

SUGAR HILL – Bird walks on June 1 and 2 will explore the proposed Easton – Sugar Hill Community Forest. Everyone is invited to join.

The proposed community forest is 840 fairly rugged acres in Easton. The two walks will explore different areas of the land. Participants should come prepared for a good hike, as well as an intriguing variety of birds and stunning views from rarely seen vantage points.

Friday, June 1 we will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Dyke Road in Sugar Hill. We'll walk from there on the Class VI road to access the proposed community forest from a gravel skid road in Landaff. This is the western approach to the land. The walk into the land itself will be on old logging (skid) roads and will gain elevation through young forest and early successional habitat.

On Saturday, June 2 we will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Jericho Road in Sugar Hill. Jericho Road is a left turn going uphill (west) on Dyke Road. This is the approach from the northern end of the property. The walk may include some bushwhacking and brambles.

Both walks will be on old logging roads that may be potential trails in the proposed community forest. Everyone who wants to see some of this land is invited to come along, birder or not. These walks are the first of many that will be held over the course of the summer and fall to acquaint everyone who is interested in the forest.

Select board and other representatives from the towns of Easton and Sugar Hill along with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) have been working together for several years on bringing this project to the public for consideration. On behalf of the communities, ACT negotiated a purchase and sales agreement with the landowners.

A planning committee of residents of Easton, Sugar Hill, and Landaff is being formed to create a plan for the forest. The planning committee will look at the numerous recreational opportunities on the land as well as long-term forest management for timber income. Working groups are also forming to address the recreational uses, including mountain biking, backcountry skiing, and equestrian trails.

If you would like to join the bird walks, please e-mail ACT at [rbrown@aconservationtrust.org](mailto:rbrown@aconservationtrust.org) or call [603-823-7777](tel:603-823-7777). You can also just show up – but any last minutes changes will be communicated by e-mail). A map of the property and more information is on the project Web site, [www.townforest.org](http://www.townforest.org). Birding results will also be posted there.