

VISITOR INFORMATION

1. The Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary is open throughout the year during daylight hours.
2. Only foot travel is permitted in the sanctuary.
3. Hunting, fishing, trapping, swimming, smoking, camping, fires, & firearms are prohibited.
4. Please stay on the marked trails.
5. Do not collect or disturb plants or animals.
5. Pets are not permitted on the Sanctuary.
6. Please carry out all trash and litter.
7. Some terrain may be rough and wet, so proper precautions should be taken.

ABOUT NH AUDUBON

New Hampshire Audubon is an independent statewide membership organization whose mission is to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and for people. It operates nature centers throughout the state that provide educational programs for children and adults; oversees research projects, from developing a plan to preserve the biodiversity of a rapidly growing state to monitoring many of the New Hampshire's endangered species; protects thousands of acres of wildlife habitat through its sanctuaries program; advocates for sound public policy on environmental issues.

For more information, or to become a member, contact:

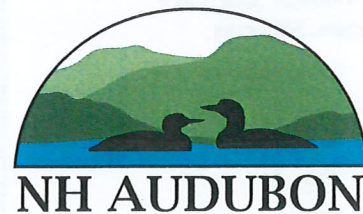
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TRAIL GUIDE

Alice Bemis Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary

Sandwich, New Hampshire



Welcome! You have parked on privately-owned land, the owners of which have generously welcomed visitors to park here when visiting NH Audubon's Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary. Your approach to the Sanctuary initially follows a driveway right-of-way where you'll be guided by small red rectangular markers. This southern access route to the Sanctuary provides the only public access to its upland portion.

You'll notice small white diamond-shaped signs on both sides of the road indicating that the land has been conserved. This 39-acre tract, owned by Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT), is further protected with a forever-wild conservation easement held by Northeast Wilderness Trust (NWT).

NORTHEAST



WILDERNESS
TRUST



Based in Montpelier, Vermont, NWT is the only regional land trust dedicated to protecting forever-wild lands. Since its founding in 2002, it has conserved more than 24,000 acres in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and Connecticut.

When you reach an open field, you are entering private conservation land. This 118-acre, largely-forested parcel, which abuts the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary, has been protected since 2011 by a conservation easement granted to LRCT. This property has had a long prior history of logging, one result of which is that it now contains a significantly different forest type from the Sanctuary. LRCT works in the 31 towns within the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Founded in 1979, it is dedicated to the permanent conservation, stewardship, and respectful use of lands that define the character of the lakes region and its quality of life. More than 25,000 acres of land, 33 miles of shoreline, 20 summits, and more than 90 miles of trails have been conserved.

Your path now diverges from the right-of-way, at the far edge of the field, and will follow a woods road to the right (east) until you reach the boundary of the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary. You will pass through two wildlife openings that the Whites have created. It is a short distance from the Sanctuary's boundary to the 'Wilderness Loop', a loop trail identified with yellow markers that makes a circuit around much of the upland portion of the Sanctuary.

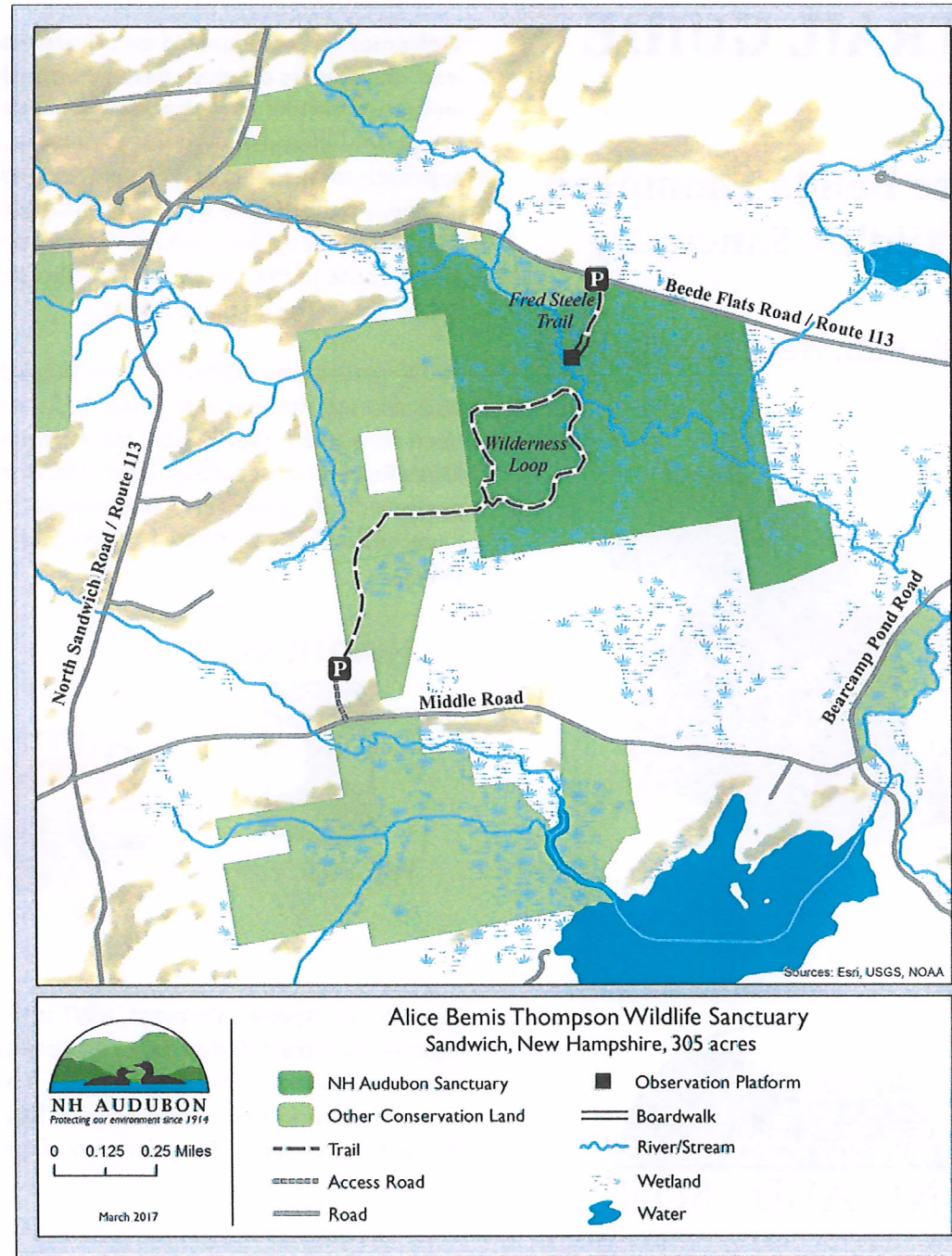


Since its creation by initial gifts of land by Charles Thompson in 1976 and 1977, the Sanctuary expanded in size with the donation by Vernon and Rose Church of two tracts in 1979. The Sanctuary was further enlarged with the acquisition of 43 acres lying along Atwood Brook in 2005 and a subsequent acquisition of 24.5 acres abutting the southeast portion of the Sanctuary in 2011, bringing the total acreage to 305.

In 2014 NH Audubon completed the donation of a forever-wild conservation easement on the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary to NWT. This transaction strengthened the protection of the Sanctuary by committing both organizations to uphold the rigorous protections enumerated in the easement in perpetuity.

The Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary forms the core of a 755-acre matrix of permanently-protected lands, many of them privately owned and conserved by LRCT.

Collectively, these lands protect from development prime wetlands, riparian shorelines, lowland and upland wildlife habitat. They also preserve Bearcamp watershed water quality, and provide low-impact, non-motorized recreational and educational opportunities. These properties contain areas of "2010 Highest Ranked Habitat by Ecological Condition" identified in the 2015 New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan. They also contain elements of conifer swamps in old growth condition, exemplary Palustrine marsh and scrub-shrub complexes, and exemplary wildlife habitat.



Among the many species of terrestrial wildlife encountered across this landscape are: bear, moose, deer, bobcat, red and gray fox, coyote, fisher, mink, otter, snowshoe hare, ermine, beaver, porcupine, and raccoon. A partial listing of the more unusual avian species documented, primarily on the Thompson Sanctuary, includes: least bittern, king rail, sedge wren, golden-winged warbler, and Northern hawk owl, among the 200 or so species that have been recorded here over the years. The Sanctuary is home to healthy populations of wetland and interior forest bird species, and is regionally known for its bird life.



Special Note: the main access point to the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary along Beede Flats Road (Rt. 113) now provides an ADA-accessible trail (Fred Steele Trail) along a graded walkway and elevated boardwalk that terminates on the north side of Atwood Brook. This is the access of choice for birdwatchers and those looking for a shorter excursion.