

THE NORTH WOODS

The North Woods, directly north of the core campus, has had multiple uses over time. Before Skidmore acquired the property, it served as a recreation resource for the Woodlawn Estate, with riding trails for horses and carriages. Saratoga Springs took advantage of the land's high elevation and built a large water reservoir in the woods. Skidmore currently uses it as a valuable education resource. Meanwhile, college and town recreation use continues on the old riding trails. Large portions of the land are protected wetlands. Finally, the college needs land for present and future expansion and there are few possibilities except north into the woods. All of these competing pressures have resulted in the North Woods becoming a contentious issue.

After extensive consultation with all parties, the college has arrived at a consensus, with a portion of

the North Woods made available for campus development as Crescent Green and the balance zoned for different uses as shown in the map below. The Meditation / Educational Zone would emphasize preservation, with minimum disturbance of the environment. The Recreation / Educational Zone would allow multiple recreation uses, (but not bicycles). The Research / Educational Zone would allow use of the trails only, with the balance of the land reserved for scientific research. Dogs would not be allowed except on leash and only in the Recreation Zone. Public education and land stewardship would be part of the program, located at a renovated Falstaff.

Finally, a future field station in the Adirondacks would allow undisturbed facilities for the teaching and scholarship not now possible in the North Woods.

Designated Zones of the North Woods