FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

City of Keene- Dinsmoor Woods

Keene, NH



The red pine plantations of Dinsmoor Woods that were removed in the spring of 2026 making way for natural regeneration to take hold and be the future forest.

2026 –2036 Planning Period

Long View Forest MANAGEMENT

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dinsmoor Woods is a unique and special holding in Keene's portfolio of public lands. Donated to the City over 100 years ago and subject to a Conservation Easement held by the Society for the Protection of New Hamshire Forests, Dinsmoor Woods is an important green space and natural forest tucked into an otherwise highly developed and heavily used part of the City. As such, it serves as an important recreational and aesthetic amenity to City Residents and provides a small sliver of wildlife habitat value as well for the creatures that live here.

This management plan is a basic one focused on documenting current conditions following the 2026 pre-emptive salvage of the planted red pine here based on the presence of the red pine scale in Keene and the trees' impending demise. The Conservation Easement does not allow for most of the management options here. Instead, the forest must mostly be left alone to develop and thrive as a natural, mixed-species forest. Invasive Plants may be controlled here and that is the primary, simple recommendation of this plan as we look to secure the next 100 years + of growth and thriving here at Dinsmoor woods.



The resprout growth here 2 months after the 2026 harvest is already impressive and bodes well for the future forest's development. Hard hat for scale.

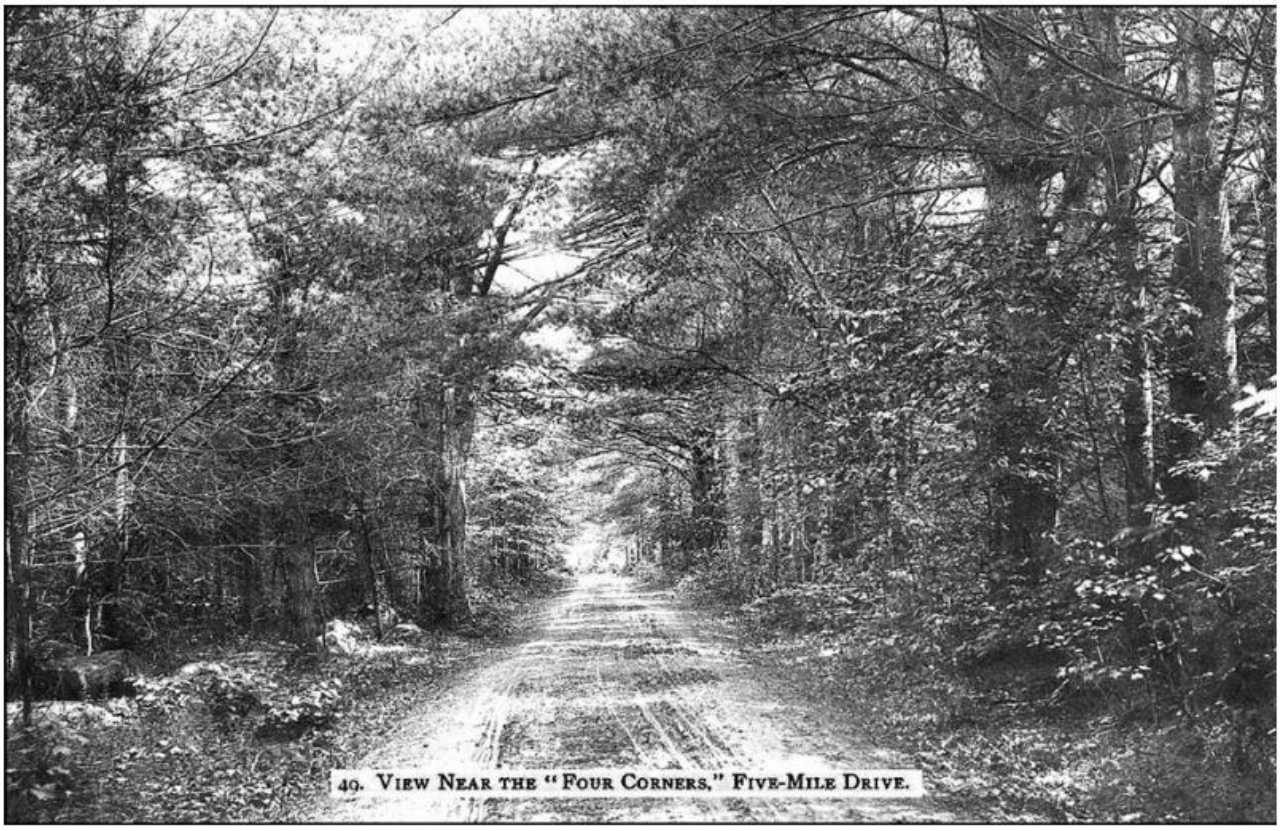
II. PROPERTY OVERVIEW

A. Property Summary

Landowner Name	City of Keene, Department of Parks and Recreation
Mailing Address	312 Washington Street, Keene NH 03431
Street Address	Maple Ave, Keene, NH
Primary Contact:	Carrah Fisk-Hennessy, Director
Phone	603-357-9829
Email	cfiskhennessey@keenenh.gov
Town Where Land Is Located	Keene
County Where Land Is Located	Cheshire
Grand List Acreage	21.55
Document Objective and General Property Description	This 10 year forest management plan outlines the management goals and parameters for Dinsmoor Woods and satisfies the requirements of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests which stewards a Conservation Easement on the land.
Adaptive Management	*"Is a dynamic approach to forest management in which the effects of treatments and decisions are continually monitored and used, along with research results, to modify management on a continuing basis to ensure that objectives are being met."* *(Excerpted from the Society of American Foresters "Dictionary of Forestry")*

	Using this adaptive approach, it is important to remember that this Plan is a document used to guide, not dictate, forest management. Changeable conditions like insect or disease outbreak may necessitate amending the plan. Additionally, the plan does not preclude the need for scoping areas in advance of management operations or the need for annual monitoring of the forest.
Landscape Setting	This property is located in Cheshire County, New Hampshire, in the northeastern United States, and falls within the Worcester/Monadnock biophysical region.
Land Use History	Prior to European contact, the Abenaki sustained themselves from this land, living in settlements as well as moving seasonally throughout the region. To this day, the Abenaki are present on the land now called New Hampshire. European settlers introduced a dramatic change in the land's use and the human patterns of cultivation, habitation, and resource extraction. Forest management today continues to work with the effects of these changes on the forest's composition. Dinsmoor Woods today is made up of two donated, eased parcels. The primary parcel, running from the 7-11 Traffic Circle down to the blinking light at Melody Lane, includes 13 acres given to the City by Mary Dinsmoor for use as a public preserve. Historical records highlight the magnificent, large trees in this tract. The other donation came from the Faulkner-Colony Family. Both were part of The "Five Mile Drive" which was an important cultural drive-about route for Keene residents in the first half of the twentieth century. Older residents of Keene today still reminisce about Sunday drives along this scenic corridor that has now been largely subsumed by Keene and its growth. In 1938, the massive hurricane largely knocked down much of the larger trees here at Dinsmoor Woods. The City replated the blown-

down areas with Red Pine which then grew for ~80 years until the red pine scale and increasing incidences of root rots and windthrow again prompted chang in this forest. After the 2026 harvest of the red pine, the forest is now re-growing into a diverse, mixed-wood stand that will be more resilient to future stressors and hopefully better provide a long-term, resilient greenway along Maple Ave.



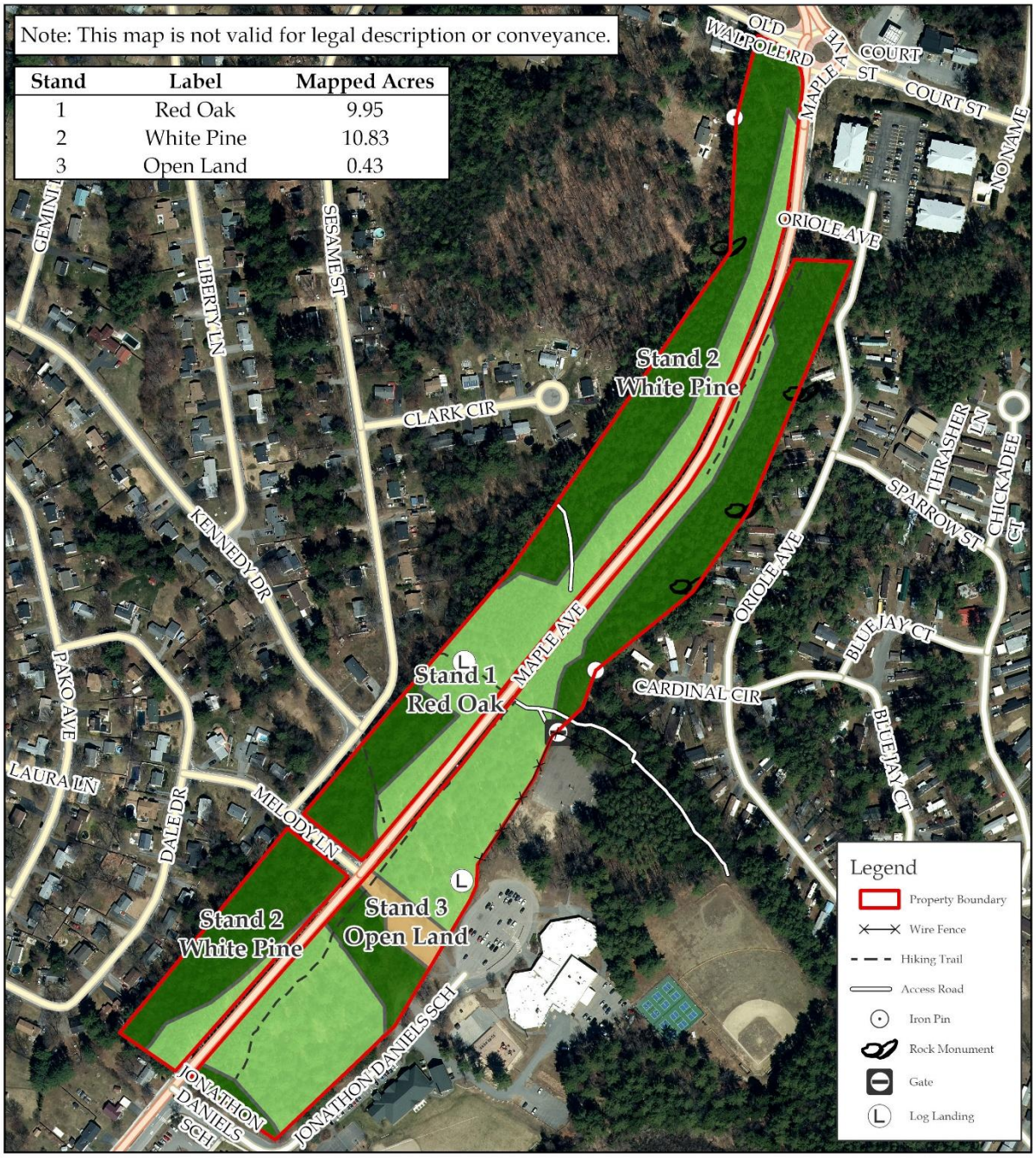
The Five Mile Drive. Source: Keene Public Library Archives. Accessed on Wikipedia Commons, 10.6.26

One recommendation is for the City to consider adding some interpretive signage to Dinsmoor Woods to highlight the neat history here and the legacy of open green space provided by the two donors.

Management Goals	Forest Management here is tightly constrained by the terms of the Conservation Easement that Dinsmoor put in place when she made her donation. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests oversees and cares for Easement. Under this easement, the City's Goals for the land are: • To protect aesthetic and environmental values. • To provide diverse habitat for wildlife. • To provide recreational opportunities for the City's residents
Access	Access is easy here, but complicated for forest management activities. Maple Ave is an intensely utilized road that access residential neighborhoods and is a main route to the Hospital. The School District buildings and Middle School also use it intensely.
Property Boundaries	The parcel is marked by an array of corner and line monuments. Some corners and lines are not monumented on the ground, but the lines are clearly defined by use. Some neighbors have been creeping their yard uses into Dinsmoor Woods and this bear ongoing monitoring.
Cultural & Historic Features and Other Special Sites	With its proximity to the Ashuelot River, this land has been important over the last ~13,000 years to indigenous peoples and more recently to the settlers and current residents. While there are no known historic or cultural sites in Dinsmoor Woods, current use by neighbors and City residents makes this a much-loved wooded area in an otherwise heavily developed part of the City. This area is the gateway to Tenant Swamp which features a boardwalk. The history of indigenous peoples on this land was highlighted in the current public's awareness in 2010 when archaeological reviews for the Middle School highlighted the importance this land around and including Dinsmoor Woods has had for native peoples for thousands of years. Two great resources for this history can be found here;

	https://nhgardensolutions.wordpress.com/2015/06/17/exploring-tenant-swamp/ and https://harriscenter.org/about-us/merchandise/a-deep-presence
Fish & Wildlife Habitat and Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species	There are no known occurrences of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species on this parcel.
Recreation/Aesthetics	This is an important daily use and recreational use area for the residents of Keene. However, the Easement language restricts what aesthetic forest management actions can be taken here.
Water Quality, Wetlands & Riparian Corridors and Measures to Enhance and/or Protect Functions & Values	Acceptable Management Practices (AMP's) (A.K.A Best Management Practices or BMP's) are essential to ensuring that the benefits for air, soil and water quality are maintained or enhanced for all. Special management zones, including river and stream corridors, steep slopes, fragile soils, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps, and lake and pond shorelines shall follow guidelines set forth *"Best Management Practices for Forestry: Protecting New Hampshire's Water Quality", University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.*

B. *Forest Management Map*



Stand Map
City of Keene,
Dinsmoor Woods
Maple Ave, Keene, NH

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III. FOREST UNIT DESCRIPTIONS & PRESCRIBED TREATMENTS

A. Unit 1- Red Oak

Forest Type: Red Oak

Acres: 9.95

Location: Both Sides of Maple Ave- the former red pine plantations



The stump sprout re-growth is already impressive 3 months after the 2026 harvest of red pine in this Stand.

NARRATIVE

This Stand was clear cut in May of 2026 in response to red pine scale being found in Keene. Hardwood saplings were also severed for operational tidiness and to promote sprout growth to fill the growing space.

From here, the forest will develop naturally into a mixed-wood stand dominated by red oak and other hardwoods.

The main vulnerability here is the presence of invasive plants including glossy buckthorn, oriental bittersweet, and Japanese knotweed which will all need to be managed to prevent their taking over.

EXISTING UNIT DESCRIPTION			
Age Class Distribution	☒ - Even-aged ☐ - Uneven-aged	***Unit History***	• Planted to red pine in early 1940's • Clear-Cut as a salvage operation in 2026
Site Class *(1-4 with 1 being best and 4 being poorest)*	1	***Soils***	Caeser Loamy Sand
Forest Health Concerns *(Insects, disease, physical damage, or invasive plants)*		Invasive Plants	
Invasive Species		Glossy Buckthorn, Oriental Bittersweet, and Japanese Knotweed	
Observed level of Impact		☐ Low ☒ Medium ☐ High	
Stand Quality & Health		☐ Poor ☐ Average ☒ Excellent	
Regeneration		Abundant stump sprouts and new growth	
Desired Future Condition		A diverse, mixed forest that is resilient to climate change and forest health threats.	

PLANNED TREATMENTS	
Year	Ongoing
Treatment	• Control Invasive Plants using mechanical and chemical means. • Monitor annually • Knotweed should be treated foliarly when it is flowering in the late summer. DO NOT CUT during growing season.
Trees Favored for Retention	Any and all native species

B. *Unit 2- White Pine*

Forest Type: White Pine

Acres: 10.83

Location: Both Sides of Maple Ave



The remaining taller forest here is dominated by white pine and hemlock growing together in tight mixture. Here, you can see the red pine clear cut areas and the remaining white pine forest adjacent.

NARRATIVE

This Stand was not harvested in 2026 since it is made up of white pine and hemlock with the occasional scattered hardwood as well. This forest will continue to develop as it has been for the last 80 years as it

matures into an older forest. Like Stand 1, invasive plants will be a management concern here since the work in Stand 1 will put more light, and hence opportunities for germination, into Stand 2.

The hemlock in this stand is quite vulnerable to two invasive insects, the Hemlock Wooly Adlegid and the Elongate Hemlock Scale. I observed neither of these during my inventory in 2026, but they are known to be in the area. I don't have any management recommendations for these pests, but monitoring for them will be the main consideration.

EXISTING UNIT DESCRIPTION			
Age Class Distribution	☒ - Even-aged ☐ - Uneven-aged	***Unit History***	• This area naturally regenerated following the 1938 Hurricane • I do not believe it was planted to white pine
Site Class *(1-4 with 1 being best and 4 being poorest)*	1	***Soils***	Caeser Loamy Sand
Forest Health Concerns *(Insects, disease, physical damage, or invasive plants)*		Invasive Plants Hemlock Wooly Adlegid and Elongate Hemlock Scale	
Invasive Species		None Observed- put they will start appearing now that there is more light available.	
Observed level of Impact		☒ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High	
Stand Quality & Health		☒ Poor ☒ Average ☐ Excellent	
Regeneration		There is very little regeneration here due to the closed-canopy condition.	
Desired Future Condition		A thriving mixed-wood forest where remnant large pine exist alongside newer cohorts of hardwoods and pine.	

PLANNED TREATMENTS	
Year	Monitor for invasive plants and hemlock insect pests
Treatment	Annual Monitoring and Invasive Plant Control by Mechanical or Chemical means as needed.
Trees Favored for Retention	Pine and mixed hardwoods

C. Unit 3- Open Land

This is a small, ~ 0.43 acre section of poor lawn across from the parking area. A heavily used sidewalk runs through this area. The soils are relatively dry here and the grass growth is poor. The area is maintained as mowed by the School and no management actions beyond this are recommended.

IV. SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

We here at Long View Forest will make every effort to notify you when practices are due. However, the responsibility for ensuring that practices get completed in the timeframe stated ultimate falls upon the landowner.

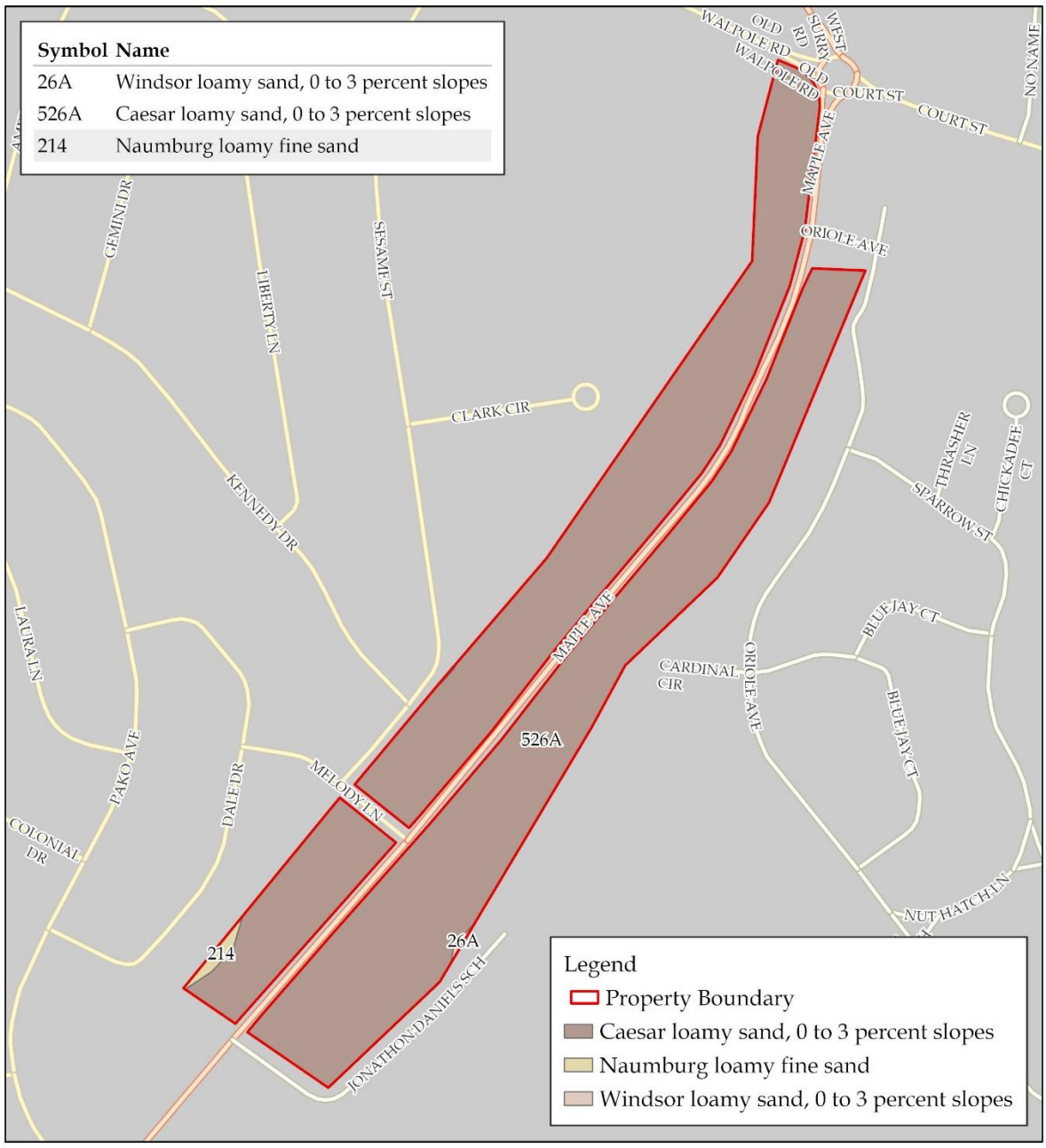
Year	***Unit***	***Activity***	***Reason***
Ongoing	1	Invasive Plant Control	Restore Ecological Balance and Favor the growth of native vegetation
Ongoing	2	Invasive Plant Monitoring and Control	Restore Ecological Balance and Favor the growth of native vegetation
Ongoing	2	Monitor for exotic hemlock pests	Be prepared to explain to the public why the hemlock is weakening and consider salvage if needed
2027	All	Install Interpretive Signage	Highlight the conservation legacy of these lands and keep the public informed about the land and its management



The west side of Maple Ave with the sidewalk. As new plants move in here, we need to be sure they are not invasives so we can maintain the native plant diversity here.

V. RESOURCE INVENTORY MAPS

A. *Map of Soil & Water Resources*



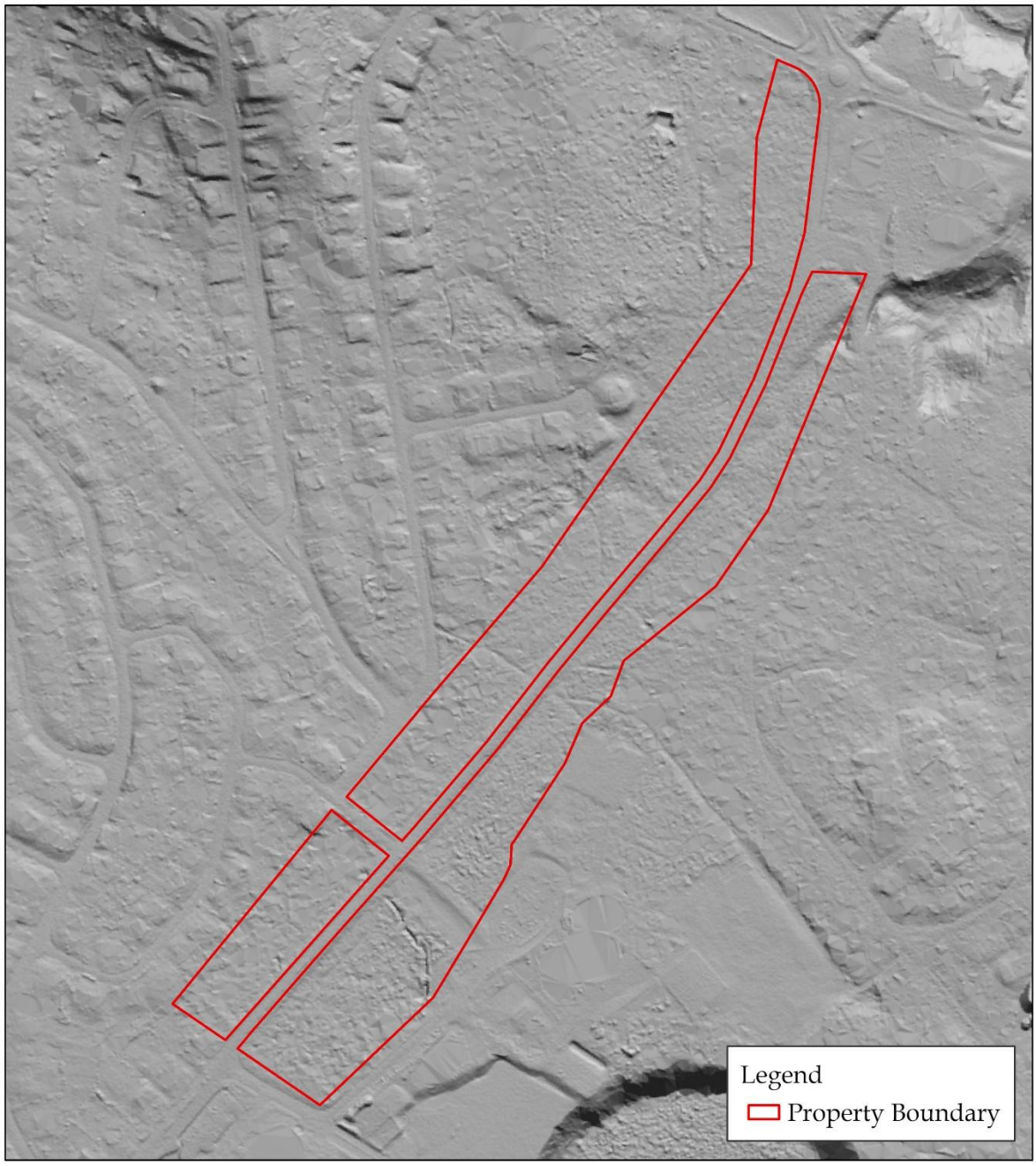
Soils Map
City of Keene,
Dinsmoor Woods
Maple Ave, Keene, NH

N
W E
S

0 125 250 500 US Feet

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B. Lidar Map



N
W E
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0 125 250 500 US Feet

Lidar Map
City of Keene,
Dinsmoor Woods
Maple Ave, Keene, NH

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