

Recreational Trail Grant Program Summary – From Bob Shafto

The Maine Recreational Trail Grant Program funds trail development work up to an amount of \$35,000. Three previous RTP grants have provided most of the funds needed to develop the ±30 miles of trails and bridges we have built over the past five years, including the bridge over the West Branch of the Piscataqua River at River Point and the snowmobile bridge over that same river in Blackstrap Hill Community Forest / Preserve.

In this round of grant competition, we are proposing new trails in two different areas of town. The first will provide the funds needed to build an elevated bog walkway in the southern end of Suckfish Brook Conservation Area, including an access trail to that walkway over a deeded right of way, a parking area, kiosk and the signage needed to complete the project. The 75-foot long bog walkway will something look like this, with a four-foot elevated platform at the end to give observers a close-up view of the unique flora and fauna found in Suckfish Bog. If the city of Westbrook is successful in preserving the southern end of the bog, a foot trail will also be constructed in that area.



Permits for the bog walk have already been acquired from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Falmouth Planning Board.

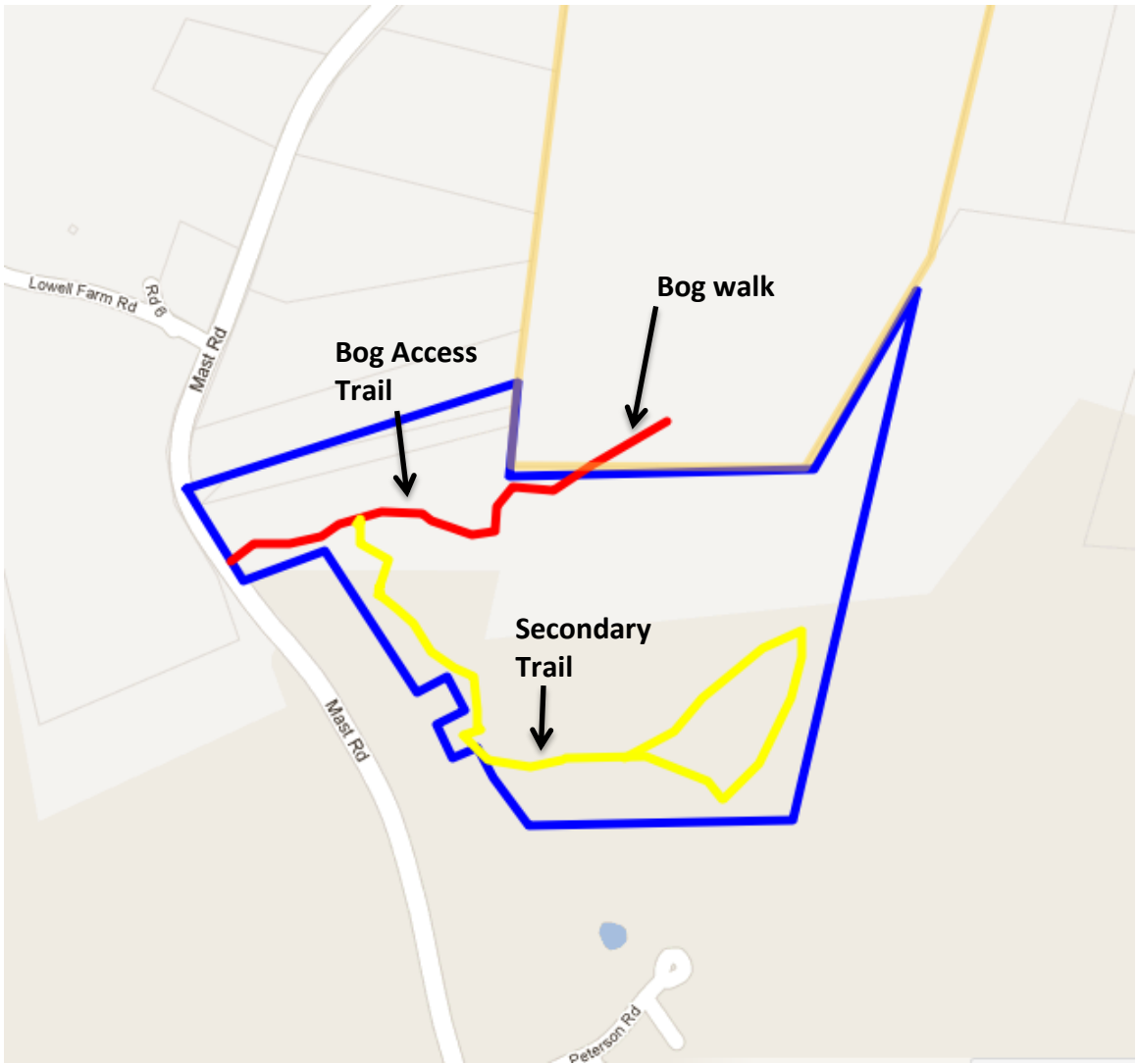
The second trail system will start at Woods Road Community Forest and include a trail network within that 135-acre parcel and a trail extension that will connect it to the Deer Ridge Conservation Area. The trail will cross three private parcels, plus a Falmouth Land Trust easement parcel. Once completed, four subdivisions will have access to this trail system through existing rights of way. The cost of signage, a parking area, and a kiosk will also be included in the grant. Woods Road Community Forest is the only major conservation property that currently lacks trails, and thus easy public access.

Maps of both properties area attached.

The total grant amount is expected to be ±\$30,000. The town is required to match 20% of that amount (±\$6,000), which we will do through in-kind labor. That labor will be in the form of the town engineer's time (who will design the parking areas), the ombudsman's time, and Falmouth Conservation Corps volunteer time. The match will well exceed the required amount. As with our other RTP grants, no town funds will be needed for this project.

Suckfish Brook Conservation Area

Proposed Trails



Proposed Woods Road Trail System

