

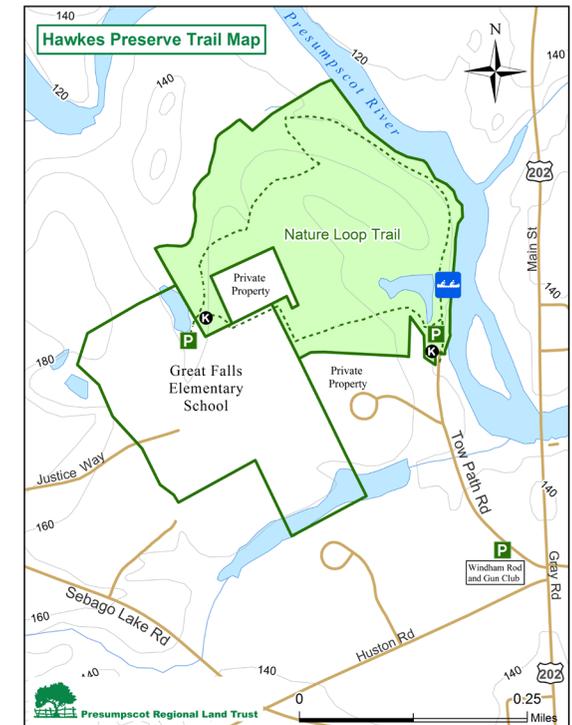
The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust's mission is to conserve lands for wildlife habitat and public access for recreation in the Presumpscot River Watershed within the towns of Gorham, Gray, Windham, Westbrook, Sebago, and Standish. The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust has over 1,000 acres of land conserved, seven public access preserves, numerous canoe and kayak access points, countless spots for fishing, and miles of trails for walking, hiking and biking. As a non-profit organization, the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust relies on the generous support from individuals. Become a member today at www.prlt.org.

Thank you for exploring THE HAWKES PRESERVE NATURE LOOP TRAIL

Become a member of the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and you will help provide the resources for families, and future generations, to have the room to play outside, to hike and bike through the forests and along the rivers, and to enjoy the fruits of local working farms — while broadening the impact of our Land Trust.



Hawkes Preserve One-Mile Nature Loop Trail



HAVE YOU VISITED THE PRESUMPCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST'S OTHER PRESERVES AND TRAILS YET?

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY AT
WWW.PRLT.ORG

Chessey Preserve, Sebago, 100 acres with a 1 mile out and back hiking trail

Gambo Preserve, Gorham, 5 acres with 3/4 mile historic walking loop

Little River Preserve, Gorham, 28 acres with 1.5 miles of hiking trails

Millbrook Preserve, Westbrook, 70 acres with new trails currently under construction

St. Pierre Preserve, Gorham, 3 acres with a 1/4 mile hiking loop and river access

Sebago to Sea Trail, a 28-mile continuous trail from Standish to Portland

Go to WWW.PRLT.ORG for more details.

Our success depends on the tax deductible membership support from people living, working, and playing in the six towns connected by the Presumpscot River Watershed.



PO Box 33
Gorham, ME 04038

info@prlt.org | www.prlt.org

www.facebook.com/PresumpscotRegionalLandTrust

Bring this nature guide with you on your hike. You will find six stops along your hike. You can use this guide to learn more at each stop.

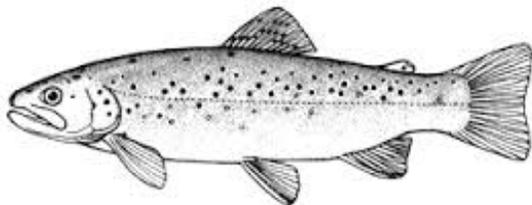
1. DECOMPOSITION

What happens to a tree after it dies? It often becomes a vital life source for many living organisms. Carefully observe the logs in front of you. Are there signs of animals, insects, plants, fungi? Decomposing logs provide nutrients and shelter for many plants and animals. Weather, insects, fungi, and tree species all play a role in how fast a log will decompose. When it has completely decomposed it becomes soil.



2. SHORELINE

If you have ever gone fishing in the middle of the day and come back without a catch, that could be because all the fish were hiding along the shore. Shorelines are the meeting place between land and water. Overhanging vegetation, lily pads, and fallen branches provide food, shade, and cover for fish and other animals that live in the river. Can you spot any fish now?



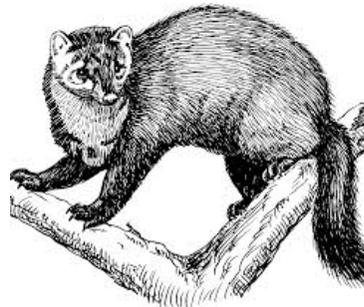
3. CUMBERLAND OXFORD CANAL

Before railroads, boats were used to transport goods. The Cumberland and Oxford Canal opened in 1830 as the primary means of transportation between Sebago Lake and the ocean until 1872 when the railroads became the primary form of transportation. The canal followed the Presumpscot River from Sebago Lake through the towns of Standish, Windham, Gorham, and Westbrook. Tow paths were adjacent to the excavated portions of the canal so that horses could tow the canal boats while the boats were steered with poles. The section of this nature trail that is next to the Presumpscot River is actually the old tow path and on the other side of the trail is the old canal.

4. HEMLOCK

Eastern Hemlocks are one of the most common trees you will see throughout this forest. Hemlock stands like this one provide excellent wildlife habitat. The canopy and saplings provide cover for a wide variety of animals including fishers and wild turkey. In the winter time, you may see white-tailed deer browsing these forests because Hemlock stands protect them against the cold winter winds. Can you find any signs

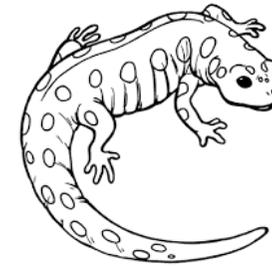
of animal homes in or around the hemlock trees?



5. WETLANDS

You are in a small wetland area. Wetland habitats are incredibly diverse and provide a number of benefits including flood reduction and water filtration. Wetlands are also key areas for many animals that live in other habitats but need wetlands for migration or reproduction. For example, herons nest in large old trees, but need shallow areas in order to wade for fish and aquatic life. Frogs and salamanders often forage in upland

areas but return to the water to mate and reproduce. Can you spot any signs of wildlife in this wetland?



6. FERNS

Ferns thrive in the forest understory with limited light but also grow well in a wide variety of habitats from mountain tops to pastures. Three hundred million years ago, ferns were thought to be the dominant terrestrial plants. Looking into this patch of ferns you may think they are all the same when in fact, there are many different species. How many different types of ferns can you spot?

