

## **Wolf Trees Left for Habitat**

Some of the trees along this section of the trail are less than perfect. Some are dead and rotting with broken branches. These trees cannot be used for lumber and are taking away light and space from trees with more economic value. Wolf tree is a term for large trees that use a lot of sunlight and soil space with no prospect of economic use in the future. Along the Lost Creek Hiking Trail, there are a half dozen large sugar maple wolf trees which are typical “open grown” trees with broad crowns and large, low limbs that are now dead stubs and knot holes. Though these trees do not make good lumber, they do create habitat. Many types of wildlife use wolf trees, from mice and squirrels to raccoons, chickadees and woodpeckers to wood ducks and barred owls. While these wolf trees may have extensive decay, the crowns appear vigorous and may produce heavy seed crops for wildlife. Since lumber is not the only reason to manage a forest, it can make sense to leave some wolf trees for habitat.



### **MORE RESOURCES:**

Forestry Glossary

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/glossary.htm>

Attracting Wildlife with Dead Trees

National Wildlife Federation

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Gardening-Tips/Attracting-Wildlife-With-Dead-Trees.aspx>

Managing Small Woodlands for Cavity Nesting Birds

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[http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/wildlife/animalinn/hab\\_cnbirds.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/wildlife/animalinn/hab_cnbirds.htm)