

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!