

BLACK SPRUCE BOGS NATURAL AREA

The Black Spruce Bogs Natural Area is a 35 acre tract along the western boundary of White Lake State Park. The tract, which is managed by the Tamworth Conservation Commission, was given to the Town of Tamworth by Mrs. Frances Damon, in memory of her husband, Harry F. Damon. In 1984, the two properties were linked by several trails that were planned and built by volunteers from the Commission and the State Park and NH DRED staff.

Access

To reach the Black Spruce Bogs Natural Area take the unmarked dirt road to the north off White Lake Road (Depot Road) at 2.4 miles from Route 113 in Tamworth, or at 0.9 miles from Route 16. After 0.1 mile along that road, which leads to a boat launch at the south end of the lake, there is a barricaded woods road to the left. Park between here and the boat launch, being careful not to block the right of way. The Black Spruce Bog Trail begins at 0.7 mile along the wood road. The trailhead is clearly marked.

Note: The main entrance to White Lake State Park is on NH Route 16, about one mile north of the junction of NH Routes 16 and 25 in West Ossipee.

The Trail

From the trailhead, the Black Spruce Trail leads to the south side of the larger of two bogs, where there are black spruce and heavy undergrowth. The trail then bears right toward the smaller bog pond where there are excellent views, as this pond is much more open. Here one leg of the State's Pitch Pine Trail enters from the left; the Black Spruce Trail continues to the smaller bog, and the other part of the State trail, which forms a loop, leaves on the left, towards White Lake.

Then the Black Spruce Trail climbs steeply, but very briefly, to the top of a ridge and drops down again to a point near the trailhead. You may also return to the parking area by taking the Pitch Pine Trail to the lake, and following the lake loop path about 0.5 miles to the boat landing.

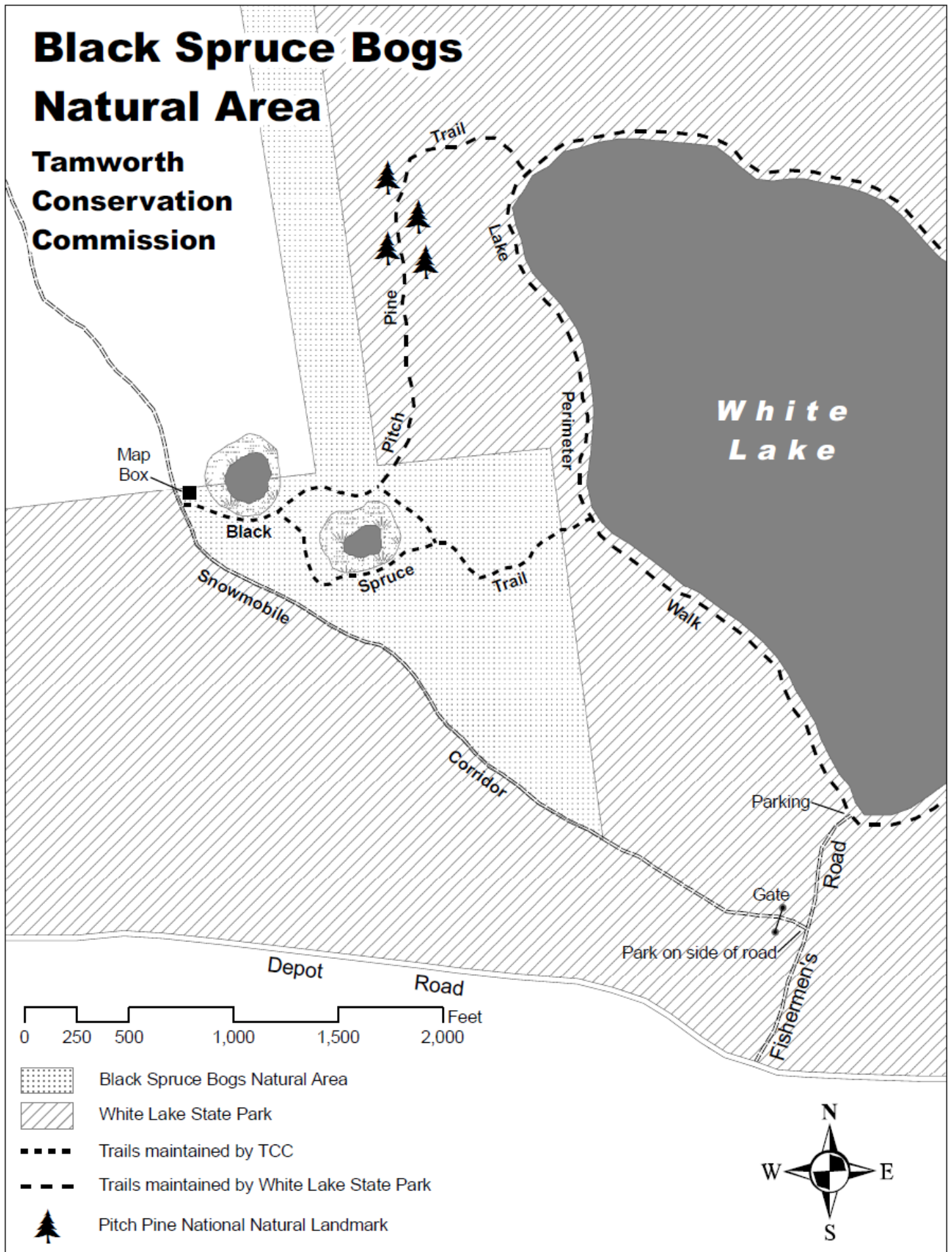
Plant Growth

Plant growth in general in this area is comprised of pitch pine and scrub oak, with black spruce, leather leaf, pitcher plant and other swamp vegetation around the bogs. Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) is a medium-sized member of the pine family. Its needles grow in bunches of three, which are shed every other year. The White Lake pitch pines are exceptionally tall and straight, which suggests that the area has been relatively free from fire and other disturbances for a long time. Although the wood of the pitch pine is too weak for good lumber, it is very durable, repels water and resists decay. New England's early settlers used it for building fence posts, among other items and, because the pitch burns well, it was used for torches. At one time the trees were tapped for the pitch, as maple trees still are for their sap.






In 1980, the National Park Service designated a 72 acre tract as a National Natural Landmark. The Pitch Pine Trail, mentioned above, traverses this area. Part of the loop joins the 2 mile Lake Perimeter Walk in White Lake State Park.

Black Spruce Bogs Natural Area

Tamworth
Conservation
Commission



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

-  Black Spruce Bogs Natural Area
-  White Lake State Park
-  Trails maintained by TCC
-  Trails maintained by White Lake State Park
-  Pitch Pine National Natural Landmark

