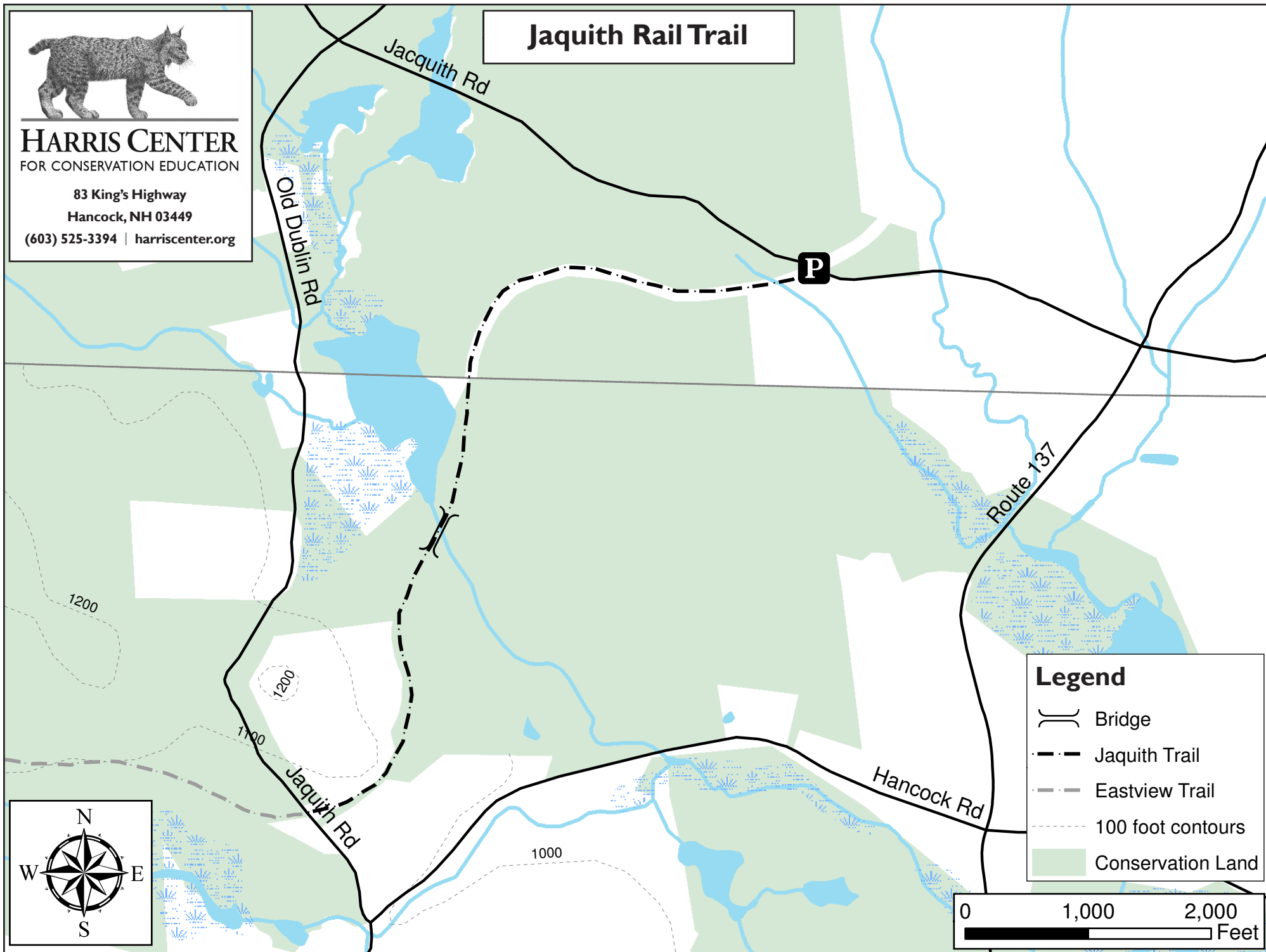


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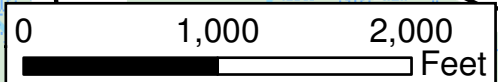
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# Jaquith Rail Trail



**Legend**

- Bridge
- Jaquith Trail
- Eastview Trail
- 100 foot contours
- Conservation Land



# Jaquith Rail Trail

## Overview

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The Jaquith Rail Trail is 1.5 miles long. It runs from Jaquith Road in Hancock to Jaquith Road in Harrisville, where it connects to the Eastview Trail.

**PARKING:** Parking is via a small trailhead off Jaquith Road in Hancock, just west of a large granite abutment.

## About the Trail

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This section of the old Manchester & Keene rail line first opened in 1878 to provide train service between Keene and Nashua. Amazingly, it only remained in service for 58 years: railroad use declined during the 1930s and the Great New England Flood of 1936 damaged many trestles that were never repaired, resulting in the closure of this rail line.

In 2018 — thanks to extraordinary donations of time, talent, materials, and funding from dozens of community members, and the efforts of both the Harris Center and Harrisville Trails — a missing 50-foot trestle over Jaquith Brook was replaced by a historic steel truss that was once used as an auto bridge in Roxbury, NH. You can reach it by walking in approx. 0.5 mile from Jaquith Road in Harrisville or 0.9 mile from the trail parking area on Jaquith Road in Hancock.

At the Jaquith Brook bridge, keep your eye peeled for these railroad relics: impressive granite abutments, railroad spikes welded to the bridge frame, a nearby mile marker, and black and gray chunks of waste coal (slag) scattered along the trail.

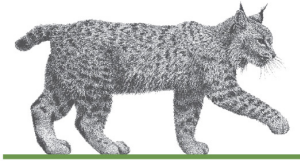
In August, not to be outdone by manmade creations, cardinal flower blooms brilliant red along the banks of Jaquith Brook, just below the bridge.

Approx. 0.2 mi. north of the bridge, look west through the woods to the edge of Merrill Marsh, which hosts nesting Great Blue Herons in spring and summer. Bring your binoculars and see if you can find their stick nests in dead snags above the wetland.

**One word of caution:** There are a number of old railroad ties buried beneath this section of trail, making for uneven footing for walkers and a bumpy ride for bicyclists.

*Your comments are welcome.* Contact Miles at [stahmann@harriscenter.org](mailto: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](https://harriscenter.org/donate).



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**All are welcome here,** regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Please respect this living landscape and all who share it with you.

*We love dogs!*

*Please be sure yours is on a leash at all times — and please carry out dog waste.*