

Kildare Forest Natural Area



The Mi'kmaq name for Kildare is Kepisaqtek, which means "It is blocked or obstructed" (Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Traditional Use Map).

"I particularly love trees, their shapes, their character, their revelations of our physical world. Even when not present in one of my works, to me their absence is heard. They always line the path to where I want to go."

-Therese D'Amour

Acquisition and Legal Status

The *Kildare Forest Natural Area* is a 103acre parcel of land located in Huntley, Prince County, Prince Edward Island. This natural area was donated by the late Therese d'Amour and formally designated under the *Natural Areas Protection Act* on December 19, 1991. This natural area was also donated under the Federal Ecological Gifts program, ensuring the land remains rich in biodiversity and fully intact in perpetuity.

Therese d'Amour

Island painter, conservationist and lover of the outdoors, Therese d'Amour had a special love for nature. This was most evident in her 103acre parcel of land that she spent so much time in, along with her husband Barry Maloney, where she spent countless hours listening to the birds, feeding the chipmunks, and maintaining the extensive trail system throughout the area. Therese was born in Matapedia, Quebec, obtained a B.Sc and M.Sc in bioengineering while in her fifties, and became an established painter, known for her landscape paintings that placed her interpretation of the natural world around her onto paper. In her spare time she loved to lead interested folks around her property to show them some of the unique plants she had discovered herself. With this natural area designated under the *Natural Areas Protection Act*, Therese's spirit in conservation will live on for future generations to enjoy.

Surrounding Land Use

The *Kildare Forest Natural Area* is bordered to the east by the Sou'west Road, a dirt road. It is bordered on all other sides by similar mature forest, owned by private landowners.

Plant Community

The plant community in this natural area is quite extensive, covering younger spruce forest, maturing cedar wetland, and mature upland forest. Along the western boundary you will find mature white spruce, white pine, white ash and balsam fir. In the northwestern corner is a softwood stand with Eastern larch and white spruce. A wet area dominated by speckled alder and eastern

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white cedar is found in the southeast corner of the property. Some of the shrub and herbaceous plant species found in this natural area include; Dutchman’s pipe, purple trillium, round-leaved pyrola, yellow bluebead lily, bunchberry and goldthread.

Wildlife Community

A wide variety of wildlife has been reported from this property. This serves as an indicator of pristine habitat for many species. Birds reported include; American redstart, American woodcock, blackburnian warbler, great horned owl, white-breasted nuthatch and ruffed grouse. Mammals and amphibians reported include; snowshoe hare, red squirrel and American toad.

Access

The *Kildare Forest Natural Area* can be accessed traveling north from Alberton along Route 12. After travelling for 2 km along Route 12, turn left onto the Sou’west Road and shortly after, the natural area will be located on the left side of the road. There is one INT Natural Area sign beside a small walkway; this is the start of the trail system that features throughout the property. 46.836831, -64.056722.



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Trail Legend

- Marsh Marigold Trail
- Pine Tree Trail
- Trail Connector
- Nuthatch Loop
- ★ You are here

About The Kildare Forest

The Kildare Forest Natural Area is a 103-acre woodland that was generously bequeathed to Island Nature Trust by the late Therese D’Amour in 2016. Therese was a studio painter best known for her landscape paintings. Her artworks have been exhibited across Atlantic Canada and in Maine.

Therese recognized the great value of the Kildare Forest and was among the first private landowners in PEI to designate her property under the PEI Natural Areas Protection Act. She cared deeply for the land and spent a great deal of time in the Kildare Forest, creating walking paths, planting trees, and finding solace and inspiration in the natural world.

There are several features that make the Kildare Forest a very special place. On the Pine Tree Trail, you will notice very large mature white pines estimated to be at least 200 years old. On the southern section of the Marsh Marigold Trail, you will find granite erratics, which are rocks that were carried to their location by glacial ice during the last ice age and left behind when the glaciers retreated. Throughout the natural area, early in the spring, the ground is covered in ephemeral wildflowers taking advantage of the sunlight reaching the ground while the trees are still leafless.

Since acquiring the Kildare Forest Natural Area in 2016, Island Nature Trust has been working to restore the areas impacted by past agriculture and forest cutting, maintaining Therese’s vision for the forest by re-opening her trails and diversifying the canopy through tree planting. We hope that visitors to the Kildare Forest will find the same inspiration and comfort that Therese found here and respect her careful stewardship for the land.

Map details: Distances shown are 0.6 km, 0.4 km, 0.8 km, and 1.2 km. A star indicates the current location. A compass rose is in the bottom left corner.

Larger Map [here](#)