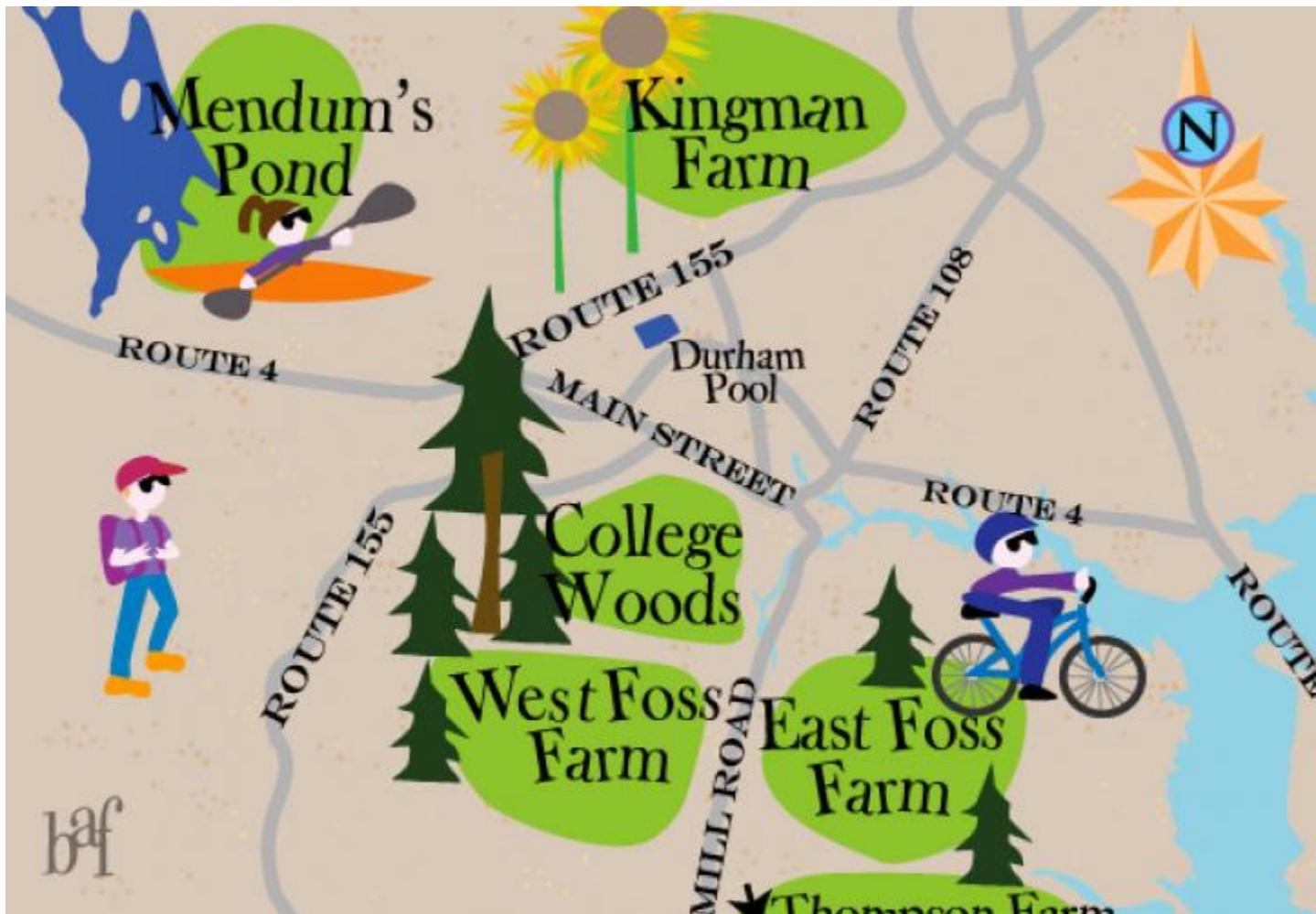


# Take it outside

UNH properties offer swimming, hiking, biking, and more

Thursday, December 12, 2013

⋮



No matter what kind of outdoor recreation you prefer, you might want to check out the sundry opportunities UNH has to offer. Let's start with water activities. For swimming, there's Mendum's Pond in Barrington. Located off Hall Road on the Little River, the pristine 200-plus acre setting is a great spot for kayaking and canoeing. Or you can take

a hike through the woods, and picnic or sunbath along the lake. There is also a playground.

Once a reservoir for the Newmarket Manufacturing Company, a cotton textile manufacturer founded in 1822, Mendum's Pond became the property of UNH first in part in 1930 when Arthur W. McDaniel donated a portion of the property to the UNH Women's Athletic Association. He gave the rest of the area to the university in 1970 for \$1.

If you'd rather be hiking, biking, walking, or cross-country skiing, there are plenty of opportunities in College Woods, at the East and West Foss farms, and the Thompson Farm, all in Durham, and at Kingman Farm in Madbury. Entrances are marked with large trail maps and informational signs.

College Woods is one of the most popular places on campus for hiking, mountain biking (outside of the Natural Area) walking, running, and bird watching. Its 250 acres were preserved in 1893 after the New Hampshire Forestry Commission advised against cutting the timber on benefactor Ben Thompson's 64-acre woodlot.

Entrances to the woodlands are located on Mill Road, Main Street below the tennis courts, and behind the field house. A mile-long equal access trail was finished in 2007 making it easier for people who use wheelchairs or other assistive devices to further enjoy the area. In 2011, the main bridge crossing the Oyster River was replaced.

In addition to recreation, College Woods is used for research and instruction, which is why those who venture into the forest are asked to stay on designated trails and not disturb the vegetation. A map of the area can be viewed at <https://colsa.unh.edu/woodlands/sites/colsa.unh.edu.woodlands/files/imag...>

Kingman Farm, a research facility located on Route 155 about two miles from campus, has an extensive trail system running throughout the 330-plus acres. In the fall, mountain bike races are held on the land to raise money for the UNH ski team. Trails.com says Kingman Farm has an "exceptional local mix of trails" for mountain biking.

UNH acquired the Kingman Farm in 1961. [View a map of the property here](#). Foss Farm was separated into the 164-acre East Foss Farm and 93-acre West Foss Farm in 1841 when Boston and Maine Railroad came through. Both properties were acquired by UNH in 1923. East Foss Farm has three loop trails that can be accessed off Foss Farm Road. One takes you by an old cemetery while another passes a beaver pond.

The West Foss Farm is best accessed off of Mill Road where a trail starts near a stand for pine trees. Follow the railroad tracks to the open field where two small ponds are located. Trails.com gives the Foss farms a 3 out of 5 ranking for mountain biking. Visit the Foss farms for mountain biking, birding, and hiking. [View a map here](#).

Adjacent to Packers Falls Road, the Thompson Farm has agricultural fields, streams, an active beaver swamp, and a small working farm area. The 205-acre property, with its extensive trail system, was given to the university in 1972 by Ina Thompson in exchange for her being able to take firewood and vegetables from the land.

[A map of the property can be seen here.](#)

Originally published by:

UNH Today

Illustration by Bridget Finnegan, New and Emerging Media

- WRITTEN BY:  
[Staff writer](#) | Communications and Public Affairs

360 EXPERIENCE



University of New Hampshire

UNH Today is produced for the UNH community and for friends of UNH.

The stories are written by the staff of [UNH Communications and Public Affairs](#).

Email us: [unhtoday.editor@unh.edu](mailto:unhtoday.editor@unh.edu).

[MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION](#)   [CONTACT US](#)

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Follow us on YouTube

Follow us on Instagram

Find us on LinkIn

UNH Today RSS feeds

UNH Today • UNH Main Directory: 603-862-1234

Copyright © 2021 • TTY Users: 7-1-1 or 800-735-2964 (Relay NH)

[USNH Privacy Policies](#) • [USNH Terms of Use](#) • [ADA Acknowledgement](#)