

Mast Yard State Forest Trails

Access to the trails:

From Carter Hill Road, take Broad Cove Drive to its junction with West Parish Road or connect directly to West Parish Road off of Carter Hill Road. Turn right onto West Parish Road. About 1000 feet down from the intersection with Broad Cove Drive, there is an opening on the right and a small area to park your car. Step over the large log to begin your walk.

The trails:

Hiking travel time: about 2 hours

Distance: about 5 miles total

Level of Difficulty: Easy with very few changes in elevation

The Mast Yard trail on the Concord side is a loop starting at the northwest corner of the parking lot, taking the left fork after crossing Dolf Brook, turning right onto the old railroad bed, right again at the power lines and returning over Dolf Brook. A total of about five miles, the trails also travel into Hopkinton and are flat and excellent for hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing with children. The NH Heroes Recreational Crossing bridges the Contoocook River and connects the Mast Yard State Forest with Lehtinen Park (See Map 2).

History:

According to *Bouton's History of Concord*, in the early 1800's this area was famous for supplying trees, two to three feet in diameter, that were used as masts for "His Majesty's Royal Ships" and later as masts for various other vessels built on the seacoast. The best masts were from the northwesterly side of Horse Hill. The trees were "drawn" to the Contoocook River to an area now called the "Mast Yard"; then floated down to the Merrimack River. Larger logs were drawn by 52 teams of oxen (104 animals) along Borough Road to the sandbanks below Sewalls Falls and there "thrown" into the Merrimack River and floated to the coast.



Concord Conservation Commission
225-8515



NH DRED
271-2214

Map 1

Concord Trail System

Mast Yard State Forest Trails



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Concord Conservation Commission