

WHATELY CENTER WOODS NATURE RETREAT

WHATELY, MA

DISTANCE: 1 - 1.5 MILES

MAP KEY

Suggested Route

Informal Trails

Streams

Roads

Snowmobile trails

Wetlands

Gates

PRIVATE LAND

PRIVATE LAND

PRIVATE LAND

PRIVATE CONSERVED
LAND

WHATELY CENTER WOODS
Kestrel Land Trust

BIG LOOP
TRAIL

SHORTCUT
TRAIL

NO PUBLIC ACCESS BETWEEN GATES

Mossy
bedrock

Footbridge

Boardwalk

Wetland
views

CLAVERRACK
ROAD

Bridge & Native Names Box

Snowmobile trail
in winter

Stepstones

Stairs

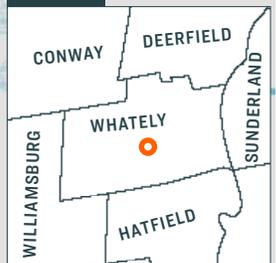
Stream
view

Stream
view

Mountain
laurel

CHESTNUT PLAIN RD

LOCATOR



0 500 FT

A TRAIL FOR EVERYONE AT

WHATELY CENTER WOODS NATURE RETREAT

WHATELY, MA

This easy double loop offers the chance to view interesting plants and large, mature trees, and to glimpse special wildlife habitats, such as vernal pools.

SUGGESTED ROUTE

This clockwise double loop can be either 1 or 1.5 miles, and features wetland views. From the parking area on Chestnut Plain Road, follow bog bridging that winds through the wetland and transitions to a larger boardwalk. Marked by blue blazes, the trail travels through the forest and connects with an old woods road. Follow the trail left to encounter one of the most beautiful sections, where two footbridges cross small streams and offer lovely spots to enjoy afternoon light. Check out the Native Names box, located between the bridges.

The trail turns right and runs alongside the stream. A staircase brings you up a short, steep grade and offers views of a small waterfall. The trail ascends gently before joining a second woods road. Those looking for a shorter hike (.88 mile) can turn right onto the Shortcut Trail, using step stones to cross the stream and following the woods road north to where it intersects with another running northeast. (Note: The Shortcut Trail is muddy in spring.)

Hikers looking for a longer loop (1.1 miles) can take a left to continue on the Big Loop. This woods road quickly meets a snowmobile trail. Turn right and enjoy stream views and thick mountain laurel alongside the trail. Follow the snowmobile trail until it connects to the woods road running northeast. Take a right onto the road and descend slightly through hemlock and beech trees. This route swings back around, completing the loop and allowing hikers to exit back through the wetland boardwalk to the parking area.



WHAT YOU CAN DO HERE



Walk/Jog



Visit Wetlands



Identify Tracks



XC Ski / Snowshoe



Cross a Bridge

DIRECTIONS

- **GPS address: 125 Chestnut Plain Rd., Whately, MA**
- Gravel parking area accommodates approximately 6 cars

YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Open dawn to dusk, year round
- Dogs must be on leash; please pick up after your pet
- Please stay on the trail and respect private property.
- Some trails are muddy after wet weather
- Boardwalks not cleared of snow in winter

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Wildlife tracks
- Spring ephemeral wildflowers like trout lilies & marsh marigold
- Picturesque stream views
- Native Names poetry box

PARTNERS MAKE CONSERVATION POSSIBLE

Kestrel Land Trust works with landowners and other partners to create, conserve, and care for public lands to help everyone connect with nature.

This land is owned and managed by Kestrel Land Trust.

For more information contact us at kestreltrust.org or call (413) 549-1097.