

Thompson Forest

Welcome!

The loop trail is open for hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and observing nature. Enjoy the shrub and wildflower meadow and oak-pine forest along the Wild and Scenic Lamprey River.

Habitat and Water Protection Area

When the Town of Durham acquired this property in 2016, the pasture was overgrown with invasive shrubs bordered by a mid-age forest. The Town of Durham is partnering with the NH Fish and Game Department to manage 15 acres of former pasture as shrub/meadow habitat for wildlife.

This requires on-going stewardship to remove invasive shrubs and vines (such as buckthorn, autumn olive, and Eurasian bittersweet) and encourage native plants that provide food and cover for pollinating bees and butterflies, songbirds, snowshoe hares, and the NH State Endangered New England cottontail rabbit. Protecting the land for wildlife also helps to protect the municipal water supply for Durham.

History

The Thompson and Griffith families farmed this area from 1820 to 1969. The 54-acre Thompson Forest is the last remaining undeveloped piece of the 200-acre dairy farm.



Above: Aerial view of Thompson Forest meadow.



The Lamprey River begins in Northwood and travels 49 miles to Newmarket and Great Bay. The entire river is protected under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program and a 23-mile segment from Epping to Newmarket is also protected under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Lamprey is remarkable for its outstanding habitats, historical resources, and significant runs of river herring.

For more information, visit www.LampreyRiver.org



Above, top to bottom:
red-tailed hawk, gray catbird,
monarch butterfly,
New England cottontail

Photo credits: red-tailed hawk and gray catbird: Steve Mirick; monarch: Ellen Snyder; cottontail: Melissa Doperalski; aerial: Tyler Nachilly; birdwatcher: Dick Lord



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Lamprey River
Advisory Committee
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