

HARRIS CENTER
FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

83 King's Highway, Hancock, NH 03449
harriscenter.org
(603) 525-3394

Hiroshi Loop Trail

Dinsmore Pond

940



Otter Trail

940

Nubanusit

Windy Row

1090

Route 137

5.5 miles to
center of Hancock

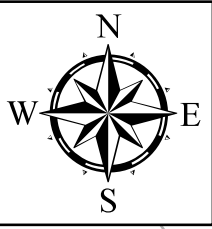
Peterborough

Harrisville

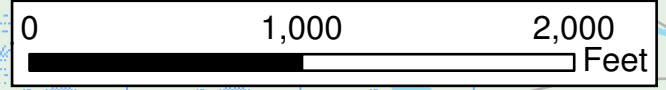
Legend

- 20 foot contours
- Viewing Site
- Parking
- Hiroshi Land
- Other Conservation Land

0.6 miles
to Spring Road



Dublin



Hiroshi Loop Trail • 1.9 miles roundtrip

About the Land

Welcome to the Hiroshi Land – a 128-acre tract of protected woodland that includes a lovely old field, as well as 9 acres of open wetland and 0.6 mile of shoreline along Nubanusit Brook. It's contiguous with 1,384 acres of conserved land in Peterborough and with a 7,142-acre conservation corridor between Nubanusit Lake and MacDowell Reservoir.

Local historical records trace this property back to 1874, when the land was farmed by Nathan Holt. At the turn of the 20th century, the Holt farmhouse was also used as a summer boarding house for tourists. In 1905, room and board at “Rock Farm” would have cost you \$1/night! The house and barn were dismantled in 2014 after many years of disrepair, and the barn timbers saved, restored, and reassembled in nearby Marlborough, NH.

The property was most recently owned by Hiroshi Hayashi, the well-known chef and restaurateur, who long sought to conserve the land. In 2014, the Harris Center purchased the land for conservation – a project made possible by friends of the SuperSanctuary and by the Town of Peterborough, through its land conservation capital reserve fund.

About the Trail

The Hiroshi Loop Trail is 1.9 miles long, and features relatively easy hiking over flat terrain marked by orange rectangles. The trail begins at the former site of Hiroshi's Monadnock School for Natural Cooking and Philosophy, the foundations of which are on your left as you enter the parking area.

To access the trail, walk through the field to a set of parallel stone walls, just left of the trail kiosk. Walk down the slope, then bear left on the old woods road for 0.3 mile until the trail splits. A right turn at the fork takes you for a meander along scenic Nubanusit Brook. The river frontage is a flood protection zone associated with the MacDowell Dam and owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. Across the brook, you can see the Sargent Center, a 700-acre outdoor education center operated by Nature's Classroom.

After 0.8 mile, you'll arrive at Dinsmore Pond, with views north to Skatutakee and Thumb Mountains. This slow-moving section of the river is a great place to watch for otters, wood ducks, kingfishers, beavers, osprey, and other wildlife. Continue for another 0.8 mile, past a small section of early successional forest, to return to the parking lot.

Spotlight on Chestnuts The saplings planted near boulders in the old field are young, blight-resistant American Chestnut trees, provided by the American Chestnut Foundation (ACF). American Chestnut once dominated Eastern forests, and was prized for its rot-resistant wood and nutritious, edible nuts. In the first half of the 20th century, it was nearly obliterated from the landscape by an introduced fungus known as the Chestnut blight. The ACF is working to restore this once abundant and important tree species to the North American landscape, including right here at the Hiroshi Land.

Your comments are welcome. Email Diana at jacobs@harriscenter.org or call us at (603) 525-3394.

illustration: Barbara Smullen



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*We love dogs!
Please be sure yours is
on a leash at all times.*

