

Norwich Nature Area Trails

1 mile or less

Moderate

The trail described here loops through the middle section of the Nature Area, passing by an interesting diversity of tree species, seasonal wildflowers and geologic features. Some roots and rocks are present, along with a few small hills. From the parking lot, follow the trail straight ahead past a bulletin board and several trails that branch off to the left. Continue to a field and proceed uphill, bearing slightly left. Enter the woods by a stone bench, and bear slightly left. (Turning right takes you on a longer loop.). At the second fork after the meadow (about 50 yards), bear right. The trail then makes a broad circle around a series of NE/SW rocky ridges. Continue straight along, when the previously mentioned outer loop comes in from the right, and proceed part way down the hill. Turn left at the next fork, noting rocky outcroppings on the hillside to your left. The trail continues to circle around to the left. You will notice a fence and a house on the right. Proceed straight ahead when another trail comes in on the left, and over two small rises. You finish in the parking lot behind the Marion Cross School. Follow the driveway down to the original starting point.

NOTE - On the map for this trail, North is to the left rather than towards the top.

Directions: From the center of Norwich, take Main St. toward I-91 and turn left at the east end of the green, in front of the Marion Cross School where a historic sign marks the Theta Chi Fraternity. Follow the driveway toward the Marion Cross School and turn into the 1st parking lot on the right. The trailhead is at the end of the lot.

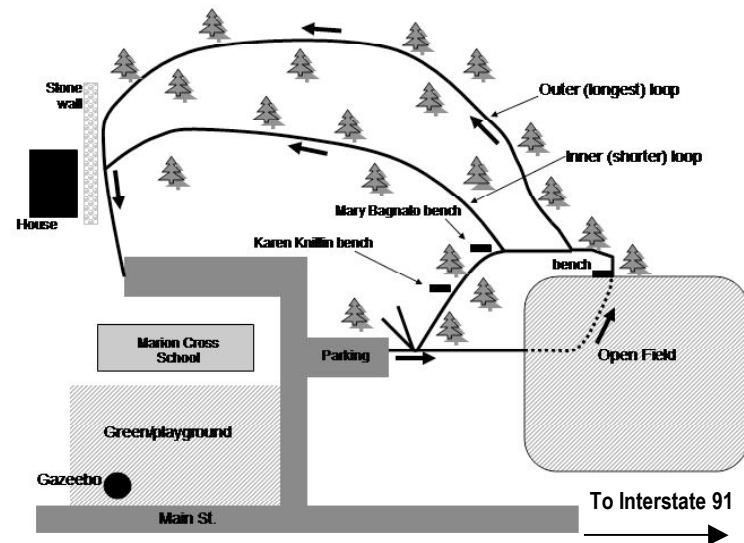
Parking: Available at the Marion Cross School and is free. Note that the driveway is closed to all traffic during the bus times noted on the driveway sign. (7:30 - 8:00 A.M.; 2:50 - 3:20 P.M.)

Uses: Trail is open to foot travel only. Dogs are allowed, but must be restrained and owners are requested to carry out dog litter.

The Nature Area also contains historical markers, interpretive signs and several marked orienteering locations with a map locating them at the trailhead. XC-Skiing and off-trail wandering are allowed, but please be respectful of natural features.

Extension Suggestions: Other loops are possible and marked on the trailhead map. Maps are also available at the town hall for no charge. About 75 yards after leaving the meadow and taking a right, a trail breaks off to the left and heads up a small valley, gradually climbing the hillside to the top of the ridge, before looping back to the middle trail. It is designed as a ski trail with gradual ascents/descents and wide corners, but it is not groomed. Natural hazards and snow conditions exist. (**Note:** Many unauthorized trails have arisen in the nature area. Please do not follow these trails, as repeated use will tramp them down further.)

Ownership/Maintenance: The 36 acre Norwich Nature Area is owned by the town of Norwich, managed by the Milton Frye Natural Area Committee, and conserved by the Upper Valley Land Trust.



←North