

Nesbitt Pond Natural Area Management Action Plan
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In 1998 the voters of the Town of Lebanon approved a ballot initiative permitting the purchase of the Nesbitt Pond property from Phillips Exeter Academy. The purposes outlined in the initiative are for open space and wetland protection to be managed jointly by the Lebanon Conservation Commission and Planning Board. This is a living document to which we will add new information as it becomes available.

We are pleased that this project can involve Scout groups, college interns, professionals, and local volunteers.

1. FOREST MANAGEMENT:

The forest consists of a mixture of soft and hardwood species. It was heavily cut in the 1990s under the direction of a local forester. Future forestry on the property will be conducted under the management of a registered Maine forester with the goal of timber stand improvement balanced with the preservation of wildlife habitat.

ACTION: Request funding for a forest management plan.

2. PROPERTY GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY:

Almost half of the property is designated as either wetland (Sebago Peat) or the Nesbitt Pond water body itself. The remainder of the parcel is made up of various sandy/rocky loams of differing slopes.

One of the purposes for acquiring the property was for wetland preservation. Several areas of concern include the following:

- 1. Ensure any forestry activities do not create issues for the wetland or pond.***
- 2. Restrict all motorized uses on the property.***
- 3. Investigate and monitor sources of inflow and outflow to the pond.***

3. PROPERTY HISTORY:

By looking through deeds and consulting with local people who have a knowledge of the property history we will create a narrative of past uses.

ACTION: Research historical data on the property. Consult with Historical Society.

4. SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:

To better guide management of the property for wildlife habitat and plant protection an inventory of those species should be conducted.

ACTION: Identify plant and wildlife specialists to assist in this project. Look for local volunteers, university professors and grad students, IF&W, and other resources for help.

5. RECREATION:

Low impact recreational uses will be balanced with the preservation of important habitats.

ACTION: Install an information kiosk on the property. (Task completed in 2020 by Eagle Scout candidate Elijah Tetreault)

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ACTION: Improve parking and build fishing dock along Milton Mills Road. (Task completed in 2020 by Eagle Scout candidate Elijah Tetreault)

ACTION: Investigate potential stocking of fish by the State.

Policy Recommendations

- 1. The property will be open during daylight hours.***
- 2. Current low impact recreational activities will continue to be allowed. Hunting and trapping are allowed where safe and legal in proximity to active roads and residences.***
- 3. Target shooting is not permitted.***
- 4. Motorized vehicles are not allowed except for forestry activities and handicapped access.***
- 5. Overnight camping is prohibited. Camping by organized groups such as Scouts will be evaluated for future permission.***

6. ACCESS:

Users of the Nesbitt Pond Natural Area can access the property from the parking lot on Milton Mills Road.

ACTION:

- 1. On Milton Mills Road: Improve parking area and install signage to prevent blockage of fire plug. Install information kiosk. (Task completed in 2020 by Eagle Scout candidate Elijah Tetreault)***