



TRAILS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

An Inventory of Trails and Assessment of Potential Impacts to Wildlife on Town Conservation Lands in Rye, NH. 2026.



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Acknowledgements

Thanks to past and current members of the Town of Rye's Conservation Commission and other community members who accompanied me on trail walks and shared their in-depth knowledge about each property which was essential to creating this report. Thanks too to the NH Fish and Game Department for allowing me to use images from their "Trails for People and Wildlife" guidebook.

Photos, GIS analyses, maps and graphic design by Rachel Stevens with appreciation to the Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science



BACKGROUND



Rye Conservation Commission

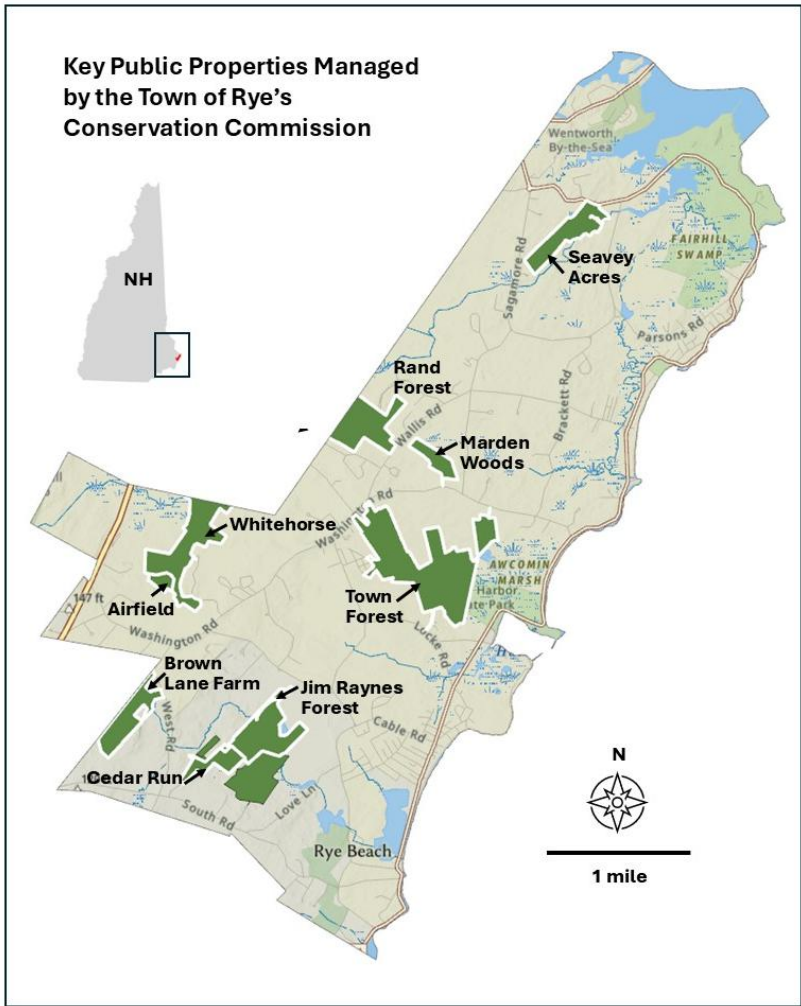
The Rye Conservation Commission was established in 1965 to protect and preserve existing freshwater and saltwater wetlands and wetland buffers in Rye and to oversee all of the Town’s natural resources. According to the state public lands database, the Town of Rye owns 54 properties. Of these, 9 are managed by the Conservation Commission and open to the public. Together they cover almost 650 acres and support an existing network of over 13 miles of recreational trails, all of which are open to cross country skiing, dog walking, and wildlife watching. The 2013 Master Plan of the Town of Rye identifies a strategy to “Acquire and manage lands for conservation” and “acquire contiguous parcels to build wildlife corridors” and this approach was maintained in a [2025 update](#). A comprehensive municipal-wide Natural Resources Inventory was completed in 2021 and can be viewed [here](#).

Goal of this Report

Good land stewardship balances public access and maintenance of natural ecological integrity. This can be done by varying the density and intensity of use of trail systems on different properties depending on the sensitivity of natural features each supports. Some properties will lend themselves to being high recreational use “ambassador” areas with a well-publicized, and well-maintained, network of trails. Others that support particularly sensitive wildlife, plants, or natural communities are usually best with few, or no, trails and remaining less publicized. Considering the entire suite of properties under an individual’s or organization’s management at the same time makes it possible to develop a strategic plan with different tracts having varying levels of public use. The goal of this report is to evaluate existing recreational trails on nine parcels of public land owned by the Town of Rye and managed by the Conservation Commission and to provide suggestions concerning their maintenance and potential impacts to wildlife.



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Together these nine properties cover 650 acres and currently support 13.15 miles of recreational trail.

Trails for People and Wildlife

Hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, horseback riding, and dog walking are just some of the ways we get outside to enjoy nature and relax. The scientific literature has firmly established it is good for both our mental and physical health. However, even these seemingly low-key activities can have a negative impact on wildlife by reducing their abundance, reproductive success, or even survival. *“Trails for People and Wildlife”* is a guide and mapping tool that helps to plan new trails and evaluate existing ones to allow people to enjoy nature and wildlife to thrive. This approach to assessing trails was developed by the NH Fish and Game Department, NH Audubon, and Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve with funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



There are several ways trail use may affect wildlife. The type and severity of impact will depend on the species of animal present, the season or time of day, and where the trail is located. Disturbance can include one or more of the following types;



Even though these disturbance events may be short in duration, cumulatively they can have significant long-term consequences. Disturbances are particularly impactful during harsh winter conditions, or the breeding season, when animals are already energetically stressed. Seasonal avoidance of trails during these times is an easy way to help wildlife.

The *Trails for People and Wildlife* approach was created with input from multiple trail planners and wildlife experts. Comments from members of twenty organizations improved the product including input from staff at the National Parks Service, NH Department of Transportation, NH Trails Bureau, UNH Cooperative Extension, US Forest Service, and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance. The approach hopes to maintain wildlife presence for us all to enjoy while supporting public access goal.

Trail Infrastructure and Maintenance.



The NH Trails Bureau publishes a best management practices guide for trail construction and maintenance that is [available here](#). It has the very helpful tag line “*Keep trails out of the water; and water out of the trails*”. As the guide says “*just because a trail already exists doesn’t mean it’s in a good location. Some trails and old roads were never designed for the use they are receiving*”. Having fewer trails that are used more frequently allows land managers to focus available resources. This can be the volunteer time, funding, equipment or infrastructure needed to maintain trails in the long term.

A TOWNWIDE EVALUATION FOR RYE

DISTANCE MATTERS

A Trail's Corridor of Influence

As we explore a trail, our presence is detected by wildlife into the distance on either side of where we walk. The distance to which this radiates out in all directions is called the trail's "corridor of influence".



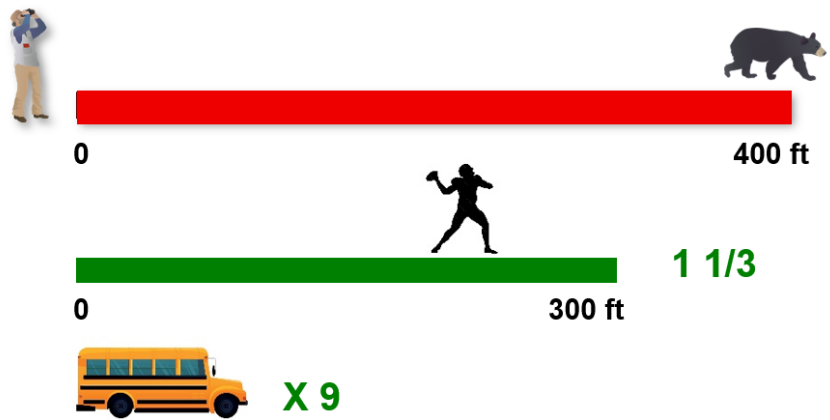
Our presence can be detected by wildlife in all directions as we travel along a trail. This is called the "corridor of influence"

The way wildlife responds to disturbance varies according to the severity of perceived danger. If the disturbance is mild they are likely to just interrupt what they are doing, such as sleeping, feeding, or finding a mate, and become "alert" to monitor the situation instead. A mild disturbance may also lead to changes in an animal's heart rate, temperature, or stress hormones. However, if an animal feels it is in imminent danger it will "flee," causing it to use precious energy as it escapes to a new locale. This may also cause an animal to abandon foraging grounds or a nest leaving young unprotected.

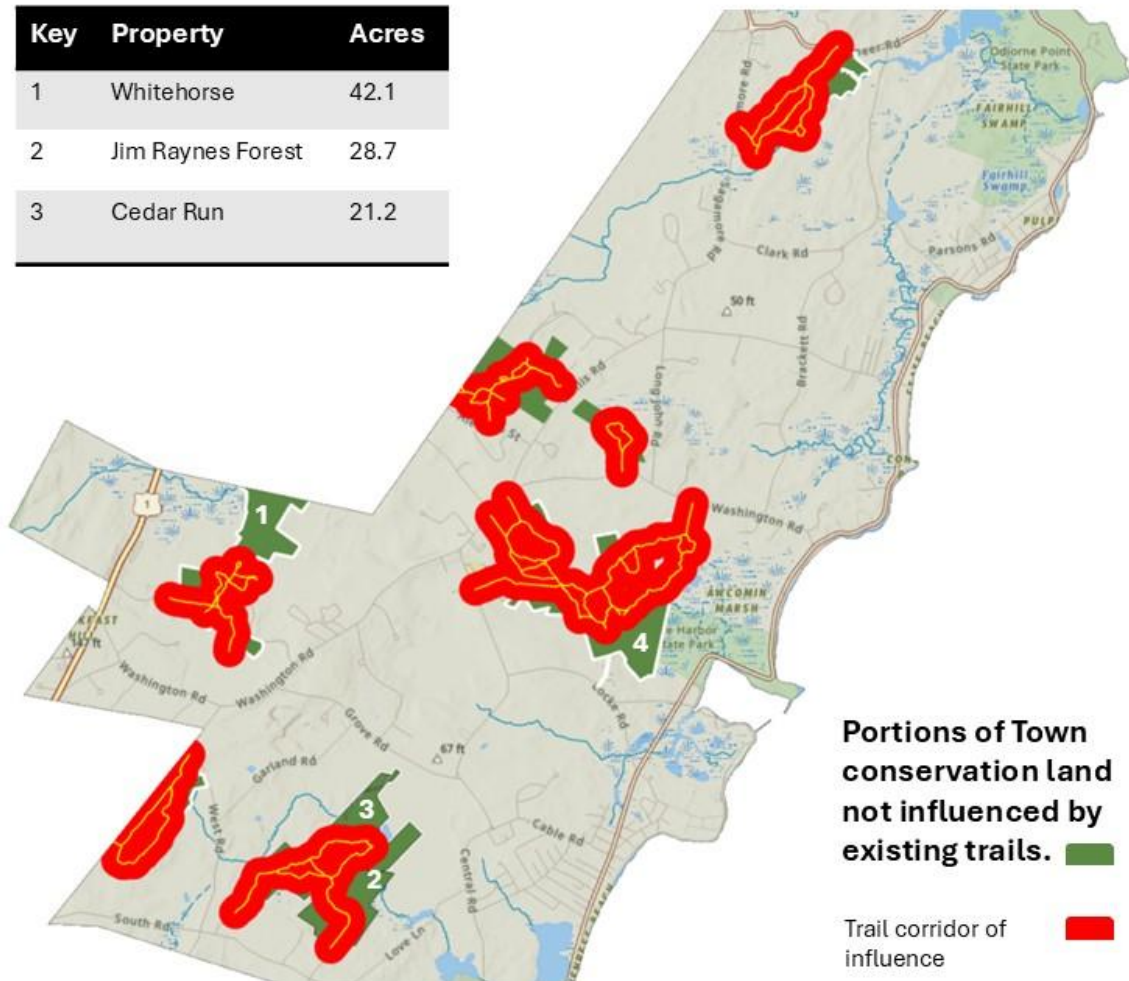
The distance at which an animal becomes alert or flees depends on the species, type of trail use, and surrounding habitat. In general, mammals are more tolerant of human presence than amphibians, reptiles or birds are. Typically, wildlife reacts to people much closer in open habitats than when trails are located in dense forest. To determine the average corridor of influence for our region, New Hampshire Fish and Game staff did an extensive review of the scientific literature. Sixty-seven articles were used to calculate an average flight distance for amphibians and reptiles of 60 feet, to determine that birds become alert 150 feet on either side of a trail on average, and that mammals become alert to human presence at an average of 400 feet.



The 400-foot corridor of influence is equivalent to the length of one and a third football fields, or nine school buses, on either side of a trail. We can use this distance to assess any mapped network of trails and see the associated area of ground over which wildlife are likely impacted.



Key	Property	Acres
1	Whitehorse	42.1
2	Jim Raynes Forest	28.7
3	Cedar Run	21.2



Existing recreational trails shown in yellow and their corridor of influence shown in red. The largest areas of unfragmented land on Rye Conservation Commission land are on Whitehorse and Jim Raynes as indicated by the numerical key. The area on The Town Forest labeled 4 is not counted as unfragmented as it is comprised mainly of a recreation field.

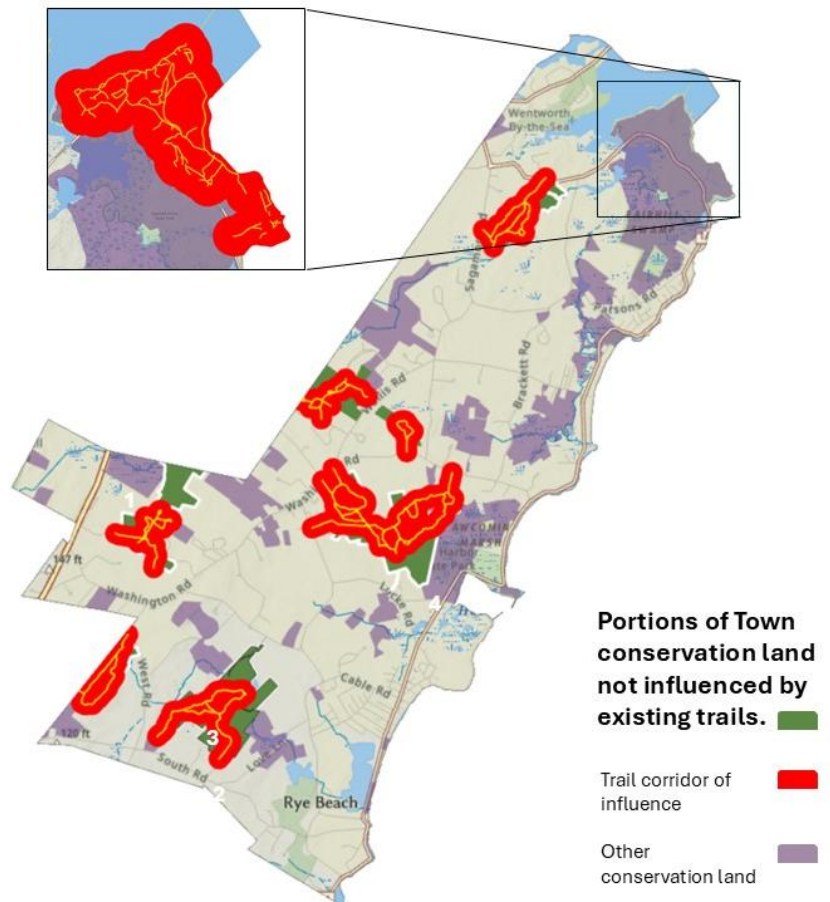
Maximizing unfragmented blocks of similar habitat

A key strategy in providing opportunities for wildlife to thrive is to leave as large as possible unfragmented block of similar habitat. The unique conditions at habitat edges means it is usually only generalist species such as white-tailed deer, raccoons, and the brown-headed cowbird that can thrive there. Conversely, specialist interior species require undisturbed core habitat areas as edges can facilitate increased predation and exposure to disease. While edges may increase species richness very locally by mixing species from two different habitats, this comes at the expense of sensitive interior species, such as the ovenbird in forest habitat or bobolink in grassland areas, leading to an overall reduction in unique biodiversity over the larger landscape.



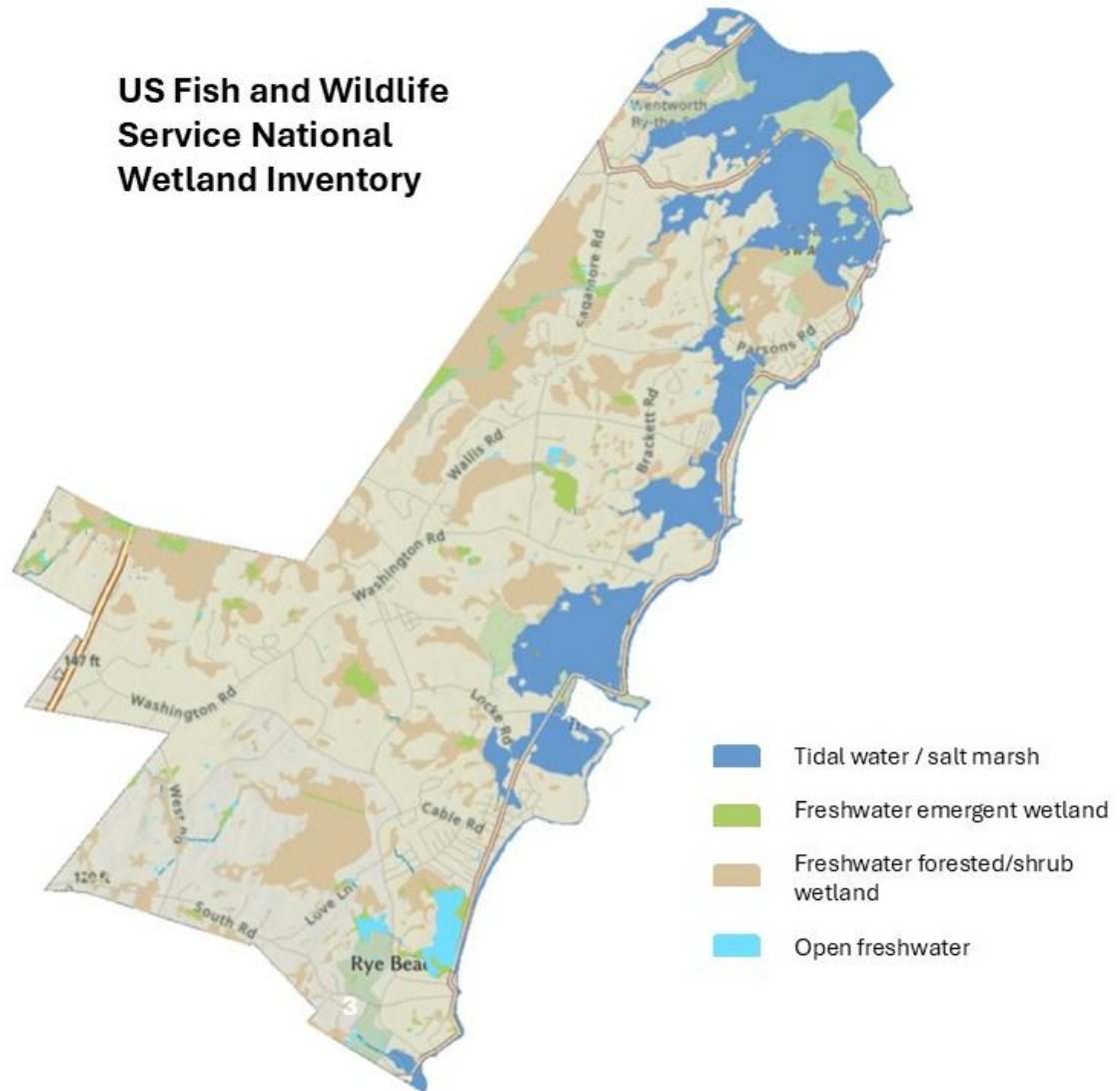
The largest area of Town conservation land not influenced by trails is on the Whitehorse property at just over 42 acres, or 0.66 square miles. In comparison, a bobcat's home range is over 30 square miles, an adult female black bear's range is about 10 square miles, and an adult male bear's can be up to 120 square miles.

The size of unfragmented block in the whole of town not influenced by trails may, or may not, be larger than the maximum 41.2 acres on Conservation Commission land. The figure to the right shows conservation land owned by other entities in purple and expands the potential area for unfragmented habitat blocks. However, trails on these lands are not under management authority of the Conservation Commission so were not mapped as part of this study and in some areas can be plentiful as seen by the dense trail network at Odiorne State Park in the callout box.



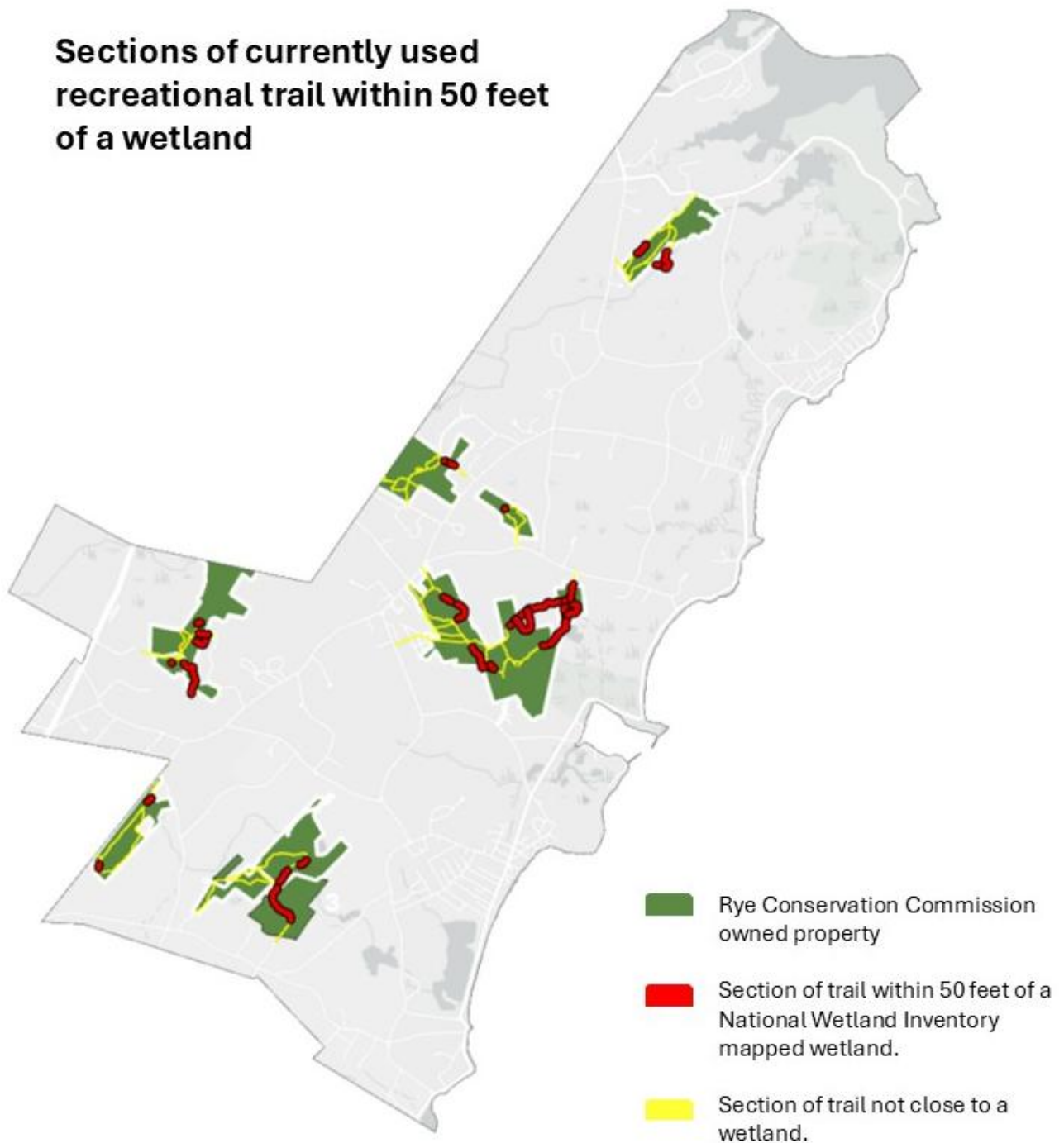
Wetland buffers

Rye is rich in freshwater and tidal wetlands. The US Fish and Wildlife Services' National Wetlands Inventory Plus map shows 616 acres of wetland in Rye which represents 7.3 % of the town's total area. Vernal pool locations do not show at this scale of mapping but locations close to trails were noted in the field.



A buffer is a naturally vegetated area of land directly upslope of a water resource such as a stream, river, pond, vernal pool, freshwater wetland, or estuary. The Rye Conservation Commission advises the town Zoning Board of Adjustments on special exceptions to the wetland ordinances for all work within a wetland or its 50 foot buffer. The map below shows sections of recreational trail that occur within wetlands mapped by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. All Rye Conservation Commission properties in this study have sections of trail within wetlands or their 50 foot buffer with the largest extent occurring on the Town Forest, mainly within forested wetland areas.

Sections of currently used recreational trail within 50 feet of a wetland

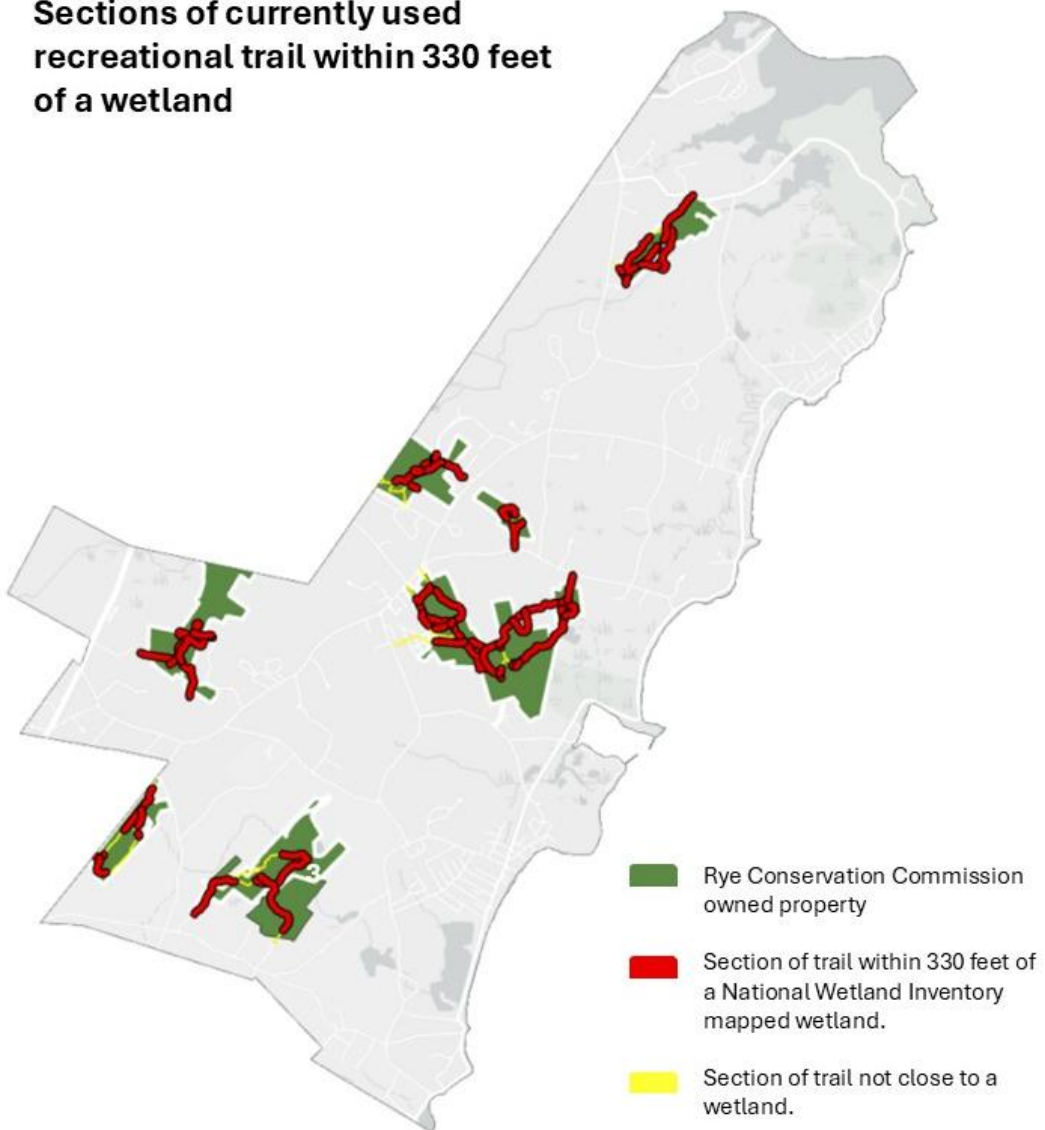


A study local to coastal New Hampshire called [Buffer Options for the Bay](#) researched the distance buffers need to be effective for a variety of ecosystem services via an extensive literature review. It found that the recommended width of buffer necessary to provide habitat for terrestrial wildlife was 330 feet. The majority of trails on Rye Conservation Commission land lie within this buffer width, and all trails on Seavey Acres, Marden and Airfield/Whitehorse are within this boundary.

Buffer Options for the Bay Study Recommended Distances

Buffer function	Recommended minimum width (feet)
Influence water temperature	30
Remove pollutants such as nitrogen	98
Provide habitat for aquatic macroinvertebrates	98
Reduce runoff and stabilize channel banks	164
Provide habitat for terrestrial wildlife	330

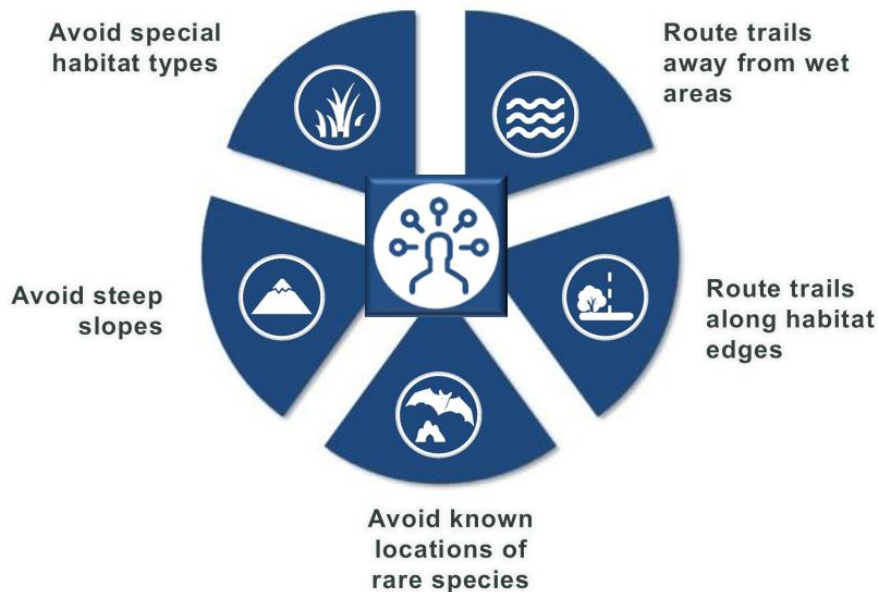
Sections of currently used recreational trail within 330 feet of a wetland



WILDLIFE IS MORE SENSITIVE TO DISTURBANCE IN SOME AREAS THAN OTHERS

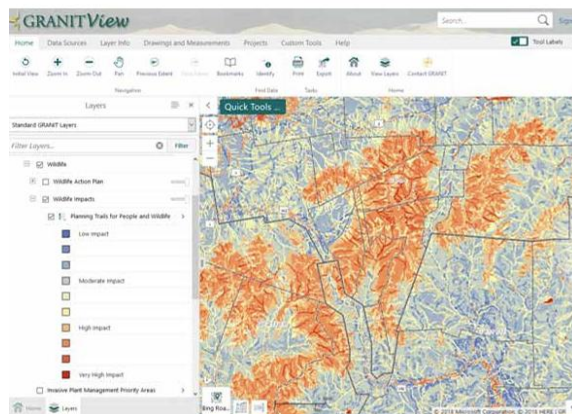
When looking at the landscape and habitats where a trail is located there are some key principles that can easily be followed that will reduce trail use impacts to wildlife;

Key Principles for locating trails



“Follow the blue” on the Trails for People and Wildlife Heat Map

The statewide “Trails for People and Wildlife” trail location mapping tool was developed using each of the concepts in the graphic above. Each principle was assessed by creating a model that was mapped across the entire New Hampshire landscape using a Geographic Information System (GIS). The five layers were then integrated to create a co-occurrence map that shows where it is best to locate trails and where they may be of most impact to wildlife. This information is displayed as a heat map where the warmer the color the greater the likely impact on wildlife is if a trail is

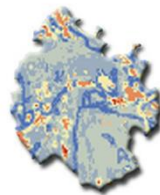


“FOLLOW THE BLUE”
to find the best
route for a trail that
minimizes impacts
to wildlife

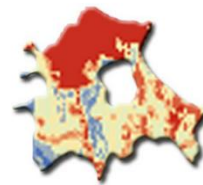
present in that area. Consequently by “following the blue” as much as possible a trail minimizes impacts to wildlife while also getting people outside to explore and interact with nature.

WHERE IN RYE MAY TRAILS BE BEST LOCATED TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE?

All Rye Conservation Commission properties have areas that are best to support trails and areas where it is best to avoid their location if the goal is to minimize impacts to wildlife. Based on the proportion of high impact and low impact to wildlife areas, some properties will lend themselves to being high recreational use “ambassador” destinations with a well-publicized, and well-maintained, network of trails. Others that support particularly sensitive wildlife, plants, or natural communities are usually best with few, or no, trails and, although still open to the public, be less publicized.

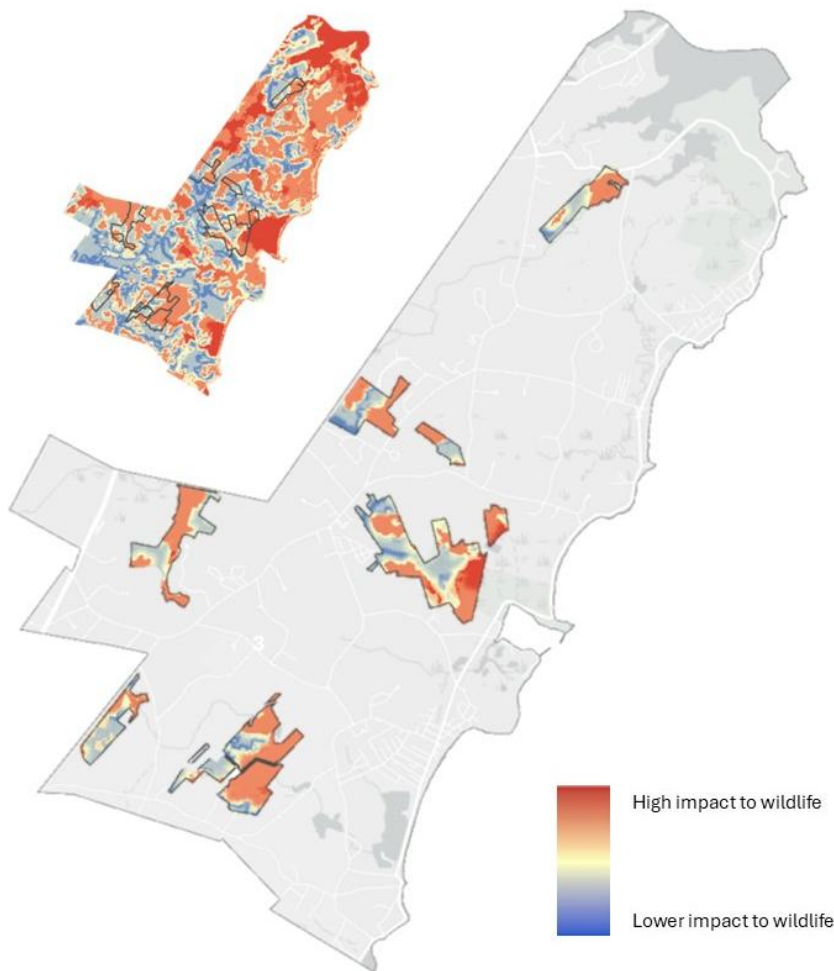


PROPERTIES THAT ARE MAINLY BLUE ARE GOOD CANDIDATES TO BECOME HIGHLY PUBLICIZED AMBASSADOR PROPERTIES.



THOSE THAT ARE MAINLY RED WILL IDEALLY BE LEFT AS UNDISTURBED AS POSSIBLE.

Trails for People and Wildlife Heat Map



Listed in alphabetical order, Rye Conservation Commission properties have the following acreages best for trails to be located and best to avoid if impacts to wildlife would like to be minimized;

Property	Property size from assessor's database	Number of acres best for trails	Number acres best for wildlife
Airfield/Whitehorse	104.4	50.3	54.1
Brown Lane Farm	53.3	40.9	12.4
Cedar Run/Raynes Forest	122.9	30.9	92
Marden Woods	24	12.4	11.6
Rand Forest	73.4	34.5	38.9
Seavey Acres	58.7	32.8	25.9
Town Forest	209.7	99.4	110.3
(Town Forest West)	113.7	73.6	40.1
(Town Forest East)	96	23.8	72.2

Calculated via GIS

By looking at the relative proportion of each type of area, the areas most conducive to being ambassador properties can be identified;



Property	% of property
Brown Lane Farm	76.74
(Town Forest West)	64.73
Seavey Acres	55.88
Marden Woods	51.67
Airfield/Whitehorse	48.18
Town Forest	47.40
Rand Forest	47.00
Cedar Run/Raynes Forest	25.14
(Town Forest East)	24.79

Best ambassador properties for people to explore nature with relatively low impact to wildlife. An additional bonus is that Brown Lane Farm, Rand Forest and the Rye Town Forest have plenty of off-street parking.

Although Rand Forest only has 47% of its total area as low impact to wildlife, almost all of the trail network, both official and social trails created by members of the public, are located in low impact areas (see page 61). This, along with the high amount of recreational use and density of surrounding development mean Rand Forest is also recommended to be an ambassador property.

The properties that have trails that are likely to be most impactful to wildlife can also be identified;

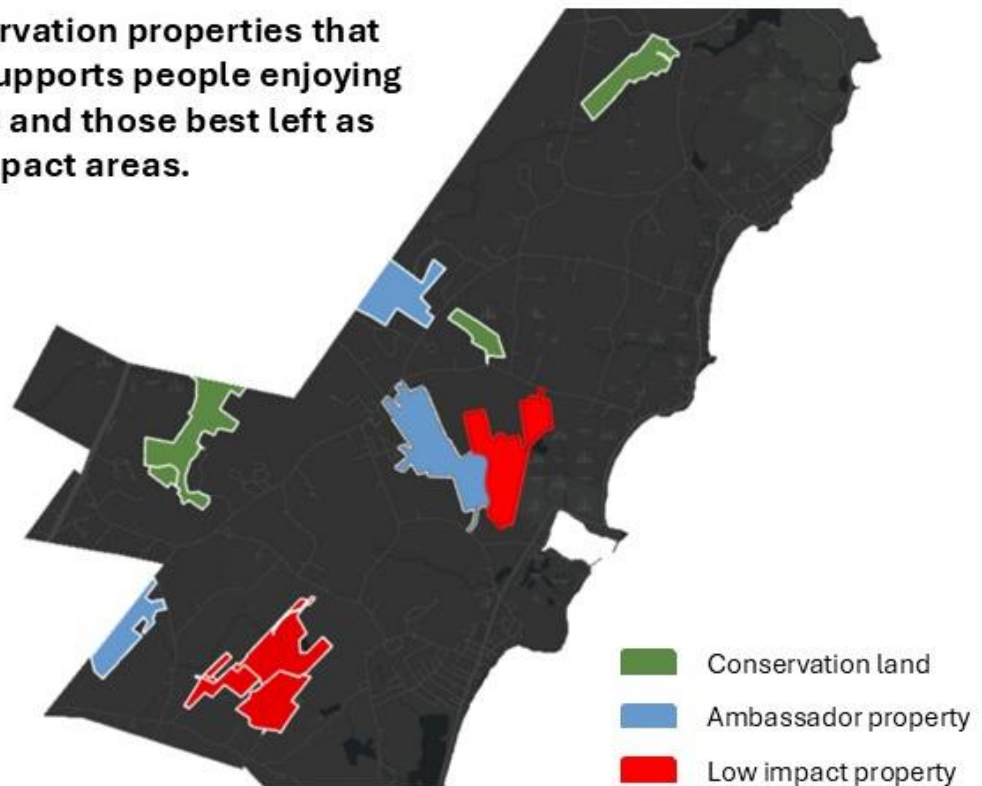


Property	% of property
(Town Forest East)	75.20
Cedar Run/Raynes Forest	74.86
Rand Forest	53.00
Town Forest	52.60
Airfield/Whitehorse	51.82
Marden Woods	48.33
Seavey Acres	44.12
(Town Forest West)	35.27
Brown Lane Farm	23.26

Properties that are best left as low impact areas for wildlife to thrive. The east section of the Town Forest and the Cedar Run/Raynes Forest complex are the most sensitive areas from a wildlife perspective.

When mapped across all Rye Conservation Commission’s properties included in this study it can be seen that of the eight areas considered a management unit in this report, three are best suited as ambassador properties, Brown Lane Farm, Rand Forest and the west portion of the Town Forest, and two are most suited to be considered as low impact properties, the Cedar Run/Raynes Forest complex and the east portion of the Town Forest.

Conservation properties that best supports people enjoying nature and those best left as low impact areas.

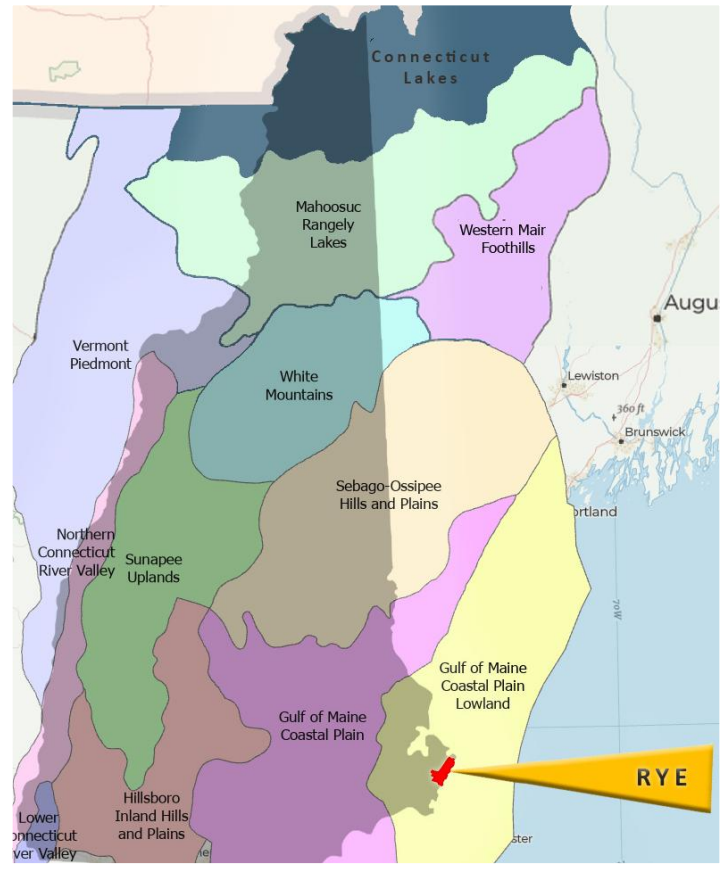


ADDITIONAL WAYS TO FINE-TUNE TRAIL PLACEMENT AND USE AT A MUNICIPAL SCALE

The “Trails for People and Wildlife” heat map is the most important guide when evaluating trails as it has been designed specifically to look at the potential impacts of trails on wildlife. However, other data may further help refine the placement of trails or support decisions when choices are hard to make.

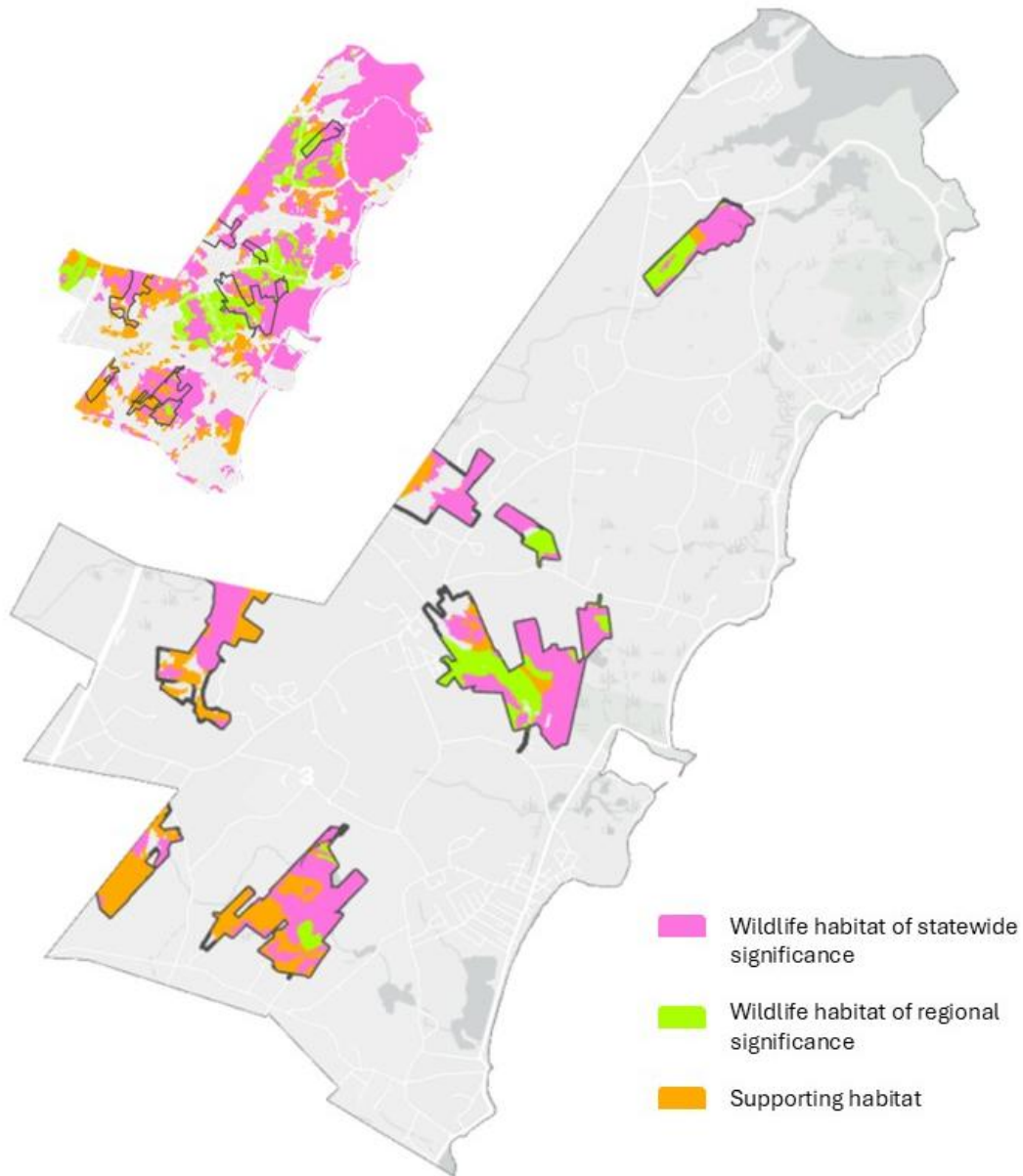
NH Fish and Game Department’s Wildlife Action Plan

Of the seven properties evaluated in this study, 49.6 % are designated as Tier 1, meaning they are of statewide significance. In addition, 13.2 % are designated as Tier 2 meaning they are of significance for their biological region, in this case the Gulf of Maine Coastal Plain Lowland ecoregion as shown in the image on the right. Finally, 25.8 % have been assessed by the 2025 Wildlife Action Plan as being supporting habitats. This means very little, just 11.4 % of Rye Conservation Commission lands are not evaluated as significant wildlife habitat by the NH Fish and Game Department.



Conservation Commission members, both past and present, shared their knowledge about town trails.

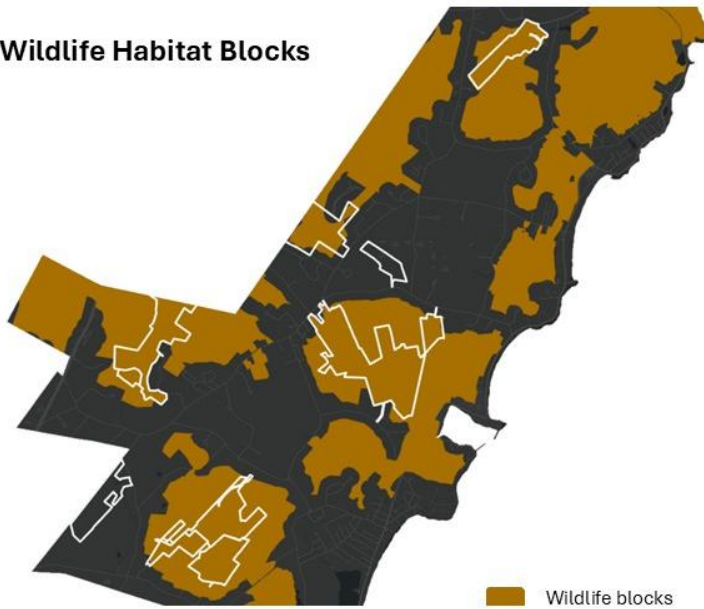
Wildlife Action Plan areas of significant habitat



Connect the Coasts

To help conserved lands in the Seacoast remain linked to each other so wildlife can travel among them helping maintain genetic diversity and the long-term sustainability of healthy populations, the NH Chapter of The Nature Conservancy led the “[Connect the Coasts](#)” study with multiple natural resource partners. Through this initiative, habitat blocks that represent conservation focus areas for wildlife based on regional conservation plans and the state Wildlife Action Plan significant wildlife habitat blocks were identified. These important, mainly unfragmented, areas in Rye are shown in the graphic on the next page.

Wildlife Habitat Blocks



The same study also identified important travel corridors that connect habitat blocks and other lands with important wildlife habitat features.

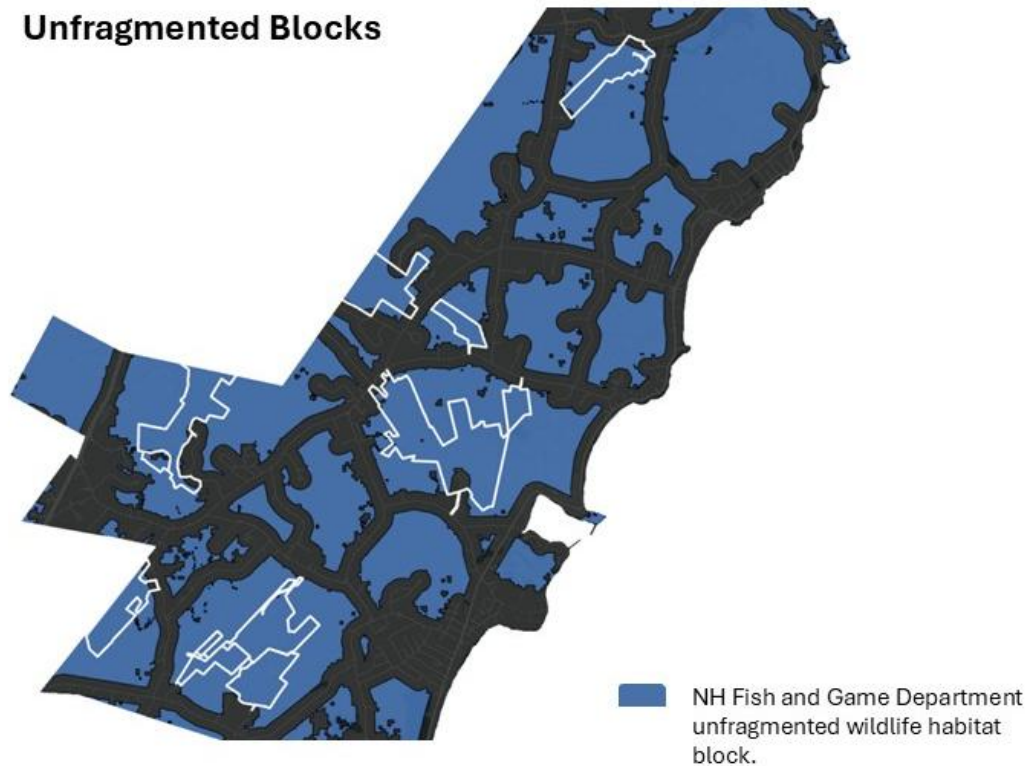
Wildlife Travel Corridors



NH Fish and Game's Unfragmented Lands

The importance of unfragmented areas of land for wildlife is recognized by the NH Fish and Game Department. Primarily created by buffering 300 feet from roads and developed areas, this dataset was updated in December 2025.

Unfragmented Blocks



RECREATIONAL USE

Matching the amount of trails and infrastructure with the resources available to maintain them

Dispersing public access over a wide area may reduce the need for trail maintenance as each section is likely to receive less use. However, concentrating public access on fewer trails is usually better for wildlife as, over time, they will either move away to other areas or habituate to human presence, depending on each species' tolerance of people. Having fewer trails that are used more frequently also allows land managers to focus available resources. This can be the volunteer time, funding, equipment, or infrastructure needed to maintain trails in the long term. More frequently traveled trails also tend to be prone to fewer stewardship issues, such as dumping, trash or vandalism. Anecdotally, the eastern portion of the Town Forest, Seavey Acres, and Rand Forest have relatively high public use.

Each property has a tasteful brass marker plaque at the main entrance. In general, trails are very well marked with color coded tin RCC signs or blazed trees but property boundaries are not always well defined. Marking property boundaries can be important to minimize abutter encroachment issues and for hunters, and other recreational users, to be sure of property ownership when they are in the field.

Three properties, Cedar Run, The Town Forest, and Seavey Acres have sections of trail that cross private land. This has the potential to cause legal issues unless the trail is rerouted or a memorandum of agreement, or other legal right of way, is put in place.

There is a crew of dedicated volunteers who regularly clear downed trees that are blocking trails and the Conservation Commission has a great system of providing dog waste collection bags at trail entrances that are regularly restocked by volunteers. There are several well-constructed bridges and bog bridges on different properties but there are some structures that are in need of repair, or wet areas that might benefit from additional structures if it is decided the trail will continue to be used. These features are identified in the property-specific section of this report.



Trail width, slope, substrate type and compaction are all important in determining how many different types of user-group can navigate a trail system. Building a network, or sections of trail, that is accessible to wheelchairs also allows strollers to be pushed easily. The U.S. Forest Service is a leader in giving guidance on how to create universally accessible trails and Northeast Passage, based out of UNH in Durham, rents adaptive equipment that helps people explore even the most rugged of trails.

Currently, sections of trail on each property are marked with various colored markers to identify them. It is suggested that trails be color coded to denote a consistent accessibility rating throughout town. Perhaps green for easy access trails that are mainly level, easy for two or more people to pass, and have relatively hard pack surface. The Brown Lane Farm property, along with parts of Airfield/Whitehorse, has easy access off-road parking and navigable trails so could perhaps be a focus for increasing accessibility to different user types by creating an “*All Persons Trail*”. If the ski trail difficulty rating system is followed more challenging trails could be marked with black signs.



Types of recreational trail and property use

The owner of the property, in this case the Town of Rye, is ultimately responsible for deciding what types of recreational use are permitted on their land. It is important any choices be compatible with property deed language and any other legal restrictions that apply. In Rye, lands managed by the Conservation Commission are open to the public for hiking, wildlife watching, and cross-country skiing while motorized vehicles, camping, open fires, and target shooting are prohibited on all properties. Other recreational uses, particularly those overviewed below, are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis guided by the conservation purposes for which each property was acquired.

PERMITTED USES



Hiking, wildlife watching, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing are welcomed.

PROHIBITED USES



No motorized vehicles, camping, fires or target shooting.

Guiding specific uses to areas that can support that activity is important in terms of ecological and trail impacts. Multiple use management over a suite of properties gives opportunities for all users to have a place to engage in their recreational passion of choice in areas where it is permitted. Guiding certain uses to specific areas can also minimize user conflicts.

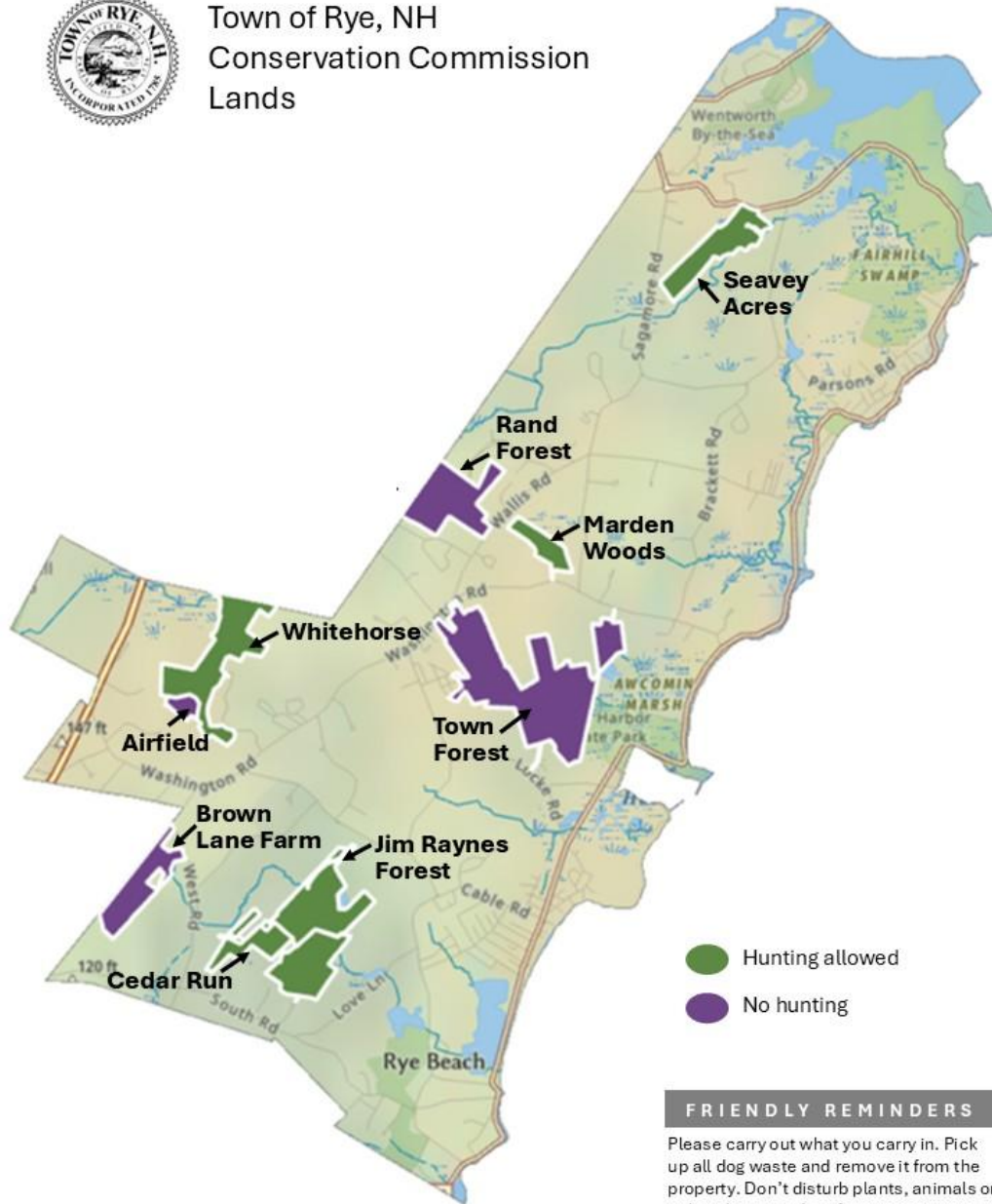
Hunting

Hunting is a long-time tradition in NH and whether it is allowed on conservation land is almost always guided by language in the property deed. In Rye, hunting is allowed on all properties in this report except Airfield, Brown Lane Farm, Rand Forest, and the Town Forest.





Town of Rye, NH
Conservation Commission
Lands



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Please carry out what you carry in. Pick up all dog waste and remove it from the property. Don't disturb plants, animals or cultural sites and artifacts.



Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is another way several people get out to enjoy nature and relax. However, trails need to be cleared and maintained at an additional width and height to support this activity compared to foot traffic alone. These needs may overlap with the type of trail that also provide Other Power Driver Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) accessibility, in that these types of trails also need to be wider and have a relatively hard packed surface. Consequently, from a trail maintenance perspective, deciding where horseback riding is allowed might be integrated with decisions about where to locate more accessible trails.

Environmental concerns associated with horseback riding include seed dispersal of invasive plant species, soil erosion, water pollution, and damage to vegetation. While

hiking can also do some of these things, the impact is much more muted compared to horseback riding in natural areas.

Mountain Bikes and Electric Bikes

Motorized vehicles are restricted from Town of Rye properties managed by the Conservation Commission. However, in New Hampshire electric bikes are generally considered to have the [same rights as non-motorized bicycles](#) and are not classed as motorized vehicles. Electric bicycles are generally defined as being a pedaled vehicle equipped with an electric motor of less than 750 watts that falls within one of the following 3 classes:

I. "Class 1 electric bicycle" is a pedaled vehicle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

II. "Class 2 electric bicycle" is a pedaled vehicle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

III. "Class 3 electric bicycle" is a pedaled vehicle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

Where mountain and electric bikes are allowed is the decision of the Town of Rye. However, if they are to be permitted on land purchased for conservation purposes it is recommended, from a trail maintenance and ecological impact perspective, they be restricted to areas also suited to horseback riding and OPDMD accessibility. In Rye this is Brown Lane Farm and sections of Airfield and Whitehorse. This approach would reflect the policy of the NH Fish and Game Department who permit horses and bicycle use on Wildlife Management Areas only on management access roads unless otherwise posted. This means horses and pedal and electric powered bicycles are allowed only on travel corridors that a vehicle can be driven along. Policies of other regional and statewide conservation organizations are overviewed in Appendix C.

Dogs and Trails

Getting outside with our pet dogs is a daily treat and a good way to enjoy our natural surroundings. However, off-leash dogs may cause impacts to wildlife. Some habitats support wildlife that are particularly sensitive to off-leash dogs. A variety of frogs and salamander species lay their eggs in vernal pools. If dogs are allowed to swim in these pools, eggs can be ruptured and developing embryos killed. Grassland nesting birds are also particularly sensitive as the surrounding vegetation does not provide a visual or sound

Consider Seasonal Closures

Wildlife are usually most sensitive to disturbance during their breeding season. Young have limited mobility and adults are energetically stressed as they try to find food for both themselves and their offspring. For this reason it may make sense to close trails, or a section of trail, seasonally. The breeding season for many species also overlaps with mud season in New Hampshire. This is a time when activities like mountain biking and trail running have higher impacts when used off-road and can cause significant trail erosion.

Consequently, several organizations encourage best practices for trail use during mud season such as those suggested by the [Appalachian Mountain Club](#).

Winter is another time of year when wildlife are more energetically stressed. For this reason it is a good idea to route trails away from deer yards and hibernation sites of all type. If sufficient resources are not available to enforce a trail closure during wildlife-sensitive seasons, it adds weight to the need to consider rerouting or closing that trail year round.



PROPERTY-SPECIFIC ANALYSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APPROACH TO TRAIL EVALUATION IN RYE

All trail mapping and field evaluation was completed between 23rd September and 24th October 2025. Prior to heading into the field, online mapping and trail sources were used to identify all, or as many as possible, of the trails on each property whether they are officially [shown on the Town of Rye's website](#) or not. This approach was used to identify social, or “bootleg”, trails which are those created by local recreational use but not officially sanctioned by the Conservation Commission in addition to approved trails. Two sources of available online trail mapping data are vetted for accuracy. These are NH GRANIT, the UNH statewide GIS data repository, and [Trail Finder](#). The Trail Finder website is overseen by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and partners. Its administrators and trail managers closely review information to ensure accuracy before posting publicly and the site only hosts maps where the landowners have given permission for trails to be displayed. The other websites consulted, and shown in the next table, host crowd-sourced

information that can be a little more random in nature but still are good places to identify bootleg trails.

Property	TRAIL ONLINE MAPPING SOURCES						
	VETTED		CROWD SOURCED				
	NH GRANIT	Trail Finder	Strava	Gaia GPS	All Trails	OnX	Outdooractive
Airfield/Whitehorse	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Airfield only						
Brown Lane Farm	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cedar Run	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Marden Woods	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rand Forest	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Raynes Forest	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Seavey Acres	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Town Forest	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

This table shows which of the Town of Rye trail systems are shown on each of the trail mapping websites listed at the top of each column.

No other desktop research about trail sensitivity or wildlife presence took place before the field evaluation in order to keep the field assessment as objective as possible.

The date of each trail evaluation was made public by Rye’s Land Use and Environmental Administrator so interested community members had the opportunity to join the walk and share their knowledge about the land. During the field walk, all trails that could be found, both official and boot leg, were mapped and significant wildlife features, trail infrastructure, and areas of erosion were mapped. Vernal pools close to a trail were documented as point data but boundaries were not delineated. This was because the field evaluation took place at a time of year where standing water is limited and in a drought year so their area would be underrepresented. Data gathered in the field was uploaded into ArcGIS Pro to do the analyses and create the maps shown in this report.

Trails that are recommended to be closed or rerouted

The following individual property recommendations are written from a purely scientific and ecological perspective using field collected and online data. It is recognized that local social and political factors, such as history of trail use, may mean some, or several, of the suggested trails are not closed or rerouted. If the Conservation Commission makes this choice, it is recommended that these most sensitive trails are restricted to foot travel only, meaning no mountain bike, electric bike, or horse use, and dogs are not allowed or are allowed on leash only. **It is strongly encouraged that the first trail configuration option, shown as “suggested ideal update” is what the Conservation Commission decides to**

choose, but a secondary option, that includes sections of trail with high impact to wildlife is also given in each case.

AIRFIELD AND WHITEHORSE FARM















These two properties together cover a little over 104 acres according to the assessor's database. The northern portion connects to a large temperate swamp wetland complex and the forest is mainly Appalachian oak-pine. There is a small pond on the northeast section of the properties and a small area of early successional forest habitat soon after the entrance off Airport Drive where woodcock have been seen. The two parcels were acquired by the Conservation Commission individually and abut so are managed as a single unit. The southern section of this conservation land unit is surrounded by residential and some commercial development while the northern section abuts a wetland and large unfragmented natural area.





An Assessment of the Trail Network on the Airfield and Whitehorse Farm properties

Photo Points



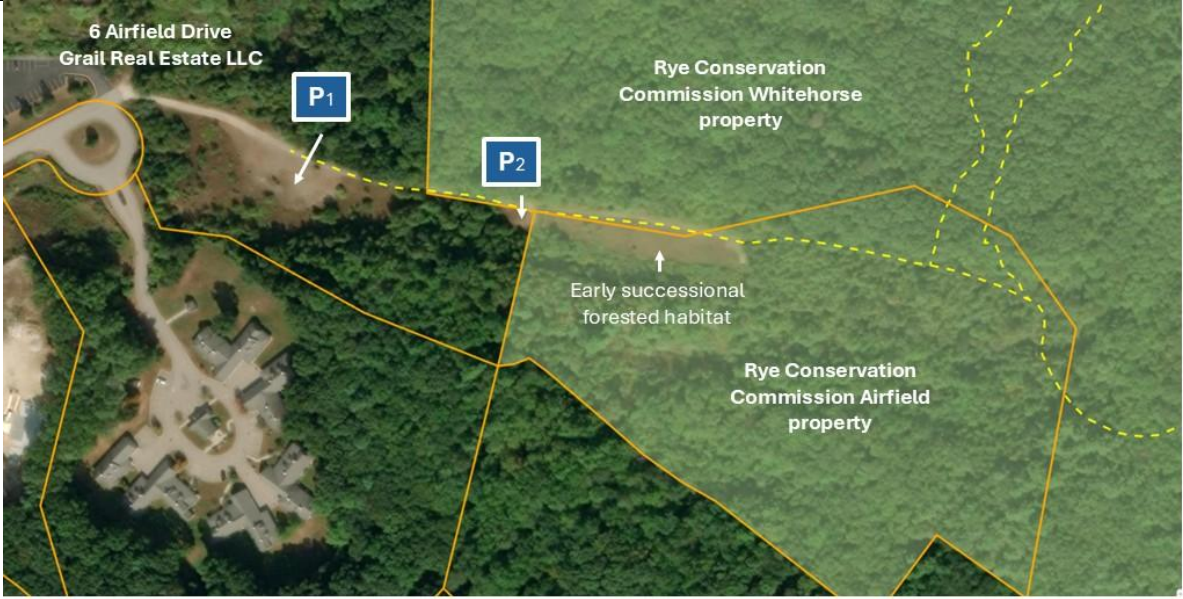
Point #	Photo and description	Point #	Photo and description
1	 <p>Larger parking area at south west end of the trail system on Airfield.</p>	2	 <p>Sign at entrance to smaller parking area.</p>
3	 <p>Pocket early successional forest wildlife opening. Potential woodcock lekking area or area to establish pollinator habitat.</p>	4	 <p>Yellow trail. Easy flat terrain, hardpack surface and wide so easy to pass.</p>

<p>5</p>	 <p>Start of orange trail, still wide and level walking.</p>	<p>6</p>	 <p>Orange trail is still wide but more uneven underfoot with exposed tree roots in some areas.</p>
<p>7</p>	 <p>Wet section of trail. Past ATV access at this point historically but has been dealt with.</p>	<p>8</p>	 <p>Wooden foot bridge in good repair crossing impoundment of small pond.</p>
<p>9</p>	 <p>Side of road parking on Whitehorse Drive cul-de-sac.</p>	<p>10</p>	 <p>Small metal culvert.</p>
<p>11</p>	 <p>Small plastic culvert</p>	<p>12</p>	 <p>Lots of evidence of horse presence on the trail network.</p>

13		14	
	Bridge in good repair		Short social trail to neighboring residence.
15		16	
	Culvert		Lot of horse access along this trail from abutting property.

Key trail or property stewardship issues

Trail or property stewardship issue	Suggested resolution (s)
<p>The largest parking area at the end of Airport Drive on the south west of the trail network, and possibly the smaller one to the east seem to be on private property. There is an easement deed from Rickert Investment Real Estate LLC granting a 10 foot wide right of way to the property recorded in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds as Plan D-30239 which grants use of a parking area but the location can be changed.</p>	<p>Hire a surveyor to resolve the tax map accuracy by finding existing, or installing new, on the ground boundary monumentation and/or look into a memorandum of understanding or other long term legal agreement with the owners.</p>



P1 Larger parking area at start of trail



P2 Secondary parking area along trail



Property boundary as noted by tax parcel data

Tax card for parking area ownership. Source [AxisGIS - RyeNH](#)

Property Location 6 AIRFIELD DRIVE Vision ID 104322 Account # 000458 Map ID 010/ 015/ C / Bldg # 1 Bldg Name Sec # 1 of 1 Card # 1 of 1 State Use 3900 Print Date 9/23/2025 12:51:31A

CURRENT OWNER		TOPO	UTILITIES	STRT / ROAD	LOCATION	CURRENT ASSESSMENT				2231 RYE, NH							
GRAIL REAL ESTATE LLC						Description	Code	Assessed	Assessed		VISION						
379 AMHERST STREET						COM LAND	3900	553,800	553,800								
NASHUA NB 03063						SUPPLEMENTAL DATA											
Alt Prcl ID 2 REX ACCT NU COLOR LAND BLDG GIS ID						FEMA 05 L FEMA 15 L FEMA 05 I FEMA 15 I PRECINC 4: Assoc Pid#											
RECORD OF OWNERSHIP						BK-VOL/PAGE	SALE DATE	Q/U	V/I	SALE PRICE	VC	PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS (HISTORY)					
GRAIL REAL ESTATE LLC						6222 358	01-08-2021	U	I	5,490,000	67	Year	Code	Assessed	Year	Code	Assessed
RICKERT INV REAL ESTATE LLC						3579 2955	05-10-2001	U	I	3,196,500	27	Total		553,800	553,800		
EXEMPTIONS						OTHER ASSESSMENTS						This signature acknowledges a visit by a Data Collector or Assessor					
Year	Code	Description	Amount	Code	Description	Number	Amount	Comm Int									
Total			0.00														
ASSESSING NEIGHBORHOOD						APPRaised VALUE SUMMARY											
Nbhd	Nbhd Name		B	Tracing	Batch	Appraised Bldg. Value (Card)						0					
0001						Appraised Xf (B) Value (Bldg)						0					
NOTES						Appraised Ob (B) Value (Bldg)						0					
2025: THIS LOT CREATED FROM SUDV PLAN #D-44946						Appraised Land Value (Bldg)						553,800					
						Special Land Value						0					
						Total Appraised Parcel Value						553,800					
						Valuation Method						C					
						Total Appraised Parcel Value						553,800					
BUILDING PERMIT RECORD						VISIT / CHANGE HISTORY											
Permit Id	Issue Date	Type	Description	Amount	Insp Date	% Comp	Date Comp	Comments	Date	Id	Type	Is	Cd	Purpost/Result			
SE-001239	10-17-2024	SEPT		150	11-18-2024	100	11-18-2024	2 TEST PITS & PLAN REVIE	05-03-2024	PGM			50	Permit - Int & Ext			
B-004437	03-11-2024	BLDG		0	05-01-2024	100	05-01-2024	CERTIFICATE OF CHANGE O	05-17-2022	MM			50	Permit - Int & Ext			
B-004341	12-29-2023	RE	Remodel	24,000	05-01-2024	100	05-01-2024	CLIMBING GYB IN UNIT 1600	11-29-2021	PM			24	Sales-Field Review			
B-004211	09-26-2023	BLDG		0		100		CERTIFICATE OF CHANGE O	10-25-2021	PGM			70	MLS Review			
B-004137	07-31-2023	BLDG		0		100		CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY O	08-31-2021	PGM			01	Measur+1Visit			
B-004136	07-31-2023	BLDG		0		100		CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY O	06-03-2021	CG			51	Permit - Ext			
B-004135	07-31-2023	BLDG		0		100		CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY O	12-04-2018	PGM			51	Permit - Ext			
LAND LINE VALUATION SECTION																	
B	Use Code	Description	Zone	Land Type	Land Units	Unit Price	Site Adj	Site Index	Cond.	Nbhd.	Nbhd. Adj	Notes	Location Adjustment	Adj Unit P	Land Value		
1	3900	DEVEL LAND			43,560 SF	8.50	1.00000	1	1.00	C4	1.200		1.0000	10.2	444,300		
1	3900	DEVEL LAND	CO		12,170 AC	10,000.00	1.00000	0	0.75	C4	1.200		1.0000	9.000	109,500		
Total Card Land Units					13.17 AC	Parcel Total Land Area					13.17	Total Land Value					553,800

Trail or property stewardship issue	Suggested resolution (s)
There is little on the ground clarification that hunting is not allowed on Airfield but is permissible on Whitehorse.	Post a map at access points to both properties to give an overview of where hunting is, and is not, allowed. Mark clearly on the ground the internal boundary between them with “hunting allowed” and “no hunting” signs. These are available from the NH Fish and Game landowner relations program if the town does not want to create its own.
Trail system entirely circumnavigates a water body and crosses lots of wet areas. The southern portion of pond loop trail has lots of wet areas with infrastructure that either needs replacing or soon will.	It is recommended that the southern portion of the red trail is closed. This still allows access to the property from Whitehorse Drive and would mean one of the most ecologically sensitive areas on the property can be avoided. It would also avoid the need to replace decaying infrastructure on that section of trail will and would allow wildlife such as turtles and ducks to enter and exit the pond in a less disturbed area.
There is a lot of horse use on the property. This can be supported on the yellow trail and sections of the orange trail but has potential ecological impacts on other parts of the trail system, particularly when trails are located in wet areas.	This concern has been included in the recommended trail reconfiguration in the section below.

Deed Restrictions Affecting Trail Use

The Airfield portion of the property does not allow hunting or the carrying of loaded weapons but the Whitehorse Farm tract permits this use. No vehicles, bicycles, ATVs, snowmobiles or any other motorized vehicle are allowed on Airfield but cross-country skiing, snowshoes, and horses are allowed.

Trail Accessibility

The yellow trail and sections of the orange trail have easy flat terrain, a hardpack surface and are wide making it easy to pass other recreational users. This gives them potential to support Other Power Driver Mobility Devices and other higher trail impact uses such as mountain bike riding or horse riding, although bikes are not allowed on the Airfield right of way. Other areas of the trail system are single track, uneven, and cross wet areas so are suitable for foot traffic and less ecologically impactful recreational uses only.

Trail Maintenance

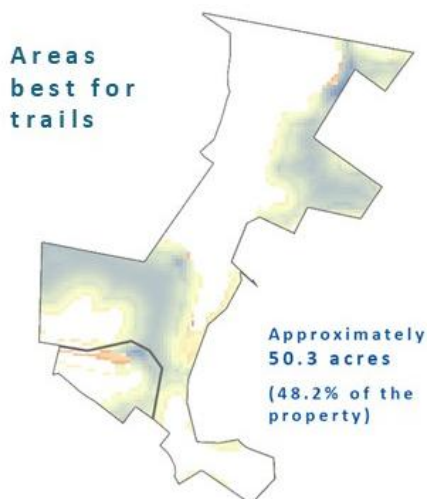
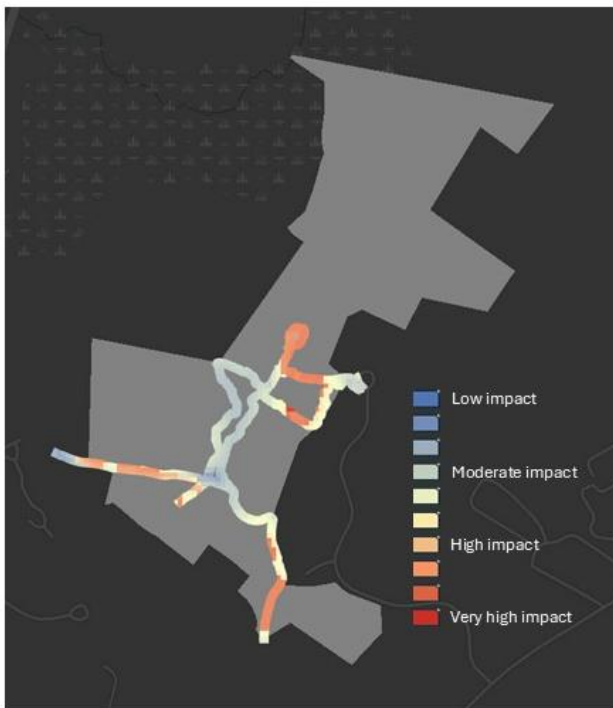
The orange and red trails have several small wet areas that the trail runs through. There are two bridges, photo points 8 and 13, that are in good repair. The trails are well signed with tin

trail markers but the property boundaries are less clearly marked, particularly that between Airfield and Whitehorse, so the interface of where hunting is, and is not, allowed.

Key Wildlife Features

The north portion of the property has no trails and the northwest portion supports a large unfragmented forested and shrub wetland that extends off the property. The small pond has been seen to support breeding waterfowl and the pocket early successional areas close to the entrance off Airfield Drive have potential as pollinator habitat and for breeding woodcock and other early successional species.

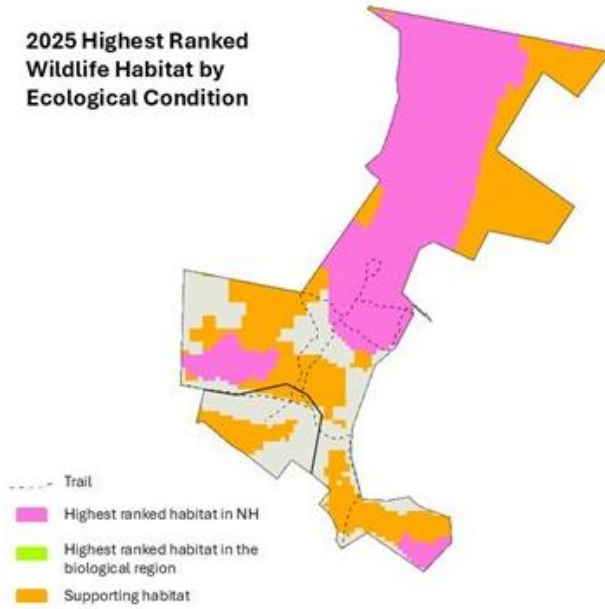
AIRFIELD AND WHITEHORSE Trails for People and Wildlife Areas



AIRFIELD AND WHITEHORSE FARM

Other factors that may influence best trail location and types of use

2025 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition



Prioritized habitat blocks

Sections of Trail within 50ft of a wetland



- Section of trail close to a wetland
- Tidal water / salt marsh
- Freshwater emergent wetland
- Freshwater forested/shrub wetland
- Open freshwater



Wildlife travel corridors

Surrounding Development



- Tax parcel boundary
- Building
- Cleared area
- Natural area



NHF&G unfragmented blocks

Suggested changes and rationale for trail reconfiguration

The trail system covers the majority of the property that is not wet and fully circumnavigates the small freshwater pond.

The **northern portion of the orange trail** is all within one of the highest impact areas on the *Trails for People and Wildlife* map. It is also in a Tier 1 Wildlife Action Plan area, meaning it crosses some of the highest ranked wildlife habitat by ecological condition in the entire state. Decommissioning this short 0.14 mile section of trail would increase the size of unfragmented block on the northern portion of Whitehorse Farm conservation land which is particularly important as most of the surrounding properties in this area are also undeveloped, further increasing the size of unfragmented natural area available to wildlife.

The **southern portion of the red trail** loop goes through a moderate to high impact area on the *Trails for People and Wildlife* map. It crosses a very wet area observable in the field and, most importantly, the red trail currently completely circumnavigates the small pond on the property. Leaving at least some portion of a wetland edge free from trails allows wildlife such as turtles and ducks to enter and exit the wetland undisturbed. Breeding waterfowl have been observed on this pond in the past. Although the northern portion of the red trail also crosses a high impact *Trails for People and Wildlife* area, it provides a view of the pond and has a bench that people frequent. Keeping this section allows views of the pond and wildlife that use it, it also maintains access to the trail network from the on-street parking area on Whitehorse Drive.

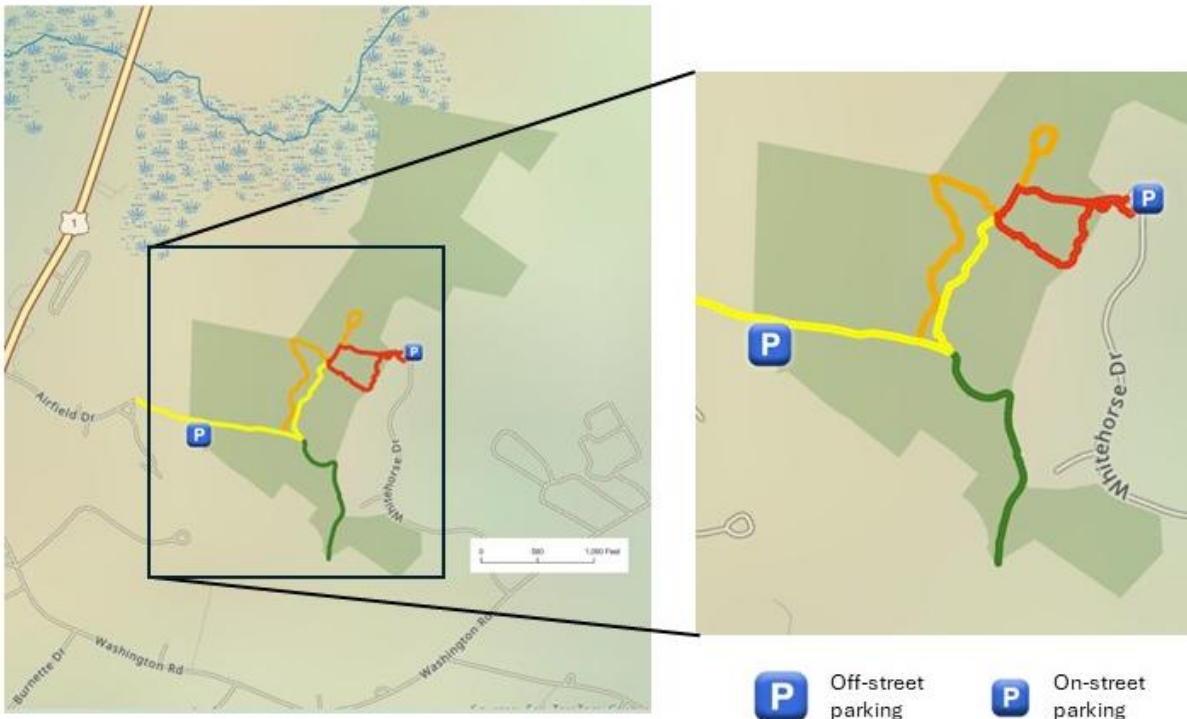
Although potentially politically challenging, from an ecological perspective, closing the **green part of the trail** network would be very advantageous. It crosses a moderate to very high impact area on the *Trails for People and Wildlife* map. There is a lot of evidence of horse use and would create the second largest area of unfragmented natural area on the property. In addition, the green trail is a major entry point for horses and it also connects to driveway that connects the property trail network to Washington Road.

Both the red trail and the green trail are located in a wetland or within 50 feet of one.

AIRFIELD AND WHITEHORSE

Suggested Changes to the Current Trail Configuration

Present Day Trail Map



Most balanced update for people and wildlife



Alternative option with more potential impacts to wildlife



If some or all of these trail reconfigurations are chosen not to be made, it is recommended recreational use be restricted to foot travel only, meaning no mountain bike, electric bike, or horse use, and dogs either are not allowed, or are allowed on leash only, on the trail sections suggested for closure.

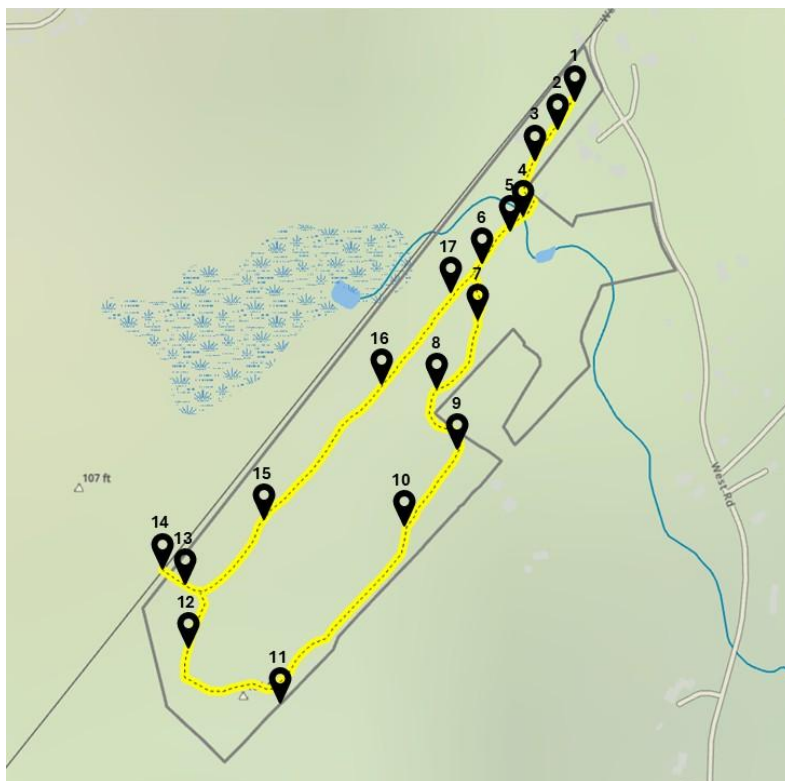
BROWN LANE FARM



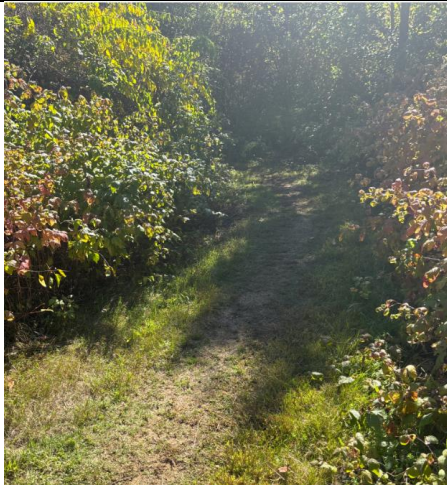











This property covers a little over 53 acres according to the assessor's database. There is a large off-street parking area off West Road. The majority of the property is currently early successional hardwood forest with small shrub and grassland areas close to the parking lot where blueberry bushes have been planted. There is an area of open water on either side of the trail soon after entering the trail system where Bailey's Brook crosses and there are several vernal pools on the property, some close to the trail. The trail system connects with the popular trail network on the Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest






owned by the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT).

Photo Points

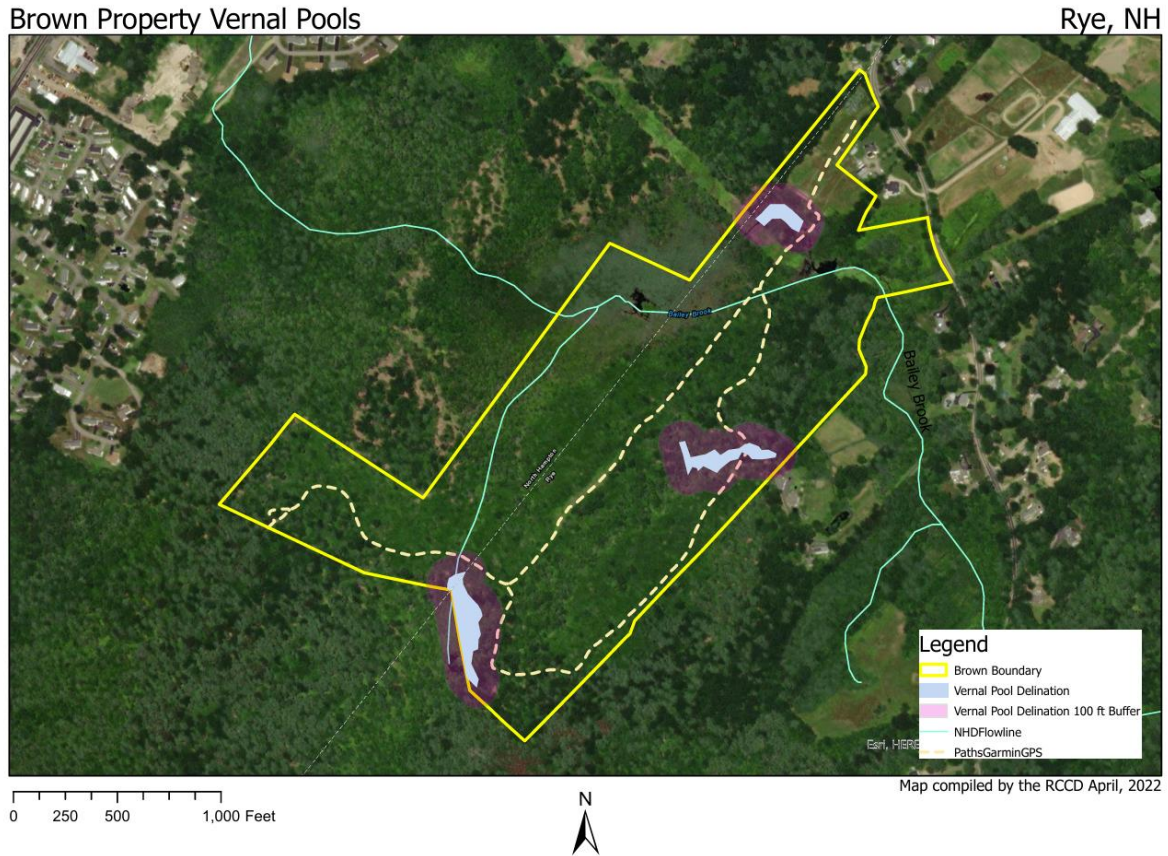


Point #	Photo	Point #	Description
1	 <p data-bbox="310 611 797 684">A large parking area on the property off West Road.</p>	2	 <p data-bbox="930 617 1446 684">A dog waste bin close to the beginning of the trail near the parking area.</p>
3	 <p data-bbox="310 1173 792 1310">Although close to single track at the start, the trail system is generally flat and wide enough that people and pets can easily pass each other.</p>	4	 <p data-bbox="930 1037 1455 1209">The trail crosses Bailey Brook. There is a wetland on either side of the trail which is connected via a small corrugated plastic culvert which is perched during times of drought.</p>
5	 <p data-bbox="310 1835 792 1948">A powerline crosses the trail system and horses from a close by horse farm access the property along it.</p>	6	 <p data-bbox="930 1841 1479 1948">Most of the trail system is flat and wide. The property has wells on it so vehicular access is necessary to much of it.</p>

<p>7</p>	 <p>The majority of the property is early successional sapling forest. This is an ephemeral, and so relatively uncommon, habitat so the wildlife species associated with it, such as ruffed grouse and box turtles, are generally not abundant. It is an important forest habitat as it provides dense cover for wildlife.</p>	<p>8</p>	 <p>Most of the trail system is hard packed dirt making it suitable to travel for a variety of user groups and types of recreational use.</p>
<p>9</p>	 <p>Both sides of the trail are wet and there is a plastic culvert that allows water to flow between them.</p>	<p>10</p>	 <p>The trail continues to be flat and wide.</p>
<p>11</p>	 <p>A bootleg trail has been created and continues to the property boundary.</p>	<p>12</p>	 <p>The sapling forest and wide woods road continue throughout most of the property. The dense forest means both people and pets stick mainly to the trail.</p>

<p>13</p>	 <p>Corrugated plastic, HDPE, culvert.</p>	<p>14</p>	 <p>The property abuts SELT conservation land and crowd sourced trail use indicates there is relatively abundant traffic between the two properties.</p>
<p>15</p>	 <p>The single tract trail still provides plenty of room for passing and sandy soil may offer turtle nesting opportunities.</p>	<p>16</p>	 <p>A test well on the property.</p>
<p>17</p>	 <p>Wet areas on either side of the trail and a perched culvert</p>		

Vernal pools were mapped by Rockingham County Conservation District throughout the property in 2022.



There is also a Wetland Reserve Plan of Operations for the property written by NRCS in 2023.

Deed Restrictions Affecting Trail Use

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has an easement deed on the property. It permits undeveloped recreational uses including hunting and fishing and allows temporary observation blinds that accommodate no more than four people. The easement prohibits camping, target shooting and use of other types of developed recreation. The deed for fee ownership that prohibits hunting was not available for this review.

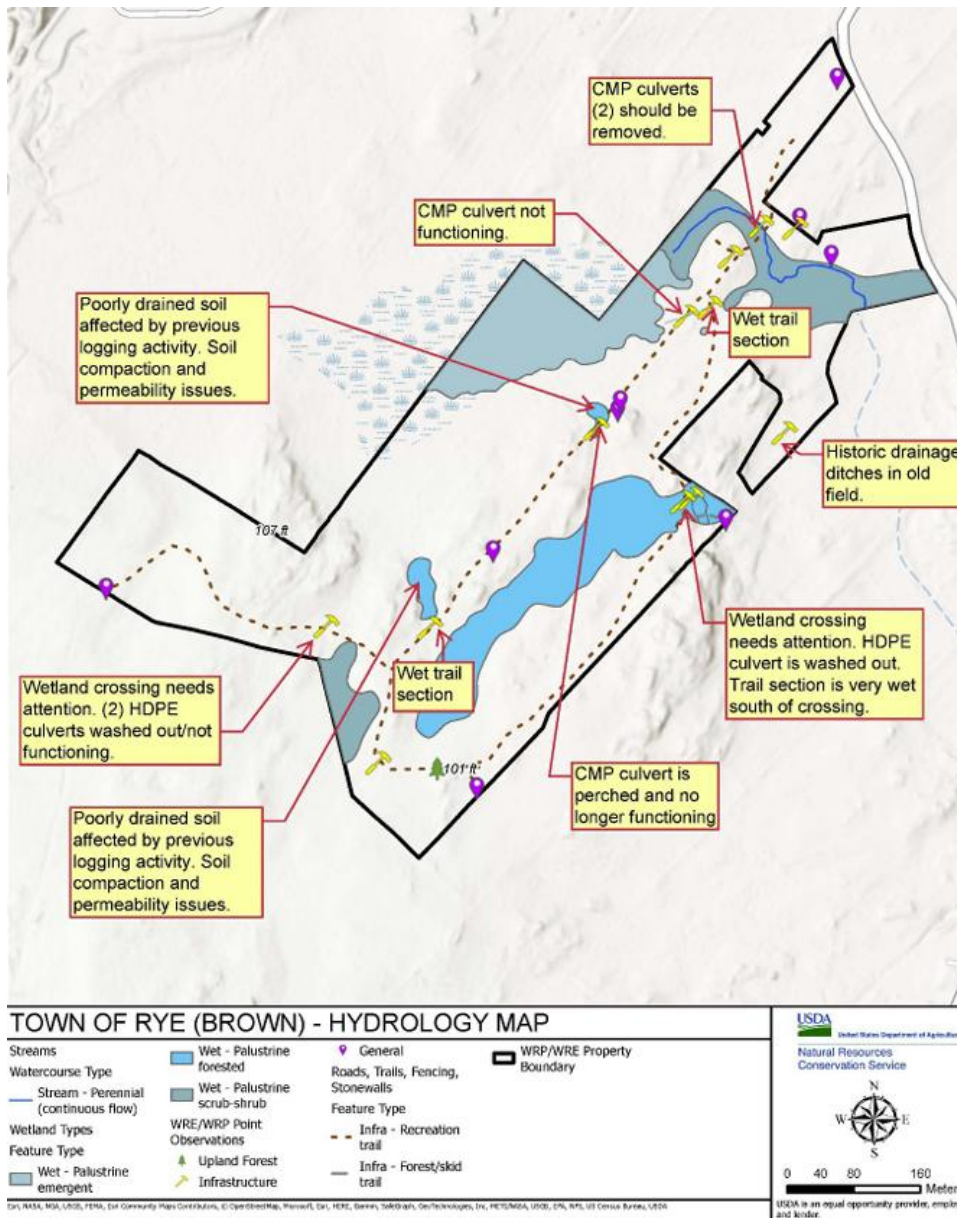
Trail Accessibility

The trail network consists of former logging roads that are relatively wide and flat so suitable for a wide range of recreational uses that are consistent with the property deed.

Trail Maintenance

The trail is generally in good shape and easily navigable. However, several of the culverts are perched, at least during drought conditions. The draft Wetland Reserve Plan of

Operations written by NRCS includes a hydrology map that notes several of the not fully functioning culverts.



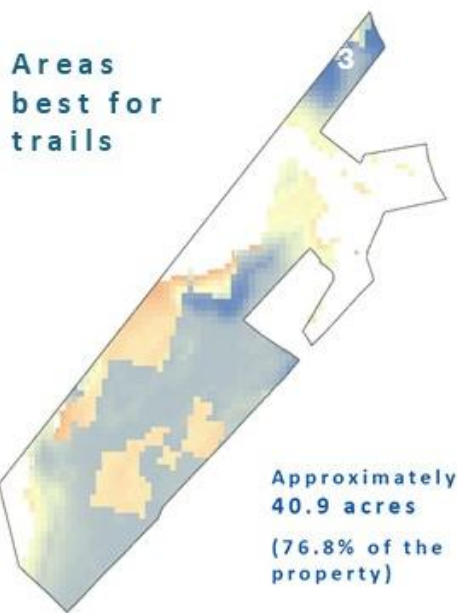
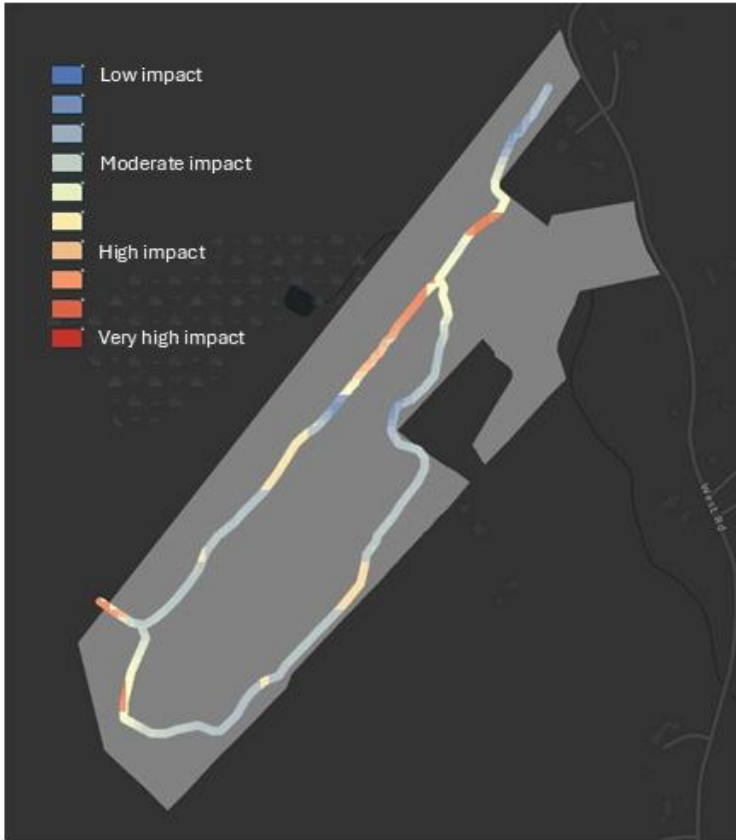
Key Wildlife Features

The majority of the property is early successional sapling forest. This is an ephemeral, and so relatively uncommon, habitat in New Hampshire so the wildlife species associated with it, such as ruffed grouse and box turtles, are generally not abundant. It is an important forest habitat as it provides dense cover for wildlife. Bailey's Brook and the associated palustrine forested wetland provide wetland habitat for potential species such as the smooth green snake. The presence of some vernal pools close to the trail means they may be impacted by off-leash dogs which may rupture egg masses. The NRCS Wetland Reserve Plan of Operations notes the location of several invasive plant species including Japanese stiltgrass. It can grow in dense stands that crowd out native species and is not browsed by

deer or other grazing animals so can easily spread in grassland areas so might be considered a priority for control from a wildlife perspective.

BROWN LANE FARM

Trails for People and Wildlife Areas



BROWN LANE FARM

Other factors that may influence best trail location and types of use

2025 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition



■ Prioritized habitat blocks

Sections of Trail within 50ft of a wetland



- └ Section of trail close to a wetland
- Tidal water / salt marsh
- Freshwater emergent wetland
- Freshwater forested/shrub wetland
- Open freshwater



■ Wildlife travel corridors

Surrounding Development



- └ Tax parcel boundary
- Building
- Cleared area
- Natural area

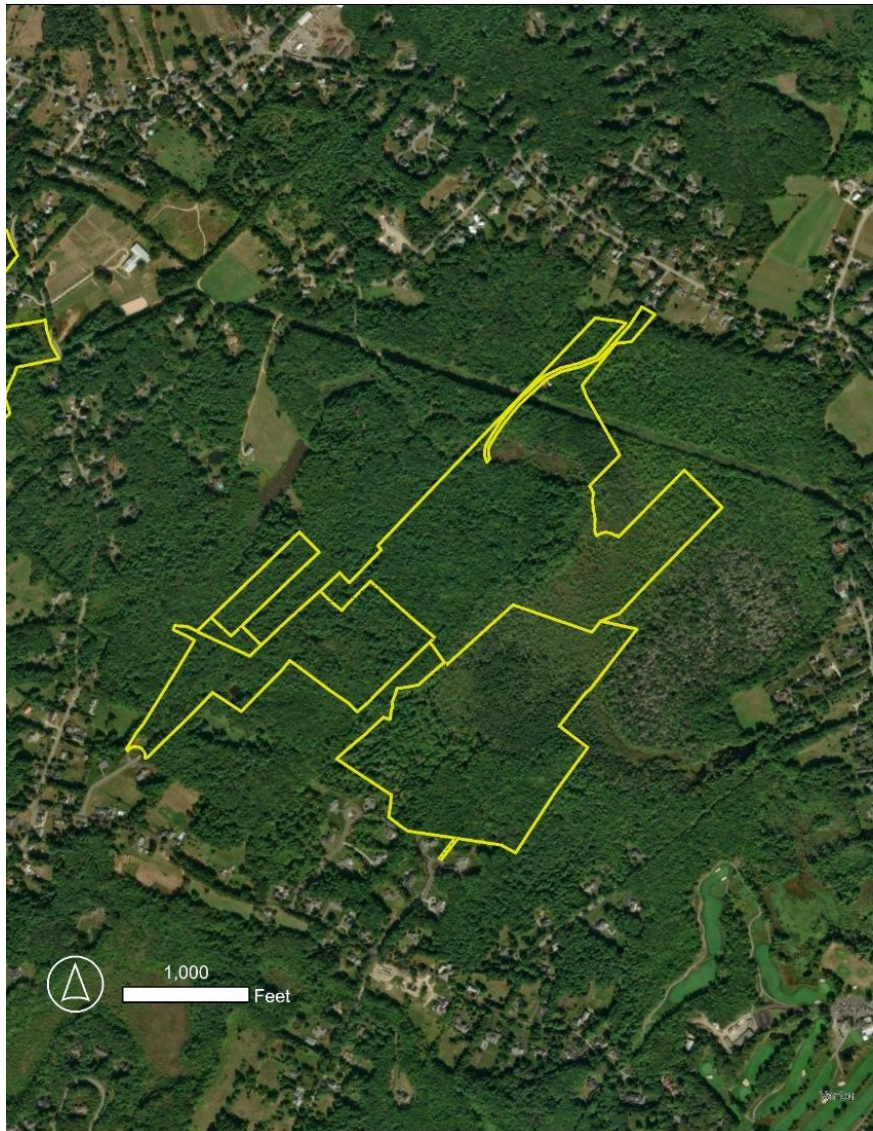


■ NHF&G unfragmented blocks

Suggested changes and rationale for trail reconfiguration

No changes are recommended to the current trail network. The trail is a single loop and is primarily located in dense early successional habitat which keeps dogs and people mainly on the trail. It is connected to the popular SELT owned Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest and has a large off-street parking area that makes it one of the most suitable properties in town to be an ambassador property, encouraging people to get outside and enjoy nature by visiting here. The trail system is largely flat and double track so easy for people with a variety of mobilities to navigate. Small-scale changes to move trails further from vernal pools are encouraged if it is logistically possible.

CEDAR RUN AND RAYNES FOREST











Together this complex of parcels cover just under 123 acres according to the assessor's database. Currently there are two on-street parking areas that allow access, one off Cedar Run and one off Signature Drive.

Bailey Brook crosses the property and creates a large wetland on the northeast portion. The majority of the property is classified as highest ranked wildlife habitat in the state according to the latest update of the Wildlife Action Plan. It hosts at least two deer yards, black gum trees, and is a source of town water.

Photo Points



Point #	Photo and description	Point #	Photo and description
1	 <p>Entrance sign next to parking area marks the beginning of a woods road with a dog waste station on it.</p>	2	 <p>Just one board needs to be replaced on this section of wooden crossing.</p>

<p>3</p>		<p>4</p>	
<p>5</p>		<p>6</p>	
<p>7</p>		<p>8</p>	
<p>Relatively low trail use, mainly single track dirt with exposed tree roots.</p>		<p>Large vernal pool and wet area close to the trail.</p>	
<p>Wet area and probable vernal pool close to the trail.</p>		<p>Vernal pool as seen from trail.</p>	
<p>Large shrubby vernal pool</p>		<p>The red trail is single track and not highly used.</p>	

<p>9</p>	 <p>Trails are well marked with tin signs and generally single track through the woods.</p>	<p>10</p>	 <p>Two bridges in good repair cross a wet area.</p>
<p>11</p>	 <p>Small forest opening created by a microburst event.</p>	<p>12</p>	 <p>Town well.</p>
<p>13</p>	 <p>Wide woods road.</p>	<p>14</p>	 <p>Side of road parking on Signature Drive with entrance sign.</p>

15	 <p data-bbox="311 802 782 871">This section of rail is dirt and single track.</p>	16	 <p data-bbox="928 802 1416 871">Vernal pool abuts a large wetland.</p>
17	 <p data-bbox="311 1501 782 1589">Single track yellow trail.</p>	18	 <p data-bbox="928 1501 1416 1589">Wet section of trail.</p>

Key trail or property stewardship issue

Trail or property stewardship issue	Suggested resolution (s)
Part of the middle section of the red trail crosses private property.	Either reroute this section of trail or look into a memorandum of understanding or other long term legal agreement with the owners.

Deed Restrictions Affecting Trail Use

Cedar Run permits traditional land uses and was protected to “benefit the public by preserving open spaces, scenery, natural habitat and non-crowding”.

Trail Accessibility

There is some use of the red trail by horseback riders. The town owns land off Signature Drive that could potentially be developed as an off-road parking area. The yellow trail is a former woods road that led to a sawmill that has grown in to now be mainly single track.

Trail Maintenance

The majority of wooden crossings are in good shape with just one board needing to be replaced close to the start of the red trail.

Key Wildlife Features

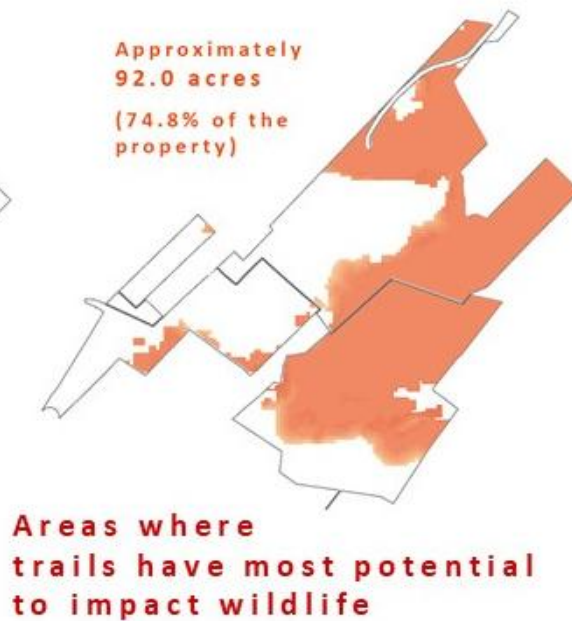
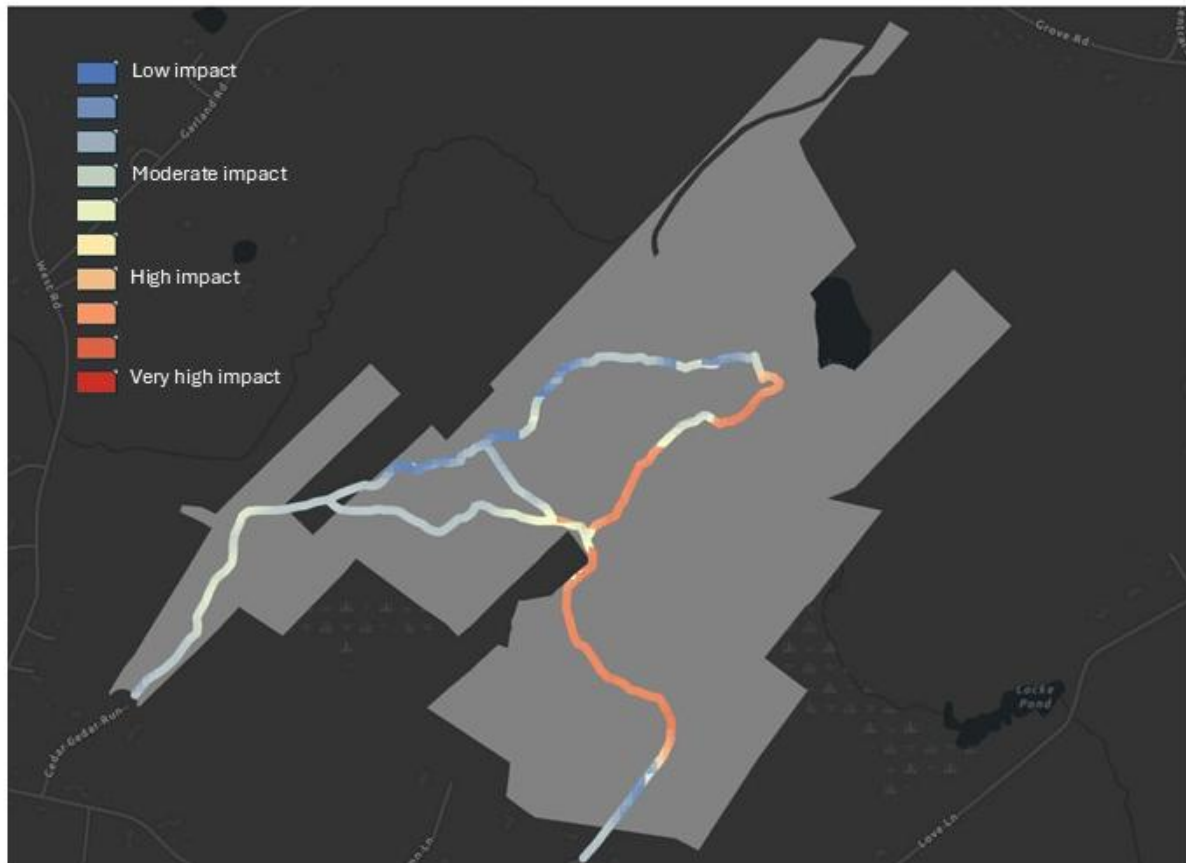
This property sits within one of The Nature Conservancy’s prioritized habitat blocks and an unfragmented block identified by the NH Fish and Game Department. There are some large mast trees on this property, mainly oak, providing food for wildlife such as turkeys and blue jays. Owls, fisher, spotted salamanders, and several species of neotropical migrant birds have been seen by community members on the property. There are at least two deer wintering areas and lots of evidence of deer use. Bailey’s Brook runs through a large wetland on the east and northern section of the property.



A large wetland on the property provides lots of opportunities for wildlife. There is also a lot of evidence of deer use.

CEDAR RUN AND RAYNES FOREST

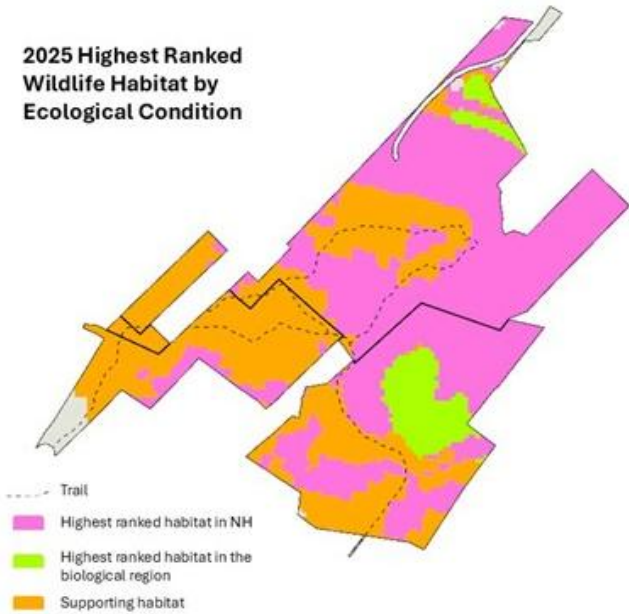
Trails for People and Wildlife Areas



CEDAR RUN AND RAYNES FOREST

Other factors that may influence best trail location and types of use

2025 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition



■ Prioritized habitat blocks

Sections of Trail within 50ft of a wetland



- Section of trail close to a wetland
- Tidal water / salt marsh
- Freshwater emergent wetland
- Freshwater forested/shrub wetland
- Open freshwater



■ Wildlife travel corridors

Surrounding Development



- Tax parcel boundary
- Building
- Cleared area
- Natural area



■ NHF&G unfragmented blocks

Suggested changes and rationale for trail reconfiguration

It is highly recommended that portions of this trail system are considered for decommissioning. The eastern portion of the **yellow trail** and the central and northern portion of the **orange trail** cross areas that are highlighted as high impact on the *Trails for People and Wildlife* map. These two sections of trail also run through a forested wetland, near several vernal pools, and close to an open wetland.

Decommission of the **yellow trail** would create an approximately 110 acre area of unfragmented forest and wetland habitat on these properties. The Rye Water District also has wells located close to the northern section of the yellow trail.

The middle section of the **red trail** crosses private land. The corner of the Town conservation property boundary corner is clearly marked with orange flagging and rebar at the base of a standing dead tree.



There are several potential reroutes that would keep red trail on town land and that stay in the upland avoiding vernal pools and other wet areas. One example is shown in red on the image below;



CEDAR RUN AND RAYNES FOREST

Suggested Changes to the Current Trail Configuration

Present Day Trail Map



P On-street parking

Most balanced update for people and wildlife (if trail remains on private land)



Alternative option with more potential impact to wildlife (if trail remains on private land)



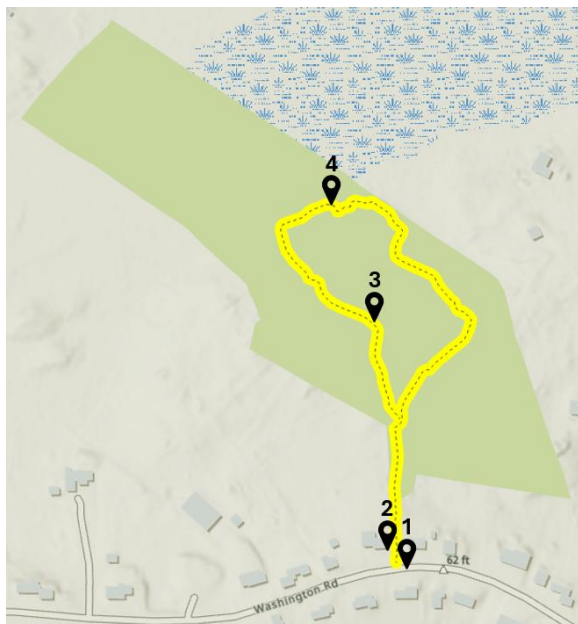
If some or all of these trail reconfigurations are chosen not to be made, it is recommended recreational use be restricted to foot travel only, meaning no mountain bike, electric bike, or horse use, and dogs either are not allowed, or are allowed on leash only, on the trail sections suggested for closure.



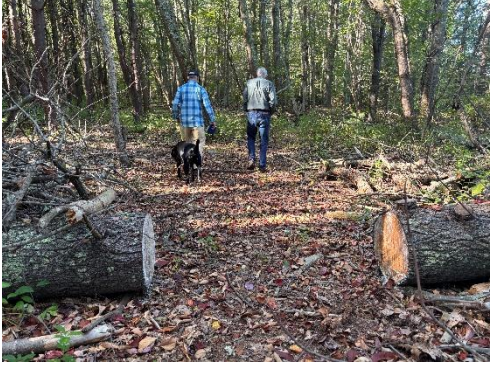
MARDEN WOODS



This 24 acre property has on-road parking for 2 or 3 cars only. A large wetland covers the north west portion and extends off the property as can be seen in this aerial photo. The upland portion of the parcel is composed of Appalachian oak-pine forest. A couple of deer bedding areas were found on this property. Some invasive plant species such as bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) were found on the property but none were widespread.

Photo Points



Point #	Photo and description	Point #	Photo and description
1	 <p>Entrance sign along Washington Road.</p>	2	 <p>A dog waste station is close to the entrance.</p>
3	 <p>The trail is well marked with orange tin signs. This section runs close to a vernal pool.</p>	4	 <p>The wooded trail is generally flat with plenty of space to pass other people. Volunteers clear downed trees.</p>

Deed Restrictions Affecting Trail Use

No specific recreational uses are restricted in the property deed but it was purchased using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funds so uses need to be compatible with NOAA Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program policies.

Trail Accessibility and Maintenance

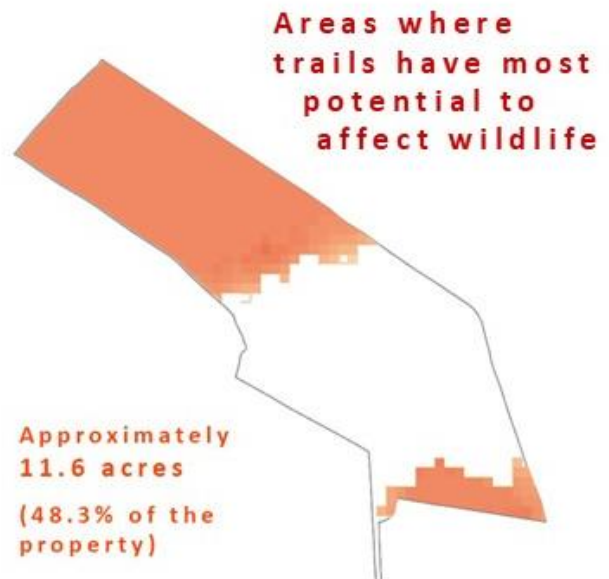
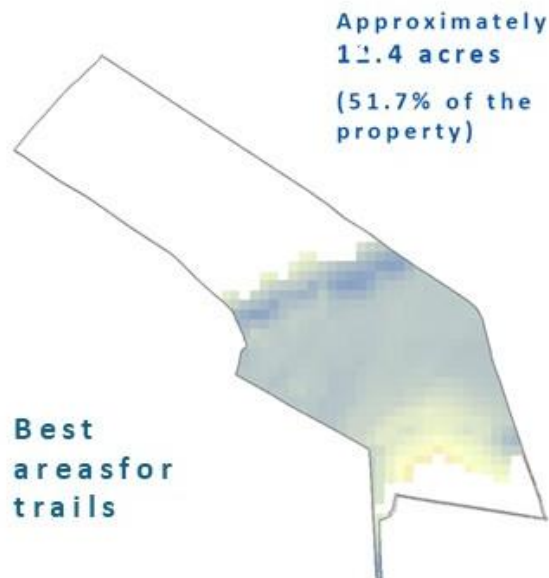
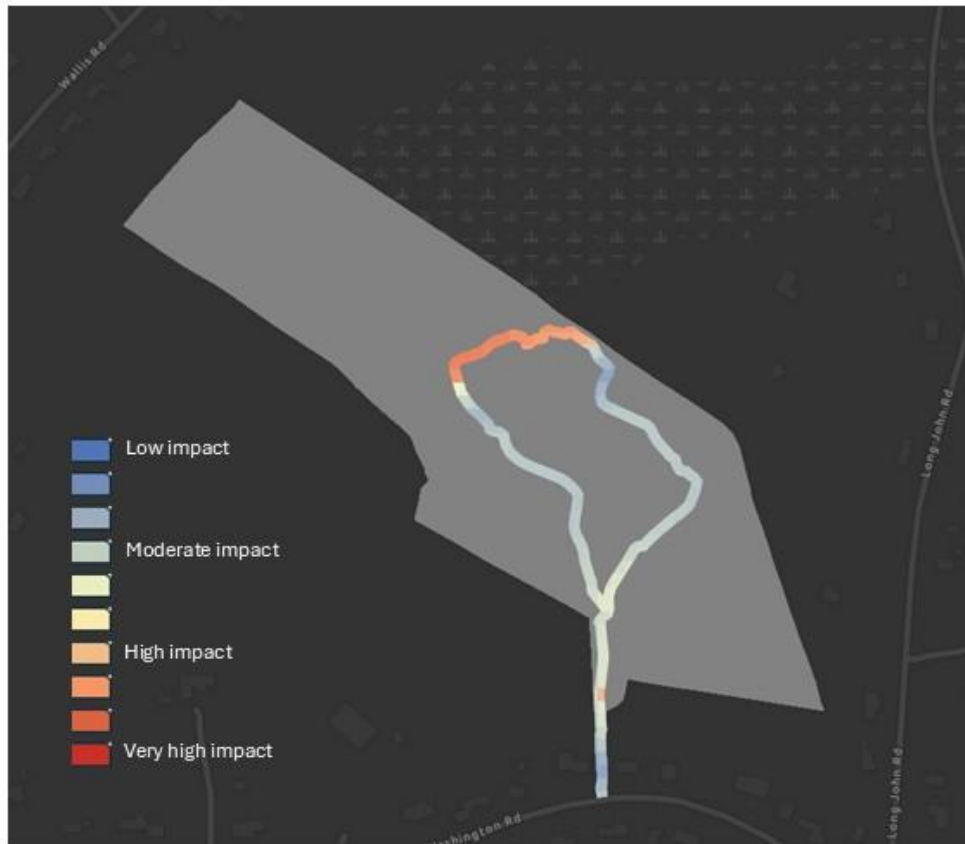
The loop trail runs through the forested portion of the property. It is packed dirt, generally flat and easy to pass other people and pets.

Key Wildlife Features

The wetland portion of the property is classified as highest ranked wildlife habitat in the state and most of the forested portion is classed as highest ranked in the biological region. There are several large mast trees supporting both turkey and deer which were seen while walking on the property

MARDEN WOODS

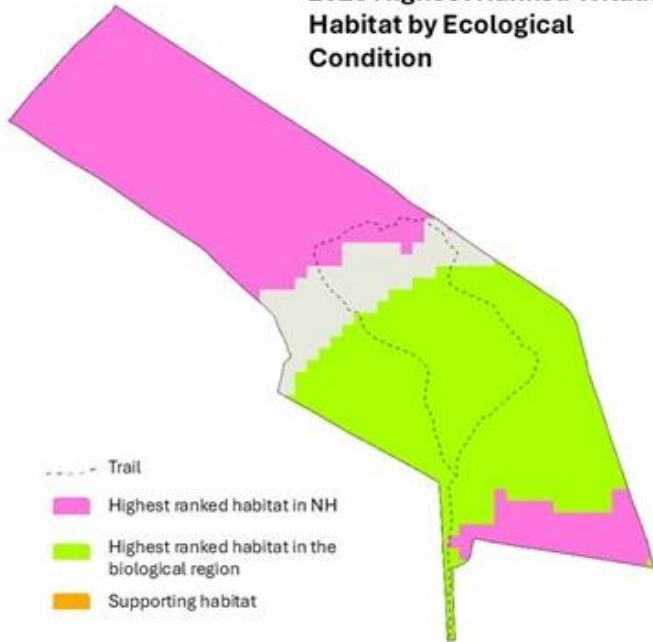
Trails for People and Wildlife Areas



MARDEN WOODS

Other factors that may influence best trail location and types of use

2025 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition



Prioritized habitat blocks



Wildlife travel corridors



NHF&G unfragmented blocks

Sections of Trail within 50ft of a wetland



-  Section of trail close to a wetland
-  Tidal water / salt marsh
-  Freshwater emergent wetland
-  Freshwater forested/shrub wetland
-  Open freshwater

Surrounding Development



-  Tax parcel boundary
-  Building
-  Cleared area
-  Natural area

Suggested changes and rationale for trail reconfiguration

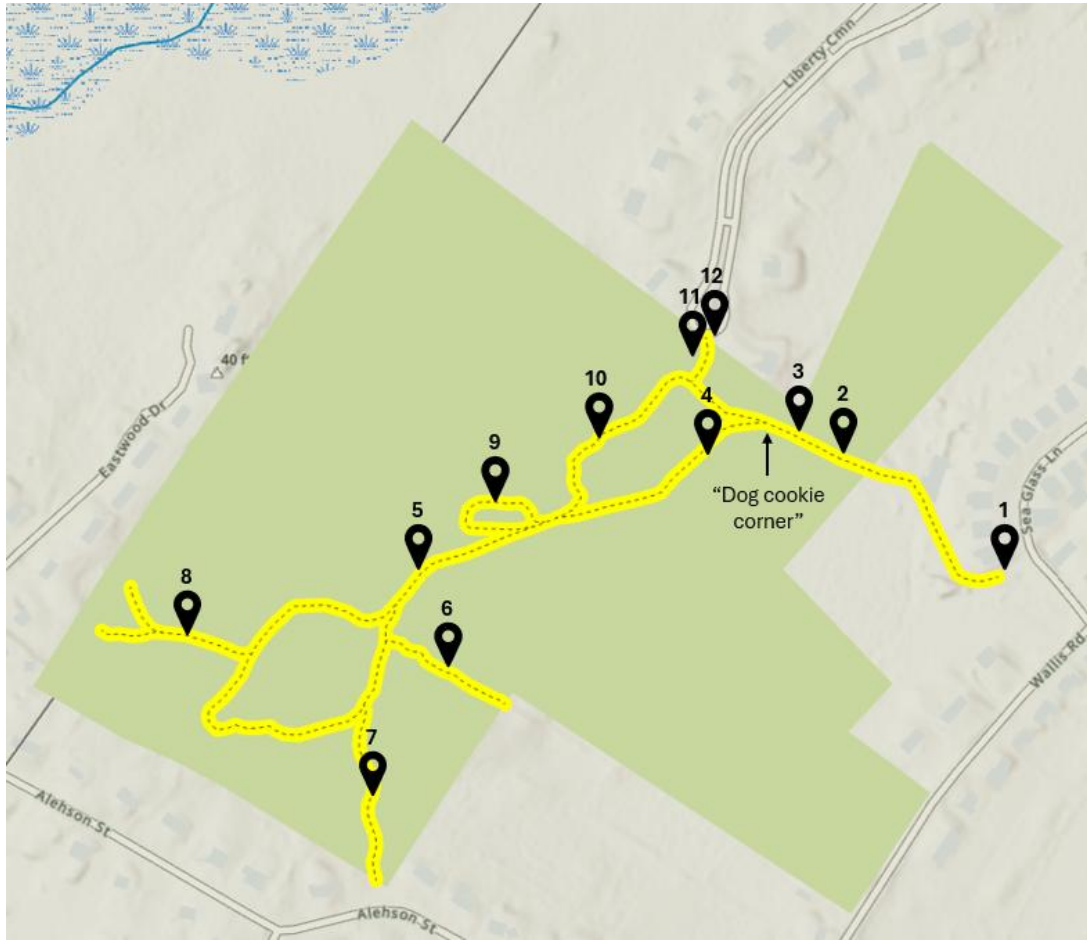
No major changes are recommended for the **orange trail** on Marden Woods. From a wildlife and habitat perspective, the northern section of the loop trail could be rerouted slightly further away from the wetland as a short section is indicated as high impact on *the Trails for People and Wildlife* map and a tiny section is within 50 feet of the wetland. Also, the section near photo point number 3 could be moved further from the vernal pool. However, despite the positive changes these suggested trail reroutes would likely have for wildlife, they do not have such significant impact as those recommended for Airfield/Whitehorse, Cedar Run/Raynes Forest, Seavey Acres, and the Town Forest.

RAND FOREST




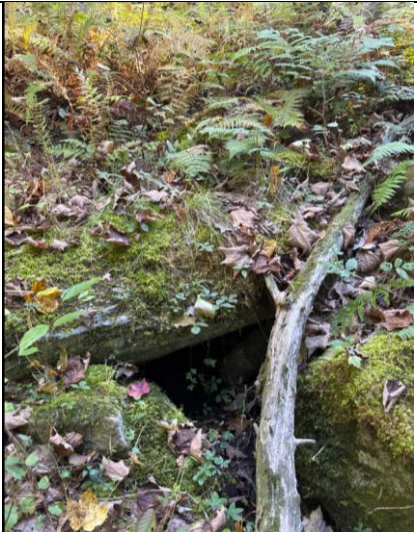

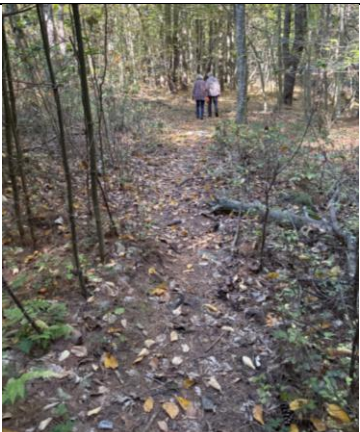






This 73 acre property is primarily comprised of freshwater wetlands and Appalachian oak-pine forest. There is off-street parking for about 4 cars at the Sea Glass Lane access point. It is surrounded on most of its borders by residential development and so is a popular “backyard” recreational area. There are several social trails that have been created to connect people’s properties to the official trail system and children use the trails on their daily commute to school. Community members have seen deer, fox, bobcat and fisher on the property and say there are lots of migratory birds present in the spring.

Photo Points



Point #	Photo and description	Point #	Photo and description
1	 <p>Entrance sign next to off-road parking for 3-4 vehicles accessed from Sea Glass Lane.</p>	2	 <p>Dog waste station.</p>

<p>3</p>	 <p>Concrete culvert.</p>	<p>4</p>	 <p>The official trail system is comprised of easy to travel woods road with plenty of room to pass other people and pets.</p>
<p>5</p>	 <p>A large vernal pool close to the trail. It is just along from a wet area created by a spring.</p>	<p>6</p>	 <p>An unofficial trail passes over an old stone culvert.</p>
<p>7</p>	 <p>A frequently used unofficial trail that connects to Alehson Street.</p>	<p>8</p>	 <p>Another frequently used social trail that connects to two abutting properties.</p>

9	 <p data-bbox="310 590 841 657">Former social trail that is not used very frequently these days.</p>	10	 <p data-bbox="1016 579 1455 642">This section of trail is a single track woods path.</p>
11	 <p data-bbox="310 1115 565 1146">Dog waste station.</p>		 <p data-bbox="1016 963 1495 1115">Fire lane access from Liberty Commons where there is on-street parking for 1 or 2 vehicles without blocking this emergency access.</p>

Deed Restrictions Affecting Trail Use

Neither hunting or motorized vehicles are allowed on the property.

Trail Accessibility and Maintenance

The main off-road parking area accessed from Sea Glass Lane has capacity for about four cars but community members say access points on the north of the property are used more commonly. One of these is a designated fire lane and the other two are social trails that lead from abutting residences. The main trail system is an old woods road, so relatively flat and easy to pass other visitors and pets. The west portion of the orange trail and the loop on the west end of the yellow trail are mainly single-track woods pathways with more uneven footing and some exposed tree roots.

Key Wildlife Features

There is a spring/seep that has created a large wet area next to the yellow trail. This kind of warm water groundwater outflow is important to many animals and plants as they may

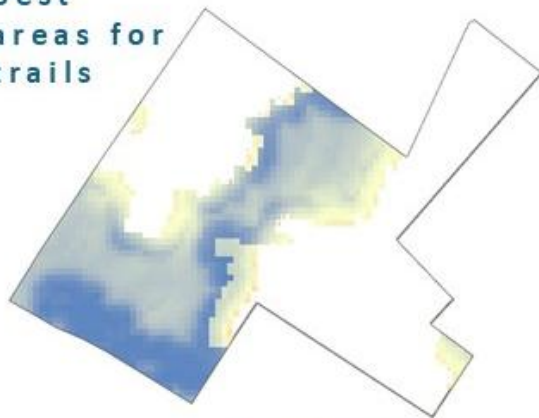
prevent water from freezing during cold periods of weather. There is also at least one large vernal pool next to the trail network and some large mast trees.

RAND FOREST

Trails for People and Wildlife Areas

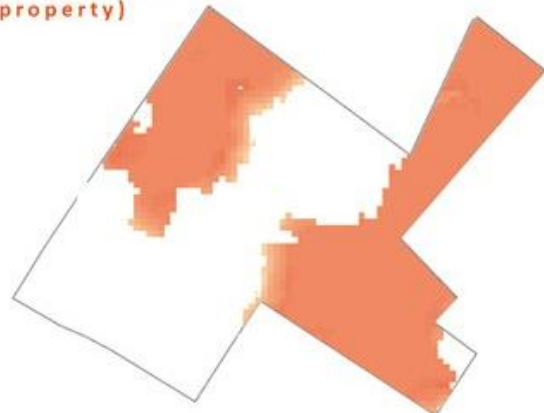


**Best
areas for
trails**



**Approximately
34.5 acres
(47.0% of the
property)**

**Approximately
38.9 acres
(53.0% of the
property)**

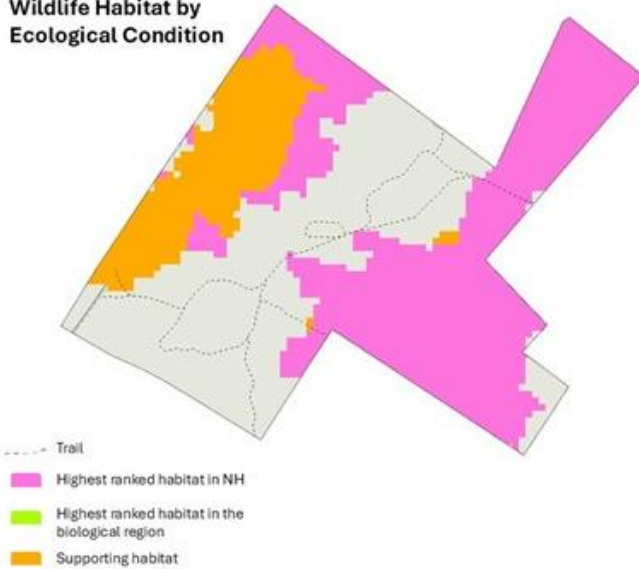


**Areas where trails have
most potential to impact
wildlife**

RAND FOREST

Other factors that may influence best trail location and types of use

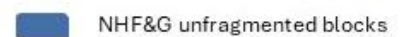
2025 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition



Sections of Trail within 50ft of a wetland



Surrounding Development



Suggested changes and rationale for trail reconfiguration

Despite the concern about relatively high levels of trail use and the network of unofficial social trails, no reconfiguration of the current trail network on the property is made from a wildlife perspective. Although approximately half property has hot spots for potentially impacting wildlife, the majority of trails, including social trails, are in areas indicated as being best to locate trails. The only section of trail that is in a high impact area is the one from the off-road parking area on Sea Glass Lane. This section of trail is also within 50 feet, and actually crosses, a wetland but this habitat bifurcates the property meaning there is no reasonable alternative route from the only deeded off-street parking access to Rand Forest.



SEAVEY ACRES









This just under 60 acre property is about two thirds Appalachian oak-pine forest and about one third salt marsh. There is a small freshwater wetland on the southern portion of the property. The northeastern portion of Seavey Acres is bounded by Berry's Brook and there are multiple vernal pools, some close to the trail network. Off-street parking for 3 or 4 cars is available but line of sight is limited as access to it is situated on a bend of Route 1A.



Photo Points



Point #	Photo and description	Point #	Photo and description
1	 <p>A historic marker along Route 1A describes former residents on the land.</p>	2	 <p>Off-street parking is available off Route 1A.</p>

<p>3</p>	 <p>A well stocked dog waste station is located close to the beginning of the trail.</p>	<p>4</p>	 <p>The Seavey Woods Trail is a dirt packed woods road that is easy to travel along.</p>
<p>5</p>	 <p>A downed tree blocking part of the orange trail.</p>	<p>6</p>	 <p>There are several vernal pools on the property, some close to the trail network.</p>
<p>7</p>	 <p>Much of the orange trail system is single track with well-packed dirt under foot.</p>	<p>8</p>	 <p>A social trail has been created to connect to the trail network.</p>

<p>9</p>	 <p>Another social trail exists on the southern portion of the property.</p>	<p>10</p>	 <p>The green trail is a woods road that is wide with plenty of space to pass.</p>
<p>11</p>	 <p>This section of trail runs along Berry's Brook and is on town land that is not managed by the Conservation Commission.</p>	<p>12</p>	 <p>A bench offers a place to rest and view Berry's Brook.</p>
<p>13</p>	 <p>This section of trail is single track and frequently wet. It is also the site of a mill historically.</p>	<p>14</p>	 <p>In non-drought years there is a waterfall here.</p>

<p>15</p>		<p>16</p>	
	<p>Evidence of bike use.</p>		<p>A wooden structure spans the orange trail.</p>

Deed Restrictions Affecting Trail Use

Seavey Acres was purchased in 1992 with funding from the NH Land Conservation Investment Program. Consequently, although the deed for fee ownership does not contain any restrictions that refer to recreational use, the property is subject to the conservation purposes in RSA 221-A which was later replaced by [RSA 162-C](#). These include keeping the property open to hunting and fishing.

Trail Maintenance and Accessibility

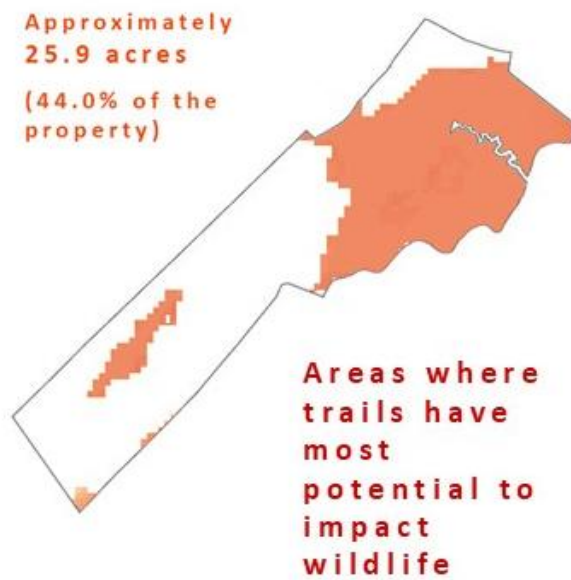
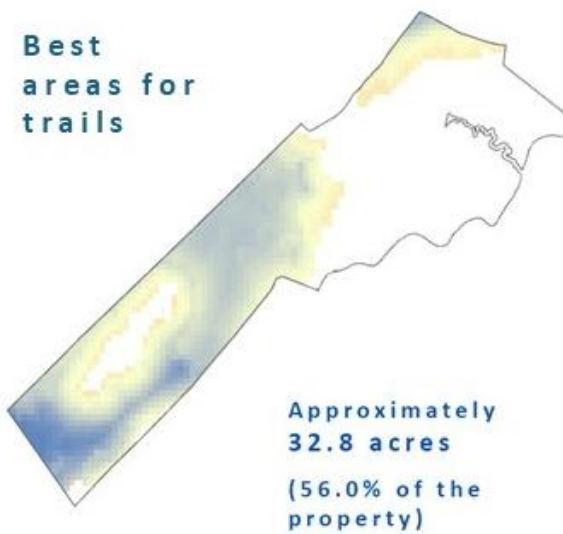
The central green trail is a former woods road so wide and easy to pass other recreational users and pets. Sections of the orange trail are single track and the most easterly portion of the southern loop bordering Berry's Brook can get very wet making it a candidate for rerouting/decommissioning or extensive bog bridge installation.

Key Wildlife Features

The upland portion of the property has several large vernal pools and the freshwater Berry's Brook flows along a section of the east boundary. About a third of the property is salt marsh which, due to changing sea levels relative to land height, is one of the most threatened wildlife habitats in the state.

SEAVEY ACRES

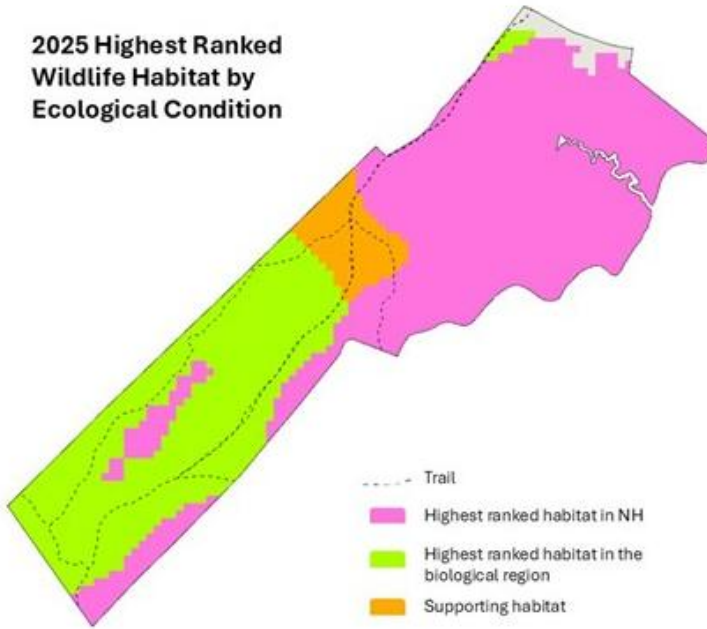
Trails for People and Wildlife Areas



SEAVEY ACRES

Other factors that may influence best trail location and types of use

2025 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition



■ Prioritized habitat blocks

Sections of Trail within 50ft of a wetland



- Section of trail close to a wetland
- Tidal water / salt marsh
- Freshwater emergent wetland
- Freshwater forested/shrub wetland
- Open freshwater



■ Wildlife travel corridors

Surrounding Development



- Tax parcel boundary
- Building
- Cleared area
- Natural area



■ NHF&G unfragmented blocks

Suggested changes and rationale for trail reconfiguration

The central **green trail**, an old woods road, is a popular through-biking route. Part of the middle section of the southern part of the **orange trail** crosses town land not managed by the Conservation Commission. Most of the southern loop of the **orange trail** runs through what the Wildlife Action Plan indicates is the highest ranked habitat in the state and the section that isn't runs through highest ranked wildlife habitat in the bioregion. It is in an area of high and very high potential trail impact to wildlife on the *Trails for People and Wildlife* map. Finally, parts of the southern loop of the **orange trail** are located within 50 feet of a wetland. It is recognized that this is a particularly scenic section of the trail network on Seavey Acres so if it is decided not to decommission this part of the trail, there is a spur loop off the southern orange trail that is a particular priority for closure.



Although scenic, this small loop trail on Seavey Acres is a particular high priority for closure.



Seavey Acres was protected using State funds through what was called the Land Conservation Investment Program at the time.

SEAVEY ACRES

Suggested Changes to the Current Trail Configuration

Present Day Trail Map



P Off-street parking

Most balanced update for people and wildlife

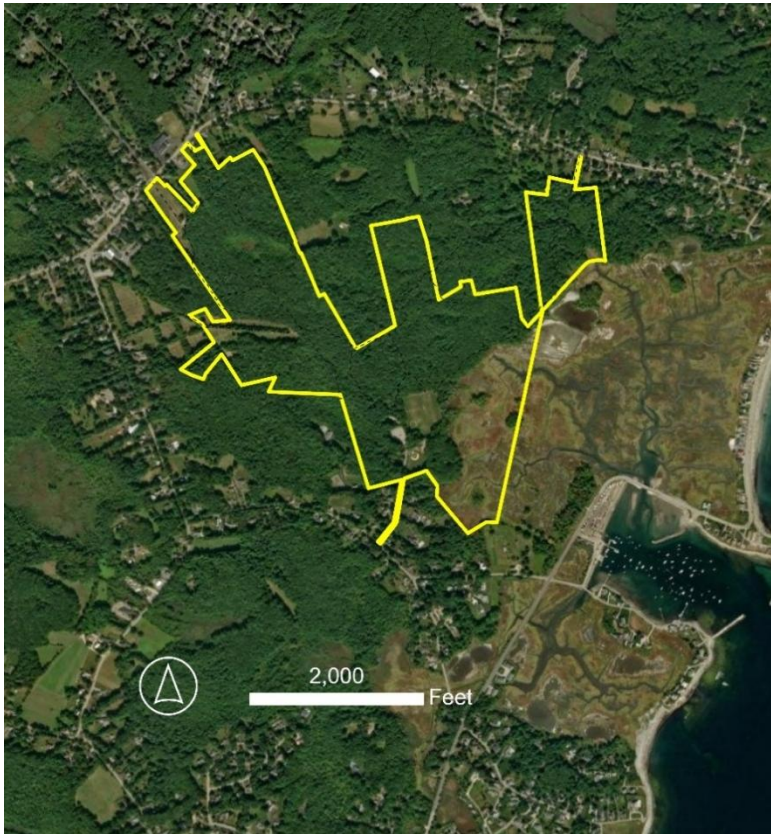


Alternative option with more potential impact to wildlife



If some or all of these trail reconfigurations are chosen not to be made, it is recommended recreational use be restricted to foot travel only, meaning no mountain bike, electric bike, or horse use, and dogs either are not allowed, or are allowed on leash only, on the trail sections suggested for closure.

TOWN FOREST



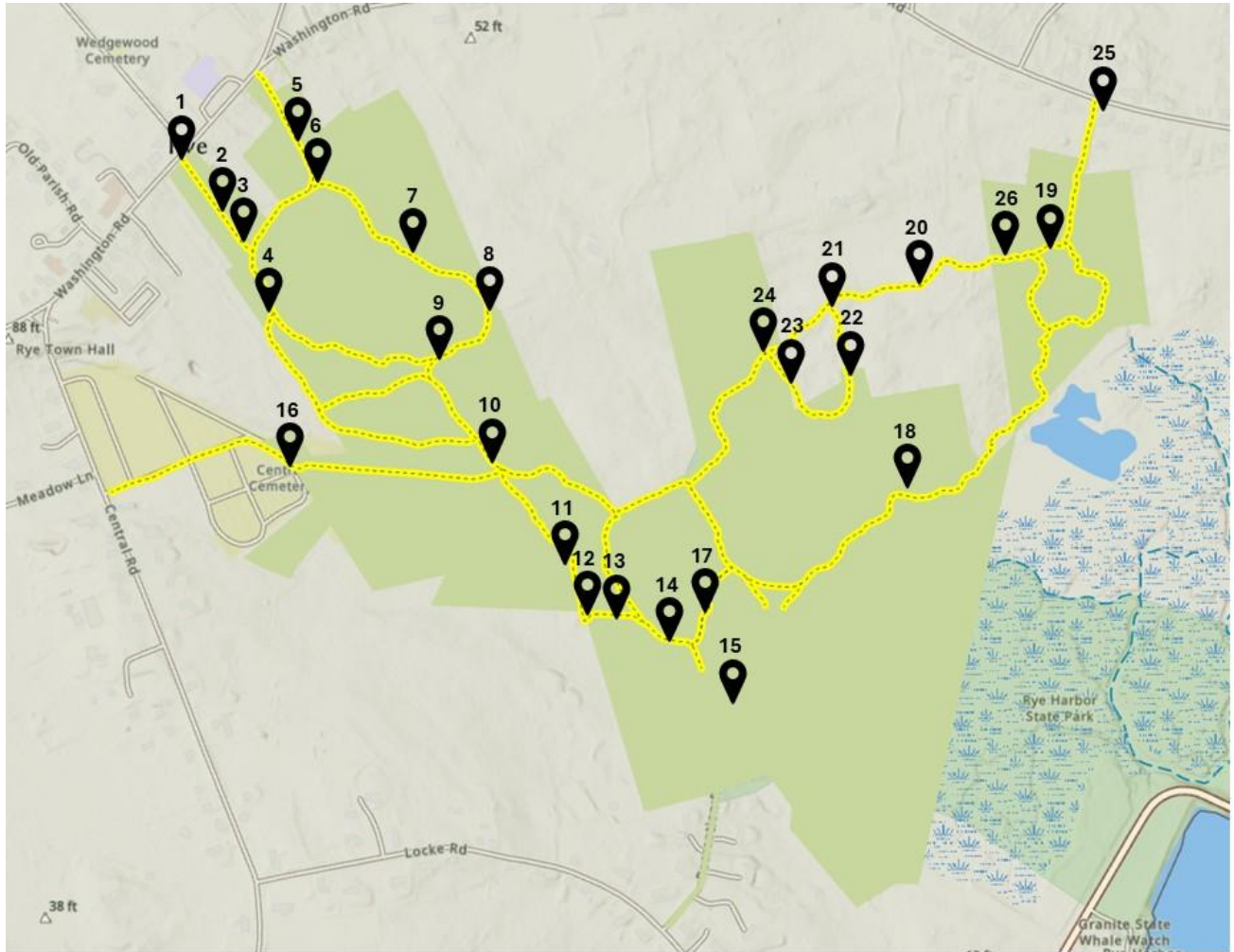
The largest Town property managed by the Conservation Commission is Rye Town Forest followed by the Cedar Run/Jim Raynes Forest and Airfield/Whitehorse complexes. A Forest Management Plan was written for the property in 2020 and can be viewed [here](#). The Town Forest is comprised of four individual parcels including Varrell Woods Conservation Area. There are two large off-road parking areas and pedestrian access in four locations. Rye Recreation Area is located on the southern portion of the property and

Parsons Field, an open area of grassland, is in the north. Permission for its use is determined by the Rye Select Board. The Central Cemetery abuts the western edge of the Town Forest and provides one of the pedestrian access points.









The forest is mainly Appalachian oak-pine. There is a large emergent and open water wetland on the northwest section of the property, two other freshwater wetlands in the north and many vernal pools, particularly in the eastern portion of the property that contains, and abuts with, the large Awcomin Marsh where extensive salt marsh restoration work has taken place.

















Photo Points




Point #	Photo and description	Point #	Photo and description
1	 <p>Pedestrian entrance to Parsons field.</p>	2	 <p>A commercial dog walking business regularly makes use of Parsons field.</p>

<p>3</p>	 <p>The northern off-road parking area.</p>	<p>4</p>	 <p>One of several well-stocked dog waste bag stations on the property.</p>
<p>5</p>	 <p>Dumping of yard waste along access from Washington Road.</p>	<p>6</p>	 <p>Fire road access, kiosk and dog waste bag station.</p>
<p>7</p>	 <p>A bivouac structure.</p>	<p>8</p>	 <p>A partially downed tree crosses the generally wide and level blue trail.</p>
<p>9</p>	 <p>Dog leash optional sign.</p>	<p>10</p>	 <p>Dog waste bag station.</p>

<p>11</p>			<p>12</p>	
	<p>There is lots of erosion and water issues on the yellow trail. This will ideally be decommissioned. It also runs parallel to the orange trail so is also somewhat duplicative for travel.</p>			<p>More erosion and water issues on this section of trail.</p>
<p>13</p>			<p>14</p>	
	<p>Bog bridges on wet section of trail.</p>			<p>“Portions of this trail require dogs to be leashed” sign.</p>
<p>15</p>			<p>16</p>	
	<p>Entrance to Rye Recreation Field.</p>			<p>“Vehicle access for cemetery purposes only” sign</p>

17	 <p data-bbox="311 604 870 709">Lots of trail use has exposed tree roots making footing uneven along this section of trail.</p>	18	 <p data-bbox="990 640 1487 709">Sign indicating the intention of a lower impact area.</p>
19	 <p data-bbox="311 970 870 1100">Large vernal pools close to the trail.</p>	20	 <p data-bbox="990 1066 1487 1100">Large vernal pool as seen from trail.</p>
21		22	 <p data-bbox="990 1512 1487 1549">Probable vernal pool.</p>
23	 <p data-bbox="311 1911 870 1944">Vernal pool by trail.</p>	24	 <p data-bbox="990 1911 1487 1944">Vernal pool as seen from trail.</p>

25	 <p data-bbox="311 634 824 737">Entrance from Washington Road. Room for one car to park on street without blocking fire lane.</p>	26	 <p data-bbox="990 686 1448 747">Trail shows signs of erosion and so a reasonable amount of use.</p>
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Key trail or property stewardship issues

Trail or property stewardship issue	Suggested resolution (s)
Part of the green trail crosses private property.	Either reroute or decommission this section of trail. Alternatively, look into a memorandum of understanding or other long term legal agreement with the owners.
Several bog bridges on the yellow and green trails are in disrepair and there are additional sections of these trail that have erosion issues due to being routed through wet area.	Either repair existing bog bridges and install additional ones, or reroute or decommission those sections of trail to prevent the need for maintenance.

Deed Restrictions Affecting Trail Use

The Town granted a [conservation easement](#) to Rockingham County Conservation District on part of the Town Forest with the purpose of keeping it “in a natural, scenic, undeveloped and open condition”. This easement prohibits the use of automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, motorized bikes, and snowmobiles except for management or emergency services access. It also prohibits any activity “which would harm or otherwise adversely affect any state or federally recognized rare, threatened or endangered species or the habitat thereof”. The Town reserved the right to maintain existing woods roads, trails” and trail infrastructure such as bridges and signs. Recreational activities that do not involve motorized vehicles such as hiking, cross-country skiing, dog walking, horseback riding, biking and scouting activities are allowed. The easement also requires that a Forest Management Plan shall be updated at least every ten years through the Conservation Commission. Any commercial activity is prohibited on the part of the property that the conservation easement applies to.

Trail Maintenance and Accessibility

The blue, orange, red and white trail closest to access points at Parsons Field, the Central Cemetery, and the Recreation Fields are generally level and wide so easy to traverse. Commercial dog walking takes place at Parsons Field but this may have been permitted by the Town Council, this was not looked into as part of this study. Portions of the purple, green and black trails are single track with exposed tree root systems so are more challenging under foot. There are several bog bridges in need of repair along the yellow and green trails. There are multiple changes of where dogs are allowed to be off-leash and where they are required to be on leash throughout the property. These changes are indicated by signs but are quite frequent so are generally ignored by pet owners.



Key Wildlife Features

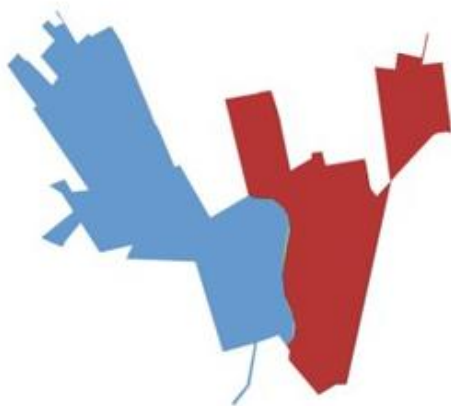
There are multiple vernal pools on the property, some close to the current trail, particularly on the northern portion of the green trail. An informal bird survey by staff from NH Audubon noted no ground nesting birds, such as oven birds, in any part of the property. Ground nesting birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance and predation so tend to nest centrally in unfragmented habitats. Deer were seen along the green trail.

TOWN FOREST

Trails for People and Wildlife Areas



A recreational use and ecological division of the property

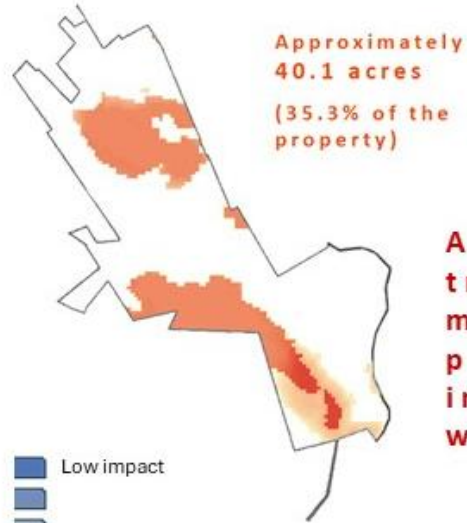
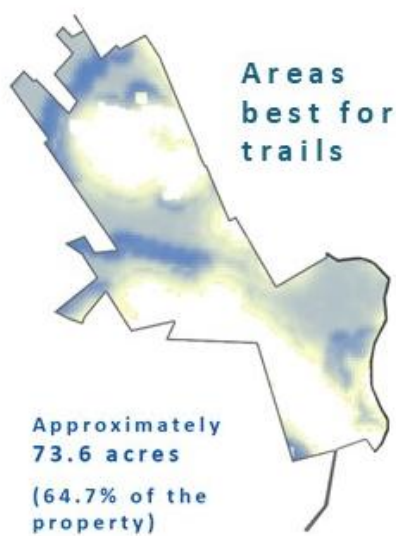


Although it does not follow tax map and lot lines, there is a natural division of the Town Forest complex based on the amount of recreational use and environmental features of the property. The west portion has fairly heavy recreational use, being used a lot by dog walkers, hikers, runners and there is also some e-bike use. There is also a commercial dog walking business that often brings clients to Parsons field. The east portion, shown in red on this graphic, has much lighter recreational use and there is a greater area of sensitive habitat, particularly forested wetland.

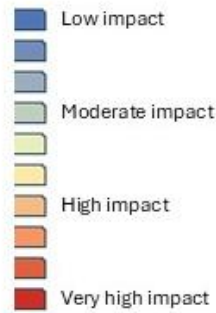
TOWN FOREST

Trails for People and Wildlife Areas

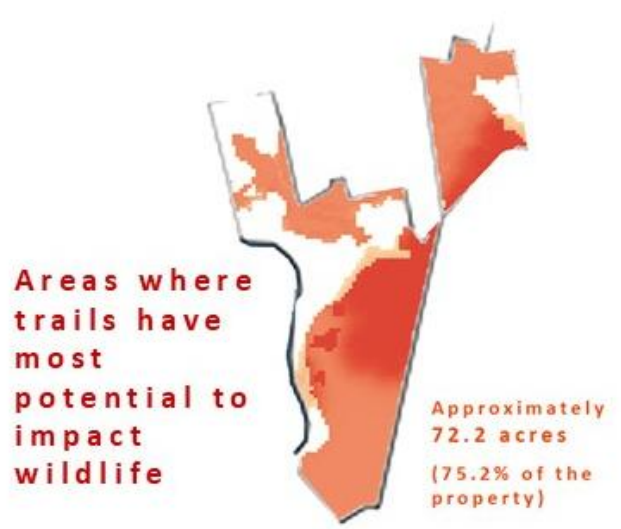
WEST SECTION OF TOWN FOREST



Areas where trails have most potential to impact wildlife



EAST SECTION OF TOWN FOREST



Areas where trails have most potential to impact wildlife

TOWN FOREST

Other factors that may influence best trail location and types of use



■ Prioritized habitat blocks

Sections of Trail within 50ft of a wetland



- Section of trail close to a wetland
- Tidal water / salt marsh
- Freshwater emergent wetland
- Freshwater forested/shrub wetland
- Open freshwater



■ Wildlife travel corridors

Surrounding Development



- Tax parcel boundary
- Building
- Cleared area
- Natural area



■ NHF&G unfragmented blocks

Suggested changes and rationale for trail reconfiguration

The east and west portions of the Town Forest contrast each other both in the amount of trail use and potential impacts to wildlife. The west portion is much more heavily used and has less high potential wildlife impact areas compared to the eastern portion of the property which is used much less and has a lot of forested wetland and other factors that mean trails located here are much more likely to impact wildlife.

The western portion of Rye Town Forest is very popular for recreation so the only suggestion on this part of the property is to decommission the **yellow trail**. This 0.2 mile section of trail is almost all located in or within 50 feet of a wetland, consequently lots of erosion and water issues can be seen along its route. Bog bridges have been installed in certain areas but many are in disrepair. The **yellow trail** also runs parallel to the orange trail so is also somewhat duplicative in terms of where it allows people to travel on the property.

The **green trail** crosses private property, runs through several wet areas, is located close to several vernal pools, and is on part of the property that, by deed, is to be kept “in a natural, scenic, undeveloped and open condition”. To balance the Town Forest’s use by both wildlife and people it is recommended that this trail be closed and recreation be encouraged on the west part of the property that includes the **blue**, **orange**, **red** and **white** trails. The “Alternative option with more potential impact to wildlife” in the Suggested Changes to the Current Trail Configuration” graphic on the next page would be the next best option if it is felt a third access along Washington Road should be maintained. If the black trail is closed, two access points are still available, one approximately 0.9 miles and the other 1.0 mile to the west on Washington Road.

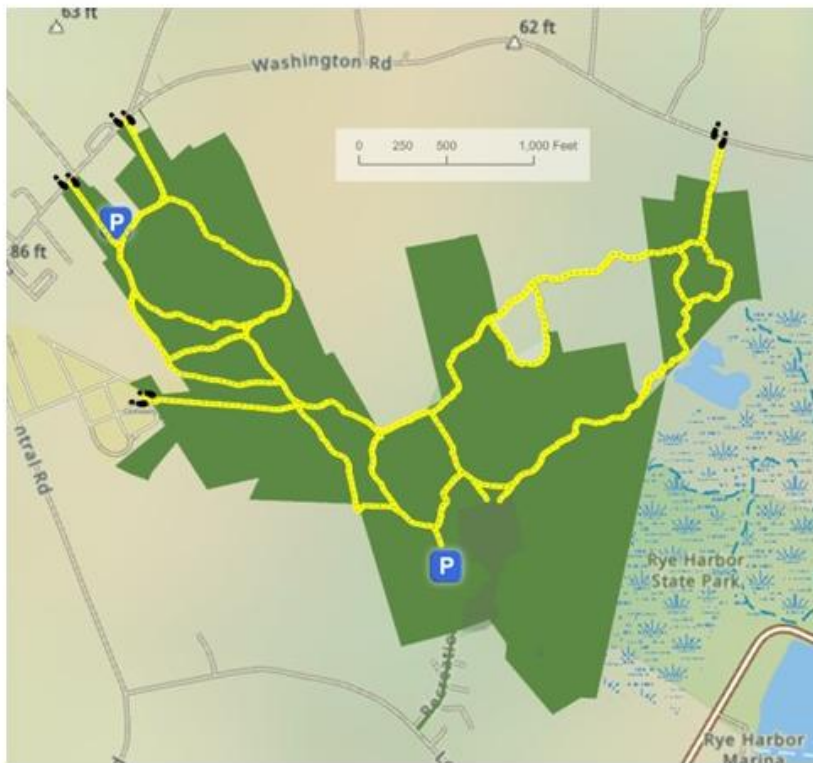


The green trail runs through some of the most wildlife and habitat sensitive areas on the property.

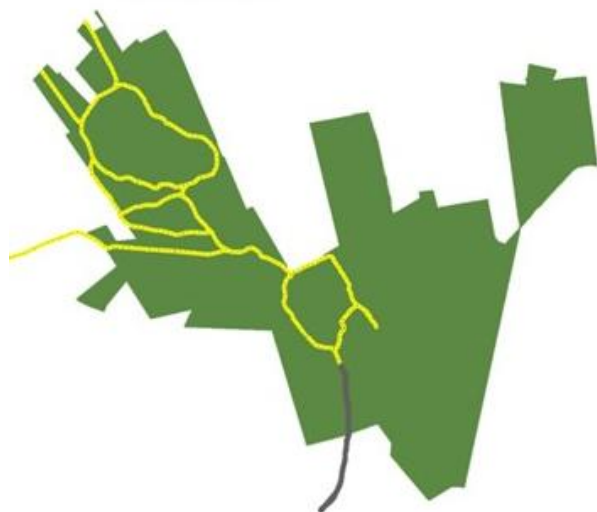
TOWN FOREST

Suggested Changes to the Current Trail Configuration

Present Day Trail Map



Most balanced update for people and wildlife



Alternative option with more potential impact to wildlife



If some, or all, of these trail reconfigurations are chosen not to be made, it is recommended recreational use be restricted to foot travel only, meaning no mountain bike, electric bike, or horse use, and dogs either are not allowed, or are allowed on leash only, on the trail sections suggested for closure.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the seven areas considered a management unit in this report, three are best suited as ambassador properties from a *Trails for People and Wildlife* perspective. These are Brown Lane Farm, Rand Forest and the west portion of Rye Town Forest. Two are most suited to be considered low impact properties; the Cedar Run/Raynes Forest complex and the east portion of the Town Forest.

☑ Airfield and Whitehorse Farms

Ideally close the northern loop section of the orange trail, the southern portion of the red trail loop, and the green trail.

- **Brown Lane Farm**

No large-scale changes are recommended to the current trail network but, if possible, short sections of trail close to vernal pools and other wet areas will be rerouted. This is one of the most suitable properties in town to be an ambassador property encouraging people to get outside and enjoy nature by visiting there.

☑ Cedar Run and Jim Raynes Forest

It is suggested that the yellow trail, and ideally the orange trail, are considered for decommission due to their proximity to sensitive wildlife habitat and a municipal water supply. A section of the red trail that crosses private property has the potential to be rerouted to keep it all on town land if desired and reroutes, or additional trail decommissioning is encouraged to avoid vernal pools.

- **Marden Woods**

No major changes are recommended.

- **Rand Forest**

Despite the concern about relatively high levels of trail use and the network of unofficial social trails, no configuration of the current trail network on the property is suggested from a wildlife perspective. It is recommended that this property is considered an ambassador property and public use be directed here.

☑ Seavey Acres

Ideally the entire southern section of the orange trail will be closed and if not, the small loop trail on the southern portion of the orange trail on Seavey Acres is a particularly high priority for closure.

✓ Town Forest

It is recommended the yellow and green trails are decommissioned. Both traverse wet areas and the green trail runs through some of the most sensitive habitats on the property.

Please note, the recommended trail closures in this report are conservative as their purpose is to minimize impacts to wildlife while still getting people out into nature to enjoy their favorite on-trail recreational pursuits. From an ecological and trail maintenance perspective, several additional reroutes or closures would be made primarily based on the NH Trails Bureau's recommendation of keeping trails out of the water and water out of the trails. The following diagrams show areas of particular concern where present day trails are within 50 feet of a wetland, vernal pool, or other wet feature that was mapped in the field. The point locations do not delineate the boundary of each feature as fieldwork took place in the dry season of a drought year so would not be representative of their actual extent.

Areas where trail reroutes or closures may be considered due to co-location with water. These areas are more subject to erosion as well as likely to impact wildlife.

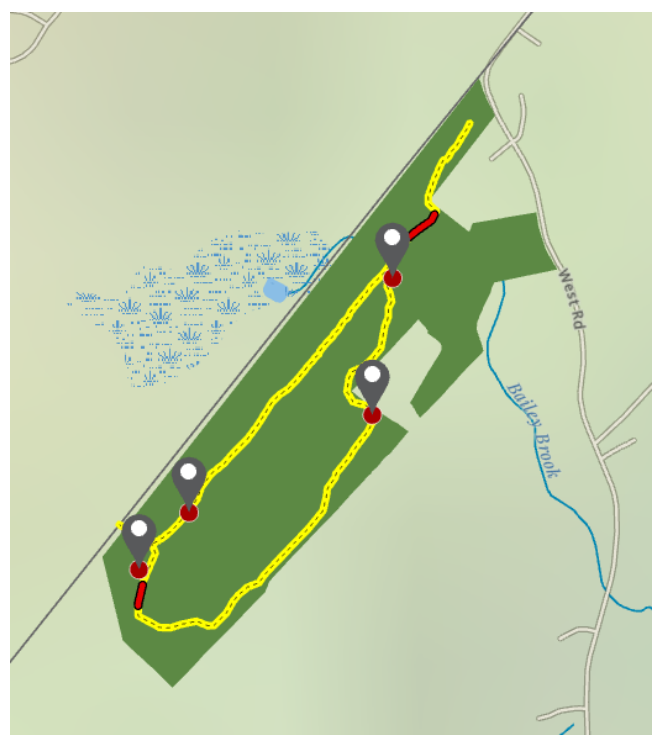
 Section of trail in a wetland or within 50ft of one

 Point location of a vernal pool or other field documented wet feature and 50ft buffer

Airfield and Whitehorse Farms



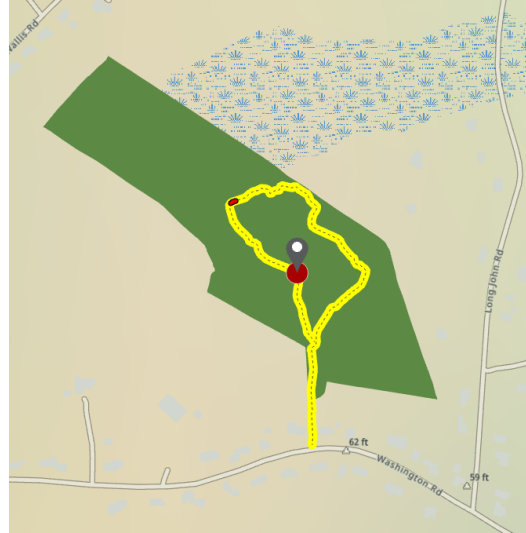
Brown Lane Farm



Cedar Run and Jim Raynes Forest



Marden Woods



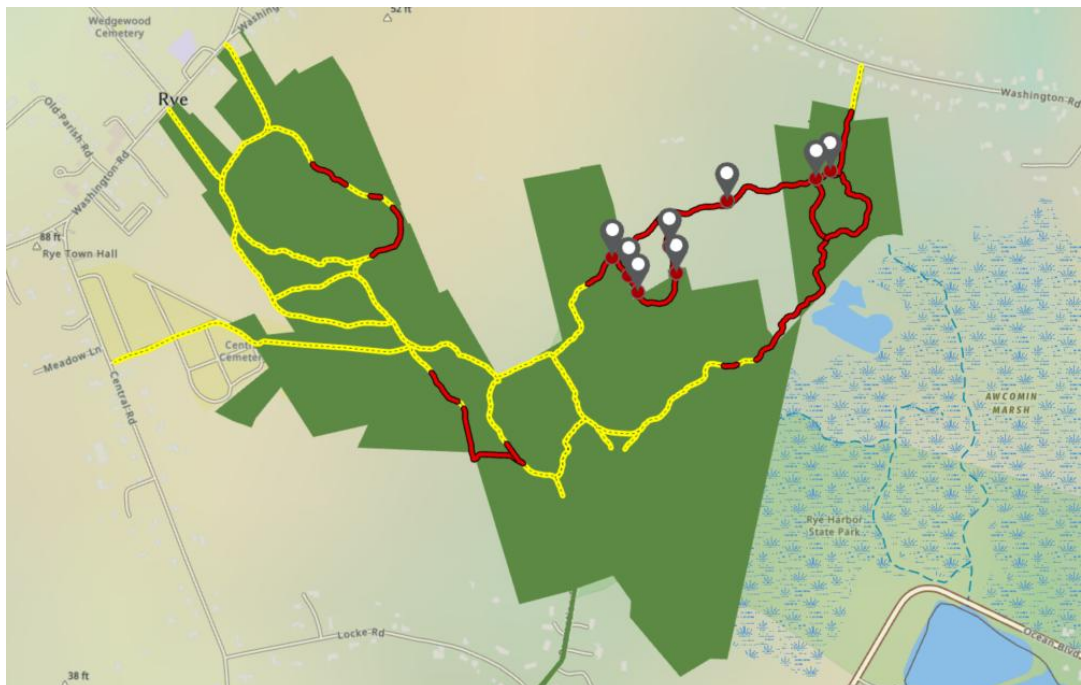
Rand Forest



Seavey Acres



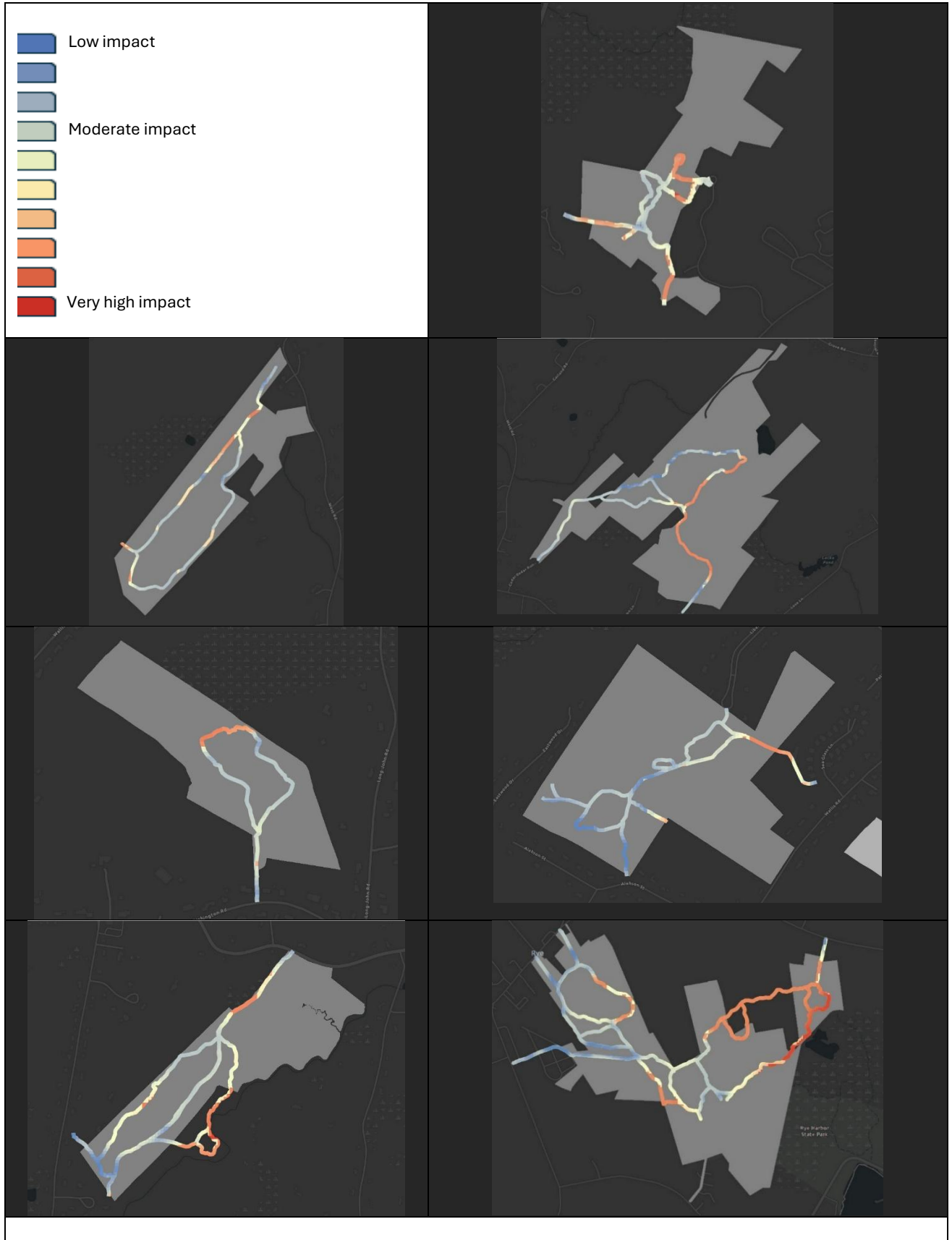
Town Forest



KEY DECISIONS TO BE MADE

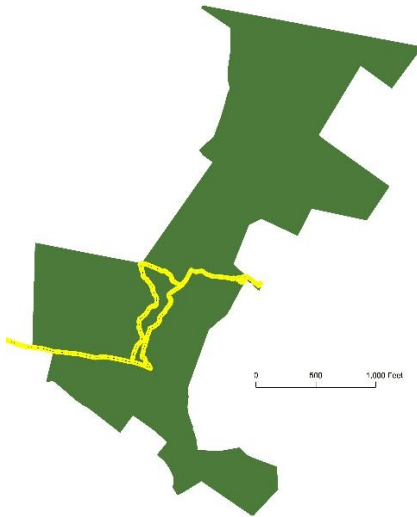
- Whether the Conservation Commission would like to adopt the NH Fish and Game recommended *Trails for People and Wildlife* approach of varying the density and intensity of use of trail systems on different properties depending on the sensitivity of natural features each supports. If so, it is suggested Brown Lane Farm, Marden Woods, Rand Forest and the west portion of the Town Forest are considered “ambassador properties” while Cedar Run/Raynes Forest and the east portion of the Town Forest are considered “low impact areas”.
- Whether to support the recommended changes to trail configuration on four areas of conservation land; Airfield/Whitehorse Farm, Cedar Run/Raynes Forest, Seavey Acres, and the Town Forest.
- If and how to address key stewardship issues highlighted in the property-specific section of this report.
- What should the allowable uses be for each property, particularly where electric and peddle-powered bikes and horses are allowed. Also, where dogs are to be leashed and where they are allowed to be off-leash. Consistent messaging throughout a property can help with public understanding of, and so compliance to, allowable uses.
- Whether seasonal closures, to avoid both nesting bird and mud seasons, should be recommended in certain areas, particularly on “low impact” properties (if designated) and on trails shown in warmer colors on the Trails for People and Wildlife impact map.
- Whether the Conservation Commission would like to explore the feasibility of creating an accessible, or all-persons, trail on Brown Lane Farm, Marden Woods, Rand Forest or the western portion of the Town Forest.
- Whether, over time as trails are remarked, if their color-coding system should be changed to symbolize the ease of access of that trail. This would allow users of different abilities to quickly identify the most suitable trails for them to explore.
- Whether smaller trail reroutes can be made on several properties to avoid trails being located in close proximity to vernal pools.
- If trails are not closed or rerouted around wet areas, does the Town have the capacity to maintain infrastructure such as bog bridges in the long term in order to provide safe recreational passage and minimize ecological impacts.
- Whether any of the “ambassador” (if designated) properties are to be added to Trail Finder, an online recreational trail mapper supported by UNH Cooperative Extension.

APPENDIX A: A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF TRAILS TO WILDLIFE

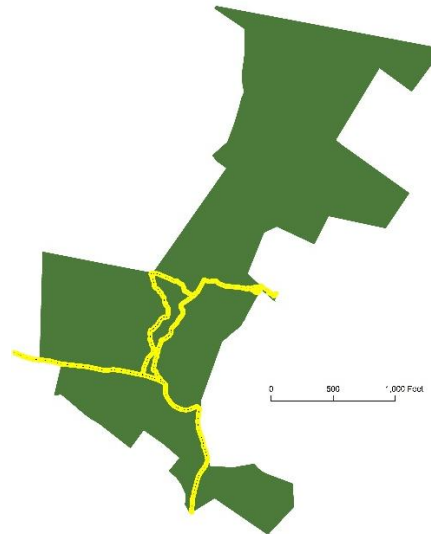


APPENDIX B: A SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED TRAIL RECONFIGURATIONS

**Airfield and Whitehorse Farms
Ideal**



Alternative



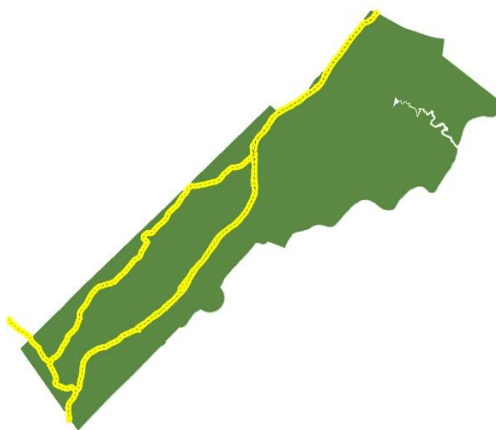
**Cedar Run and Raynes Forest
Ideal**



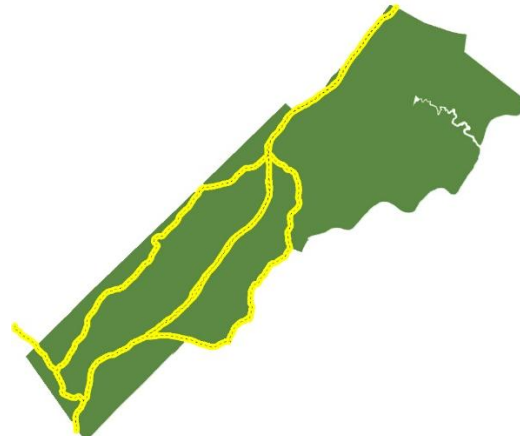
Alternative



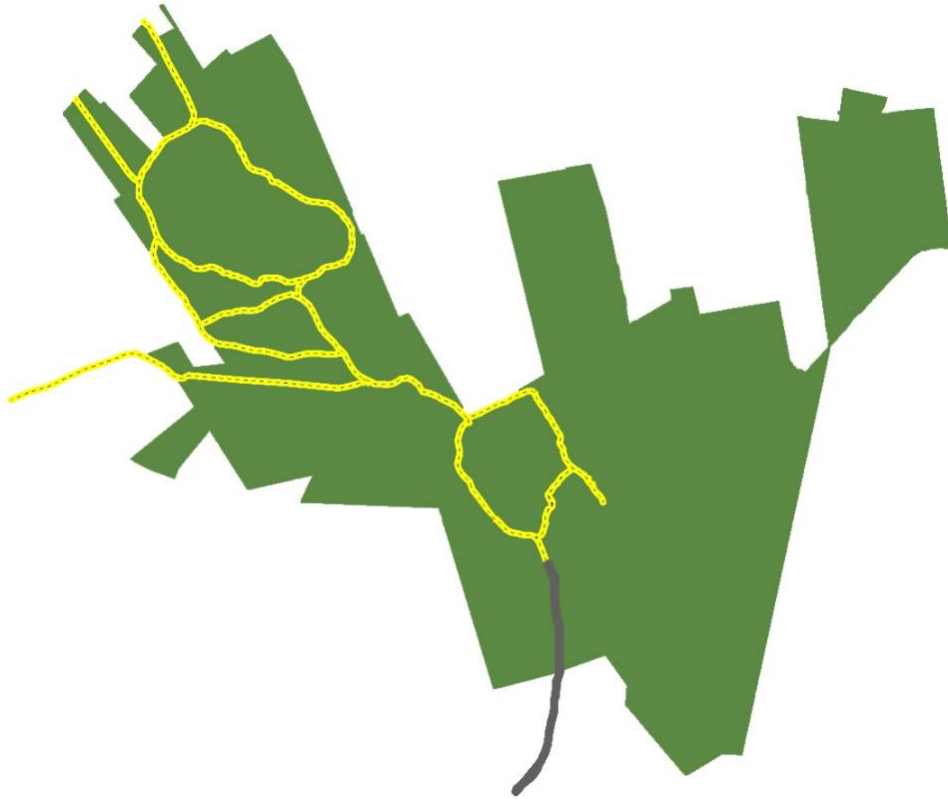
**Seavey Acres
Ideal**



Alternative



**Town Forest
Ideal**

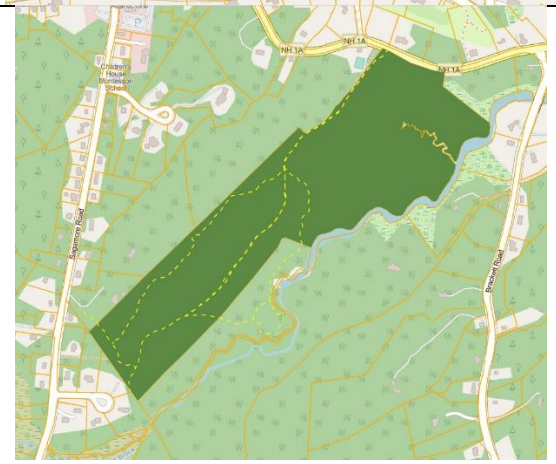
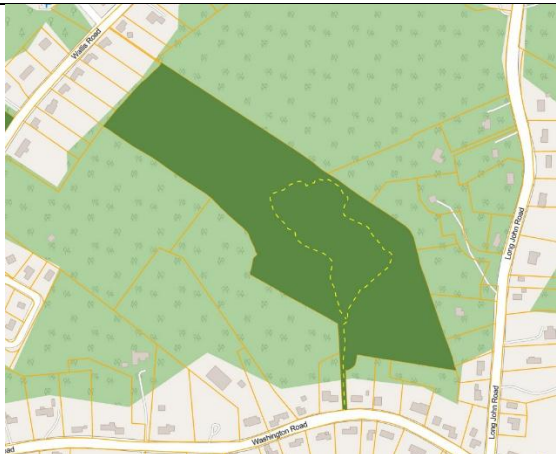
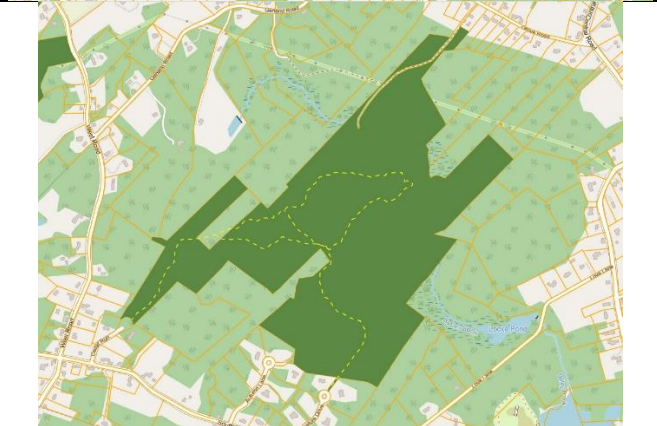
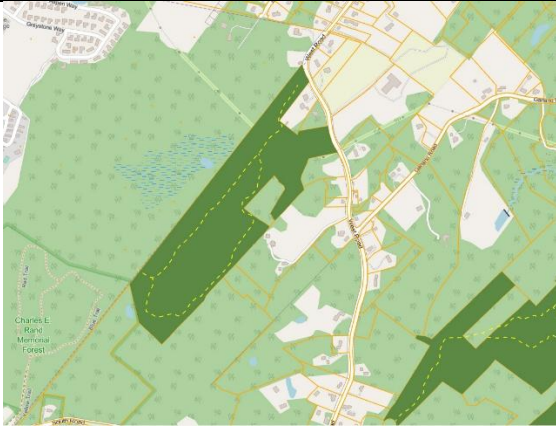
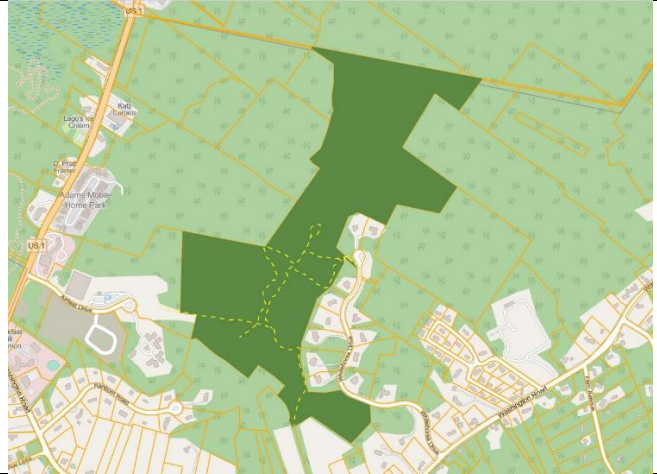


Alternative



**APPENDIX c: A SIDE BY SIDE
COMPARISON OF
SURROUNDING
DEVELOPMENT**

**Key lot, structure, open
area wooded or wetland**



APPENDIX D: EXAMPLE BIKE USE POLICIES FROM NH CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS



At NH Audubon “we have a standing policy not allowing any bikes on any of our trails – they are just not built for that use. And, as a mountain biker myself, they wouldn’t be fun to ride anyway.

I recognize how e-bikes would/could be even more degrading/erosive to trails given their extra torque. It would also be a danger to other trail users, similar to bikes in general given the narrow trail width and short sight lines in almost all our trails. This policy applies to our universally designed/All Person Trails – it’s just an incompatibility of use.”



FIS 900 - Horses and bicycles shall be permitted on management access roads only, unless otherwise posted.

“Bicycle” means “bicycle” as defined in RSA 259:6.

259:6 Bicycle. – "Bicycle" shall mean every pedaled vehicle propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, except child's tricycles and similar devices. The term shall include "electric bicycle."

259:27-a Electric Bicycle. –

"Electric bicycle" shall mean a pedaled vehicle equipped with an electric motor of less than 750 watts that falls within one of the following 3 classes:

I. "Class 1 electric bicycle" shall mean a pedaled vehicle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

II. "Class 2 electric bicycle" shall mean a pedaled vehicle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

III. "Class 3 electric bicycle" shall mean a pedaled vehicle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.



The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has the following policy;

“Bicycles and Class I E-Bikes are only allowed on vehicular access roads and designated mountain bike routes within Forest Society properties. Bikes are not allowed off-trail. Bikes may be prohibited on any trail or property for any length of time if such use is determined to be damaging to resources or conflicts with other uses. The use of bikes should be restricted during seasonally wet conditions or whenever soils are saturated. The Forest Society’s properties generally do not feature extensive internal road systems or parking areas suitable for concentrated bike use. Most properties with vehicular access roads only provide opportunity for local and occasional riding or serve as a linkage to a larger road or trail system outside of land managed by the Forest Society.

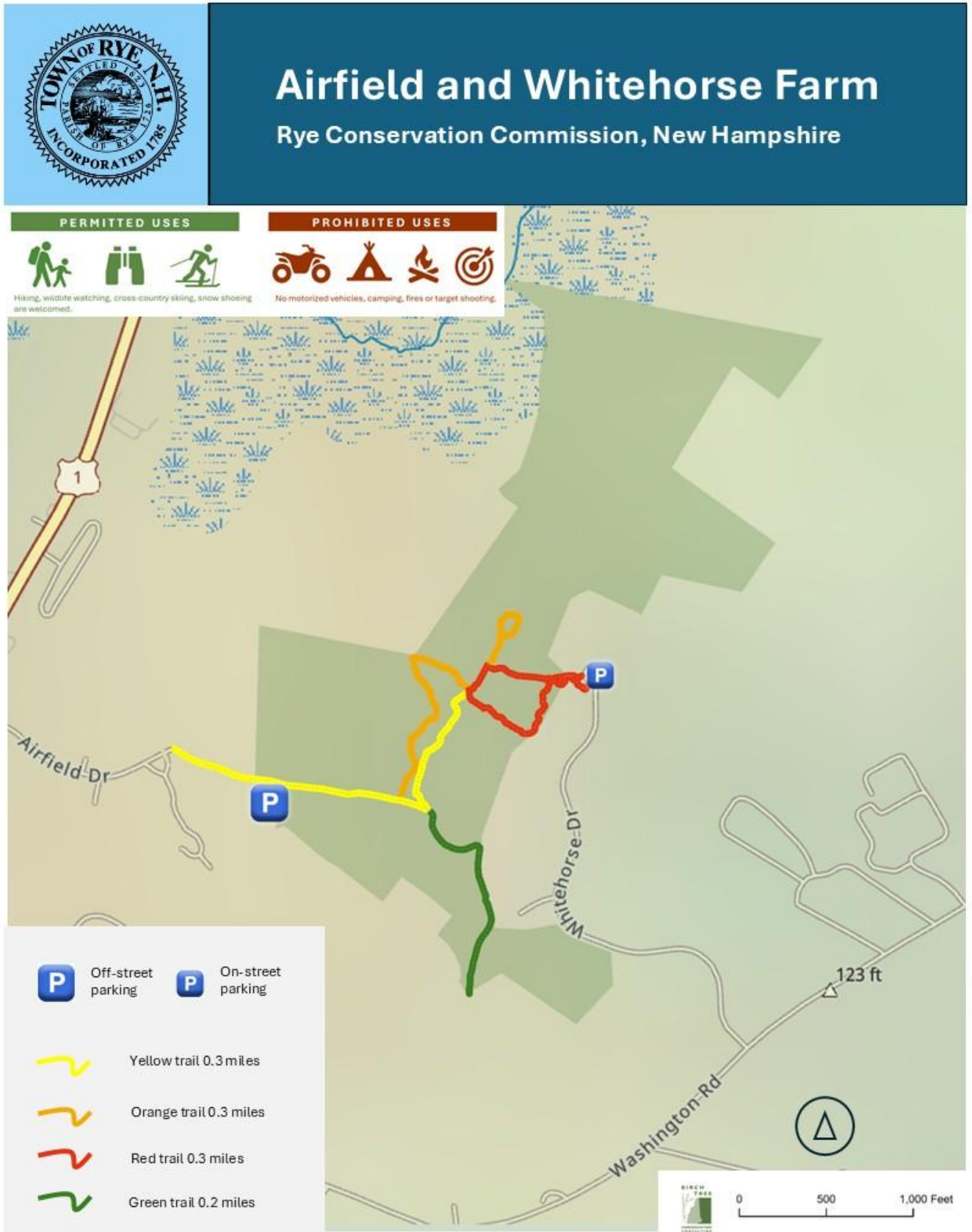
The creation of biking trails without permission is prohibited. Proposals for bike trails will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and only when a request is submitted by an organized and established group that is willing and able to provide construction, management, and long-term maintenance of the trail system to acceptable Forest Society standards.”

Here is a link to our [Visitor Use Guidelines](#) page that has these details along with our other policies.



SELT Non-motorized bicycles (i.e. Mountain Bikes) and Class I Electric Mountain Bikes (e-bikes) – Non-motorized bicycles and Class I e-bikes are allowed on designated trails and woods roads. Non-motorized bikes and e-bikes are not permitted to be used off-trail. Non-motorized bicycles and Class I e-bikes may be restricted from trails during mud season or times the soil is otherwise saturated. Non-motorized bikes and Class I e-bikes will be restricted from trails if their presence is causing degradation of the land’s natural resources or if their presence causes user-group conflicts. No new trails may be constructed without approval.

APPENDIX E: PROPERTY TRAIL MAPS





Brown Lane Farm

Rye Conservation Commission, New Hampshire

PERMITTED USES



Hiking, wildlife watching, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing are welcomed.

PROHIBITED USES



No motorized vehicles, camping, fires or target shooting.





Cedar Run and Raynes Forest

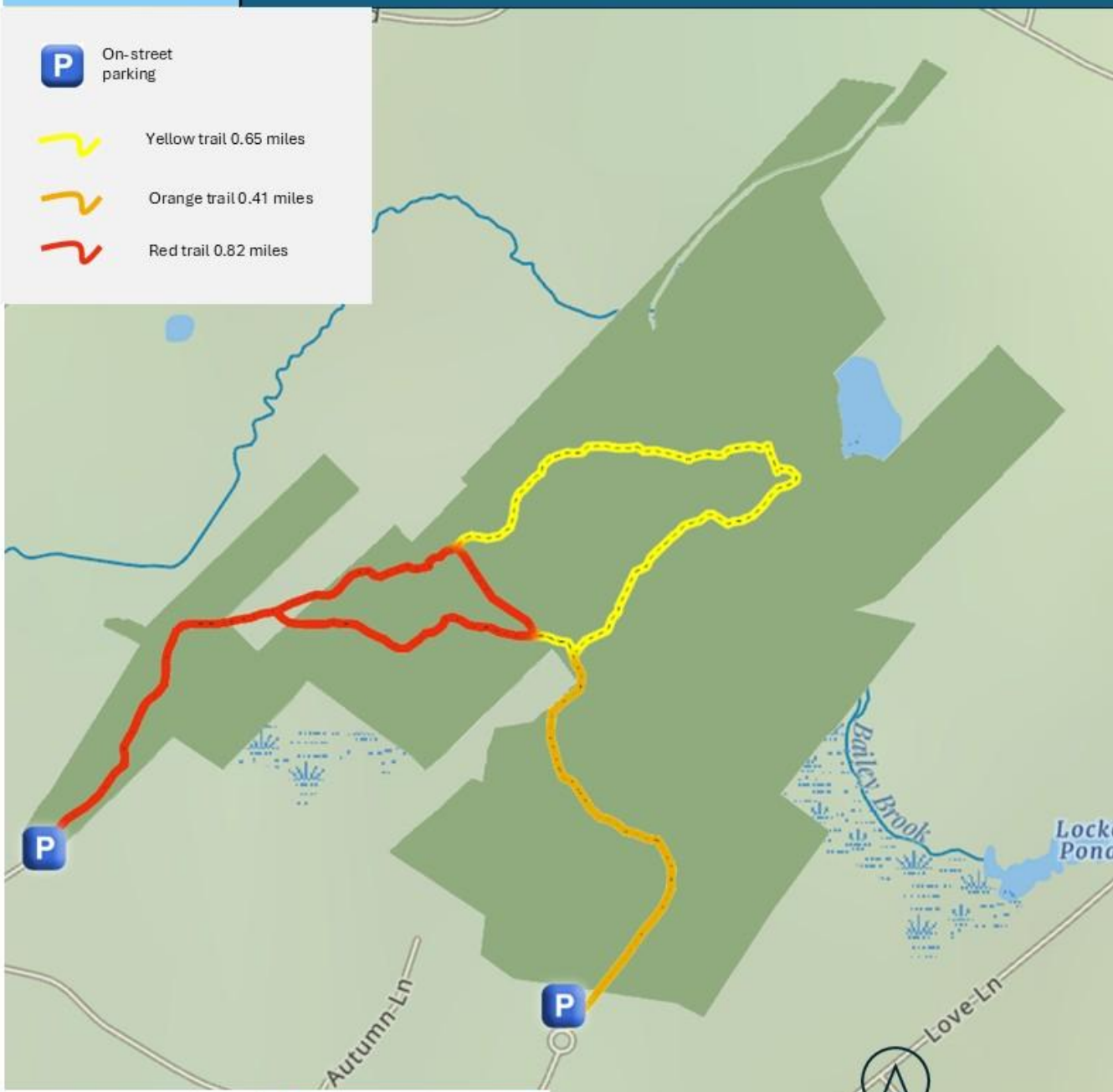
Rye Conservation Commission, New Hampshire

P On-street parking

 Yellow trail 0.65 miles

 Orange trail 0.41 miles

 Red trail 0.82 miles



PERMITTED USES

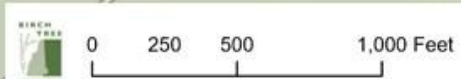


Hiking, wildlife watching, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing are welcomed.

PROHIBITED USES



No motorized vehicles, camping, fires or target shooting.





Marden Woods

Rye Conservation Commission, New Hampshire



PERMITTED USES



Hiking, wildlife watching, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing are welcomed.

PROHIBITED USES



No motorized vehicles, camping, fires or target shooting.



0 250 500 Feet



On-street parking



Trail 0.58 miles



Rand Forest

Rye Conservation Commission, New Hampshire

PERMITTED USES



Hiking, wildlife watching, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing are welcomed.

PROHIBITED USES



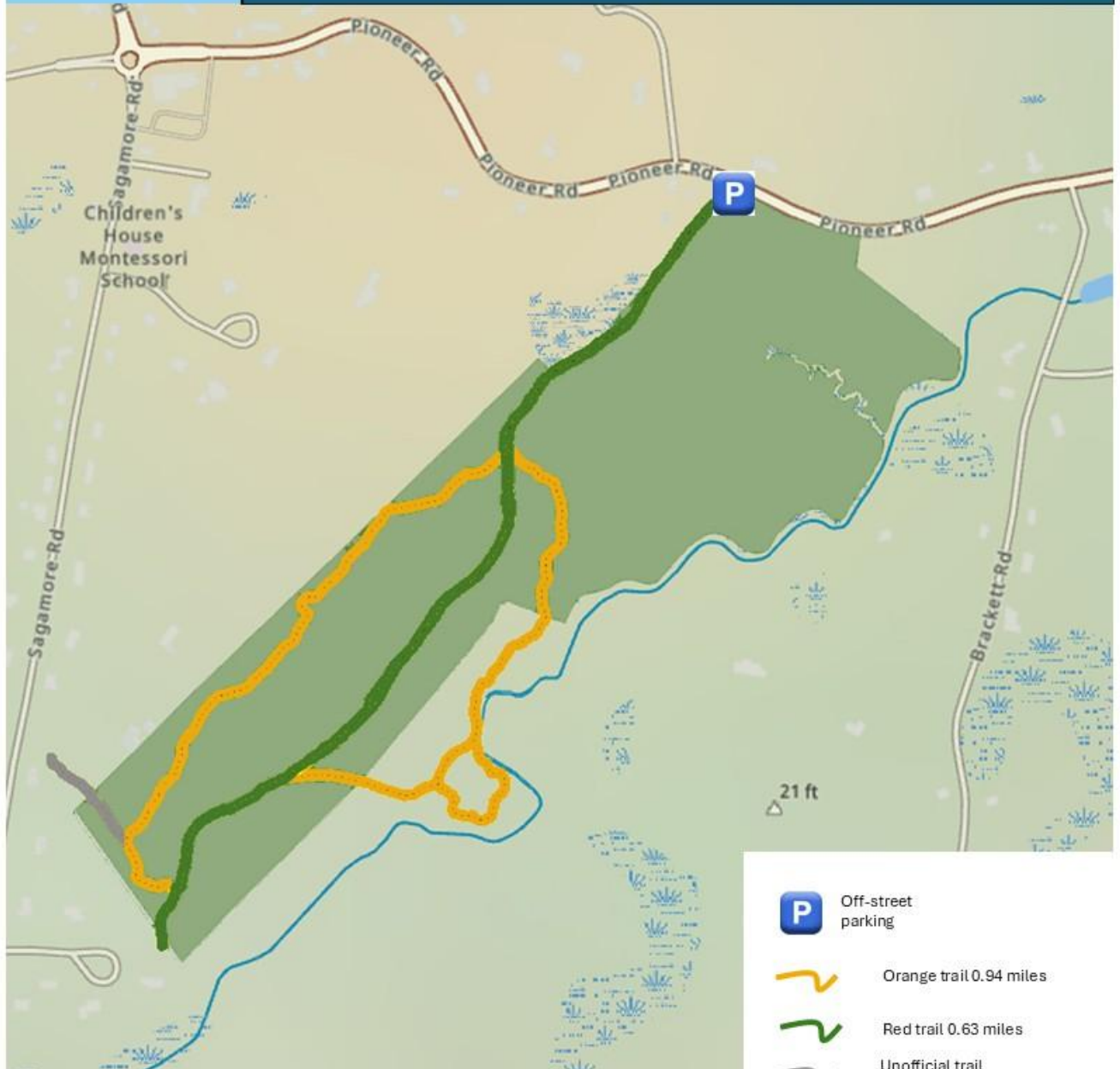
No motorized vehicles, camping, fires or target shooting.





Seavey Acres

Rye Conservation Commission, New Hampshire



PERMITTED USES



PROHIBITED USES



Pre-existing Town Forest Map from the Forest Management Plan courtesy of the [Town of Rye's website](#).

