

N'DAKINNA TRAILS

The N'dakinna Trails are located on a 50-acre property owned by the Town of Loudon, NH. It is located on Rte 129, one-half mile east of the Clough Hill Rd intersection. The parcel consists mostly of wetlands which surround two sides of hilly woodland on which the trails were built. The name N'dakinna (pronounced IN-DAH-kee-NAH) was chosen to honor the Abenaki people who were the first known inhabitants of the northeastern woodlands, including this part of New Hampshire. N'dakinna, roughly translated, means "Our Homeland."

While no artifacts of those indigenous people have yet been discovered in this immediate area, it's easy to imagine that the Bee Hole Brook and surrounding wetlands would have been appealing to them. The Abenaki people used their birch-bark canoes to travel across shallow wetlands to access a bounty of plants and wildlife to help sustain them, and the close access to water was integral to their lifestyle.

Further information: <https://abenaki-edu.org> › nebi-wetlands: "For thousands of years, marshes were valued as vital resources for daily life in N'dakinna. Marshes are navigable by canoe, providing protective cover for travelers and aiding in the transportation of heavy loads. Marshes also protect against flooding, buffering the impact of stormwater. Wetland plants provide habitat for animals such as beavers, muskrats, herons, ducks, geese, frogs, and fish. Cattail tubers provide valuable food, and flag root is a source of medicine. Cattails, bulrushes, sedges, and reeds provide plant fibers used in crafting textiles for fish nets, baskets, mats, carrying bags, and garments.

Volunteers for the Conservation Commission – Trails Subcommittee donated over 500 hours to the development of these trails prior to the October 2023 public opening. Approximately two-thirds of the development costs were donated by area businesses and individuals. Of the remaining one-third of costs, most were paid with federal American Recovery Plan (Covid-19) funds. Only a few hundred dollars came from the Conservation Commission budget.

The Commission would like to thank those who made significant donations to the development of these trails: Benevento Aggregates, Lee Carboneau, Harry MacLauchlan, Russ Pearl, and the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders.