the U.S. Treasury building in Washington, DC to replace deteriorating sandstone pillars. Skilled stone carvers came here from Europe to work with stone, creating beautiful monuments, large and small, to be placed in cemeteries and parks. "In the year of 1900, fifty thousand tons of granite were shipped from Milford."



Just as the railroads put the stagecoach lines out of business in the 1800's, so autos and trucks took most of the

railroad's passengers and freight. Trains on the Brookline & Milford Branch and the main Fitchburg Line stopped running passenger trains in 1926, forcing people to ride on mixed freight/passenger trains. In September, 1931, the last train ran on the Fitchburg line.

The steel rails were taken up for scrap to help the war effort in 1941-42. As late as 1978 the Barretto Granite Company was still using a small section of the line from the cutting shed on Oak Street north to the Nashua Line.

THE TRAIL

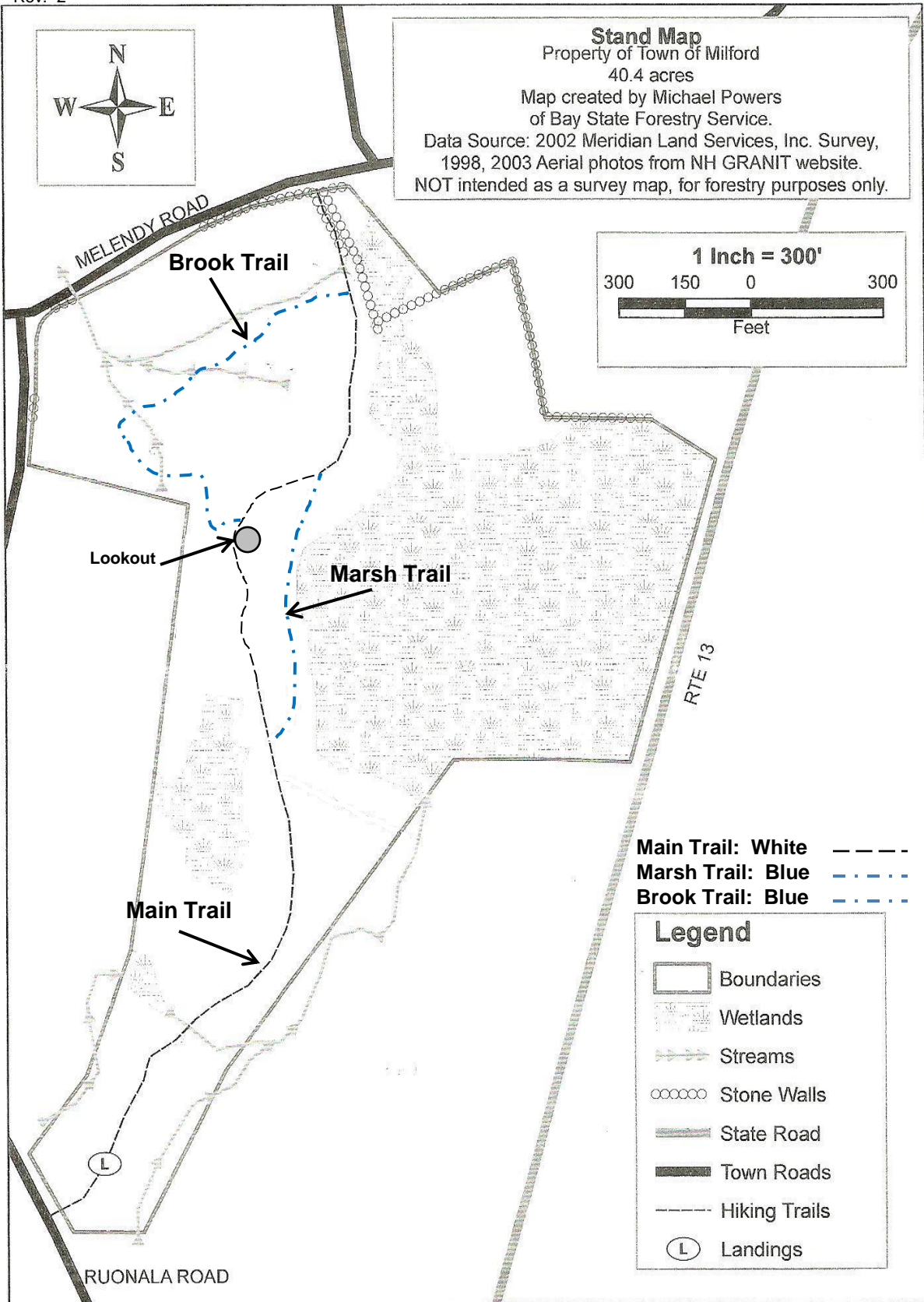
The Milford Conservation Commission would like to thank the following individuals for their cooperation with our efforts to bring this trail to reality. Without their generosity you would not be enjoying the Granite Town Rail-Trail.

Thank you,
Steven Desmarais
Tai-Deh Hsu
John F. Barretto
Celia Cerulli Pashe
Frank Gavin
Stephen Talarico

The trail corridor averages only 66 feet wide. This land is surrounded by private property. PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAIL.

Rotch Wildlife Preserve

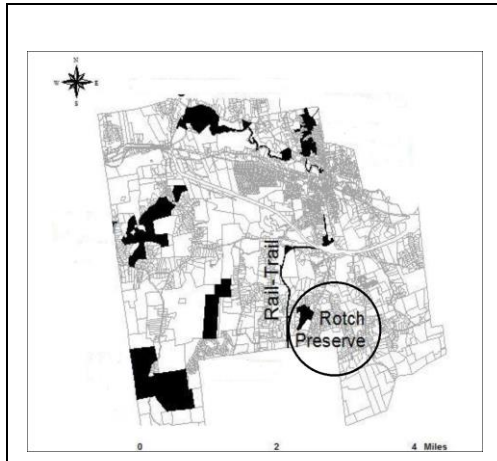
Rev. 2



Rotch Wildlife Preserve Town Forest

How to Get There:

The town forest is located south of Milford just off Rt. 13S. Head south from the Rt 101 Bypass on Rt. 13. Approximately 1 mile, turn right onto Melendy Rd. Approximately a mile later, turn left onto Ruonala Rd. The parking area about a ½ mile on the left.



Trail information:

The Rotch Wildlife Preserve is the newest addition to the Milford Trail System. There are blazed trails, but due to extensive beaver activity, not all of them are accessible. The Commission is working to balance the needs of the wildlife and people who use the property. Recently, the Commission was given

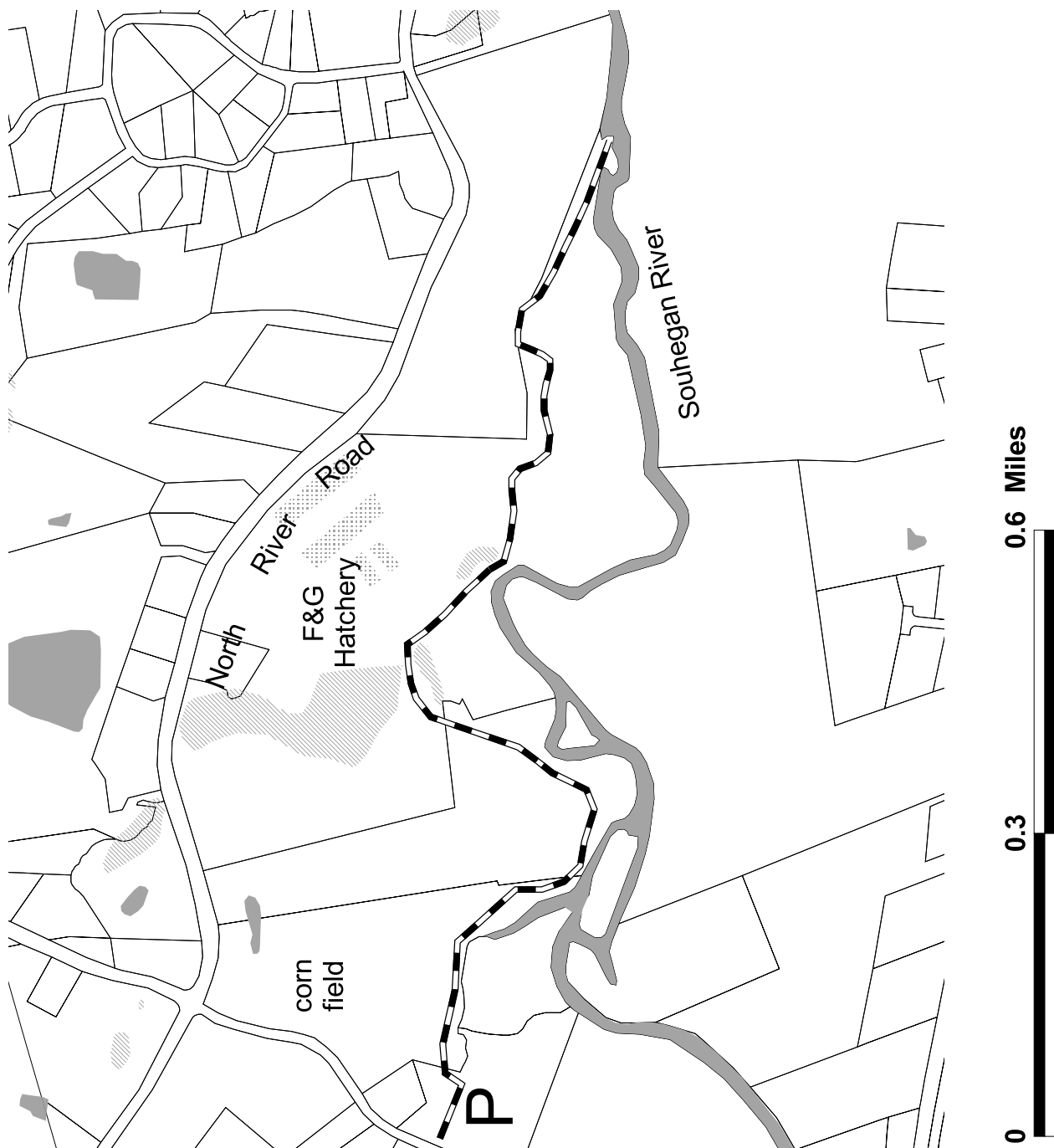
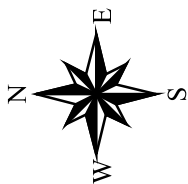
an additional 16 acres abutting the town forest. The Trails Committee is working to re-open existing trails that are on that property and connect to current trails in the town forest.

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Souhegan River Trail

Milford, NH 1.3 mi.



Souhegan River Trail West, Milford, New Hampshire

How to get there:

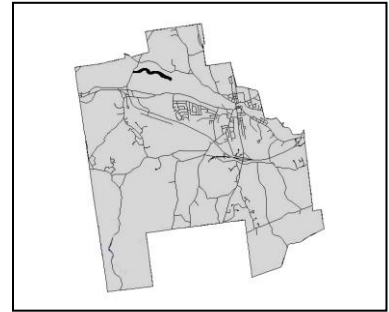
From the Milford Oval take Elm Street west to the intersection with RT. 101. Turn right, cross the bridge, continue approximately ½ mile. Turn right onto a small gravel road. Park on the right.

Trail information:

The Souhegan River Trail meanders thru property owned by the State of New Hampshire. This property is managed by the NH Fish & Game Department as a fish hatchery. Some of the property, the fields in particular, is leased to local farmers or dairymen and should be treated as private land.

The trail follows the river closely and may be flooded during seasonally high water. There are several bridges spanning small water courses before they enter the Souhegan River.

Follow the white blazes. There are many trails in this area made over the years by children, fishermen and local people walking by the river. Some trails lead to private land, please stay on the designated trail. You may notice red paint spots and orange ribbons. These have been placed by mtn. bikers & snowmobilers and are not part of the town's trail system.



Souhegan River Trail East, Milford, New Hampshire

How to get there:

Start from Emerson Park which is located on the Oval side of the Post Office on Mont Vernon Street. There is parking around the Oval.

Trail Information:

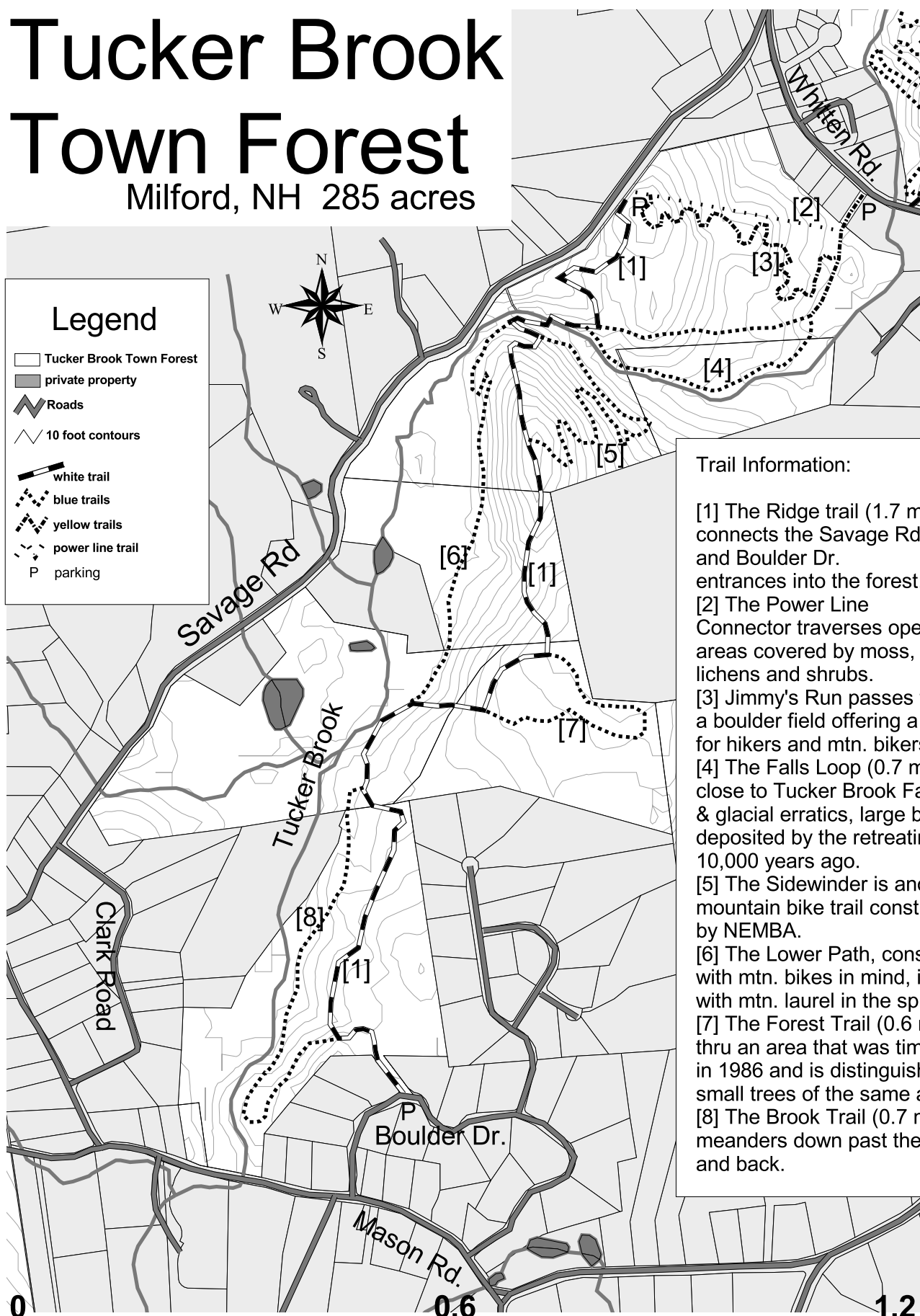
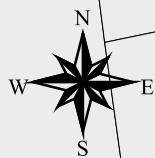
The east side of the Souhegan River Trail begins at Emerson Park. Hikers walk along the river behind the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club passing the bridge to Keyes Field. The trail leaves the woods and river using a fenced dirt path to connect to the sidewalk on Mont Vernon Street. Turn left on the sidewalk to continue to the MCAA fields. On the far side of the fields follow the hiking signs to the trail located near the river side of the fields. Follow the white blazes through the cornfields of an active farm. Please stay on the trail or dirt roads. The trail is not blazed well in this section as the commission continues to work with the farmer to minimize the impact of hikers on his operation.

Tucker Brook Town Forest

Milford, NH 285 acres

Legend

- Tucker Brook Town Forest
- private property
- Roads
- 10 foot contours
- white trail
- blue trails
- yellow trails
- power line trail
- parking



Trail Information:

- [1] The Ridge trail (1.7 mi) connects the Savage Rd. and Boulder Dr. entrances into the forest.
- [2] The Power Line Connector traverses open areas covered by moss, lichens and shrubs.
- [3] Jimmy's Run passes through a boulder field offering a trail for hikers and mtn. bikers alike.
- [4] The Falls Loop (0.7 mi) passes close to Tucker Brook Falls & glacial erratics, large boulders deposited by the retreating glacier 10,000 years ago.
- [5] The Sidewinder is another mountain bike trail constructed by NEMBA.
- [6] The Lower Path, constructed with mtn. bikes in mind, is glorious with mtn. laurel in the spring.
- [7] The Forest Trail (0.6 mi) passes thru an area that was timbered in 1986 and is distinguished by small trees of the same age.
- [8] The Brook Trail (0.7 mi) meanders down past the brook and back.

No trash, no fires, no alcoholic beverages. Use caution, hunting permitted in season.
This trail guide prepared by the Milford Conservation Commission. Updated 2009

Tucker Brook Trails, Milford, New Hampshire

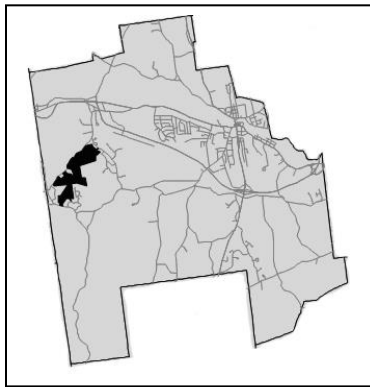
How to Get There:

Savage Rd. Entrance

Milford Oval, west on Elm St., right onto 101 bypass, turn right at light onto Phelan Rd. Bear right up the hill as the road changes to Savage Rd. A parking lot is on left under the power lines. The trail head leaves the parking area on the right very near Savage Rd. Another trail leaves the parking lot, directly ahead, under the power lines.

Boulder Dr Entrance

Milford Oval, west on Elm St immediate left onto Union Street, to Osgood Road. Right onto Mason Rd just past Osgood Pond. Go 2.9 mi., turn right at second entrance to Boulder Dr. Trail head is 0.1 mi on the left.



Trail information:

Tucker Brook Town Forest is 285 acres of mostly forested, rolling terrain, and provides excellent hikes in all seasons.

The Ridge Trail (1.8 mi) connects the two entrances into Tucker Brook Town Forest. Falls Loop (0.7 mi) passes Tucker Brook Falls and the remains of a mill.

A local chapter of NEMBA, a mountain bike club, built Sidewinder, Jimmy's Run and the Lower Path which are beautiful in the spring when the mountain laurel is in bloom. There is a permanent orienteering course on the property. For a map and instructions see our Web site or pick one up in the town hall.

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