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## News

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### Scenic Gateway to Durham and Newmarket Protected Forever



## Missing Puzzle Piece Secured After Decades-Long Conservation Effort

In partnership with [The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire \(TNC\)](#), we are proud to announce that the 206-acre Bedard Farm, located in Durham, is now permanently conserved.

Situated on a knoll overlooking Route 108 and the Lamprey River, the Bedard Farm stretches across productive hay fields and forests, used for centuries to provide agricultural and timber products to the towns of Newmarket and Durham. The farm may not be known by name, but passersby know the winding dirt driveway leading across opens fields to the stone house and barn seated atop a gentle hill.



A beaver pond at Bedard Farm in Durham, NH

“We are very grateful for the donations that we received from more than 140 members of our community, and also for our conservation partners who provided funds to conserve Bedard Farm,” shares Brian Hart, Executive Director of SELT, a regional nonprofit land trust with offices in Exeter. He continued, “It demonstrates the broad community support to protect our region’s working farms and forests, wildlife habitat, and clean water.”

Bedard Farm has long been a conservation priority for the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership due to its productive farmland soils, scenic views, and critical wildlife habitat. The property contains a mix of open-water wetlands, vernal pools, and streams spanning across three distinct watersheds – the Lamprey, the Oyster, and Crommet Creek – all of which eventually feed into the Great Bay.

According to Mark Zankel, Executive Director of TNC, “Conserving Bedard Farm will connect more than 4,000 acres of protected open space stretching across the Lamprey River to Great Bay. Such large areas of connected lands in the Seacoast are rare but critical to support larger ecosystems and to facilitate the movement of wildlife that traverse multiple properties.”

With its mix of fields, shrublands, wetlands, and forest, the Bedard Farm:

- Filters nutrients and sediments, helping to keep our rivers and Great Bay clean;
- Supports significant biodiversity and many unique wildlife species and habitats;
- Contributes to our local agricultural economy and food system; and
- Protects rural views along a State-designated scenic byway.

According to Dijit Taylor, Executive Director of LCHIP, “The rich and beloved environmental and scenic values of Bedard Farm are exactly the kinds of resources LCHIP was designed to support. We are really pleased to be able to assist with the permanent conservation of this long-term community priority.”

#### **Funding Partners**

Funding was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service, NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the 1772 Foundation, Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, as well as many private donors.

*Bedard Farm was officially conserved on February 20, 2019.*



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