



## WELCOME TO THE GLOWEGEE CREEK SOUTH TRAILS!

### What is Letterboxing?

Letterboxing is an old English tradition dating back to 1854, when people began leaving a self-addressed post card in a jar, hoping for them to be returned by mail by the next visitor. Today we've adapted this English tradition to use on Saratoga PLAN's nature preserves and trails. Each preserve has letterbox clues ranging in difficulty and gives each type of adventurer an exciting opportunity to explore our preserves and have fun while doing so. When you find the letterbox, feel free to take a postcard, and mail it back to us with your comments about your journey. Use the stamp inside the letterbox to mark your PLAN Preserve Passport on the appropriate page. Once you have collected at least five stamps (or listed three species observed during each visit) stop by PLAN's offices in Saratoga Springs for a FREE Saratoga PLAN t-shirt!

### LETTERBOX CLUES FOR GLOWEGEE CREEK SOUTH TRAILS

**1. You begin your adventure at the SOUTH ENTRANCE (Galway Road County Route 45) and follow the BLUE trail markers to the right of the kiosk.**

*Just past the clearing the trails is bordered by honeysuckle bushes which bloom pink or white in the Spring with a beautiful fragrance.*

**2. As you continue on your way, just off the trail to the left you begin to see a stone wall. Soon you will see two stone walls intersect and end just before the ORANGE trail marker appears on your left. Continue on the BLUE trail.**

**3. Up ahead on the left you approach a meadow. Look at two of the trees at the edge of the meadow and you will see—Can you guess? One is red and one is green.**

*Bluebird houses! Be sure to enjoy time here to observe these bluebird houses. Have any of the residents of the forest chosen to “move in”? Ther is also one at the far end of the meadow.*

**4. As you continue beyond the meadow, look and see what trees are growing, young and old—they start with a “B” Hint: they have smooth gray bark and hold their leaves through the winter.**

*These are beech trees. There is a substantial growth that extends for quite a distance into the woods as you continue on this part of the trail.*

**5. Not too far along the trail you will come to a new bridge crossing a tributary from the creek.**

*The bridge was built by Saratoga PLAN's Monday Stewards, a group of dedicated volunteers that meet every Monday to do trail maintenance on PLAN preserves. They work year round in all-weather to maintain and improve access to PLAN trails*

**6. Just down the hill a trail enters on your left—what color new marker do you see—RED or GREEN? Keep walking on the BLUE trail. You are more than halfway there, so keep on going and have some fun on your way!**

*The GREEN trail enters here. You may want to use this trail as an alternate route to return to the parking lot once you have completed your letterbox adventure*

**7. As you cross the rock wall, there are tall, short needled evergreen trees—new and old. Can you guess what it is? A tree that starts with “He”.**

*These are Eastern hemlock trees. An extensive area of the new and old growth continues to the end of your adventure and beyond. This native conifer is being threatened by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and invasive, aphid-like insect that attacks North American Hemlocks.*

**8. Just past another stone wall, stop and listen closely. What do you hear? Look toward the sound and find large pieces of limestone on the forest floor. (No, these do not taste like a lime!) Now look to the left of this outcropping, and what do you see? You get a glimpse of the Gloweege Creek!**

**9. Now you are right up to it—look ahead, look around and you will see the bridge over the Gloweege!**

*As the Gloweege flows over the limestone ledges, it creates a spectacular series of waterfalls. Each ledge is a flat layer of the local limestone. Limestone is a sedimentary rock made of the remains of marine creatures. By its nature it is very nutrient rich. In the Spring the sound can be heard from quite a distance and the white foam is a beautiful sight. Truly the highlight of the trail!*

**10. Cross the bridge and start looking along the stone wall, the letterbox is somewhere around. Oh, one more thing—it is hidden between the bridge and the beautiful waterfalls.**

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

We hope you enjoyed your letterboxing adventure! Now, write your name in the notebook, stamp your Passport, and place the letterbox back where it was found. From here, go back across the bridge and trace your way back to the parking lot. Watch for the impressive six-stemmed red oak, just a few minutes away!

**Thank you!**

*Your Friends at Saratoga PLAN*

The mission of Saratoga PLAN is to preserve the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations. To learn more, please visit us at [www.saratogaplan.org](http://www.saratogaplan.org).

 Thank you for generously funding the Passport Program!

**Please return the clues to the kiosk. Thank you!**