



CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™
Conservation Commission*

KNOWLTON WOODS TRAIL INFORMATION ABOUT A NEW TRAIL NORTH OF OAK HILL

This information is being provided to abutters, trail users, and others with an interest in the City of Concord's trail system regarding a trail to be built on City-owned land on Hot Hole Pond Road.

Background

In 2018, the City purchased Knowlton Forest, an 85 acre forested parcel, from the three daughters of Vernon Knowlton, a long time former resident of Hot Hole Pond Road. The family wished to see that the land was put into conservation to join with approximately 370 acres of City-owned conservation land on Oak Hill. In January 2020, the City purchased another 2.4 acre lot from the Murray family that abuts Knowlton Forest below the Swope viewpoint on Oak Hill.

Logging, Trails, and Parking.

Depending on weather, restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 virus, and logging markets, the City will commence logging under the supervision of the City's consulting forester on a portion of the property later this year, or next. The purpose of logging will be to develop high quality timber, encourage productive wildlife habitat, and enhance existing but grown over viewpoints on the property. Field stone walls, a cellar hole, and a large wetland complex will be protected. At the conclusion of logging, an on-site parking lot adequate for 6 cars will be constructed from the log yard at the northwest corner of the property which will serve as a trail head for two trails on the property, one on the west side and the other on the east side. The trails are each about one mile long and will add to the 6.9 miles of trails on Oak Hill which is the oldest and one of the most used trail systems in the City. The east trail will provide the most direct access to the fire tower.

Description of the Proposed Trails

Please see the attached map. Note that the trails are not yet cleared and the surveyors flag may be difficult to follow. The temporary access point is by utility pole #752 on the south side of Hot Hole Pond Road, approximately 0.3 miles from the intersection with Shaker Road. There is a large uprooted tree at the access point, and an existing path that follows an old logging road, which becomes more open after passing the uprooted tree. Please do not park on the side of the road, there is Fish & Game parking 0.4 miles further up Hot Hole Pond Rd. on the left side of the road, across from the boat ramp.

This guide is for walking a loop up the western trail and descending on the eastern trail. Follow the old logging trail, which is not marked but fairly worn for approximately 0.1 miles, then bear left. There is an old skidder trail going right. At 0.3 miles the trail crosses a stream (which will be bridged as part of trail construction to protect water quality). Proceed up the hill after the stream for approximately another 150 feet. At this point the new trail is marked with green and pink surveying tape, but there is no trail nor is it brushed out. Because of foliage it may be difficult to see and follow the tape in some places. Look carefully. The trail leaves the old logging trail to the right. It generally goes south and uphill but at miles 0.6-0.7 gradually bends to the right towards the western property boundary line. At 0.8 miles there are a number of pink flags marking the western boundary line corner. The trail turns left, passes between some boulders and intersects with the Oak Hill Dancing Bear trail at mile 0.9-1.0. Turn left and proceed east on the Dancing Bear trail past the Swope vista, at mile 1.3, the trail rejoins the yellow Tower Trail. At mile 1.4 there are some logs and brush on the left blocking

a former, closed trail. Turn left onto this old trail, which is still easy to follow, to about mile 1.5 where the new trail turns left down the hill. There is a ribbon at the intersection. If you come to a cut birch log across the old trail and begin going uphill you have gone too far and missed the turnoff on to the proposed trail. The trail does a number of switchbacks as it descends a steep bowl. At mile 1.8, near the bottom of the bowl, the trail crosses a stone wall close to the eastern property boundary. Approximately 100 feet beyond the stone wall, the trail turns right and traverses downward across a slope. At mile 2.0 the trail bends right and ascends to the southern end of a stone wall at mile 2.3. The trail stays to the right (eastern side) of the stone wall and crosses west over the wall at mile 2.5. The trail follows the terrain, first straight, then at mile 2.6 bending east and then west again. At mile 2.7 there is an old stone impoundment and the trail rejoins the old logging road near the entrance.

Public Comment and Hearing

A Public hearing will be held July 8, 2020 at 7pm by the Conservation Commission via Zoom meeting, by going to <https://zoom.us/j/181542776>, or calling 1-929-205-6099 and enter meeting code 181 542 776. You can also find the link at www.concordnh.gov/planning (be sure to use the Conservation Commission meeting link or phone number).

Please direct any questions or comments to Beth Fenstermacher, Planning Division, 41 Green Street, Concord, NH 03301, or bfenstermacher@concordnh.gov.

Proposed Trail Map Knowlton Woods Trail

