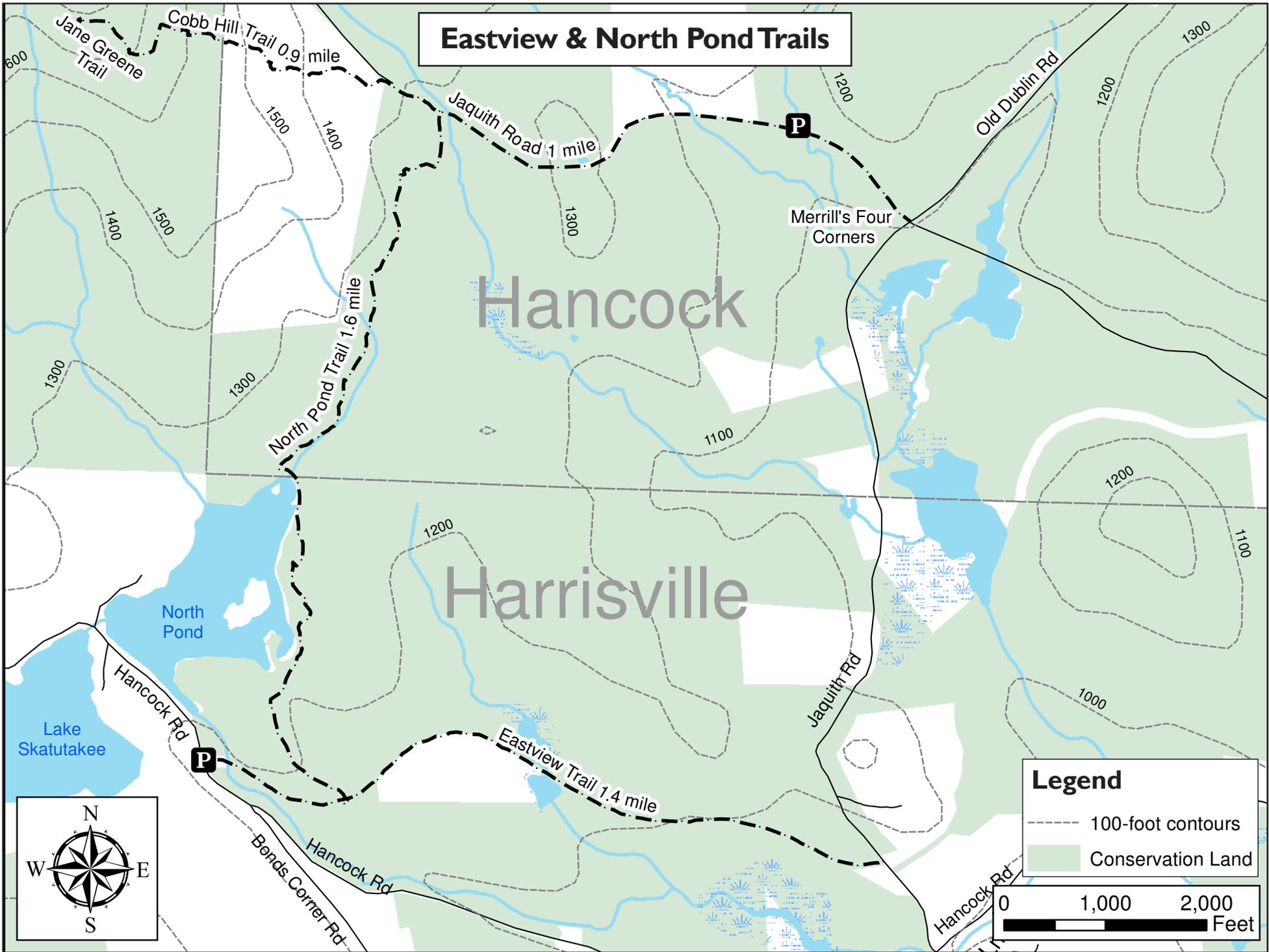


Eastview & North Pond Trails



Hancock

Harrisville

Legend

- 100-foot contours
- Conservation Land



Harrisville's Eastview Trail

EASTVIEW TRAIL is 1.4 miles long. **NORTH POND TRAIL** is 1.6 miles long.

COBB HILL TRAIL is 0.9 mile long; elevation gain is 520 feet.

NORTH POND TRAIL to Merrill's Four Corners is 1 mile.

EASTVIEW TRAIL

The Eastview trail runs east-west for 1.4 miles through land conserved by the Harris Center for Conservation Education, from Hancock Road to Jaquith Road in Harrisville, along the rail bed opened in 1878 toward Keene and Boston. The Great New England Flood of 1936 washed out several trestles, which were not replaced. Harrisville was the lowest place at which to cross the highlands between the Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers. The trail includes areas dug out and areas built up to achieve a level rail bed, no easy task in the granite of New Hampshire.

The Harrisville Trails committee installed a bridge over Nubanusit Brook, below the Skatutakee dam, in the fall of 2014. The bridge has allowed easy access to the trail for walkers, horseback riders, bicyclists, snowshoers, and skiers. No motorized vehicles are permitted.

Starting from the Hancock Road parking area, cross a wooden bridge built reusing the railroad's old trestle foundations. The water flowing under this bridge probably started near Spoonwood Pond or Lake Nubanusit in Nelson and Hancock, flowing through Harrisville, Skatutakee and North Pond to McDowell Dam and Peterborough to the Contoocook. Directly after the bridge is a log bench.

The first section of the trail is fairly high with steep drop-offs on both sides; use caution if walking with small children and dogs. The trail's high embankment places you close to the canopy of the trees on either side of the trail. If you look down, you might see the granite-block entrance to an old "sheep tunnel." When the railroad was active, the surrounding lands were farms and pastures and the granite tunnel enabled farmers to get their sheep safely from one side of the railroad to the other. There is also a section where a small stream passes under the railroad bed using the same stone pass-thru technique.

HARRISVILLE TRAILS COMMITTEE



As you continue, the sides of the trail rise up on both sides where the railroad bed was cut through a hill. This section of trail often holds water and can be wet. In winter look for mink tracks and slides in the snow on the hillsides here. Continuing on, you reach a beaver pond on both sides of the trail. Look carefully to find signs of beaver activity: cut stumps with visible incisor marks, fresh wood chips, and lodges. The beaver dam drains into a ditch that was built by the Harris Center in 2013 to divert beaver-related flooding. This section of trail can be seasonably wet.

After passing the beaver pond, the trail continues to the site of an old borrow pit, likely dating to the time of the railroad's construction. Today this sandy spot is home to big patches of lichen, which are indicators of good air quality. In June, look for pink lady's slippers here. Soon after the sand pit, the trail ends at a gate and the intersection with Jaquith Road.

PARKING: Some off-road parking is available at each end of the trail. Hancock Road side has a dirt parking area with room for at least six vehicles. Jaquith side has room for at least three vehicles in front of the gate; it is privately owned and not maintained during the winter.

NORTH POND TRAIL: This trail turns off to the left soon after you cross the Skatutakee Rail Bridge and follows the shore of North Pond. Look for vernal ponds that serve as specialized breeding habitat for spotted salamanders and wood frogs. This trail runs about 1.6 miles and intersects with Cobb Hill Trail to the left and Merrill's Four Corners to the right.

Your comments are welcome. Contact Miles at stahmann@harriscenter.org or (603) 525-3394.

These trails — and all of the Harris Center's work — are made possible through the support of donors like you: harriscenter.org/donate.