The Bradford Bog trail winds through rare Atlantic White Cedars towering over a bed of lush sphagnum moss and blooming Rhodera. The conservation easements on this land protect 178 acres of vulnerable Atlantic White Cedar Swamp. These scarce ecosystems are restricted to ever-decreasing freshwater habitats along the east coast from Florida to Maine and only 30 have been identified in NH. Atlantic White Cedars, which can grow to 300 years old, provide critical habitat for many plant and animal species. This Bog is home to Pitcher Plants, Larch trees, Bog Rosemary, White-Throated Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, Broad-winged Hawks, Moose, White-tailed deer, and Snowshoe Hare, among others. At the end of the 0.6 mile trail, a lookout tower treats walkers to a stunning view of the expansive swamp flanked by surrounding hills and the Lovewell and Haystack mountain peaks.

Just a little further south on the East Washington Road is the Bradford Springs parcel, which includes the site of the historic Bradford Springs Hotel marked by cellar holes, a kiosk and a plaque. Guests came to the region starting in the late 1830’s until 1917 to partake of the medicinal sulfur-ous waters at the octagonal springhouse. The cellar hole remains and the reconstructed spring house resides at Musterfield Farm in Sutton.

The Town of Bradford owns Bradford Bog and Bradford Hotel & Springs—the Ausbon Sargent Land Trust holds the easement.

Drive Directions: From the intersection of routes 114 and 103 in Bradford, travel west on 103 for 0.2 mi. Turn left onto Center Rd, and go under a covered bridge. After 0.3 mi, turn right at stop sign to remain on Center Rd. After 2.1 mi, turn right on West Rd at the 4 corners. Continue on West Rd for 1.8 mi and turn left onto E. Washington Rd. Travel for about 3.5 mi and the Bradford Bog Trailhead will be on left.

Be sure to print the Bradford Conservation Commission’s Trail Guide which is also available in a PDF printable format from the Ausbon Sargent web site.