

Protecting the College Woods Boundary

The College Woods boundary outlines the contiguous forested area of the College Woods, the Natural Area, and the Reservoir. The boundary is defined to the north and east by the current tree line, to the south by Mill Road, and to the west by abutting private property lines and the Leawood Orchard property line. (Visit the College Woods web site: <http://www.unh.edu/woodlands/properties/colwoods/index.html>)

As planned University and private development expands to the West of the railroad tracks and along Mast and Mill Road, we are concerned the expansion could have an adverse effect on the qualities that make the College Woods, the Paul Bruns Natural Area, and UNH Reservoir unique. They are special places to students, instructors, townspeople, and many visitors.

Accordingly, members of the College Woods Coalition have been in conversation with the UNH Planning Office to consider protecting the College Woods boundary (including any potential buffers) from development. Where possible, buffers extending outward from the College Woods boundary serve to provide a transition from the pervasive human influence of buildings and pavement onto the quiet serenity and natural processes that hold sway in the adjacent woodlands.

As the campus and surrounding community continues to develop, the approximate 280-acre College Woods, with its diverse portfolio of ecosystems becomes more isolated. Fortunately, much of the Paul Bruns Natural Area and the UNH Reservoir are embedded within the College Woods. Hence, protecting the College Woods boundary protects these two critical areas as well. Although buffers are not always possible, protecting the well-defined boundary of the College Woods is essen-

tial to maintaining the integrity of ecosystems with their variety of trees and other plants, wildlife, soils, and water. Recent construction within a few feet of the tree line of the College Woods precludes the possibility of a transition or "buffer space." Let's avoid future development immediately adjacent to or even into this priceless educational lab.

Few colleges in the U.S. enjoy such a unique resource, a living library, as part of its main campus. Let's not have future development erode or degrade this vital resource.



If you wish to become a member of the Coalition, or as a member, would like to make an additional contribution, please send a check for ten dollars or more with the following form.

Become a Supporter of the College Woods Coalition

The College Woods Coalition seeks a large membership in order to demonstrate broad support for the permanent protection of College Woods. Your one-time membership contribution of at least \$10 will be used for further outreach by the Coalition. If you provide your email address, we can keep you up-to-date on our progress and activities; your addresses will be neither shared nor overused.

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email (optional) _____



Check as appropriate: Individual Organization Department

Please contact me about how I can help. Phone () _____
 Please do NOT use my name in any public list.

Send this form and a check for \$ _____ (\$10 minimum) payable to "UNH," with "College Woods Coalition" in the memo line or use your VISA/MC.

VISA/MC _____ exp _____



To: Dr. James Barrett, Emeritus, Natural Resources & the Environment, 114 James Hall, 56 College Road, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824
