ramble through the properties mapped here will take you through White pine and mixed oak woods, past flood plain marshes and Red maple swamp, across streams, and along the shores of man-made ponds. Wildflowers are common in late spring and early summer, including shin-lea, Pink lady’s slippers, and wild oats. Evergreen partridgeberry, wintergreen, and pipsissewa may be identified in winter as well. Primitive club mosses and ferns carpet some areas. Marsh marigold, forget-me-not, and jewelweed grow near the ponds and streams.

The passage of glaciers left its mark on this landscape. Most striking is the 40-foot-high ice-contact face that rises just south of Hop Brook. The slope marks one edge of a kame plain, built up with layers of well-stratified material deposited by glacial meltwater. Kettleholes pit the plain, formed as sand and gravel washed and settled around chunks of ice left behind by the glacier. When the ice melted, a steep-sided depression was left behind. The kettlehole behind Curtis Middle School harbors a sphagnum bog.

Eskers wind through these properties – long, narrow ridges of sand and gravel deposited by rivers that ran through tunnels within the glacier or through ice-walled open channels on its surface. Look for a large boulder that perches near the trail winding along an esker top in the northeast corner of the Gray Reservation; it’s a glacial erratic carried along by the glacier and then dropped.

The eskers were natural aids in creating both the pond on the Gray Reservation and the pond that formerly filled Hop Brook’s floodplain, thanks to a stone dam at the site of the current footbridge over the brook. Here and there along the trails “borrow pits” mark locations where sand and gravel have been removed for various projects over the years.

The Gray Reservation came to SVT in 1976 as a gift from Mrs. Stephen Gray. She and her husband took great pleasure and pride in caring for their land. Mr. Gray created the pond on the property and built the cabin that formerly stood near the dam. Only a portion of its fireplace remains and a few of the flowers planted in its vicinity. On the south side of Hudson Road, stone walls enclose a former garden area now mowed annually to keep it open.

**SVT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Please respect posted regulations while on other lands shown.

We welcome you to enjoy the trails for walking, skiing, snowshoeing, nature study, photography, and other quiet activities. Please carry out everything you carry in.

In order to protect this natural area, the following are prohibited:

- Motorized vehicles
- Hunting or trapping
- Camping
- Bicycling
- Fires
- Disposing of trash or yard waste
- Cutting or removing plants

**DIRECTIONS**

From Sudbury Center (intersection of Route 27, or Old Sudbury Road, and Concord Road), go west on Hudson Road. Bear left and continue on Hudson road where route 27 breaks off to the right. Take your first left onto Old Lancaster Road. An SVT sign located on the corner of Hudson road and Old Lancaster Road marks the parking lot. The trail starts from the kiosk to the left as you enter the parking lot.