



## Tunis Mill Lot Trails Challenge Hike

*1.5 acres owned by the Hanover Conservancy; trail passes over private land on a right-of-way to the mill site.*

The trailhead for the Tunis Mill Lot is located on Goose Pond Road, 5.4 miles from Route 10. Look for the Hanover Conservancy sign and park along the roadside. A silver gate marked "Private Road, Bear Hill Reservation" is nearby on the opposite side of the road. This is a relatively easy 1 mile, out-and-back hike. The trail is mostly flat and follows an old tote road that can be traced back to the mid-1800s. Bog bridges help you cross wet areas. Good hiking shoes are recommended.

**Destination:** A wooden Hanover Conservancy sign signals your arrival to the Tunis Mill Lot. As you approach the brook, the destination marker is nearby. Explore the pristine brook and surrounding woods. If you walk about 75 paces upstream, you'll find an enormous glacial erratic, dropped out of glacial ice. Retrace your steps on the same trail back to the road.

**History and Features:** Hidden deep in the forests of Hanover's northeast corner, the Tunis Mill Lot is part of large contiguous forest, much of it conserved. Nearby parcels include the Town of Hanover's Goodwin Forest, Town Forest, McKinley Forest, and Marshall Brook Wetlands. This 1.5-acre lot is the former site of a late-1850s sawmill on Tunis Brook. It was acquired by the Hanover Conservancy in 1994 following a town tax sale, adding another piece of the conservation puzzle in this wild corner of town. Forests here are dominated by hemlock, spruce, and northern hardwoods such as yellow birch and maple. These woodlands provide prime habitat for many wildlife species including moose, deer, bear, bobcat, river otter, fisher, mink, beaver, and snowshoe hare. Tunis Brook flows north to join Pressey Brook and eventually feeds Goose Pond and the Mascoma River.

Destination Marker