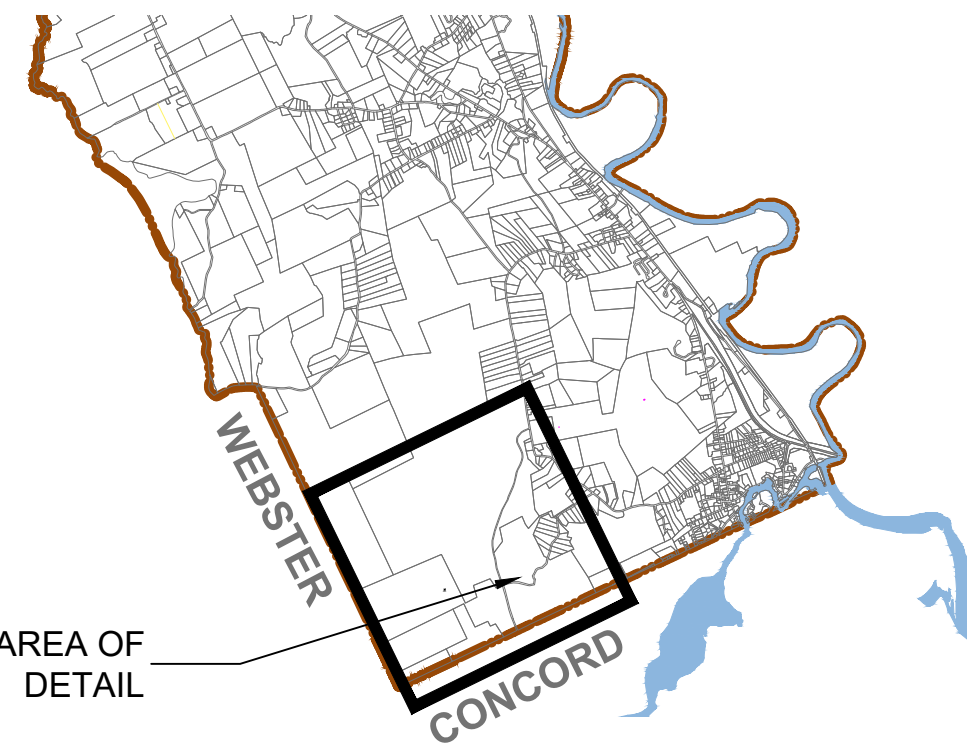


Weir Road-Boscawen Town Forest Trails



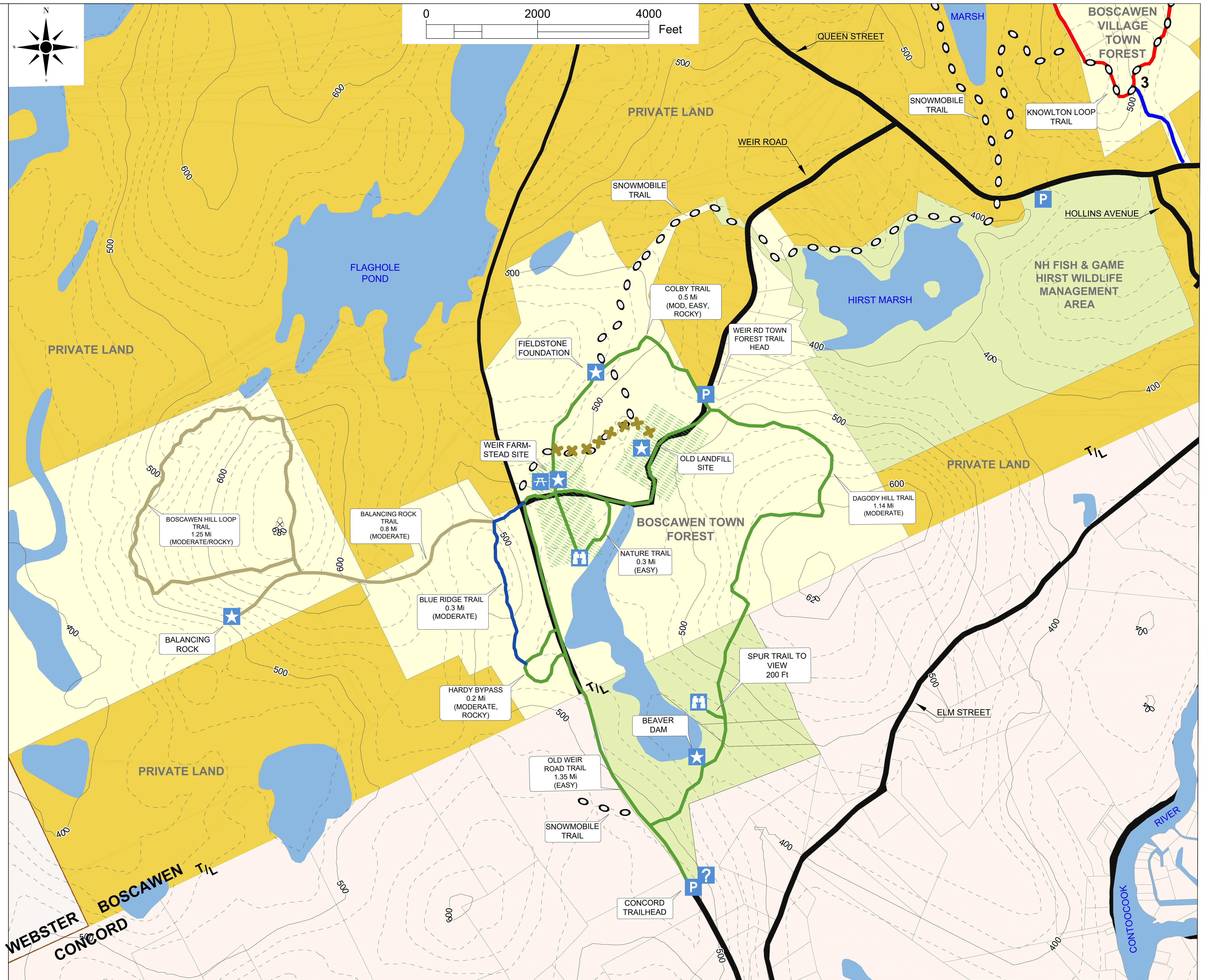
MANAGED BY: the Boscawen Conservation Commission



- INFORMATION
- PARKING
- VISTA
- PICNIC TABLE
- POINT OF INTEREST
- HIKING TRAIL
- SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
- TRUCK ROAD
- AREA OF INTEREST
- CONTOURS
- OPEN WATER
- PRIVATE LAND
- TOWN FOREST LAND/ OTHER CONSERVATION LAND
- PROPERTY LINE
- BRIDGE

To make your trip more enjoyable for yourself and others, please observe the following:

- Park in designated areas.
- This is a day-use area; no camping without permission from the Boscawen Conservation Commission.
- Do not disturb any plants, animals or structures.
- Keep to marked trails; respect private property near the trails.
- Carry out all trash and litter, and clean up after your pet.
- Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on Town land; snowmobiles on designated trails only.
- Be equipped for country walking; enjoy nature.





Town of **BOSCAWEN** New Hampshire

Welcome to the Boscawen Town Forest owned by the Town of Boscawen and managed by the Boscawen Conservation Commission. Approximately 466 acres in size, the forest is abutted on the East side by the 156-acre New Hampshire Fish and Game Hirst Marsh Wildlife Management Area. The City of Concord owns around 57 acres of land near the southern entrance. Combined the total is over 680 acres of conserved diverse forest, marsh, open fields and a beaver pond.

The Weir family farm is the centerpiece of the town forest. It was purchased by the family in 1854 and was primarily a dairy farm. In 1939 John Weir deeded the farm to the Town of Boscawen in exchange for nursing home care. The land was designated as the town forest in 1975.

The Boscawen Conservation Commission began to manage the forest in 1982. Some of the commission's projects include clearing the Weir family house and barn foundations of invasive Oriental Bittersweet, also the restoration of one of the original pastures overlooking the beaver pond. There is a continuing effort using best management practices to harvest the trees in a way that improves wildlife habitat and makes use of the forest as a valuable renewable resource. Trails are being added to encourage public access. We believe this forest is a special place and we hope you will enjoy it by helping us maintain it for future generations.

Please help by observing the following:

Recreational uses including hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are welcome. Snowmobiles may be used on designated trails only. Motorized wheeled vehicles are not permitted.

Hunting and fishing are welcome. Trapping and the use of tree stands are allowed only with written permission from the Boscawen Conservation Commission.

Please do not remove or damage any structure, plant or natural feature, including the Farmstead foundations, and The Balancing Rock.

Respect no trespassing signs for private properties. Town forest boundaries are marked by red blazes on the trees.

Trail Descriptions:

The parking lot at the end of Weir Road is the trailhead for three main trails. To the right (North) marked with yellow markers is the Colby Loop Trail.

This moderately easy trail goes for 0.5 miles through hilly mixed forest and ends at the Weir farmstead. Straight ahead (West) is the Old Weir Road trail, an easy 0.5-mile trail to the Weir farmstead. At the first clearing take the road to the left.

To the left (South) from the trailhead is the Dagody Hill Loop trail, marked with yellow markers. This moderately difficult trail goes 1.4 miles over Dagody Hill and past the base of the beaver pond. It ends when it rejoins the Old Weir Road trail in Concord. If you take the Old Weir Road trail back to the trailhead (using the Hardy Bypass) the total distance is about three miles and takes about two hours.

The Hardy Bypass is used to detour around a section of the Old Weir Road that is covered with water from the beaver pond.

The Nature Loop is a short trail that goes through the restored farm field down to the beaver pond and back to the Old Weir Road.

The Blue Ridge trail is marked with blue blazes. It leaves the Hardy Bypass and is a moderately easy trail over a forested ridge that ends back on the Old Weir Road.

The Balancing Rock Trail, marked by beige triangles, leaves the Blue Ridge Trail and ends at the balancing rock. This unique rock is a gift from the last glacier to cover this area some 15,000 years ago. The beautiful old lichen growing on it, *Umbilicaria Americana* (also known as rock tripe), is very fragile. **Please do not climb on the rock.**

The Boscawen Hill Loop Trail, marked by white triangles, leaves the Balancing Rock Trail about 0.3 miles before the rock. This loop trail is approximately 1.25 miles long, and passes by the Boscawen hill summit at elevation 680 feet. The trail passes through mixed forest, with numerous ledge outcroppings, and abundant wildlife viewing possibilities. Some portions are steep and rocky, making this a moderately difficult trail.

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