

LEGEND

Lower School Pond Trail **A**
0.8 miles: 0.5 from Chapel to large concrete bridge, 0.3 from bridge to Upper

Cemetery-Dam Loop **B**
1.1 miles

Turkey Cutoff **C**
1.0 miles

Cricket Cutoff **D**

Armour Cutoff **E**
0.3 miles

Freaky Fields Path **F**
0.1 miles

Dam to Docks Trail **G**
1.8 miles

Cross-Country Course **H**
(unmarked) 3.1 miles

Little Turkey Trail **I**
(unmarked) 1.0 miles

Fisk Hill Trails **J**
(unmarked)

Bike Path **K**
(unmarked)

We, Morgan Holland '12 and Eric Nieminen '12, completed this guide to the trails of SPS as part of a year-long, four-credit Independent Study Project. We hope you will take this and venture beyond our immediate campus to explore the beautiful grounds St. Paul's School has to offer. Please use the trails safely and appropriately by wearing closed-toe shoes, telling someone where you are going, and remaining on the trails, as walking off the beaten path destroys the forest's natural beauty.

Map of the SPS Trail System



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

0 .25 .5 1 mile



The trail system on the grounds of St. Paul’s School is complex, made of old roads and footpaths. Members of the SPS community continually improve the trails. They have included groundskeepers, Ronald Clark’s student “rock rollers,” and other students working on projects individually and in groups. The trails were built for the community; this map was designed for those who wish to explore them.

Lower School Pond Trail
0.8 miles: 0.5 from Chapel to concrete bridge
0.3 from bridge to Upper

The main entrance to this trail is next to the Chapel, where you will see two distinct paths into the woods: one next to the pond and another about 20 yards toward Armour. This trail is also accessible from a dirt road next to the picnic tables behind the Upper. The entire trail takes about 20 minutes to walk and 10 minutes to run. It is almost completely flat and is generally dry.

From the Chapel, this trail leads to a small concrete bridge and intersects with the Yellow trail. Immediately after the bridge it turns right up a slight incline, leading straight to an octagonal picnic table (a 2009 ISP) and down to a boardwalk over a beaver dam. Continuing to follow the marked path along the edge of the pond, you will soon reach a large concrete bridge. There, the trail intersects with the Cemetery-Dam Loop (Red) on the near side and the Dam to Docks Trail (Blue) on the far side. The Lower School Pond Trail continues on the far left side of the bridge. Heading in this direction, you will soon reach a side trail, which is a short path to the Moon Rock and a bench overlooking the Lower School Pond. The trail continues to the back of the Upper.

Cemetery-Dam Loop
1.1 miles

This trail is accessed by following the Lower School Pond Trail (White) to the large concrete bridge. It takes about 30 minutes to walk and 10 minutes to run. The trail is mostly flat and has no wet sections. Clockwise on the map, the trail follows the Turkey River (the stream) to the dam. There is a memorial granite bench overlooking the dam. Here, the red loop intersects with the Cricket Cutoff, which rejoins the red loop in about ¼ mile. Continuing on the red loop along Turkey Pond, you will reach the intersection with Freaky Fields

Path (Yellow). The path continues on to the cemetery and ski jump. Across from the cemetery on your right, you will see a steep downhill – the landing of an old ski jump (not marked on the map) – that rejoins the red loop at the bottom. The red loop continues straight back to the large concrete bridge.

Turkey Cutoff
1.0 miles

The Turkey Cutoff trails are accessible from Dunbarton Road, about halfway between the gate and the Boathouse. They are flat and slightly muddy after rainstorms. The East trail goes straight to the Dam to Docks Trail, and the West Trail loops back to the orchard next to the Boathouse.

Cricket Cutoff

Sixth Formers use this trail to the dam to intercept new students on Cricket Holiday, hence its name. It is a flat shortcut to the Cemetery-Dam Loop. This can be accessed from behind the memorial granite bench at the dam.

Armour Cutoff
0.3 miles

This trail begins at the end of Armour Road, banks down a hill, intersects with the Lower School Pond Trail (White), continues past the Lower School docks, skirts the pond, and ends at the beaver dam boardwalk.

Freaky Fields Path
0.1 miles

This is a short path accessible from the Cemetery-Dam Loop above the dam. It crosses a wooden bridge – a 2008 ISP – and continues through a white pine forest to Freaky Fields.

Dam to Docks Trail
1.8 miles

Arguably the most beautiful trail on campus, the Dam to Docks Trail begins at the large concrete bridge on the Lower School Pond Trail. The trail is predominantly flat and follows the pond most of the way to the docks. It takes about an hour to walk and 20-30 minutes to run. During the spring and into the summer, the trail

goes from being damp to muddy in spots. First, the trail follows a narrow path to the Nordic trail along the edge of the river to the dam. At the dam, go down the hill to the field. Stay right at all junctions to avoid turning off the trail. In the first cove, Turkey Cutoff (Orange) leads to Dunbarton Road, about ¼ mile from the pond. After the muddy section, the trail is well-defined and hugs the edge of the pond, giving you great views of Little Turkey Pond the entire way to the docks.

Cross-Country Course
(unmarked) 3.1 miles

The Cross-Country Course is a very well-kept, wide, and beautiful trail used as the race course for the cross-country running team in the fall. It begins at the far corner of the field next to the track. It goes straight across the field, behind the clubhouse, then follows the dark dirt path past the tennis courts and adjacent fields, turning right just before the hill after the parking lot. It turns right again just after leaving the fields, continues through the woods, and emerges at the track on the far side of the clubhouse. It follows the trees until it enters the woods behind the baseball field bleachers. When in the woods, it follows the arrows back to the entrance to the trees. Once it emerges from the woods, it follows the home run fence and shoots off across the track in front of the clubhouse, ending between the far corner of the high jump platform and the rock to the right. The course has a few choppy hills throughout, but generally has gradual up- and downhill.

Little Turkey Trail
(unmarked) 1.0 miles

This trail begins behind I-89, opposite the Boat Docks. To access this trail, take the bike path over the pond and follow the road until it intersects with I-89 Exit 3. From here head under the Interstate to the left, where the snowmobile trails start. Take all right turns down to the pond, where the Little Turkey Trail actually begins. The trail follows the edge of the pond to the base of Dimond Hill, where it comes out on Hopkinton Road. If you turn right and head up Hopkinton Road you will end up back at the School. The trail is often very wet but provides a different perspective of the pond than is usually seen.

Fisk Hill Trails
(unmarked)

The Fisk Hill Trails are accessible from Loop Road behind the cemetery and from behind the first house on the left on Fisk Road. These are the main trails within this system, and they range from old logging roads to narrow, marshy paths. Although not blazed, most trails have been marked with colored surveyor’s tape. There are many junctions to trails that end when exploring an unmapped trail; so remember where you came from. If you can navigate these trails confidently, they provide for great runs and long walks in the woods. Also, the newer logging roads are interesting to explore. To gain a greater understanding of this trail system, participate in the Turkey Crawl (which follows the blue-mapped trail) the week before Thanksgiving Break.

Bike Path
(unmarked) 1.3 miles

The Bike Path begins at the gate on Silk Farm Road and comes out behind the boat docks or across the foot bridge. At the gate on Silk Farm Road there is also a trail that connects back to the Cross Country Course, making for a great loop out to the boat docks. The path is paved and is used by cyclists, walkers, and runners.

Beyond Our Boundaries

Other trails include Winant Park, the Nordic trails (on campus, but not mapped), and the Audubon Trail system. Winant Park, maintained by the City of Concord, contains an extensive web of trails; enter off Fisk Road. These trails are great for walking, snowshoeing, and mountain biking. The Nordic trails are a system of more than 3 miles, open to skiers. They are accessible from the Observatory and Mars Hotel (across from the turf field on Dunbarton Road). Please do not walk or snowshoe on snowy trails, and be respectful of the Nordic team’s afternoon practice. The Audubon Trail system is accessible from New Hampshire Audubon Headquarters on Silk Farm Road and from offshoots on the Bike Path (K). Go out and explore, take advantage of what our natural surroundings have to offer, and – most important – stay adventurous.