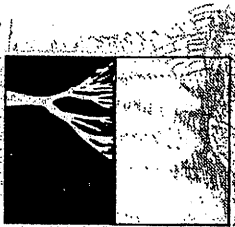


The McCabe Forest Trail



Society
for the
Protection
of
New Hampshire
Forests

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This two-mile loop trail leads to the banks of the Contoocook River and back to this parking area through the 192-acre McCabe Forest. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests welcomes you and asks that you respect the land and those who live there.

While an inventory of the natural resources of this landscape is in preparation, this list identifies some of the features you will see on your walk. Numbers refer to points on the map (back page) and sites identified along the trail.

- 1 - **BOULDERS** were brought into this area from ledge to the north and west by Ice Age glaciers which melted away 12,000 years ago.
- 2 - **BRICKYARD**, located here in the last half of the 19th century, utilized deposits of sand and clay located nearby.
- 3 - **THE HAYFIELD** once extended to the banks of the river; once a year before construction of McDowell Dam floodwaters reached here.
- 4 - **THE POND** fills a borrow pit from brick-making days.
- 5 - **APPLE TREES**, grown from seed spread by wildlife, can provide an important food source for deer if released from competing trees.
- 6 - **STONE WALLS** run through many New Hampshire forests. They mark boundaries and the edges of former pasture lands.
- 7 - **THE CONTOOCCOOK RIVER** is the only major New Hampshire river that flows north, emptying into the Merrimack River above Concord.
- 8 - **MEANDERS** in the Contoocook River result from the physical characteristics of water flowing freely across the floodplain.

9 - **AN OXBOW** forms when the river cuts a new channel, leaving the old channel as a lake or wet depression like the one to the right.

10 - **FLOODPLAIN TREES** include the lush grove forming Silver Maple.

11 - **WILDLIFE** along the Contoocook includes beaver, muskrat, and otter. Others, such as fox and deer frequent the floodplain.

12 - This **WHITE PINE TREE** has many values: as lumber, as a seed source for squirrels and new seedlings, and for its own beauty.

13 - A **SAMPLE PLOT** has been set up here by Society foresters to help determine forest growth in uncut and thinned timber stands.

14 - **SKID ROADS** are established during a logging operation. Later they become valuable paths for wildlife and recreationists.

15 - **FOREST MANAGEMENT** includes careful thinning of stands, as was accomplished in this area in the winters of 1984-85 and 1985-86.

16 - **PLANNING** is necessary on any timber operation, particularly to ensure that wildlife habitat is enhanced.

17 - **THE LOG LANDING** is the place where logs are loaded onto trucks for the trip to the market. Planting after the job prevents erosion.

18 - **THE BROOK** reminds us of the charms of the landscape, which can be visited on other Forest Society properties across the state.