

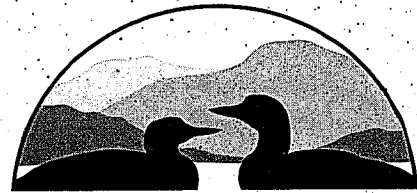
Trail Guide

Stoney Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

Newbury, New Hampshire



Audubon Society of New Hampshire




The Audubon Society of New Hampshire 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. The Society is also involved in research projects, from developing a plan to preserve the biodiversity of a rapidly growing state to monitoring many of New Hampshire's endangered species. It also protects thousands of acres of wildlife habitat through its sanctuaries program and advocates for sound public policy on environmental issues. For information on the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, including membership, volunteering, programs, and publications, contact:

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If you do not want to keep this guide, please return it to the mailbox at the trailhead.

Printed on  recycled paper.

Text, map, and cover art (of a Pileated Woodpecker) by Mike Milligan.

About the Sanctuary

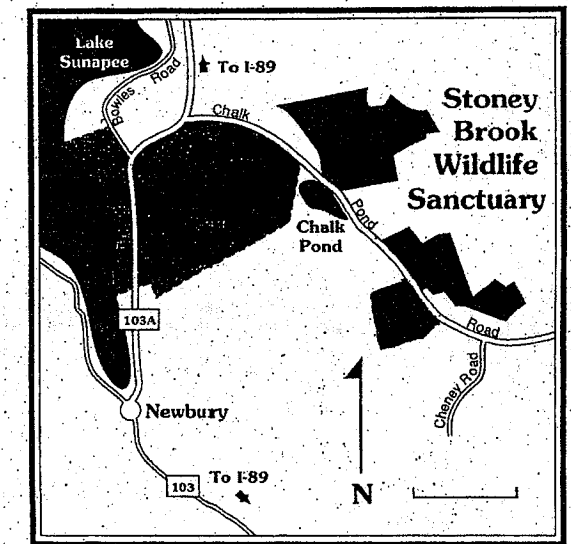
The Stoney Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Newbury began when a small group of local landowners became concerned about the loss of wildlife habitat from the rapidly increasing development of the Lake Sunapee area. This group decided to do something about it and in 1988, approached Audubon with a large donation to help purchase the Sanctuary from a logging company. This original 362 acres is in two disjunct areas about 0.5-mile apart from each other along Chalk Pond Road: the northern area is 236 acres and the southern area is 126 acres. In 2001, another 86.5 acres was acquired, again with assistance from local landowners. This parcel is across Chalk Pond Road from the 126-acre southern area of the Sanctuary and increases the Sanctuary to a total of 448.5 acres. Across Chalk Pond Road from the 236-acre northern area of the Sanctuary are two large pieces of property conserved by the Hay family, including the John Hay National Wildlife Refuge. Like pieces in a land protection puzzle, these conservation lands form larger blocks of wildlife habitat and create wildlife travel corridors to offset habitat fragmentation that results from development.

Hilly and forested, the Sanctuary is predominantly deciduous (mostly northern hardwoods) and mixed forest. There are a number of woodland streams, including tributaries of Ring Brook, and a large marsh/shrub swamp along Blodgett Brook. The Sanctuary provides enough quality wildlife habitat to support fauna that includes black bear, moose, deer, and an excellent bird diversity, including the Pileated Woodpecker.

Visitor Information

The Stoney Brook Wildlife Sanctuary is open throughout the year during daylight hours. Although there are trails for your enjoyment, this sanctuary's primary purpose is to provide habitat for wildlife. In order to minimize disturbance to the plants and animals here, we ask that you observe the following rules:

1. Only foot travel is permitted.
2. Smoking, swimming, camping, fires, hunting, trapping, metal detecting, and bottle digging are prohibited.
3. Please keep to the marked trails and do not collect or in any way disturb any plants or animals.
4. Pets are not permitted on this sanctuary.
5. Please carry out all trash and litter.
6. Be prepared for country walking.



How to get to the Stoney Brook Sanctuary:

From Route 103 in Newbury, turn onto Route 103A North and drive for approximately 3 miles. Turn right onto Chalk Pond Road; drive 1.3 miles to the western parcel and 2 miles to the eastern lot.

Park in the small parking lots at the trailheads.

Trail Information

There are two separate Audubon trails on the original two areas of the Sanctuary: the Marsh View Trail on the 236-acre northern area and the Beech Hill Trail on the 126-acre southern area. In addition, the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Trail travels between Chalk Pond Road and Baker Hill Road; it uses, in part, the Marsh View Trail.

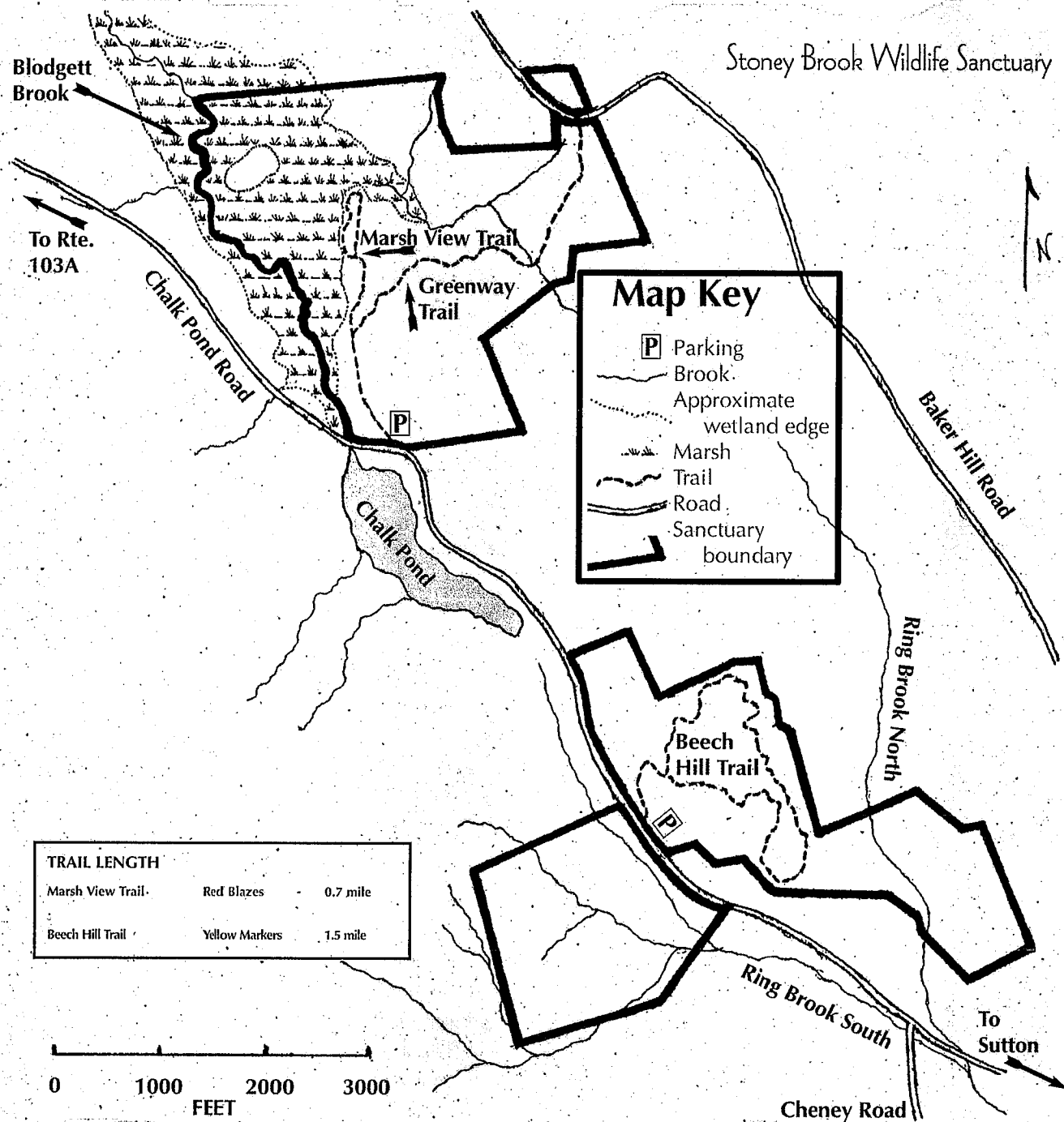
Marsh View Trail

red blazes, 0.7 mile, approximately 1 hour round-trip

This trail is fairly flat, and most of it is on an old town dirt track that was once called the Old Stoney Brook Road. This trail generally follows the edge of the large marsh/shrub swamp of Blodgett Brook (a.k.a. Chalk Pond Brook), which drains from Chalk Pond to Sunapee Lake. The trail passes through the lower elevations of the Sanctuary, and the forest here is dominated by red maple but also includes some beech, white pine, black cherry, balsam fir, red oak, hemlock, white ash, mountain maple, striped maple, gray birch, and yellow birch.

Understory plants include wild sarsaparilla, hobblebush, lowbush blueberry, bunchberry, goldthread, wintergreen, lady's slipper, and interrupted, cinnamon, bracken, hay-scented, lady, and spinulose wood ferns.

After approximately 0.25 mile up the trail from the parking area, there is an old logging road that branches off to the right. This old road has been incorporated into the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Trail, which enters the Sanctuary from Chalk Pond Road. From the Marsh View Trail, the Greenway Trail, marked with painted silver-white bells, travels gently uphill for 0.7 mile to Baker Hill Road. The forest along this trail is mostly mixed and includes much hemlock. A walk up to Baker Hill Road and back on this trail will add about another hour to your trip.



Continuing up the Marsh View Trail from the junction with the Greenway Trail, the trail veers off the often-flooded old town road about 850 feet, then rejoins it

at the junction of the Marsh View Trail loop. This loop is about 0.3 mile in total length. Continuing across the old town road, the western section of the loop closely

follows the marsh/shrub swamp edge. Wetland plants that can be seen here include wild raisin, winterberry holly, meadowsweet, steeplebush, arrowwood, maleberry, highbush and velvetleaf blueberry, mountain holly, cattail, reed canary grass, tussock sedge, royal fern, sensitive fern, sphagnum moss, and sundew. There is more hemlock and balsam fir along this section of the trail. When the loop is completed, retrace your steps on the Marsh View Trail to get back to the parking area.

Beech Hill Trail

yellow markers, 1.5 miles, 1.5 hours leisurely round-trip

Meandering through hilly terrain, the Beech Hill Trail passes through forest that is dominated by northern hardwoods, mostly beech and sugar maple, with frequent inclusions of red spruce. There are also areas of white pine, some big-tooth aspen, and a very occasional red pine. As in much of New England, stone walls are common, indicating past use of the land as pasture.

From the parking area, the trail heads up a fairly steep old logging road. After about 0.2 mile, it reaches an old log landing, where the trail splits to create a loop. Veering left (north) at this loop junction, the trail continues up the winding old logging road, passing through a stand of white pine before the road becomes a simple footpath.

Most of the remaining trail meanders through beech-dominated forest, often mixed with red spruce, and passes through some almost pure stands of red spruce. At the lower elevations of the loop, there is again more white pine. The loop meanders northwest along the ravine of a woodland drainage before returning to the loop junction at the old log landing. Taking a left here will bring you downhill on the old logging road to return to the parking area.