



Vision

The Birch Ridge Community Forest (BRCF) grows into a mature woodland of high-quality trees, interspersed with young forest stands and openings that provide landscape views and habitat for native wildlife. The property is permanently conserved and sustainably-managed for multiple benefits, including water quality, wildlife habitat, forestry, trails and recreation, educational programs, scenic views, and climate change mitigation. Educational and outreach events occur frequently, and build awareness, understanding, and support for the Community Forest. The property welcomes a diversity of activities in all seasons. Access points and trails are constructed and maintained in a manner that is sensitive to the conservation of the property's natural resources. When viewed from on or off the property, the Birch Ridge Community Forest contributes dramatically to the visual landscape of the Merrymeeting Lake watershed while providing cultural, economic, and other benefits to New Durham and the surrounding communities.

Goals

Water Quality	The BRCF protects and enhances ground and surface water quantity and quality flowing to the Merrymeeting Lake, Merrymeeting River, and other water bodies.
Wildlife Habitat	The BRCF protects a diversity of vegetative communities to create and sustain suitable habitats for a full range of naturally occurring wildlife populations, including rare, threatened, and endangered species.
Forestry	The BRCF is sustainably managed as a model community forest to produce high-quality and high-value wood products, while also managing special-use areas that contain sensitive plants or animals, or are designated for specific wildlife or recreation related activities.
Non-motorized Recreation	The BRCF is enjoyed by the public for a wide range of compatible, human powered recreational activities, including hiking, skiing, hunting, fishing, and mountain biking on designated trails. Trails will be connected to adjoining properties as part of a larger network of recreational trails in the area.
Snowmobiling	The BRCF continues to be a key parcel within a broader snowmobile trail network, with snowmobiling allowed on appropriately designated and maintained trails, consistent with adequate snow cover and ground conditions.

*Adopted by the Birch Ridge Community Forest Steering Committee on January 16, 2019.
Current as of May 20, 2019. Contact SELT for more information at seltnh.org or 603-778-6088.*

Birch Ridge Community Forest Goals *continued from page 1*

Education & Outreach The BRCF is recognized as a resource to support community education and outreach activities through partnerships with New Durham and area schools, non-profit organizations and clubs, and area businesses, as well as activities organized by SELT and MMRG.

Scenic The BRCF enhances the scenic views of and to Merrymeeting Lake and the surrounding areas.

Climate Change Mitigation The growing and maturing woodlands of the BRCF contribute to carbon sequestration, while the BRCF's topography and proximity to other conserved lands enables species to adjust to disturbances relating to climate change.