

East Sugar Ball Road Trail

Access to the trail:

This very short trail connects East Side Drive and Portsmouth Street. From East Side Drive, go east to the end of East Sugar Ball Road. The paved path is in front of you.

The trail:

Hiking travel time: about 10 leisurely minutes
Distance: about 1200 feet.

Most people use this trail as part of an exercise route. At the end of the path turn left on Portsmouth Street to Broken Ground Drive. Take Broken Ground Drive to East Side Drive, then left on East Side Drive to East Sugar Ball Road, back to the area where you parked your car. The whole loop is an easy 1.5-mile walk.

History:

This trail is short, but is long on history. Penacook Indians constructed a fort on the Sugar Ball bluff from which they could watch the whole river valley. The Penacooks and the Mohawks were at war in 1623. Through clever maneuvering, the Mohawks were able to “flush” the Penacooks from their fort to the valley below and attack the fort. The artifacts that have been recovered near the fort site seem to indicate this battle may have further weakened the Penacook tribe. Archaeologists are not sure of the exact location of the fort.

On Friday May 13, 1726, 26 potential settlers, including surveyors and chain men arrived at the bluff called the Sugar Ball to begin to lay out the settlement of Penny Cook.

Shortly thereafter, a meetinghouse was built in which Timothy Walker held his first church service, establishing what is now the First Congregational Church in Concord. On the west side of East Side Drive, there is a monument marking this spot.

Portsmouth Street itself was the first east-west turnpike in the state.



**Concord Conservation Commission
225-8515**

Map 16

Concord Trail System

East Sugar Ball Road Trail



***Concord Conservation Commission
September 2010***