

MAST ROAD NATURAL AREA



TRAIL GUIDE



Trailheads and Parking

Mast Road, Epping, NH
531 acres • 2.7 miles of easy trails



Nature, Restored

The 531-acre Mast Road Natural Area is located in the southeast corner of Epping. This property features outstanding ecological diversity. Two-thirds of the land is classified as wetlands including vernal pools, floodplain forests, black gum basin swamps, fens, and a pitch pine heath swamp. At one time this property was considered a potential site for a golf course, as well as residential and commercial developments. SELT acquired the land in 2011, with funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee.



PHOTO CREDIT - JERRY MONKMAN

Since purchasing this land, SELT has carried out extensive habitat and restoration work. More than a mile of deeply rutted OHRV trails has been restored and approximately 20 acres of early successional habitat have been created.

Trail Descriptions

Gate 3 Entrance: This is the primary public entrance to the western portion of the property. A kiosk is located here and the Black Gum Trail begins at this location.

Gate 4 Entrance: Public parking is available across Mast Road at the intersection of Birch Road. SELT does not maintain this lot.

● Hedding Spur Trail

This trail is located partially on the path of the Hedding Spur Rail Line, which historically provided rail access to the Camp Hedding property from a railroad station on Mast Road. SELT has created three patch clear-cuts along this trail to provide habitat for wildlife that depend on early succession forest, such as snowshoe hare. In the drier seasons, one can walk out Gate 5 onto Route 87 and loop back by way of Birch Road. Winter users should note that snowmobiling is allowed on this trail.

● Old Piggery Trail

Beginning just west of the beaver pond, this trail was once a road that serviced a large pig farm located on the Mast Road Natural Area and the abutting Camp Hedding until about 1970. The piggery site is a partially open area with remnant concrete foundations on the abutting Camp Hedding property. Note the boundary line is very close to the trail and the Camp Hedding property is posted. The Old Piggery Trail continues on to Gate 2. There is no public access beyond the SELT boundary line located at this gate.

● Beauschesne Farm Trail

The beginning of this trail is on an old sulky track where horses once trained for harness racing. The Beauschesne Farm Trail utilizes portions of the sulky track to loop around an open sandy area which is being managed for early succession habitat. Please stay on the trail so as to protect sensitive habitats.

● Lamprey River Trail

intersects the Old Piggery and Beauschesne Farm Trails. This gently sloping trail follows old farm paths that at one time connected the dry upland pastures with the fertile tillable soils along the Lamprey River. The trail goes through a parcel owned by the Town of Epping. There is short spur trail to an overlook at the edge of the Lamprey River. From here the trail follows along the edge of floodplain forests before looping back to the Beauschesne Farm Trail at the old sulky track.

● Black Gum Trail

This trail is named for a tree that is uncommon in the state but found throughout the wetlands of the Mast Road Natural Area. In fact the largest known black gum tree in NH is found on this property. From Gate 3 this nearly level trail winds through the forest on the edge of extensive wetlands that extend east from this trail to Birch Road. There are several small bridges on this trail, the last of which provides views of a large active beaver pond.

Enjoy the Trails!

Mast Road Natural Area is owned and managed by SELT 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.
- 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 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
- Horseback Riding

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!**



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SELT

Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire

Mast Rd. Natural Area

Epping, NH - 531 acres

- Mast Road Natural Area
- Other SELT Conservation Land
- Other Public & Conservation Land
- Fen
- Field
- Floodplain Forest
- Forest
- Parking Area
- Kiosk
- Scenic View
- Foot Bridge
- Gate
- Trail
- Unmaintained Road
- Public Road
- Town Boundary
- Open Water Wetland
- Wetland
- River/Stream
- Contour (20 ft. intervals)

Feet
0 500 1000

November 2016 Map: www.mirtoart.com
Source: Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire

