



Merrimack River Outdoor Education & Conservation Area

103 ACRES, CONCORD, NH

Reservation Details

This property—often referred to simply as “The Floodplain” is a dynamic landscape shaped by the Merrimack River where you can witness changing seasons and diverse wildlife. This area offers a natural sanctuary for not only people, but for wildlife, including otter, mink, beaver, migratory waterfowl and other birds, such as orioles, bald eagles, osprey, pileated woodpeckers, and rose-breasted grosbeaks. This area is also home to an uncommon silver maple floodplain forest.

Did you know? The silver maple trees (*Acer saccharinum*) growing here have specifically adapted to life among the shifting sand and regular flooding along the river. No other tree species can survive in this challenging environment, so the silver maples end up winning by default.

Trail Information

The Les Clark Nature Trail passes through a white pine plantation before reaching the mighty Merrimack River. Continuing along the loop brings you through the uncommon silver maple floodplain forest along the outlet of Mill Brook.

Symbolic “string” fencing is present in some areas to protect the fragile and highly erodible bank habitat along the Merrimack River where bank swallows nest. Please stay out of these areas and keep pets away as well.

- 🔗 **DIFFICULTY:** Easy
- 🔗 **ROUND TRIP DISTANCE:** 1.5 mile loop
- 🔗 **TRAIL MARKINGS:** Yellow rectangles

Getting There/Directions

The parking area and trailhead for this property are located on Portsmouth Street in Concord, about 800’ west of the Forest Society’s headquarters (Conservation Center). Look for a small gated parking area, kiosk and property sign.

- 🔗 **Google Maps:** Entering “Les Clark Nature Trailhead, Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH” will get you specific directions to the property from your location.

Recreational Opportunities

- 🔗 Hiking
- 🔗 Nature observation
- 🔗 Dog walking
- 🔗 Fishing
- 🔗 Paddling (carry in)
- 🔗 Snowshoeing/XC skiing

Available Amenities

- 🔗 Small parking area, not plowed in winter
- 🔗 Information kiosks
- 🔗 Please note NO bathroom facilities are available at this location.

Recreational Use Guidelines

- 🔗 Please stay on trails at this property (poison ivy) and respect closed areas
- 🔗 No wheeled vehicles permitted, including bicycles
- 🔗 Carry In, Carry Out all Trash
- 🔗 No camping or campfires
- 🔗 Do not disturb plants, animals or cultural features.
- 🔗 Dogs must be under owner control at all times, and all dog waste packed out.
- 🔗 No alcohol, smoking, or drugs permitted
- 🔗 Swim at own risk

COVID-19

HIKE SAFE TIPS

- Allow 6+ feet of distance between unrelated groups. Step off the trail to allow others to pass.
- Bring a mask or face covering and hand sanitizer in case you need it
- Don’t attempt anything risky or outside your comfort zone
- BYO lunch and plenty of water!



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103 Acres

Concord, NH

Merrill Park
City of Concord

Portsmouth St

Eastside Dr

Conservation Center Driveway

Conservation Center

Sugar Maple-Oak-Hickory Terrace Forest

Mill Brook

Oxbow Buttonbush Marsh

Pine Plantation

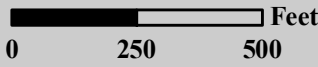
Eastman Cove

Merrimack River

Silver Maple Floodplain Forest

NH Technical Institute

- Forest Society Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Wetlands
- Perennial Streams
- Intermittent Streams
- Contour - 100'
- Contour - 20'
- Town Roads
- Hiking Trails
- Parking Area



Drawn By:
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www.forestsociety.org
603-224-9945

The data provided in this map represents stock digital data from NH GRANIT and data obtained by SPNH Staff.
www.granit.sr.unh.edu