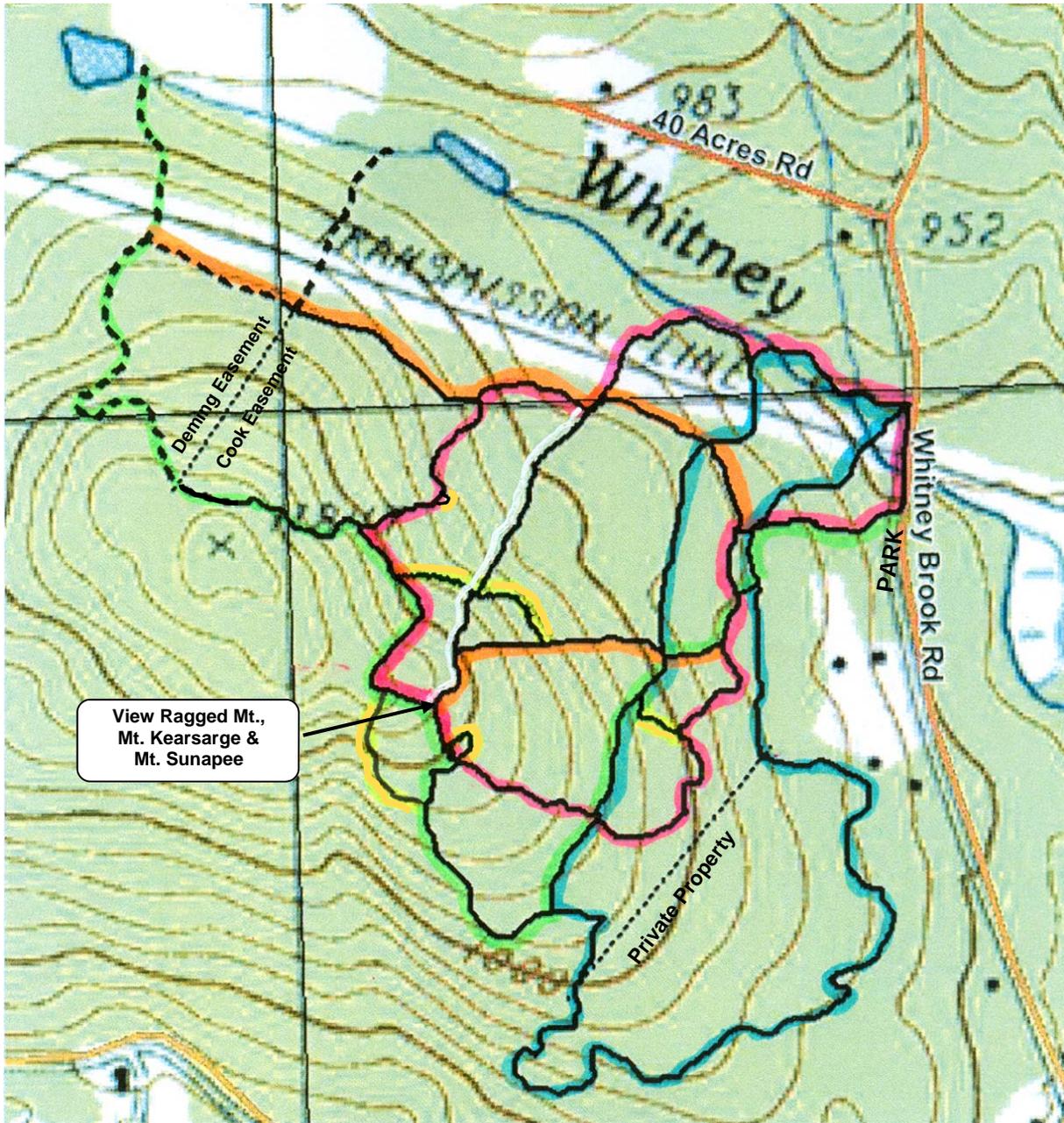


Trail Map

Dave & Celeste Cook Easement



Property Description: With 580 feet of frontage on Whitney Brook Road, this 69 acre easement shares 725 feet of boundary with the 125 acres of the Deming easement (#22) to the northwest. Situated on the southerly (Elkins) end of the small ridge along the eastern side of Pleasant Lake, the land, once used for farming and logging, is almost entirely wooded, including several trees (ash, yellow birch, hemlock, sugar maple, white pine) of considerable size. To preserve these and the forest growing up around them, the easement language states a goal of encouraging and preserving "a healthy natural forest in which groves of big trees will thrive for 100, 200 and even 300 years, to be observed and enjoyed throughout their lifetimes by the general public." No development permitted. Foot traffic only. Suitable for snowshoeing in winter. In 2007, David and Celeste Cook gifted the property to New London Conservation Commission.

Drive Directions: From Exit 11 off I-89 take Route 11 travel east toward Andover for 2.1 miles. Turn left on Elkins Rd. Continue on Elkins Rd. past the dam at the south end of Pleasant Lake. Elkins Rd. bears right past the dam, you continue straight on Wilmot Center Rd. for 3/4 of a mile. Turn left on unpaved Whitney Brook Rd. Travel .4 mile on Whitney Brook Rd. and park on the west side of the road near the Ausbon Sargent Cook Easement signs. Trail complex starts at the signs.

Trail Descriptions: [See next page for detailed trail descriptions.] Hikers have many choices from loop hikes to joining the 2.7 mile Pleasant Lake High Trail. From hikes with views to intimate encounters with the trees, brooks and glacial erratics (granite boulders) that define this part of NH. Be sure to download the brochure of the Cook Interpretive Trail and the Cook Quest from the New London Trails section of the Ausbon Sargent web site www.ausbonsargent.org.

GUIDE TO TRAIL BLAZINGS/MARKINGS COOK EASEMENT

Trail identification Color is a 1.5" dot placed at base of trapezoid.

A pair of same colored dots indicates the start or finish of the trail.

The dot closest to the trapezoid indicates the primary trail.

Main Trails color coding (total trail length on Cook easement = 4+ miles):

- **Pleasant Lake High Trail (PLHT)** also known as the "carrot" trail. Rated moderate; elevation gain of 395'; .9 miles long on the Cook Easement. The Pleasant Lake High Trail is 2.7 miles in total length crossing the Cook, Deming, Cantor and Webb properties, ending at the Wolf Tree/Webb Interpretive Loop/SRK Greenway intersection at Sargent Brook. It is a major trail. Great views. Dramatic cliffs.
(Dotted green indicates PLHT on the Deming Easement—see trails listing for Deming/New London.)
- **Cook Interpretative Loop (CIL)** with thirty-five numbered features of interest. Rated moderate; elevation gain of 370'; total distance is 1.3 miles. (For a complete description of the 35 features of interest go to the ASLPT web site Protected Properties>Trails listing for the Cook Interpretive Loop in New London and download the brochure.)
- **Elkins Erratics Loop (EEL)** Rated moderate; elevation gain of 300'; total distance is 1.6 miles (.9 on the Cook easement; the remainder on private property.) Many wonderful glacial erratics (boulders) strewn throughout. This trail also crosses the private properties of Cook, Divilek and Andrews.
- **Power Line Parallel (PLP)** Rated easy/moderate; elevation gain of 130'; total distance is .7 of a mile. Two thirds of this trail parallels (in the woods) the east/west power line crossing the Cook and Deming easements. Also serves as a short cut from/to Pink & Green trails. (Dotted orange indicates PLP on the Deming Easement—see trails listing for Deming/New London.)
- **1830 Spring Trail (1830)** Rated easy/moderate; elevation change of 120'; total distance .2 of mile. Accessing the historic spring dating from the heyday of sheep farming in the 1830's.
- **1773 "Lott" Boundary Trail** 658' trail that parallels the historic stone wall between lots #34 (west) and #35 (east) per the Alexandria survey of 6/1/1773 (1773). Also serves as short cut from/to Pink & Green trails.

Short-cut/"Bail-out"/Safety trails color coding:

- **Overlook Short-cut** : from *Pink* CIL Trail sign #5 to Overlook at CIL Trail sign #18.
- ▲ **Ridge Safety Trail** : from Overlook ridge top to *Green* PLHT. Use when the rock outcropping is wet/icy/ slippery between *Pink* CIL Trail signs # 16/17.
- **Side (short special-feature) trails** (all marked with yellow dot coding):
 - Pink* CIL Trail sign #8: to small "Teddy Bear" cave, thence connecting to Blue EEL Trail.
 - Pink* CIL Trail sign #15: loop to large erratic and white spruce.
 - Pink* CIL Trail sign #21: to glacier-scraped bare ridge-top.
 - Pink* CIL Trail sign #26: loop around small granite quarry.
 - Blue* EEL Trail sign to mound of stones collected but never placed in walls.

Trapezoid directional marking is orange in New London (indicating New London Conservation Commission jurisdiction) except for Safety routes marked with yellow, or at trail intersections where same-as-dot colored trapezoids may be employed to emphasize primary trail direction. (Note: Yellow (not Orange) trapezoids are utilized in Langenau Forest and other Wilmot trails that connect with the PLHT.)

