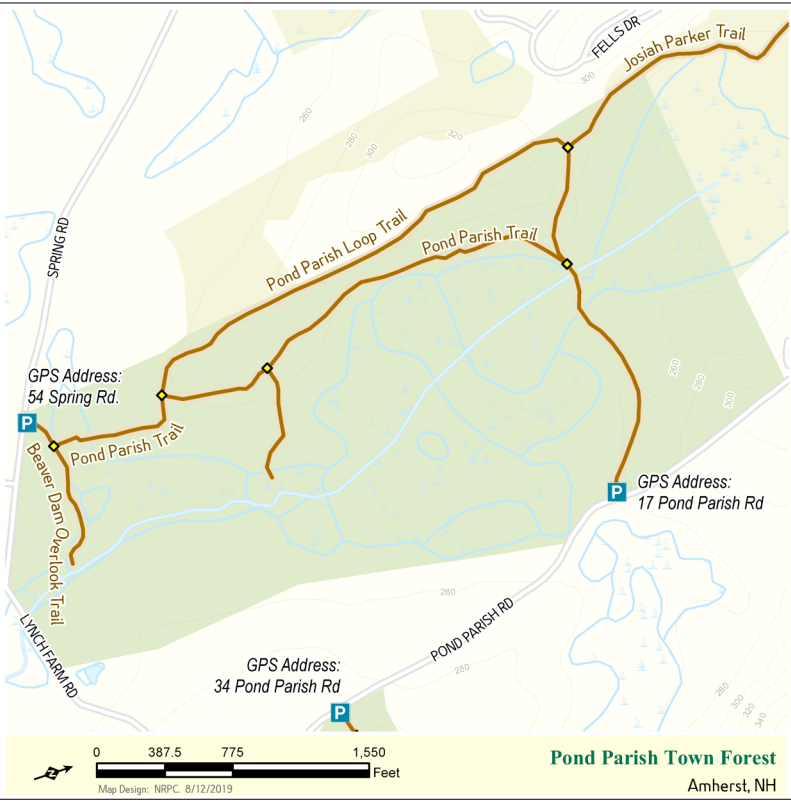


Pond Parish, Converse Woods, & Grater Woods



The Pond Parish trails show visitors land in transition. This land was shaped by an ice age glacier over 10,000 years ago. Visitors can see signs of the uses by residents 100 years ago. Moving ahead in time, the Converse family operated a sawmill on some of the land. The old dam and mill foundation still stand. The mill pond has since become a bog and actually supports some carnivorous plant species. At the south end of this wetland, a beaver dam creates an open water pond of about 30 acres. Some of the area was selectively logged by the ACC in 2010, under its Forest Management Plan. This cut, as are all ACC forest management activities, was planned, marked, and supervised by the Commission’s professional forester. Moving into the future, the ACC plans to let nature manage the wet areas.

The Grater Woods Trail is about 0.6 miles inside the Grater Woods area. Beginning from the southwest stone wall, at the end of Grater Road, it is about 0.5 miles until you enter Merrimack and their extensive trail system. See Merrimack’s trail map for further information:
www.merrimackoutdoors.org/our-properties/grater-woods



Converse Woods is a 27-acre parcel of land on the east side of Pond Parish Road. Trails in this area have been cleared and improved using former logging roads. Snowshoeing is permitted, as is hiking and mountain biking. Visitors will see a number of forest tree species, as well as low bush blueberries and wildflowers. Converse Woods is a good place to visit for a 2-hour, not-too-challenging walk through a varied woodland environment.

Other Amherst Trails

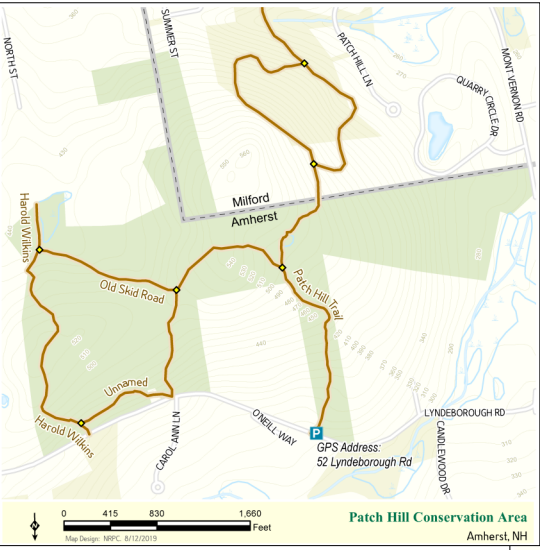
The B&M Trail offers an easy, flat 1 mile walk along a former railbed, from Walnut Hill Road. It skirts Little Baboosic Lake, where beavers are often active. Stone walls along the way were crossed or buried by the railroad.

The Great Meadow Stroll is an easy short walk for children and adults through the woods to a boardwalk and sitting area on the water. Located across from Wilkins School, this is an ideal location for bird watching and picnics!

Lindabury Orchard is a 47 acre property that contains two loop trails. These moderately difficult trails will afford visitors lovely views of old mature forest and the Orchard. Another great picnic destination!

Patch Hill Trails lie on the border of Amherst and Milford. The trails pass four prominent quarries. Limited views of the Souhegan Valley are possible from openings in the forest.

*For more Amherst trail maps and information: please visit: <https://www.amherstnh.gov/conservation-commission/pages/amherst-trails>



Safety & Conservation Information

- Tell someone before you go. Stay together if hiking in a group.
- Bring water, food, or snacks, and protection from rain/snow.
- Stay on the designated trails; it prevents erosion and protects the natural landscape.
- Be considerate of others using the trails.
- Carry In / Carry Out your trash.
- Fires are not permitted.
- Wear safety colors during hunting season: **BLAZE ORANGE IS RECOMMENDED**

The town of Amherst prohibits motorized recreational vehicles on all town lands. However, snowmobiles are permitted on Patch Hill Trail, B&M Trail, and Grater Road.

Welcome to the Town of Amherst Trails System!

Since 1968, the Amherst Conservation Commission (ACC) has worked to preserve natural resources and open spaces throughout the town. Through our Trails System on town land, the ACC promotes the public use of natural open space for low-impact recreation that is consistent with conservation principles. We hope that you enjoy this land for many different types of recreational activities. Many town trails are multi-use, that is, they can be used for a number of different recreational activities, including hiking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing. Biking may not be permitted on some trails and, if so, this will be posted. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trails. When on Town lands, please always stay on the trails and respect the surrounding private properties. Please refrain from altering or expanding trails without first contacting the ACC. Help us to maintain the beauty of our conservation areas by leaving the lands clean and natural. Please take all trash out with you, including dog bags, and follow all posted signs. Thank you for your consideration!

If you appreciate these trails and are looking for a way to get involved and volunteer your time—consider becoming a Trail Steward. Trail Stewards are trained by ACC members to protect and manage a designated trail. Local organizations may also want to help with a trail building or maintenance project as a team building/ community volunteer activity. These are great ways to give back and help the Town to maintain trails. Your efforts will help insure that these lands remain open, accessible spaces for generations to come. If you want to know more about the work of the Amherst Conservation Commission, our meetings, open to the public, are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Amherst Town Hall. If you’re interested in learning more about these meetings, or becoming a Trail Steward or Commissioner, please visit:
www.amherstnh.gov/conservation-commission

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2019 EDITION

AMHERST CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Using Science to Conserve Biodiversity,
Manage Open Space, and Promote Outdoor Recreation

TRAILS GUIDE





Betty Arnold Forest

Betty Arnold Forest is made up of four trails, totaling nearly 2.3 miles just north of the center of Amherst, off of Nathaniel Drive.

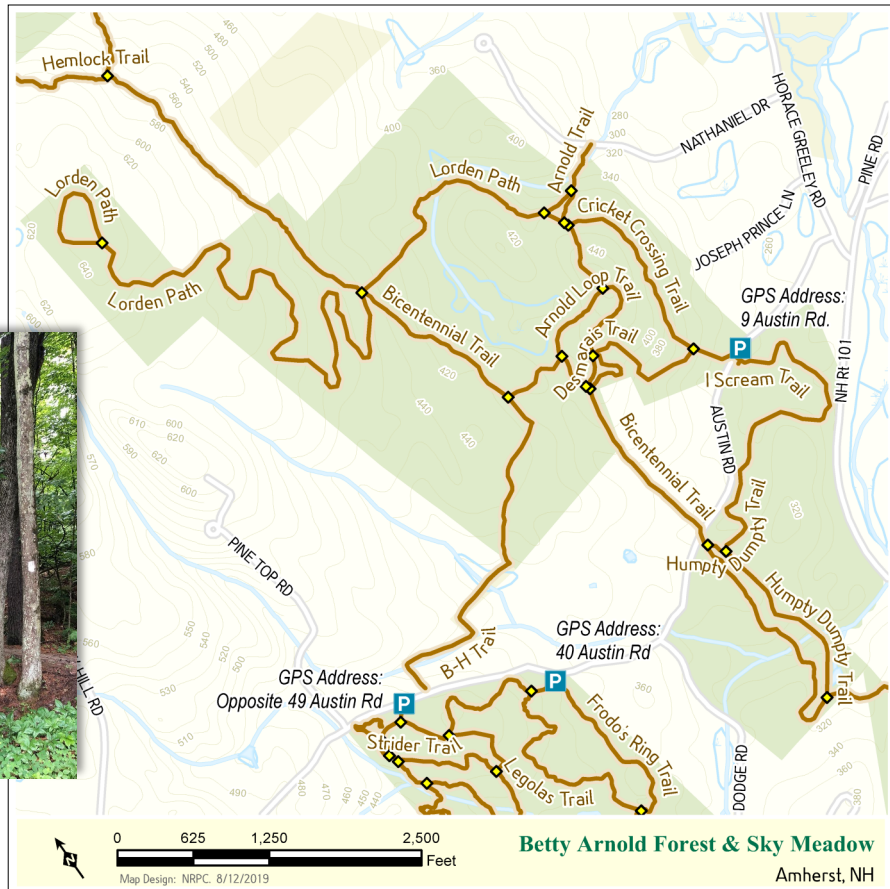
The **Arnold Trail** provides a nearly 1 mile loop trail, of moderate difficulty for all users, through a mixture of maturing woods. There are points along the trail that offer bird watching opportunities over the wetland shrubs.

The **Lorden Path** then veers off of the **Arnold Trail** to provide an alternate access route to the **Bicentennial Trail**. This 1.5 mile lollipop trail is not recommended for cross-country skiers, but provides moderately difficult terrain for hikers and bikers. Users will cross two streams along the trail and walk under oak, hemlock, and pine trees that are approximately 40-60 years old.

Off of the **Arnold Trail** is the small, 0.4 mile moderately difficult, **Cricket Crossing Trail**. You can take this trail to the Betty Arnold Forest trailhead on Austin Road, or use it to connect back to the **Desmarais Trail**. This short trail section leads back to the **Arnold Loop Trail** or to the **Bicentennial Trail**.

The **Bicentennial Trail** is the longest trail in Amherst at 4 miles in length. Along this moderate to difficult terrain, users will be introduced to many glacial and bedrock features, as well as the occasional blueberry-bordered vernal pool. This trail traverses Dodge Road, near the Dept. of Public Works, to Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC) in Joe English (Brook Road).

I Scream Trail connects the Betty Arnold parking area on Austin Road to the Tastee Kone on Route 101 via an easy, family-friendly trail through the woods. **Humpty Dumpty Trail**, is as named—a rolling trail that runs alongside the dump! It's a mountain biking favorite due to its bumpy terrain, and great for walking too. It connects from the **I Scream Trail** to the **Bicentennial Trail**.

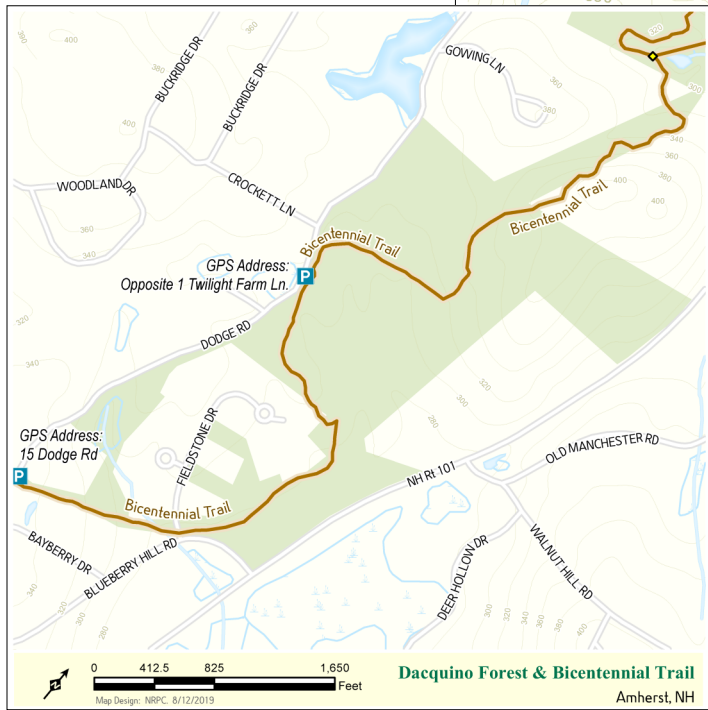


Western Section:

The **Hammond Brook Trail** heads west out of the Joe English parking lot and leads 1.4 miles up to the **Eagle Trail**. Along the way, users may notice hemlocks that have been sheared and stunted—a sign of porcupine activity.

The **Eagle Trail** is recommended for hikers only and leads through large erratic boulders and some of the oldest trees in Amherst (about 500 years old). Mountain biking is great for younger riders on the **Timber Trail**. Hikers and skiers will find a less-challenging circle through areas of mountain laurel in the summer. You might even see snowshoe hare tracks here in the winter.

In the Western Section of Joe English there is hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing on **Old Brook Road Trail**. This easy trail will lead you back to the parking lot or out to the Eastern section of the Reservation. Along this trail, you will see a red cottage that was home to the mill's sawyer and his family. Some of the original stonework of the mill dam and the foundation remain.

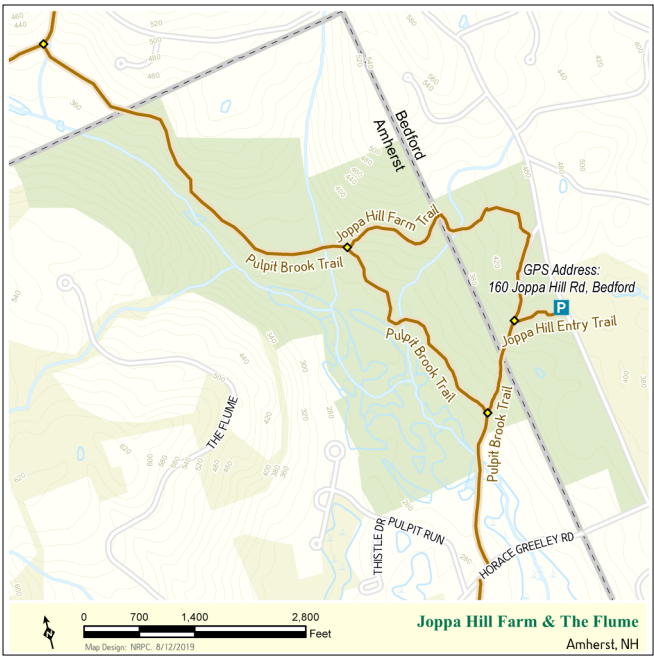
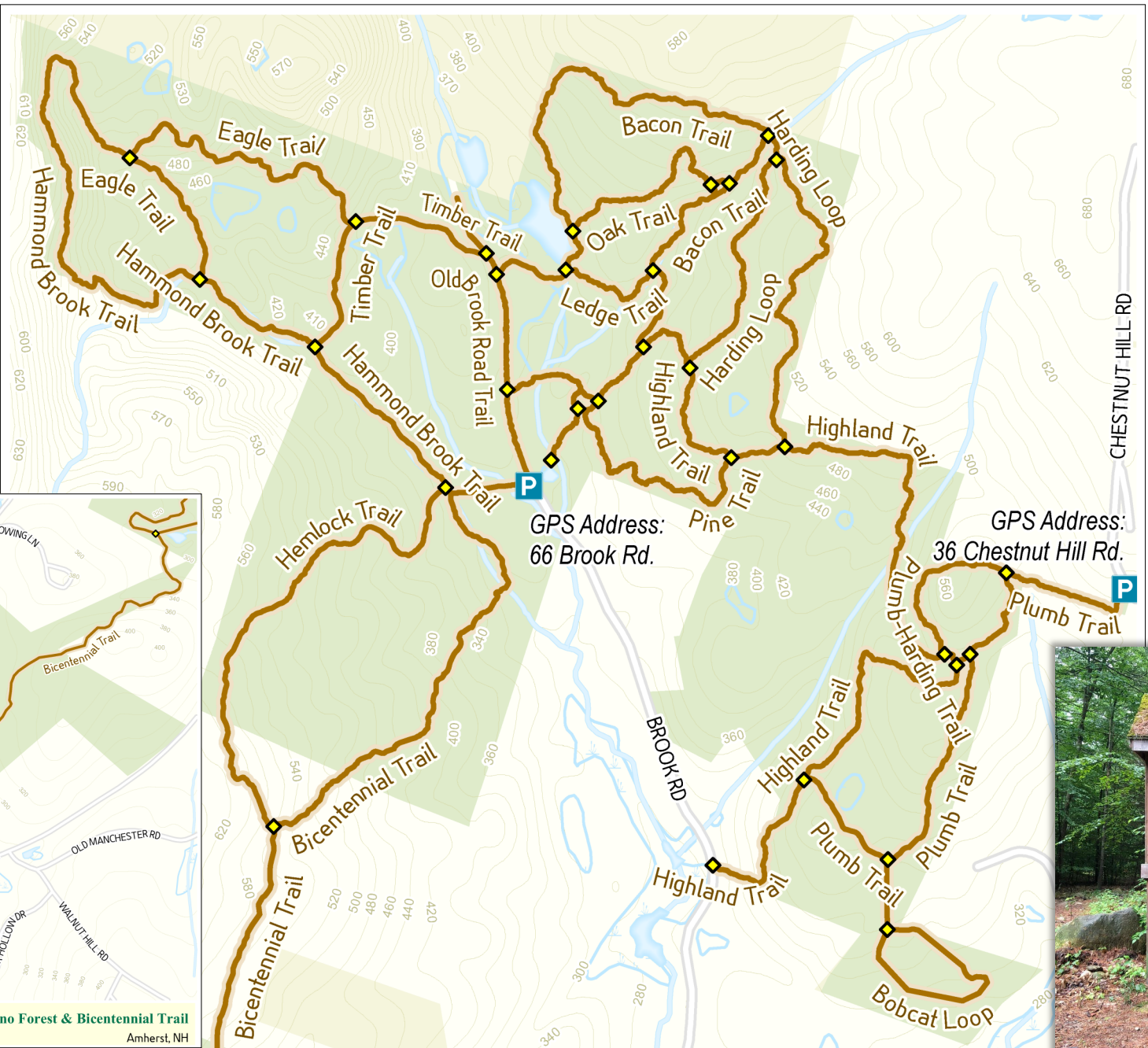


Joe English Reservation

Eastern Section:

The **Highland Trail** offers a good challenge for hikers and skiers that wish to ascend to another of Amherst's highest points, and connect to the **Plumb Trail**. After crossing the Joe English Brook over a bridge built by volunteers, you can access the **Ledge Trail**. This 1.1 mile long trail has some steep sections, with views of the beaver pond and the Brook. Crossing the King Pine bridge will allow hikers to access the **Bacon Trail**. On this trail, hikers might see old barways in the stone walls, suggesting that these fields were once swallowed up by the World War II bombing range (now the New Boston Air Station). The **Oak Trail** is a short, easy path through the **Bacon Trail**. The **Pine Trail** offers alternate access to the Eastern Section and eventually meets up with the **Highland Trail**. The **Harding Loop** is a single-track loop that will bring hikers and skiers back to the **Highland Trail**.

There is a small parking lot to access the **Highland and Plumb Trails** off of Chestnut Hill Road. At the high point along this trail, users will see expansive views. The **P-H Trail** forms a connector between the **Plumb Trail** from Chestnut Hill Road, and the **Highland Trail** from PMEC and Brook Road.



Pulpit Brook

Sections of the **Joppa Hill Farm Trail** lay in both Amherst and Bedford.

Users can access Bedford's educational Joppa Hill Farm using this moderate 1 mile trail. Along the 3.7 mile long **Pulpit Brook Trail**, hikers will see an upland area that has been flooded due to beaver construction. This trail also allows access to the historic Sprague Mill dam and other Bedford Conservation Commission trails (www.bedfordlandtrust.org/pulpit-rock-conservation-land). The **Old Mail Rail Trail** is essentially a straight-line trail

with very little elevation change that runs for about 1 mile.

This trail runs through some beautiful landscapes, including a particularly large wetland area.

Haseltine Community Preserve

The Haseltine Preserve contains five trails, totaling approximately 3 miles. Named for the fearless band of warriors in *Lord of the Rings*, trails include **Legolas** (0.5mi), **Strider** (0.5mi), **Gimli** (0.1mi), **Gandalf** (0.5mi), and a loop called **Frodo's Ring** (1.0mi). A short trail from the upper parking area on Austin Road to the center of Haseltine, **Rivendell** (0.1mi), takes you to a wonderful grove of glacial boulders and a stand of beech trees that is stunning in the autumn. Hikers and bikers will find the terrain here moderate. Trails here take visitors past forests of varying ages, including areas recently cut to promote the growth of young forest for the benefit of wildlife. There are many large erratic boulders, vernal pools, and signs of early quarrying.

Visitors can use the **B-H Trail** on the north side of Austin Road, as a connection between the **Bicentennial Trail** and the Haseltine Trail System to access Betty Arnold.

