



Mayor-Niles Forest Trails Challenge Hike

92 acres owned by the Hanover Conservancy

The Mayor-Niles Forest is in the northeast corner of Hanover on Ibey (Iby) Road, located at the junction of Three Mile and Thompson Roads. Park at the end of Ibey Road and look for the trailhead kiosk for the Mayor-Niles Forest and Britton Forest. The trail to the right takes you into the Mayor-Niles Forest. Hike the Tote Road to the White Ledges Trail and then follow this path to the start of the Two Brooks Trail. Keep left and hike clockwise around the loop and then back the way you came on the Tote Road. This is a moderately challenging, 2-mile hike. The most difficult portion is the uphill climb on the Tote Road. This path dates back to the time when International Paper Company owned the summit of Moose Mountain and used the road to pull timber down the mountainside.

Destination: When you reach the second brook of the Two Brooks Trail loop, look for the destination marker near the tree with two yellow blazes. If it's been a dry summer, this small brook may be dry, too.

Features and History: This land was gifted to the Hanover Conservancy in 2017, by owners Michael and Elizabeth Mayor and John Niles. Conservation of this large forested property protects valuable wildlife habitat and three important headwater streams within the Hewes Brook watershed, providing downstream flood protection. The forest here is relatively young and composed of northern hardwoods such as red and sugar maple, red oak, beech, poplar, white ash, and white and yellow birch, along with hemlock and red spruce. This land was settled by B. Smith before 1855. By 1892, it was part of the 220-acre Barnes Farm. The homestead stood near the current trailhead and historic stone walls provide evidence that the land was likely used for sheep pasture.

Destination Marker