



September 2017

Dear Neighbor:

A few weeks ago the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) took ownership of 332 acres of undeveloped forest, ponds, wetlands and streams in Bedford and Goffstown known as the **Florence M. Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary**. We are writing to you as a resident/landowner in close proximity to the Tarr Sanctuary to introduce ourselves, and to let you know our plans for the property. First the introductions:

Who is the Piscataquog Land Conservancy?

Founded in 1970, the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) is a private, non-profit land conservation organization based in New Boston, NH. We serve 23 southern New Hampshire communities - including Bedford and Goffstown – and own or hold conservation easements on 106 properties totaling almost 6,900 acres. We have a professional staff of four, fifty-plus volunteer property monitors, and about 800 local members. To learn more about PLC visit www.plcnh.org.

How did PLC come to own the Tarr Sanctuary?

The Florence M. Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary is named for a lifelong Bedford resident who originally created the sanctuary in 1993 through her estate. For 24 years the land was owned and managed by a trust established by Ms. Tarr. In recent years, however, the Tarr Trust became embroiled in litigation with the Town of Bedford and other parties. Through a comprehensive legal settlement reached in early 2016 and memorialized in a court order, the Tarr Trust has been dissolved and its lands transferred to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. PLC's primary responsibility under the court order is to conserve and protect the land as a sanctuary for wildlife, meaning we must manage public access to minimize disturbance to wildlife and prevent overuse.

How will the land be managed?

In keeping with Florence Tarr's original wishes, the land will continue to be posted against hunting, trapping and fishing (you may have already noticed new blue signs to that effect), and all motorized vehicles including ATVs, snowmobiles, and motorboats are prohibited. The land is otherwise open for non-motorized recreation like walking, trail running, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, bicycling and horseback riding on designated trails. Dogs are allowed but *must*

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be on a leash. Again, the Tarr land is first and foremost a wildlife sanctuary, and PLC retains sole discretion to modify, limit or eliminate any public use that negatively impacts the land's wildlife and/or other natural resources. A complete list of recreational "do's and don'ts" are summarized on signs (see below) posted at key access points.



The Piscataquog Land Conservancy is honored to be the keeper of Florence Tarr's legacy, and to be your new neighbor. When we say "welcome" we mean it, and keeping this land as a wildlife sanctuary *and* a place that people can enjoy is going to take all of us working together. If you have questions, comments, concerns, ideas, or want to know how you can help us take care of the property, please be in touch.

Sincerely,

Chris Wells
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