



Exeter, NH

A Guide to the Exeter Trails

This booklet serves as a guide for the walking trails throughout Exeter. Inside you will find information on each trail and their access point(s) along with approved usage.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Henderson-Swasey Trail



Length: 7.30 miles - Network



Trail Description

The Henderson-Swasey Town Forest is a 220-acre area of conservation lands managed by the Exeter Conservation Commission. The forest has a well-established trail system allowing for multiuse and provides areas for winter activities such as snowshoeing as well. Several set loops of varying length exist along with several linking trails that can be used for shorter or longer hikes. The trails connect to the Oaklands Town Forests to the north though a large culvert that runs beneath NH-101. Being a fertile wildlife area for a variety of species provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities.

Trail Access

The main trailhead has parking at the end of the gravel drive off the west side of Route 85, just past the railroad bridge adjacent to the Exeter DPW.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Oaklands Town Forest



Length: 16.30 miles - Network



Trail Description

The trail system known as Fort Rock is well-established and connects to the Henderson-Swasey Town Forest trail network to the south through a tunnel that runs beneath Route 101. It creates a network of loops within the Newfields Oaklands Town Forest. These trails are open year-round for non-motorized activities however please note that they are not groomed for skiing in the winter. The area consists of uneven boulder and ledge outcrops while the mixed woodlands are home to wildlife, vernal pools and isolated wetlands.

Trail Access

Parking is located north of Route 101 on the west side of Newfields Road.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Little River Trail



Length: 2.40 miles - Network



Trail Description

This trail includes a 1.2 miles main loop the meanders along the Little River. At the footbridge you can connect to Pete's Path for another .75 miles which ends at a small parking spot at the end of Garrison Lane. These trails are blazed with white blazes for navigating. There is also an unmarked trail network that can be accessed by crossing north over the Old Mill site crossing. Beaver, deer, otter and many species can be found in the various habitats here.

Trail Access

The trail is located on the northside of Brentwood Road. There is an access point at the top of the Dolloff's private driveway. There is also parking available at the end of Garrison Lane. Caution should be taken when crossing the road as it can get quite busy.

Difficulty: Easy

Raynes Farm Trail



Length: 1.10 miles



Trail Description

From the parking lot visitors can walk the wooded trail to the north to explore the fields or head to the hickory stand to visit the newly restored Wiggin family gravesite. The mix of habitats makes for a diverse array of wildlife including turkeys, hawks, and grassland birds. The fields are actively managed for corn production or hayed multiple times a year. ** Please note: The barn is not currently suitable for public use due to safety. **

Trail Access

There is a gravel parking lot available off on the east side of Newfields Road approximately 1 mile north of the intersection with Route 101.

Difficulty: Easy

Morrissette Property Trail



Length: 1.20 miles - Network



Trail Description

This property is comprised of a small trail system connecting Linden Street to Court Street on the south side of the Little River. It connects to the YMCA and the Seacoast School of Technology to the north. This area is home to a wide variety of species and the preservation of grasslands and shrubs.

Trail Access

Parking is available on Linden Street as well as at the skate park on Court Street. The trail connects these three with a side path to additional parking at the Seacoast School of Technology.

Difficulty: Easy

McDonnell Conservation Area Trail



Length: 0.9 miles



Trail Description

This out and back trail follows the northern side of the Exeter River opening into a field and wet meadows. It is a habitat for a variety of wildlife providing a breeding area for a number of amphibians and an abundance of wildflowers in the spring. There are two resting benches provided along the trail as part of an Eagle project.

Trail Access

Parking is available at the Linden Street entrance just north of the Exeter River. This lot is gated and open from 8 am – 6 pm however there is still enough parking for two vehicles in front of the gate when closed. Parking can also be found in a gravel pull off area on Court Street just north of the Exeter River.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Riverwoods-Jolly Rand Nature Trail



Length: 1.80 miles - Network



Trail Information

A former cart path that is now a designated scenic trail extending from Brentwood Road south to the Southeast Land Trust. This well marked trail is an easy out and back hike that passes through woodlands, across brooks and alongside neighborhoods. It connects to additional trails within the Kimball reserve and Riverwoods property that are open for passive public recreation.

Trail Access

The trail can be accessed via Rt. 111 toward Kingston. Keep right onto Pickpocket Road and Jolly Rand is on the right a few yards beyond the beginning of Pickpocket.