

LOVEJOY TRAILS



Description

The Lovejoy Trails in the Town's forest in Loudon, NH, pass through two wooded miles of former farmland, of varying terrain with numerous stone walls. The trail system consists of the Main Trail that leads to a large White Trail Loop, a smaller Blue Highland Trail Loop and a Red Steep Trail that also connects to the White and Blue Loops.

The Main Trail (.4 mile) starts at the parking lot and is marked by white blazes. Part of the trail consists of bog-bridging over part

of the nearby Hunting Swamp, followed by a shallowly-dug canal and the remains of a farm trail that crosses through a stone wall. The trail arrives at an intersection that forms the White Trail Loop (.86 mile).

The left side of the Loop heads uphill and connects to the dead end Rangeway trail to the left (.09 mile) and also the Blue Highland Trail Loop (.6 mile), the highest region of the Town's property. Leading north downhill from the Highland Loop is the Red blazed Steep Trail (.2) that connects to the lower northernmost section of the White Trail Loop.

The right side of the White Trail Loop continues on an old farm trail and also connects to a shortcut trail (.05 mile) that ascends to the other side of the White Trail Loop and can, if desired, shorten the White Trail Loop by .26 mile.

Location

The Lovejoy Trails can be accessed from Lovejoy Road in Loudon, NH. Parking is available at the trailhead during non-snowy months. Otherwise, parking is available on the side of Lovejoy Road. *Please Note: Motorized vehicles are prohibited.*

History

In the late 1700's, the Batchelder family established a farm that covered much of the area currently owned by the Town and

built a mansion on Lovejoy Road in 1790, later known as the Lovejoy Bed & Breakfast, owned for a number of years by Arthur Monty, the former Loudon Conservation Commission Board Chairman. A few years earlier, during the 1920's-1950's, the Lovejoy family, for which the road is named, owned the farm and rented it out to other farmers.

In 2005, the Town of Loudon received ownership of the 135.05 acre parcel of land that included the Hunting Swamp, but the trails weren't established until 2019 after interest was expressed in opening up the area for outdoor enjoyment of hiking and snowshoeing.

This property is cherished for its trails system, as it presents a tranquil setting in a scenic forest with echoes from the past.

- The project was a community effort with many individuals volunteering their time, companies donating supplies, and funds from the Loudon Conservation Commission and support from The Central N H Regional Planning Commission.
- The trails are managed by the Loudon Trails Sub-Committee of the Loudon Conservation Commission.

