

Station 13: Linking Undeveloped Land

Here you will notice that the trail comes within view of Pepperell Road and the developed property across the street. By remaining undeveloped, Hayes Woods forms a biological "stepping stone" or wildlife corridor that species can use to move between surrounding conservation areas. It provides a link between Kemp Woods (New England Forestry Foundation) and the Johnston Conservation Area (Groton Conservation Commission). This is part of a larger chain of properties leading from the Squannacook River Wildlife Management Area to a string of conservation areas along the Nashua River. This makes conserving Hayes Woods incredibly important, as the linking of properties is essential to maintaining genetic diversity in area animal populations. Our local forests are primarily a mix of coniferous northern hardwoods (hemlock), red and white pines, with deciduous oak, maple, ash and hickory. As such a point of convergence, in Groton we find species that exist exclusively north of us sharing habitats with species that live exclusively south.

In February of 2020, the GCT acquired June's Wood, the undeveloped portion of the woods across the street, extending this wildlife highway and connecting Hayes Woods to Kemp Woods and Throne Hill. June's Wood has a similar environment but also contains meadows and a vernal pool (a seasonal pool with a unique ecosystem).

