

# Adopt-A-Trail Manual

## TRAIL MAP

Trails are open daily from dawn to dusk



We hope you enjoy your time here!  
Please respect the following rules:

NO motorized vehicles, camping or camp fires, smoking, hunting or dogs (they deter wildlife!). Also, please carry out what you carry in.

For more information please contact:  
Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center  
928 White Oaks Road, Laconia, NH 03246 (603) 366-5695

[www.prescottfarm.org](http://www.prescottfarm.org)

### Who can Adopt a Trail?

Individuals, groups, scouts, businesses, families, and pairs can adopt a trail as long as one member is over the age of 18. Some trail maintenance tasks may have an age restriction for safety reasons.

### How to Adopt a Trail

1. Choose a trail from our list of adoptable trails that fits your abilities
2. Read through this manual to fully understand your responsibilities
3. Contact the volunteer coordinator and provide the following information:
  - a. What trail you want to adopt
  - b. If a group wants to adopt the trail, please give a group name and list all names of adoptees
  - c. Your availability for a trail maintenance volunteer training
4. Attend the trail maintenance volunteer training and sign necessary paperwork
5. Start volunteering on your trail!

### Adoption Period

All trail adoptions are at least one year long and can be extended at the discretion of the adoptee and volunteer coordinator. This is a voluntary agreement that can be terminated at any time by either party. If you cannot adopt a trail for the one year minimum but are still interested in trail maintenance, speak with the volunteer coordinator.

### Adoptee Tasks & Responsibilities

Trail adoptees are responsible for conducting one **trail maintenance day** per month. These trail maintenance days are hands-on days where adoptees will complete specific tasks related to their trail:

- Fill out the Monthly Adopt-A-Trail Sheet, described below
- Corridor management: using the “hands out” method clip away any branches, bushes, etc. that encroach on the trail
  - Do not clip any plants that cannot be handled by the pair of clipping shear provided
- Remove any litter: use bags provided in the volunteer cache to collect any litter you see on or near the trail
  - Be cautious of hazardous materials and do not pick up litter that requires special handling
  - Contact Laconia PD (603-524-5252) if you encounter any hazard that is of immediate concern and could not be handled by Prescott Farm staff
- Remove small hazards from the trail: this includes any small branches or tree limbs that can easily be moved by an individual or group
  - Please take note of any larger down trees or branches that require additional help to move
- Care for any special maintenance needs that are listed for your adopted trail

If trail adoptees are unable to conduct a trail maintenance day for a specific month, they are expected to conduct a **trail monitoring day**, where they walk their adopted trail and only fill out the Monthly Adopt-A-Trail sheet described below. Adoptees are encouraged to hike their trail more than the once a month minimum and contact the volunteer coordinator with any special trail maintenance requests.

Trail maintenance will be limited in the winter, due to snow conditions and frozen grounds. We do offer volunteers the opportunity to rent Prescott Farm snowshoes for free in exchange for packing down snow on the trails. All snowshoe volunteers will need a snowshoe volunteer voucher with their name on it to obtain the snowshoes. Talk to the volunteer coordinator for more information.

### Monthly Adopt-A-Trail Sheets

These sheets can be found in the Volunteer Cache in the Trail Team binder. These sheets must be filled out at least once a month for your adopted trail and left with the volunteer coordinator once complete. This detailed information helps staff to identify larger trail maintenance projects and give you any necessary feedback.

### Skills Days

All trail adoptees are encouraged to attend a “Skills Day” where volunteers come together with a staff member for a day of trail maintenance! Some tasks during this day may include larger trail maintenance projects that have been identified by trail adoptees, general care of unadopted trails, special trainings, and an opportunity to share knowledge with fellow adoptees. We encourage all trail adoptees to suggest special training or maintenance project interests and staff will work to accomplish these when possible.

Have some trail maintenance skills you want to share? Consider hosting a Skills Day for interested volunteers; reach out to the volunteer coordinator for more information.

### Trail Safety

When hiking it is important to wear appropriate clothing for the conditions and activities you will be doing. Bringing sunscreen, bug repellent, first aid supplies, water, and snacks will ensure you are prepared to complete the hands-on tasks and stay safe. If you are bringing tools out to your trail site be sure to carry and use them properly. When picking up litter on the trail please be safe and wear gloves to avoid injury. The use of manual loppers is restricted to volunteers 14+, the use of all power-driven machinery (including lawn mowers and weed whackers) is restricted to volunteers 18+.

Adoptable Trails (please contact the volunteer coordinator for the most up to date information)

<b>Trail Name</b>	<b>Trail Length</b>	<b>Trail Difficulty</b>	<b>Special Maintenance Needs</b>	<b>Adoptee</b>
Forest Trail (yellow blazes)	1/2 mile	Easy	maintenance of the Natural Playscape	available
Orange Trail (orange blazes)	1/4 mile	Short but very steep	none	available
Scat Ridge Trail (silver blazes)	less than 1/4 mile	Easy: relatively flat, long hike to get out to site	construct viewing benches	available
Sugar Trail (red blazes)	1/3 mile	Medium: hilly with some bridge navigation	maintain trail access to the sugar house, control flooding on field portion of the trail	ADOPTED for 2021 season
Garden & Barn Trails	unknown	Easy: relatively flat	none	available
Lower Fields Trails	unknown	Medium: rolling hills, mowed trail	none	available
Pond Loop Trail (blue blazes) + Connector Trail (white blazes)	1 mile	Hard: longest available trail	none	ADOPTED for 2021 season