

# WELCOME



Welcome to the Poplar Mountain Conservation Area, managed by the Erving Conservation Commission with help from many dedicated volunteers. Here you will find trails of varying difficulty and views of the Wendell State Forest across the Millers River.

Please respect the land and our neighbors by staying within the property boundaries, carrying out all litter, and picking up after dogs.

## HISTORICAL FACTS



About 400 million years ago the continental collision resulted in the formation of the Appalachian Mountains and a buckling of land along what is now considered the Connecticut River Valley. The heat and pressure of these collisions created our metamorphic rocks, transforming rocks that once were a different kind of rock.

Poplar Mountain is composed of one of these metamorphics named Poplar Mountain Gneiss (pronounced "nice"). It is dark colored and can form cliffs. Poplar Mountain Gneiss is spectacularly visible along Route 2 and at the base of the mountain composing of all outcrops including the mountain top.

In 1752, John Erving purchased 11,016 acres of unincorporated land in Hampshire County, now Franklin County. In 1788, this land was surveyed by Joseph Metcalf and the majority of that unincorporated land became the Town of Erving in 1838. The mountain side was selectively clear cut, which left deep grooves in the ground and the oldest trees on the property are about 100 years old and are mostly white pine. The presence of stone walls and the remains of a dairy barn are indicative of the agricultural history of the land.

Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS, FRCOG, and the Town of Erving Conservation Commission. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are not to be used for survey. Spring 2022

In 2006 the Town of Erving residents, Select Board & Conservation Commission became aware that the Ginuisz family were looking to sell their property. A group of passionate residents and Town officials came together to advocate for the conservation of the land.

In 2007, the Town of Erving purchased 185 acres of land from the Ginuisz family and on the north side of Old State Road created the Poplar Mountain Conservation area that consisted of 167 acres. In 2020, Mount Grace gifted another 55 acres of land adjacent to the original area to create a total acreage of 222 conserved acres.

Indigenous people, the first inhabitants of this region now called Erving, have lived here for the past 10,000 years. Their modern-day descendants are the Abenaki and Nipmuc/k. Historically, their hunting and fishing homelands included Poplar Mountain and the stretch of the Paguag River, now known as the Millers.

We ask you to respect this land and acknowledge that their spirits and descendants are still here.



*The Conservation Commission welcomes volunteers to assist with the care of the property.*

*Please contact [conservation@erving-ma.gov](mailto:conservation@erving-ma.gov) to be added to a volunteer opportunity email list.*

### Trail Use Etiquette

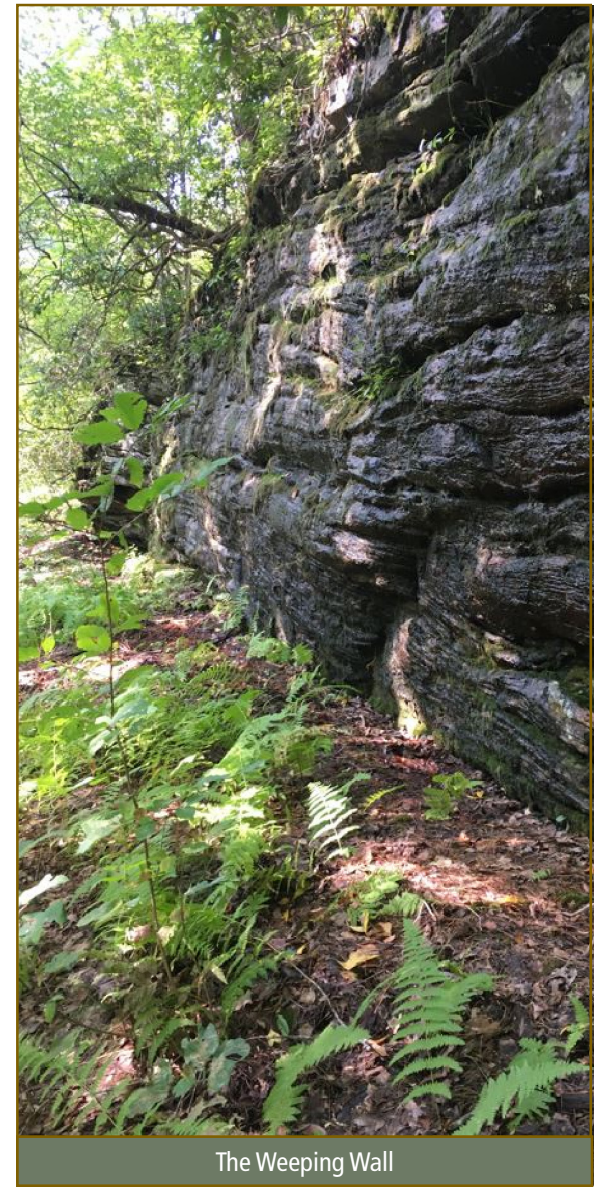
- Park only in designated areas at the trailheads.
- Do NOT litter. Carry in/out all food and garbage.
- Do not cut trees or remove vegetation.
- Fires are strictly prohibited.
- Stay on the trails.

### Prevent Lyme Disease

- Wear DEET Repellent.
- Check for ticks daily.
- Shower soon after being outdoors.
- Tuck pants into socks.
- Call your doctor if you are bitten.



# ERVING POPLAR MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA



The Weeping Wall

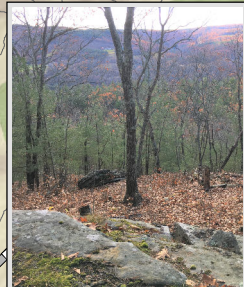
## ENJOY YOUR HIKE!

*In wildness is the preservation of the world.*

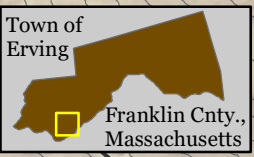
- Henry David Thoreau

# Poplar Mountain Conservation Area Hiking Trails

\*Please respect neighboring properties. Stay on marked trails within the Poplar Mountain Conservation Area.



0 125 250 500 Feet



**Trails**

- Connector
- Harry & Sue's Gneiss Trail
- Fletcher's Vista Trail
- Laura's Loop
- ▲ Intersection
- Scenic View
- P Parking Lot
- Cemetery
- Building Structure
- Transmission Line
- Contour Interval (15 ft)
- Stone Wall

