

Welcome to Kennebec Land Trust's
Weston Woods Preserve
We hope you enjoy your visit!



Walking in a winter wonderland at Weston Woods.
Photo by Norm Rodrigue.

The Kennebec Land Trust acquired the 55-acre Weston Woods Preserve on Little Cobbossee Lake in East Winthrop in December 2020. The acquisition was made possible thanks to a generous donation from Bob and Jim Weston, a grant from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP), and KLT and community members.

As you hike the meandering path through the forest, listen for bird songs and the buzz of the Dog-day cicadas. Can you feel the sunlight on your skin, dappled by the beeches, oaks, and tall hemlocks and pines? Look for waterfowl paddling along the wetlands of Little Cobbossee. Notice the green frogs sunning themselves next to the brook as it flows by. Do you see a lush evergreen canopy against a stark-white, cloudy sky? There's a lot to take in here, and we hope you enjoy this peaceful place and the trails!

Weston Woods features a spur trail to an impressive bedrock outcrop and two loops with beautiful wooden bridges. For winter visitors, a snowmobile trail runs east-west across the center of the property, then continues across the lake and through the adjacent Oatway Preserve.

Land and People: Pre-History and History

The land around Little Cobbossee Lake has been valued by people for thousands of years. Cobbossee Lake was part of the Abenaki passageway between the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers, and archeological artifacts suggest that people fished and hunted in the region as early as 7,500 years ago. The wild rice (*Zizania palustris*) in Little Cobbossee's wetlands could have been a valuable food source for Native peoples, and may have been planted by Abenakis.

The first dams were constructed on Cobbossee Stream in the 1700s. The Cobbossee Outlet Dam was raised by eight feet in 1880, altering lake levels to present-day depths. These dams have also had an impact on fish passageways on Cobbossee Lake and Little Cobbossee.



The wetland surrounding Little Cobbossee Lake at the edge of Weston Woods. Photo by Norm Rodrigue.

In Winthrop and most of southern Maine, more than half of the landscape was cleared for agriculture by the mid-1800s. The stone walls and scattered pasture trees found in the preserve are remnants of agricultural land uses that defined the region in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Weston Woods is part of a larger parcel purchased in 1956 by Bob and Jim's parents, Lowell and Hope Weston. After Hope's death in 2019 at the age of 103, the brothers sold the remaining property at a discounted price to KLT.

About Kennebec Land Trust and the
Weston Woods Preserve

"Weston Woods is a peaceful place for both people and wildlife to enjoy forever. Without KLT this could not have come to reality." ~ Bob & Jim Weston



From left to right: KLT Lands Committee Chair Howard Lake, Bob & Jim Weston, and KLT Executive Director Theresa Kerchner.
Photo by Cat Ouellette. December, 2020.

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**Kennebec Land Trust** Founded in 1988, The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, shorelands, fields, and wildlife that define central Maine. KLT protects land permanently, offers opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the natural world, and works with partners to support sustainable forestry and farming. Our properties feature more than 55 miles of trails for everyone to enjoy! Your donation to KLT supports land conservation, trail development and maintenance, and conservation and sustainability programs.

*Thanks to those who contributed expertise and time for this brochure:*  
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*Photo credits:*  
Cat Ouellette, Kristen Puryear, Norm Rodrigue, Johnny Robinson.  
Brochure prepared by Johnny Robinson, 2021 KLT summer intern.

# WESTON WOODS PRESERVE



Photo by Norm Rodrigue.

55 acres ~ Winthrop, Maine

## Property Dedication

August 12, 2021  
4:30 p.m.



**Kennebec Land Trust**  
PO Box 261 • 331 Main Street  
Winthrop, Maine 04364  
207-377-2848  
www.tkl.org

## Geology of Weston Woods

Weston Woods features a large bedrock ledge on its southwest portion. This is the oldest bedrock unit in the area—a metamorphosed limestone that geologists have named the Waterville Formation. The unit is gray and has thin beds of metalimestone and schist (metamorphosed fine-grained sediments). It is widely distributed throughout central Maine.



Part of the bedrock ledge found on the west side of the property.  
Photo by Johnny Robinson.

The majority of other surface-level rocks on the property are deposits from glaciers. The last great Ice Age dominated the landscape of Maine starting about 2 million years ago. At its maximum extent across Maine about 15,000 years ago, the ice was over a mile thick in the southern portion of the state.

Glacial ice had two major impacts on the terrain: it scoured and scraped the landscape as it advanced, and it left behind large amounts of material as it melted. Because erosive forces are stronger in the up-ice-stream direction, glacially rounded hills have more gentle slopes on the up-ice-stream side and steeper slopes on the down-ice-stream side. On the down-ice-stream side, the ice freezes to the rock and plucks off large blocks. These blocks became the boulders you now see across the landscape.

## Ecology of Weston Woods

Weston Woods includes both upland forest and wetland habitats, and a variety of plant species can be found here. Following is a partial list of the species in each habitat, including two rare species listed as Species of Special Concern in Maine.

### Upland Forest Plant Species

*Quercus rubra* - red oak  
*Tsuga Canadensis* - eastern hemlock  
*Pinus strobus* - white pine  
*Solidago flexicaulis* - zig-zag goldenrod  
*Thelypteris arcostichoides* - Christmas fern

### Forested Wetland Plant Species

*Acer rubrum* - red maple  
*Osmunda cinnamomea* - cinnamon fern  
*Ilex verticillata* - winterberry  
*Impatiens capensis* - jewelweed  
*Sphagnum* mosses

### Emergent/Transitional Wetland Plant Species

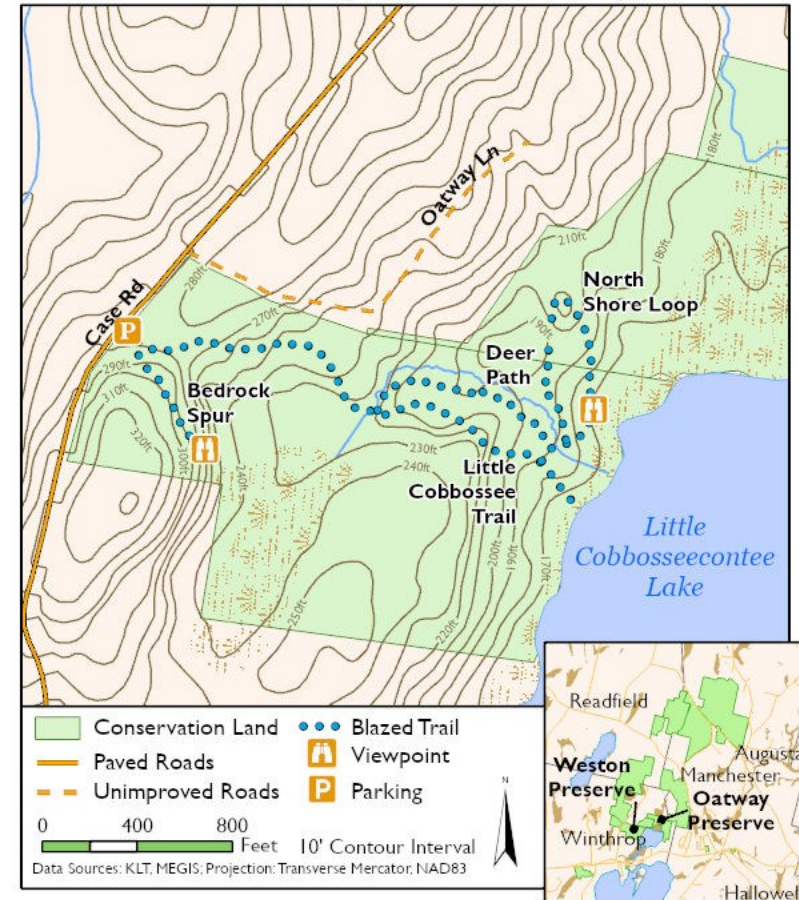
*Carex lacustris* - bank sedge  
*Typha latifolia* - cattail  
*Sagittaria latifolia* - common arrowhead  
*Wolffia columbiana* - Columbian water-meal\*  
*Wolffia brasiliensis* - pointed water-meal\*

\*Species of Special Concern in Maine



Two rare water-meal species mixed with pondweed, floating on the water surface. Photo by Kristen Puryear.

## Weston Woods & Oatway Preserves, Winthrop



**Trails:** Hiking trails at Weston Woods include **Bedrock Spur**, which leads to a rock ledge 0.1 miles from the parking area; **Little Cobbossee Trail**, which runs 0.4 miles from the top of the hill to the water; **Deer Path**, which winds along a brook for 0.2 miles after the snowmobile bridge; and **North Shore Loop**, a 0.3-mile loop trail.

**Note:** Watch your footing - some portions of the trail are uneven or muddy. Check for ticks after hiking!

**Public use:** Weston Woods is open to the public for nature observation, hiking, snowshoeing, and hunting in season. Snowmobiles are allowed on the designated trail managed by the Hillandalers Club. ATVs are not allowed anywhere on the property.

**Dogs:** For the protection of wildlife, habitat, and hikers, dogs should be under voice command or on a leash. Please pick up after your pets.

**Directions and public access:** **From Manchester:** From the intersection of Route 202 and Route 17, drive 1.8 miles west on Route 202 to Old Village Rd. Turn right, then turn right again onto Case Rd. Drive 0.7 miles up the hill to the Preserve; parking will be on your right. **From Winthrop:** From the junction with Main St., take Route 202 east for 2.8 miles, then turn left onto Old Village Rd. After 0.4 miles, turn left onto Case Rd and drive 0.7 miles up the hill to the Preserve; parking will be on your right.