



This leaflet was developed with the support and encouragement of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Hancock. The following people helped to make it happen.

Lee Baker
Margaret Carlson
Stephen Froling
E.J. Mitchell
Cathleen Calmer - artist

July 2007 / Sept 2008



EIGHT GREAT HIKES IN HANCOCK

1. **Pierce Trail**— a class 6 road at the end of North Road. Walk past the gate straight into the woods. At the fork in the road, take a right and pass a lovely pond. The trail leads to the site of Greystone Lodge in Antrim which burned down in 1970. The left fork leads to Antrim Road. The woods here are quiet and beautiful.

1-1/2 miles to site of former Lodge

2. **The Old Railroad Trail**— a wonderful path through the woods running along the Contoocook River between South Elmwood Road and the Peterborough Recycling Center. Many pleasant stopping places, with river views. In winter, snowmobiles pack the snow to make great cross-country skiing. Entrances from South Elmwood Road, Forest Road and Cavender Road.

2-1/2 miles total length

3. **The Walcott Forest**—Added to Hancock's conservation areas in 1986. School students have constructed paths and wooden walkways in boggy places. Red/blue/green trails are clearly marked. Parking is available off-street at the entrance from Kimball Road. Bird-watching at the Great Meadow—very private, delightful walk.

1/2 mile to Great Meadow

4. **Willard Pond Trails** – Audubon land actually in Antrim, but accessed from the Hancock side. The Tudor trail begins at Willard Pond, on the left, shortly before the water and is well-marked half-way around the pond where it ends at Piney Point. For a longer walk, branch off along the way and climb Bald Mountain (steep in places, but fairly short) to great views of the local area. Dogs not allowed.

¾ mile to Piney Point

1½ miles to Bald Mt. one way.

5. **McGreal Forest Ecological Reserve** – The entrance is on the left from King's Highway, ¼ mile beyond the Harris center, heading toward Hunt's Pond. The path leads through hemlock and hardwoods, past beaver houses and water's edge. This addition from SPNHF contributes to the Harris Center Supersanctuary.

½ mile one way

6. **Harriskat Trail** – at the Harris Center. (Many hikes begin at the Harris Center. Trail maps available there.) The trail up Skatutakee Mountain begins across King's Highway from the Center, and leads up a fairly gradual way, with some ledges near the top. The way is well-marked, and emerges to wonderful views of Hancock and the surrounding area. From the peak of Skatutakee, the Harriskat trail connects with others to Thumb Mt., Jack's Pond, and Old Dublin Road.

1½ miles to the top of Skatutakee

Please respect common courtesies by carrying out what ever you carry in, leaving no trash behind. The MAP inside shows numbers that correspond with the numbered descriptions that follow. Most of the trails are well-worn paths. Parking is off-road at some locations – look for drive-pull-ins close by.

Readers will note that we're highlighting a single trail from both Harris Center and the Sargent Center, but that interested walkers will find maps at their local offices for many extra options. Dogs are permitted ON LEASH on all trails except the Audubon land at Willard Pond. Please clean up after your pet.

WELCOME to the first hiking leaflet on walking trails in HANCOCK. Our hope is that this is a forerunner of more trail descriptions as time goes on. Here we've assembled a SAMPLE of some good walks, appropriate for families with children, as well as for individual hikers.

7. **Welch Farm**— A large tract of Conservation land with plenty of room to ramble around the foundations of a large old Hancock farm and orchard. Access from Route 123, on the right about 2 miles from the center of town. (A trail - a former county road - leads west into deeper wet woods, where John Kulish (trapper-woodsman) used to guide hunters. Kulish trails still to be developed.) A path leads east to Prospect Hill Road from the Welch Farm.

8. Trail around **Half-moon Pond** at **Sargent Center**. (Begin with sign-in at the Center. Many hikes, trail maps available there.) This trail begins on Windy Row, on the right, just before the long bridge over the Pond Spillway. (Small parking area available there.) Follow the Bog trail left at the first fork and to Lower Ledges Trail at the next fork. Some boggy parts, but a wide path. Some ledges. A great walk with pond views most of the way. Trail ends on Sargent Camp road. To make a circle, follow the Camp Road left, back to Windy Row and across bridge where you began.

2 ½ miles roundtrip

Mileages are approximate, one way. Contour lines are at intervals of 100 feet. Dogs are not allowed at Willard Pond. Dogs on leash allowed at Half-moon Pond. Elsewhere, dogs are allowed, but please clean up after your pet.