

BEAR BROOK STATE PARK Trail Descriptions.

The purpose of the descriptions and map is to help users choose which trails to use when navigating the park.

The map shows Green, Blue, Black trails that goes from generally being the easiest to more challenging.

Orange cautions least suitable for equine use and recommends that you know the trail before riding it.

Additional information can be found in the Trail Descriptions.

Warning: The map and descriptions are only a guide as the challenge of a trail depends on its geographic location, you and your horses skill level and the ever changing environment. Snow, ice, rain and blow downs can make a trail more challenging. When in doubt turn around and head back.

Your suggestions are welcome. Please send to nhhctrails@aol.com.

Your trail description comments may include:

Tread width (ft wide, single or double lane, almost double lane);

Cleared width (includes tread and overgrowth removed on each side, passing opportunities);

Surface (mud, rough gravel, protrusion height, patches of closely knitted boulders)

Obstacles (describe type)

Bridge (width, length, optional bypass)

Grade (% grade, nearly flat, gently rolling, steep, X% of trail is _____)

Switchback turns (radius)

Please visit NHHC website Trails tab.

ALP D’HUEZ TRAIL: This trail is a narrow contour trail that winds up the hill and is used as an alternative route to Sentinel Pine’s fall line route up the hill.

BEAR BROOK TRAIL: Conveniently located, running northeast from Podunk Road. This trail is narrow travelling along a high drop off and banked into a very steep side slope. There is no room to pass on many of its sections.

BEAR BROOK LOWER TRAIL (EXT): This trail closely parallels One Mile trail following Bear Brook and has a spur to the snowmobile museum with a long bridge crossing at the west end. The trail is narrow and has two bridge-like structures. A 3 ft wide short board structure near the snowmobile bridge has a significant angle to traverse a short steep slope and the 4ft wide short bridge has large spacing between planks. Neither small bridge’s have a center stringer.

BEAR HILL TRAIL: Located south of the Hayes Field parking area, this relatively short and narrow trail brings you to one of the park’s highest points of the 830 foot summit of Bear Hill. Steep inclines, rocky areas, closely knitted boulder patches and muddy spots are common on this trail.

BEAR HILL LEDGE TRAIL: This trail is very narrow and has a two foot wide bridge with no easy bypass option. The sign at its junction with Bear Hill trail and at its junction with Ledge trail and nearby Hedgehog trail still bears the old name of Hedgehog Ledge trail. No new signing was posted for Bear Hill Ledge Trail.

BEAVER POND TRAIL: Starts in the campground and returns to the campground going around the pond. **CLOSED to equines.** **Notice:** Beaver Pond Trail is not open for horseback riding and horses are not allow in the campground once the campground opens for the season.

BIG BEAR TRAIL: This winding, narrow single track is 1.6 mile trail and relatively new. It contains some rocky areas as well as occasional mud. It begins close to the bike parking area and is parallel to Podunk Rd and connects to Little Bear.

BLACK HALL ROAD: Exploring the northern portion of the park, this trail is a woods road offering easier terrain, a large bridge crossing and ample space.

BOBCAT TRAIL: Extending southeast from Hayes Field parking area, this popular multi-season trail narrows after the Salt Lick Trail junction and concludes at the northern portion of Broken Boulder Trail.

BROKEN BOULDER TRAIL (NORTH): Located north of Spruce Pond Road, the northern section of this trail leads you to Smith Pond over an earthen bridge.

BROKEN BOULDER TRAIL (SOUTH): This portion of Broken Boulder Trail leading south of Spruce Pond Road can often be muddy with unavoidable water crossings and very rocky sections. The southern end of the trail accesses Chipmunk Trail and Podunk Road.

CAMP TRAIL: This trail runs parallel to Campground road, from Archery Pond Parking area to the playground at the campground. It is wide and relatively flat, with good footing. Avoid going into playground and campground during open season.

CARR RIDGE TRAIL: This rocky trail is located north of Hayes Marsh. Situated parallel to easier Lane trail and Sentinel Pine Trail, Carr Ridge travels up and over the steeper elevation. The northern end of the trail gives access to Cascade Trail and One Mile Trail.

CASCADE TRAIL: Located between Sentinel Pine Trail and Catamount, this rocky narrow trail traverses a steep 605-foot elevation with water crossings and bridges. From Sentinel Pine to Carr Ridge to Lane Road is a very narrow single track that is a bank cut trail where turning an equine around or passing is difficult and has a very narrow bridge with no bypass.

CATAMOUNT TRAIL: This very rocky trail brings you to top of the 721-foot peak of Catamount Hill in the northern part of the park. This trail offers splendid vistas but steep ledges.

CATAMOUNT SHORTCUT TRAIL:

CHIPMUNK TRAIL (NORTH): This portion of the trail north of Spruce Pond Road is a wide single track with minor hills and rocky sections, numerous water crossings and gapable bridges. Also along the trail is the historic Leavitt Cemetery.

Verify if describing South Portion. Avoid during spring and heavy rain. Boardwalked sections are approximately 150 feet long and 2 feet wide. Bypass is rocky and wet most of the year."

CHIPMUNK TRAIL (SOUTH): Located south of Spruce Pond Road, this portion of the trail is narrow with boardwalks and bridges, some as narrow as 2ft wide and the bypasses may be boggy and challenging year round. There is a connector trail to Podunk Rd near Bear Hill Camp gate about halfway thru trail.

FERRET TRAIL: Providing great views of Bear Hill Pond in the southern area of the park, this trail offers wide, flat and easily traveled terrain.

HALL MOUNTAIN MARSH TRAIL: Situated north of Hall Mountain Marsh, this trail boasts water crossings and ledge overlooks on its steep, rocky narrow path.

HALL MOUNTAIN TRAIL: This wide trail travels to the highest peak of the park ó Hall Mountain. Once at the top you find large, flat outcrops of granite which can be slippery and steep.

HAYES FARM TRAIL: Found on the north side of Hayes Field, this wide trail offers spectacular views and access to Hayes Marsh where you may spot beaver, muskrat, herons or even a moose.

HEDGEHOG TRAIL: From Podunk Road to Lowland is mostly overgrown gravel road and easy going.

HEMLOCK-1 TRAIL: Goes east from the ranger buildings on Podunk Rd. and ends behind the archery range. At its junctions you can go to Pitch Pine or take Hemlock-1. Hemlock-1 is narrow and is banked into a steep side slope then comes to a 300+ ft banked section that is steeper with a 50%+ side slope. There is no room to pass on this section and may be very difficult to turn an equine around or for others to pass. It has a 24-30 inch wide bridge not built for horses and no bypass over the steep banked stream.

HEMLOCK-2 TRAIL: This section of the trail goes east from the Archery Range from Pitch Pine through a newly logged area. Please do not explore off trail via paths for logging. Stay on defined trail! Alternating single and double track; section skirts the ridge overlooking Bear Brook with scenic overlooks. Winding and slightly technical.

LANE TRAIL: Travels northwest from Podunk Road thru Hayes Field, crossing Hayes Farm Trail and concludes at One Mile Trail. This wide, well tread trail offers moderate slopes and a large bridge

LEDGE TRAIL: Located just south of Hayes Field parking area, this trail passes through large boulder field, very narrow between boulders and trees and follows along a brook. Also contains stone steps- please stay on steps. Connects to Hedgehog & Ferret Trail.

LITTLE BEAR TRAIL: Located northeast of Hayes Field, this relatively short, hilly trail is very narrow with areas of sand and roots. The trail connects Bear Brook Trail to Hayes Farm Trail.

LOST TRAIL EXTENSION: This trail runs southwest from Lost Trail into Hooksett and concludes at Chester Turnpike. This trail is wide, flat and offers few obstacles.

LOST TRAIL (NORTH): Traveling west from Hayes Marsh off Lowland Trail, the northern part of this trail is in better condition than its southern counterpart. This trail will take you to the old reservoir. Due to muddy conditions, the area between the reservoir and south to Lowland Trail should be avoided. Not a thru trail by reservoir due to deep water crossing and bridge out.

LOST TRAIL (SOUTH): This portion of the Lost Trail has poorer conditions than the northern part, mud and other adverse conditions are common. The trail entrance is obscured and overgrown at its junction with Lowland trail. Not a thru trail by reservoir due to deep water crossing and bridge out.

LOWLAND TRAIL: A relatively short, wide trail to connect Hayes Farm Trail, Carr Ridge to Hedgehog. Some spots can be muddy. The section from Lowland and Hedgehog junction going north towards Hayes Marsh to Lost trail junction can be challenging due to flooding, bogginess and many hidden rocks/boulders in the water during spring and wet weather.

LYNX TRAIL: Running south of Beaver Pond, this trail contains steep granite outcrops and difficult water crossings. This is not a thru trail and needs to be avoided when campground is in operation.

ONE MILE TRAIL: Once a woods road, this trail located in the northwestern section of the park offers access to many popular trails and is wide and well maintained. One Mile Trail has a large bridge and turns into Lane Trail on its southern end.

PIONEER TRAIL: Located within the Museum Complex. This is a self-guided interpretive trail located to the south east of the Nature Center. **not on map**

PITCH PINE TRAIL: Running southeast from the area of Podunk Rd and Campground Road, this trail is rolling double track over a firm surface, and usually dry year round. No substantial technical features. To avoid the archery range & fishing pond, exit onto Campground Road for a few hundred feet and then pick up the trail again.

PODUNK ROAD: Is an unpaved park road that is wide and graveled where you may encounter vehicles. The south end between Broken Boulder Trail and Lynx Trail is narrower.

SALT LICK TRAIL: This trail runs parallel to Podunk Road from Bobcat Trail and provides a cut over to Campground Road to avoid hardtop roads. This trail has a narrow bridge with bypass and is narrower on the south end.

SENTINEL PINE TRAIL: This trail runs just west of Carr Ridge Trail and is a bit less rocky with slightly better footing, however it's somewhat eroded on the north end when descending to One Mile Trail. Water crossings include a short 6ft wide bridge with no bypass and a wet bolder bypass alongside a long and high 4ft wide bridge.

SHORT CUT TRAIL: Just as the name suggests, this trail takes you down the northeastern side of Catamount Hill back to One Mile Trail, in the most direct route, which results in steep terrain. It is now a leg of Catamount Trail loop.

SPRUCE POND ROAD: Is an unpaved park road that is wide and graveled where you may encounter vehicles. The east end approaching Spruce pond and the campground is closed during camping season.

WORKOUT TRAIL: Located in the Catamount Pond parking lot. This 1¼ mile trail contains 20 different workout stations, ranging from monkey bars to sit-up structures. **not on map**