

QUINCY PASTURE FOREST HIKING TRAILS

Welcome to the Quincy Pasture Forest. The trails on these 92 wooded acres are open from dawn to dusk for your hiking enjoyment. The trails are intentionally rustic and minimally maintained to allow you to experience a more intimate closeness with the forest. The tread way is uneven, oftentimes steep, rocky, and only rarely level. Signage is kept to a minimum, but the trails are marked with a combination of indicators or markers - paint, flagging, plastic diamonds on the trees, and small piles of stones on the ground, called cairns. There are two loop trails. The lower loop, which begins at the kiosk in the parking area, is shown on the map in blue. It is also marked in the woods with blue markers. The upper loop, shown on the map in red, is marked with red and orange markers. If you are unsure at any time where the trail goes, return to the last marker you passed and look carefully for the next marker ahead of you.

Here are expanded descriptions of each loop for your information.

THE LOWER (BLUE) LOOP is a moderately strenuous hike.

Total length: 1.10 mi Maximum elevation: 960' Maximum elevation gain: 350'

This trail encircles a forest management area where logging activities continue to be used to promote forest diversity and enhance wildlife habitat. A mixed forest of both hardwood and softwood trees predominates. Small patches of forest, less than 2 acres in size, were cleared during the fall 2012, and these openings with new growth can be seen from various locations along the trail. Look for stone walls in a couple of places that are silent reminders of open fields and livestock grazing that once dominated even this relatively steep landscape.

THE UPPER (RED) LOOP is a strenuous hike.

Total length: 1.95 mi Maximum elevation: 1175' Maximum elevation gain: 280'

This trail takes you to the uppermost elevations of the property where the management objective is to allow forest growth to proceed naturally. The forest here tends to be dominated more by coniferous trees – hemlock and eastern white pine. This loop is generally steeper, more rocky, and offers a more rugged hike.

Things to watch for along the Upper Loop: A short scramble takes you across a ledge lush with mosses and low bush blueberry. At the highest elevation the trail passes by a surprisingly small, but perennial, upland bog – an amphibian's Eden. Not to be missed along this loop is a short side trail (150') to a scenic view overlooking Loon Lake to the east. Watch closely for this trail junction marked with purple plastic diamonds. To hike from the parking area all the way up around the Upper Loop and back to your car is a distance of 1.95 mi and an elevation gain of 575'.

Quincy Pasture Forest is owned and managed by Quincy Bog Natural Area / Pemi-Baker Land Trust. The Nature Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the property to ensure its conservation in perpetuity. For more information, visit www.quincybog.org



