

**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 signs "Conservation Center" signs. The parking lot will be on the right after a small bridge.

**The trail:**

Hiking travel time: about 1.5 hours  
Total Distance: about 2.4 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 at the Merrimack River, through a spectacular wetland with one beaver dam and several old beaver lodges. Watch for ducks and herons.

Now you stand on the floodplain of the Merrimack River. From here you may 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**

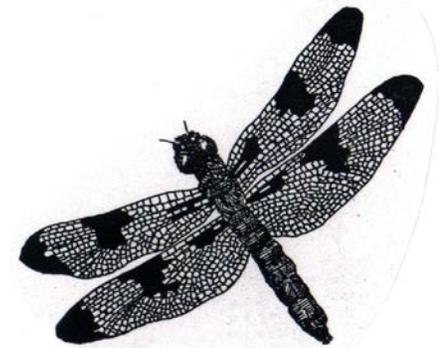
**Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
54 Portsmouth Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 224-9945**

*Map 14*

***Concord Trail System***

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

**Les Clark Nature Trail**



Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
54 Portsmouth Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 224-9945

***Concord Conservation Commission***  
**6/01**