

East Concord Heritage Trail

Access to the trails:

For the urban segments of the Heritage Trail, public parking is located on West Portsmouth Street, and at the NH Technical Institute (NHTI).

The trails:

Hiking travel time: about 2 hours (Map 13 only)

Distance: about 3 miles total (Map 13 only)

These urban trail segments from West Locke Road to West Portsmouth Street and from Horseshoe Pond to I-393 through the NHTI travel along the Merrimack Riverfront and along pavements and sidewalks, connecting to several other Heritage Trail segments in the area (see Maps 10, 11, 14, 15 & 17). These connections afford a more rural recreational experience and many can be enjoyed by bicycle commuters as an alternative way to travel to work.

Primary Riverfront Uses: Downtown Concord, NHTI, agricultural lands, Terrill Park, Arena Park, and Sewalls Falls Multi-use Recreation Area.

Trails open to the Public: Sewalls Falls, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), Merrill Park, Commercial Street, West Portsmouth Street, NHTI, and Penacook Street in Penacook, with more trails planned.

History:

European settlers arrived in 1726 to find Penacook Indians farming the broad, fertile floodplains of the Merrimack River. House lots were laid out along Main Street on a bluff above the interval that was divided into tillage plots. In the 1800s this agrarian community became the State's capital, as well as the railroad center of northern New England. The Abbott & Downing Company gave Concord national stature with the manufacturing of the Concord Coach, and Concord granite was quarried (and still is!) and used in prominent buildings throughout the country. Additionally, President Franklin Pierce practiced law here. His home, office, and gravesite are located in and adjacent to the

Historic District at the north end of North Main Street.

Much of the floodplain is still used for agricultural purposes. The river valley is framed by steep sandy bluffs to the east of downtown and in the area of West Concord and Penacook. There are a number of oxbow ponds left from the river's meandering.

SPNHF owns a substantial area of riverfront below the Conservation Center and holds easements on Horseshoe Island. The State of New Hampshire owns land occupied by the NHTI, site of the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium, as well as farmlands associated with the State Prison, and the Sewalls Falls Recreation Area. The City of Concord owns Terrill Park and Arena Park as well as conservation lands. Boat ramps are located at the City parks, Sewalls Falls, NHTI, and at a site off West Portsmouth Street maintained by the NH Fish and Game Department.

The Heritage Trail is a proposed 230-mile walking trail from the Massachusetts line to the Canadian border, many miles of which are complete.



Volunteer trail maintainers and managers:

We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested, call:

**Concord Conservation Commission
225-8515**

**For more information, call the Concord
Conservation Trust:
224-1955**

Map 13

Concord Trail System

East Concord Heritage Trail

(Heritage Trail Segments)



Concord Conservation Commission

6/01

East Concord Heritage Trail

Map 13

CONCORD
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION 2001
(603) 225-8515

	Public-Use Trail
	20' Topographic Contour Lines
	Interstate Highways
	Roads
	Political Boundary
	Water Bodies
	Rivers and Streams
	Heritage Trail
	Parking
	Accessibility
	Information or Kiosk
	Picnic Table or Bench
	Bridge
	Dam
	Point of Interest
	Trail Ends or Enters Private Land

To make your trip more enjoyable for you and for others who follow, please observe the following:

- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on City land.
- Do not disturb the plants or animals.
- Keep to the marked trails.
- Respect the private property near the trails.
- Be equipped for country walking.
- Carry out all trash and litter and clean up after your pet.

