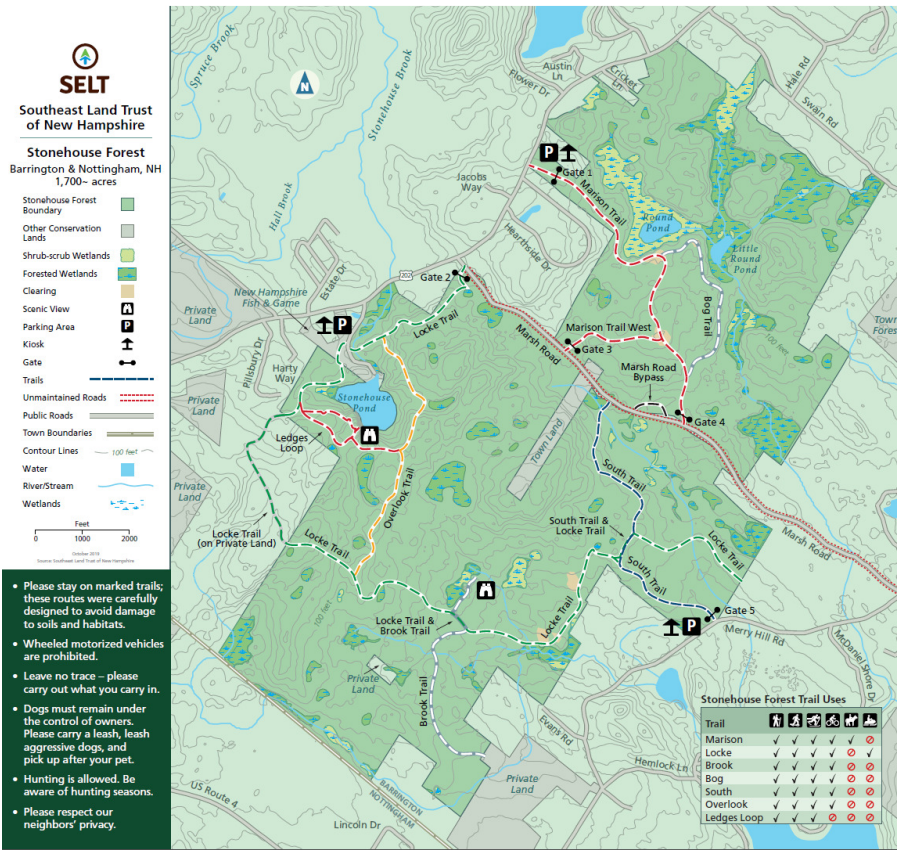


# Stonehouse Pond and Forest



Map can be downloaded from [SELTNH.org](http://SELTNH.org)

# Stonehouse Pond and Stonehouse Forest

**Trail length:** Varies

**Difficulty:** Varies

**Location:** South of 202/9, north of Merry Hill Rd

**Activities:** Hiking, snowshoeing, fly fishing, kayaking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling on designated trails (see map)

**Parking:** One lot on Rte 202, one on Merry Hill Rd, one along Stonehouse Pond Rd one at end of Stonehouse Pond Rd for fly fishermen. See map.

**Acreage:** 1765



**Pitch Pine above Stonehouse Pond**

## Stonehouse Pond



Arguably Barrington's most spectacular feature is Stonehouse Pond. The road to it and the parking area at the end have long been owned by NH Fish and Game, and they maintain the area as a catch-and-release fly-fishing only spot. It is a designated trout pond in the state, also open for canoeing and kayaking. It is a favorite area for fly fishing, rock climbing, and hiking. **Swimming is not allowed.**

In 2010 a collaboration involving the Trust for Public Lands, The Strafford Rivers Conservancy (now the Southeast Land Trust of NH - SELT), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Town of Barrington, came to fruition when some 230 acres of land surrounding the pond was permanently conserved. That property is now owned by SELT and is open to the public for passive recreational activities.

The gravel road to Stonehouse Pond off of Route 9/202 is 5.9 miles west of the junction of Routes 9 & 125, or 3.1 miles east of the junction of Routes 9/202 and 4. NH Fish and Game's parking area is at the end of the road and is reserved for fly fishermen, and is gated from Nov 1 to March 31. SELT has constructed three additional parking areas in for hikers, etc., see map.

If you do nothing else, walk to the parking area at the end of Stonehouse Pond Rd., which is owned by NH Fish and Game and is primarily for use by fishermen. You will be struck by the fantastic view of granite cliffs towering over the pond. From the parking area further up the road you can hike up to those cliffs (see below).

To hike up to the cliffs, take the Locke Trail either way from SELT's kiosk and loop around to the top as shown on the map. The total circuit of this hike is a bit more than two miles, but it (obviously) involves some climbing and descending. The view from atop the cliff is one of the finest in southeastern New Hampshire (see cover photo), but not recommended for those who are afraid of heights!

## **Stonehouse Forest**

A huge addition was made to Barrington's list of conserved lands in the fall of 2017. Thanks to SELT's extensive efforts, more than 450 donors, the Town of Barrington, and many other governmental and private partners, SELT purchased the Stonehouse Forest – more than 1,500 acres adjacent to Stonehouse Pond. The land is now subject to a conservation easement held by NH Fish and Game Department and the Town of Barrington. This expansive landscape supports a great variety of wildlife, free flowing streams, natural ponds, and miles of trails.

The ca. 50 parcels that comprise Stonehouse Forest were acquired by an Italian group in the '80s and '90s with the aim of making it into a private hunting preserve stocked with exotic wild game – clearly something designed for the rich and famous! Many of the roads, walls, and other structures that are still on the property were built by the Italians in anticipation of establishing this rich man's playground. Fortunately for us, NH Fish and Game found out about this plan to introduce non-native animals into New Hampshire and put a stop to it. The land then sat idle for about 25 years until the efforts to conserve it bore fruit.

For more information go to [SELTNH.org](http://SELTNH.org).