Access to Off-Road Recreation/Walking
Orange, MA

Recreation Type

- Snowmobiling
- Hiking
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Hunting
- Mtn. Biking

Orange State Forest

(C) Hosmer Woods/ Webb Forest Fitness Trail

(D) Orange Wildlife Management Area

(E) Orange State Forest

(F) Tully Mountain Wildlife Management Area (see map)

note: please see reverse side for more information and maps

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(A) The 75-acre Fittz Family Memorial Forest is adjacent to the Orange, Town Forest and other protected land and provides a valuable link in the North Pond Ridge Trail, itself a link in the larger Chestnut Hill Trail system. The memorial forest’s trail begins in a stand of mixed hardwood, proceeds along a ridge dominated by oak and pine, and then descends through a hemlock woods to a lovely stream. Recreation, forestry, and scientific and educational activities are the management goals of the New England Forestry Foundation for this land.

(B) The 1½-mile North Pond Ridge Trail, blazed in yellow, begins in the Fittz Family Memorial Forest in Orange, descends to a stream, then climbs to and proceeds along North Pond Ridge. This ridge affords evidence of past hurricanes, bent trees serving as witness. About halfway along the trail is a short spur west that leads to a woodland bench and a gorgeous view of Chestnut Hill Ridge. Near the southern end of the ridge, the path connects with the white-blazed Bullard Farm Loop, another section of the Chestnut Hill Trail system.

(C) This area consists of two parcels donated by two different families, the 187-acre Hosmer Woods and the 49-acre Webb Forest. Low-quality hardwoods were taking over after a 1920s logging operation, but under NEFF's active management, the forest today is dominated by wonderful stands of white pine. The haul roads through the parcels also serve as inviting trails for visitors.

(D) The Orange Wildlife Management Area has over 1,500 acres in several parcels, the largest encompassing a beautiful beaver pond of about 80 acres on North Main St. The area also includes forested tracts of mixed hard- and softwoods, brushy fields, open fields, and several small streams and wetlands. Deer, bear, turkey, coyote, beaver, raccoon, woodchuck and several non-game species visit or make their homes here.

(E) The magnificent 22-mile Tully Trail traverses forested sections of the WMA and follows the public road along the meadow. The long-term plan is to relocate the trail off road, a project that will require a lengthy footbridge across Collar Brook. Tully Meadow is the dedication site of the North Quabbin Bioreserve, where a combination of state and private agencies and willing private landowners have protected over 120,000 acres—truly a landscape-scale conservation project.

(F) Tully Lake Recreation Area protects about four miles of the Tully and Long Pond, where the river widens, and the 200-acre Tully Lake, created by a flood-control dam. The wetlands and forest support a wide variety of flora and fauna; lists of which are available online. The land and the lake offer numerous recreational opportunities, including camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, and hiking. A one-mile interpretive trail introduces visitors to both natural and cultural history; another trail loops around the lake and connects to scenic vistas and waterfalls. Part of this loop constitutes one leg of the Tully Trail. This area also encompasses a large parcel of wetlands, both upland and wetland; the areas boasts at least 13 habitat types, including various kinds of forests, swamps, ponds, talus slopes, and open bedrock slabs. The river is stocked with trout and the old fields are pleasant, and-bear, bobcat, coyote, snakes, woodcock and numerous other species visit or make their homes here.

This information has been provided by the North Quabbin Community Coalition @ www.northquabbinwoods.org