

Station 7: These 2 rocks to your right are glacial erratics. While they aren't extremely big, they still are a decent size. They were carried by glacial ice over the distance of hundreds of miles, maybe even more. Erratics are formed by glacial ice erosion resulting from the movement of the ice.



Station 8: Looking down the hill in front of you, there are species of paper, black, and yellow birches (*Betula papyrifera*, *lenla*, and *alleghaniensis*) in this area. They can be identified by their double-toothed, more or less egg-shaped or triangular leaves. Looking down the hill you can see the shore of the pond with its marsh grass and low bushes, is a very attractive and productive place for wildlife, especially the many kinds of birds that utilize this habitat.



Station 9: On the left about 30 feet up the slope is a good example of a dead American beech tree (*Fagus grandifolia*). It is known as a snag tree, it has many holes and an open cavity inside it. This kind of tree is utilized by many birds and small mammals for homes.



Station 10: Looking in front of you there is a rock wall running along the trail. At one time they were used as fences to keep livestock from running away as well as marking boundaries for land. The numerous stone walls throughout this trail system also make for good homes for small mammals. Predators like red foxes and fishers hunt for prey in these stone habitats.



Station 11: Looking in front of you to the right is a pile of stones. A tree has fallen onto the pile but that doesn't take away from this attraction. The pile of stones to the right is the result of many hours of work clearing this land for a farm field. These stones were probably used to build many of the stone walls and homes in the area. Today they offer a hiding place for small mammals from predators and the elements.



Station 12: There is a large shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) at this station. This tree is just off the trail to your right and has bark that looks like it is being shredded or peeled off. This tree is very valuable both ecologically and commercially. Its nuts are eaten by squirrels, opossums, and wild turkey, while its twigs are browsed by rabbits and deer. In addition, because its wood is so strong, heavy, and elastic it is a valuable building material.



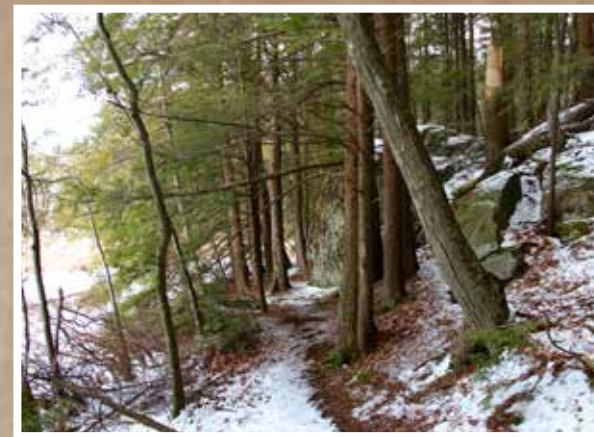
Station 13: To the left of the trail is a four-inch hop horn-bean tree, (*Ostrya virginiana*) The grey, thin, flaky bark is quite distinctive. This tree doesn't grow very big but the wood is very hard and strong, making it excellent firewood. This tree also provides nourishment for many species of wildlife in this area- ruffed grouse, northern bobwhite, and ring-necked pheasant eat its seeds, while white-tailed deer graze on the twigs.



Station 14: The last station on this trail is to your right. You can see it from the trail but you might have a better view from the road. It was the Luther Chase cellar hole. The house was probably built in the early 1770s by a Moses Brown and was occupied from 1847 by the Chase family for 60 years or so, an 1857 County map shows the name "L. Chase".



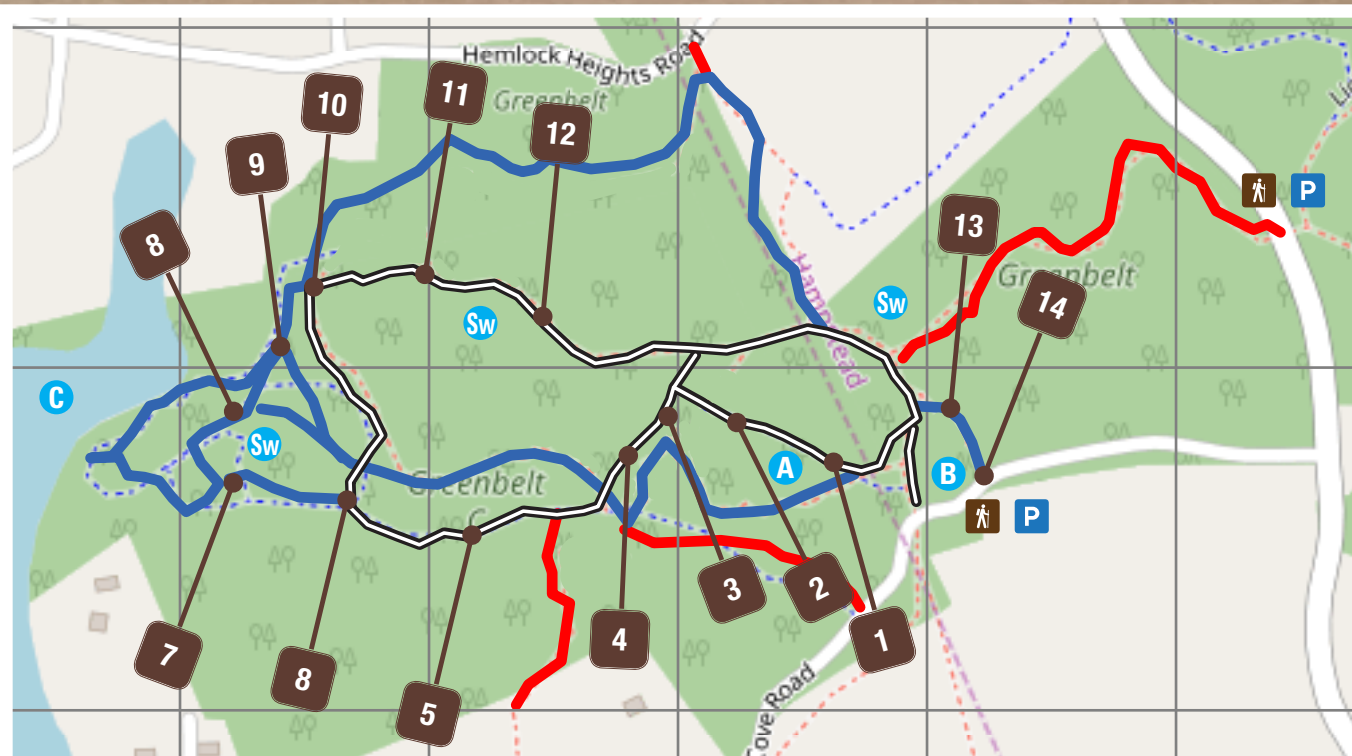
Marshall Land



Nature Trail Guide

The Nature Trail is an easy one mile loop with fourteen numbered stations identifying a variety of forms of flora, geological features and colonial historical points of interest.

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Station 1: As you start down the trail, take the path that veers to the left, at this station, off the trail 35 feet or so, you will notice a piece of granite with a red “H” cut on one side and a red ‘A’ on the other. This is one of the 18 boundaries that change direction/angle pointers along the Atkinson-Hampstead line. This portion of the line was established in 1741. Both of these towns were once part of Haverhill. The trail you’re traveling on was probably once a farm path or roadway leading to other fields. The land on both sides of the trail was cleared at one time. As you travel along the trail, you will see that most of the really big trees are along the stone walls. In the past, these trees were allowed to grow along the fences and walls to provide shade for the grazing cattle.



Station 2: At this point on the trail there are a lot of Hemlocks (*Tsuga Canadensis*) growing under the white pine. Hemlock is a shade-tolerant tree species that is able to survive under a canopy of other forest trees. It is also one of the few trees that does not have terminal buds. Look at the top of a small hemlock and you can see that it looks just like another branch. Hemlocks also have small, pendant, perfectly-formed brown cones. The seeds and needles of this tree are eaten by grouse and red squirrels, its twigs are browsed by deer, snowshoe hare, and cottontail rabbits.



Station 3: At this station, you can see the flat face of a large rock formation on your right. This rock was probably cut to make part of a foundation for a house. If you look closely you can see the marks where the stone was cut.



Station 4: Note the two dead cedar trees to your right. There are also two more dead cedars down the trail about 50 feet on the right. Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus Virginiana*) needs a lot of sun, and as this land was once cleared, there was plenty of available sunlight when these trees started growing. This was probably a pasture or open field used for agriculture. However, when the field was abandoned, maples, pines, and other hardwoods gradually shaded out the existing cedar trees and caused them to die.



Station 5: At this station there is an enormous oak tree on the right side of the trail. This tree is between 200 - 300 years old. Trees this old are often referred to as wolf trees. They were left when this land was cleared to mark a boundary. That’s why they are found along stone walls like the one at this station.



Station 6: Looking ahead, you will see big eastern white pines (*Pinus Strobus*) with four and five trunks. The poor quality lumber resulting from poorly shaped logs is probably the biggest economic problem in the white pine industry. It is all caused by a small insect called the white pine weevil. The weevil kills the topmost shoot causing side branches to take their places, resulting in the crooked trees that you see. White pine is the most valuable timber species in New Hampshire and growing straight, high quality pine is an important challenge for foresters.

