

# Sprague Farm

## All walks start at the Sprague Farm parking area on Pine Orchard Road

**Short Walk** (0.5 miles / 25 minutes) – After few yards on the Sprague Trail (white rectangle) bear right (northwest) onto Jenk’s Trail (purple rectangle) and proceed across the field, through the stone wall, and into the woods. Jenk’s Trail ends in an area with large white pine trees, and at the junction with Jedediah’s Trail (blue triangle). Turn left (south) and follow the Jenk’s Trail through pines and mountain laurel. Jenk’s Trail crosses a stone wall and rises through hemlocks, then descends into pines and laurel. This trail crosses the Sprague Trail near a vernal pool, but turn left (northeast) onto the Sprague Trail (white rectangle) and return to the parking area.

**Medium Walk** (1.1 miles / 1 hour) – Proceed southwest on the Sprague Trail (white rectangle) for approx 10 minutes. Watch for and turn left onto Jedediah’s Trail marked with blue triangles. (If you stay on Sprague Trail and come to a small vernal pool on your right, turn around because you went past Jedediah’s Trail.) Follow Jedediah’s Trail southeasterly, which descends and crosses a small cattle pond. Note the Lydia’s Trail (yellow dot) on your right – you will return by this trail. Continue on Jedediah’s Trail which rises gently, goes over a ridge, and ends at a wide dirt lane which is Cemetery Trail. Turn right (south) onto Cemetery Trail which is marked with orange triangles. Follow this trail until you see on your right granite posts and iron pipe bars. This is the restored cemetery of the Sprague family which farmed this land for over 200 years. Just beyond the cemetery watch for, and turn right, off the lane and onto Lydia’s Trail which is marked with yellow dots. (If you remained on Cemetery Trail you would come to Joe Sweet Road.) Lydia’s Trail passes by the cemetery and winds northwesterly through open woods and along a stream, and ends at the small cattle pond. Turn left (west) and follow Jedediah’s Trail, which rises and leads to Sprague Trail (white rectangle). Turn right (northeast) onto Sprague Trail and return to the parking area.

**Long Walk** (2.5 miles / 2 hours or 2.0 miles / 1.5 hours) – Proceed southwest on Sprague Trail (white rectangle). After passing Jedediah’s Trail intersection, note the vernal pool on the right side of the trail. Sprague Trail follows the boundary line with Moonraker Farm (private property), which is to the left. The trail crosses a fieldstone bridge which is the southern end of a White Cedar swamp. The trail winds and rises sharply and then continues westerly along a boundary line with Moonraker Farm until a small vernal pool on the left is seen. Shortly beyond this point you come to the junction with Colonel Anthony Trail (orange dots) on the right. Don’t take Col. Anthony Trail as you will return by this trail. Bear left, continuing on Sprague Trail (white rectangle). Note on your right the George Sprague house foundation, and on your left are foundations of barns and paddock walls. The trail turns southwesterly and crosses over a fieldstone culvert over an intermittent stream. Just beyond the culvert and along the trail is a stand of Striped Maples, a tree that is rarely found in Rhode Island. Continuing on the trail you will pass by a pair of stone lined cellar holes. Sprague Trail turns northwesterly and passes over an area that can be wet or muddy due to a damaged culvert. The trail then weaves through a series of stone walls which extends for hundreds of yards through the woods. These walls form a series of large and small pastures or paddocks, and at one time held livestock of the Sprague family. As you walk, note the trail erosion and banking caused by illegal use of this property by dirt bikers and ATV’s. The trail descends and crosses the largest stone bridge on Sprague Farm. The stream flows northeasterly and feeds the White Cedar swamp. Shortly beyond the bridge, the trail comes to a major intersection at the house foundation of Smith Sprague and another stand of Striped Maple trees. This is the halfway point of the walk.

The trail running right and left, and marked in yellow rectangles, is Haystack Hill Trail. If you were to turn left (south), this would lead you to Elbow Rock Trail, but don’t go this way. Turn right (north) and follow the yellow rectangle trail.

*If you want to do a slightly shorter walk take the following shortcut: on the north side of the house foundation is John’s Ridge Trail (blue dot) that crosses Haystack Hill Trail. Turn right on the John’s Ridge Trail (towards the house foundation). John’s Ridge Trail rises to a scenic ridge, descends and ends at Colonel Anthony Trail (orange dot). Bear right and follow from (A) below.*

Haystack Hill Trail (yellow rectangle) soon descends and heads northeasterly. Watch for the sign for Colonel Anthony Trail (orange dot) that will be on your right (south). Make a sharp right turn and follow Col. Anthony Trail southwesterly. At the junction with the John’s Ridge Trail (blue dot) shortcut trail (A), the Colonel Anthony Trail turns easterly. The trail passes over a stream that flows into the White Cedar swamp. There once was a field stone or wood bridge over this stream, but it probably collapsed during a spring freshet or flood. The trail will continue southeasterly until it ends at the George Sprague house foundation. Bear left (east) onto Sprague Trail (white rectangle) and follow it to the parking area at Pine Orchard Road.