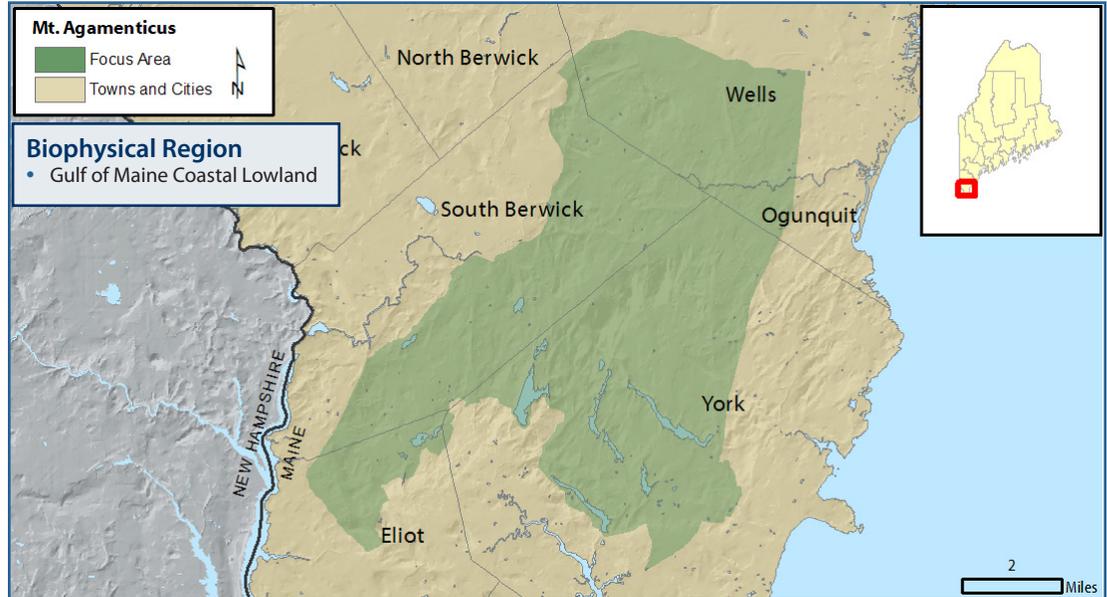


Mt. Agamenticus



WHY IS THIS AREA SIGNIFICANT?

The Mt. Agamenticus Focus Area comprises and is one of the largest remaining expanses of undeveloped forests in coastal New England. The uplands and wetlands around Mt. Agamenticus are inhabited by 12 animal species and 21 plant species that are considered rare in Maine. Many of these rare species are at the northern limit of their distribution range and are more abundant south of the Maine border. Similarly, some natural communities that occur in the Focus Area are restricted primarily to southern New England. The forest that extends northward from Mt. Agamenticus features Maine's only chestnut-oak woodland.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

- » Minimize fragmentation of habitat with development designs that optimize open space.
- » Continue using signs along roads to warn people about turtle crossings.
- » Use strategic open-space planning to maintain functional connections for wildlife among habitats.
- » Work with willing landowners to permanently protect remaining undeveloped areas.
- » Use forest management methods and design developments that protect vernal pools and the amphibians that depend on them.
- » Monitor for and remove invasive species.

For more conservation opportunities, visit the Beginning with Habitat Online Toolbox: www.beginningwithhabitat.org/toolbox/about_toolbox.html.

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Rare Animals

Spotted Turtle
Wood Turtle
Blanding's Turtle
Brown Snake
Ribbon Snake
Northern Black Racer

Spring Salamander
New England Cottontail
New England Blue
Ringed Boghaunter
Dragonfly
Swamp Darter
Scarlet Bluet

Rare Plants

Wild Leek
Slender Blue Flag
Mountain Laurel
Spicebush
Broadbeech Fern
Pale Green Orchis
Chestnut Oak
Tall Beak-rush
Sassafras
Swamp Saxifrage
Featherfoil

White Wood Aster
Upright Bindweed
Atlantic White-cedar
Spotted Wintergreen
Sweet Pepperbush
Flowering Dogwood
Eastern Joe-pye Weed
Columbia Water-meal
Alga-like Pondweed
Smooth Winterberry
Holly

Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities

Atlantic White Cedar Swamp
Chestnut Oak Woodland
Pocket Swamp
Leatherleaf Bog
Grassy Shrub Marsh
Sandy Lake Bottom
Pitch Pine Bog
Red Maple Swamp
White Oak-Red Oak Forest

Significant Wildlife Habitats

Inland Wading Bird & Waterfowl Habitat
Deer Wintering Area
Significant Vernal Pools



The forests and wetlands of Mt. Agamenticus are home to numerous rare animals and plants. *The Nature Conservancy*

FOCUS AREA OVERVIEW

The Mt. Agamenticus Focus Area extends from York Pond in Eliot northeast through the Tatnic Hills area in Wells. The Focus Area includes rugged terrain, several lakes and ponds, and numerous small wetlands that together comprise the largest contiguous block of lightly developed land in southern York County and one of the largest remaining areas of undeveloped forest in coastal New England. Mt. Agamenticus is the most outstanding feature in the area, both topographically and ecologically. Other prominent physical features are Horse Hill, Second and Third Hills, Chick's Brook watershed, Chase's Pond, Folly Pond, Middle Pond, Bell Marsh, Warren Pond, Welch's Pond, Round Pond, and York Pond.

The area's numerous upland and wetland areas are ecologically significant because they host plant and animal species that are living at the northernmost limit of their geographic ranges. In Maine, for example, at least three animal and 20 plant species occur only in this extreme southern portion of the state. Many additional species found in the Focus Area occur only sparingly farther northward. Natural communities reflect this pattern as well. For example, the Atlantic white cedar swamp, hemlock-hardwood pocket swamp, and pitch-pine bog that occur in this area are all restricted to southern Maine. The only remaining intact chestnut-oak woodland community in the entire state extends north from Mt. Agamenticus through Third Hill.

Public Access Opportunities

- » Mt. Agamenticus Wildlife Management Area
- » York Pond Lot

The Focus Area has one of the richest concentrations of vernal pool habitat in the state, supporting state-listed Blanding's and spotted turtles in concentrations rarely encountered elsewhere.

Of the 21 rare plant species known to occur in the Mt. Agamenticus area, 14 are considered rare in Maine because the state represents the northeastern limit of their range. They are much more common to the south and west. The Mt. Agamenticus area, in particular, is the northern limit for a few of these species, such as large beak-rush (*Rhynchospora macrostachya*) and flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

Two rare plant species found in the Focus Area—wild leek (*Allium tricoccum*) and alga-like pondweed (*Potamogeton confervoides*)—do not reach the edge of their geographic range in Maine. However, wild leek is uncommon in Maine because it lives only in nutrient-enriched hardwood forests, while alga-like pondweed occurs only in shallow, soft-water ponds.



The Nature Conservancy

The largely undeveloped expanse of forests in the Mt. Agamenticus region is important for maintaining water quality. York and Kittery Water Districts have been acquiring lands to ensure and protect drinking water supplies for the residents of York and Kittery. Over the past century, the Districts have acquired 4,445 acres of land in the area of Mt. Agamenticus.

CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

- » Minimize fragmentation of habitat through development designs that optimize open space.
- » Continue using signs along roads to warn people about turtle crossings.
- » Use strategic open-space planning to maintain functional connections for wildlife among habitats.
- » Work with willing landowners to permanently protect remaining undeveloped areas.
- » Close adherence to Best Management Practices for forestry (see Forestry Endangered and Threatened Species Guide) and development activities near vernal pools will ensure the protection of these wetlands and the amphibians that depend on them.
- » The integrity of wetland habitats depends on proper maintenance of hydrology and water quality. Intensive logging,

Ecological Services of the Focus Area

- Protection of water quality in numerous streams, ponds, and aquifers
- Source habitat for many wildlife species in rapidly developing landscape

Economic Contributions of the Focus Area

- Acreage for timber management
- Public open space for surrounding communities with benefits to land values
- Tourism and recreation (hiking, biking, and wildlife watching)

clearing, soil disturbance, new roads, and development on buffering uplands can result in greater runoff, sedimentation, and other non-point sources of pollution that harm wetlands and aquatic systems.

- » Preserving natural communities and other sensitive features can be achieved best by maintaining the integrity of the larger natural systems in which these features occur. Conserving the larger systems helps ensure both common and rare natural features will persist in this part of the state.
- » Conservation planning for the uplands should include set-

ting aside some areas from timber harvests.

- » It is important for off-road vehicles to stay on existing authorized trails and remain out of all wetlands.
- » With expected changes in climate over the next century, plant and wildlife species will shift their ranges. Maintaining landscape connections between undeveloped habitats will provide an important safety net for biodiversity as species adjust their ranges to future climate conditions.
- » Invasive plants and aquatic organisms have become an increasing problem in Maine and a threat to the state's natural communities. Disturbances to soils and natural vegetation and introductions of non-native species to terrestrial and aquatic habitats can create opportunities for colonization. Landowners and local conservation groups are encouraged to become aware of the potential threat of invasives, of methods to limit establishment, and/or of appropriate techniques for removal. For more information on invasive plants visit: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/features/invasives.htm>.



Spotted Turtle, Jonathan Mays

RARE SPECIES AND EXEMPLARY NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE FOCUS AREA

| | Common Name | Scientific Name | State Status* | State Rarity Rank | Global Rarity Rank | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Animals | Spotted Turtle | <i>Clemmys guttata</i> | T | S3 | G5 | |
| | Wood Turtle | <i>Clemmys insculpta</i> | SC | S4 | G4 | |
| | Blanding’s Turtle | <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i> | E | S2 | G4 | |
| | Northern Black Racer | <i>Coluber constrictor</i> | E | S2 | G5 | |
| | Ribbon Snake | <i>Thamnophis sauritus</i> | SC | S3 | G5 | |
| | Swamp Darter | <i>Etheostoma fusiforme</i> | SC | S1 | G5 | |
| | Brown Snake | <i>Storeria dekayi</i> | SC | S3 | G5 | |
| | New England Cottontail | <i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i> | SC | S2 | G4 | |
| | Spring Salamander | <i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i> | SC | S3 | G5 | |
| | Scarlet Bluet | <i>Enallagma pictum</i> | n/a | n/a | G3 | |
| | New England Bluet | <i>Enallagma laterale</i> | SC | S1 | G3 | |
| | Ringed Boghaunter Dragonfly | <i>Williamsonia lintneri</i> | E | S1 | G2 | |
| | Plants | Wild Leek | <i>Allium tricoccum</i> | SC | S2 | G5 |
| White Wood Aster | | <i>Aster divaricatus</i> | T | S2 | G5 | |
| Upright Bindweed | | <i>Calystegia spithamea</i> | T | S1 | G4G5 | |
| Atlantic White-cedar | | <i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i> | SC | S2 | G4 | |
| Spotted Wintergreen | | <i>Chimaphila maculata</i> | E | S1 | G5 | |
| Sweet Pepperbush | | <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> | SC | S2 | G5 | |
| Flowering Dogwood | | <i>Cornus florida</i> | E | S1 | G5 | |
| Eastern Joe-pye Weed | | <i>Eupatorium dubium</i> | T | S1 | G5 | |
| Featherfoil | | <i>Hottonia inflata</i> | T | S1 | G4 | |
| Smooth Winterberry Holly | | <i>Ilex laevigata</i> | SC | S2 | G5 | |
| Slender Blue Flag | | <i>Iris prismatica</i> | T | S2 | G4G5 | |
| Mountain Laurel | | <i>Kalmia latifolia</i> | SC | S3 | G5 | |
| Spicebush | | <i>Lindera benzoin</i> | SC | S3 | G5 | |
| Broadbeech Fern | | <i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i> | SC | S2 | G5 | |
| Pale Green Orchis | | <i>Platanthera flava</i> | SC | S2 | G4 | |
| Alga-like Pondweed | | <i>Potamogeton confervoides</i> | SC | S3 | G3G4 | |
| Chestnut Oak | | <i>Quercus montana</i> | T | S1 | G5 | |
| Tall Beak-rush | | <i>Rhynchospora macrostachya</i> | E | S1 | G4 | |
| Sassafras | | <i>Sassafras albidum</i> | SC | S2 | G5 | |
| Swamp Saxifrage | | <i>Saxifraga pensylvanica</i> | T | S2 | G5 | |
| Columbia Water-meal | | <i>Wolffia columbiana</i> | T | S2 | G5 | |
| Natural Communities | | Atlantic White Cedar Swamp | Atlantic White Cedar Swamp | | S2 | G3 |
| | | Chestnut Oak Woodland | Chestnut Oak Woodland | | S1 | n/a |
| | | Pocket Swamp | Hemlock–Hardwood Pocket Swamp | | S2 | n/a |
| | | Leatherleaf Bog | Leatherleaf Boggy Fen | | S4 | n/a |
| | | Grassy Shrub Marsh | Mixed Graminoid–Shrub Marsh | | S5 | n/a |
| | | Sandy Lake Bottom | Pipewort–Water Lobelia Aquatic-Bed | | S5 | n/a |
| | | Pitch Pine Bog | Pitch Pine Bog | | S1S2 | n/a |
| | Red Maple Swamp | Red Maple–Sensitive Fern Swamp | | S4 | n/a | |
| | White Oak–Red Oak Forest | White Oak–Red Oak Forest | | S3 | G5 | |

State Status*

- E** Endangered: Rare and in danger of being lost from the state in the foreseeable future, or federally listed as Endangered.
- T** Threatened: Rare and, with further decline, could become endangered; or federally listed as Threatened.
- SC** Special Concern: Rare in Maine, based on available information, but not sufficiently rare to be Threatened or Endangered.

**State status rankings are not assigned to natural communities.*

State Rarity Rank

- S1** Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres).
- S2** Imperiled in Maine because of rarity (6–20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to further decline.
- S3** Rare in Maine (on the order of 20–100 occurrences).
- S4** Apparently secure in Maine.
- S5** Demonstrably secure in Maine.

Global Rarity Rank

- G1** Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because some aspect of its biology makes it especially vulnerable to extirpation.
- G2** Globally imperiled because of rarity (6–20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to further decline.
- G3** Globally rare (on the order of 20–100 occurrences).
- G4** Apparently secure globally.
- G5** Demonstrably secure globally.