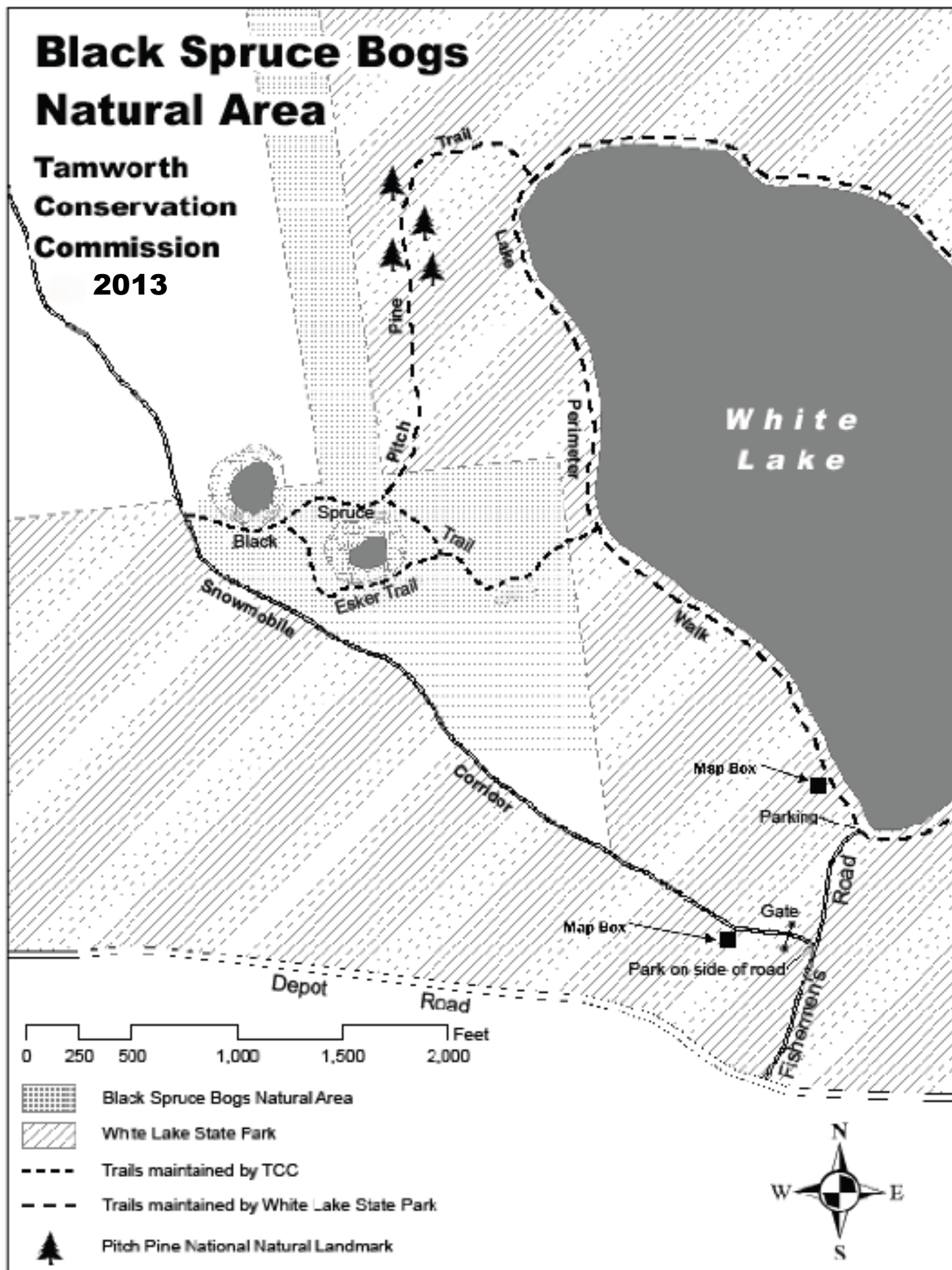


Black Spruce Bogs Natural Area

Tamworth
Conservation
Commission
2013



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

-  Black Spruce Bogs Natural Area
-  White Lake State Park
-  Trails maintained by TCC
-  Trails maintained by White Lake State Park
-  Pitch Pine National Natural Landmark



BLACK SPRUCE BOGS NATURAL AREA

The Black Spruce Bog Natural Area is a 34 acre tract along the western boundary of White Lake State Park. The tract, which is managed by the Tamworth Conservation Commission, was given to the Town of Tamworth by Mrs. Frances Damon, in memory of her husband, Harry F. Damon. In 1984, the two properties were linked by several trails that were planned and built by volunteers from the Commission and the State Park and NH DRED staff.

To reach the Black Spruce Bogs Natural Area, take the unmarked dirt road to the north off White Lake Road (Depot Road) at 2.4 miles from Route 113 in Tamworth, or at 0.9 miles from Route 16. After 0.1 mile along that road, which leads to a boat launch at the south end of the lake, there is a barricaded woods road to the left (this road is a snowmobile trail in winter). Park between here and the boat launch, being careful not to block the right of way. The Black Spruce Bog Trail begins at 0.7 mile along the woods road and is marked with a sign indicating the Black Spruce Trail.

Note: the main entrance to White Lake State Park is on NH Route 16, about one mile north of the junction of NH Routes 16 and 25 in West Ossipee.

From the trailhead, The Black Spruce Trail leads to the south side of the larger of the two bogs, where there are black spruce and heavy undergrowth. Continuing along the Black Spruce Trail will lead you to the north side of the second bog, while choosing the Esker Trail will take you around the south side of this bog (the Esker Trail rejoins the Black Spruce Trail at the east end of the second bog). The Black Spruce Trail also intersects the State's Pitch Pine Trail. Continuing on the Black Spruce Trail you will reach White Lake where turning right onto the lake loop path brings you to the boat landing and road.

In general plant growth in this area is comprised of pitch pine and scrub oak, with black spruce, leather leaf, pitcher plant, and other swamp vegetation around the bogs. Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) is a medium-sized member of the pine family. Its needles grow in bunches of three, which are shed every other year. The White Lake pitch pines are exceptionally tall and straight, which suggests that the area has been relatively free from fire and other disturbances for a long time. Although the wood of the pitch pine is too weak for good lumber, it is very durable, repels water, and resists decay. New England's early settlers used it for building fence posts, among other items, and, because the pitch burns well, it was used for torches. At one-time the trees were tapped for the pitch, as maple trees are for their sap.

In 1980 the National Park Service designated a 72 acre tract as a National Natural Landmark. The Pitch Pine Trail, mentioned above, traverses this area. Part of the loop joins the 2 mile Lake Perimeter Walk in the White Lake State Park. See the map of the reverse side.

PLEASE NOTE: Pets are not allowed in White Lake Park Camp Ground or at the White Lake Park Beach.