

PUDDIN POND

The Town of Conway received/purchased two parcels of land from James Simonds on December 21, 1972. This 206-acre parcel encompasses the northern half of Puddin Pond. The Maine Central RR tracks are to the west and the Nature Conservancy's Green Hills Preserve is on the east.

Puddin Pond drains the lower slopes of the Rattlesnake Range, now known as the Green Hills. It is a bog pond being choked with vegetation, which serves well as habitat for waterfowl and wildlife. Chain Pickerel and Horned Pout are found in the pond.

It is the home of beavers, blue heron, and is a prime area for migrating waterfowl. Beaver dams at the north end of the pond where it drains into Kearsarge Brook dictate the size of Puddin Pond. There used to be cranberries, but they disappeared because of the beavers in the late 1930's.

There was a dam at the head of the falls, with the original stone walls still standing, as built in the late 18th century and provided power at various times in the 19th century for a carding mill, a starch mill and a saw mill.

There are 3.2 miles of trails that are accessed from Locust Lane and Thompson Road. The trail off Thompson Road connects with the Green Hills trail network.

The southern portion of Puddin Pond is now owned by the State of New Hampshire. It was purchased by the State to be conveyed to the Town of Conway as wetland and recreation mitigation lands when the bypass is built.