

Birds

The forest and shoreline are valuable habitat for many species of animals and plants. This woodland provides important foraging and nesting habitat for the five high priority species of concern noted below, all of which are declining due to land use changes both in their nesting grounds and in their wintering grounds. Each of these beautiful songbirds partitions the mature woodland habitat by fulfilling a unique niche.

- wild turkey
- common loon
- turkey vulture
- osprey
- herring gull
- mourning dove
- hairy woodpecker
- northern flicker
- pileated woodpecker
- great-crested flycatcher
- Philadelphia vireo
- red-eyed vireo
- blue jay
- American crow
- tree swallow
- black-capped chickadee
- winter wren
- tufted titmouse
- red-breasted nuthatch
- white-breasted nuthatch
- veery
- hermit thrush
- *wood thrush



Wood thrush

Steve Matlouska, USFWS

- American robin
- *chestnut-sided warbler
- magnolia warbler
- *black-throated blue warbler
- yellow-rumped warbler
- black-throated green warbler
- *Blackburnian warbler
- black and white warbler
- ovenbird
- *scarlet tanager
- song sparrow
- northern cardinal
- Baltimore oriole
- American goldfinch

This is a preliminary list and does not represent all the species that may be found at the Headland.

*** High priority species of concern**

Flora

Hemlock Forest: The Parker Pond Headland forest is a legacy of Fayette's settlement and farming history. In the late 1700's, this area was likely used by farmers as a woodlot and a wooded pasture. The steep, rocky shoreline would have been an imposing natural fence for wandering cattle. Early settlers most likely harvested the prized hardwoods and white pines, leaving behind the lower value hemlocks and the seed source for the woodland you see today. The west side of the loop trail features impressive red maples and red oaks – remnants of a more diverse forest that existed in the mid- to late 1800's. The forest opening at the scenic viewpoint is preserved due to natural disturbances. Trees rooted in the shallow soil at this location topple easily in winds or rock slides. Hemlock forest trees, shrubs, ferns, and wildflowers include:

- eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
- white birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
- red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*)
- hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*)
- velvet-leaf blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*)
- round-leaved pyrola (*Pyrola americana*)
- wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
- Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*)
- starflower (*Trientalis borealis*)
- bluebead-lily (*Clintonia borealis*)
- marginal wood fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)

Parker Pond Shoreline: The clear waters of Parker Pond average 31 feet in depth, with a maximum depth of 76 feet. The rocky shoreline provides a distinctive transition between the hemlock forest and the water's edge. The dense shrub layer along the shoreline covers a hidden herbaceous layer found in soil pockets between the rocks. A few of the common shoreline plants are:

- highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
- meadow rose (*Rosa blanda*)
- black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*)
- sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*)



Sheep laurel
(*Kalmia angustifolia*)

Sarah P. Fuller

About Kennebec Land Trust

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.

Protected properties include Vaughan Woods in Hallowell, Howard Hill in Augusta, Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area in Mount Vernon, Mount Pisgah in Winthrop, Parker Pond Headland in Fayette, Surry Hill in Fayette, and Webber-Rogers Farmstead in Litchfield. Most KLT conservation lands offer public access for hiking, paddling, bird watching, skiing, and just enjoying nature in all seasons.

A full listing of Kennebec Land Trust properties, a summary of permitted recreational uses, and an interactive map with directions can be found at our website: www.tkl.org.



Shoreline at Parker Pond Headland Preserve

Sarah P. Fuller

Parker Pond Headland Stewards:
Glenn Hodgkins & Amanda Dow-Smith

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Kennebec Land Trust



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Parker Pond Headland Preserve

Conservation Across Generations

Please enjoy the Parker Pond Headland Preserve. This preserve protects a stunning 142-acre forested peninsula and 5,000 feet of rocky undeveloped shoreline along the clear waters of Parker Pond in Kennebec County. The peninsula rises from a boulder-strewn shore to rocky ledges 250 feet above the lake level.

Geology and Early Farming History: The Headland's impressive gray and white granite ledges are igneous rocks that are more than 380 million years old. These rocks are made up of light colored quartz and feldspar, and darker mica and hornblende crystals. They formed from magma deep in the earth's crust, but many millions of years of erosion have exposed these rocks at the surface.



Sarah P. Fuller

Granite boulder & rock polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*) on the Headland Side Trail

Fayette's historical records indicate that Noah Greeley and David Ingham settled near the Headland in 1784. Greeley built a dam for a saw mill in the outlet stream of Parker Pond which changed the shape of the pond and raised the water level.

Fellows Cove and Pond Names: In the early 1800's, Isaac Fellows settled on the East Road and his relatives and descendants settled on both the East and Sandy River Roads. By 1879, six farms were located on the Sandy River Road in Fayette – the last, that of EU Fellows, encompassing the Parker Pond Headland. The ledges and stony glacial soils would have discouraged these farmers from choosing this site for their croplands.

Conservation History: This preserve was established for the people of Maine in 2004 with the support of the former owners, the Diller and Karp families, members of the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) and the (PPA) Parker Pond Association, and the **people of Maine through a Land for Maine's Future grant.** In 2008, the Hodgkins Family donated another 42 acres to the Headland Preserve.

The Headland is owned by the Kennebec Land Trust and further protected by a conservation easement held by the Parker Pond Association www.parkerpond.org. The property is managed by a stewardship committee comprised of PPA and KLT volunteers. Both organizations collaborate to ensure that the Headland will be retained forever in its essentially undeveloped, open, and scenic condition. As you enjoy the preserve, look for evidence of mammals, large and small, as well as songbirds, game birds, and birds of prey. Search the trail for a giant hemlock, a stump with the bright orange hemlock reishi (*Ganoderma tsugae*), wildflowers, blueberries, and huckleberries.

Public Uses & Access: Canoe or kayak from the water via the Maine State Boat Launch on the Tower Road in Vienna to the Headland Point side trail; or travel to the four car parking lot at the end of Fellows Cove Road (private dirt road) in Fayette. Please help us protect this remarkable conservation land. We hope you enjoy your visit!

- Permitted uses include: hiking, snowshoeing, swimming, fishing, ice fishing, and hunting.
- Picnicking is encouraged, but please take out what you bring in.



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Paddling around the Headland

Motorized vehicles, camping, and fires are not allowed.

Parker Pond Headland Preserve, Fayette



142 acres ~ owned by Kennebec Land Trust;
conservation easement held by Parker Pond Association

Directions: From Route 17 in Kents Hill, take Rt. 41 north 3.6 miles to the Chimney in West Mt. Vernon. Take Sandy River Road 2.5 miles to Fellows Cove Road. Take Fellows Cove Road (private road) to the end to a KLT sign and a parking area on the right. A KLT/PPA registration box is at the trail head. The Fellows Cove Road is closed during mud season to non-residents.

Headland Trail: A 1.5 mile moderately steep trail begins at the end of the Fellows Cove Road at the KLT/PPA registration box. The trail passes through the peninsula's impressive hemlock forests and along the shoreline, then climbs to ledges which provide an expansive bird's eye view of the eastern side of Parker Pond. A second loop trail, approx. 1 mile, features the southern part of the Headland and the 42 acre Hodgkins addition to the Headland. **Headland Point Canoe/Kayak Access:** (From the Maine State Boat Launch on the Tower Road in Vienna) A side trail provides access to the Headland Trail and views of the north end of the lake and far foothills. Always check your boat for vegetation - invasive plants hitchhike on boats of all sizes and cause serious problems for our lakes and ponds.