

## Hike the Outdoors Close to Home

With the approach of fall and the start of school, many wandering summer vacationers return home and settle back into a routine. If you are not ready to retreat inside, there are lots of town trails that can offer an escape to the outdoors. This month, we focus on the trails connecting to the Cross Hill neighborhood.

The Cross Hill neighborhood includes 100+ acres of permanently protected, town-owned open space. The open space can be enjoyed by walking the 2.5 miles of trails. For a longer walk, head north from a Cross Hill trail to Winnick Woods or the newest pedestrian trail north of Eastman Meadows.

The Cross Hill trails have benefited from lots of trail maintenance during the last month of the summer. Some of the trails still offer an "in the bush" experience climbing over a fallen tree or a muddy area in need of a boardwalk. Trails under the power lines predate the development of the neighborhood and are often steep, and rocky with a low shrub character. The trails north of the pond, on the other hand, travel through a deep pine needle base and the dense shade of mature trees. Trails leading north to Winnick Woods are heavily vegetated, with rock outcroppings and some steep climbs.

There are no designated parking areas in Cross Hill, but parking is allowed on the street. Trail users, as always, are asked to be respectful of abutting private property and to stay on marked trails. For maps of the Town of Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt trails, visit the [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com).

