

## **Private Lands Etiquette And Planning Guide**

The majority of the Grafton Loop Trail crosses private land owned by both private timber companies and families. The Grafton Notch area may seem vast and trackless but in truth a multitude of private ownership's divide the region. These owners generously allow public access on portions of their property. Some practices appropriate on public lands need adjustments for private lands. Here are some points to consider.

### **Crossing Private Lands**

Rural neighborhoods are similar to those in more settled areas. Consider much of this trail equivalent to a yard in your community. Noise, litter, collecting items, or loose dogs create the same apprehensions in these woodlands as they would in more suburban yards. Please regard these timberlands as you would a neighbor's property.

### **Please Don't Build Campfires**

The tradition of campfires represents a threat to the private timberlands. Many landowners specified a no fire condition before agreeing to a trail on their land. Carry a portable stove.

### **Please Stay On the Trail**

Landowners have given the public access only to the trail. Permission was limited to those on foot and to the designated pathway. Maintaining good relationships with all landowners is essential for the long-term existence of the trail. Please do not stray from the trail.

Rare plant species in alpine areas are particularly susceptible to impacts from foot traffic, here it is especially important to remain on the trail.

### **Camp Only At Designated Campsites**

Many owners would not permit camping while others requested that camping only occur at designated campsites. In general, the campsites are not within reach for evening starts. Please review the route from maps, make sober assessments of your abilities, and arrive at a trailhead with adequate time to reach a designated campsite.