



Please note: Some trails cross onto private property. The landowners have allowed the use of the trails, but please respect their property.

### Phillips Exeter Academy Woods Trail Network

This 300-acre forest east of the Exeter River and bordering Drinkwater Road, Exeter to the Kensington town line, includes several parcels with a rich history of farming, forestry, and wildlife management. The largest parcel was given to the Academy in 1910 by George Plimpton and was known as Nathaniel Gilman Farm. Other parcels included in this forest are the 35-acre Herman Smith lot, the 6-acre Page/Brown lot and the Damsell land bordering the Exeter River. The majority of this forest was primarily field and pasture until the end of the eighteenth century.

Through the years the Academy Woods has withstood severe damage from hurricanes, fires, and floods. Severe damage from both 1938 and 1954 hurricanes from rain softened the soils resulting in substantial blowdown, almost completely leveling four areas totaling 40 acres. In 1963, a fire burned 60 acres of Academy land. Since then, over the years the forest has withstood floods, ice storms, and many seasonal storms that are a natural part of the changing seasons and weather in New England.

The Academy Woods is actively managed by Facilities Management staff and consulting foresters and wildlife biologists and is visited by students, faculty, and staff and the local community. As you enter these woods, please be mindful of your impact on these resources while you enjoy your hike.

