

## Quick Trail Summary

- **Orange Trail Distance** = 0.93 miles; elevation change: 250 vertical feet
- **Red Trail Distance** = 0.4 miles, if combined with Orange Trail = 0.6 miles total; elevation change: 100 vertical feet
- **Blue Trail Distance** = 0.9 miles, if combined with the Orange trail = 1.2 miles; elevation change: 250 vertical feet

## Orange Trail

The Orange trail is a gentle to steeply sloping trail, and if the entire loop is completed forms the longest trail on the property at 0.93 miles. If looking for an easier hike, short portions of level ground can be hiked on the eastern part of the trail, though back-tracking will be required. For those looking for a more strenuous adventure, the entire loop will offer steeper terrain. Though steep slopes are encountered on the loop, visitors will be rewarded with excellent views from the lookout, which are best when the leaves of the trees are off.

From the Parking Area at Post #1 follow Wilson Road for about 0.1 miles, to Post #2 and continue on a gravel road and enter through a gate. Just past a small brook, there is a native Wildflower garden on the west between the road and stonewall. The Orange trail continues up a gentle slope and rises to the Kiosk at 375

feet from Post #2. The Orange trail then continues north through the grassy landing, past the meeting circle to Post #5 at 100 feet. Passing Post #5, the Orange trail continues for another 300 feet to Post #6.

At Post #6, the Orange trail diverges (tribute to Robert Frost) to form a large loop that circles around northern part of the F.X. Shea Town Forest (FXSTF). From Post #6, one can go right or left to complete the loop. The following description assumes a counter-clockwise direction from Post #6.

The Orange trail continues on an almost-flat grade for approximately 1,800 feet, past Post #7 to the northern most part of the trail. In this area, the Orange Trail is the closest it gets to the small stream to the north, and some wet seeps can be found if you venture off trail.

From here, the trail continues to loop to the south, and comes close to the western edge of the property. Get ready; the trail then continuously climbs up moderate to steep slopes, until reaching the height of land at Post #9. Back-tracking north of Post #9 for 150 feet, there is a scenic lookout on the west side of the Orange trail which affords a nice view over a small valley to the southwest. The orange trail intersects the blue trail at post #9, where the Blue trail heads south and the Orange trail continues to the east.

From Post #9, this section of the Orange trail is all downhill, very steep at times. The trail makes

a bend to the north, and then back to the south, before reaching Post #6 at 1,400 feet.

## Red Trail

The red trail is a gentle to moderate sloping trail that follows the small brook on the east of the property and provides the best access the stream. Being our shortest trail at 0.4 miles, the red trail is usually combined with the eastern section of the orange trail to make a 0.6 mile loop back to the kiosk.

Starting at post #4, to the right of the kiosk, the red trail slopes gently down for about 150 ft. It continues downward, to a moderate slope, for another 200 feet until leveling out continuing level for about 200 ft.

The trail bends slightly to the left where an old logging trail continues straight and leads down to the brook. The red trail continues gently uphill for 100 feet to a spot where you can see a “Bear Beech” on the hillside west of the trail. Notice the claw marks in the smooth gray bark made by bears that have climbed this tree to eat beechnuts.

Continue up the trail for about 450 feet climbing up moderate uphill grades to Post #8. At Post #8, a fork to the north is a short spur trail that crosses the brook at 75 feet and continues a bit farther and dead ends. The main part of the red trail continues southwest from Post #8, on a gentle uphill slope for about 375 feet, to Post #7, at the intersection with the Orange Trail. Return to the Kiosk via the Orange Trail (passing

Posts #6 and #5) along a mostly flat section about 1,000 ft.

## Blue Trail

The Blue trail offers access to the southwestern tail of the FXSTF, and is 0.9 miles in length. If combined with the Orange trail it is a total distance of 1.2 miles. Though steep slopes must be climbed to access the loop, the loop part of the trail traverses across a flat plateau. Here a beautiful hardwood forest with older sugar maple trees and ledge bedrock can be seen. The Blue Trail also offers an alternate way to access the Orange trail, at the height and near the lookout.

The Blue trail leaves the “Grassy Landing” at Post #3, near the F.X. Shea welcome sign. Leaving Post #3, the blue trail climbs steeply uphill for 350 feet. At the first crest of the hill, stay left and continue to follow the blue trail down a moderate to gentle grade for 350 feet. After that, the blue trail climbs again for another 600 feet, until reaching Posts #10 and #11.

The loop section of the blue trail swings its way through the south west corner of the FXSTF, with little elevation change. From Post #11 one can go right or left to complete the loop. The following description assumes following a counter clockwise direction that starts at Post #11, and passes Posts #12, #13 and then back to Post #11.

From Post #11, the trail follows the property boundary very closely (marked with red paint) to the southern end of the property. As the trail heads east, and passes through open hardwood forests. Keep your eyes out for blue trail markings as it heads north towards Post #12.

At Post #12, the blue trail makes a sharp zig-zag turn to the south, to a short distance of 170 feet to Post #13. This gently sloping, short section of trail has some exposed rock ledges to add interest as you traverse around a small knoll. From Post #13, the trail climbs a short steep section, and continues on level grade through currently young hardwood trees back to Post #11, approximately 900 feet. Check out the shallow root structure of large blown down trees.

Starting at Post #10, the blue trail winds flat for approximately 250 feet along the western edge of the FXSTF. Then the blue trail climbs steeply for 470 feet, to the height of land at Post #9, at the intersection of the Orange trail. There are some interesting small ledges that can be seen from the property line (red painted trees) to the west of the trail just as the grade changes from gentle to steep.

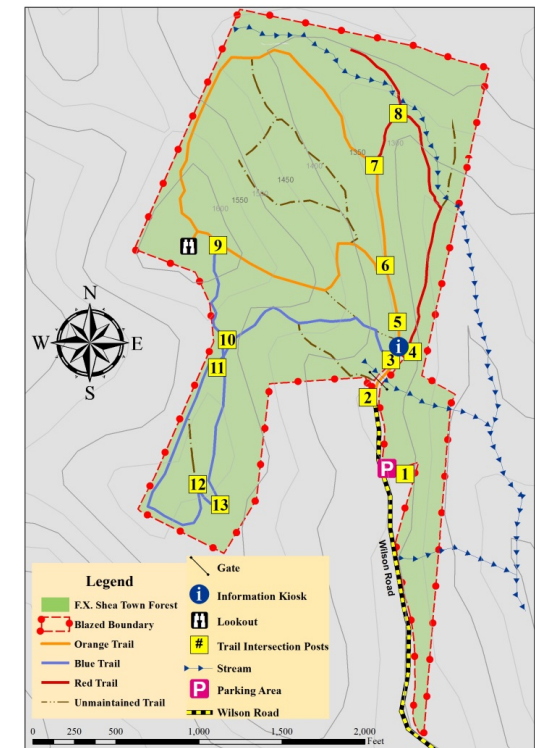
### Directions From the Corinth Post Office

(in Cookville):

- Follow Center Road for approximately 0.3 miles.
- Take left onto Coppermine Road. Follow for approximately 0.1 miles.

- Take first right onto Wilson Road\*. Follow for approximately 0.7 miles.
- At 0.7 miles is the designated parking area to the Town Forest.

# F.X. Shea Town Forest Trail Guide



## Corinth, Vermont

880 Wilson Road, Corinth, VT 05039

72°17'0.15978"W, 44°02'22.5747"N or

-72.283378W, 44.039604N