

Fairbanks Pond Parcel

This town-owned parcel totals 65 acres and was tax-acquired. It includes 778 feet of frontage on Fairbanks Pond, which is a lovely “kettle hole” pond, surrounded by steep-sided sand eskers. The surrounding area, known as Summerhaven, contains many such ponds and eskers, which are high narrow ridges of sand and gravel formed by ancient glaciers. There are several tote roads and trails throughout the property. Access is difficult, as the right of way via the Fairbanks Road is unclear, and Scenic Drive is in very poor repair. The primary use of the property is currently for tree harvesting. The State’s ATV trail, along with club snowmobile trails, traverse the southeast corner. The Maine Department of Conservation owns the adjacent land surrounding Tyler Pond and has an agreement with the town to allow ATV use on the designated trail, which makes a 6-mile circuit. (See “Tyler Pond WMA” below.)

Uses and restrictions: All nonmotorized travel, swimming. ATVs on designated trail only. Snowmobiles on designated trail only. No camping or fires.

For more information: Mark Doyon, Manchester Town Manager. Phone: 621-1811. Internet: <http://www.manchester.govoffice2.com>.

Tyler Pond Wildlife Management Area

The Tyler Pond WMA comprises 128-acres. A small kettle pond is the centerpiece of the property which the Maine Department of Conservation (DOC) purchased in the 1970s with federal Land and Water Conservation Funds to be “forever dedicated as recreation land to be available for public use and enjoyment.” Because the department’s plans to develop the property as a state park failed to materialize, it entered into an agreement with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) in 1992 to manage the area as a wildlife management area. The agreement between the two agencies states that “the DIFW shall not deny the public reasonable access to the property (including Tyler Pond and Lily Pond) for the purposes of fishing, swimming, and recreational boating.” DIFW primarily manages the pond for cold water fishing, and maintains a boat access site on the north end. In addition, DOC coordinates the use of the property with that of surrounding landowners, including the town of Manchester, for an ATV trail network. Swimming is not allowed on land owned by the department.

Uses and restrictions: All nonmotorized travel. ATVs on designated trails only. Snowmobiles on designated trails only. ATVs and snowmobiles have right of way on designated trails. Hunting, fishing, hand-carry boating. No swimming, camping, or fires.

For more information: MDIFW Regional Office, 270 Lyons Road, Sidney, ME 04330-9711. Phone: 547-5300 Ext. 2. Internet: <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wma/b61b.htm>

Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest

Edward A. Whitney donated this 708-acre tract of land to the New England Forestry Foundation in 1955. The Allen family settled on a portion of the land during colonial times. Now the area is one of the organization’s 125 demonstration forests in New England where land is managed to teach woodlot owners about sustainable forestry. An internal road system, built in the 1960s, provides access to all portions of the property for forest management and public access to the forest and Shed Pond. The Manchester Country Riders maintain snowmobile trails through the property. A network of non-motorized trails has been developed as well, with more trails being planned. Trailhead access is at the North Manchester Meeting House Church on Scribner Hill Rd. Limited parking is also available at the sign at the crest of the hill on Scribner Hill Rd.

Uses and restrictions: All nonmotorized travel. Snowmobiles on designated trails only. ATVs prohibited except by permission. Hunting, fishing, and nature study are allowed. No camping or fires.

For more information: Si Balch, Directory of Community Forest Stewardship, New England Forestry Foundation, (978) 952-6856 x106. Internet: <http://www.newenglandforestry.com>. Or contact Doug Ide, local volunteer Forest Steward. Phone: 623-5925.

Gannett Woods

This 120-acre preserve protects important wildlife habitat and woodland and includes Shed Pond. In 2004 John and Pat Gannett donated this property to the Kennebec Land Trust to ensure the shoreline of Shed Pond would remain free of development. Access is via the Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest (see above).

Uses and restrictions: All nonmotorized travel on designated trail only. Snowmobiles on designated trail only. No ATVs, no camping.

For more information: Theresa Kerchner, Stewardship and Education Director, Kennebec Land Trust, 134 Main Street Suite 2B Winthrop, Maine 04364. Phone: 377-2848. Internet: <http://www.tkl.org>.

Lakeside Orchards

Jacob Pope planted the first apple trees here in the 1870s. The farm now encompasses 189 acres with thousands of apple trees. In 1999 the Maine Department of Agriculture acquired a conservation easement on Lakeside Orchards with funding from the state Land for Maine's Future and the federal Farmland Protection programs. Lakeside Orchards operates a retail store on Rte. 17. The orchard is the site of Manchester's annual Apple Festival, held in the fall.

Uses and restrictions: Public access is by permission only.

For more information: Steve & Marilyn Meyerhans, owners, Lakeside Orchards, 318 Readfield Rd., Manchester, ME 04351. Phone: 622-2479. Internet: <http://www.lakesideorchards.com>;
http://www.state.me.us/spo/lmf/projects/project_detail.php?project=1545

Town Woodlots near Bog Pond

The Town owns three landlocked parcels in this area, two just to the northeast of Bog Pond, the other on the Hallowell line. All were tax-acquired and are managed as woodlots. Informal trails and logging roads exist, though since there is no direct access to the properties, permission from abutting landowners to cross their properties is needed. The parcels do not have conservation easements.

Uses and restrictions: All nonmotorized travel, hunting. Snowmobiles on designated trails only. No ATVs, camping, or fires.

For more information: Mark Doyon, Manchester Town Manager. Phone: 621-1811. Internet: <http://www.manchester.govoffice2.com>.

Jamies Pond Wildlife Management Area

This quiet pond and 550 acres of surrounding woodlands were purchased in 1991 from the Hallowell Water District with funds from the Land For Maine's Future, the City of Hallowell, and an anonymous donor. In 1991, the Land For Maine's Future Board acquired another 85 acres, the Norton Parcel in Manchester, from the Kennebec Land Trust. In 2001 the town of Manchester subsequently donated two tax-acquired properties totaling 8.1 acres to the wildlife management area. This year, the area has again been expanded with the addition of about 175 acres from the UMA Collins property. The area now encompasses close to 800 acres straddling Manchester and Hallowell. Stewardship help is from the Hallowell and Manchester Conservation Commissions, who have developed and maintain an extensive network of well-marked trails. Kennebec Land Trust has played an active role in conserving this property. The pond itself covers 107 acres and is 75 feet deep. It is stocked with brook trout and splake, and contains small and large mouth bass and pickerel. The property hosts numerous birds, including herons, hawks, loons, osprey and a wide variety of songbirds. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife manages the area primarily for wildlife.

Uses and restrictions: All nonmotorized travel, hunting, fishing, hand-carry boating. No swimming, ATVs, snowmobiles, camping, or fires.

For more information: MDIFW Regional Office, 270 Lyons Road, Sidney, ME 04330-9711. Phone: 547-5300 Ext. 2. Internet: <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wma/b41.htm>; <http://hallowell.govoffice.com/>;
<http://www.manchester.govoffice2.com>.

Snowmobile Trails

An extensive network of snowmobile trails runs throughout Manchester. The trails are maintained by volunteers from the Manchester Country Riders Snowmobile Club. Most of the trails are on private land and exist because of the gracious and generous cooperation of local landowners. During the winter months these trails are open to snowmobiles, skiers, and snowshoers, and snowmobiles always have the right of way. ATVs are not allowed on the trails. Permission to use the trails outside the sledding season cannot be assumed, so always ask the landowner before accessing his/her property. Respecting the trails and the land is important to keeping this valuable resource available. Maps are available at the Town Office and at local businesses. Snowmobilers are encouraged to join and become active in the club. For more information contact ??????????