Whitaker Woods Trail System

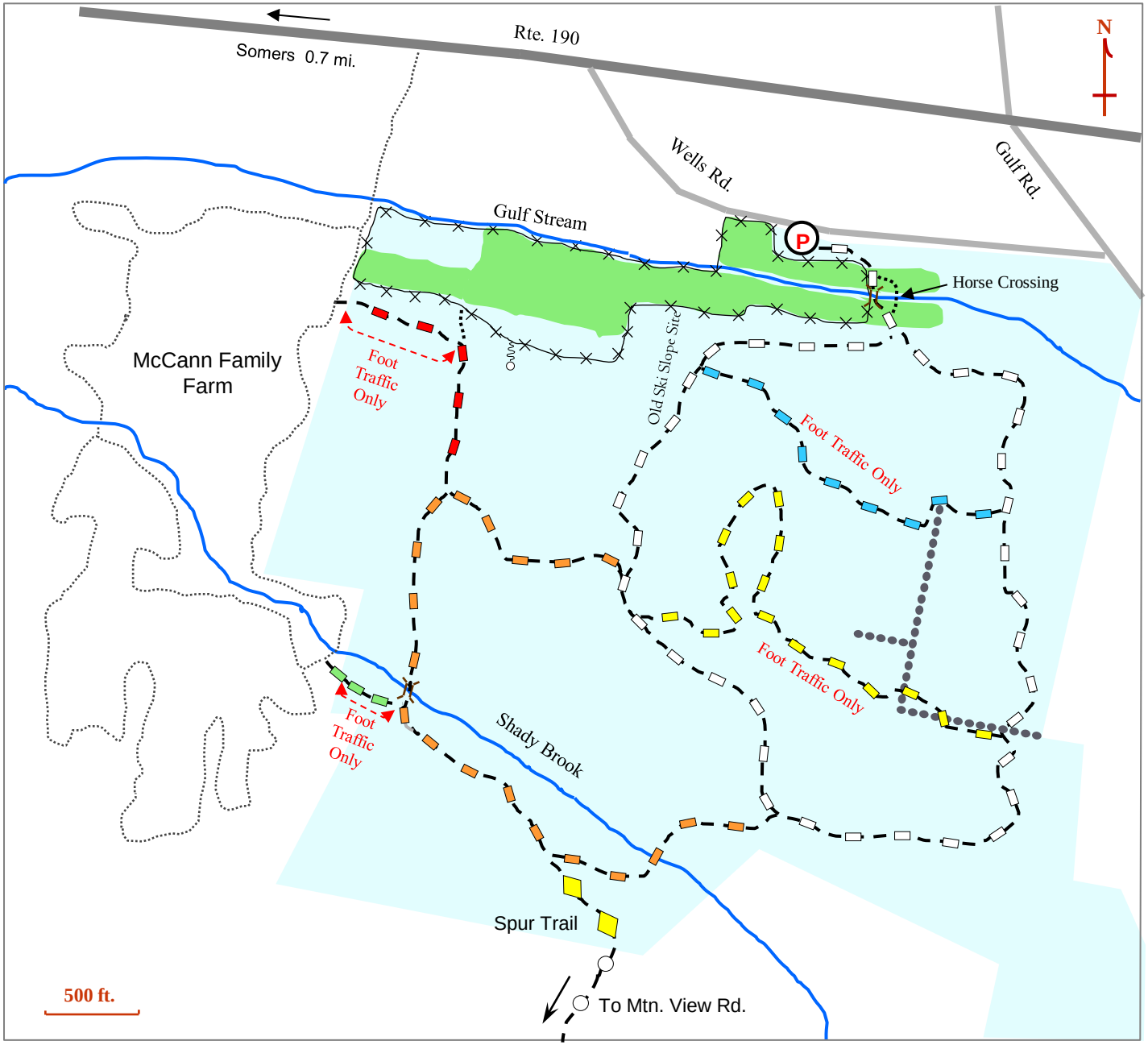
Built and Maintained by Northern CT. Land Trust

The Trails

- Old Forest Loop (1.7 mi.)
- W – M Link (0.1 mi.)
- Pinecone Trail (0.3 mi.)
- Upper Shady Brook Trail (0.9 mi)
- Underhill Trail (0.4 mi.)
- Overhill Trail (0.8 mi.)
- McCann Farm Trails

- Whitaker Woods
- Fields & Pasture
- Trail Bridge
- Stone Wall
- Spring
- Pasture Fence

Horses are allowed on Whitaker trails except where noted.



Whitaker Woods

Length: A total of almost 5 miles of trails with opportunities for several loop hikes of various length and difficulty.
Difficulty: Varying from Easy to Moderate
Land Owner: Northern CT Land Trust

Whitaker Woods is a unique 266-acre property in the center of Somers that is pristinely maintained. The land is characterized by a variety of terrain with the network of trails taking you past stonewalls, over brooks, through stands of mature white pine, and across open fields. ***Motorized vehicles are not allowed.*** Hikers are asked to keep dogs leashed and under control at all times. All trails except the Overhill Trail and Underhill Trail are also open to horses and riders. A total of almost five miles of trails have been built which create the opportunity for several loop hikes of various length and difficulty.

The main trail is the Old Forest Loop which starts and ends at the Wells Road parking area. The name of this trail reflects the fact that over time this woodland will be allowed to mature to old growth forest with no cutting except that required to keep the trails maintained and safe. This 1.8-mile long trail follows old woods roads for almost its entire length with steady climbs to its highest elevation at the top of the loop whether walked clockwise or counterclockwise. The trail is open to horses with a separate stream crossing across Gulf Stream to avoid the pedestrian bridge. All the other trails are accessed from the Old Forest Loop, branching off at various points. Two trails also connect to trails at the adjacent McCann Family Farm also protected by the Northern Connecticut Land Trust.

The Underhill Trail provides the opportunity for a shorter one-mile loop although the trail is rougher under foot since it does not follow a pre-existing woods road. Highlights of this trail are a section along a beautiful old stone wall and another section along the base of some large ledges (hence the name Underhill). Deer are often spotted in this section of Whitakers.

The Overhill Trail creates a slightly longer loop than staying on the Old Forest Loop. Like the Underhill Trail it passes along an impressive section of stone wall at its eastern end. It then follows a broad ridge which includes the highest elevation in Whitaker Woods then descends along the top of the same ledges seen from the Underhill Trail. At a couple of look-outs you can see the Underhill Trail in the trees below you. It then circles around and eventually descends a small ravine before rejoining the Old Forest Loop.

The longest loop in Whitaker Woods at 2.5-miles combines the Upper Shady Brook Trail with the Old Forest Loop. The Upper Shady Brook Trail starts just past the long climb on the western side of the Old Forest Loop and passes through some beautiful stands of white pine before reaching a bridge over Shady Brook. The bridge is interesting since it pre-dates the trail by several years. It was built as an Eagle Scout project in anticipation of NCLT creating the trail. About half way around the upper Shady Brook Trail the short Spur Trail climbs a hill to the west leaving NCLT property and connecting to the Forest View Trail which continues to Mountain View Road. The Upper Shady Brook Trail again crosses Shady Brook on stepping stones before eventually rejoining the Old Forest Loop.

The Somers Recreation Department would like to thank the dedicated organizations and passionate volunteers including the Northern Connecticut Land Trust and Somers Open Space & Trails Committee for their tremendous efforts in the preservation and maintenance of the trail networks outlined within.