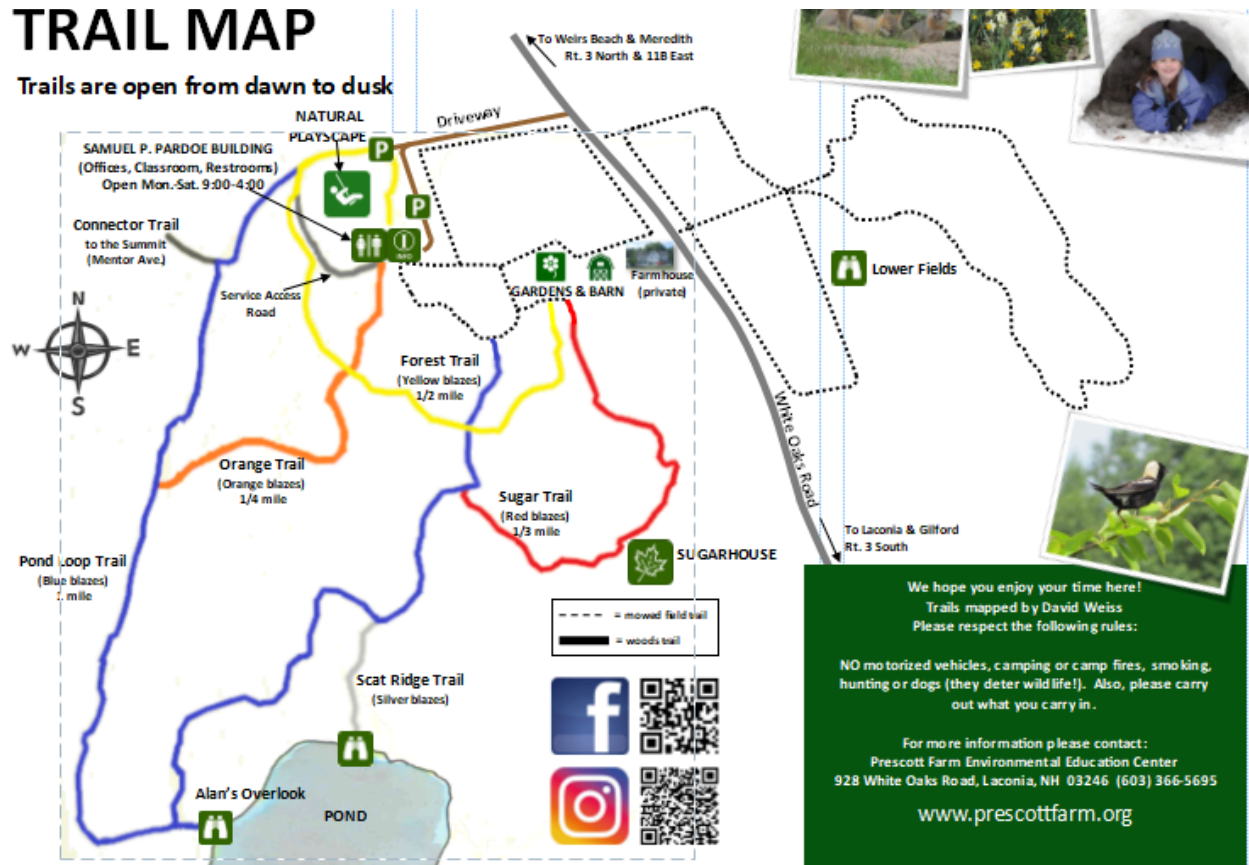


# Adopt-A-Trail Manual

## TRAIL MAP

Trails are open from dawn to dusk



### 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. Fill out the Online Volunteer Application Linked Here: [Volunteer Application](#)
4. The volunteer coordinator will reach out to you to schedule an appointment to meet to discuss:
  - a. More details about the volunteer role
  - b. What trail you want to adopt
  - c. Your availability for a trail maintenance volunteer training and for walking your adopted trail
5. Attend the trail maintenance volunteer training
6. 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 at least two **trail monitoring days** per month. These trail monitoring days can either be hands-on where adoptees will complete specific tasks related to their trail or observation days where you note the specific tasks that will be completed next time:

- 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

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 every time you walk 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 or guest 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+.

Adoptable Trails (Last Updated 1/16/2026)

Trail Name	Trail Length	Trail Difficulty	Special Maintenance Needs	Adopted?
Forest Trail (yellow blazes)	1/2 mile	Easy: relatively flat	Maintenance of the Natural Playscape	Available
Orange Trail (orange blazes)	1/4 mile	Medium: 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	Available
Garden & Barn Trails	unknown	Easy: relatively flat	None	Available
Lower Fields Trails	~1 mile	Medium: rolling hills, mowed trail	Perform ongoing observations along the transects to identify any changes before and after the clear cut	Available
Pond Loop Trail (blue blazes)	1 mile	Hard: longest available trail	None	ADOPTED for 2026 season