

### Directions to the parking area

From the junction of Maple Street and Main Street in Northfield, go east on Maple Street about 3.2 miles (Maple Street becomes Gulf Road after about 1.1 miles) to the kiosk at the top of the mountain on the right (south side) of Gulf Road.

The parking area serves the Town Forest, Brush Mountain, Bald Hills, and New England Trail.



More about this trail and others is available online at [www.northfieldmass.org/trails](http://www.northfieldmass.org/trails)

The brochure and the website are courtesy of the Northfield Open Space Committee

Additional historical information can be found at the Dickinson Memorial Library

## Other Northfield Trails

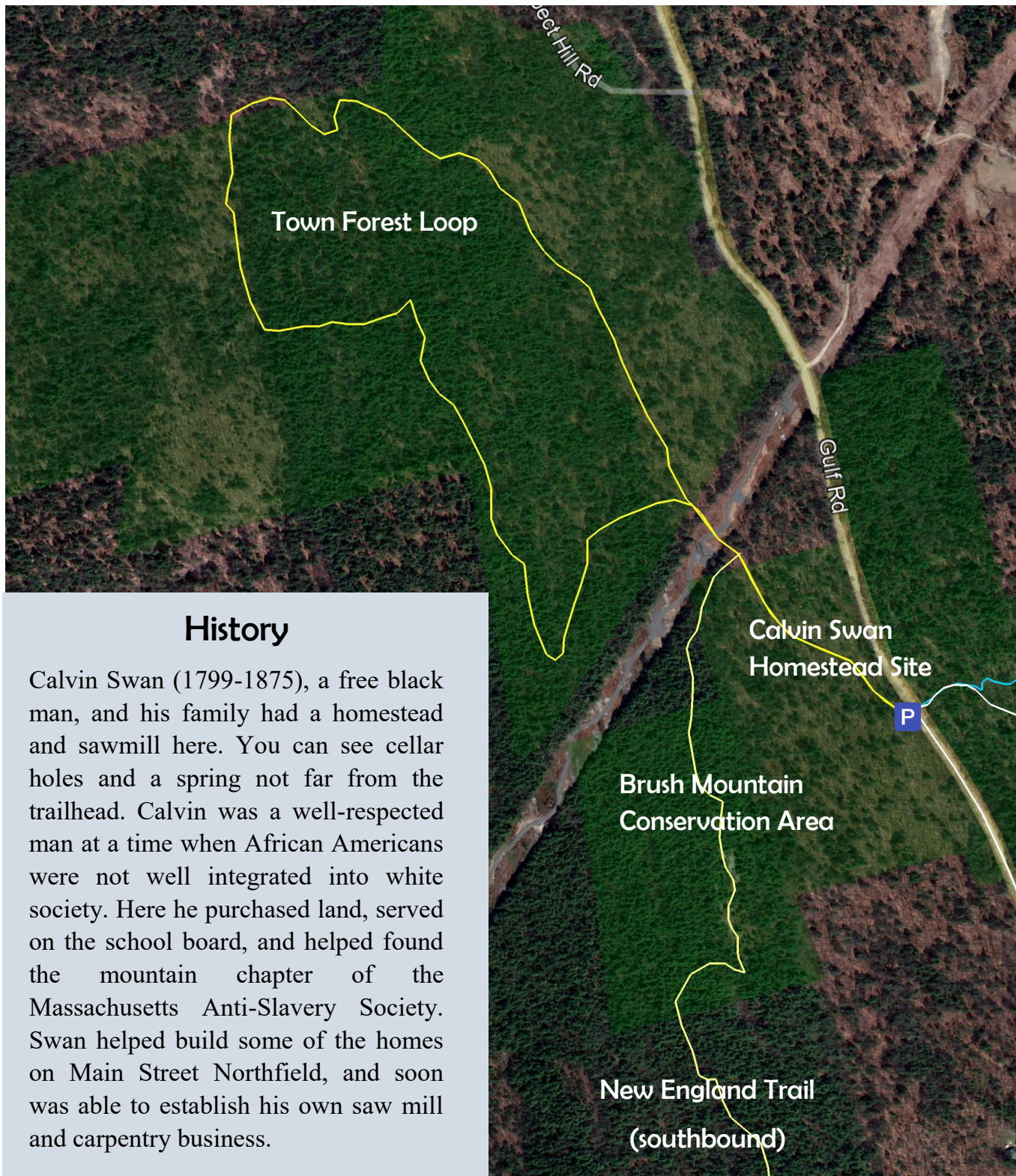
<a href="#">Alderbrook Meadow</a> : A short, handicapped accessible loop trail to a beaver pond located on Rte 63, 1.5 miles	loop length: .5 miles elevation gain: 50 feet
<a href="#">Alexander Hill Trails</a> - A network of trails for hiking and skiing is located in the Northfield State Forest at the top of Alexander Hill Rd.	loop length: 3.2 miles elevation gain: 280 feet mostly blue blazes
<a href="#">Bald Hills Loop</a> - A loop off of the New England Trail; trailhead shared with Brush Mountain/ Town forest trail on Gulf Rd. Start north on the white-blazed NET and soon take the blue-blazed trail to the left. Turn right when the blue trail rejoins the white NET trail to return to the trailhead.	loop length: 1.6 miles elevation gain: 360 feet blue, white blazes
<a href="#">Brush Mountain</a> - A town-owned 46-acre historical and recreation area with a trail to the top of the mountain; the trail is fairly level at the beginning, but becomes steep during the last quarter-mile.	out & back: 0.8 miles elevation gain: 220 feet white blazes
<a href="#">Coller Cemetery Trails</a> - A network of trails for hiking and skiing located in the Northfield State forest off the end of Coller Cemetery Rd. One trail is described here—check the trail-head kiosk for more about the other trails	out & back: 3.1 miles elevation gain: 220 feet mostly blue blazes
<a href="#">Hobo Falls Trail</a> : A picturesque falls. From the trailhead on Old Wendell Rd., follow the road south for 0.4 miles, then turn left off the road at the Hobo Falls sign	out & back: 1.1 miles elevation gain: 240 feet Northfield trail signs
<a href="#">King Philip's Hill</a> - A loop trail on a town-owned historic bluff overlooking the Connecticut River. The trail goes up to the river bank, then stays level until the steep, narrow down at the end.	loop length: 0.6 miles elevation gain: 80 feet white blazes
<a href="#">Mill Brook Wetlands</a> - An extensive wetland and wildlife area, with a circumference trail on private property near the center of the village. Park at the golf course; trailhead south of the parking lot.	loop length: 1.5 miles elevation gain: 180 feet white blazes
<a href="#">New England Trail</a> - A national scenic trail, with an interesting section in Northfield.	Multiple sections white blazes
<a href="#">Satan's Kingdom</a> - A large wildlife management area with an old forestry road. The trail goes to the top of the ridge, where there is a view of Northfield village across the valley.	out & back: 3.0 miles elevation gain: 580 feet

## Town Forest Trail



Total Length: 2.2 miles  
Elevation gain: 250 feet





## History

Calvin Swan (1799-1875), a free black man, and his family had a homestead and sawmill here. You can see cellar holes and a spring not far from the trailhead. Calvin was a well-respected man at a time when African Americans were not well integrated into white society. Here he purchased land, served on the school board, and helped found the mountain chapter of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. Swan helped build some of the homes on Main Street Northfield, and soon was able to establish his own saw mill and carpentry business.

## Trail Directions

From the trailhead kiosk follow the yellow blazes northwest across the power line to the trail junction. The clockwise (left) direction goes to the trail high point and down past cliffs. Turn right at the north end and take the logging road back to the beginning.

The trail was designed in 2013 by Bob Pasteris and Harry Sharbaugh, and built as an Eagle Scout project.

## About the Town Forest

The Northfield Town Forest is a 150-acre conservation and passive recreation area with a 2.2-mile loop trail.

This property was purchased in 2010 with National Forest Legacy funds, and donated to the town. The Northfield Conservation Commission is responsible for managing the conservation restriction and stewardship plan.

## Wildlife

Wildlife and tracks spotted in this area include bear, bobcat, fisher, and deer. There are several vernal pools on the property, and there were reportedly timber rattlesnakes in the past, though they are likely extirpated now.