



# Oaklands Town Forest Region

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## Natural Resources

The Oaklands Town Forest is a 230-acre area of conservation lands managed by the Exeter Conservation Commission. The property was originally conserved in the 1990s with 137 acres of additional parcels conserved adjacent to the town forest over the years. In 1991, by vote of the residents of Exeter, the land was officially designated as a Town Forest, giving it special allowances under NH Revised Statutes 31:112. The forest spans the area north of Route 101 between Watson and Newfields Roads (Rte. 85). Several trails cross onto private property, lands managed by home ownerships and conservation easements and rely on permission from the landowners.

The large unfragmented block of deciduous and conifer forests is important for wildlife diversity, quality habitat and movement corridors. This makes it an excellent spot for viewing wildlife including beavers, deer, coyote, fox, rodents, reptiles, amphibians and many bird species. The land is characterized by numerous boulder and ledge outcrops, hummocky terrain, and a number of vernal pools and wetlands. Forestry management is guided by a long term forest management plan which includes occasional selective harvesting.

## Trail Information

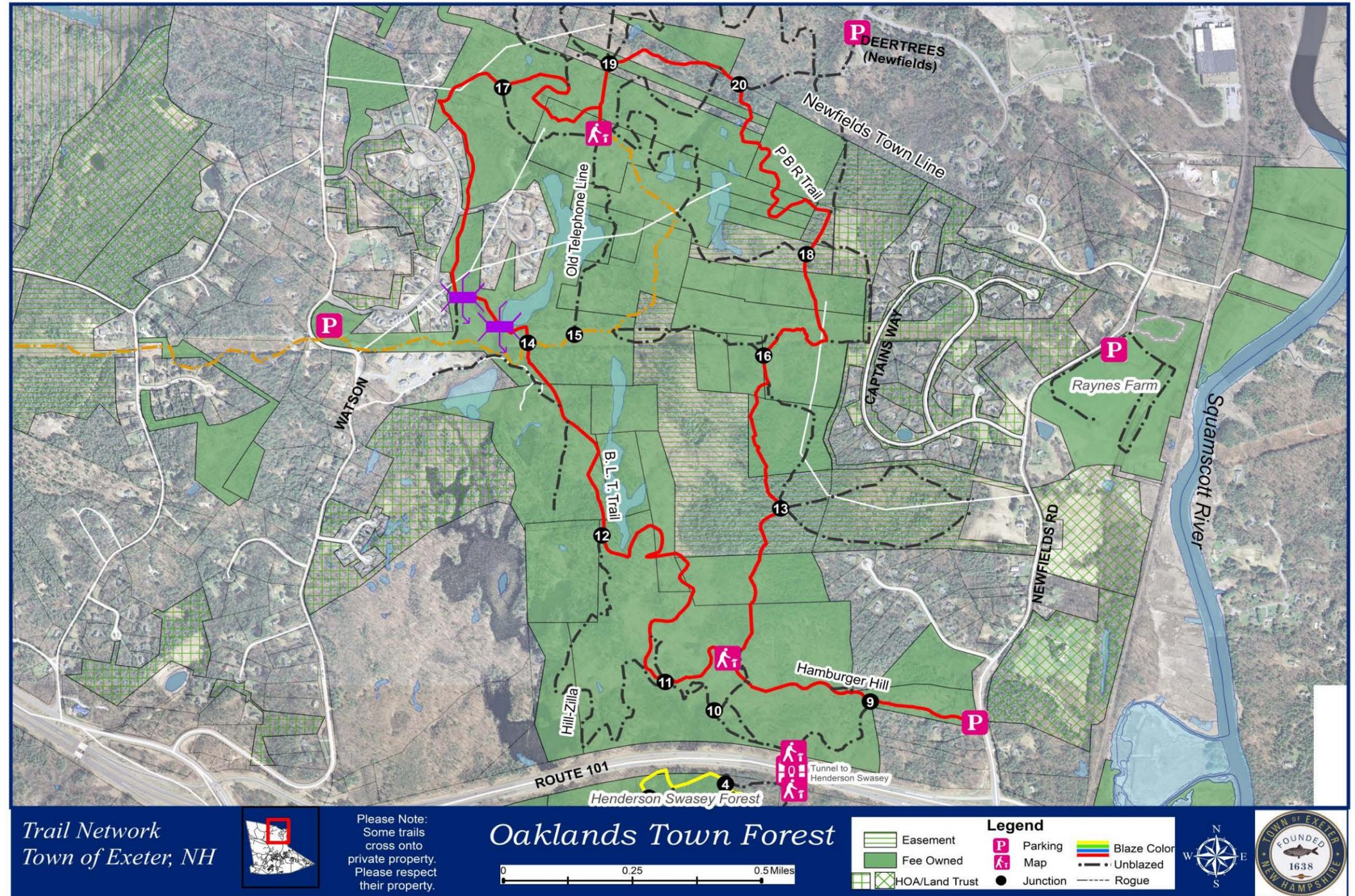
The area has a well-established trail system that provides a number of outdoor opportunities, including cross-country skiing, running and jogging, hiking, orienteering and mountain biking. The trail connects to the Henderson Swasey Town Forest trail network to the south through a large culvert that runs beneath Route 101. The trails extend into Newfields to a parking lot on Deertrees Ln. Though the main trailhead is west of Newfields Road, additional access points occur at Watson Road, and intercept private land within the Forest Ridge and Captains Meadow land.

Temporary closures may occur during very muddy or wet conditions. Closures will be posted at entrance kiosks and the Town of Exeter website. Private landowners have the right to limit access. Please respect closures for the benefit of all users.

## Compatible Uses

The property is open year round for passive recreation such as hiking, wildlife viewing, biking, winter snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, and hunting in season. Users should wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

Leashed dogs under their owners control are permitted. As a courtesy to others and out of respect to your trail system, please carry-in-carry out all trash and clean up dog waste.



## First Time to Our Trails?

This is a complex network of trails. Only our colored trails have painted blazes, with double blazes indicating direction changes. Though we attempt to keep blazes maintained, a forest is a dynamic system and markers may or may not always be visible. Always follow safe hiking standards, let others know your hike plan, be adequately dressed and carry food and water, be aware of sunset times, pay attention to your surroundings, weather and trail conditions. Staying safe is YOUR responsibility.

## Compatible Uses:

- Hiking
- Snowshoeing/XC Skiing
- Wildlife Viewing
- Other passive recreation
- Hunting is permitted

## Distances:

5.1 mi. Red Loop

YOU ARE HERE



**REMEMBER**  
Please take only pictures and leave only footprints.

