LOCKE FALLS and THE GONIC TRAILS



"In Massachusetts and Vermont, there had been plenty of mosquitoes, but in New Hampshire, they had reinforcements." Jennifer Pharr Davis

LOCKE FALLS and THE GONIC TRAILS

Trail length:	~1 mile, connecting trails for longer hikes
Difficulty:	Easy to moderate
Location:	Rochester Neck Rd.
Activities:	Hiking, XC skiing, snowshoeing, biking
Parking:	Parking lot on Rochester Neck Rd.,
	off Rte 125 in Rochester.
Acreage:	NA

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Locke Falls

One of the more spectacular and beautiful natural sites in Barrington is the falls on the Isinglass River, east of Route 125. The falls in the early days of Barrington was the site of mills, with a bridge crossing the river just above them. The mills and bridge are gone, but you can still see the bridge abutments and some of the mill stonework. Be sure to read the sign at the parking lot, which gives a lot of historical information. The falls is a wonderful place for a picnic (no tables, however), but please remember to carry all your trash out.

Directions to Locke Falls: The falls are near the border between Barrington and Rochester. One can only enter to see the falls from the Rochester side on land owned by Waste Management Inc. that is open to the public. The Town of Barrington does own about $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres of conservation land on the north side of the falls and has deeded public access to it. The land on the south side of the river is private with no public access.

To get to the falls, go north on Route 125 from its intersection with Route 9 in Barrington about 2 miles to the traffic light where 125 intersects with Rochester Neck Road. (There is a veterinary clinic on the right corner.) Turn right at this light and go about 1/4 of a mile (with the Waste Management/Turnkey operation on your left) till you see a parking lot on the right. Park there.

Trail Description: After parking, look for the sign next to the parking lot that shows the trails and recreational opportunities on this site and also gives some history of the area. Find Locke Falls on the map and the trail going to it. It is a short, easy walk down to the falls. As was said above, Barrington owns some of the land around the falls, but the rest of the land you will walk on is owned by Waste Management.

There are other places to walk (see map). Waste Management maintains a network of trails in this area. For example, instead of returning to the parking lot from the falls, you can continue south along the river. The map sign in the parking lot shows you the options. The full trail brochure, from which the map is taken, can be found at:

www.rochesternh.net/sites/rochesternh/files/file/file/the_gonic_trails_map.pdf

For further information call Waste Management at (603) 330-2106.



The Isinglass River