



Suggested Hike



Welcome to Wolven Conservation Area! This 23-acre conservation area on Currier Road has a little less than a mile of walking trails through a beautiful, wooded area with ferns, native plants, and field habitat. Here, you'll find a rare pitch pine community and swamp white oak basin, making it a special place for nature lovers. A managed field adds to the variety of environments, supporting different types of wildlife. The trails are well maintained with 3 resting benches along the trails. The area features about a mile of marked trails:

- **Yellow Trail:** 0.4 miles
- **Blue Trail:** 0.2 miles
- **Red Trail:** 0.2 miles
- **Diane's Field Connector:** less than 0.1 miles

To begin your adventure, enter at the parking lot on Currier Road. To track your hike download **ArcGIS Field Maps** app and search Pelham trails. Please help us protect this beautiful area by staying on the trails and observing wildlife quietly.



Contact Us

Have an idea we should consider? Want to join our active team? Reach out to us via the contact information below:

Email: Pelhampathways@gmail.com.

Web: Pelhampathways.com

Community Trail Coalition Presents

Wolven Conservation Area



Currier Road
Pelham, NH 03076
Park open dawn to dusk; Dogs allowed

Welcome to Wolven Conservation Area



Wolven Conservation Area became part of the town in 2002, thanks to Diane Wolven, who loved nature and all kinds of animals. Diane wanted to protect her land as a special place for wildlife. When she passed away in 2010, her land became fully owned by the town and was opened to the public with new trails for everyone to enjoy. Diane inherited the property from her aunt. In the past, there were big chicken barns on the land, but they were taken down over time. The open fields were used to grow vegetables, and Diane loved having picnics there. She would explore her land

throughout the year, choosing different spots to enjoy each season. This beautiful area has something for everyone—wetlands, open fields, and forests full of wildlife. One of its most unique features is a rare patch of pitch pine trees, part of what used to be a much larger pine forest along the Merrimack River Valley. Today, visitors can walk the trails, take in the natural beauty, and experience the same peacefulness Diane loved so much.



The Gnome Tree

- **Reduces Forest Fire Risk:** Removing poor-quality trees decreases the chance of forest fires.
- **Provides Wood Products:** Harvested timber is used for items like furniture, paper, and fuel.

Supports Recreation: After harvesting, new trails can be created for public enjoyment, with care taken to protect wildlife and sensitive areas. Trees are cut down using chainsaws or machines called feller bunchers. They are then transported to a landing area by skidders, processed into various products, and loaded onto trucks for delivery to markets. **What Happens to the Money from Timber Harvests?** Proceeds from timber sales go into the Forest Maintenance Fund, which supports the ongoing care and stewardship of Pelham's town forests. **How Is a Timber Harvest Planned and Conducted?** The Forestry Committee and Town Forester select a property based on the Forest Management Plan. They identify areas for harvesting and those to be protected, considering factors like soil, water, and terrain. Access roads and landing areas are planned to minimize environmental impact. Trees chosen for removal are marked, and during the harvest, care is taken to avoid sensitive areas. **How Can I Learn More?** You can find Forest Management Plans and additional information on the Pelham Forestry Committee's website. Understanding and supporting sustainable timber harvesting helps ensure that our town forests remain healthy and enjoyable for generations to come.

Understanding Timber Harvesting

Timber harvesting is a carefully planned process that helps keep our town forests healthy and thriving. **What Is a Town Forest?** A town forest is a special area owned by the community and managed to protect nature, provide places for recreation, and sometimes produce wood products. In Pelham, the Conservation Commission may propose making a property a town forest. Residents then vote on this proposal, and if most agree, the land becomes a town forest. **Who Manages the Town Forests?** Once designated, the Forestry Committee manages the town forests. They work with a licensed forester to create a Forest Management Plan, aiming to balance: Wood Production, Wildlife Habitats, Wetlands Protection, and Recreational Use

Why Harvest Timber? Harvesting timber offers several benefits:

- **Promotes Forest Regeneration:** Removing certain trees allows new ones to grow by providing more sunlight, water, and nutrients.
- **Increases Biodiversity:** A mix of tree species and ages supports a wider variety of wildlife.
- **Enhances Wildlife Habitat:** Fallen trees become homes and food sources for insects, small animals, reptiles, and amphibians.
- **Improves Timber Quality:** Selective harvesting every 10-15 years removes unhealthy or over-mature trees, leading to healthier forests and a sustainable source of income for forest upkeep.



Fascinating Ferns: A Guide to Nature's Green Wonders



Ferns are unique plants that have been around for millions of years. They don't have flowers or seeds. Instead, ferns reproduce using tiny dust-like spores. You can often spot these spores on the underside of the fronds, or leaves, of certain ferns. Ferns can reproduce both sexually and asexually. Most of the time, wind carries their spores to new places. When conditions are just right, these spores grow into a tiny green plant called a prothallium, which can produce both eggs and sperm. Once fertilized, a new fern begins to grow. In spring, young ferns called fiddleheads uncurl from the forest floor. Fiddleheads are edible when harvested early and are ready to pick when they are about six inches

1. **Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)** – Often found near streams and wet areas; its fiddleheads are a local favorite in spring.
2. **Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)** – Grows in moist woods and along streams, with fronds that resemble flowers.
3. **Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)** – Found in wetlands and moist, shaded areas; it is sensitive to frost, hence its name.
4. **Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*)** – Common along stream banks and in moist woods, known for its cinnamon-colored fertile fronds.
5. **Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)** – Prefers shaded forest floors and is one of the few evergreen ferns in the region.
6. **Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*)** – Found in dry, sunny areas and fields; it can spread aggressively and inhibit other plant growth.
7. **Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*)** – Grows in moist, forested areas and is notable for its "interrupted" fronds.

These ferns thrive in New Hampshire's diverse ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, and riverbanks. Whether you're a seasoned fern enthusiast or just curious, nature is waiting to share its secrets. Happy fern hunting!

Pitch Pine: A Resilient Part of

Pelham's Natural Heritage

What Are Pitch Pines? The Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) is a hardy evergreen tree that plays a vital role in maintaining local biodiversity. Known for its thick bark and ability to survive wildfires, this tree thrives in challenging environments where other species falter. Once common in New Hampshire's rare pine barrens ecosystem, today pitch pines cover less than half of one percent of the state's land.



Key Features of Pitch Pines:

- **Distinctive Needles & Cones:** Needles grow in bundles of three and remain on the tree for 2-3 years. Adaptively, cones and needles can sprout directly from the trunk.
- **Wildfire Resilience:** Capable of regenerating new growth from damaged trunks and branches after fire exposure.
- **Longevity:** These trees can live up to 200 years, with strong growth for the first 50-60 years.

Ecological Importance: Pitch pines provide essential habitat for wildlife such as wild turkeys, blue jays, black-capped chickadees, and various warblers. Deer browse on the seedlings, while birds and small mammals consume the seeds.

Challenges Facing Pitch Pines



Pitch Pine Cone

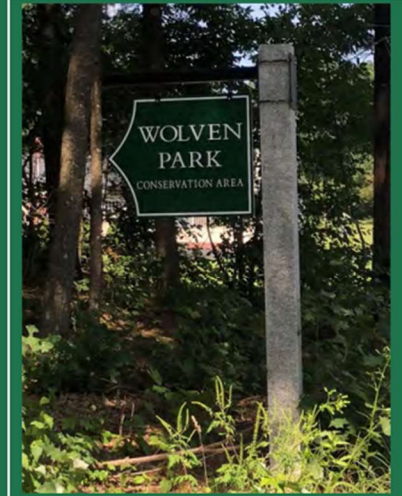
- **Declining Numbers:** Being replaced by faster-growing white pines.
- **Limited Sunlight:** Young pitch pines struggle to grow in shaded, crowded forests.
- **Insect Threats:** The northward spread of southern pine beetles poses a risk.

Why Preserve Pitch Pines? Despite their diminished dominance, these trees are a valuable part of Pelham's Town Forest. They preserve local biodiversity and are part of the region's natural history.

A Vision for the Future: With careful management, Pelham's remaining pitch pines can continue to thrive within a mixed white pine forest. As you explore the trails at Wolven Conservation Area take a moment to appreciate these resilient trees and their enduring role in the natural landscape. Their ability to flourish in dry, sandy soils and recover from wildfire underscores nature's extraordinary adaptability.

WOLVEN PARK

TOWN OF PELHAM, NH
PELHAMWEB.COM/FORESTRY-COMMITTEE



PERMITTED

- Walking
- Bicycling - including e-bikes
- XC Skiing and Snowshoeing
- Pets (leashed)
- Snowmobiling (only on designated trails)

NOT PERMITTED

- Hunting
- OHRV
- Camping
- Fires

Please carry out all trash



For mobile navigation, download the ESRI Field Maps app to your device and search for PELHAM TRAILS

Map by **NRPC**