



Hayes Farm Park and King Bird Sanctuary Trails Challenge Hike

22.3 acres owned by the Town of Hanover. The Hanover Conservancy holds a conservation easement on 17.4 acres composed of the King Bird Sanctuary and Trescott Ridge Wetlands

Hayes Farm Park is located in Etna, NH, 4.3 miles east of downtown Hanover. Park at the Etna Library. Follow the mowed path to the kiosk then choose either the right or left trails to make your way to the King Bird Sanctuary. This is an easy out and back, half-mile hike. Be sure to do a tick-check after your walk and follow these tick protection tips: tuck pants in socks, wear light colors, use a repellent recommended for ticks.

Destination: As you follow the loop around the King Bird Sanctuary, search for the destination marker at the north end of the path, just beyond the two bird nest boxes. If you notice bird activity around the boxes, don't linger but watch from afar. Bluebirds, tree swallows or house wrens may be using these boxes.

Features and History: The Town of Hanover purchased land from the Hayes family in 2010. This allowed for library expansion and the addition of a parking lot, with the remaining land providing open space for public use. The Hanover Conservancy partnered with the town conservation commission in 2011 to create the King Bird Sanctuary with a memorial fund honoring Nan and Allen King, long time conservationists and Conservancy members. This land, with its meadows, crabapple orchard, and dramatic stone walls was once pasture for the Hayes Farm. Meadows provide habitat for pollinators and the bird sanctuary features a demonstration planting of native trees and shrubs labeled with species name and wildlife and ornamental value. The Park is managed cooperatively by the Hanover Conservation Commission, Hayes Farm Park Stewardship Committee, and Hanover Parks and Recreation Department.

