

Pine Park Trail

1.7 mile loop

Moderate

This loop walk is fairly easy with only a few climbs. It is on a dirt path that travels through pine and hemlock forests. The trail starts as a gravel golf cart path to the right of the clubhouse, at the end of Rope Ferry Road. After 40 yards, the trail turns east and descends to Girl Brook, which it then follows north and west to the banks of the Connecticut River. The trail is well maintained as it runs south along the river, and is relatively smooth, except for a few rocks and roots. As the trail turns away from the river, it begins to go up a long (0.2 mile) but not too steep hill, which crests as you come back out of the woods and onto the golf course. The path then leads back to the paved road just west of the clubhouse and starting point. This is a beautiful walk, close to downtown Hanover, that you should definitely get out and enjoy!

Directions: Travel to the end of Rope Ferry Road and turn left down the hill just as the road ends. There is a small parking area at the bottom of the hill on the edge of the golf course.

Parking: The parking area is next the golf course and across the street from Occum Pond and the DOC Rental House.

Uses: This trail is open only to foot travel year round and skiing in the winter, though Freshman Hill (to your left as you exit the woods at the end of the trail) is a favorite wintertime sledding spot.

Extension Suggestions: There are two trails in the middle of this loop that can extend or shorten the walk. The first trail you can take off of the left is called the Esker Trail and is 0.5-mile long climb that exits onto the 5th tee of the golf course. The Cathedral Aisle Trail, which splits off later, is 0.3 miles long and keeps in the woods, rather than skirting the riverbank. It is the second trail you can take left off of the original loop and rejoins the main trail right before the climb up the hill to the golf course. You can extend this route even farther by

beginning at the Hanover Inn on the corner of Wheelock and Main street. By walking from here to Occum pond via Rope Ferry Road you can add a mile each way to your walk.

Ownership/Permissions: Pine Park, Hanover's first natural area, is managed jointly by a town selected manager and a Dartmouth College manager who report to the Board of the Pine Park Association. In addition, the Girl Brook section contains an easement granted to the Town on Hanover by Dartmouth College.

