

WETLANDS



This land was chosen as a wetland mitigation property because of its valuable freshwater wetlands including marshes, wet meadows, vernal pools, scrub shrub, and forested habitats. All of these wetlands provide cover, food, and breeding areas for Maine's wildlife. Of the five vernal pools, three are significant, with breeding populations of wood frogs and spotted salamanders.



GEOLOGY AND PONDS

As you hike the KLT trails, you are walking on 420-440 million year old metamorphic bedrock, a schist called the Waterville Formation. As recently as two million years ago, glaciers scoured this bedrock, including the basin of Hutchinson Pond.

If you look at the map at the shape of Hutchinson and Jamies Ponds you can see that the NE-SW orientation of the region's bedrock influenced the glacial scouring, so that the lake basins are elongated northeast to southwest.



KLT Public Use Guidelines

Please respect this land and our neighbors.
Enjoy the trails and hunting in season. No camping or fires, please clean up after your dogs. Dogs should be on leash or under voice command. Thank you. Questions?
Please call our office: 207-377-2848.

KLT AND HUTCHINSON POND

CONSERVATION AREA

Long on KLT's list of priority acquisitions, this land was transferred to the Trust in 2011 as mitigation for wetlands alterations resulting from a CMP transmission line upgrade. With stewardship funds donated by CMP, KLT will maintain fields for woodcock, chestnut-sided warblers, brown thrashers, eastern towhees, and field sparrows, and will provide opportunities for public recreation, including canoe and kayak access.

A full list of KLT properties can be found at our website: www.tklt.org.

Please consider joining KLT! Your membership donation supports our land conservation, stewardship, and education programs.

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www.tklt.org

Thank you Hutchinson Pond Volunteers:
Norm Rodrigue, Andy Smith, Toby Smith, Nate Sylvester, Brian Sylvester, Joe Sanders, Bob Hawkins, Dan Simpson, Jon Lund, Andy Walsh, Mary Denison, Howard Lake, Jim MacDougall, Nancy Sferra, The Nature Conservancy; David Kahl, KLT volunteer woodworker; and Louise and Joe Burns.

Brochure photographs: Norm Rodrigue

November, 2017

Updates: June 2022



KENNEBEC LAND TRUST

HUTCHINSON POND CONSERVATION AREA

81 ACRES ~ Manchester, Maine



KLT: YOUR COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Conservation Across Generations

The **Kennebec Land Trust (KLT)** works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, lakes, streams, wetlands, fields, and wildlife that help define central Maine. KLT protects and stewards land permanently, offers access to conserved properties, provides opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the natural world, and works with partners to support sustainable forestry and farming.

Welcome to
**Kennebec Land Trust's
 Hutchinson Pond Conservation Area**

We hope you will enjoy your hike through these 81 acres of conservation land. With 29 acres of wetlands and vernal pools, mixed woods, fields, 2,765 feet of stream frontage and 1,600 feet of undeveloped shoreline, there is a lot to explore! An easy 0.5 mile trail starts at the KLT sign and parking lot and ends at the shoreline of Hutchinson Pond.

Shallow (average 10 feet, maximum 24 feet) and remote, 105-acre Hutchinson Pond provides valuable habitat for ducks, loons, osprey, bald eagles, beaver and warm water fish. The southern outlet stream, frequently dammed by beavers, flows west to Cobbossee Stream.



LAND AND PEOPLE

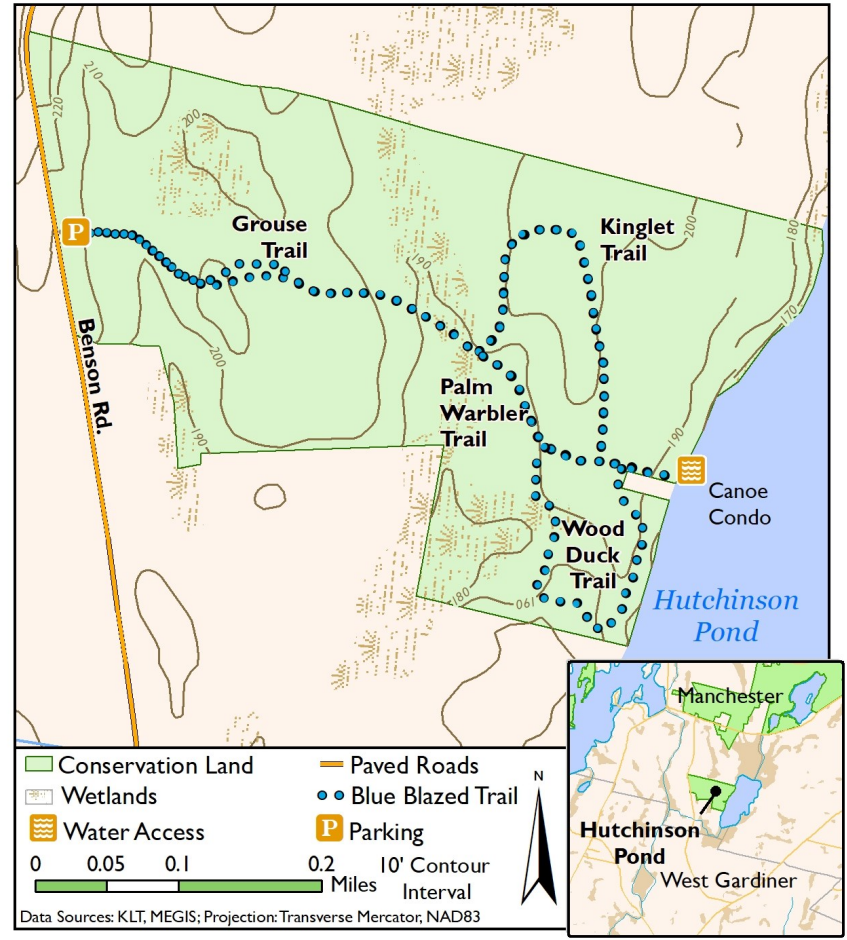


The land that you see around you has been valued by people, both resident and migratory, for thousands of years. Archeological evidence suggests that as early as 7,500 years ago, during the Middle Archaic period, people fished and hunted in this area, the same way that residents and visitors do today.

In the mid-1800's, when Asa and Sally Benson farmed this land, they cleared the forest for fields, and harvested trees for lumber and firewood. Hutchinson Pond was at times known as Sanborn, James, or Hudson Pond. Stone walls, a cattle lane, and secondary woodlands tell the story of years of land clearing, pasturing, cultivation, and eventual farm abandonment.

In 1962 this land was purchased by Dr. Joseph Crawford. Dr. Crawford raised horses and hay for many years on the land that KLT now owns. The eastern field, parts of which were flooded by beaver, is reverting to forest, but was hayed until the 1970's.

Hutchinson Pond, Manchester



Public uses: This KLT property is open to the public for hiking, paddling, nature observation, cross-country skiing, hunting, and other low impact non-motorized recreation. **ATV's, four wheelers, camping, and fires are not permitted.** **Dogs:** Out of respect for hikers and small children, dogs should be under voice command or on a leash. Please pick up after your pets.

Trails: 0.5 mile, easy. Starts at the KLT parking lot and ends at a canoe/kayak rack on the shoreline of the 105-acre Hutchinson Pond, with an optional 0.3 mile loop trail to be used when the main trail is flooded in the spring (take the fork to the left/north).

Directions: **From Manchester:** Head South on Pond Rd., and continue for 3.5 miles. At the Cobbossee Outlet, turn left onto Collins Rd. Take the first right onto Benson Rd. Continue for .9 miles. The parking lot will be on the left. **From Hallowell:** Take Central Street west from downtown Hallowell, and continue for 1.7 miles. Turn left onto Shady Lane and continue for approximately .4 miles. Take the first right onto Outlet Rd., and then continue onto Bog Farm Rd. and then Collins Rd. (heading toward Cobbossee Outlet). Turn Left on Benson Rd. and continue for .9 miles. The parking lot will be on the left. **From Brown's Corner in West Gardiner** (on the Litchfield-Hallowell Rd.): Head northeast on the Litchfield-Hallowell Rd. toward Hallowell. In 1.8 miles, turn left onto the Benson Rd. Continue on the Benson Rd. for 1.6 miles. The parking lot will be on your right.