

SCHAFFER WOODS



TRAIL GUIDE



Trailheads and Parking

Commerce Drive
(Atkinson, NH)

141 acres • 2.23 miles of trails



A Community Gem, Protected Forever

In 2024, the Schafer family generously donated 141 acres to SELT. Beginning in the 1980s, Dr. Schafer gradually acquired a few acres at a time, until he owned the current contiguous acreage. Assisted by friends and family members, Dr. Schafer built over two miles of trails on the property, setting timbers to prevent erosion, leveling the path, and depositing layers of sand, crushed stone, and gravel.

He also commissioned and assisted with the construction of the covered bridge straddling Hogg Hill Brook, and personally made all of the trail signage. Dr. Schafer was a member of the Atkinson Conservation Commission for several years, and in many of these endeavors he was assisted by his friend Chet Ladd, one of the founding members of the Commission.

The conservation significance of Schafer Woods has long been recognized by the Atkinson Conservation Commission, but its ecological importance stretches well beyond the boundaries of just the town.

A well-managed forest system bisected by Hogg Hill Brook and its tributaries, Schafer Woods provides regionally significant wildlife corridors for animals moving between large blocks of conservation land. In addition, the conservation of Schafer Woods protects portions of well-head areas for nearby neighborhoods and businesses, safeguarding important drinking water supplies.



Trail Descriptions

● **Oak Ridge Trail (Easy) 0.42 mi.**

The backbone of the trail system, the Oak Ridge Trail provides access from the parking area on Commerce Drive and the cul-de-sac on Oak Ridge Drive. The trail crosses a small stream at the southern end, climbs a short steep hill, and broadens out to an even flat roadbed from the Ridge Trail to the parking lot.

● **Tree Rock Trail (Easy) 0.14 mi.**

Following an interior stonewall from the Oak Ridge Trail, this trail passes several large pines and interesting rock formations to create loop options with the Brook and Bridge Trails.

○ **Brook Trail (Easy) 0.64 mi.**

A long loop through the northern section of the property, this trail passes through mature forests and along side areas of early successional forest in the northwest corner. As you hike alongside Hog Hill Brook, the trail affords views of the beaver pond and lodges, as well as visiting waterfowl.

● **Hogg Hill Trail (Easy) 0.24 mi.**

A direct path from Oak Ridge Drive to the covered bridge, this trail follows an old woods road through a small landing area and crosses a small brook on the way to the southern end of the beaver pond.

● **Ridge Trail (Moderate) 0.14 mi.**

The only trail with a truly steep grade, this short connector climbs the side of the small ridge running through the property.

● **Bridge Trail (Easy) 0.24 mi.**

This trail starts (or ends) at the highlight of Dr. Schafer's original trail system- a 35' covered bridge over Hog Hill Brook. The trail crosses over the small ridge in the middle of the property, creating more loop options from both the north and south.

● **Moose Brook Trail (Moderate) 0.39 mi.**

An independent loop on the western side of the property, this trail crosses through mature forest to a spectacular view of the wetland area surrounding Moose Brook.

● **Beaver Point (Easy) 0.39 mi.**

A short spur leads to a lovely view of the beaver pond on Hog Hill Brook.

Enjoy the Trails!

Schafer Woods is 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

About SELT

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire is a membership-based, nonprofit 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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