

Vernal Pools

This property features two vernal pools one of which is a significant asset to the forest. Its importance is due in large part to breeding populations of wood frogs and spotted salamanders. These species in turn feed a variety of woodland creatures including insect larvae, birds, snakes, frogs and small mammals.

The word vernal means spring. Most vernal pools only hold water in the spring and summer and therefore do not support fish populations. This makes vernal pools ideal breeding habitat for spotted salamander and wood frogs since these species cannot protect themselves from predatory fish.



spotted salamander egg mass

Living Organisms

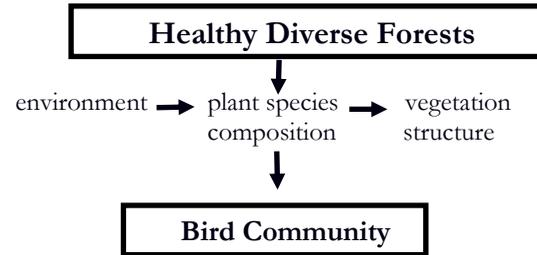
Many plants, fungi and animals abound in the Storer woods. Ferns and woodland flowers join the many trees and fungi in a diverse forest. Deer and moose share these woods with other smaller mammals, as well as with birds, amphibians, snakes, insects and spiders. All these creatures are part of a complex forest ecosystem. Since there are no poisonous snakes in Maine, take your time and enjoy a leisurely walk in the woods!

Moccasin flowers, also known as pink lady slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*) are one of many different flowers found in the Preserve. Others include the starflower, bunchberry, Indian cucumber, and rattlesnake plantain. See what else you can find along the paths.



Birds

Many birds use this forest as foraging and breeding habitat. Scientists have learned an important lesson from analyzing climate, forest and bird data. Keeping a forest healthy can moderate the effects of climate change on the diversity and density of birds.



Do you hear or see any birds as you walk around? Remember that birds can be hard to see when leaves are on the trees. A good source for learning bird songs is the website: www.birds.cornell.edu/home/

A partial list of bird species



Hermit Thrush nest

American crow, American goldfinch, American redstart, American robin, Barred Owl, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee, Black-throated blue Warbler, Black-throated green Warbler, Blue Jay, Brown Creeper, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Common Raven, Common Yellow Throat, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Gray Catbird, Great crested Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Indigo Bunting, Mourning Dove, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Song Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Veery, White-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, Wild Turkey, Wood Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

About Kennebec Land Trust

For our children and our children's children and beyond, we put aside this small piece of the world, forever wild, for generations of the two-legged, four-legged, winged, finned, green and all things that live.

The Storer Farm Community ~ June 10, 2020



Luna moth ~ *Actias luna*

~~~~~

**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 50 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:*

Deb Stahler, The Storer Farm Community, Forestry for the Birds, Bob Marvinney and Maine Geological Survey; Art Spiess, Maine Historic Preservation Commission; Vienna Historical Society, Tom Whittaker, and Steve Matthews, Ohio State University College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

*Photo credits: Deb Stahler, Theresa Kerchner  
Text: Deb Stahler, September 2020*

# STORER FARM COMMUNITY PRESERVE

70 acres ~ Vienna Maine



Property Dedication - September 28, 2020



**Kennebec Land Trust**  
PO Box 261 • 331 Main Street  
Winthrop, Maine 04364 207-377-2848 [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org)

## Welcome to the Storer Farm Community Preserve

We hope you enjoy your visit!



Nestled against the Franklin County line in northwest Kennebec County, this preserve features woodlands and a perennial stream\* at an elevation between 650 and 750 feet. A mostly level, short snowmobile trail allows for a leisurely walk in the Vienna hills.

In a forest, the trees are key. The Storer Preserve forest is a mixed upland supporting a host of deciduous trees alongside many stately hemlocks and eastern white pines. The soft woodland paths are due in large part to years of accumulating hemlock needles.

Sugar maples are one of the keystone species found at this site, so designated because of their importance to the woods. Interactions with fungi help sugar maples absorb water. In turn, the maple leaf litter feeds insects and other organisms that support bird populations. Two additional deciduous species of interest are white [or paper] birch and brown ash, both of which have long been valued by Wabanaki peoples.

Northern white cedar, known for its durable lumber, was likely more abundant in the late 1700's. In the mid-1970's, a small mill and a rotting pile of shingles were found on the stream not far from Davis Road.

*\*flows to McGurdy Stream*

## Geology

The bedrock in this region is intrusive igneous rock [granite and other similar rocks] which cooled at depth within the earth's crust from molten magma. It was formed in the Devonian period about 400 million years ago, a time when Maine was much more tectonically active.\* Eons of erosion have exposed the granite at the surface where it is covered by a thin layer of till deposited by the glacier during the last ice age. There is one bedrock outcropping on the western border of the property. \* *During this period vascular plants, especially ferns, started colonizing the land.*



## Land and People: Pre-History and History

The natural resources around you were valued by the Wabanaki peoples for thousands of years before the Town of Vienna was incorporated. The closest Abenaki (one of the Wabanaki tribes) settlement was in what is now Farmington Falls along the Sandy River and these native peoples could have used today's Storer Preserve for hunting and gathering. Many Abenakis fled to Quebec in the 1700's and, erroneously, were viewed as strictly a Canadian tribe.

At the time of the Revolutionary War and up until 1820, Maine was part of Massachusetts. In the late 1700's, large landowners, known as the "great proprietors", divided and sold lots in what is now Vienna. The Storer Farm Community property was purchased by Elijah Bunker in the early 1800's. A succession of owners led to Corporal Thomas Franklin Storer for whom the property is named. Storer was a corporal in the Union Army. Another succession of owners led to the Storer Farm Community who purchased the property in 1975 and generously donated this 70-acre woodland to KLT in 2020.

## Storer Farm Community Preserve



**Trails:** A short 0.3 mile snowmobile trail begins at the KLT sign and features the Preserve's woodlands and stream.

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

**Public uses:** The Preserve is open to the public for nature observation, hiking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and hunting in season. No motorized vehicles are allowed except for snowmobiles on the designated trail, when the ground is frozen.

**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 Route 41 (Town House Road) in Vienna turn north on the Davis Road. Travel for about 1.6 miles. Look for a small parking area, KLT sign, and registration box on the left (west side) of the road. The ground is soft on the east side of the road!