

Hebron Town Forest

The 458 acre property has been conserved by the Town in perpetuity and may be accessed year round from the parking area at 184 Groton Road in Hebron, NH (8/10 mile from the Village store). The forest has waterfront on the Cockermouth River and Spectacle Pond. The Conservation Commission and the Selectboard steward the Forest. Conservation Commission members and "Friends of Hebron Town Forest" maintain trails for the enjoyment of all. The Hardy Snowmobile Club maintains and grooms a portion of the Spectacle Pond Trail for snowmobiles, skiers and snowshoers during the winter months.

Winter access—In addition to parking at 184 Groton Rd, snowshoers and skiers may park at NH Audubon's Ash Cottage on North Shore Road. It is an easy ski or snowshoe on groomed trails to Braley Road. Cross Braley Road, make a slight right, and follow the snowmobile trail to the Town Forest.

By water—Paddlers may park at the Fish and Game access at Spectacle Pond and paddle to the far end of the pond, put ashore and take a rest or a walk in the Town Forest.

Cockermouth Ledge Trail Loop (yellow blazes) - This loop trail begins and ends along the banks of the Cockermouth River. Follow the sign at the kiosk on the far side of the bridge over the River. Follow the yellow blazes, signs and arrows. The trail climbs gradually through hardwoods, low bush blueberry bushes and then moves into pine and hemlock forest. In the forest you will see signs guiding you to either head to Groton View (ledges facing west towards the Cardigan range and Sculptured Rocks), Hebron View (south facing ledges overlooking the village and Newfound Lake) or head back to the parking lot (signed). Heading directly back to the parking lot is the shortest route. Taking the trail to Groton View or Hebron View will loop you across both ledges and back to the junction. Maps present on this trail will guide you no matter which route you take. The downhill to the parking lot is slightly steep and may be slippery when leaves or snow coat the trail. **The entire trail, including side forays to Groton and Hebron view totals 1.9 miles. Elevation gain- 255 feet.**

Spectacle Pond Trail -- This "out and back" trail begins at the parking lot and after crossing the bridge over the river continues along the west side of the meadow. It gently then moderately climbs and levels out after a stream crossing (bridge). After crossing a 2nd bridge, you will note the Bald Knob trail (orange blazes) veers off to the right. Keep left and follow signs to Spectacle Pond. As the pond comes into view, the trail forks to the right (do not go towards the red cabin). The trail continues about 50 yards to a large rock (Picnic Rock). Please do not continue past here as it is private property. **Distance 1 mile each way.**

Bald Knob Trail (orange blazes) -- This "out and back" trail begins at a junction with the Spectacle Pond Trail less than a mile from the main parking lot. It climbs up and up to some beautiful ledges where Cardigan Mountain can be seen in the distance. The trail then continues to the very northern tip of the Town Forest and into the Cockermouth Forest (NH Forest Society property). Hikers can climb to the top of Bald Knob and Mount Crosby on this trail. **Distance 3.5 miles each way from parking lot to Bald Knob. Elevation gain 1,801 feet.**

PLEASE REMEMBER

This property has been conserved for all to enjoy!



- Carry In, Carry out
- Pick up after your dog
- No bathroom facilities
- Stay on the trail
- No fires or smoking
- No cutting or marking trees
- Do not remove anything
- No wheeled vehicles (motorized or bicycles)

Meadow Walk - This gentle loop trail was designed for meandering, not climbing. From the parking lot, follow the Spectacle Pond Trail (access road). Cross the bridge over the Cockermouth River and continue to the field. The Meadow Walk (sign) veers right and continues along the edge of the lower field where you'll find a variety of wildflowers, birds and butterflies. After a gentle upward slope, bear right and visit the well shaded picnic area. A picnic table awaits you! Enjoy a snack (Carry in/Carry out). From here, backtrack a few yards and take the cut-off to the Spectacle Pond Trail. From here it is less than 1/2 mile back to your car. **Distance for the entire loop beginning and ending at the parking lot is 8/10 mile.**