

The UNH Kingman Farm Nature Trail was the result of a grant from the UNH Sustainability Fund with support from the Kingman Farm and the Town of Madbury It provides an opportunity for local school children and citizens to learn about our local woodland ecosystem.

The trail encompasses land owned by the Town of Madbury and UNH Kingman Farm, beginning behind the Town Hall, crossing the shoulder of Hick's Hill, entering the western part of Kingman Farm, proceeding to a composting research area. The trail continues in a loop, which extends north and east.

The entire trail is blazed with white paint and has a series of numbered posts which correspond to the ones marked in this guide. The walk to the compost area is 15 minutes. The loop trail takes about 20 minutes.

Note of caution: The Kingman Farm and surrounding Town and private lands are open to hunting. During hunting seasons one should take precautions. One should also take precautions against biting insects, like ticks and mosquitoes.

Post 1

Red oak tree. A deciduous hardwood tree known for its pointy lobed leaves and acorns. Note the vertical red colored grooves in the bark.

Post 2

White oak tree. Note the rough, light-colored bark with peeling plates, as well as the round-lobed leaves.

Post 3

Young beech stand. As you leave the boardwalk you will enter into a young grove of beech trees. Notice their smooth gray bark, and long pointed buds.

Post 4

Yellow birch tree. Notice the papery golden curls in its bark.

Post 5

Hemlock tree with barbed wire passing through it. Hemlock is a shade-loving tree commonly found in mature forests.

Post 6 and 7

White (or Paper) birch and Gray birch. Post 6 stands next to a white birch while nearby Post 7 marks a gray birch. White birch has the distinctive papery, peeling bark. Gray birch has pointy, triangular leaves compared to the more oval ones of the white birch.

Turn left onto the farm road to the compost area.

Post 8

White pine tree. Notice the virginia creeper vine twining up its trunk. Although an evergreen, the pine tree does shed one set of needles in the fall, keeping an alternate set for the next year, which it will shed when the new one grows in. White pines have their needles clustered in groups of five.

Post 9

Poison Ivy. "Leaflets three, let it be." Touching any part of the poison ivy plant can lead to a rash.

Trail forks to the right, downhill into the woods.

Post 10

Red maple tree. The red maple leaves have sharp, V-shaped notches between the lobes of its leaves.

Post 11

Black cherry tree. Take a look at the very characteristic platey bark of this black cherry.

Post 12

Young black cherry. This tree has horizontal dashes in its bark called lenticels, which are pores through which gas is exchanged. Note the oval leaves with orange hair running along the mid-vein underneath.

Post 13

Basswood tree. The basswood tree has a relatively large heart-shaped leaf which is slightly asymmetrical at the base.

Post 14

Fallen Hemlock tree. Slightly downhill from here is the stone-crossing of the water connection between wetland areas on either side of the trail.

Post 15

American elm tree. Notice the scratchy, sandpaperlike feel of the leaves' upper sides and the spongy cork-like bark. Nearly all American elms have been affected by Dutch Elm Disease, which often kills them when they get older.

Post 16

Sugar maple tree. Sugar maple leaves have smooth, U-shaped notches between the lobes. No doubt you have tasted the sweet sap from this tree when you have tasted maple syrup.

Post 17

Beech tree. Beech trees have a smooth, light gray bark, and a distinctive nut contained in a spiny pod.

Just ahead is a junction in the trail. After Post 18 take the branch to the left, following the white blazes.

Post 18 (mast site)

Shagbark hickory, beech, and red oak trees. Nuts of the hickory, beech, and acorns from the oak can be found here in abundance. The edible seed and fruit produced by trees or shrubs is called mast. Notice the peeling bark of the hickory, the smooth elephant-like trunk of the beech, and the grooved bark of the red oak.

Post 19

Hophornbeam tree. This tree is a little off the trail. Its hard wood used to make tool handles for mallets and fence posts. It is known to have wildlife resource value to songbirds, grouse, and squirrels.

Post 20

Beaked hazelnut tree. A small, understory tree with a large white ash behind it.

Post 21

White ash tree. Notice the diamond-shaped patterns in the bark and the compound leaves.

Post 22

Bigtooth aspen tree. Note the teardrop-shaped leaves with the distinctive wide teeth, unlike its relative the quaking aspen.

Post 23

Hornbeam (or Musclewood) tree. Notice the smooth, bulging bark that gives this tree its unusual nickname (and feels like muscles). The hornbeam grows in moist soil and is a low, understory tree.

Post 24

Shagbark hickory tree. Notice the bark, which peels off in wide, vertical strips. The shagbark has compound leaves with five leaflets.

Post 25

Beech bark disease. In this area, one can see many decayed and dying beech trees. Some show signs of beech bark disease which results when bark attacked and altered by the beech scale is then invaded and killed by a fungus.

Post 26

Witch-hazel tree. A small understory tree with a unique arching growth habit, the witch-hazel has oval leaves that are asymmetrical at the base.

Post 27

Hemlock tree. This evergreen has short, flat needles with two stripes on the underside. The needles were once used to make Old-Fashioned root beer.

Post 28

Sweet (or Black) birch tree. Note the dark-colored bark with horizontal lenticels. Take one of the twigs and scratch the bark; it should smell like wintergreen.

The trail nears the compost field.

Post 29

Pin cherry tree. The pin cherry has a very thin oval leaf which narrows to a point.

Post 30

Staghorn sumac shrub. Atall shrub that grows in old fields, the staghorn sumac has compound leaves with as many as 11 leaflets and bunches of red fruits.

This quick guide is based on the *Field Guide to the University of New Hampshire Kingman Farm Nature Trail* written by Joel Burdette and Garrett E. Crow of the Department of Plant Biology. The quick guide and an updated Field Guide are available at the Town of Madbury's website: www.townofmadbury.com

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