

WELCOME TO THE BOG MEADOW TRAIL!

During the Victorian era, a railroad operated between downtown Saratoga Springs, Saratoga Lake, and beyond. Passengers experienced a wilderness adventure through the wetlands of Spring Run and Bog Meadow Brook. Today, the Bog Meadow Trail is an off-road path situated on that very same railroad. The Bog Meadow Nature Trail, located in Saratoga Springs, New York, was one of Saratoga PLAN's earliest accomplishments. This two mile path, great for warm season walks and cold season skiing is a favorite among nature lovers.

The Bog Meadow Trail is owned by the City of Saratoga Springs and maintained by the generous supporters of Saratoga PLAN.

What is Letterboxing?

Letterboxing is an old English tradition dating back to 1854 where people began leaving a self-addressed post card or note in a jar, hoping for them to be returned by mail by the next visitor. Today we've adapted this English tradition and put it to use on Saratoga PLAN's nature preserves and trails. Each preserve has a letterbox ranging in difficulty for participants and gives each type of adventurer an exciting opportunity to explore our preserves and have fun while doing so. When you find the letterbox, you can feel free to take a postcard, and mail it back to us with your comments about your journey. You can also take the stamp from within the letterbox and mark your PLAN Preserve Passport on the appropriate page. Once you have collected at least five stamps (or listed three species observed during each visit) stop by PLAN's offices in Saratoga Springs for a FREE Saratoga PLAN t-shirt!

We hope you enjoy your letterboxing experience on this trail. Interspersed within the clues *in italics* are natural history observations for those interested, for example:

There are still many railroad ties that remain in the trail bed from back when this trail was used as a railroad track.

LETTERBOX CLUES FOR BOG MEADOW TRAIL

Whether you're walking, running, or skipping:

- 1. This trail has 3 different access points, but for your hunt, you will want to start at the entrance on route 29 (Lake Ave.). From the parking lot you will enter the trail and turn left to begin.**
- 2. Follow this path as it brings you through a vibrant wetland.**
- 3. Soon, you will begin crossing small culverts.**
- 4. Cross over a small wooden bridge.**

A culvert is a covered channel that carries water under a road, or in this case, trail.

Noticing the wetland on both sides of you, this is prime beaver habitat and as you walk you may notice signs of beaver along the path on trees and stumps.

- 5. Soon, you will come to a marker noting that you have journeyed .25 of a mile down the trail. There you will also find a bench on your left.**
 - 6. The next bench you come to will be near the Wetland Meadow Habitat sign. Take a moment to stop and read the sign if you are interested in learning more about this area.**
 - 7. Next, you will come upon a large wooden bridge with some great views of the wetland!**
- This landscape before you is often changing based on beaver activity.*
- 8. A large body of water will be coming into view on the left.**
 - 9. When you have traveled ½ of a mile you will see the .5 marker on your left and a bench on your right.**

These markers and benches that you are seeing were donated as a part of an Eagle Scout Project. Many of the improvements that you may see on Saratoga PLAN's nature preserves are the result of some form of partnership with other community organizations, such as scout groups!

- 10. As you continue onward, the next section of trail has lots of railroad ties in it. If you haven't picked them out yet, you will go up and down over quite a few now.**
- 11. Soon you will come upon the .75 mile marker; you're getting close to your destination now, but still have a ways to go.**
- 12. Begin looking for a stump that is about 2 feet high with a slanted cut top. Once you find this stump, you will want to walk off the left side of the trail directly across from the stump. The letterbox that you seek is hiding in this area!**

GREAT WORK!

We hope you enjoyed your letterboxing adventure at the Bog Meadow Trail. Please keep in mind that the trail continues on farther for another 1.25 miles to a second wetland overlook section, and eventually ends at Meadowbrook Road. Feel encouraged to continue on down the trail, otherwise, please return the letterbox as you found it, and head out the way you came in.

Thank you!

- Your Friends at Saratoga PLAN

The mission of Saratoga PLAN is to preserve the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations. To learn more, please visit us at www.saratogaplan.org.