

Natural Features

1. OLD TOTE ROAD TRAIL – 3/4 mile

This easy trail begins at the parking area. It passes through mixed forest and crosses wetlands via narrow bog walkways. Along Thurlow Brook it skirts the base of a dense hemlock slope before reaching the ledges which overlook the pond. Continuing southwest, this trail ends at a small stream which drains a seasonally flooded marsh.

2. HEMLOCK RIDGE TRAIL – 1/2 mile

This moderately strenuous trail connects the end and middle of the Old Tote Road Trail to form a loop. It ascends to the highest elevation of the area. The ascent and descent are steep and rugged. A beautiful, mature hemlock forest can be seen on the north slope below the trail.

3. THURLLOW BROOK LOOP TRAIL - 1 mile

This easy trail crosses the small stream draining the marsh at the end of the Old Tote Road Trail. To the right the trail heads through mixed forest to the top of a steep bank with lovely views of the pond. The trail then meanders past the turn to the Beaver Dam Spur and passes through mixed forest and back to the junction with the Old Tote Road Trail.

4. BEAVER DAM SPUR – 2/10 mile

This short, easy trail leads to Thurlow Brook and a large beaver dam, a good place to look for birds and other wildlife.

These trails are not recommended for cross-country skiing due to their narrow width and occasional steepness.

"What are the natural features which make a Township handsome? A river, with its waterfalls and meadows, a lake, a hill, a cliff or individual rocks, a forest, and ancient trees standing singly. Such things are beautiful: they have a high use which dollars and cents never represent. If the inhabitants of a town were wise, they would seek to preserve such things, though at a considerable expense."

Henry David Thoreau

Northern Pond is a picturesque pond, 10 to 14 feet deep, with about eleven acres of open water. Thurlow Brook meanders through the pond from east to west and two small streams flow in from the north and south. The northern shore is largely forested wetland and bog - look for bog rosemary, leatherleaf, pitcher plant and sundew, all typical bog vegetation. Ledges on the southern shore, off the Old Tote Road Trail, provide for a lovely pond view, as well as a spot for lunch, bird watching and swimming.

Canoes and kayaks can be put in at a launch site beyond the small parking area, at the end of the entrance road. High clearance vehicles are recommended as the road is not maintained.

Natural communities present include hardwood and coniferous forests, marshes, meadows, and vernal pools. These communities provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Wildflowers, including lady-slippers, twinflower, wintergreen and trailing arbutus, are abundant. House-sized boulders, ornamented by a lush growth of mosses and ferns, are a particularly inviting feature of the Old Tote Road Trail.



All trails were constructed and are maintained by the **Monroe Conservation Commission**.

Northern Pond Preserve

Town of Monroe, Maine

Guide & Trail Map



Northern Pond

*This preserve is owned by the Town of Monroe and protected by a conservation easement held by **Landmark Heritage Trust**. Please consider becoming a member or volunteer with the trust or the **Monroe Conservation Commission**.*

