

**MEREDITH NRI PHASE II
CO-OCCURRENCE AREA SUMMARY**

CA #2 – Bartlett Brook Map

CO-OCCURRENCE AREA (CA): Bartlett Brook

CA #: 2

ACRES: 65.3

LOCATION: Northeastern part of Meredith on Lake Winnepesaukee just south of Rte 25

Elevation: 506 – 573 ft. (B.M.)

General Aspect: East

Ave. Slope: 3 – 8%

% Forest: 87.8

% Wetland: 13.3

% Open Water: 12.0

GENERAL LAND USE:

Type: Rural residential

Zoning: RR2

This part of Meredith is a mixture of rural residential and cluster lakeshore development. There are at least 14 permanent and 12 summer homes in the co-occurrence area. The land was former pasture and agricultural land, and is adjacent to (and downstream of) the last, four-season agricultural farm in Meredith (Moulton Farm). Lakeshore homes are of various ages and sizes, with smaller, older homes as a part of Patrician Shores, and newer, larger homes along Veasey Shores Road. The Town of Meredith owns **Leavitt Park**, a public beach and picnic area with parking and associated trails and woodlot.

General Ecological Attributes: Bartlett Brook is a second-order perennial stream that drains a small watershed in northern Meredith and southern Center Harbor. It includes some small floodplain wetlands and one beaver impoundment, although there is no recent beaver activity within the CA area. The only significant open water is Lake Winnepesaukee, which is included in the eastern edge of the area. Since Route 25 forms the north boundary of the CA, and Leavitt Park Road and Veasey Shores Road crosses through the CA, the area is highly fragmented. Nonetheless, several mammal and amphibian crossings were noted, indicating a moderately high value habitat at least in the non-summer seasons.

Prime Wetland Description: Not applicable

Wildlife Habitat Description: The Bartlett Brook Co-occurrence Area contains a first-order perennial stream (Bartlett Brook) that arises in the north corner of Meredith and drains easterly into Lake Winnepesaukee. Once an area of active farm and pasture land, this area converted to woodlands with scattered to clustered residences in the 1950's and 1960's. With the exception of Moulton Farm that abuts the western edge of the CA, this is a mostly forested ecosystem that is moderately fragmented by roads and driveways. The riparian habitat is narrow and dominated by red maple and a series of mixed tree/shrub swamps that occasionally supports beaver, mink, and otter. The connection to Lake Winnepesaukee increases the value of this riparian zone, especially in the winter. The broken forest supports a reasonably abundant compliment of breeding birds, although those species dependent on feeders, road kill and other elements of fragmented forests abound. The latter DEFINE include chickadees, crows, blue jays, brown-headed cowbirds, cardinals, and song sparrows. At least one vernal pool exists in the CA, and several amphibian crossing sites were noted in the area. Stream-inhabiting salamanders and frogs are also frequent along Bartlett Brook, and the lake itself offers excellent habitat for warm water amphibians and fish.

Rare & Endangered Species / Exemplary Natural Communities: None

Wildlife Issues of Concern:

- Further loss of shading along Bartlett Brook
 - Concern over raising low stream temperatures and lowering dissolved oxygen
- Further degradation of forest habitat around Leavitt Park from unintended trails
 - Trail compaction or soil loss could result in degraded stream and lake quality
- Salt chlorides & sediment run-off into Bartlett Brook and Lake Winnepesaukee
 - Mostly from Leavitt Park and Veasey Shores Road
- Further in-filling of forested swamp south of Leavitt Park



Left: Blueflag iris along Bartlett Brook indicating positive water quality; Right: lower Moulton Farm looking across edge of CA #2. Farm run-off enters the Bartlett Brook drainage but is currently mitigated by several acres of wetland in between. Below are two common vernal pool amphibians found during a spring night-time survey, wood frog and spotted salamander.

