

Blue Heron Preserve

Letterbox Location #1

Difficulty: Easy

Walking distance total: .2 miles

Blue Heron Preserve is 12 acres and includes a 2.7-acre conservation easement held by Scarborough Land Trust. The landowner has generously allowed and built the existing trail through the conservation easement. This partnership allows the public to enjoy access to this preserve that touches the Nonesuch River.

Directions & Clues: Begin at the kiosk. Take the Blue Heron trail. As you wander down the trail, you will notice older eastern white pines to your left and lots of wild sarsaparilla to your right.



Fallen White Pine

The trail will bend to the left, and you might have to step over the trunk of a fallen white pine. Soon you will see an SLT boundary marker to the left. Keep walking.

You will reach the end of the trail when it dead ends into tall grasses that overlook an entrance to the Nonesuch River. At the end of the trail, locate two maple trees that have grown very close together. The letterbox will be nestled between the base of these two trees.

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return

all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.



Nonesuch River Overlook

Continue your hike: Walk back on the Blue Heron Trail to return to the parking lot.

Thank you for visiting Blue Heron Preserve!

Blue Point Preserve

Letterbox Location #2

Difficulty: Easy

Walking distance total: 1 mile

Blue Point Preserve features vistas of the marsh after a short half-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 trailhead 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.



Citizen Science Project

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.



Eastern White Pine

Continue on the south leg until you see where the north leg meets back up with the south leg on the left. Take the north leg trail. (You will also see the bench and a post, which is a 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. White pines like these were harvested all across the coast of Maine for shipbuilding in the colonial days. Walk only a few steps into the north leg trail and find the letterbox hiding under birch bark in the center of the branches in the pine tree.

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.

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

Thank you for visiting Blue Point Preserve!

Broadturn Farm Preserve

Letterbox Location #3

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 trailhead. Begin by following Sandi's Silver Brook Trail. Follow signs to stay on the trail (not towards the farmstead). The trail continues downhill.



Silver Brook Waterfall

At the sign, take a right and go over the bridge. If you're curious flip over a few rocks in Silver Brook to see some macroinvertebrates.

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

right, but you go left).

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

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.



Maple Trees In The Fall

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

Thank you for visiting Broadturn Farm Preserve!

Fuller Farm Preserve

Letterbox Location #4

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 nest in the fields in the summer, and there is beautiful foliage to be seen in the fall. It is also a fun place to snowshoe or cross-country ski in the wintertime.

Directions & Clues: Face the kiosk and walk towards the right side of the parking lot to begin on the Maine trail. Continue straight onto the Maine trail and over the boardwalk. You might notice wooden nesting boxes off to the side of the trail. These are Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes. During the spring and summer, if you listen closely, you can hear baby birds chirping. Please do not open the nesting box without authorized SLT personnel.



Eastern Bluebird Nesting Boxes

Soon, you will start to go uphill, and then you will see a sign for the Bird Trail to your right. Follow the Bird Trail. This trail has a more dense tree canopy and also some wetland features. Multiple streams and brooks cross over the Bird Trail.

Continue ahead on the boardwalks. Soon, you will notice a lower boardwalk off to the left; continue walking. After about 200 ft you will reach a break in the boardwalks, and a new one will begin. Once you reach the beginning of the second boardwalk, the letterbox will be underneath the first plank.

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.

Continue your hike: You may continue along the Bird Trail, which will connect back to the Maine Trail. You may also branch off onto the Brook Trail or Waterfall Trail, which features a waterfall in the spring months.

Thank you for visiting Fuller Farm Preserve!

Hemlock Grove Preserve

Letterbox Location #5

Difficulty: Easy

Walking distance total: .5 miles

Hemlock Grove Preserve was granted to Scarborough Land Trust for conservation when the neighboring development was planned. On the property are seasonal and perennial streams that flow into the Dunstan River, and wetland plants like skunk cabbage can be seen lining the sides of the streams.

Directions & Clues: Begin walking on the White Pine Way trail to the right of the kiosk. You will walk through an eastern white pine corridor, and then the trail will split, go left to follow the Esker trail.

Look off to your right, you will notice a gully which is a glacial feature called an esker. Eskers are comprised of sand, gravel, and boulders and create knolls and steep gullies. Eskers are formed by subglacial rivers depositing sand and stone that was scraped up by the glacier as it travelled across the landscape. You will pass another esker on the right.

Follow the trail left around the bend, and off to your left, there will be a double-stemmed northern red oak. The letterbox is between the two trunks.



Glacial Esker

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.

Continue your hike: You can continue on the Esker trail, which will cut across to the Carpenter Court trail, or you can take your next right, which will lead you to the .5 mile Town Loop Trail.

Thank you for visiting Hemlock Grove Preserve!

Libby River Farm Preserve

Letterbox Location #6

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.



Sweet Fern

Also, the endangered New England cottontail rabbit can be spotted in this successional forest.

Directions & Clues: Start on the trail to the right of the kiosk. 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 lead and smell it- is it sweet? Does it remind you of an herb from your garden? This is sweetfern, a native, 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 the 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 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.



Observation Deck

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.

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.

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 used to enter.

Thank you for visiting Libby River Preserve!

Pleasant Hill Preserve

Letterbox Location #7

Difficulty: Medium

Walking distance total: 2.5 miles

Pleasant Hill Preserve was once a working farm, owned by Herred Benjamin from the 1960s 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 a home in the barn.

Directions & Clues: Follow Eleanor's Trail (ADA compatible) 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.



Boardwalk and Barn

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.

Soon, you will pass a tree growing on top of a rock.

Keep going. The trail will make a dramatic left turn. Stop. If you've passed a large rock wall on your left, you've gone too far!

Off to the left side of the 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!

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.



Elm Tree Over 200 Years old!

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.

Thank you for visiting Pleasant Hill Preserve!

Sewell Woods Preserve

Letterbox Location #8

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, 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 the kiosk, enter the trail. There will be a fork immediately. Take a right and continue to stay right.



Metal Bridge

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 the left and the fallen tree that's been sawn to clear the trail. Next, walk just past two red maples. Stop. Look left here and see another fallen tree covered in moss (the root ball is up out of the ground). The letterbox is tucked under the trunk of this fallen conifer.

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.

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.



Tree With Horse Hoof Fungus

Thank you for visiting Sewell Woods Preserve!

Warren Woods Preserve

Letterbox Location #9

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.



Wild Blueberries

Directions & Clues: 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 on Sarsaparilla Trail. Veer right to continue on the Sarsaparilla Trail. Stay left at the next fork.

Very soon, you will enter a triangle-shaped intersection. Continue onto the Sarasparilla Trail. In about 50 ft, you will reach another fork; stay right.

After a few more steps, you will notice another triangular intersection on the left. There is a red maple tree growing into an eastern white pine; the letterbox is between the pine and maple stumps.

Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.

Continue your hike: If you'd like to continue on the Sarasparilla Trail, you can make a loop that will take you back to the parking area. You may also turn around to the previous triangle intersection and take the Cranberry Trail. The Cranberry Trail features sundews, which are carnivorous plants that eat bugs!



Sundew (Carnivorous Plant)

Thank you for visiting Warren Woods Preserve!