

3: JACKMAN POND WILDLIFE AREA

Jackman Pond is a small waterbody at the east end of a large marsh. It offers a remarkable sense of seclusion and wilderness, and is a popular meeting place for migrating waterfowl. Most of the shoreline and trails are within a 32-acre tract managed by the Conservation Commission. In addition, easements and trail rights-of-way provide another 300 acres open to the public. Some trail sections on private land are subject to permission by the land owners, so please respect their rights by staying on the trail.

Parking is available on the wide shoulder of Route 113 (Jackman Pond Road) at the Wildlife Area sign 0.7 miles north of Route 25, or at the Community School on Bunker Hill Road. Park at the dirt road just beyond the school, on the same side of Bunker Hill Road. Jackman Pond is a short walk along this road, which follows the edge of the field.

NORTH SHORE TRAIL starts at Route 113, 200 feet west of the Wildlife Area sign. It enters the woods, and follows Meadow Brook to a signboard and map box. The trail turns left, follows the edge of the marsh, and crosses Meadow Brook on a small footbridge. It continues along the marsh, and reaches a gravel pit. The trail continues between the gravel pit on the left and a swamp on the right, until it climbs a short bank to a terrace. Again it follows the edge of marsh, and crosses a peninsula to a nice view of the marsh. Now the trail enters private lands-please stay on the trail! A boardwalk crosses the brook, and the trail follows to brook to its end at Bunker Hill Road.

Distance: 1.0 mile. Walking time: 30 minutes.

SOUTH SHORE TRAIL can provide a complete circuit around the pond. At the end of North Shore Trail, turn right on Bunker Hill Road, and at 0.1 mile, turn right on South Shore Trail. It follows the edge of the pond and reaches a signboard and map box. Here there are nice views of the pond and the Sandwich Range. The trail continues along the edge of the pond, crosses the dirt road leading to the Community School, and re-enters the woods along the edge of the marsh. When it reaches an area of brush, it is once again on private land-please stay on the trail! It soon ends at Route 113, 150 feet east of the Wildlife Area sign.

Distance: 0.75 mile. Walking time: 20 minutes.

PERKINS TRAIL starts across Bunker Hill Road from the east end of South Trail. It traverses a pine forest, sometimes following logging paths, until it turns left on a dirt road, crosses a small brook, and follows the road to the right. It ends at the Bearcamp River Trail. You may continue down the woods road to Bartlett Bridge in South Tamworth Village, or turn right and follow the Bearcamp River Trail to the bridge on Route 113.

Distance: 0.75 mile. Walking time: 20 minutes.

4: BIG PINES NATURAL AREA

Big Pines is adjacent to Hemenway State Forest. The area is managed by the Conservation Commission under permit from the state's Department of Resources and Economic Development. Parking is on Route 113A, 2.8 miles from the four corners in Tamworth Village. Three trails leave from the trailhead at the large sign.

EASY WALKERS TRAIL is a self-guided nature loop that stays between Route 113A and the Swift River. A guide is available in a map box a few yards from the road.

Distance 0.3 miles. Walking time: 10 minutes.

BETTY STEELE LOOP TRAIL starts at the road, follows the Easy Walkers Trail to the bridge, crosses the bridge and turns left, where it splits to form a loop. There are moderately steep sections through the big pines. A description of the trail is in the map box at the trailhead.

Distance: 1.1 miles. Walking time: 45 minutes.

PEG KING SPUR TRAIL, to the fire tower on Great Hill, leaves the Betty Steele Loop Trail at a sharp right turn 0.5 miles from the bridge. It ascends gradually, then becomes very steep for 0.1 mile until it reaches a hardwood stand at the top of the ridge. It follows the ridge, and turns left up to the tower.

Distance: 1.15 mile. Walking time: 1.25 hours
(from Betty Steele Loop Trail to tower and return)

5: BLACK SPRUCE BOGS NATURAL AREA

Black Spruce Bogs Natural Area, a 35 acre tract along the western boundary of White Lake State Park, was given to the Town Of Tamworth by Frances Damon, in memory of her husband, Harry F. Damon. At a point 0.9 mile from Route 16 on White Lake Road (Depot Road), or 2.4 miles from Route 113, a unmarked dirt road gives

access to the lake shore. At 0.1 mile along that road, there is a wood road to the left, closed off by an orange state barricade. Park here or at the boat landing just ahead, being careful not to block the right of way. The Black Spruce Bog Trail begins at 0.7 mile, on the right, along the wood road.

The trail approaches the larger of two bog ponds, skirts its south side, and bears right towards the smaller pond, where there are excellent views, as this pond is more open. One leg of the State's Pitch Pine Trail enters from the left; the Black Spruce Trail continues around the small pond, while the other leg of the State trail leaves on the left, towards White Lake. Shortly, the Black Spruce Trail climbs and follows a low ridge, then drops back down to meet the incoming trail. Turn left back towards the trailhead. Major tree species along the trail are black spruce, pitch pine, and scrub oak. Bog vegetation predominates around and in the ponds.

In 1980, the National Park Service designated a 72 acre pitch pine stand along the western edge of White Lake State Park a National Natural Landmark. The Pitch Pine Trail, mentioned above, traverses this area, and completes its loop using part of the two mile footpath that circles the lake. You can return to the parking place along the lake perimeter loop trail.

Distance: 2.0 miles Walking time: 1 hour..

6: EARLE REMICK NATURAL AREA

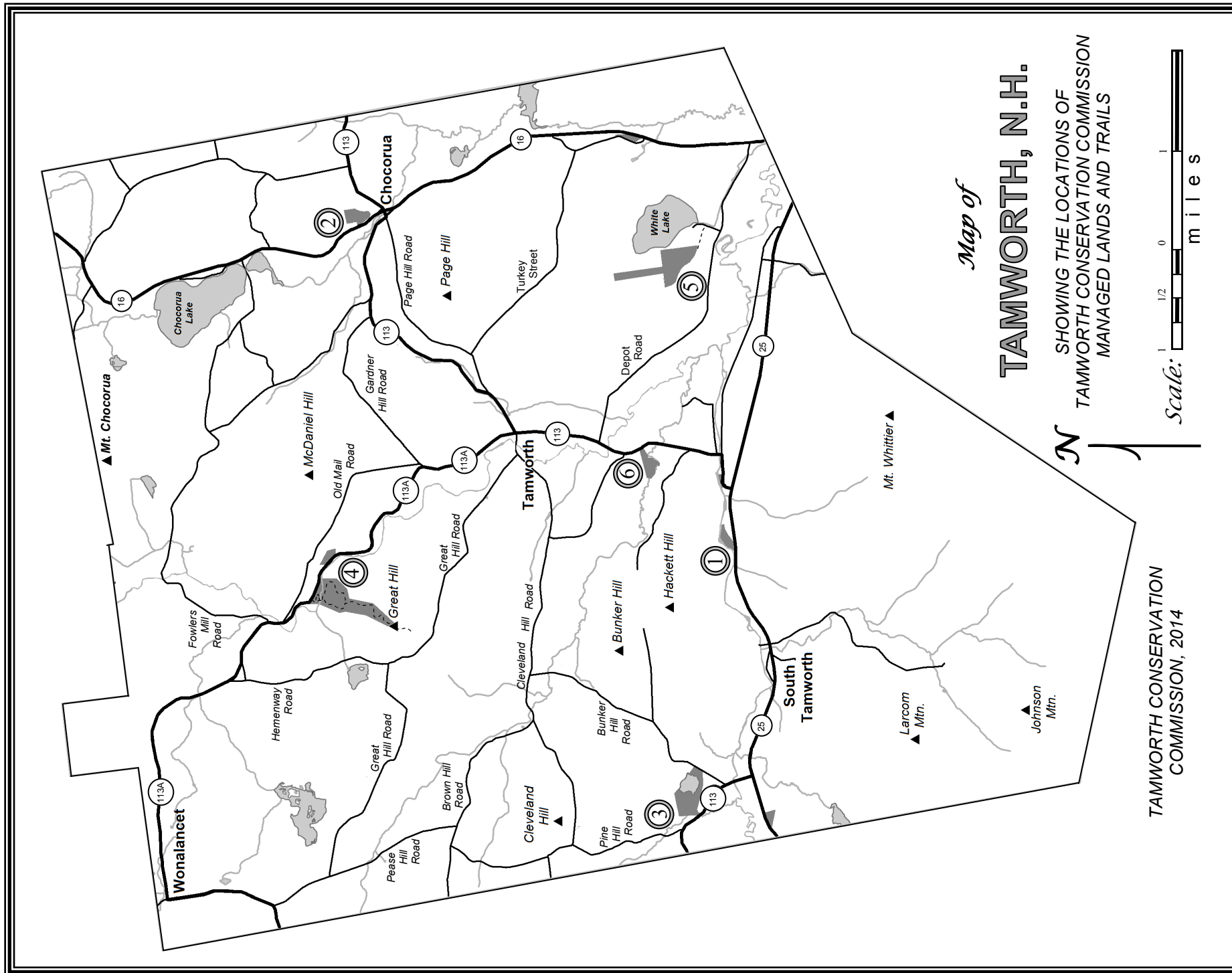
The Earle Remick Natural Area is a 16 acre tract left by Mr Remick to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and transferred by the Society to the Town of Tamworth to be managed by the Conservation Commission. The trail was designed and cleared by the Bearcamp Valley School.

The Remick Trail starts on the west side of Route 113, about a mile south of Tamworth Village, just south of where the power lines cross the road. Park on the roadside. A map describing the natural history features is available in a map box at the trailhead. The trail passes over mostly level terrain with short ups and downs. At first, it passes an old ramp where logging trucks were loaded in the days before hydraulic cranes. It continues away from the road, through mixed deciduous and coniferous woods, to the shore of Mill Brook. A short side trail follows the brook, while the main trail follows the esker, passes a glacial pothole, and eventually loops back to the starting point.

Distance: 0.5 mile. Walking time: 20 minutes.

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MANAGED LANDS and TRAILS





1: BEARCAMP NATURAL AREA

This natural area, given to the town by Mr and Mrs Charles Thompson of South Tamworth in 1972, contains about 9 acres of woodlands between Route 25 and the Bearcamp River. It is covered with second growth hardwoods and evergreens, and offers good birding. A short road/trail, a remnant of old Route 25, leaves Route 25 and parallels the river. The road/trail is found at a point about a mile west of the junction of Routes 113 and 25 in South Tamworth. A number of fishermen's paths lead off to the river bank.

2: JOHNSON WATERFOWL HAVEN

This tract of 16 acres was given to the town of Tamworth by Mrs. Theodore Johnson, in memory of her husband. It lies east of the fire station on Route 16 just north of Chocorua Village. Vegetation is lush in the central wetlands: button bush, burr reed, and other shrubs surround an open marsh that is slowly filling in with emergent species. Here, American bittern, green heron, and moose have been seen. Between the marsh and Route 16, white pines tower above a dry sandy hill. To the north, the wetland continues in dense mixed woodland. Look for the east-running stone wall, a memory of cleared land and sheep grazing in the 19th century. An open field remains at the north end of the property, providing a view west to Page Hill. A trail runs east from the fire station. At the wetland edge, a loop goes right and circles through the pine stand on the hill. To the left, the trail crosses a short boardwalk and enters the field, follows the north edge, and re-enters the woods, crosses a small brook, and joins a woods road heading south, skirting the east side of the marsh. Distance: 0.5 Mile Walking time: 20 mins

More detailed descriptions and maps for many of these trails are available in boxes at the trailheads, and as .pdf files on our website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Tamworth Conservation Commission and its efforts, visit www.tamworthconservationcommission.org