

15. Friends Way

www.nashobatrust.org

www.town.pepperell.ma.us/trails

The Friends Way property is a lovely and bright forest full of white birches, aspens and a few large white pines. Birch branches dangle over the trail making it feel like one is traveling through a natural tunnel. Ruffed Grouse enjoy the birch and aspen seeds and buds, and Eastern Towhee and American Redstarts love the shrubby understory in the forest. The property connects with the Old County Road trail in Groton providing an opportunity for a much longer hike and exploration of the Throne Hill area of Groton.

Land Protection History

The acquisition of Friend's Way came about as a conservation purchase. In 1988, when a 46.93 acre parcel of land on South Road became available, a group of conservation minded investors formed The Friends of the Land Trust as an adjunct of NCT and purchased the property with the intent to limit development and create open space connecting to the Old County Road. 30 of the 46.93 acres was to be set aside as conservation land for NCT, and the rest used to create 5 house lots to be sold. The land was purchased from the LePoer family, and by 1995 all of the 5 lots had been sold and the 30 acres deeded over to NCT. At the end of the project, Mrs. LePoer and her daughter Doreen Morse significantly reduced the note on the property still held by the Friends, and NCT was able to finalize the purchase with a small contribution on their part.

Trail Description

The trail begins to the right of a grove of birches and aspens and is marked by red dots. It heads southwest into the woods through the beautiful birch forest and passes a small wetland or vernal pool on the west side of the trail. It continues through more birch and pine forest to its connections with the Old County Road trail in Groton from which you can explore the Groton Conservation Trust's vast Throne Hill Complex. Visit www.gctrust.org for more information on Throne Hill.

Trail Mileage

From the parking area to the Old Country Road trail is .2 miles.

Directions

From Pepperell Town Hall head west on Route 113 to intersection with Rte 119. Go left on Rte 119 for 1/10 of a mile and then take a right onto Friends Way (look for sign). Drive down the common drive to end and park in grassy area. The GPS coordinates for the **parking area** are: Latitude 42.64258; Longitude -71.63768.

