

Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Trails

Access to trail:

Take 93 to Exit 16. Take a right at the lights onto Eastman Street. Continue to Portsmouth Street and follow the brown and white "Conservation Center" signs. The parking lot will be on the right after a small bridge.

The trail:

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour

Distance: about 1.5 miles

Magnificent white pines surround the Conservation Center atop the bluff, while hardwoods - oak, maple, ash, birch, basswood and hickory - dominate the slope. In spring, a spectacular display of yellow trout lilies may be seen; in autumn, the color show of maples takes over. The trail follows the edge of a beaver pond, along the brook and ends in the Merrimack River, through a spectacular wetland with one beaver dam and several old beaver lodges. Watch for ducks and herons.

Standing on the floodplain of the Merrimack River, notice bittersweet vines entwining the smaller trees, the large dead trees are remains of American elms, killed many years ago by the accidentally imported Dutch elm disease. These snags have considerable value as den trees for mammals and as a source of insect food for the big, red-crested pileated woodpecker and other birds.

Birds can be seen along the trail. Year-round residents and migratory species both take advantage of this varied landscape near the heart of the city. Especially attractive are summer visitors, such as the cardinal, oriole, and rose-breasted grosbeak.

Most mammals prefer to come out at night and are often detected by their tracks in mud or snow. Deer are often observed along the edge of

clearings, and beaver workings can be seen in many locations. As you walk, keep a keen eye out for these signs, as well as for the turtles, frogs, toads, snakes, salamanders, and insects that make the floodplain their home too.



Concord Conservation Commission
225-8515

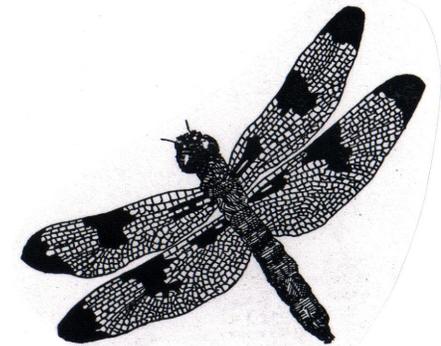
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
54 Portsmouth Street
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Map 14

Concord Trail System

**Society for the
Protection of
New Hampshire
Forests Trails**

**Les Clark Nature Trail
(Heritage trail segments)**



Concord Conservation Commission
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