Medway Community Forest Cooperative

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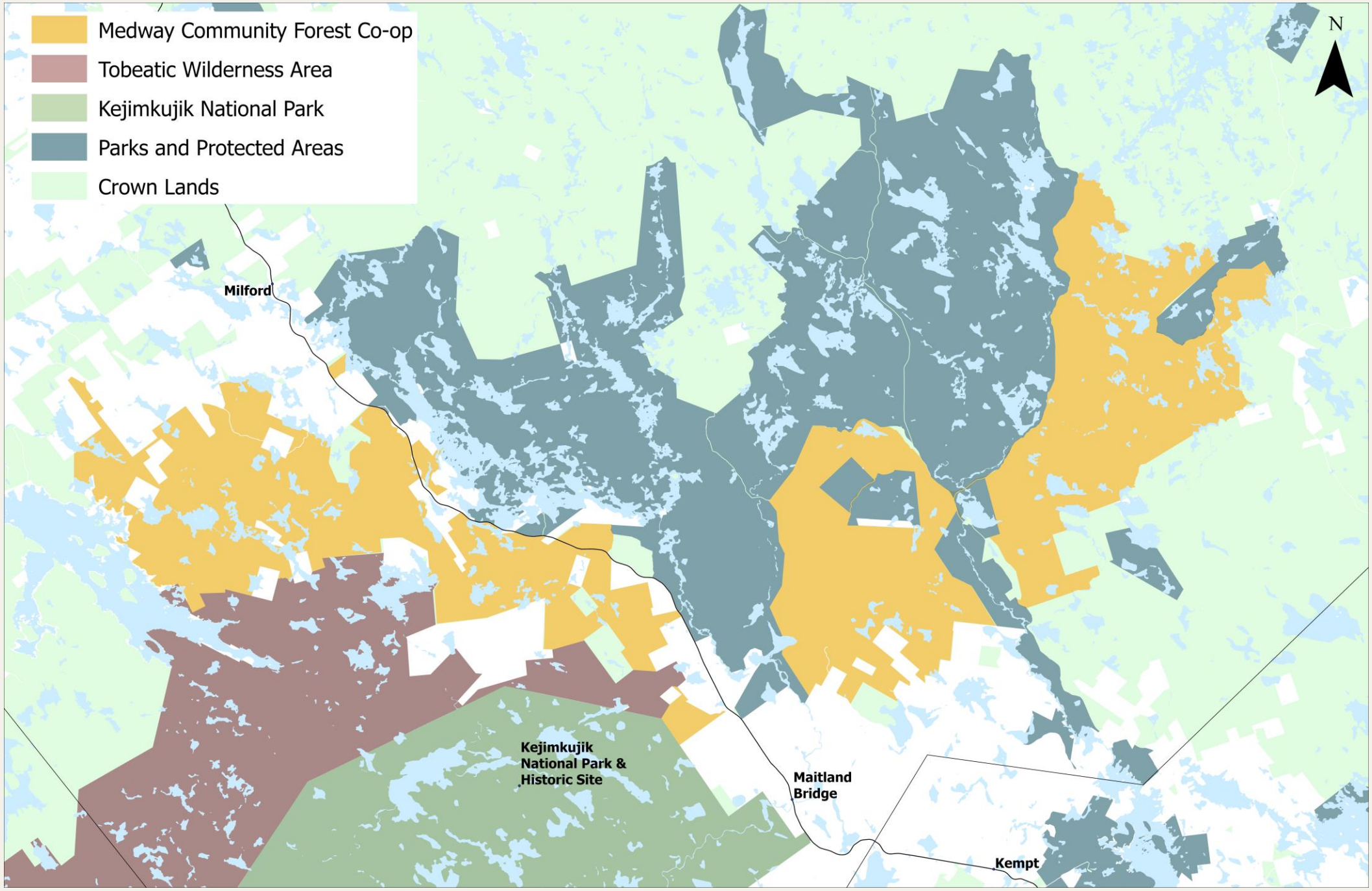


Medway Community Forest Co-op

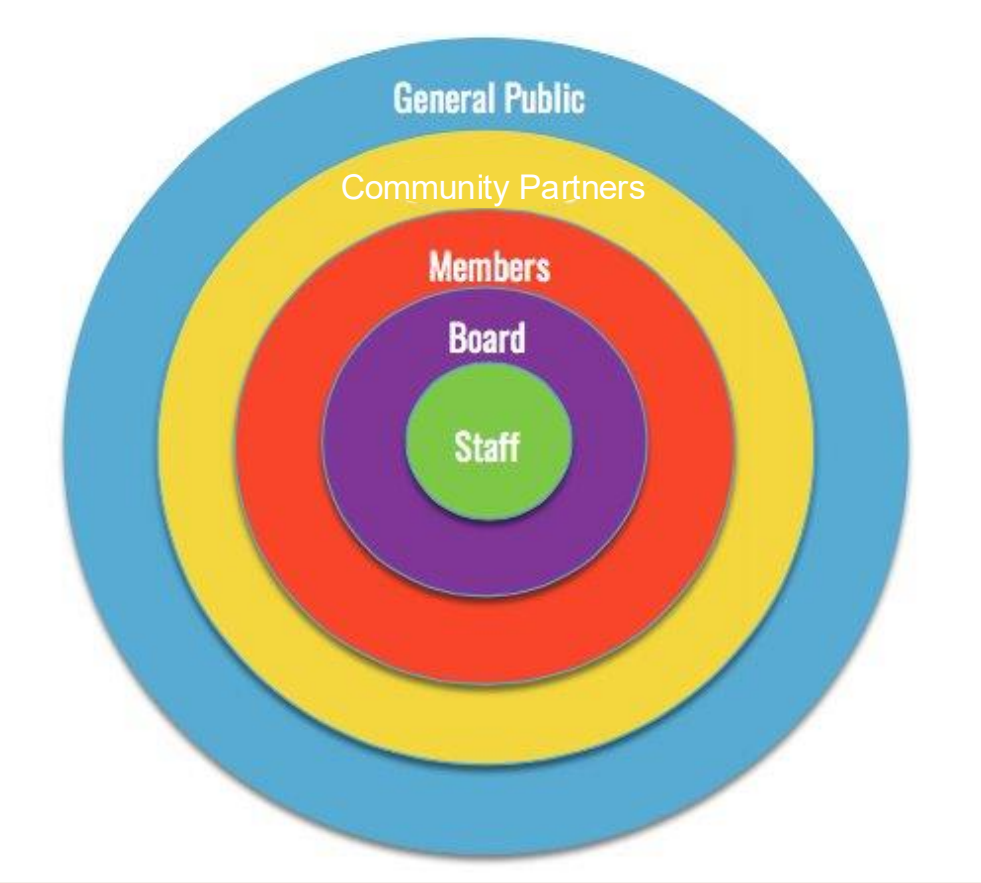
What is Community Forestry?

- Community members can participate directly in forest management decisions.
- Decision-making based on multiple interests and community values
- Supports a diversity of economic opportunities.
- Demonstrates and encourages a high level of environmental stewardship in operations.




Medway Community Forest Co-op
Tobeatic Wilderness Area
Kejimkujik National Park
Parks and Protected Areas
Crown Lands
N
Milford
Kejimkujik
National Park &
Historic Site
Maitland
Bridge
Kempt

Organizational Structure - Governance



- Member-based, for-profit cooperative social enterprise
  - Currently 210 member shareholders
- Elected board with seats reserved for a diversity of values including;
  - Economic
  - Environmental
  - Social
  - First Nations (no limit on representation)
  - Members at Large

Medway Community Forest Co-op

Our Forest Stewardship



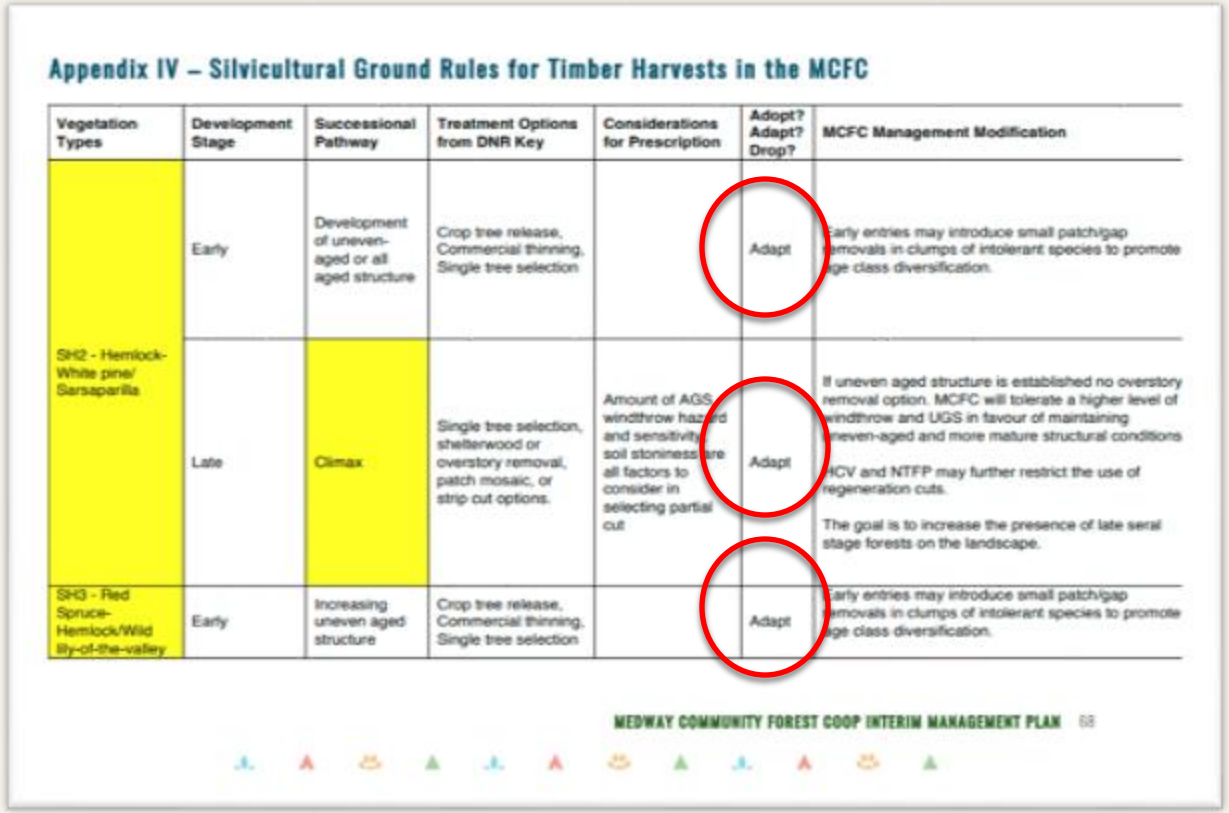
Day-to-day the MCFC works with our community and partners to exemplify ecological forestry on Crown lands.

Key focus areas include:

- “Singing Season” pause in all operations from May 15 until July 15th
- Increasing diversity in ages, species and structure and reducing simplification
- Audio monitoring program for migratory/at-risk birds
- Reducing road maintenance activities during turtle nesting season.
- Sharing research and results with forestry partners on Crown and private lands

Early Adaptations

- MCFC was quick to adapt existing decision support tools, leading to reach change on the ground
- Changes included higher post-harvest retention levels, promoting age & structural diversity using gap irregular shelterwoods and removal of wet forests from operations
- **Lahey Review changes had no impact on MCFC's approved harvests** - plans already met or exceeded the new standards.



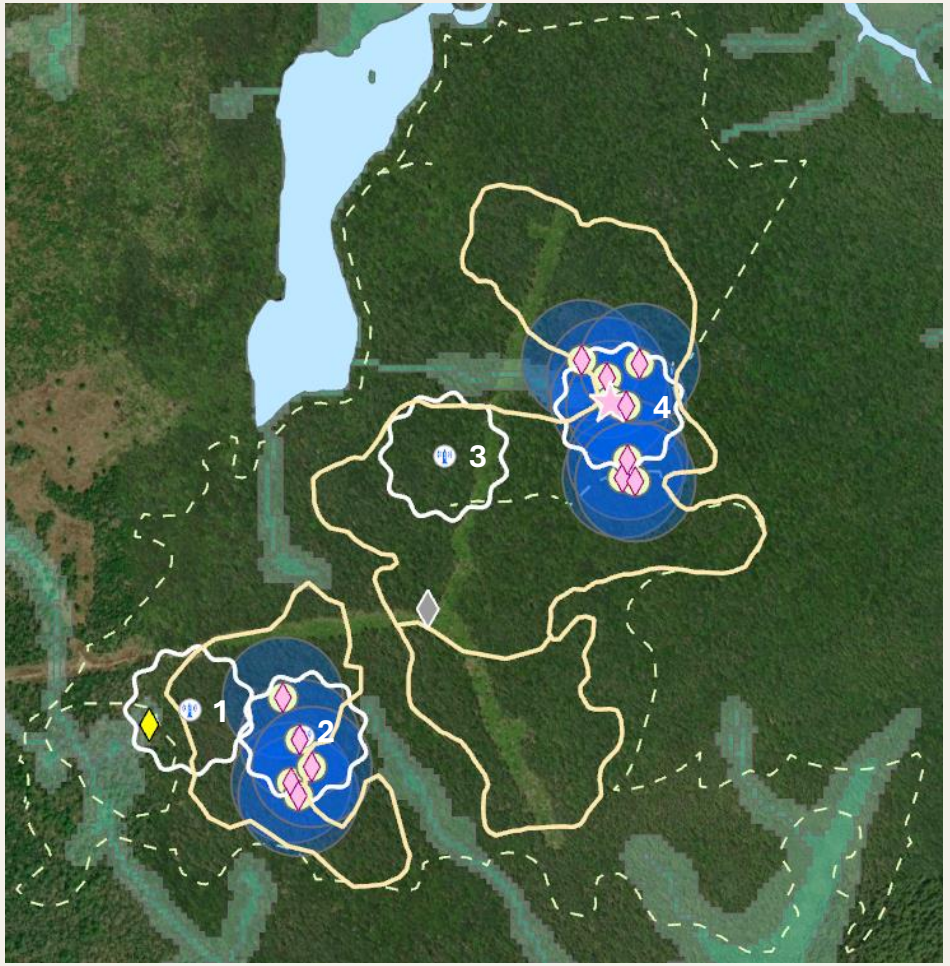
Appendix IV – Silvicultural Ground Rules for Timber Harvests in the MCFC

Vegetation Types	Development Stage	Successional Pathway	Treatment Options from DNR Key	Considerations for Prescription	Adopt? Adapt? Drop?	MCFC Management Modification
SH2 - Hemlock-White pine/ Sarsaparilla	Early	Development of uneven-aged or all aged structure	Crop tree release, Commercial thinning, Single tree selection		Adapt	Early entries may introduce small patch/gap removals in clumps of intolerant species to promote age class diversification.
	Late	Climax	Single tree selection, shelterwood or overstory removal, patch mosaic, or strip cut options.	Amount of AGS, windthrow hazard and sensitivity, soil stoniness are all factors to consider in selecting partial cut	Adapt	If uneven aged structure is established no overstory removal option. MCFC will tolerate a higher level of windthrow and UGS in favour of maintaining uneven-aged and more mature structural conditions HCV and NTFP may further restrict the use of regeneration cuts. The goal is to increase the presence of late seral stage forests on the landscape.
SH3 - Red Spruce-Hemlock/Wild lily-of-the-valley	Early	Increasing uneven aged structure	Crop tree release, Commercial thinning, Single tree selection		Adapt	Early entries may introduce small patch/gap removals in clumps of intolerant species to promote age class diversification.

MEDWAY COMMUNITY FOREST COOP INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN 68

Migratory Bird Stewardship

- Utilize Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) to detect SAR in high-likelihood harvest blocks.
- When SAR birds are found to be using habitats in or near a harvest area, we adjust plans to accommodate their needs
- E.g. Extended seasonal restrictions, lighter touch/higher retention harvests, removal of key habitats from operational areas



ARU with 100 m detection radius

Eastern Wood-Pewee with 25 m buffer

100 m “light touch” buffer

Canada Warbler

Chimney Swift

MERSEY TOBEATIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Tending Our Future Forest



Mechanical PCT Trial with Atlantic Tree Solutions



Hardwood Quality Improvement
“Crop Tree Release”

Medway Community Forest Co-op

New Stewardship Goals

New project underway to adopt Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification on the entire license area.

- Proposing areas of MCFC to be recognized as Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs)

- Considering additional set-aside areas including:
  - 100m archeological zone surrounding lakes and rivers
  - 50m buffer surrounding wetlands
  - Old growth potential areas
  - Forested wetlands

- Exploring FSC's Verified Impact incentive program



Environment and Climate Change Canada
Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Outreach and Training

Hosted and supported partners in over 30+ events and tours over the past 5 years

Top highlights include:

- Nova Scotia Tree Marking Course in partnership with NSCC and Canadian Institute of Forestry
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment Training in partnership with Healthy Forest Consulting and Marbicon Inc.
- Nova Scotia Forestry Professionals Field Day
- Women in Forestry Mentorship Day
- Annual Forest Markets
- And many, many more!!


First cohort of Nova Scotia tree markers!


Women in Forestry mentorship tour

Other Fun Times







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Stave Lake Campground

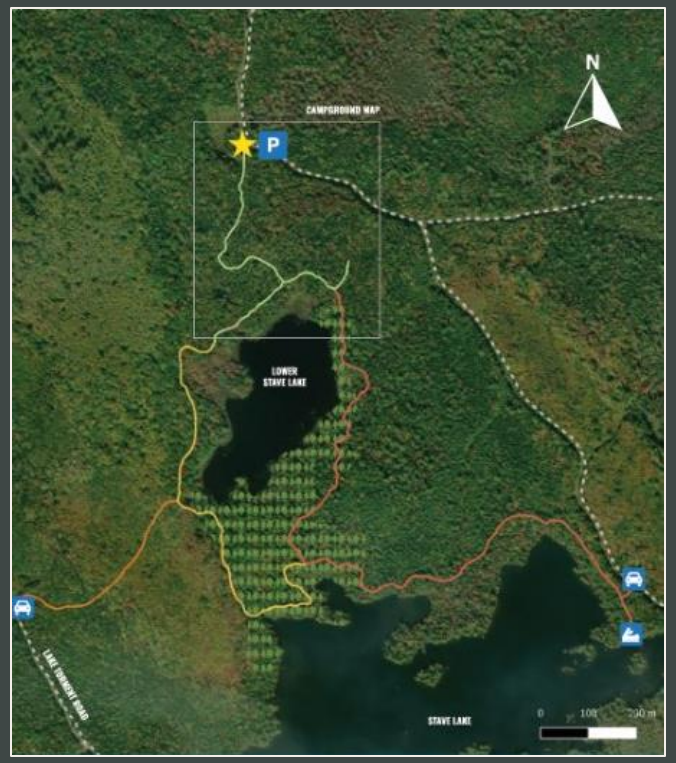
Self-serve

Online Reservations

Backcountry camping with front country access

Amenities include:

- 5km Hiking Trail
- 2 Outhouses
- 5 campsites





Hemlock Conservation Program

- Started in 2021 as a volunteer effort to chemically treat old growth hemlocks in Sporting Lake.
- Evolved to a collaborative effort between the MCFC, government agencies, and conservation organizations
- Acting a sub-contractor to complete chemical treatment of NS Protected Areas and exceptional private woodlots



Three Focal Points

Strike Team Operations

Volunteer Engagement

Training & Education

Reflecting on 10+ years

- **Collaboration isn't always easy, but it is worth the effort.** Having a tangible land asset as a backdrop brings focus to the conversation and keeps partners engaged.

- **Tree marking has been an effective tool to enhance MCFC's stewardship.** Tree marking has helped MCFC protect key biodiversity features, improve future timber value and increased harvest efficiency.

- **Gaps are where it's at!** Gap irregular shelterwoods have shown excellent promise in restoring, maintaining and enhancing habitat for species that thrive in intact forest habitats.





Questions?

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