

McCann Family Farm

The popular beautiful, hilly, 84 acre McCann Family Farm stretches from near the center of Somers on Route 190 up the northwestern slopes of Soapstone Mountain. The entrance and parking area are located on the south side of Route 190 about 0.7 miles east of the light at Rt. 83 or 0.5 miles west of the light at Gulf Road. Both the parking area and the access trail leading to the preserve on the far side of Gulf Stream are on a right-of-way granted to the Northern Connecticut Land Trust. Please respect private property by not wandering into the hay fields bordering the parking area and access trail. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash at all times. No motorized vehicles or horses are allowed. The parking area is plowed following winter storms to allow access for passive winter recreation activities.

About 1/3 of the acreage on the property is used to produce hay, while the rest exhibits a wide variety of habitats including streams, vernal pools, wetlands, fallow fields, stands of early successional trees and shrubs, mixed forest, and a pine plantation - making it a delight for hiking and a valuable resource for teaching about natural history related subjects. More than 300 species of trees, flowers, ferns, and other plants have been identified thus far and more than 120 species of birds have been recorded.

Two marked trails are maintained as well as several unmarked paths. The 1.95 Shady Brook Trail (blue diamonds) stays in the northern 2/3 of the property, while the 3.0 mile Jerry Stage Trail (yellow diamonds) visits the southern boundary area. Both run together until reaching the north side of Shady Brook. The trails also connect to the Whitaker Woods trail system to the north and east. Visitors are welcome to walk along the edges of the hay fields but please refrain from crossing the fields which damages the hay crop.