

Pleasant Hill Preserve

Letterbox Location #1

Color: RED

Difficulty: Medium

Walking distance total: 2.5 miles

Pleasant Hill Preserve was once a working farm, owned by Jerrerd Benjamin from the 1960's onward. After Benjamin's death, SLT purchased the land from his children. These 135 acres used to be home to cattle, pigs, sheep, geese and chickens. Now, the fields are full of wildflowers and barn swallows have made the structure their home.

Directions & Clues:

Follow Eleanor's Trail (gravel) until you see the barn. Across from the barn, to the right, begins a small woods' trail which immediately goes uphill. This is the beginning of Monty's Trail which makes a large loop around the property.

This meandering trail cuts through a mixed forest, meaning that there are both coniferous and deciduous trees growing here. Notice the small white pines and the large red oaks. You will see one of these huge red oaks after about one minute of walking.

Keep going passed the "No Vehicle" sign. Soon you will pass a tree growing on top of a rock. Keep going. The trail will make a dramatic left, stop. If you've passed a large rock wall on your left, you've gone too far!



Notice the small tree with 2 arrow blazes on it. Stand facing that tree. Off the same side of that trail about 15 feet to your right, you will see a 3 stemmed oak tree. Walk to the base of that tree and find the letterbox hiding inside a hollow!

*Please remember to return all items to the container: SLT stamp, ink pad, pen, and SLT notebook. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.*

Continue your hike: Keep walking on Monty's trail through forest and fields. Once you reach the fork, you may continue even further on Monty's Trail and complete the loop, or you can cut back towards the barn using the Swallow's Field trail.

Thanks for visiting Pleasant Hill Preserve!

Libby River Farm Preserve

Letterbox Location #2

Color: ORANGE

Difficulty: Medium

Walking distance total: 2.25 miles

Libby River is a major wetland area along Scarborough Marsh. With more than 80 species of birds and an observation platform, this property is an excellent destination for birdwatching. The endangered New England cottontail rabbit uses the early successional forests as its home.



Directions & Clues:

Continue along the access trail towards the preserve. You are currently walking on Camp Ketcha property so please be respectful and stay on the trail. Along the way, you will notice many types of ferns, shrubs, and trees. If you are hiking in the foliage months, you'll see a short bush, about 3 feet tall with skinny and long leaves. Grab a leaf and smell it- is it sweet? Does it remind you of an herb from your garden? This is Sweetfern, a native, and sweet-smelling shrub in Maine.

You will eventually see stick forts. At the intersection, go left to stay on SLT trails. Once you've passed the stick forts, veer left at the next fork. Soon you'll see a sign that says "Entering Libby River Farm Preserve".

Once you enter SLT property, there will be another informational kiosk. Stand facing that kiosk, and go left. This parcel was purchased by SLT in 1996 so the forest has had over 25 years to grow older, and older it will continue to grow.

Soon the trail will turn into a wetland, then it will open up into a small field. Stay left, and head towards the observation platform. Among this field, wildflowers flourish from May to September- Rugosa rose, hawkweed, and tufted vetch, to name a few.

Once you reach the observation platform, instead of walking up the stairs, duck underneath them and find the letterbox tucked away in between the steps.

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Continue your hike: Walk back the way you came, or head back on the Lucy Sprague Trail by taking a left once you exit the small field.. You will come out on the other side of the kiosk. Then continue to the parking lot on the access trail you entered on.

Thanks for visiting Libby River Farm Preserve!

Blue Point Preserve

Letterbox Location #3

Color: YELLOW

Difficulty: Easy

Walking distance total: 1 mile

Blue Point Preserve features vistas of the marsh after a short half a mile walk from the parking lot. This land was a potential site for shellfish harvesting by the Sokokis people of the Abenaki Tribe. In the 1600s, people dug ditches in the marsh to control tides and harvest hay. Neighborhood kids used to ice skate over the marshlands.

Directions & Clues:

At the parking area, locate the kiosk at the trail head and continue along the trail.

At the north and south leg intersection, take the south leg to the right. First you can check out the pitch pines to your left at the very beginning of the north leg trail.

Pines are coniferous trees- that is, trees with needles instead of leaves. The taller pines here are Maine's state tree- the white pine. Pitch pines are the shorter pines on this trail. These trees have adapted to grow in sandy soil. There are not too many more of these pines left in the state of Maine, so SLT is working to save them by opening up the surrounding canopy.



Continue on the south leg until you see where the north leg meets back up with the south leg on left. Take the north leg trail. (You will also see the bench and a post which is Climate Change Observation Log. If you wish, take a picture to contribute to the citizen science project!)



Enter the north leg and almost immediately on your right, you will see a big white pine. (Note: this trail may be closed due to the work that's being done on the other side. You may walk into the trail because the letterbox is only a few steps in). White pines like these were harvested all across the coast of Maine for ship building in the colonial days. Find the letterbox hiding under birch bark in the center of the branches in the pine tree.

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Continue your hike: You may take the north or south leg back to the parking lot.

Thanks for visiting Blue Point Preserve!

Warren Woods Preserve

Letterbox Location #4

Color: GREEN

Difficulty: Medium

Walking distance total: 1.5 miles

Warren Woods was once cleared as a golf course but plans were not fully executed. The Warren family sold the property to SLT in 2012, and over the last decade the fields have been transformed into an oasis of wildflowers. Species such as sheep laurel, cranberries, blueberries, orchids, and many more have been identified here.

Directions & Clues:



*Wild blueberries*

Begin at the kiosk. Take the left-most trail. If you're visiting in midsummer, check the trailside for wild blueberries! At the next fork, stay left on sarsaparilla trail. At the third fork, continue right to stay on Sarsaparilla Trail. Stay left again, at the next fork.

Very soon you will enter a triangle shape intersection. Begin by going right on Cranberry Trail. You'll notice several White Pine saplings to the right. Walk until you reach the edge of these pines (only take about ten steps).

Once you reach that corner of the triangle (if there are no pines to your right, you've gone too far), look left. There are big pines in a mature forest. Head towards them into the tree line.

Look for a multi-stemmed red maple on the tree line. You may also see a 1.5 ft tall post in the ground on the edge of the tree line. Locate multi-stemmed red maple (tree is just to the left of this post) and find the letterbox wedged in crevice at the base of the tree, hidden by some birch logs.



*Triangle intersection*

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*Sundew plant*

Continue your hike: If you'd like to continue on the Cranberry Trail, you will eventually walk past Sundews which are carnivorous plants-plants that eat bugs!

Thanks for visiting Warren Woods Preserve!

Sewell Woods Preserve

Letterbox Location #5

Color: BLUE

Difficulty: Easy

Walking distance total: 1 mile

Sewell Woods was donated by Albert G. Sewell, Jr in 1996. He had owned the land since 1935 and managed it for timber precisely which is why a mature forest exists here today. This property is seasonally wet, so even if the land is dry during your visit, there is bound to be water there in another season.

Directions & Clues:

At kiosk enter trail. There will be a fork immediately. Take a right. There will be another fork shortly after. Stay right.



Continue over the metal bridge, then take a sharp right onto the Albert Sewell Loop. This area is full of big white pines and a few hemlocks. Walk past the small birch on left and the fallen tree that's been sawed to clear the trail. Next, walk just past the red oak with the white blaze. Stop. Look left here and see another fallen tree, covered in moss (the root ball is up out of the ground). Look under the tree trunk of this fallen conifer.

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Continue your hike: To lengthen your hike, continue on the Albert Sewell Loop where you will see very old bog bridges and wetlands. This loop will take you to the other side of the property and eventually to the parking lot.

Thanks for visiting Sewell Woods Preserve!

## Fuller Farm Preserve

### Letterbox Location #6

Color: PURPLE

Difficulty: Easy

Walking distance total: 1 mile

Fuller Farm has the most trails out of all SLT preserves and is among the most popular for people to walk their dogs or take a stroll. There is a waterfall that runs in the spring, many Bobolinks nesting in the fields in the summer, and beautiful fall foliage to be seen in the fall. It is also a fun place to snowshoe or cross-country ski in the winter time.

### Directions & Clues:

At the kiosk, head to the right side where the Maine Trail begins. Continue along that trail for another eighth of a mile. Along the way, you may notice plants and trees are tagged with pink flagging tape or you may see black plastic bags. This area has many invasive species and our stewardship team is working to remove them. The pink flagging signifies a plant that should be removed, and the black bags are covering the stumps of plants that have already been removed.



Soon, you will see the Overlook Trail on your left- go past this entrance. After a minute on the Maine Trail, there is another entrance (also on the left) to the Overlook Trail- take this trail. The Overlook Trail hugs the tree line through the meadow. Can you identify the Quaking Aspens on the edge of the field? The trail goes some trees, then back into the meadow. Once you get to a fork, take a right onto the Waterfall Trail. Continue for about 2 minutes on this trail.

Within those 2 minutes, the trail will turn into forest habitat. After an abandoned trail to your left, walk another few steps, and look right to see a “Helping Wildlife” sign (Look closely! This sign is set behind some branches). This sign explains how changes to the landscape can encourage habitat for wildlife such as New England Cottontails, which are an endangered species.



Stand facing the sign and to the right, there is a small boulder. You will find the letterbox wedged under the boulder and hidden under some smaller stones.

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Continue your hike: If you chose to keep hiking, continue along the Waterfall Trail where towards the end of that trail, you can see a waterfall in the spring months.

Thanks for visiting Fuller Farm Preserve!

## Broadturn Farm Preserve

Letterbox Location #7

Color: PINK

Difficulty: Easy

Walking distance total: 1 mile

Broadturn is the only working farm on SLT property. The land is leased to local farmers John Bliss and Stacy Brenner. Silver Brook runs through the property and one can see the gentle stream by walking the Silver Brook Trail or locating the small waterfall.

### Directions & Clues:

Start at the kiosk. Notice all the large red oaks at the trail head. Begin by following Sandi's Silver Brook Trail. Follow signs to stay on the trail (not towards farmstead). The trail continues downhill.



At the sign take a right and go over the bridge. Immediately at the end of the bridge to the right, there is a 4 stemmed beech. It has beech bark disease, which is a fungal parasite that kills beech trees.

The trail continues uphill. Follow the blue blazes along the trail until you see a small red oak with blue blaze on left side. Just after this, make a left down an old woods' road (trail turns right, but you go left).

Right away you will see 2 stumps on right. Walk another 20 feet and see another stump with all its roots sticking up on right side of the trail. The letterbox is hidden in that stump.



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Continue your hike: On your way back to the parking lot, go the other direction at the sign to check out the small waterfall!

Thanks for visiting Broadturn Farm Preserve!