

Bow Open Spaces - fall 2016 newsletter



Become a Member! | bowopenspaces.com

Trails/Grant Update

Thank you, volunteers!

Bow Open Spaces received a 2016 recreational trails grant from the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development to help fund the recent improvements to our trail system. Thanks to countless hours from many volunteers, assistance from the Bow Department of Public Works, and map expertise from the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, the Knox and School Forests now have two kiosks, an updated map, an improved parking lot on Robinson Road, and better signage and trail marking throughout the forest.



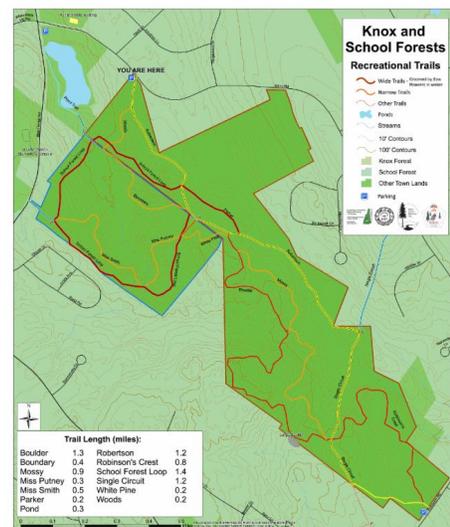
Knox Forest volunteers_

Many, many thanks to the folks who were able to contribute to this exciting and worthwhile project that will benefit many for years to come.

So, what's with those trail names...?

The improvements within the Knox Forest provided the opportunity for updating trail blazing, as well as trail names. Here's the backstory:

Some trail names have been changed to reflect local history or special natural features of the area. (Click the image of the trail map on the right to view.) The Heritage Commission helped us identify early Bow settlers and teachers. We also changed the "Perimeter Trail" to the "School Forest Loop" to be consistent with what the Bow Pioneers (snowmobile club) have called it for years. And the Mossy Trail is named for a special sphagnum moss found along it.



Robertson - John Robertson was born in 1732 and lived in the area of Knox and Dow Roads. He operated a ferry on the Merrimack River in 1782 and was a Selectmen in 1768.

His brother, William Robertson, was born in 1735 and settled on Dow Road.

He served in the Revolutionary War, was the Town Clerk 1767-1772, and was a Selectmen in 1778.

- Deacon James Robertson was a Selectmen off and on 1782-1801 and the Town Clerk 1782-1786
- Deacon Thomas Robertson was a Selectmen in 1785
- Samuel Robertson served in the War of 1812 and in 1828 owned a wool carding shop on Branch Londonderry Turnpike

Parker - Daniel Parker- took over the old homestead of William Robertson on Dow Road around 1807- it was destroyed by fire in the 1970s. In 1815, he was one of two men appointed to the newly created office of the Overseers of the Poor.

· William R. Parker was born in Sanbornton in 1798 and came to Bow when his father, Daniel, took over the Robertson Farm. He was a selectman in 1835, 1836, and 1839 and also active in the militia. He became a general of the First Division in 1849. He and Mary Philbrick married. They had 3 children: Alice, Martha, and William.

· Captain John Parker was a selectman in 1827, 1828, and 1832 and went to the legislature in 1836. He may have been William's brother.

In the School Forest, 2 trails have been renamed in honor of early teachers:

Miss Maude Putney - came from a family that produced several teachers who taught in Bow and throughout New England. Miss Putney taught at the Bow Mills and Bow Center Schools 1903-1938.

Miss Marion Smith - a lifelong teacher in Bow's schools. Miss Smith, as she was known by hundreds of her former students began teaching in September of 1918. She taught in Bow Mills for 44 consecutive years and for a number of years was principal of the Bow Mills School. She attended Plymouth Teachers College for two years and received a Bachelor of Science from Boston University.

Source: 100 Acres More or Less- The History of the Land and People of Bow, New Hampshire by David Bundy 1975.

Great Hill Update...

The Great Hill Loop trail has recent been rebuilt with great cooperation from the landowners, Mike & Nancy Sampo.

BOS board member Bob Dawkins led this effort, including the construction of a new "to be named trail" from the summit of Great Hill, along the west ridge and terminating at Hamilton's Path. (See an account of the work and additional photos [on our Facebook page.](#))



Bob Dawkin on Great Hill.

There were many hours of raking, building rock cairns, and pick axe work done to complete these trails. Great progress was made recently with with the installation of a series of new bog bridges on "Nancy's Trail."

By Bob's count, more than 60 hours of volunteer hours were contributed to work on the Nottingcook trail projects, just within a single week!

More opportunities remain - please consider pitching in [by contacting Bob via email!](#)



Two Trees Too Low

Thank you Harry Hadaway for successfully seeing that the bridge along the Boundary Trail was cleared of two low hanging trees.

If "you" see anything along the forest trails that needs attention, be sure to let us know!

Support Bow Open Spaces!

Monthly meetings at Baker Free Library

All are welcome to join the the monthly meetings of the Bow Open Spaces Board of Directors. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Baker Free Library. We would love to hear from you about our open spaces - what you love and what improvements you would suggest. Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 1st - join us!

Membership? Your support of Bow Open Spaces is important! Become an official member of the organization today! Details on [our website](#).

bowopenspaces@gmail.com | bowopenspaces.com

STAY CONNECTED:

