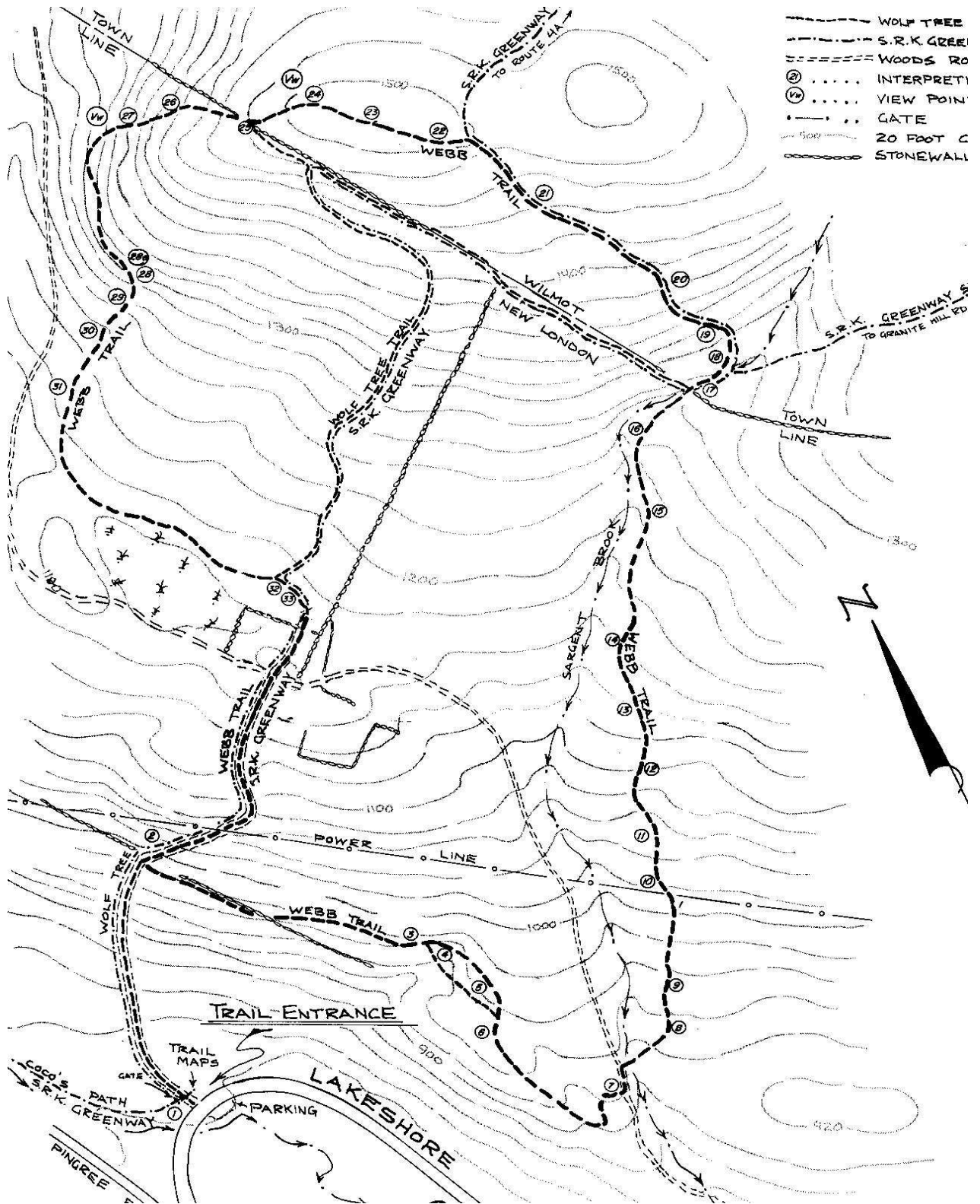


Webb and Wolf Tree Trails



Webb and Wolf Tree Trails

WEBB FOREST INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

FOOT TRAVEL ONLY No Motorized Vehicles

Fires and camping not permitted

Welcome to the Webb Forest Interpretive Trail! Creation of this trail was made possible through a conservation easement by Richard H. Webb. This allows the New London Conservation Commission to maintain in perpetuity a trail with public access in the R.H. Webb Forest Preserve. A grant towards the expenses for making this trail was received from the New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Committee as part of a program to inform the public about responsible forestry practices.

Enjoy your visit. Please avoid disturbing wildlife and leave all plants where you find them.

Parking for a visit to the Webb Forest Trail is at the bottom of North Pleasant Street on Lakeshore Road by the Great Brook bridge. (This is also the parking area for the Great Brook Trail and Wolf Tree Trail that are also part of the SRK Greenway)

July 1999

NOTE: The trails shown on the map are marked by blazes and signs. The map is believed to be accurate at date of publication. Please respect signs indicating posting, re routing or closing of trails requested by private land owners.

29. BLACK BIRCH. These are good specimens of black birch, not commonly found in this area.

30. ERRATIC BLOCK. This huge rock, like many others seen in these forests and mountains, was carried here during the Ice Age and was deposited when the glaciers retreated about 12,000 years ago.

31. SELECTIVE HARVEST. This is an area of light selective cutting. Dominant trees were removed and some pines were replanted including on the skidder trails. The fir is self-regenerating. A variety of wild flowers are seen here in the spring.

32. PRUNING. In this area, the side branches of the white pine were removed up to 18 feet. When the trees are harvested at maturity, a 16 foot log can be cut that will be free of knots. This will yield "clear pine" lumber.

33. ACCESS ROAD. This forest road, used to transport logs from the forest, was built under a government cost-share program. Culverts and erosion control measures are part of good forestry practice. The forest had 3 miles of road in 1995 with plans for a total of about 7 miles. At this junction of the Webb Forest Trail and the Wolf Tree Trail, the remains of a double stone wall can be seen on either side of the forest road. These walls were built to guide cattle to higher pasture from the Bunker Farm in the 1800s.

This is the end of the Webb Forest Interpretive Trail. In order to return to Lakeshore Road, turn left on to the forest road for 50 yards and then turn right on to the Wolf Tree Trail. The forest road is a private road with a closed gate at its lower end.

Published by:
The Conservation Commission
Town of New London

Printed by:
THE COUNTRY PRESS, New London, NH

Map by:
Pierre J. Bedard & Associates, Wilmot, NH

Numbered signs along the trail indicate features of interest and information on forestry practices:

1. ENTRANCE. Follow Wolf Tree Trail for about 400 yards up the hill where you will take a right turn on to the WEBB FOREST INTERPRETIVE TRAIL forest trail. The forest circuit is about 4 miles over hilly terrain.

2. WEBB FOREST TRAIL. Follow orange blazes on trees. Numbered signs indicate features that are described on the trail map.

3. ROCKY TERRAIN. This steep rocky hillside makes large scale lumber handling difficult. There are no present plans to harvest this area.

4. TRAIL FORK. Left fork: steep climb to cliff-top view.

Right fork: rough rocky trail through pine plantation.

5. OVERLOOK. A view over the forest towards Pleasant Lake.

DANGER! High Cliff

6. PINE PLANTATION. This area was cleared in 1982 and planted with white pine in 1983. After thinning at about 20-year intervals, these trees will be harvested around 2100

7. LANDING. Logs are collected here and loaded on log trucks. It is maintained as an open area but may not be used every year.

(SARGENT BROOK Here you cross Sargent Brook that feeds into Pleasant Lake.)

8. SKIDDER TRAIL. Felled trees, after trimming, are dragged out of the woods along these cleared trails to the landing.

9. ROCK PILE. When this land was farmed, rocks were cleared from fields and used to build stone walls or collected in piles.

Webb and Wolf Tree Trails

10. **POWER LINE.** This area is kept clear by periodically cutting growth with large mobile flail mowers. PSNH has discontinued the use of herbicides because of environmental damage.
11. **LANDING** Looking west from the trail, you can see a landing that was cleared when this area was logged in 1991.
12. **RED OAK** This area was selectively cut in late 1978 to encourage development of red oak. This valuable tree is used for flooring, furniture and veneer. Competing species, such as red maple, beech and white birch were cut and used for firewood or low grade saw logs.
13. **SNAG MANAGEMENT** Some dead trees are left in place for wildlife habitat. This big old ash tree is full of woodpecker holes, the work of the pillated woodpecker.
14. **SOILS** Tree species vary with the soil type on the hillside. Transition from hardwoods to hemlock, fir and pine is seen here. A *hemlock tree is labeled.*
15. **NATURAL HARDWOOD REGENERATION** Low quality hardwood was removed here in 1991. Natural regeneration is taking place. Overstory removal will be done after 20 to 40 years allowing the red oak, sugar maple, ash and yellow birch to mature.
Claw marks on a beech tree to the left of the trail were made by a climbing bear
16. **SKIDDER TRAILS** Several trails converge here leading to the landing by the power line. A *yellow birch is labeled.*
17. **SARGENT BROOK** The trail crosses this brook which flows into Pleasant Lake. Preservation of forested hillsides helps protect water quality in a watershed.
18. **SRK GREENWAY** The Greenway is an 80 mile trail around the Lake Sunapee region, passing over the summits of Mount Sunapee, Ragged Mountain and Mount Kearsarge and marked with white blazes. Here the SRK Greenway joins part of the Webb Forest Trail. A spur trail also branches here across the Wilnot town line through the Langaneau forest to Granite Hill Road.
19. **STONE WALL DOWN CLIFF** Across the brook, observe the unusual stone wall construction extending over and down a steep cliff.
20. **PATCH CUT** This 3 acre clearing, cut in 1991, has been planted with white pine seedlings. The exposed forest edge created by small clearings also provides browse for wildlife.
21. **GROUND COVER.** Note the variety of ground cover on the forest floor. This area was pasture for sheep until about 1900. The walls were built from stone cleared from fields. Here the SRK Greenway turns from the Webb Forest Trail towards Wilnot Center.
22. **CLEAR CUT.** About 19 acres were cut here in 1991 and 400 white pine/acre were planted in 1992. After some thinning at 30-years intervals, the pine will be harvested about 2100. The spruces and deciduous trees were not planted but regenerated naturally.
23. **VIEW.** Through gaps in the growing trees one can see Cardigan Mountain (3121 ft.) due north from here with Bog Mountain (1787 ft.) nearer and to the right.
24. **CLEAR CUT.** Open areas like this are heavily used by wildlife including deer and moose. Two years after the pines were planted, hand clearing round each seedling was done to minimize hardwood competition but substantial hardwood growth continues.
25. **TOWN LINE.** This wall marks the boundary between New London and Wilnot. Here a rock at the junction of two stone walls is marked with the dates when the Selectmen have toured the borders of the town. Officially, this "perambulation" must be performed every 7 years but modern aerial photography and satellite aided surveying make perambulation largely ceremonial. This rock is marked TL 1854, 1898, 1912, 1919, 1926, 1934, 1941, 1948, 1955, 1962. Can you find these dates?
26. **WILDLIFE.** This open area is used extensively by wildlife. This was not replanted after cutting in 1991. Natural forest regeneration is taking place. Extensive signs of moose and deer are seen here.
27. **GREAT BROOK VALLEY** All the land between here and Morgan Hill, seen in the distance, is part of the Webb Forest. This is protected from development and is actively managed as a tree farm. Large tracts of unbroken forest are essential to maintaining wildlife diversity.
28. **WAR SUPPLIES.** This area was cut in the early 1940s. The softwood was used for packing crates for wartime shipments. Numerous stumps that remain from this cutting can be seen here.
- 28a. **ICE STORM DAMAGE** Many trees, such as the bent birches and broken beeches seen here, were damaged throughout New England by the serious ice storm in January 1998. Trees losing more than 75% of their tops did not survive and damaged trees are prone to disease.