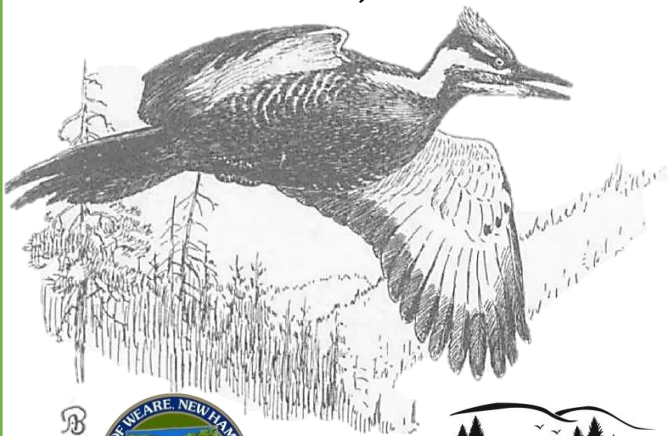


Ferrin Pond Conservation Area Trail Guide

Weare, NH



B



Piscataquog
Land Conservancy

Introduction

The pond is surrounded by 480+ acres of conserved land. The Town of Weare owns 220 acres at the south end of the pond. The Piscataquog Land Conservancy owns 57 acres at the north end of the pond & an additional 204 acres to the west. The Town and PLC manage the area cooperatively for natural resource protection, public recreation and forestry.

Weare Town Forest

This land is managed for forest products, conservation, and the enjoyment of those who seek out its remarkable beauty. Income from forest management is used for projects like protecting the Ferrin Pond Conservation Area.

Piscataquog Land Conservancy

Founded in 1970, the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) is a private, non-profit land conservation organization dedicated to conserving the land, water and wildlife of twenty-three communities in southern New Hampshire. Comprising just 8% of the state's land area, the towns and cities we serve are home to 28% of New Hampshire's people. As of May 1, 2021, PLC holds interests in 129 properties totaling just over 9,166 acres of land. We have a professional staff of four, and more than seventy local volunteer property monitors. PLC's modest annual operating budget is funded almost entirely by the private contributions of individuals, families and businesses in our watershed communities. In 2017 PLC was awarded national land trust accreditation, a mark of distinction for private land trusts in the United States.

Learn more about PLC by visiting our website: plcnh.org

History

A great force of glacial ice created Ferrin Pond during the Pleistocene Epoch. This time period spans the last million years, but only within the last 10,000 - 15,000 years did the last ice sheet disappear from this part of the world. Results of the gouging and flooding forces from moving mountains of ice (over a mile thick in much of the area) can still be seen in many places. During the Pleistocene Epoch, four glacial stages occurred. The last event, called the Wisconsin glacial stage, created Ferrin pond.

Ferrin Pond was named after Enos Ferrin, who lived in the area during the mid to late 1700's. Local records show he served in the Revolutionary War. Enos Ferrin had pastures surrounding the pond.

Over the decades, Enos Ferrin's pastures grew into forests, and the Ferrin Pond area became home to many plants and animals. However, during the 1980's the land around Ferrin Pond was often vandalized by careless people. In 1998, the town of Weare and the PLC banded together to clean up the trash that littered Ferrin Pond's shores. After years of negotiation with Landowners and through the efforts of the town of Weare and the PLC the entire Ferrin Pond Conservation Area was protected as a natural area for wildlife and as a recreational area for the public.

In December of 2008, a damaging ice storm struck the area. Many thousands of people in New Hampshire were without power for several days. Weare was particularly hard hit, and the Ferrin Pond trail was not spared devastation.

Trail Information

Ferrin Pond is a great family-friendly hike with numerous natural features to explore. The 2.5-mile trail gradually brings you up to Ferrin Pond. The lookout spots from the Southern and Northern edge of the pond make it well worth the walk into the woods. The trail loops around the pond through portions of the 278-acre Ferrin Pond forest. Follow the yellow trail markers, which begin just beyond the boulder gate.

Directions:

From the junction of Routes 114, 77, and 149 in Weare, take Route 149W. Go 1.5 miles; turn left on Perkins Pond Road (by dam and Perkins Pond). Go .5 miles to the four corners; turn right on Mountain Road. Go just over a mile and watch for power lines.

Parking:

Parking at intersection of Mountain Rd. and Jewett Rd. or if you have 4WD down Mountain Rd. to the gate.



Help us preserve the land.

- Passive recreation allowed (hiking, mt. biking, xc skiing, horseback riding)
- Stay on designated trails
- Carry in, carry out, do not litter
- No motorized wheeled vehicles
- No camping or fires



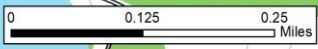
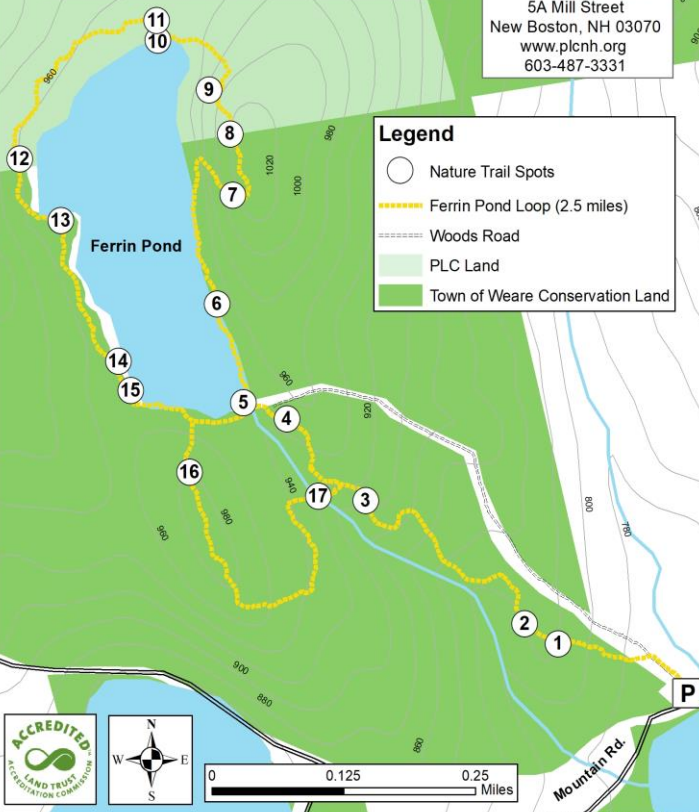
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Ferrin Pond Conservation Area Trail Guide Map

Legend

- Nature Trail Spots
- Ferrin Pond Loop (2.5 miles)
- Woods Road
- PLC Land
- Town of Weare Conservation Land



#1

Storm Damaged American Beech Tree

One of the first features you will find along the Ferrin Pond Trail is a storm damaged American Beech Tree. The tree's sharp arc to the left was once followed by a ninety degree turn upwards to the sky. As you traverse the trail, see if you can spot any other trees that grew in a strange direction in search of sunlight. Also noticed the sea of beech trees. Beech trees are long lasting hardwoods that provide great long-term housing for racoons, birds, and more. They also provide a great food source for many species as their nuts are high in protein and fat.



#2

Enos Ferrin's Old Pasture Wall

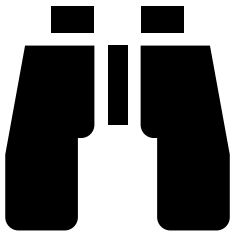
Early colonial pastures were defined by stonewalls. This stonewall may have been built by Mr. Ferrin. Only recently have trees reclaimed the land. First to grow back were field juniper. Look for their scraggly, dead branches on the forest floor. Long-lived white pine and other hardwood trees are replacing short-lived grey birch trees, the first trees to typically reclaim former pastures. Imagine: less than 100 years ago, the only tree growing nearby was the giant white pine along the wall to your right.



#3

Sounds & View from the Log Bench

Before you is the valley of Ferrin Brook. You might not be able to see the brook, but can you hear the voice of the running water? Notice the young trees, mostly American beech trees. Depending on the season they block the view down to Ferrin Brook. Listen for songbirds. Sit quietly and watch for animals.



#4

White Pine Tree with Woodpecker Sign

With a circumference of 145 inches, a section of this grand eastern white pine shows a series of deep cavities - holes drilled by a crow-sized bird called the Pileated Woodpecker. This powerful bird hacks its way through solid wood to reach its favorite meal of carpenter



ants. Watch for more signs of this bird's drilling along the trail. You may even hear its loud, unforgettable call. Although there is much evidence of their existence in the forest, it is not often that you see these elusive and magnificent birds.

#5

Ferrin Pond & Beach

The depression carved out by the Wisconsin Glacier is now filled with water. At the far end of Ferrin Pond, you will see a great boulder dropped there by the glacier. Such boulders are called erratics and are significant evidence of glaciers because they differ in composition to the local bedrock. Scientists use erratics to help determine past glacial movement. You will discover many such erratics as you walk the trail they can be as large as boulders or as small as pebbles.



#6

Hemlock Forest



Leaving the beach and continuing to follow the yellow trail, you will enter a forest of hemlock trees. Notice the sparse undergrowth - very little sunlight passes through the evergreen hemlocks. Seldom can a young sapling receive enough sunlight to survive under these canopy-like branches. Hemlocks flourish in the pulverized gravel and soil that the glacier deposited on the pond's eastern bank. Hemlocks today face major threats from invasive species. The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), *Adelges tsugae*, and the Elongate hemlock scale (EHS), *Fiorinia externa Ferris* both are insects that feed on the plant tissue at the base of hemlock needles. According to the NH Fish & Game, Weare has HWA, you might be able to spot these pests. Do you see white fuzzy masses at the base of the needles?

Note that the trail climbs up the sloped bank away from the pond. This feature prevents erosion of the soil into the pond.

#7

Surviving American Beech Tree

At the top of the slope, you will find a beech tree with an interesting story . This dead tree was the unfortunate victim of a hungry beaver and a porcupine. However now this standing dead tree, called a snag, has a new purpose as it provides habitat for birds, small mammals, and insects. It is important to leave dead trees because they make some of the best homes for these creatures.

Just behind this tree, notice the grey birch tree that is growing at a right angle and then up to the sky. Observe the relationship this tree has with the hemlock that it is growing next to. This is another example of the strength and will to survive.

#8

Pass-way Stone Wall

In the mid-1700's the town of Weare was divided into 7 east-west partitions called ranges. This stone wall separates Range One from Range Two. Two rods or 32 feet was left on each side of these pass-ways as roads for travel. This wall is still intact from the Deering line to South Weare village. This stone wall also marks the boundary line between the Town of Weare property and PLC's property. You are now entering PLC's portion of the property.



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#9

Timber Harvest

In 2017, PLC and the Town of Weare implemented a forest management plan that emphasized multi-aged stands. The goal was to introduce a younger group of trees to the property, known as an un-even aged system. From this location you can see some mature hemlocks and oaks. New saplings, of maple, beech and oak are also visible. These new saplings will help diversify the woods and allow the forest to continue to be healthy.



#10

Black Gum Tree, Highbush Blueberry, & Sweet Pepperbush

This black gum tree may be 300 to 400 years old. At the base, you can see signs of beaver damage from years ago when the pond was home to a family of beavers. Look for other signs of beaver along the trail. Another interesting characteristic is the growth of highbush blueberries on the southwest shore and the sweet pepperbushes on the northwest shore.

Looking across the pond from the black gum tree, you have a better view of the glacial erratic seen from the beach. At the base of this boulder, you can see signs of erosion from ice, wind, and water over the years.



#11

Stone Bridge, Wetland, & Tamarack

Watch your step while crossing the stone bridge and note to your right the wetland in the open area. This wetland was once part of Ferrin Pond and is slowly returning to



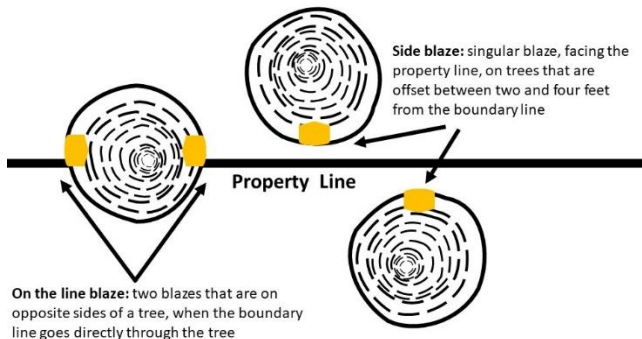
upland forest. Also surrounding the wetlands are tamarack trees, these deciduous conifers thrive in moist boggy areas like this one. These trees are easiest to identify in the fall as they lose its needles and turn a yellow-gold color.

Fun fact: Tamarack is an Algonquin word for “wood used for snowshoes” its wood is flexible making it ideal for snowshoe building.

#12

Boundary Blazes

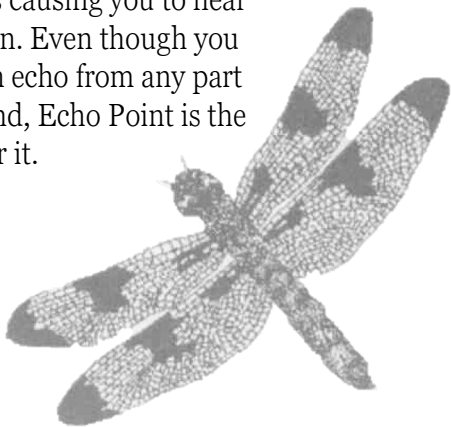
Notice the paint on the tree. This identifies the property line between the Town of Weare and PLC's property. The cut in the tree is called a blaze, this ensures that you can still find the boundary once the paint fades. This tree has two blazes on opposite sides meaning the property line runs straight through the tree.



#13

Echo Point

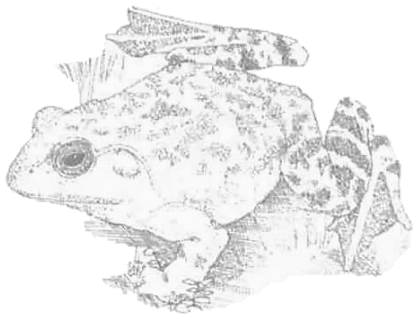
Reaching out into the Ferrin Pond is an area that has been nicknamed over the years “Echo Point”. The acoustics for echoes at Ferrin Pond are just perfect. The way the Wisconsin Glacier came through formed this perfect amphitheater. The wall pushes back your sound waves causing you to hear yourself again. Even though you can create an echo from any part of Ferrin pond, Echo Point is the best place for it.



#14

Pond Lookout

Look into Ferrin Pond's clear water. What do you see? Few aquatic plants grow here. The few water lilies that grow seldom blossom. You may see tiny clusters of green leaves growing among the rocks on the bottom. These send up slender spikes, with a tiny white blossom. They are pipe-worts. The "green branches" you see are probably a freshwater sponge colony.



#15

How Deep is Ferrin Pond?

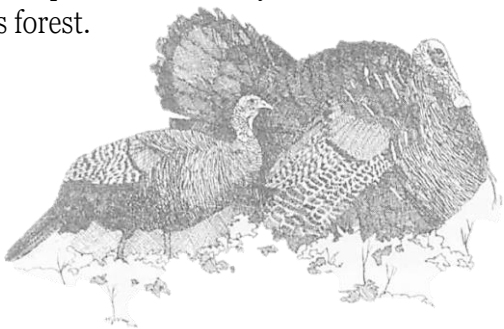
The Weare Town History 1735 - 1888, contains the statement: "The water is 11 feet deep, under which is 17 feet of mud into which a pole can be thrust. The pond was measured on the ice in April 1887 by Mr. Paige and Eben Bartlett." One hundred and nine years later, new depth measurements were taken. Eighteen holes were drilled in the ice down the exact center of the pond. The average depth was measured at 11.2 feet. The pond's elevation is 948 feet above sea level, making it the second highest pond in southern New Hampshire.



#16

Black Birch & American Beech Forest

This Black Birch tree, with a circumference of 81 inches, is the gateway into a prime example of a mature American Beech Forest. Touch the trees and feel their smooth bark. Watch for beech-nut burrs on the ground. Look for the pair of tasty nuts, which grow in each of the burrs. These nuts supply highly nutritious food for black bears, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, deer, squirrels, and many rodents which live in this forest.



#17

Ferrin Brook

Upon crossing the footbridge over Ferrin Brook, look at the size of the ravine that was carved by this little brook. The brook you see is over 100 years old. The life story of the river is something of a mystery. Can you think of how it carved out this ravine with its size?



Resources & Credits

- <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/looking-american-beech>
- [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcommons.wikimedia.org%2Fwiki%2FFile%3ABeech_-_leaf_and_fruit_\(PSF\).png&psig=AOvVaw0mcXY_EnxbGApVU_URzE45&ust=1623168347063000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA0QjhxqFwoTCMjR9LzhfECFQAAAAAdAAAAABAF](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcommons.wikimedia.org%2Fwiki%2FFile%3ABeech_-_leaf_and_fruit_(PSF).png&psig=AOvVaw0mcXY_EnxbGApVU_URzE45&ust=1623168347063000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA0QjhxqFwoTCMjR9LzhfECFQAAAAAdAAAAABAF)
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- https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.com%2Fpin%2F193584483961552276%2F&psig=AOvVaw3DAFhxFH3ufxKQiGe_7UU7&ust=1623169599103000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA0QjhxqFwoTCLD22ZL4hfECFQAAAAAdAAAAABAL
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Trail Guide Credits

Original text and design by Brenda Dello Rasso and Jessica Smith with help from Gordon Russell of the PLC and Robert Reeve of the Weare Town Forest.

2013 Updated by Noah Payeur of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 24 – Weare NH, for an Eagle Scout Project

2021 Updated by Joslin Bennett and Hailey Nase of PLC