

Our Mission

Biodiversity Enhancement

Management

Education

Over the past few years, the Bethel Land Trust has expanded the size of the existing meadows, created a new native wildflower meadow, planted native trees, shrubs, and grasses, while removing exotic invasive plants such as the Japanese Barberry. Invasive plants do not support wildlife as well as native plants and destroy the natural habitat.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We rely on the support of our volunteers to steward the Preserve and accomplish our mission. Whether it is mowing the meadow trail, maintaining the forest trails, planting native trees and shrubs, or monitoring the Blue Bird houses, all assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Bethel Land Trust

Established in 1977, the BLT is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization devoted to preserving open space in Bethel.

www.BethelLandTrust.org

Friends of the Franc Preserve

Is a group of individuals and families who appreciate the Preserve, helping maintain its trails, planting native, trees, bushes and wild flowers. They post updates about the Preserve on their Facebook site.

The Franc Preserve, owned by the Town of Bethel, is being managed by the Bethel Land Trust in cooperation with Bethel's Parks and Recreation Department

Established in 2018, the Franc Preserve is 83 acres in size and offers a variety of habitats: mixed hardwood forest, meadows, and wetlands through which a tributary of Limekiln Brook flows. The Preserve was used for pasture about 150 years ago. Numerous remnants of stonewalls can be found throughout the preserve.

The preserve provides the necessary food, cover, and water for many types of animals found in this region.

The trail system is considered easy to moderate.

Access

There are two entrances. The main entrance is on Plumtrees Road which has a small parking area for 4-5 cars. The other entrance has street parking at the end of Shelly Road.

The Preserve is also adjacent to and accessed by the Brunot Preserve, owned by the Newtown Forest Association, creating a block of 150 acres of uninterrupted conservation land.

The **Preserve** provides a place:

- To walk peacefully
- For bird watching
- For nature photography
- For wildflowers and wildlife
- To escape from urbanization
- To conduct nature programs

Discover

The Franc Preserve

A family friendly and

Pet-lovers trail system

PRESERVE POLICIES

Preserve is open sunset to sundown

Please stay on designated trails. No dumping, littering, smoking, hunting, trapping or camping. No firearms, motorized vehicles or bicycles. No removal of plants or stones. Carry in/carry out all trash.

Dogs must always be leashed.



Trail Lengths

- Blue Trail (A) Loop 0.7 miles
- Blue Trail (b) Loop 0.29 miles
- Green/Red Trails Loop 0.59 miles
- Red Trail Spur (A) 0.47 miles
- Red Trail Spur (B) 0.37 miles
- Blue/Orange/Red Spur (A) 1.25 miles

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES



HIKING



SNOWSHOEING



WILDLIFE VIEWING



PHOTOGRAPHY

FRANC PRESERVE

Town of Bethel Preserved Open Space

Managed by a Partnership Between
The Bethel Land Trust & Bethel's
Parks & Recreation Department

MAP LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| FRANC PRESERVE BLUE TRAIL | NEWTOWN BRUNOT YELLOW TRAIL |
| FRANC PRESERVE GREEN TRAIL | NEWTOWN BRUNOT RED TRAIL |
| FRANC PRESERVE RED TRAIL | NEWTOWN BRUNOT WHITE TRAIL |
| FRANC PRESERVE ORANGE TRAIL | OPEN MEADOW |
| STREAM / POND | ROADS |
| FOOT BRIDGE | PARKING AREA |
| STEPPING STONE CROSSING | |

