

## William E. Kennard Forest



**Description:** Although the forested canopy of this 34-acre forest does not offer distant views, the hilly terrain, open understory, rock outcrops, and large boulders provide many scenic views within. Easy trails wind for 1.1 miles through the woods of hemlock, oak, hickory, and pine, rising 150 feet in elevation from the trailhead at Kennard Road to the southern boundary. Please look for "Leaving Kennard Forest" signs located at the boundaries with private land and remain on the Town property.

While exploring the Kennard Forest you will find a small, intermittent stream that flows from an ephemeral pool, home to wood frogs and salamanders in spring. Stonewalls, a small cellar hole, and a stone dam offer insights into past land uses.

The William E. Kennard Forest is named in memory of the Kennard family, who arrived in New Hampshire in 1660 and moved to Kennard Road in 1823.

**Conservation:** The Town of Nottingham purchased this property at a greatly reduced price from Ronald W. Kennard in 2013 and then protected the land in perpetuity, to benefit people and nature, with a conservation easement held by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. Conservation Fund revenue from the Land Use Change Tax was used for the purchase and easement costs. The property is classified as Highest Ranked Habitat in NH by the 2020 NH Wildlife Action Plan.

**Usage:** Kennard Forest is available year-round for low-impact educational and recreational activities such as walking, snowshoeing, hunting, and cross-country skiing. Hunting is allowed, and visitors are advised to wear hunter orange or other highly visible color during the fall hunting seasons. Bikes and motorized vehicles are not permitted. Please leash your dog; bag and carry out waste and trash.

## **Directions:**

The entrance to Kennard Forest is on the south side of Kennard Road, approximately 2.3 miles east of Freeman Hall Road and 0.8 miles west of Smoke Street. The eastern end of Kennard Road is mostly unpaved, but the entrance to Kennard Forest is located at the east end of a small section of paved road. The abutting landowners have generously offered parking in their field across the road (do not block their access to back land), or park along the roadside during winter.

