

Welcome to the Branch Lake Public Forest!

When visiting the public forest, we ask that visitors adhere to the following:

- **Leave no trace. Dumping is not allowed.** Please take home what you bring into the forest.
- **Nighttime or overnight use and camping are not allowed.** The Branch Lake Public Forest is open from sunrise to sunset.
- **Dogs should be kept on leash.** Leashed dogs protect people, wildlife, and other pets.
- **Fires of any kind are prohibited.**
- **Operation of motorized vehicles, other than on the access road, is not allowed.** This is including, but not limited to: cars, trucks, ATVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles, and dune buggies.
- **Bicycles are not allowed.**
- **Hunting, fishing, and trapping are allowed.** Permission is required to use tree stands in the Public Forest. To request permission, contact City Hall. Tree stands are not allowed in the South Lot (see map). Bear baits are not allowed.
- **Commercial activities, with the exception of guide use, are not allowed.** Wood cutting, fir tipping, and gardening are also prohibited.
- **Large scale private or public parties, athletic competitions, and alcohol consumption are prohibited.**
- **Paintball and rifle ranges are not allowed.**

The Branch Lake Public Forest consists of 802.6 acres in Ellsworth, Maine, and is owned by the City of Ellsworth. Frenchman Bay Conservancy holds two conservation easements on the property, one for the South Lot, and a 35 acre easement in the North Lot. This property is the product of collaboration between the City of Ellsworth, Frenchman Bay Conservancy, Forest Society of Maine, the State of Maine, previous landowners, and volunteers. The landbase helps protect the city's primary drinking water supply, Branch Lake, as well as the Union River watershed. There are currently over 3 miles of recreational trails on the property.

The City of Ellsworth regularly hosts clean-ups and planting events, and we would be delighted if you could join us. Reach out to treesteward@ellsworthmaine.gov to join the mailing list of volunteer events, and check the calendars on both the City of Ellsworth and Frenchman Bay Conservancy's websites to learn more.

Questions? Contact Roddy Ehrlenbach, Director of Parks and Recreation at 207-667-2563

