## SPRUCE SWAMP CONSERVATION AREA

# **TRAIL GUIDE**

#### **Trailheads and Parking**

SELT trailhead at 292 Rt 125, Brentwood, NH Fremont trailhead at Andreski Drive, Fremont NH **575 acres** 

6.6 miles of easy to moderate trails





## **A Conservation Mosaic**

Spruce Swamp Conservation Area was born of conservation efforts by the Town of Fremont, SELT, and other organizations. For SELT, it started in 2011 when Patricia Kelliher donated the 129-acre Kelliher Memorial Forest, followed by Donna Garrison's donation of the 34-acre Victor Garrison Memorial Forest in 2014. Both properties are protected with conservation easements through the US Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetlands Reserve Program. These tracts, along with the Glen Oakes Town Forest, collectively create Spruce Swamp Conservation Area, totaling nearly 575 acres for wildlife and recreation.

The Glen Oakes Town Forest offers a variety of forest and wildlife habitats to explore on well-marked trails. The trails are minimally maintained and not groomed for winter use. There are stream crossings and small sections that may be wet.

Spruce Swamp Conservation Area offers a rich forest ecosystem, diverse wildlife habitat, and varied scenic beauty that beckons explorers looking to experience a southern New Hampshire treasure.

## **Trail Descriptions** (Kelliher Forest and Garrison Forest)

#### O Kelliher Trail

This 0.8 mile trail takes you from the SELT parking area along the northern edge of Spruce Swamp and the Kelliher Forest to the property boundary. Passing through several forest clearings and along a beaver area to the north of the trail, you will also have a chance to see remnants of the historic B-52 bomber crash site - *please leave any debris you may find alone*. This trail is currently open to hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

#### Garrison Trail

This 0.9 mile trail takes you from the SELT parking area south along the edge of Spruce Swamp and then west to connect to the trails in Fremont's Glen Oaks Town Forest. There is an excellent scenic viewing point, looking into Spruce Swamp, where you can regularly see birds and other wildlife. This trail is currently open to hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

### Trail Descriptions (Glen Oakes Forest)

#### Link Trail

This trail follows an old logging road and connects the parking lot on Andreski Drive to the trail network in Glen Oakes. It passes the Homestead Trail head and ends at the Forest Loop Trail.

#### Forest Loop Trail

This trail makes a 1 mile loop in Glen Oakes on an old logging road. All of the other trails connect to the Forest Loop.

#### Barred Owl Trail

This trail initially follows an old logging road before turning east into the woods. It reaches a water crossing amid glacial erratics and continues to an open ridgeline with views to the west. It then follows the perimeter of several wetlands before briefly entering the SELT Kelliher Memorial Forest. It continues through the woods generally in a southeast direction towards a stone wall and a junction with the SELT Garrison Trail. The Barred Owl Trail continues through a pine and hemlock forest, reaching a water crossing and some glacial erratics before joining a forest road section of the Woodland Trail.

#### Woodland Trail

The Woodland Trail starts at the east end of the Forest Loop, initially following an old logging road, then the turning to the south into the forest canopy. The trail crosses three streams and passes large glacial erratics (big boulders) before coming out onto another old logging road. The trail turns north until it rejoins the Forest Loop.

#### Homestead Trail

The first section of the Homestead Trail meanders in the woods. There are numerous twists and turns and an adventuresome water crossing or two. It exits the woods very close to the southern border of Glen Oakes, where it follows an old forest road to reach the intersection with the Forest Loop Trail.

#### Rocky and Bullwinkle Trail

This is a short side trail off of the Forest Loop. The west end of the trail leaves the north side of the Forest Loop and passes by a collection of interesting large boulders (glacial erratics). It proceeds to a water crossing, turns south and reconnects with the Forest Loop.

#### Pike's Pass

This trail meanders through the woods in the southwest portion of Glen Oakes. It passes the old Davis foundation, a historical feature from the late 1800's, and some scenic wetlands. The trail ends at Copp Drive. There is no parking lot here, so please park at the Andreski Drive entrance to Glen Oakes

## **Enjoy the Trails!**

Spruce Swamp Conservation Area includes lands owned and managed by both SELT and the Town of Fremont, and is open for public enjoyment and is open for public enjoyment. Please follow these visitation guidelines:

- Carry out what you carry in
- Leave things where and as you find them no cairns, rock art, etc.
- Stay on marked trails, respect designated trail uses and prohibitions and use only designated trailhead parking.
- Respect wildlife
- Respect other users of the trails and our neighbors
- Control your dog(s). Be aware where they may be required to be on leash or any areas they may not be allowed.
- Hunting is allowed on Fremont Town Forests and most SELT lands. Be aware of hunting season and wear blaze orange for your own safety

The following uses are not permitted:

- Camping
- Fires
- Target Shooting
- Trapping
- Wheeled motorized vehicles

## **About SELT**

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire is a membership-based, non-profit whose mission is to protect and sustain the significant lands in our communities for clean water, outdoor recreation, fresh food, wildlife, and healthy forests. **Join as a member or volunteer today!** 



Learn more about this land! Tap or scan here!



seltnh.org • 603-778-6088

