LOCKE'S LOOP
History Trail Loop

1. Abandoned Home site
This apple tree is a remnant of the Watson Homestead orchard. Just beyond, note the old farm site evidence: house and barn foundations, stonewalls, cattle lane, grown in field, orchard trees. The farm was abandoned in the late 1950"s. The trail lies on an old wood road, probably over 100 years old.

2. Old Crop field
This walled in area, now forested, was abandoned as field land about 55 years ago. In close proximity to the farmhouse, and containing moist soils that were cleared of stones, this area was probably tilled at one time to grow crops. White pine, known as the "old field invader", is typically prominent amongst the vegetation taking over the abandoned fields.

3. Farm "Dump"
The farm "dump" contains old farm implements, glassware, etc. Note the pile of stone cleared from the tilled field. Waste disposal was historically an unregulated, uncontrolled activity, i.e.., every farm had its own dump.

4. Granite Quarry
Located about 50 feet north of the trail. Steel star hits were hammered into the granite in order to split off slabs of stone. Finger-sized chinks of the stone remain as evidence of this labor-intensive activity. The stone was used primarily for foundations, as well as doorsteps, fence posts, fitted walls, and bridge & road abutments.

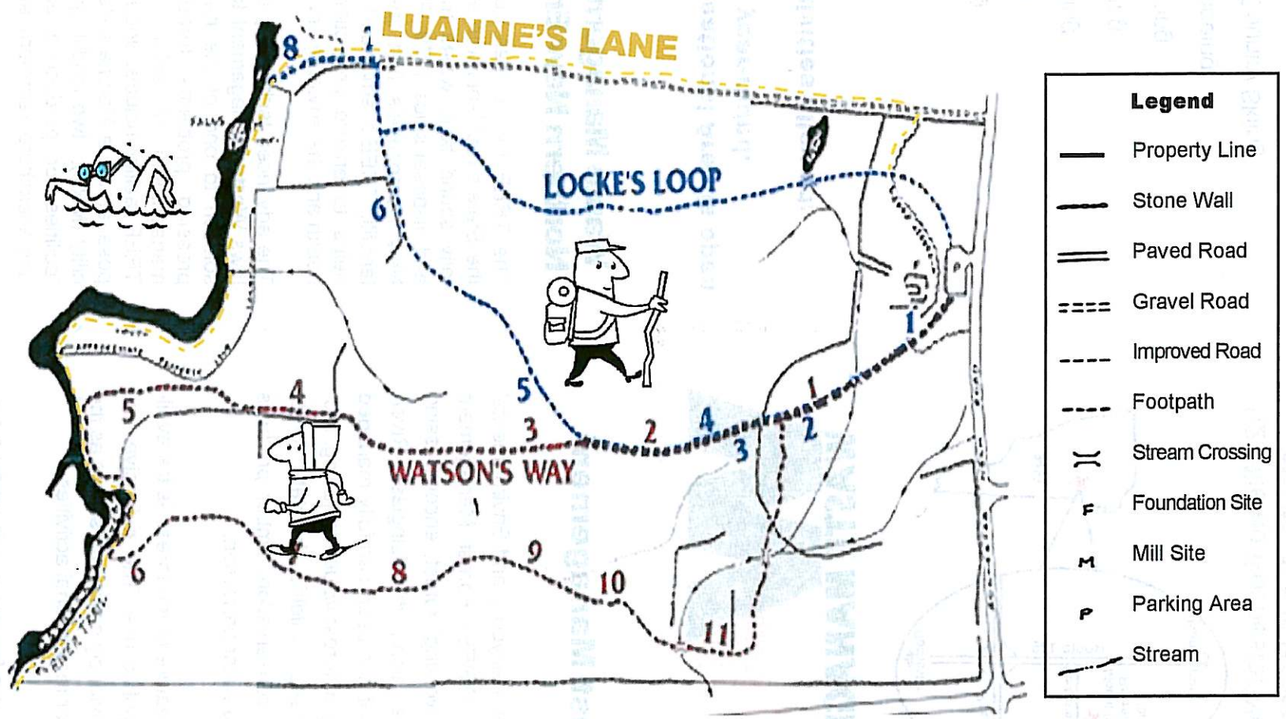
5. Older Forest
The forest in the central portion of the property was once pasture-land. Trees in this area range up to 100 years of age, indicating that the pasture was probably abandoned in the 1800's.

6. Younger "Back" Forest
Located near the former mill site, this field was also abandoned in the 1950's; at the same time the Watson Farm was abandoned. Note how the stonewalls were used to determine the edges of this former field, and what was once surrounding pasture.

7. Abandoned Town Road
Connecting Barrington's Green Hill area to Rochester Neck, this was a well-traveled road last century. Use of the road was largely discontinued in 1898 when a flood carried away the wooden bridge that crossed the Isinglass River.

8. Mill site
Little remains of what was once a bridge, stone dam, sluiceways, and several mill building. John Locke first erected a sawmill and gristmill at the falls, probably in the 1730's. Several generations of Locke's then ran and improved the mills. As noted in the book, A History of Barrington, NH: "at the height of the mill prosperity, about 1860-1870, a considerable Village developed about the falls". The enlarged mills included a factory for making wooden pails and tubs. Soon after, fire destroyed the mills, and the 1898 Flood swept away what was left. As history quotes: "Now only the beauty of the falls remains: but could the rocks speak, they would tell quite a story".

Local History Trail Loop (Blue Numbers) 1.1+ Miles
Forestry Tour Trail Loop (Red Numbers) 1.4+ Miles
Luanne's Lane River Walk (Gold Trail) 7 Mile (round trip)



LUANNE'S LANE
River Walk

A leisurely 7-mile round-trip walk starting down the abandoned town road (Locke's Loop #7) to the Isinglass River. Once at the river the trail follows the river bank for approximately 3 miles ending at Isinglass Park. There are picnic facilities and a canoe launch at the park and a radio-controlled airport facility just up the road.

Luanne's Lane connects Locke's Loop and Watson's Way at the river allowing access back to the main entrance from either trail. Near the river's end of the intersection of Watson's Way and Luanne's Lane there is access to Isinglas Drive, which leads back to Mount Isinglas' parking lot. There is also access to the Mount's parking lot further up Watson's way.

WATSON'S WAY
Forest Management Loop

1. Young Pine Stand
This area was abandoned as a field in the 1950"s. A 40+ year old white pine, often referred to as "the old field invader", now dominates the new stand. The pine is rapidly increasing in value as timber. In order to maintain high growth rates, poor trees were thinned from the stand in Pruning treatment in 1995 further enhanced the value of future timber.

2. Hardwood/Pine Mix
This older tree stand (60-70+ years) is composed of oak, birch, beech, and maple, with areas of pine. Dead branches and branch tips, especially of the oaks and birch, attest to the detrimental effects of the gypsy moth caterpillar. Management improvement (cutting/thinning in 1994) is aimed at increasing the proportion of pine, and other species less vulnerable to the gypsy moth

3. White Pine Saw timber
Developing from pastureland abandoned in the 1890's, trees in this stand now range about 85 to 100 years of age. This area escaped heavy harvest over the last century. As the existing trees approach maturity, forest treatment is aimed as regenerating the stand as pine. The shelter wood technique is being used (first phase in 1994) in order to maintain the scenic qualities of the stand.

4. Young Pine Stand
40+ year old pine now stocks this former field, which was abandoned in the 1950's. Treatment to improve growth includes a crown thinning (1994). Follow-up pruning (1996) of lower limbs from the first 17 feet of the stems will provide valuable, knot-free lumber in future years. Note the old stone gatepost at the bar way when entering this area.

5. Older Growth
Trees in this area also approach·100 years of age. Due to its proximity to the Isinglass River, this area has been designated as permanently reserved from future logging or forest treatment. In addition to its natural beauty, old growth serves as an important habitat for wildlife.

6. Reserve Area
This steep sloping area is also part of the river buffer to be permanently reserved from future forest treatment. Pine was harvested from this area 50 to 60 years ago. Barring natural disturbance, the area should now develop into older growth.

7. Hemlock Pocket
Hemlock is an important tree for wildlife. Large individual hemlocks, as well as hemlock pockets, as is found on this small knoll, are an important winter habitat component for ruffed grouse and deer. Hemlocks are also attractive to walk through, especially in the winter.

8. Pine/Hardwood Mix
White pine and red oak, both highly desirable timber species, predominant in this area. Red oak is also valuable for wildlife; the acorn is a staple in the diet of many wildlife species. The forestry objective in this area is to encourage the development of healthy, high quality timber over the next 40 to 50 years. Gypsy moth caterpillars, however, will continue to take its toll on the oak.

9. Mid Aged Pine
Unlike adjacent pine areas, this stand averages 75-80 years of age. A crown thinning (1994) freed the straighter, healthier trees from poorly growing competitors. Over time this will become an increasingly valuable saw timber stand.

10. Previous Harvest Pine Stand
Saw timber was partially harvested from this stand around 1970.Note the older stumps, and the dense hardwood sapling growth. Present treatment (shelter wood, phase 2, 1994) was intended partly to release the hardwood, but primarily to promote some pine regeneration. Large pine will be retained well into the future as a seed source.

11. Reserve Area
As with the forest buffer area along the Isinglass River, this stand has been designated to be permanently reserved from any future logging or forest treatment. Nature will take its course on this scenic pocket of century old trees.