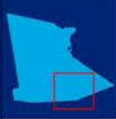




Trail Network  
Town of Exeter, NH



Please use this property with care to avoid impacting the actively managed crops on site.

## McDonnell Conservation Area



### Legend

- Parking
  - Trail
  - Bench
- CONSERVATION LANDS**
- Easement
  - State
  - Private Open Space
  - Fee Owned





McDonnell and White's Meadow Conservation Area is a 34.7 acre grouping of 5 conservation parcels that follow along the Exeter River east of Linden Street to Court Street.

There is a small gravel parking lot with trash facilities east of Linden Street just north of the Exeter River past 114 Linden Street. A wooden sign marking the conservation area is located at the entrance. The easy level trail follows along the northern side of the Exeter River before opening up into a field that is mowed annually. The trail continues though the fields to Court Street.

This grouping of protected properties is a complex variety of important natural habitats. Together they provide real life examples of the state of flux our natural environment is in. This portion of the Exeter River is a sinuous, fairly wide and slow flowing river. The riverside trees provide shade that keeps the river cool, an important feature for fish and good water quality. As trees die and fall into the river, the woody debris provide habitat and food sources for native fish. Floating logs provide sunny spots for basking turtles.

As you move inland from the river you could see wetlands that are actually oxbows where stream meanders were cut off from the main channel. Others may be the influence of beavers. Their habits of building dams across flowing water creates wetlands which are like "nature's kidney" naturally filtering out pollutants and serve as habitat for mammals, birds, ducks, fish and turtles to name a few. Native Americans recognized beaver's importance calling them the "sacred center".

You may notice a small section of former trail that is being restored. In this area, the trail was too close to the edge of the sandy bank and large storms in the past eroded the bank causing a large number of trees to fall into the river. The dead trees or "snags" throughout the property provide homes for cavity nesters and dwellers. Quick eyes may catch a glimpse or hear the call of a pileated woodpecker as you walk along. Their drumming leaves rectangular holes in the wood.

The maintained field is hayed annually. Grasslands are home to over 70 species of wildlife and provides nesting habitat for unique birds like woodcock, snipe and bobolink.

**Location:** Along the Exeter River between Linden and Court Street

**Length:** 0.5 miles one-way

**Difficulty:** Very Easy

**Compatible Uses:**

- Hiking
- Wildlife Viewing
- Fishing
- Other passive recreation

Due to concerns over water quality impacts, dogs are not permitted at this property. As a courtesy to others and out of respect to your trail system, please carry in - carry out all trash.



## McDonnell Easement and Surrounding Conservation Areas



### Linden Street Town of Exeter N.H.

