



Kimball Pond

Forest Legacy Tract, New Hampshire

July 2002

A 60-acre pond with no shoreline development is becoming rare in southern New Hampshire. An even rarer find would be such a pond within 15 miles of New Hampshire's largest city, Manchester, and its capital city, Concord. Yet such a pond does exist—Kimball Pond in the town of Dunbarton.

As part of a protection deal, the town of Dunbarton purchased a 664-acre property and then sold a 972-acre conservation easement to the State of New Hampshire on the newly acquired property and adjacent forest land on July 18, 2002. This newly protected block is adjacent to additional existing protected open space lands creating a 1,300-acre block of protected forests around Kimball Pond.

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Dunbarton Conservation Commission Chair
Larry Cook

The project's total cost of \$1,085,000 was comprised of funds from many sources: \$700,000 from the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program, \$210,000 from New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, \$100,000 from the Dunbarton Conservation Commission, \$50,000 from private donations, and \$25,000 in town funds approved by Dunbarton residents for protection of the forest.

“Protection of the Kimball Pond land can only be described as a miracle for the town of Dunbarton,” said Larry Cook, chair of the Dunbarton Conservation Commission. “The project's success would not have been possible without support at the local, State, and national levels. Dunbarton residents, with their votes at Town Meeting and with their generous financial contributions, were the true drive behind this project. The Trust for Public Land's assistance was also critical, as was the leadership of the New Hampshire congressional delegation. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone involved,” said Cook.

“Kimball Pond is a pristine pond located 13 miles from both Manchester and Concord, one of the most densely populated regions of our State,” said U.S. Senator Judd Gregg. “This protection

will ensure a diverse habitat for wildlife, including otter, bear, moose, and deer, as well as protection for various wetlands in a significant section of Dunbarton. Kimball Pond is an excellent New Hampshire resource and I am pleased that these funds will continue its use by so many wildlife species for years to come.”

The Kimball Pond property includes two beaver ponds, several vernal pools, and a black gum-red maple basin swamp. The property and surrounding conservation land provide habitat for many rare wildlife species and serve as an important wildlife and recreation corridor linking Bela Brook and the Turkey Ponds to the north with Black Brook to the south.

Public recreation opportunities such as fishing, hiking, hunting, bird watching, and snowmobiling are allowed on the property, which will be managed for sustainable timber harvesting by the Dunbarton Conservation Commission.

The Forest Legacy Program protects important forests from conversion to nonforest uses. These forests provide essential wildlife habitat, protect water quality, offer outstanding recreation opportunities, afford outstanding scenic views, are home to historic sites, and/or provide the opportunity to continue traditional forest uses. A Federal-State partnership allows landowners to keep their land private while ensuring it remains forest forever through the use of conservation easements.



Many different recreational opportunities, in all types of weather, will continue to be enjoyed by the public on the Kimball Pond Forest Legacy tract.
Photo by Deirdre Raimo

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