

## **Society for the Protection of NH Forests Trails**

### **Access to trail:**

Take 393 to exit 16. Take a right at the lights onto Eastman Street. Continue to Portsmouth Street. Take a left onto Portsmouth Street and follow signs to the Conservation Center. The parking lot will be on the right after a small bridge.

### **The trail:**

Hiking travel time: about 1 hour

Distance: about 1.5 miles

You arrive at the trail by walking down, or along, a steep river bluff. 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. At the bottom of the stairs, the trail follows the edge of a beaver pond, along the brook and ends in 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.



Volunteer trail maintainers and managers:

**Liisa Adler and Paul Leveille**

**SPNHF**

**224-9945 ext. 309**

*Map 15*

## ***Concord Trail System***

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## **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**

# Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests Trails

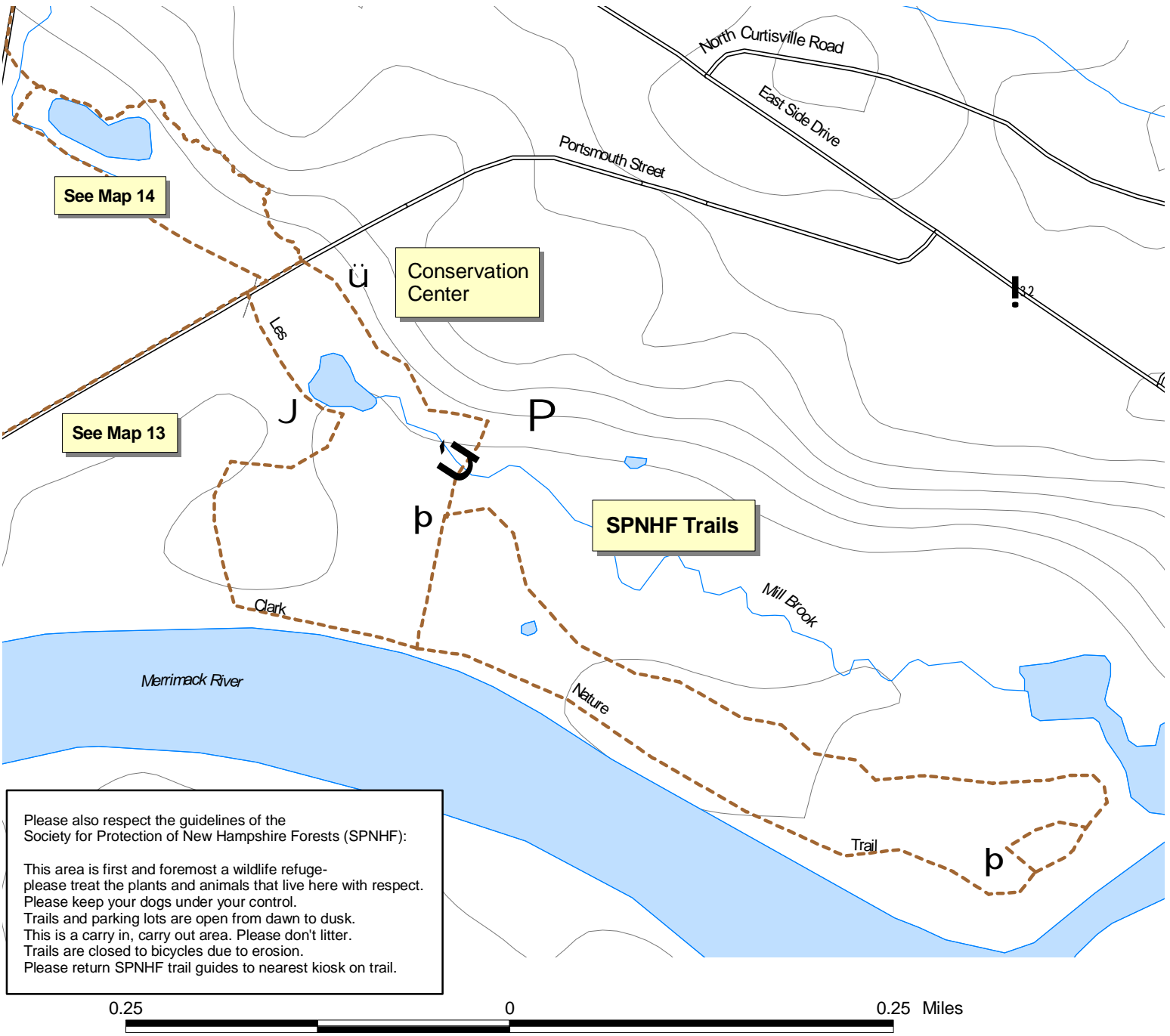
## Map 15

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.



Please also respect the guidelines of the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF):

This area is first and foremost a wildlife refuge—please treat the plants and animals that live here with respect. Please keep your dogs under your control. Trails and parking lots are open from dawn to dusk. This is a carry in, carry out area. Please don't litter. Trails are closed to bicycles due to erosion. Please return SPNHF trail guides to nearest kiosk on trail.

