Directions

How to get to the Kimball Wildlife Forest

The Kimball Wildlife Forest is located off Route 11 in Gilford, New Hampshire. From I-93, take Exit 20 (Route 11) East. The trailhead and parking area are on the right side of Route 11 approximately 3 miles past the Laconia Airport.

From Alton, take Route 11 west. The trailhead and parking area will be on the left side of Route 11 approximately 13 miles from the traffic circle at the intersection of Route 11 and 28.

Kimball Wildlife Forest

Lockes Hill
Trail Guide

Gilford, New Hampshire

Kimball History

The property known as Lockes Hill was once the estate of Benjamin Kimball, a successful Concord businessman who became president of the Boston and Montreal Railroad in 1895. While traveling in Germany, Kimball was so inspired by the castles along the Rhine River he built a castle on Lockes Hill overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee. The location was chosen for the glorious panoramic view.

The castle was constructed between 1897 and 1899. Some of the stone used in the castle was quarried from the south side of Lockes Hill and hauled by teams of oxen and horses. The old quarry sites and tote roads are still visible along the Quarry Trail.

The property consisted of approximately 280 acres and was used by Ben Kimball until his death in 1920. The property passed to his wife and then to his daughter-in-law, Charlotte. She spent summers at the castle until her death in 1960.

Charlotte Kimball established a trust for the land that stipulates that the property be utilized for the study and enjoyment of wildlife habitat. In 1981, the Town of Gilford was appointed trustee of the property by the State Attorney General. The castle is now privately owned.

The natural resources of the Kimball Wildlife Forest are managed for education, recreation, wildlife, and timber. Timber harvests are designed to enhance wildlife habitat, protect water quality and aesthetic values, and provide a sustainable supply of wood products. The Kimball Wildlife Forest is a certified Tree Farm.

Visitor Information

The Kimball Wildlife Forest is open daily, free of charge, to the public from sunrise to sunset.

This is a passive use area. Hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are permitted; camping, fires, overnight parking and motorized vehicles are not.

All pets must be kept on a short leash and controlled at all times.

Please carry out what you carry in to the benefit of all.

The Kimball Wildlife Forest is a habitat demonstration area of 280 acres maintained by the Town of Gilford with assistance from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension for the purpose of increasing public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the relationships between wildlife and their forested habitats.

For additional information about the Kimball Wildlife Forest, please contact:
Gilford Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
47 Cherry Valley Road
Gilford, NH 03249
(603) 527-4700

If you become lost on the trail or need assistance in any way, please call “911”.