

Old Town House Park Trails

Formerly owned by Gillespie Farms, this 55 acre park was purchased by the town in 1997. Many people remember going to this location as children for a hay ride and to pick out their pumpkins for Halloween.

The trails at Old Town House Park meander through wide, open fields, along the Royal River and through some riverside woodlands, and provide primarily easy walking opportunities. Begin at the kiosk by the main parking lot on Route 9. If you bear to the right on the Field Loop, you will see open hay fields and soccer fields on your left and a wooded embankment on your right. At the end of the soccer field, there is a short hill connecting the upper trails to the lower fields. You can either turn left and circle around the open soccer field areas to the Woods Trail, or head down the hill to the Lower Field Loop.

At the bottom of the hill, the loop trails go around the entire perimeter of the fields, but there are options for shorter walks as well. If you take an immediate sharp right, you will walk alongside a stand of thickly packed spruce trees. At the end of the tree stand, the Basin Loop Trail takes you around a small field and reconnects to the Lower Field Loop Trail.

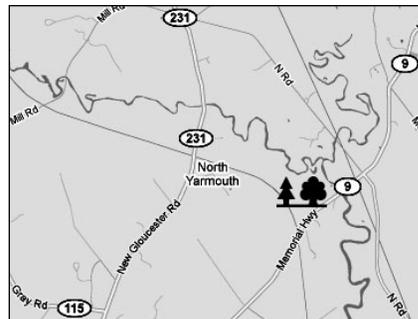
To continue, bear right and follow the mowed path around the open hay field. At the far end, the trail meets the Royal River. Turning left, the trail winds past a small wetland area before entering the second lower field, on the River Loop Trail. Continuing around the perimeter to the right, the mowed path again heads toward the river. Where the path parallels the river, it is surrounded by a planted buffer zone which provides bird and wildlife habitats, and will protect the riverbank in time. There is a lovely stone bench set on the river bank at the far corner of this trail.

Continuing past the bench, you can follow the river to the right, or you can go straight across the cut and connect to the Woods Trail. The Woods Trail continues to follow the course of the river. In the spring, this is a beautiful area to spot wetland flowers such as skunk cabbage, trout lilies, and lady slippers.

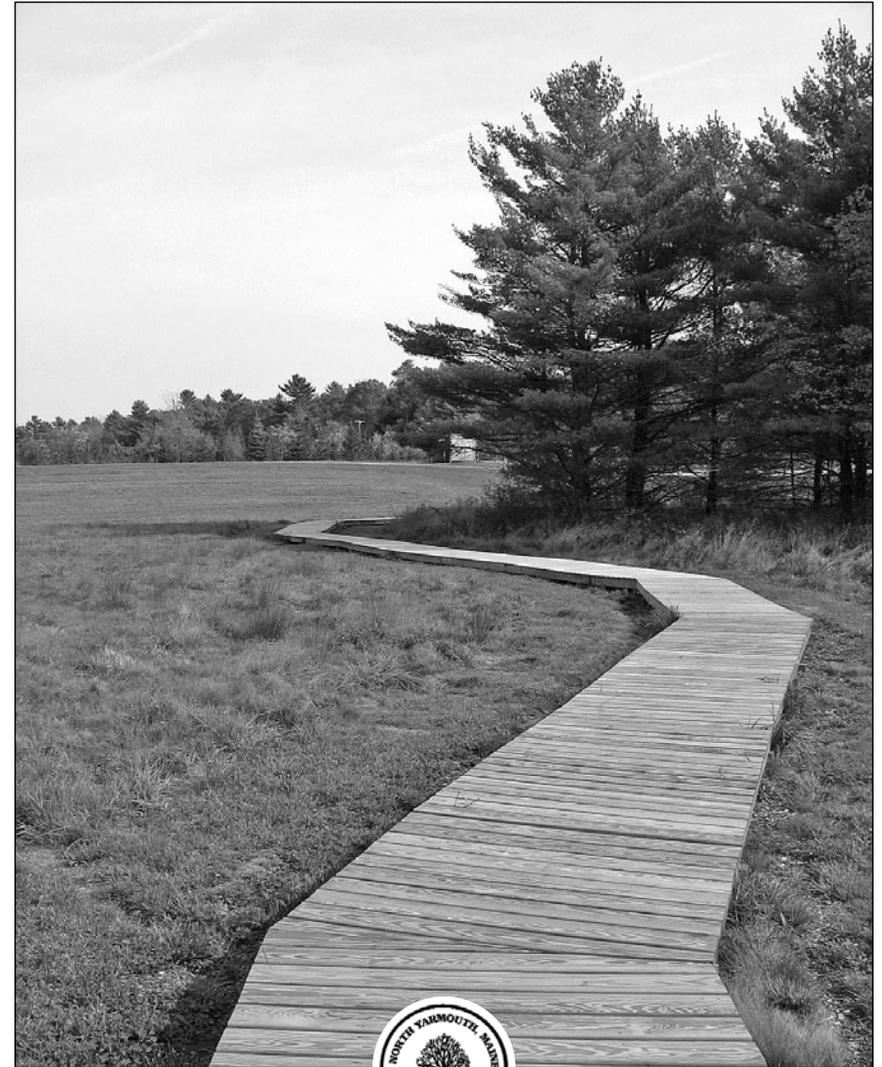
Follow the Woods Trail as it weaves its way back and forth from the open fields to the left, or opt to take the short, steep Ravine Path. The Woods Trail eventually reconnects with the Field Loop near the top of a hill overlooking a lovely panoramic view of the park and its surrounding area. The trail head can be seen down to the right. Continue down the hill and over the boardwalk back to the parking lot.

The Old Town House

The Old Town House is owned by North Yarmouth Historical Society and used for NYHS programs — a fall cider pressing, a December holiday party, and more. It was built in 1853, halfway between our town's villages of Walnut Hill and East North Yarmouth, and used as the town's meeting hall and selectmen's office until 1970. In the 1940s the Old Town House was also used as a schoolhouse for grades 6-8. The building was saved from demolition and restored in 1976 by the Historical Society. The Old Town House is a rustic structure and is available for rental for a modest donation. For more information please contact nyhs@maine.rr.com



Old Town House Park is located on the west side of Route 9 between the railroad bridge and the North Road crossing.



TOWN OF NORTH YARMOUTH TRAIL GUIDE NO.2

Old Town House Park Trails

KEY TO OLD TOWN HOUSE PARK

P Parking lot

⌘ Picnic table

⌘ Bench

— Field Loop

⋯ Basin Loop

⋯ Lower Field Loop

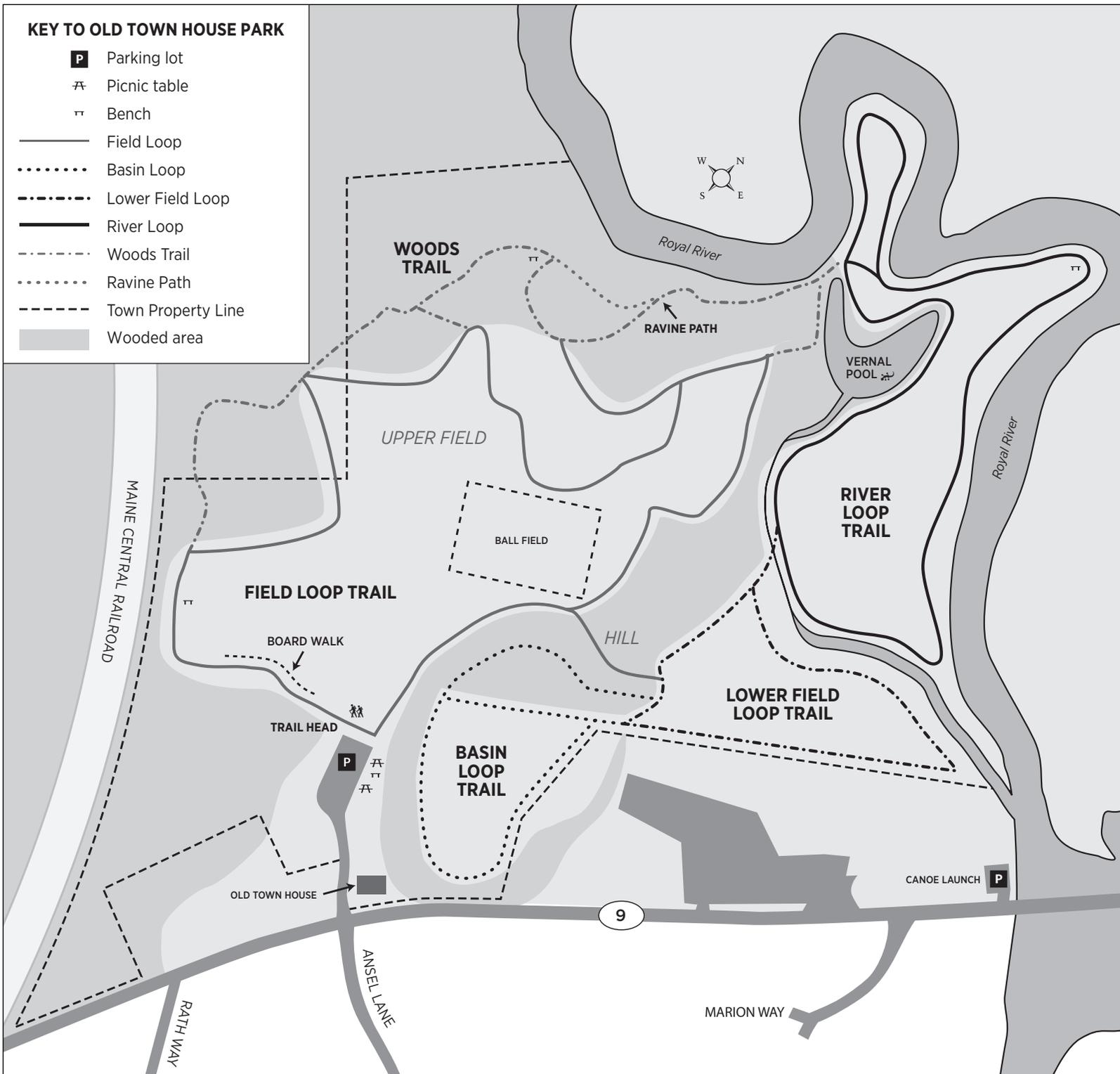
— River Loop

⋯ Woods Trail

⋯ Ravine Path

- - - Town Property Line

■ Wooded area



Features

- Kiosk with map located next to main parking lot (behind the Old Town House)
- Boardwalk over bog
- Granite benches from historic North Yarmouth quarry
- Port-a-potty
- Canoe launch at Route 9 bridge over the Royal River
- River views
- Protected bobolink nesting area
- Riparian plantings to conserve river banks
- Beaver slides
- Park is open 5 AM to 9 PM.

A note to dog owners

Please pick up your dog waste and dispose of it properly. Bags and trash barrels are provided at the kiosk.