

Guide to Foxborough's Conservation Land & Open Spaces

January 2017



TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

Conservation areas are open from sunrise to sunset.

Please DO:

- Stay on designated trails and avoid sensitive areas;
- Carry out what you carry in;
- Observe all rules and regulations;
- Respect the rights of others;
- Be alert for other trail users; and
- Be aware of hunting seasons and wear blaze orange when appropriate.

Please DON'T:

- Litter or dump *anything*, including yard clippings;
- Use Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs);
- Cut trails, trees or vegetation;
- Erect signs or trail markers; or
- Bring alcoholic beverages or glass containers.

Whether it's your child's first hiking trip, a family vacation destination or just visiting your favorite place in the woods, the magic of these special moments disappears with each carelessly discarded wrapper, can or piece of trash. Please pick up litter and leave public and private lands better than you found them.

Remember, Respected Access is Open Access

It's Your Land, Enjoy It!

Foxborough Conservation Commission

Members

Robert W. Boette, Chairman
Judith L. Johnson, Vice Chair
Eric Nelson, Clerk
James Marsh
Jeffrey Ambs
Richard Golemme
David P. Opatka

Staff

Jane Sears Pierce, Conservation Manager
Diana Gray, Land Use Secretary



With Sincere Thanks To:

Ryan Clapp, Conservation Intern (summer 2016), who drafted the First Edition of this Guide
Ryan Norton, DPW Engineering & Mapping Technician, who created the Town's Trail Maps



Second Edition, January 2017
Edited/updated by Jane Sears Pierce

To the Residents of Foxborough:

We are pleased to provide you with this first edition of this guide to the conservation lands and open spaces of our Town. Compiled in this guide is information about more than 2,000 acres of permanently protected land in Foxborough, including roughly 700 acres of F. Gilbert Hill State Forest. The properties in this guide are held by several bodies, including Foxborough's Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, and Water Department, as well as the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Norfolk County Commission.

In this guide, you will quickly understand why these conservation areas draw outdoor enthusiasts to Foxborough, both residents and visitors alike. Your Conservation Commission hopes that this guide will help to improve and preserve these lands, now and for future generations to come.

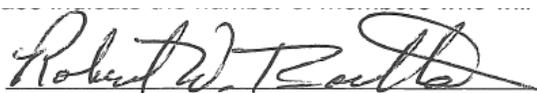
Entrances to the open spaces in this guide may or may not be identified by signs. When enjoying these areas, it is always important to be aware of your surroundings. Many of our public lands directly border private properties and, in many cases, the perimeters are not clearly marked. Please avoid trespassing on private properties to the extent of your ability. The best way to do this is to stay on the trails and follow the information provided in this guide (updated trail maps will be added as they become available).

Increased pressure on Foxborough's remaining open spaces makes it clear that we must work diligently to protect our public lands. Since our Conservation Commission is a volunteer board, we depend upon the help of other volunteers like the Friends of Foxborough Conservation and Scouts. The rest is in your hands. But how do you protect something if you've never experienced it, been immersed in it, or enjoyed it?

We hope that this guide will put you, the citizens of Foxborough, on the path of conservationism by encouraging you to get outside to explore our many wild and scenic places, all of which are free.

We welcome any support that you can give us, including ideas about volunteer activities that might help to improve and preserve the open spaces of our Town.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Boette, Chairman

Foxborough Conservation Commission

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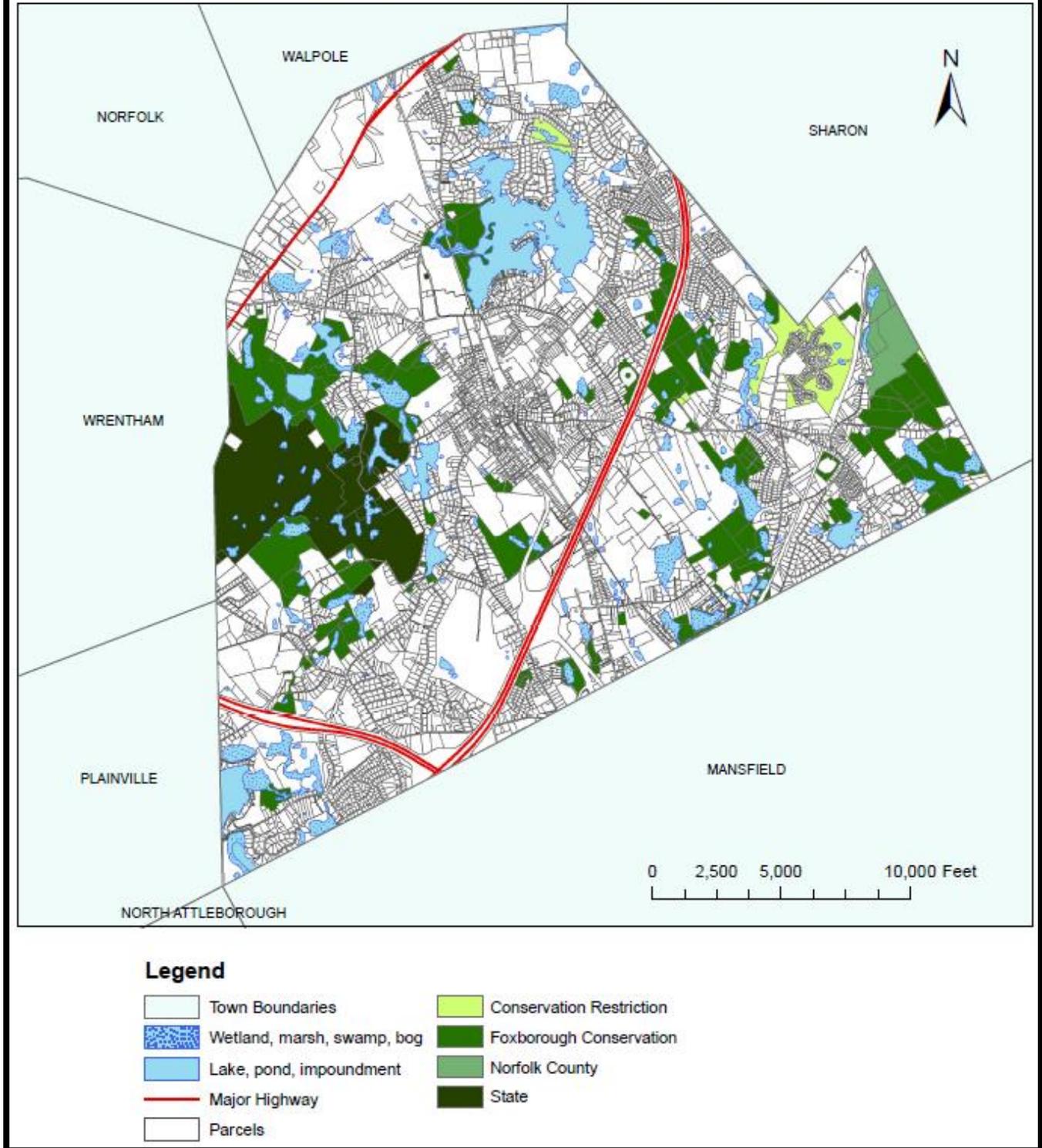
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Foxborough Conservation Land

Through gift and purchase, the residents of Foxborough own over 2,000 acres of diversified terrain which is under the control and management of the Conservation Commission.



Data Source: MassGIS, Massachusetts, Information Technology Division & Foxborough Conservation Commission
 Compiled by Sarah Pierce for the 2011-2018 Foxborough Open Space & Recreation Plan

Conservation Land Rules and Regulations

Foxborough's conservation lands are managed for passive or recreational activities, where appropriate, as well as to promote biodiversity.

Hours

- Conservation areas are open year-round, ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Vehicles

- Off road use by **any** motorized vehicle is strictly prohibited (*see page 3*).
- Automobiles are allowed in designated parking areas only.
- Night time parking is prohibited.

Animals

- Target shooting and trapping is prohibited.
- Hunting is allowed in a few conservation areas; visit Town Hall for details.
- Control of pets must conform to Town leash law regulations.
- The introduction of any non-native wildlife to conservation lands is strictly prohibited.

Property & Plants

- Littering and dumping is strictly prohibited; carry out what you carry in.
- The cutting of trails and/or erection of signs is prohibited without the written approval of the Conservation Commission.
- The removal, cutting or damaging of trees, shrubs, plants, flowers and/or fungi is prohibited without the written approval of the Conservation Commission.
- The introduction of non-native plants to conservation lands is strictly prohibited.

Alcohol

- Alcoholic beverages and glass containers are prohibited.

Camping & Fires

- Camping or similar use of conservation land is prohibited without written approval of the Conservation Commission.
- Open fires or cooking fires are prohibited.

Other Activities that May be Permitted by Written Authorization

- Special activities such as weddings, outdoor dances, business lunch meetings, picnics, small religious or political gatherings and environmental education may be allowed.
- License or lease of conservation lands for agricultural or forestry use may be permitted.
The use of conservation lands for commercial activities is prohibited.

Before You Go ~ Things to be Aware of:

ATVs and the Law*

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are NOT allowed on any Town-owned property, including snow-mobiles and any other unauthorized vehicle (i.e. ORVs, OHVs, etc.). Protected open spaces in Town are being ruined by unauthorized vehicle operators, whose careless and/or reckless use is destroying our trails and wildlife habitats. ATVs not only threaten trails and wildlife, but the noise they cause diminishes the enjoyment of park visitors, seeking peace and quiet.

Under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90B, offenses related to unauthorized ATVs usage can result in scaled fines and/or forfeiture of the vehicle.

Chapter 256, Article I of the Code of the Town of Foxborough prohibits unauthorized motorized vehicle operation and also imposes fines related to illegal ATV usage.

If you see or hear any unauthorized vehicles or ATVs on any Town property, please call one or all of the following. If leaving a message, give the date, time, and location of the vehicle, which will be used to help eradicate this ongoing issue.

Foxborough Police ~ 508-543-4343
State Environmental Police ~ 800-632-8075
Conservation Commission ~ 508-543-1251

Thank you for your cooperation and good land stewardship.



← *This recent photo of a Town conservation property's churned up field is an example of how unauthorized motor vehicles are damaging Foxborough-owned properties.*

Damage was so extensive that the abutter (who reported the issue) initially thought that the field had been plowed!

For more information about ATV/ORV laws, please consult the following links:

www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/orv.htm

http://www.foxboroughma.gov/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Conservation/ATV

* **Please Note:** Although the DCR allows ATVs in F. Gilbert Hills State Forest, they are **ONLY ALLOWED ON ONE TRAIL** that is clearly marked with signs and **yellow** trail blazes.

Tick Warning

Ticks are small, parasitic insects that typically reside in wooded areas, low to the ground. They are hardy insects that are able to survive the winter and, as such, you should always check yourself for ticks whenever you've hiked in our conservation areas, regardless of the time of year. They may carry several diseases, including the notorious Lyme disease.

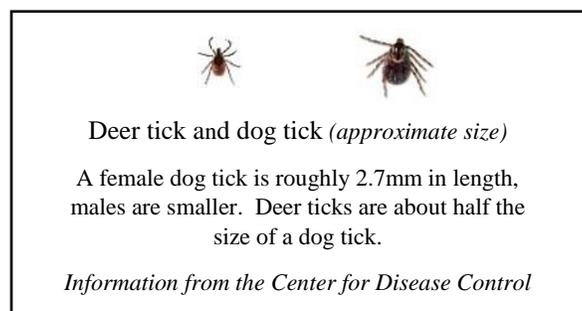
If you are bitten by a tick, use a pair of fine tweezers to grab the tick near the point of contact and pull firmly but gently, without twisting, and the tick should come off. Wash your hands and the bite area with soap and water after removal and dispose of the tick properly by submerging it in rubbing alcohol, placing it in a sealed container, wrapping it in tape, or even flushing it down the toilet.

Before disposing of the tick, it is important to identify the tick that bit you. The two most common types of tick in the area are the American dog tick and the blacklegged (deer) tick. Dog ticks are larger than deer ticks; a resource image (*below*) has been provided to help with your identification. Please note that ONLY deer ticks transmit Lyme disease, however, dog ticks have been associated with other illnesses.

Symptoms of Lyme disease include an increasing, circular red rash (bull's-eye) around the site of the bite, muscle and joint pain, chills, and fever. If you experience any of these symptoms after being bitten by a tick, consult a doctor immediately. Early detection is critical, as Lyme disease can cause long-lasting health issues.

When walking through woods and fields, it is a good idea to wear light-colored clothing, tuck your pants into your socks, and check your legs regularly for ticks. Repellents containing DEET are effective against ticks and should be sprayed on your pants and shoes. Following any outdoor activity, inspect yourself for ticks, take a shower, and put your clothing into a hot dryer for ten minutes to kill any ticks that are attached.

For more information, check the Center for Disease Control website at
<http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/>



Poison Ivy Warning

Poison ivy is a plant that is known for causing an itching, irritating rash when touched. A clear liquid compound in the plant's sap, called urishol, is responsible for the rash. Interestingly, poison ivy's sap only affects humans — it's a common food source for many animals, including turkeys and deer.

Poison ivy is a deciduous plant, losing its leaves every winter in the same way many trees do. The plant's leaves are in groups of three and are shiny, smooth, almond shaped; they can be light or dark green, bright red, orange, or yellow (depending upon the time of year). The plant has no thorns.

Poison ivy can be found in the following forms, all of which have woody stems:

- A climbing, hairy vine on trees
- A shrub, composed of vertical stems, up to 4 feet tall
- A trailing vine shorter than 1 foot in height

Between 15%-30% of the population has no allergic reaction to poison ivy, but for those who do get a rash, relief can be found by using Calamine lotion, Burow's Solution compresses, or poison ivy itch creams. Jewelweed is a natural cure that is often very effective in soothing or often healing the irritating rash. This "cure," often found near "the curse," can be used by crushing the plant's leaves and stems to release a gel-like liquid (like aloe), and then rubbing the liquid on the irritation.



Please note that urishol can be active in the plant for several years, so even if the plant is dead, take care if you choose to handle it, and **never burn poison ivy**, since inhaled smoke can also spread the oil. Clothing, tools, and anything else that might have come in contact with poison ivy should be washed thoroughly to avoid further spread of the urishol.

Rare Animals

The MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) protects rare native species. *Please help us ensure that they will remain in Town for future generations to enjoy. If you find any of the following animals, please take a few photos with your cell phone and immediately call Conservation Manager Jane Sears Pierce (508-282-6960) to tell her about your discovery so she can document it. Thank you!*



Blanding's turtle ~ has a bright yellow neck.



Box turtle ~ closes its shell like a box for protection.



Wood turtle ~ orange legs; shell looks like wood.



Spadefoot toad ~ not yet found in Foxborough.



Marbled salamander ~ chubby, 4" long and mottled.



Blue spotted salamander ~ grows up to 5½" long.

Foxborough's History*

Foxborough's center rests on a flat plain, 300 feet above sea level. This gave rise to the many swamps and streams in the area. These swamps and streams, as well as Lake Mirimichi, attracted Native American Ponkapoags and Wampanoags to the area.

In 1670, the first white settlers arrived in the land that would eventually become Foxborough. A settlement for Captain William Hudson and his men was built by the Wading River, and as time went on, farms were developed in the area.

Foxborough is equidistant between Boston and Providence, and thus was a perfect candidate for the first road to Bristol, now Rhode Island. This road was cut through the wilderness in 1716. For the next 200 years, Foxborough served as a resting point for weary travelers.

In 1734, the Neponset River was impounded to form Crack Rock Pond, which served as a power source for water-driven mills. By 1738, the Dead Swamp was impounded by another dam at the headwaters of the Neponset River, creating the current Neponset Reservoir. This reservoir is a current aesthetic and recreational focal point for the Town.

The first commercial straw braiding operation in Foxborough was established in 1805, with many others quickly following suit. Specialty shops for bleaching and dying the straw followed, and the first straw manufacturing plant was erected in 1843. By 1850, straw was the backbone of the community's economy, and by 1853, many of the companies combined into Union Straw Works, which dominated the straw hat industry.

In 1900, Union Straw Works was consumed by fire. Coupled with the decline in the hat industry, the building was never rebuilt, leaving many unemployed. In 1908, two brothers in Bristol (now Rhode Island) purchased the Van Choate Electric Co. in Foxborough, moving the Standard Gauge Co. to Foxborough from New York, revitalizing the Town.

After World War II, the community nearly doubled in size. In the 1960s, new schools, a Town hall, a library, and additional water wells were constructed. A plan for a major retail mall failed in the 1970s, which in recent years has succeeded with Patriot's Place at Gillette Stadium. The cooperative working relationship between the Town and the Patriots has resulted in substantial benefits, making Foxborough the smallest community to host a professional football franchise of the New England Patriots' stature.

There has been one constant in Foxborough's 239 years of incorporation, that being its sense of community.

* Based on Town Historian Jack Authelet's written recount of the Town's history.

Our Emerging Environmental Awareness

- 1836:** *Nature*, published by Ralph Waldo Emerson, describes how God can be seen in nature.
- 1849:** U.S. Department of the Interior is established.
- 1854:** *Walden*, published by Henry David Thoreau, describes his time at Walden Pond, Concord.
- 1866:** Ernst Haeckel, a German biologist, coins the term “ecology.”
- 1872:** Congress sets aside Yellowstone as both the nation’s and the world’s first National Park.
- 1875:** American Forestry Association is founded.
- 1885:** New York creates forest reserves in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains, and creates Niagara Falls State Reservation as the first state park in the eastern United States.
- 1890:** Congress establishes Sequoia, Yosemite, and General Grant National Parks in California.
- 1891:** Congress passes the Forest Reserve Act, authorizing the establishment of forest reserves. President Benjamin Harrison sets aside lands in Wyoming, termed “National Forests.”
- 1901:** Theodore Roosevelt, an avid conservationist and outdoorsman, is elected U.S. President.
- 1903:** President Roosevelt establishes the first of 53 wildlife sanctuaries at Pelican Island, FL.
- 1905:** U.S. Forest Service is established, with Gifford Pinchot as first chief.
- 1916:** National Park Service is established, with Stephen T. Mather as first Director.
- 1957:** MA Conservation Commission Act is passed, authorizing towns to establish a local conservation commission to plan for natural resource protection, acquire important land and water areas, and manage those properties for conservation and passive recreation.
- 1961:** † Foxborough Town Meeting adopts the Conservation Commission Act.
† Foxborough’s first Conservation Commission is established.
† Foxborough’s first Land Use Plan is written.
† Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) is formed.
- 1962:** † *Silent Spring*, published by Rachel Carson, reveals the negative effects of pesticides and radioactive fallout from atomic bombs on humans and the environment.
† Foxborough’s first Open Space and Recreation Plan is drafted and approved.
- 1964:** The Wilderness Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund Act are passed by Congress.
- 1970:** *The Lorax*, published by Dr. Seuss, describes why land conservation is so important.
- 1972:** Article 97 of the MA Constitution is passed to permanently protect critical open lands.
- 1983:** MA Wetlands Protection Act Regulations are adopted.
- 1986:** Wildlife habitat interest is added to the MA Wetlands Protection Act.
- 2011:** Foxborough Open Space and Recreation Plan (long-expired) is rewritten (2011-2018).
- 2016:** † Jane Sears Pierce, Conservation Manager, initiates conservation trail mapping program.
† Ryan Norton, Engineering & Mapping Technician, drafts conservation trail maps.
† Ryan Clapp, Summer Intern to the Conservation Commission, compiles/creates the first edition of this Guide.

Natural Resources Overview

Geology/Topography

Foxborough shares many characteristics with other New England towns, namely varying soils, abundant forest lands and wetlands, and a system of rivers and streams. Soils are typically shallow, stony, and dry on hillsides, richer and deeper in drainage areas, with wetlands and fertile flatlands to the south. To the northwest, the topography is more rugged, with hilltop elevations reaching 430 feet above sea level. However, the highest elevations in Town are no higher than 100 feet above surrounding areas. And although it wouldn't appear the case, the center of Town has the highest elevation.

Foxborough's landscape was molded by glaciers that buried it in a sheet of ice a mile thick as they advanced, melted, and receded 10,000 years ago. According to the U.S. Geological Survey Bedrock Geologic Map, there are four major bedrock units in Town:

- + Dedham Granite, a Proterozoic aged Diorite (*northwestern and eastern sections of Town*)
- + Barefoot Hill Quartz Monsonite (*north central region of Town*)
- + Sharon Syenite (*northwest edge of Town near Crack Rock Pond and Edwards Road*)
- + Rhode Island Formation (*southwest edge of Town; South Street to Foolish Hill, E to Mansfield line*)

Water

Foxborough is situated on top of the divide between the Neponset and Taunton River Basins, with ground-water aquifers replenished only by rain and snowmelt.

The Taunton River is the longest coastal river in New England unimpaired by dams, with a watershed of around 562 square miles, ending at the Narragansett Bay. The streams associated with this watershed include Wading River, Canoe River, Rumford River, Cocasset River, Robinson Brook and Billings Brook.

The watershed is generally characterized by low-permeability (glacial outwash soils), numerous wetlands and shallow depths to groundwater.

The Neponset River watershed, roughly 130

square miles in size, begins in the Neponset Reservoir at Gudgeon Brook (close to Gillette Stadium). The river then flows in a northeasterly direction and eventually exits at Dorchester Bay. Since the river ultimately enters the Boston Harbor, it is considered to be a part of the larger Boston Harbor Watershed.



Neponset Reservoir, one of the largest water bodies in the I-95 Providence /Boston corridor, is approximately 300 acres in size (including 11+/- acres of islands). A relatively shallow body of water, it ranges from one to four feet in its northern and eastern sections, about four to seven feet in its southern sections, and is deepest near the dam, at eight to 10 feet.

The Reservoir has around nine miles of shoreline (see page 17).



Ten Mile River Basin - Only a very small

portion of this basin's upper watershed is located in Foxborough, beginning at Witch Pond in the southwestern portion of Town. The river originates in Plainville and meanders south into Rhode Island, where it empties into the Seekonk and Providence Rivers of Narragansett Bay. The Ten Mile River picks up flow from two major tributaries, the Seven Mile River and the Bungay River, located in Attleboro. The Bungay River, whose headwaters extend into Foxborough, is flanked by what is said to be the best red maple swamp habitat in MA and also provides home to rare plants and brook trout.



Swamp-Loosestrife (Decodon verticillatus) flowers near Witch Pond.

Rare and Endangered Species

Massachusetts has a rich biological legacy and is home to a wide array of plants and animals. Some of these species are unique to our state, others have their largest, most stable populations here, and yet others are still relatively common. Of these native species, there are 176 species of animals and 256 species of plants that are officially listed as Endangered (E), Threatened (T) or of Special Concern (SC) which are tracked by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). These species are considered to be at risk of extirpation from MA, or at risk of global extinction. If you come across any of the rare species below, please take photos and contact the Conservation Manager *ASAP* (see page 6).

Rare species typically require a mosaic of habitat types during their annual life cycle and often travel for long distances over land in the process. During their annual travels, they may need to cross roadways, making them particularly vulnerable to road mortality. Most of the state-listed amphibians and reptiles require several types of habitat for overwintering, breeding, feeding and nesting. NHESP lists the following rare animals in Foxborough:

Animal Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Year
Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander	T	2013
Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	1994
Reptile	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	SC	2010
Reptile	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	T	2011
Reptile	<i>Terrepenne c. carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	SC	2016
Fish	<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Bridle Shiner	SC	1998
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Callophrys besseli</i>	Hessel's Hairstreak	SC	1988
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Callophrys irus</i>	Frosted Elfin	SC	2013
Butterfly/Moth	<i>Satyrium favonius</i>	Oak Hairstreak	SC	1999
Dragonfly/Damselfly	<i>Somatochlora linearis</i>	Mocha Emerald	SC	2002

Salamanders. The major threats to most salamanders include the loss, degradation and fragmentation of their vernal pool breeding habitats, upland habitats that are required for foraging and overwintering, as well as road crossing casualties that occur on their annual migration routes.

Marbled Salamanders (T) – By 2015, approximately 85 populations of marbled salamanders had been documented (since 1990) in 61 MA towns. These salamanders were found in Foxborough for the first time in 2013 (1" larvae, above).



Turtles. Since turtle hatchling and juvenile survival rates are usually very low, turtles must live for many years and reproduce many times in order to replace themselves in their population. Losing any adult turtle, particularly an adult female, is a serious problem that can lead to the local extinction of a population. Roadway and mowing mortality, collection, and disturbance of nesting and overwintering sites, often by ATVs, all lead to population declines, but the number one threat to turtles is habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation due to residential and commercial development.

Blanding's Turtle (*T*) - These midsized (6" to 9") turtles have a high-domed dark-colored shell with yellow flecking, and a long, yellow throat and chin (*adult male, left*). They usually overwinter in permanent wetlands, and feed in vernal pools, nest in open gravelly areas, and move among shrub swamps, marshes, and other types of wetlands throughout the summer. In order to access all required resources in one season, many of the turtles will need to cross roadways.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists the Blanding's turtle as a Species of

Greatest Conservation Need in the Northeast regions where it occurs.

Wood Turtle (*SC*) - This medium-sized turtle (5.5" to 8") has a sculpted shell with orange legs and neck (*right*). The wood turtle's preferred habitats are slow-moving mid-sized streams that have sandy or gravelly bottoms and vegetated banks. They spend most of the spring and summer foraging in field and forest areas, before returning to their over-wintering streams in the fall.

Population declines are known to be caused by road-crossing casualties, hay-mowing operations, habitat degradation and fragmentation, land development, pollution, and agricultural activities.



Eastern Box Turtle (*SC*) - Box turtles are primarily an upland species that live in upland forest and field habitats and shallow wetlands. Similar to other turtles, threats to box turtles include habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation due to development, roadway mortality, illegal collection, and natural disturbances. Eastern box turtle sightings have been reported in Foxborough, but only one has been officially documented (sadly, it was an adult male box turtle that was run over and killed while trying to cross a road).

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats that support rich and diverse invertebrate faunas and are best known for the amphibians and invertebrates that breed in them.

According to Elizabeth Colburn's book, *Vernal Pools, Natural History and Conservation* (see page 10):

“More than 550 species of multicellular animals have been reported from northeastern vernal pools. If animals that have been identified only to the family or generic level are included, the number exceeds 700.”

“Vernal” means spring and although many vernal pools fill during spring's rain and snow melt, they are known to have variable hydroperiods. Many vernal pools fill during autumn and persist throughout the winter, while others remain ponded into summer and do not dry out every year. These sporadic dry periods prevent predatory fish from establishing permanent breeding populations, which allows the animals that breed exclusively in vernal pools (such as spotted salamanders) to survive.



Adult spotted salamander



A dried out vernal pool in late summer (near Wolf Meadow).

Other Wildlife

Mammals

Foxborough's mammals include a variety of species, from the ever-expanding deer population, to foxes, fishers, muskrats, bobcats, mink and a host of other species that are found in New England (with the exception of bears, moose, and porcupines, which have yet to be reported in Town).

While neither native nor wild, Foxborough is lucky to have a small herd of Scotch Highland cows (*right*) that live in a field on Cocasset Street; children and adults alike enjoy seeing these furry cows.



Birds



Bluebirds have made a dramatic comeback in Town, as well as numerous varieties of colorful migratory song birds including scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles, many kinds of warblers, and indigo buntings. Secretive pileated woodpeckers also inhabit our forests, and wild turkeys (*left*) are now a common sight in Town.

Recently, osprey, loons, and even a bald eagle have been seen at the Neponset Res.



Fisheries

While the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife used to stock trout in the Wading River, they are still said to be found in "secret" locations, known only to a few of the Town's long-time fishermen.

In 2003, the Neponset Reservoir was documented to have chain pickerel, largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, American eel, brown bullhead, golden shiner, pumpkinseed sunfish, red-breast sunfish, white perch, yellow perch, white sucker and goldfish (or "Koi," an invasive species).

Conservation Land & Open Spaces

Foxborough Conservation Land Website:

www.foxboroughma.gov/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Conservation/Conservationland



(QR Code for more detailed Trail Maps)

Breakdown by Acreage

The following list includes lands that are owned by the Town of Foxborough and managed by Foxborough's Conservation Commission, Water and Sewer Commissioners, and Board of Recreation / Board of Selectmen, as well other lands that are owned and managed by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Norfolk County Commission.

	<u>Acre</u> s
Lane Homestead and other Neponset Reservoir Properties*	114
Sallie Property/Governor's Meadow	133
Harold B. Clark Town Forest	331
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest**	682
Wolf Meadow	110
Cocasset River Greenbelt***	219
Canoe River Wilderness Area****	387
Beaumont's Pond Area	20
Oak Street Conservation Areas	207
Rumford River Greenbelt	273
Wading River Watershed	67
Walden Farms Area / Mechanic Street	61
Hersey Farm*****	60
Other Scattered Conservation Parcels	<u>114</u>
<i>Total Acres of Foxborough Open Space</i>	2,778

* Does not include Reservoir's water surface or islands, which would add approximately 304 acres.

** F. Gilbert Hills State Forest is owned and protected by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); quoted acreage includes only the Foxborough portion of this property.

*** The Cocasset River Greenbelt includes land is managed by Foxborough's Conservation Commission, Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners, Board of Recreation/Board of Selectmen, and MA DCR.

**** Partially owned by Norfolk County Commission, but under the care and management of the Conservation Commission.

***** Hersey Farm, owned by the MA Department of Agriculture, is leased to the Town Foxborough.

Lane Homestead, Neponset Reservoir (West Side) & Kersey Point

Access:

- Lane Homestead: Laprelot Road, off North Street near RR tracks; has a gravel parking lot.
- Munroe Street, park at the end of the street.
- Chestnut Street, east of the RR, trail entrance with small parking area.
- Kersey Point is at the end of Kersey Road and has a large gravel parking area.

Acquisition began: 1988

The Lane Homestead was sold to the Town in 1988 for \$1.5 million by the estate of Clifford and Edith Lane. In combination with abutting conservation parcels, the area has around 104 acres of open space, most notable for its 1½+ miles of shoreline, as well as forests, wetlands, large hay fields and the reservoir's dam.

In 2014 a Lane descendant, Edith Erickson, proposed the Lane Homestead Picnic Area and David Risch Memorial Beech Grove, but it never became fully funded.

In 2016, the Friends of Foxborough Conservation, along with James DeVellis, Town Historian Jack Authelet, and Conservation Chairman Robert Boette, and Schneider Electric of Foxborough worked collaboratively to create an environmental education project, based upon Ms. Erickson's design. The project, funded by a \$100K grant from Schneider Electric, includes site clean-up (including invasive plant removal); an enhanced North Street entrance; an indoor/outdoor nature classroom; an interpretive walking trail with educational signage about environmental topics; observation deck overlooking Crack Rock Pond; picnic areas; landscaping, using native plants; security system; and a memorial garden for David Risch, Foxborough's first Conservation Manager (who served the Town for 30 years and worked tirelessly during that time to preserve many Town conservation areas, including the Lane Homestead).

This collaborative project, scheduled for completion by summer 2017, shall serve as a reminder to future generations that great things can be accomplished through a community's commitment to environmental preservation and conservation land stewardship.

Kersey Point, though just a small peninsula of land jutting out into the Neponset Reservoir, is a favorite local fishing spot. For those who enjoy paddling, canoes, kayaks and Jon boats can be portaged to the Reservoir from the park's large parking area.

When fishing in the Neponset Reservoir or the adjoining Crack Rock Pond, catch and release is recommended and encouraged.



Lane Homestead

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission

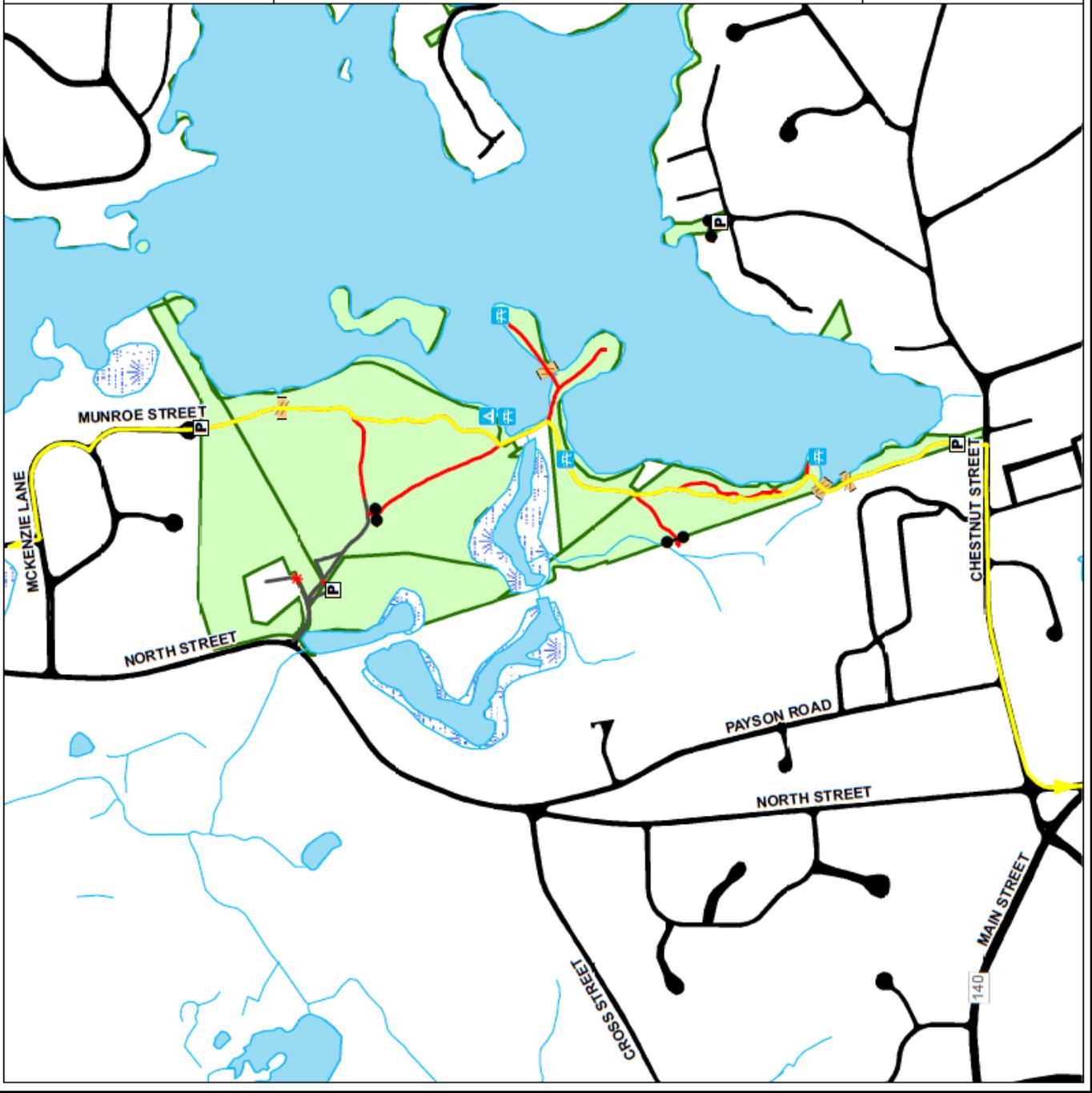
Spring 2016

Legend

-  Parking
-  Benches
-  Campsite (scouts only)
-  Warner Trail
-  Gates (not to scale)
-  Conservation Trails
-  Driveway
-  Bridges (not to scale)
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ponds and Lakes
-  Conservation Land
-  Driveway continues onto private property (No Trespassing).



Some of the trails shown on the map are on private property. Please be respectful and obey any 'No Trespassing' postings by individual landowners. Access to trails other than the town of Foxborough's property is neither granted nor implied. The Foxborough Conservation Commission does not guarantee the future accuracy of this map.



Sallie Property / Governor's Meadow

Access:

- The Sallie parking lot is on Main Street/Rt. 140 (*across from Snows hardware store*).
- Trails can also be accessed from Lakeview Road, across from Lakeview Pavilion.
- Governor's Meadow trail access is from Granite Street, but there is only limited parking.

Acquisition began: 1963

The Sallie property's entrance gardens are beautiful and inviting, thanks to the Foxboro Garden Club, who designed, planted, and maintains them.

This 133-acre conservation area's trailhead begins at the property's Main Street parking lot. At the trail head, you will find a large wooden trail map kiosk with trail maps that was planned and built by Thomas Donnelly for his Eagle Scout Project.

A 1967 study by a joint effort of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the MA Division of Forests and



Parks, MA Division of Fisheries and Game, and the Norfolk County Extension Service determined the area to be exceptionally well-suited for wildlife and recreation. The lowlands, nature trails, and many inviting picnic spots contributed to this determination.

Trails from Granite Street lead to the Devil's Den (*left*), a large boulder next to the brook that runs through Governor's Meadow. The area has many trails for passive recreational use only, such as hiking and mountain biking.

Sallie property trails include the following, some of which overlap:

- A portion of the Warner Trail (an AMC-sanctioned trail between Sharon and Diamond Hill, Rhode Island) runs through the area, before crossing Lakeview Road and continuing on through the Town and State Forests.
- Oldham Trail winds through a scenic area of forest, swamps and streams and connects to the State Forest's trails, near Sunset Lake.
- The William O. Hocking, Jr. Memorial Trail was named after the late Bill Hocking, a 26 year Conservation Commissioner and amateur mycologist, who was loved to hike in this area. He also enjoyed studying the property's geology, including its granite outcrops and glacial erratics (large boulders deposited when the area's glaciers retreated).

Sallie Property/ Governor's Meadow

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission

Spring 2016

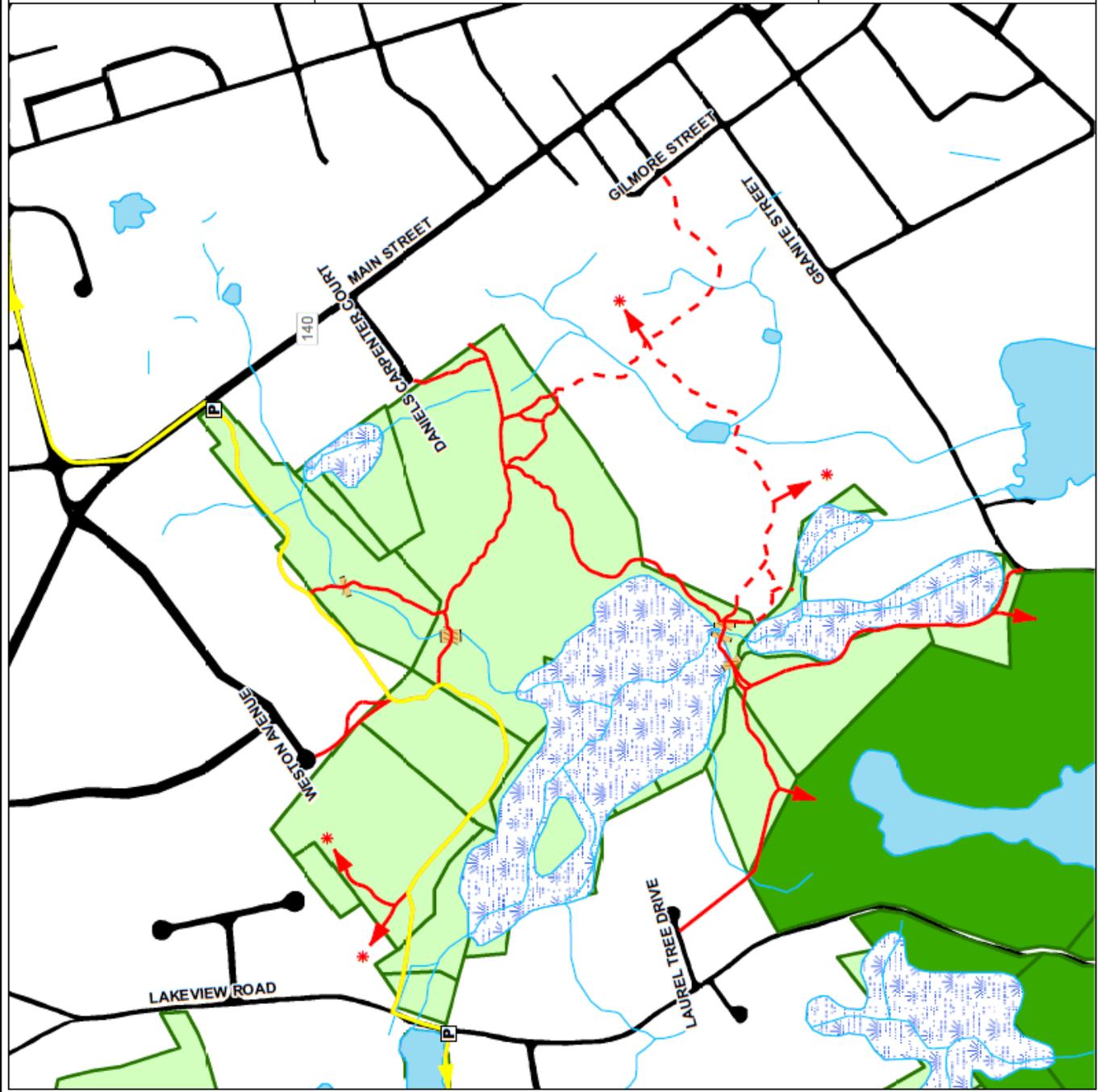


Legend

- Parking
- Warner Trail
- Conservation Trails
- Private Trails (see below)
- Trail continues onto private property (No Trespassing).
- Bridges (not to scale)
- Rivers and Streams
- Wetlands
- Ponds and Lakes
- Conservation Land
- State Forest



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Harold B. Clark Town Forest

Access:

- For the main trail, park at the end of Forest Road and enter through the gate.
- A second access is on Lakeview Road, on the left side of Lakeview Pond (viewed from the road), but has only a few roadside parking spaces.

Acquisition began: 1962

The main portion of this property was purchased from The Foxboro Co. (now Schneider Electric) in 1980. This conservation area, named for longtime Conservation Commission Chairman Harold B. Clark, has over 300 acres of woodlands, two ponds, a floating bog, and vernal pools.

Lakeview Pond (31 acres) and Upper Carpenter Pond (20 acres) are both shallow, so the best kayaking and/or canoeing is in spring/early summer.



Lakeview Pond has two coves, pristine Duck Cove (*above*) in the southwestern part of the lake, which is surrounded by undeveloped land, and the algae and weed-filled Bartlett's Cove, whose upstream area is developed. Lakeview Pond also has a launching area that can be used for canoes and kayaks; no gasoline-powered boats are allowed on either pond.



From the trailhead at the end of Forest Road, the trail encircles Upper Carpenter Pond (*left*), before continuing on through the State Forest. Segments of the Warner Trail overlap both the State Forest and Town Forest trails.

Upper Carpenter Pond is a secluded woodland pond surrounded by an oak and pine forest that provides visual beauty and biological diversity. The pond is said to have excellent year-round fishing, especially ice fishing. Record-sized fish are still caught in the pond, but you will need to hike through the woods to get there.

When fishing in either of these ponds, catch and release is suggested and encouraged.

Harold B. Clark Town Forest

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission
Spring 2016

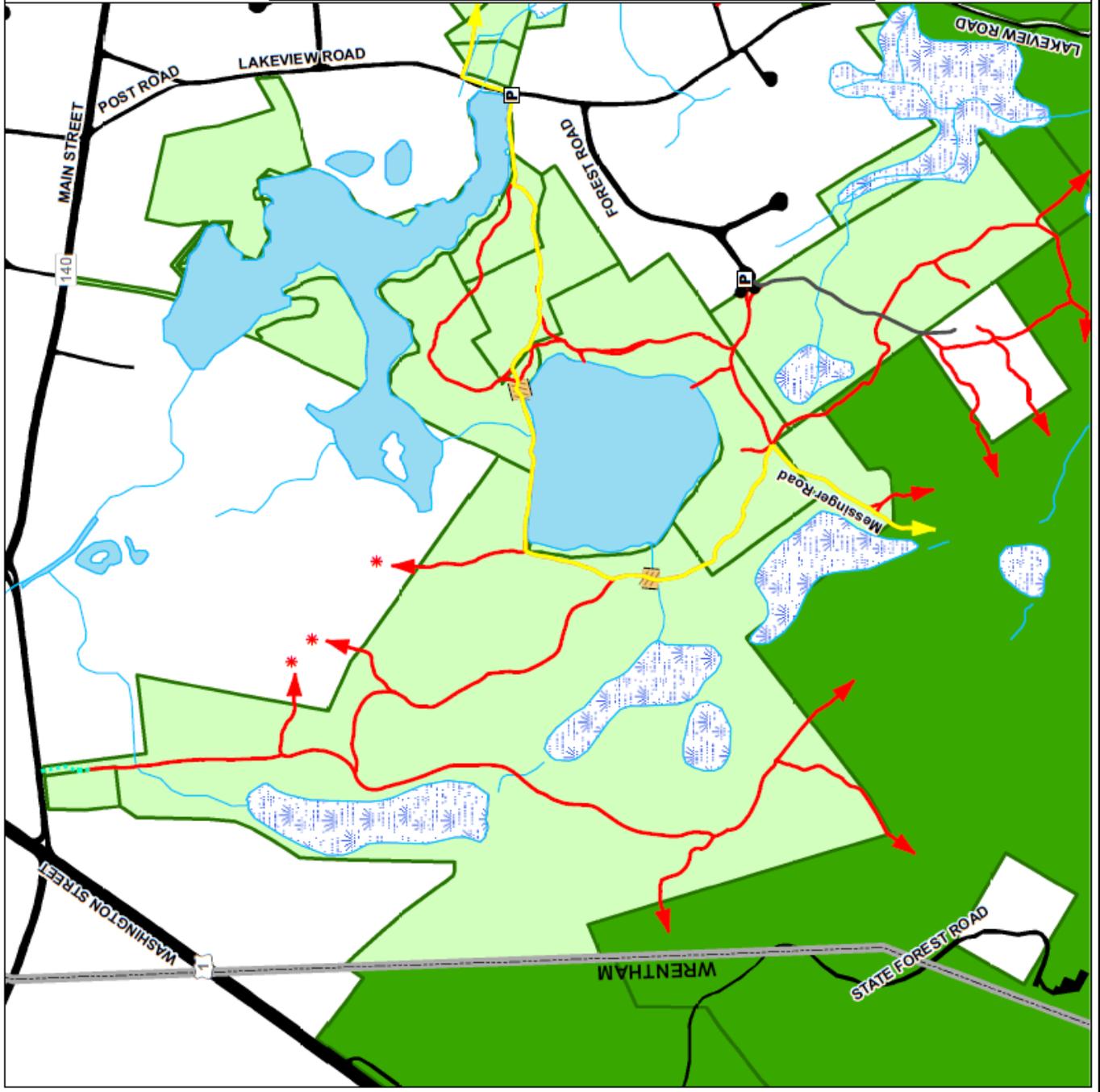
Legend

-  Parking
-  Warner Trail
-  Driveway (hikers welcome)
-  Gates (not to scale)
-  Conservation Trails
-  Future Trails
-  Bridges (not to scale)
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ponds and Lakes
-  Town Line
-  Conservation Land
-  State Forest

* Trail continues onto private property (No Trespassing).



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F. Gilbert Hills State Forest

Access:

- A small parking area is across the street from the State Forest Headquarters on Mill Street, but there are many entrances to this park; please consult the DCR's trail map for details.
- Parking is available for OHMs at the High Rock area on High Rock Road.

Acquisition began: 1930s

Named for a former State Forester, the F. Gilbert Hills State Forest is a 1,027-acre pine and oak forest in Foxborough and Wrentham that is owned and managed by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The forest was purchased by the State in the 1930s at \$5 an acre. Since 1992, the DCR has added 200 acres to this State Forest.

Twenty three miles of trails are available to visitors. Included in these trails is a section of the Warner Trail, a long-distance hiking trail that runs between Sharon and Rhode Island at Diamond Hill.

There are several vernal pools along the trails that you can carefully explore. If you are lucky, you may be able to find some of the critters that live and breed exclusively in these unique and fragile habitats, including salamanders, frogs, toads and various bugs.

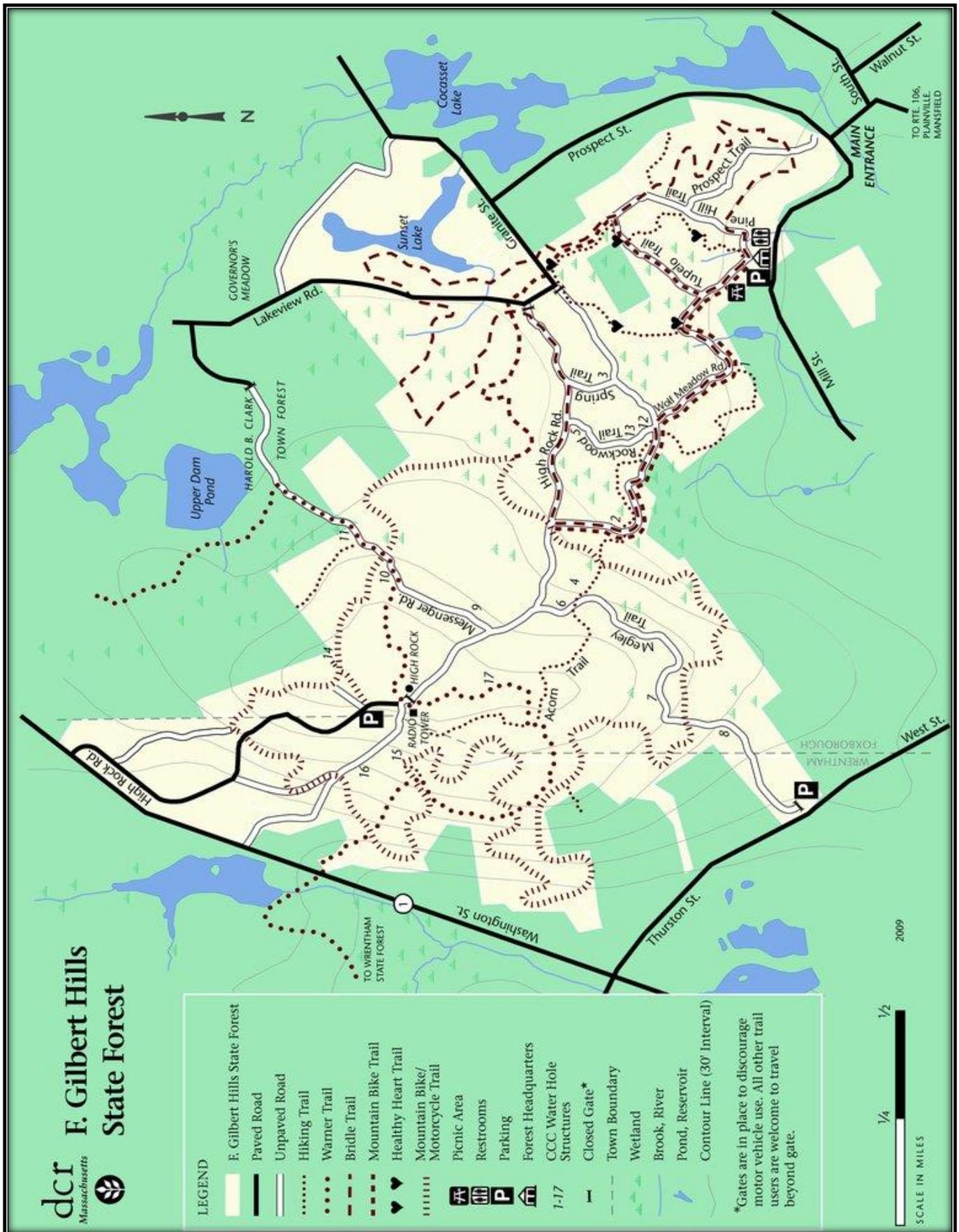
The Forest has numerous rock outcroppings and overlooks that offer a variety of scenic vistas. People often walk to the summit of High Rock to gain expansive views of land as far away as Rhode Island.

Mountain biking is a widely popular activity in the property, and there are also designated trails for off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and horseback riding. OHMs are allowed *only* on designated loops (blazed in yellow) and are prohibited from all other trails. OHMs are only permitted during the riding season, which generally runs (weather permitting) from the beginning of May through November. Other passive recreation activities are also allowed, including orienteering, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing.

Visitors should also be aware that restricted hunting is allowed in this State Forest. For hunting and fishing information, please see the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/>





The F. Gilbert Hills State Forest trail map was produced by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

Wolf Meadow

Access: Limited Park is available on Mill Street, just past a dip in the road near guard rails next to a stream crossing, where you will see a small pull-over area. Wolf Meadow trails can also be accessed through the State Forest's trails.

Acquisition began: 1964

This 102 acre area is named after Wolf Meadow, which was originally a wet meadow that was dammed in Colonial times to create a pond for water power. The pond's still intact stone dam maintains the meadow's water level. If you look closely on one end of the dam, you may see a handprint, inlaid in the cement.

Miles of trails snake through this conservation property, leading to a deep-woods hike. This is a large forested area with trails that extend and take you deeper into the State Forest, so please make note of any landmarks you can find to avoid losing your sense of direction.

Vernal pools are scattered throughout the property, and are most noticeable in the spring and early summer. Later in the summer, salamander metamorphs (halfway through the process of becoming adults) creep out of the water and many seek refuge under logs and moss. If you remove these coverings to look for them, please be sure to return the logs and moss to minimize your impact on the habitat for these animals.

Most of the salamanders that begin in the area's vernal pools, including spotted salamanders and red-backed salamanders, are often found under logs in upland areas. However, there are a few threatened species in Town that you might also discover. If you happen to find any of the rare animals on page 6, please take photos and let the Conservation Manager know about them as soon as possible.



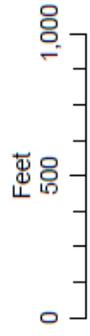
Wolf Meadow

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission

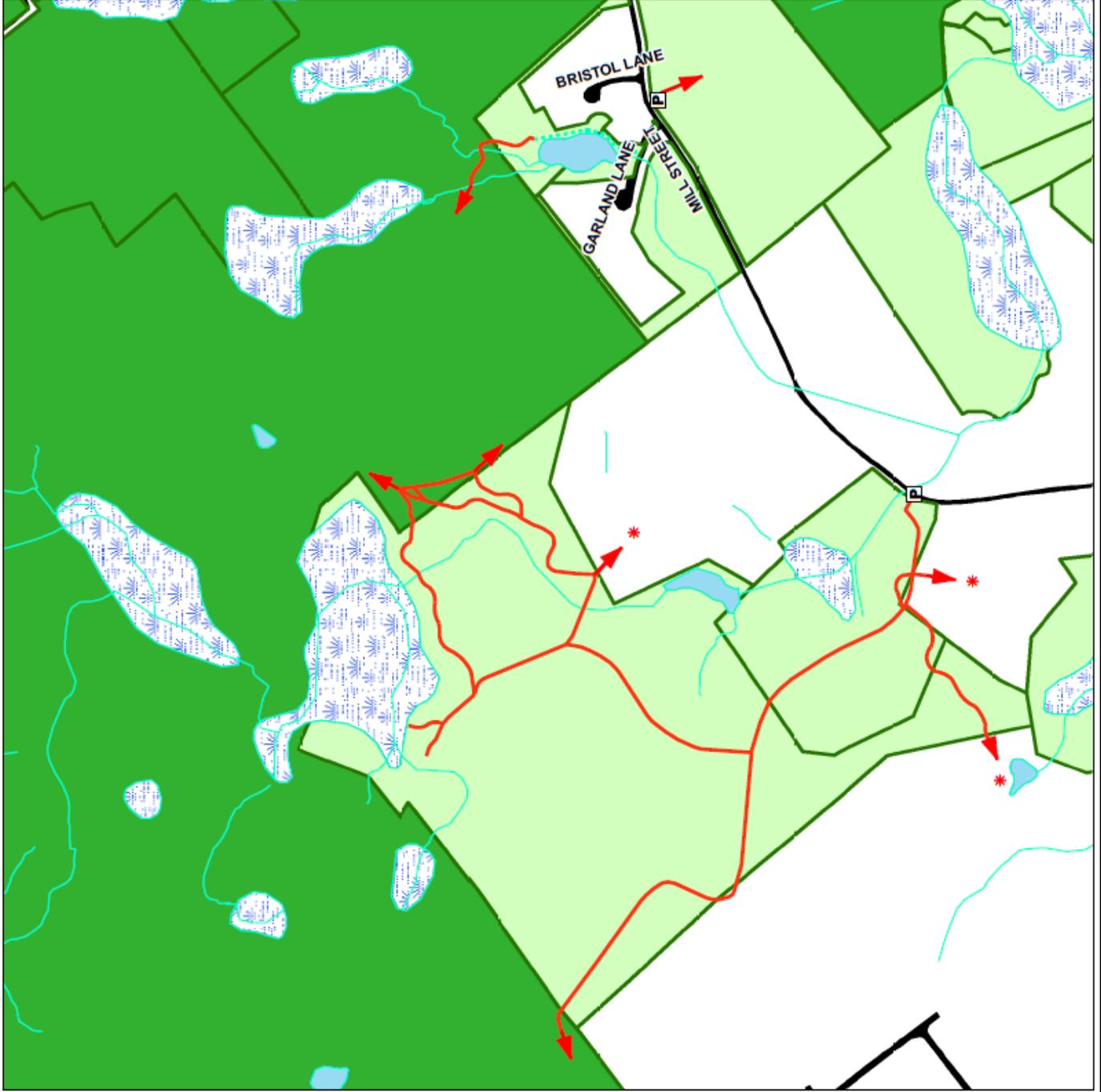
Spring 2016

Legend

-  Parking
-  Conservation Trails
-  Future Trails
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ponds and Lakes
-  Conservation Land
-  State Forest
-  Trail continues onto private property (No Trespassing).



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Cocasset River Park

Access:

- Off Mill Street, between houses #130 and 136 with a large parking lot and end of driveway.
- A South Street with a brown conservation sign can also be used for parking a few cars.

Acquisition began: 1962

This 50-acre property established on June 25, 1966, has an excavated spring-fed pond (*below, left*) that was initially used as the Town's swimming beach, spaces for picnicking and grilling, a ball field, and nature trails. In 1966, swimming passes were issued at the price of \$1 for children under 16, \$2 for those 16 and up, and \$7 for families.



This park was the pride of the Town, for decades, but by 1990, there were only 180 passes with 90 children taking swimming lessons, compared to 1970 when there 3,000 passes were issued, and 1,200 kids took swimming lessons. Between 1998 and 2001, the park was closed to swimming and now allows only passive recreational use; swimming is no longer permitted.

Few people visit the park these days, except for those who enjoy fishing in the pond to catch its large bass.

The lack of visitors has unexpectedly turned the park's fenced in area into a nature sanctuary, used by many species of wildlife (including rare species), and the beach is a very popular nesting area for the area's thriving turtle population (*snapping turtle, below, in the process of laying her eggs*).

The Cocasset River Park and Cocasset River Recreation Area trails combine to create an extensive trail network. The Cocasset River Park has a pond, cranberry bogs, vernal pools, and Cocasset River, that all provide exceptional passive recreational opportunities including bird watching, hiking, fishing, and cross-country skiing.

The area also serves a vital role in protecting Foxborough's wells on Sprague Road, which contribute between 600,000 and 700,000 gallons of water per day to the Town's water supply system.



Mill Street Area

Cocasset River Park,
Cocasset River Recreation Area,
& part of the State Forest

**Foxborough
Conservation
Commission**
Spring 2016

Legend

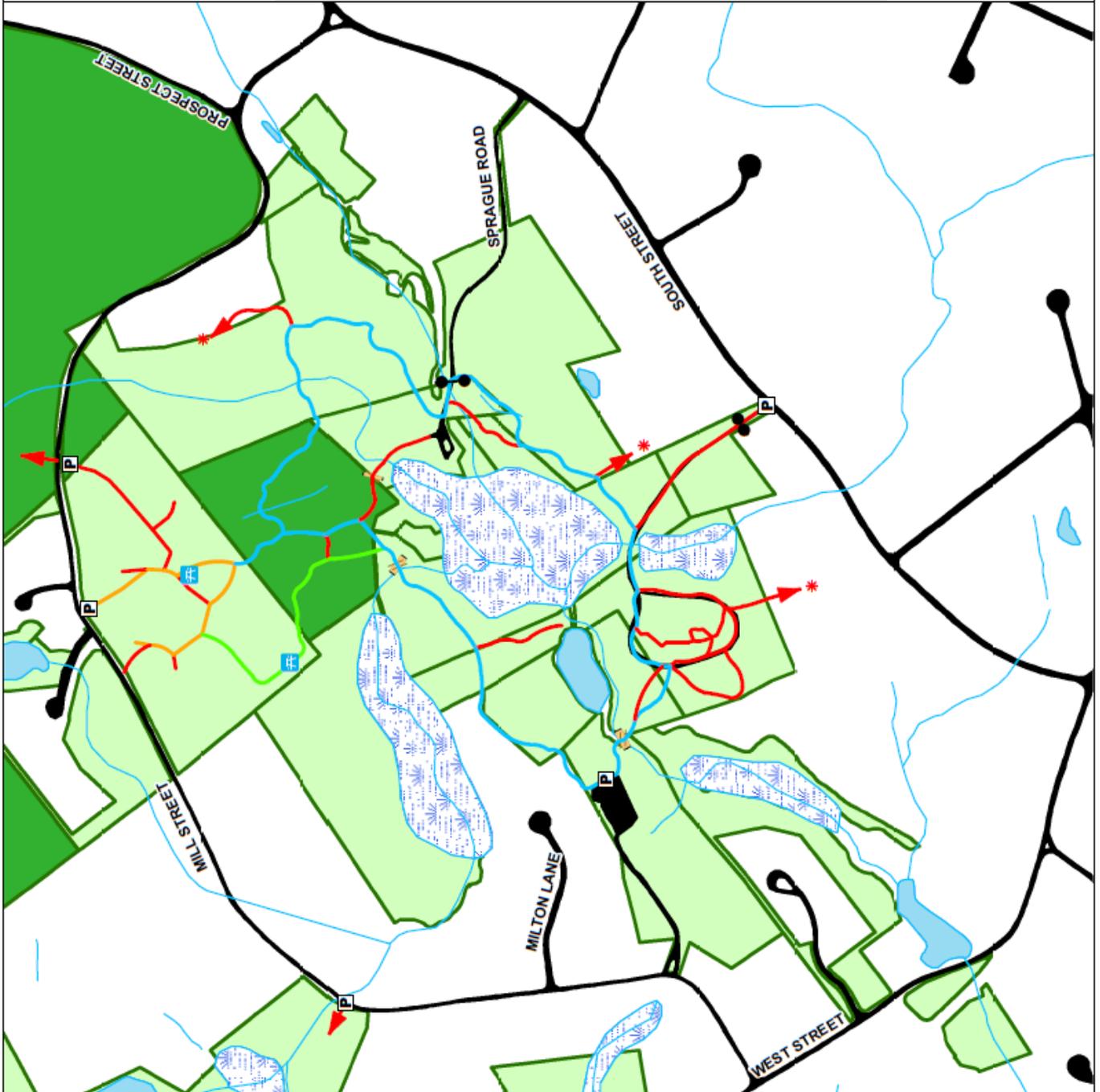
-  Parking
-  Benches
-  Tumbull Trail (orange)
-  Field Trail (green)
-  Rocklawn Farm Trail (blue)
-  Other trails
-  Gates (not to scale)
-  Bridges (not to scale)
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ponds and Lakes
-  Foxborough Town Land
-  State Forest

Trails continue onto private property (No Trespassing).

Feet

0 500 1,000

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Cocasset River Recreation Area (CRRRA)

Access: This property's main entrance and parking area are located at 68 Mill Street.

Acquisition began: 1964 ~ *Please note that the CRRRA is not permanently protected.*

This 20-acre property was originally part of the Hartshorn Farm, until purchase by Deacon Charles Morse of the Bethany Congregational Church in 1870. For the next 30 years, some 200 boys were educated and taught how to work on the farm, renamed Rock Lawn Farm.

The Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) was founded in England in 1866 and in 1870, began their Boston ministry. Most of the adult parishioners were employed, so could not look after their children during the summer, so Rock Lawn Farm became a summer refuge for their children, teaching them good values to prepare them for the future. The land was sold in 1898 and named St. Augustine's Farm.

During World War I, the SSJE lacked the funding to maintain the farm, and invited the Order of St. Anne to run the farm. From 1916 to 1928, the St. Anne sisters ran a home for women and children with tuberculosis, treating the disease with "the fresh air cure."

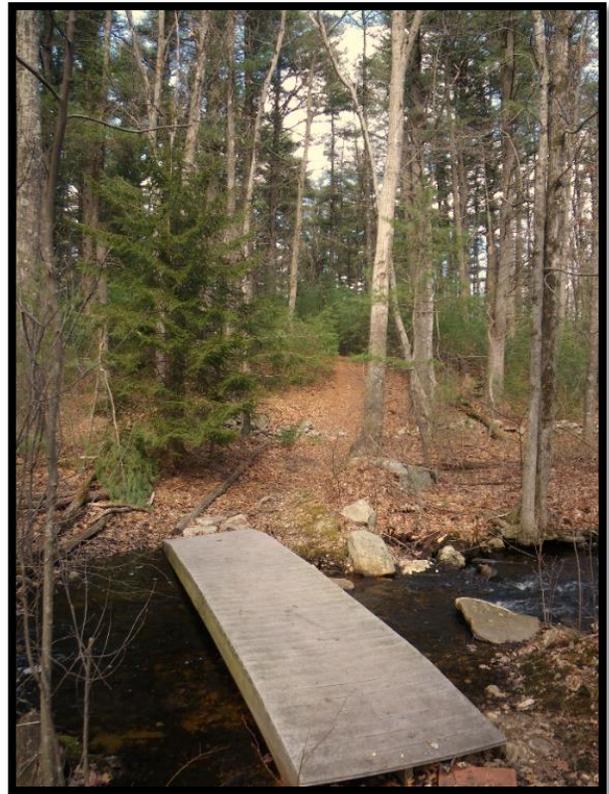
The camp returned to its original purpose in the 1980s and provided a summer program for children of poor Boston families. However, the economic hardships of the early 2000s reduced the camp's donations. As such, they could not afford to keep the camp running, and it closed for good in 2002.

In 2003, John Davis of Mill Street discovered that the SSJE planned to sell the camp, and brought it to the attention of his neighbors. Vigorous campaigning in 2004 resulted in a vote in favor of purchasing the south side of the property for \$1.5 million. In 2005, Jack Authelet, Town Historian, coined the term "Cocasset River Recreation Area."

Currently, the Recreation Department cares for this property, which includes a small restored chapel, a recreation hall, swimming pool, ball field, ropes course, large campfire area, and trails that connect to the Cocasset River Park.

Suggested routes for hiking these trails, which all begin at the trailhead, include:

- Turnbull Trail loop (*orange markers*): 1/4 mile
- Field Trail up and back (*green markers*): 3/4 mile
- Rocklawn Farm Trail loop (*blue markers*): 1 1/2 miles





*Happy discoveries (above) in CRRA's vernal pool (below)
during Foxborough's annual Vernal Pool Program
(co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission and Recreation Department).*



Canoe River Wilderness Area

Access, North Side:

- Park off East Street at Greeley's Pond on Old East Street, near the Sharon town line.
- Park just off East Street (east side) at a pull-off area at a gate near the power lines.
- Park on Willow Street at a small pull-off area next to a conservation sign.

Access, South Side:

- Park at bus turnaround on Willow Street under the power lines.

Acquisition began: 1964

Located in the upper watershed of Canoe River Aquifer (*map, next page*), this 400 acre conservation area runs between Greeley's Pond (northern section) and the Mansfield town line to the south. Acquisition of the area began with parcels that abutted the Canoe River, followed by an aggressive land acquisition program into the 1980s.



This greenbelt, traversed by a power line corridor, contains numerous trails for passive recreational use that run along or through fields, oak and pine forests, vernal pools, wetlands, shrub swamps, streams and the Canoe River.

The area's excellent bird habitat was rated by the 1974 MA Landscape and Natural Areas Survey to be of local, state, and regional significance. Noteworthy bird sightings include bluebirds, indigo buntings, rough legged hawks (nesting far south of their traditional breeding range), red-bellied woodpeckers (at the northern edge of their range), various warblers, Baltimore orioles, scarlet tanagers, and many other birds, as well as mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

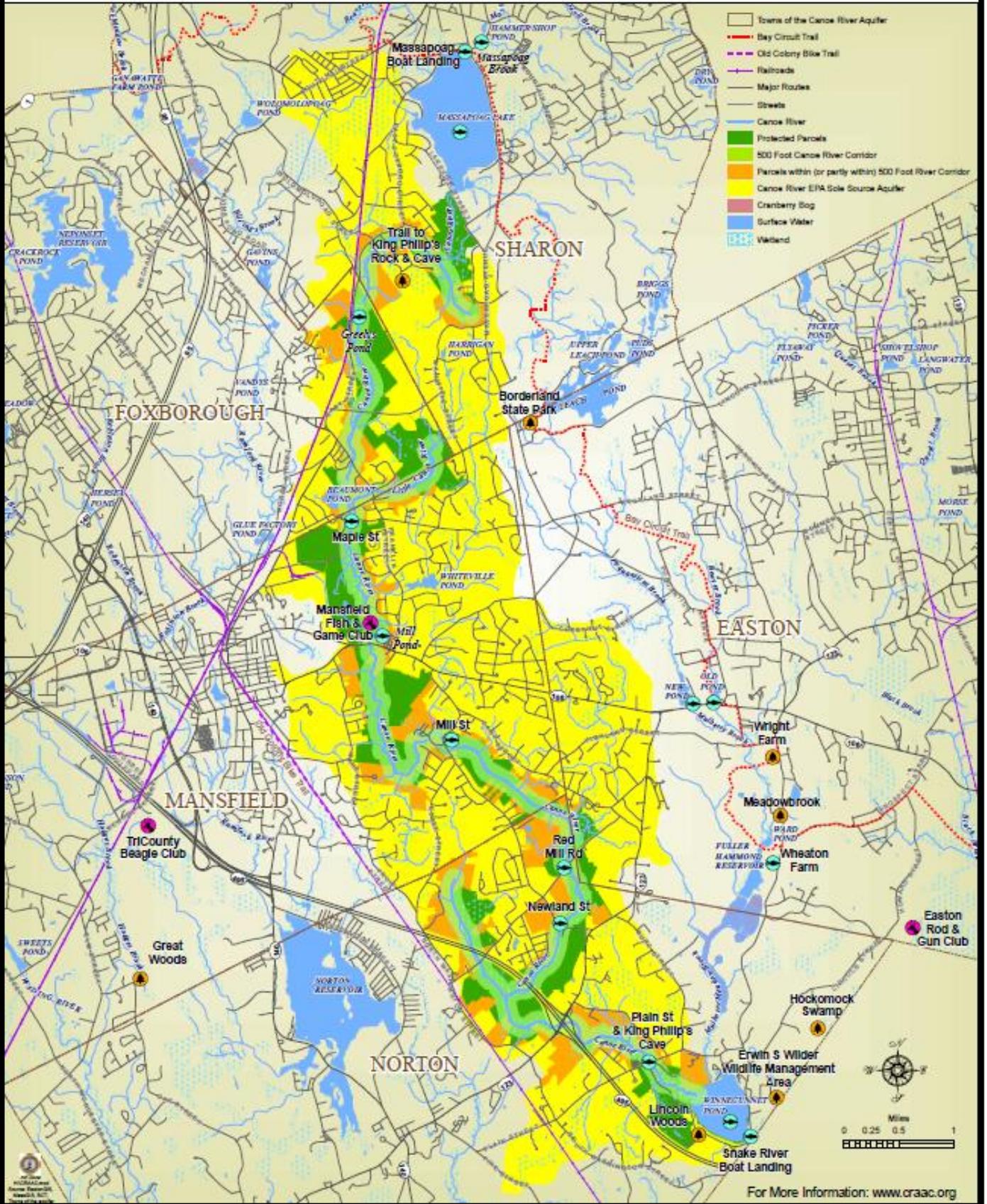
While wandering the trails, you may notice several vernal pools. These unique habitats provide nurseries for salamanders, frogs, and toads, as well as tiny animals that are barely visible to the naked eye, all of which make up the bottom of the forest's food chain.

The Greeley's Pond area has benefited from many Scout projects who created many of the area's trails, trail map signposts, and benches "off the beaten path" for weary hikers.

The area was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in June of 1991, and recognized as a sole source aquifer in 1993, which by definition means that it supplies at least 50% of the drinking water to overlying towns, that have no other viable alternative water sources. Canoe River starts at Sharon's Lake Massapoag and then meanders southward to Norton at Winnecunnet Pond. Since this sole source aquifer supplies drinking water for 66,000+ people (1993 data) downstream, Foxborough must carefully review all proposed projects to ensure that they won't negatively affect drinking water supplies.

Canoe River Aquifer Points of Interest

● Water Recreation
 ● Land Recreation
 ● Club Organizations



Canoe River Wilderness Area North Side

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission
Spring 2016

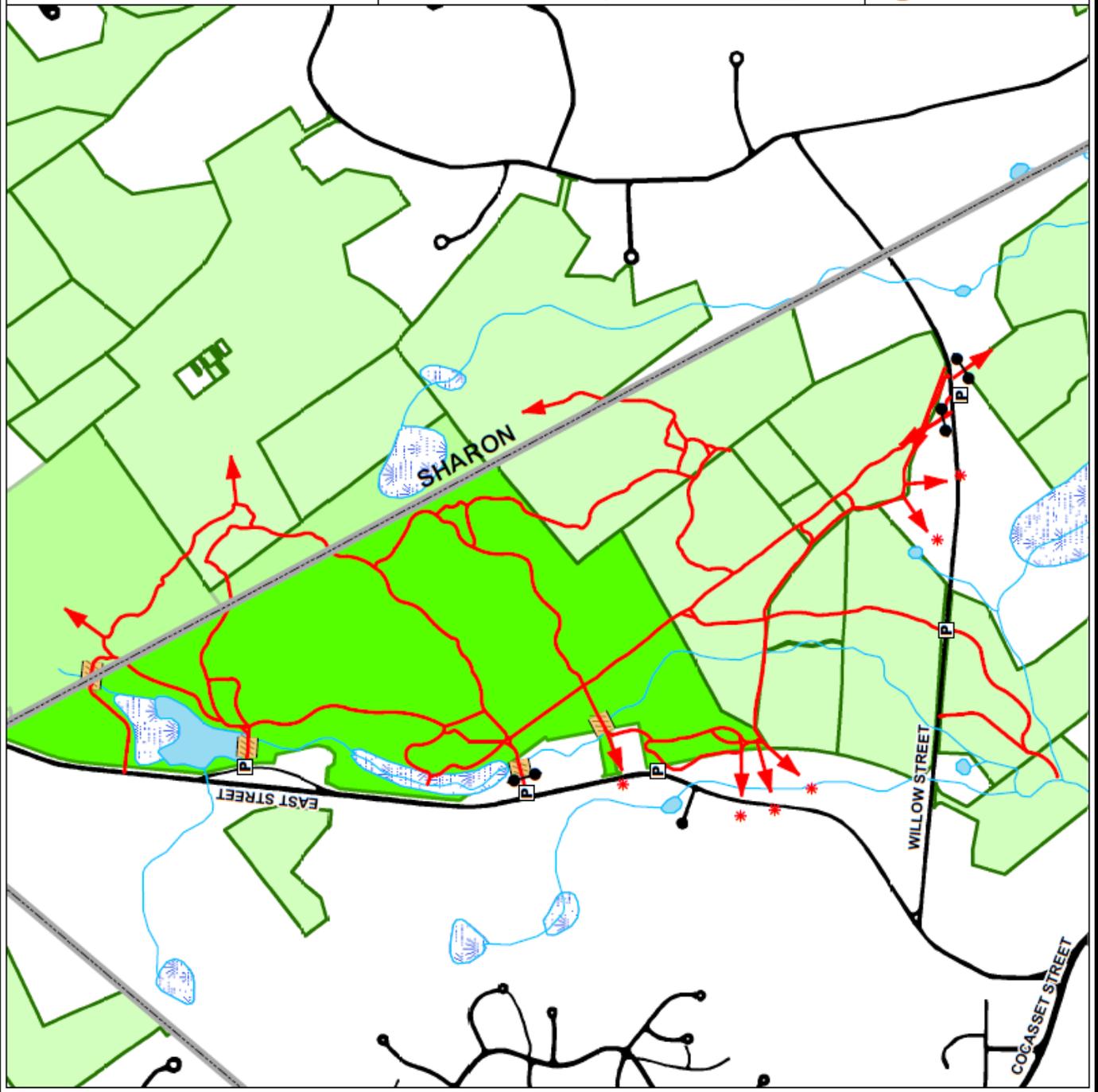
Legend

-  Town Line
-  Parking
-  Gates (not to scale)
-  Conservation Trails
-  Bridges (not to scale)
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ponds and Lakes
-  County Land
-  Conservation Land

 Trail continues onto private property (No Trespassing).



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Canoe River Wilderness Area South Side

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission
Spring 2016

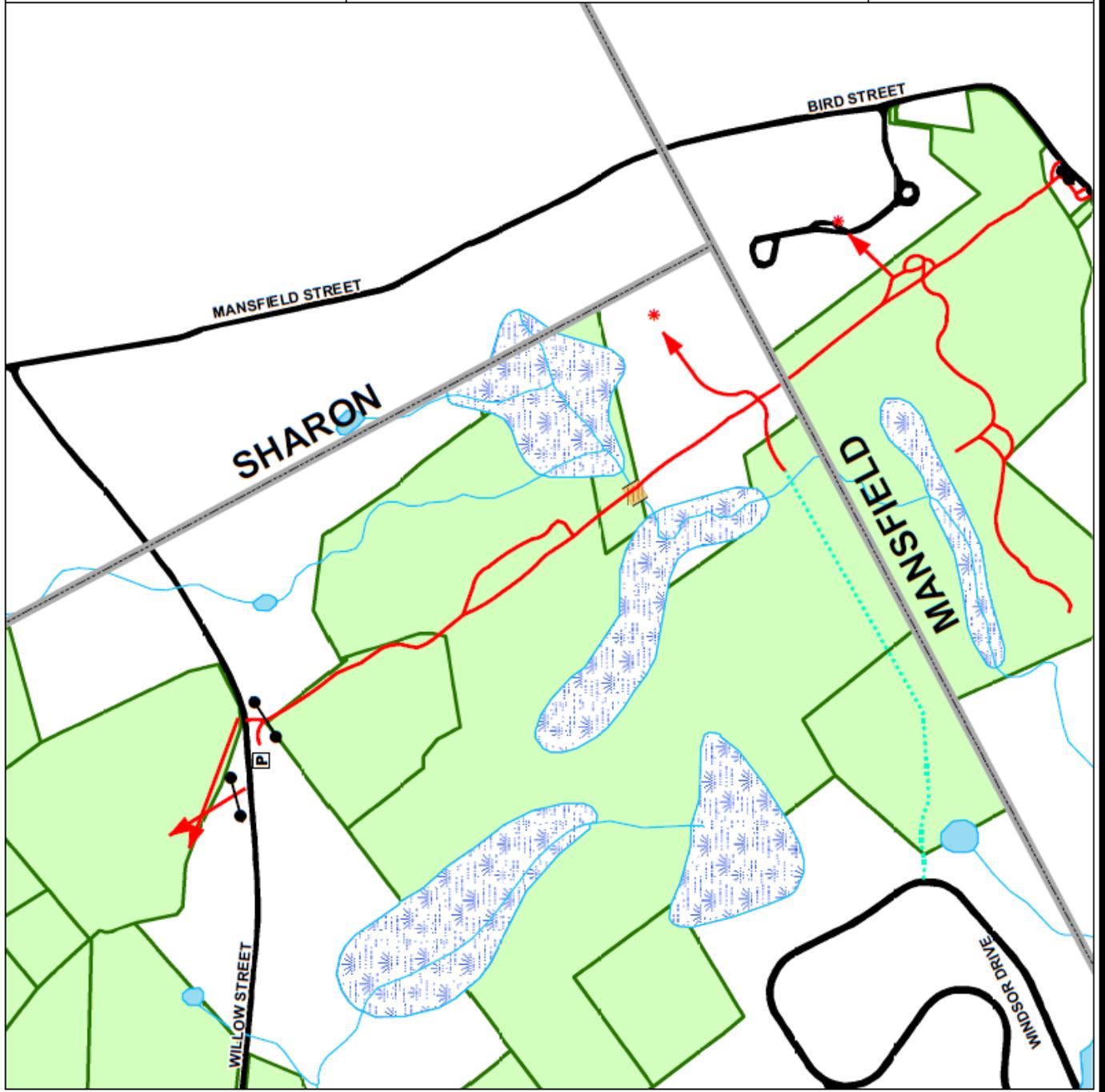
Legend

-  Parking
-  Gates (not to scale)
-  Conservation Trails
-  Future Trails
-  Bridges (not to scale)
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ponds and Lakes
-  Town Line
-  County Land
-  Conservation Land

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Beaumont's Pond Area

Access: Park at the end of Brookside Drive, next to where the trail begins.

Acquisition began: 1975

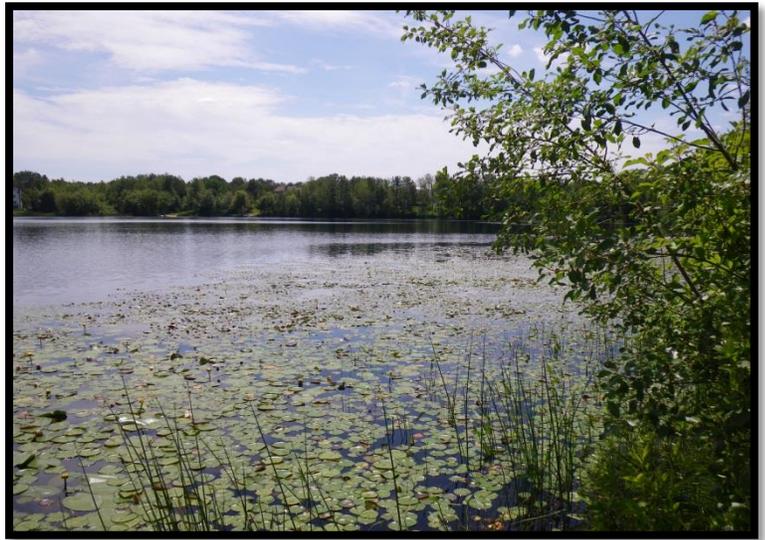
Sold to Foxborough by the Musto Corp. in 1997 (negotiations began in 1975) for \$120,000, this roughly 20-acre property near Hodges Road and Brookside Drive is a unique environment supporting a wide variety of wildlife. After purchasing the land, the Conservation Commission held a massive cleanup to restore the area to pristine condition.

Beaumont's Pond is fed by Canoe River, which flows out of the Canoe River Wilderness Area and creates a "green-belt" or stretch of land that is set aside for conservation purposes. The pond, however, is privately owned.

Hodges Brook begins on this property and then flows into Beaumont's Pond.

The brook is said to support a healthy population of brook trout and despite being exposed to many dry years, is said to have never run dry.

The area's wetlands and pond support a variety of animals, providing them safe refuge and clean spring water year-round. Many species of birds, amphibians, mammals and insects live here, including a healthy population of dragonflies. These insects are known to eat mosquitos and appear to be keeping mosquito populations down, since the area doesn't usually have many of these pests.



In winter, if you look closely, you will probably find animal tracks in the snow. You may even see the tracks of fishers (which aren't cats), energetic members of the weasel family. Their tracks show that they hop/bound from large tree to large tree in search of rodents and other things to eat.

Deer, coyotes, otters and many other kinds of animal tracks can also be found here. Try to get outside to find their tracking during the winter, which is one of the best times to visit the woods and swamps in Foxborough.

Beaumonts Pond

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission

Spring 2016



Legend

- Parking
- Conservation Trails
- Future Trails
- Wetlands
- Ponds and Lakes
- Rivers and Streams
- Conservation Land



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Oak Street Conservation Areas

Access, West Side (Murray's Brook):

- The easiest way to access this area is through a narrow parcel of land on Oak Street (across the road from #170), where there used to be a conservation sign that needs to be replaced.

Access, East Side (Lincoln Hill):

- Lincoln Hill has a small gravel parking area on Oak Street (across from #155 Oak Street).

Acquisition began: 1985

Murray's Brook and Lincoln Hill conservation areas contain streams that make up part of the headwaters of the Rumford River. Both areas are known to contain the habitats of one of the State's rarest species of amphibians.

Murray's Brook, on the western side of Oak Street, is a 136 acre area that runs between Oak Street and I-95. This area includes woodlands, vernal pools, wetlands, streams and Murray's Brook, which eventually flows into the Rumford River.

Lincoln Hill, which is on the eastern side of Oak Street, has 71 acres, named after the former children's camp at the site. The area contains woodlands, streams, vernal pools, wetlands, as well as the western shore of Smith's Pond.

Initially, the Jaycee's leased this property to use it as a children's camp and also held their annual Halloween "haunted" house here.

Several dilapidated cabins were removed from the property years ago, but if you look closely, you may still be able to find corners of the cabins' foundations.





Oak Street, East - Vernal pool in early spring.



Oak Street, West - Dry vernal pool with swamp white oaks and blueberry bushes in late fall.

Oak Street West

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission

Fall 2016

Legend

- Rivers and Streams
- Wetlands
- Ponds and Lakes
- Conservation Land



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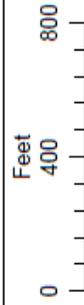
Oak Street East

Foxborough Conservation Commission

Fall 2016

Legend

- Rivers and Streams
- Wetlands
- Ponds and Lakes
- Conservation Land



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Rumford River Greenbelt

This large block of open space is composed of nearly 300 acres of land, bisected by Rumford River, although the area's trail system is not well developed. ***Please note that the use of motorized vehicles is strictly prohibited*** in this Town conservation area.

Acquisition began: 1969

Rumford River and Hocking's Ridge

Access:

- Off Cocasset Street (*roughly across from Oak Street*); enter to the left of a fenced horse pasture and then walk along a mown gas line easement to fields. *Please note, parking may prove difficult.*
- This area can also be accessed through the ends of Aldrich Road and Alexander Road.



This 164-acre greenbelt, purchased by the Town in 1974 for \$175,000 is located between Cocasset Street to the north and the Bleachery Ponds to the south. It contains a wide variety of habitats including fields, forest, wetlands, vernal pools, eskers, swamps, and ponds.

Rumford River (*left*) runs through the center of this property, along Hocking's Ridge (an esker that was created 15,000 years ago during the last Ice Age). The esker was named after Bill Hocking, a long-time Conservation Commission Chairman who treasured the area's unique geology.

The Bleachery Ponds (Glue Factory Ponds)

Access: Morse Street; *parking is limited.*

The Bleachery Ponds, bisected by Morse Street, are in an old industrial area with brick factory buildings. Both ponds are pleasant places to go picnicking, bird watching, fishing (catch and release, only), or just searching for a variety of creatures that inhabit the area.

The eastern pond's rocky shoreline is a fun place to visit and explore during late summer, when the pond's water levels are low.



Rumford River Greenbelt

Foxborough Conservation Commission

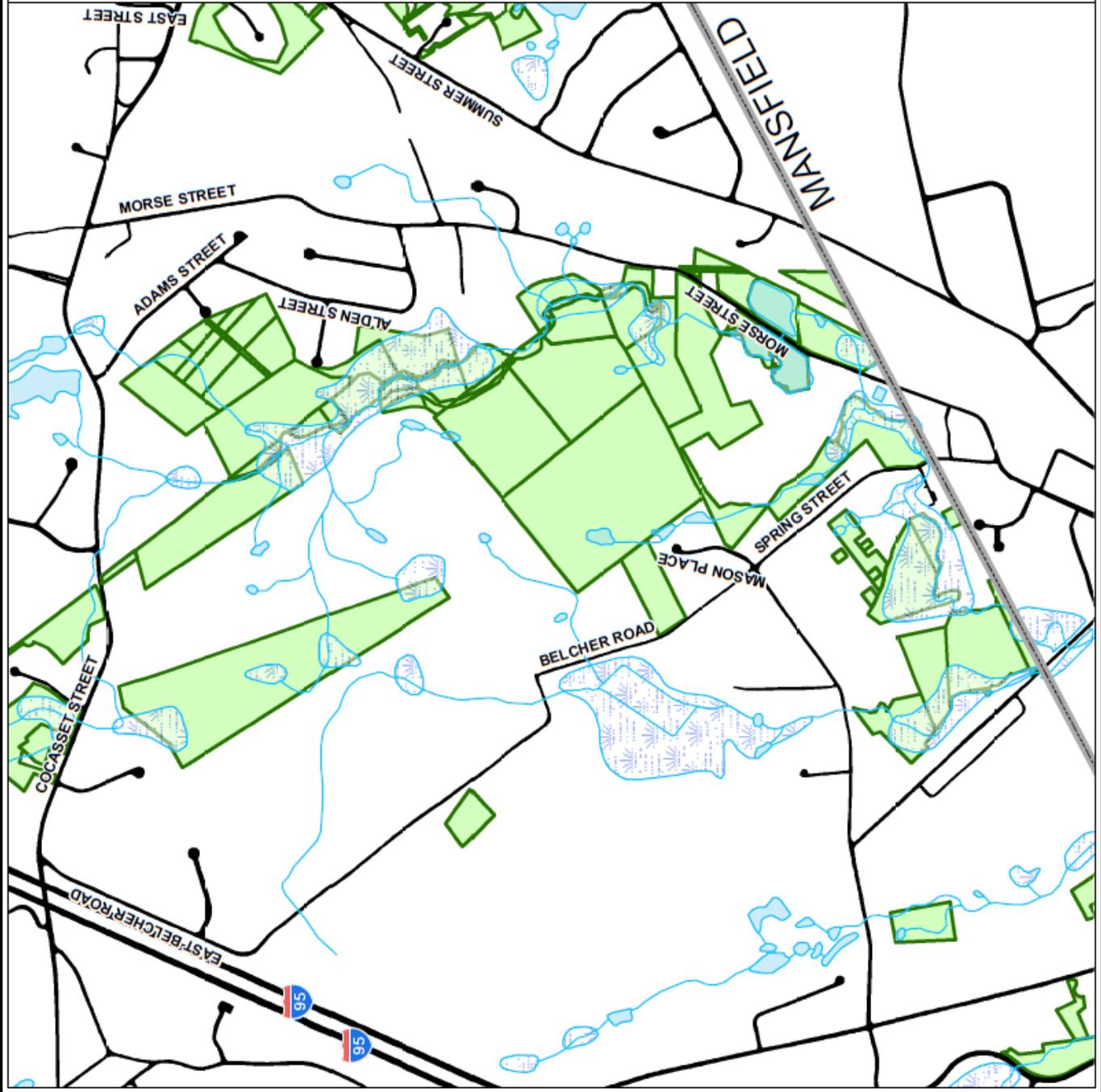
Fall 2016

Legend

-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ponds and Lakes
-  Conservation Land



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Wading River Watershed

Access:

- Turner Property entrance is at the end of Taylor Road, but is difficult to find (*trail maps with parking information will soon be created*).
- Wading River can be accessed by parking at the corner of South and Cedar Streets and then portaging a canoe or kayak across the street.

Acquisition began: 1970

The Turner Property, located off Cedar Street, is bordered by Wading River. This 24 acre property includes woodlands, vernal pools, wetlands, and the headwaters of Wading River. Ironically, the river is so swampy that it is unsuitable for wading. The scenic upstream area of the Wading River is the site of the first beaver activity to be documented in the Town's recent history.



The Turner Property is located across the river from the Independent Sportsmen's Club, so visitors should keep in mind that they could hear gun shots during their visit. The Club, which gives firearms training classes, has rifle and pistol ranges, a sporting clays course, and skeet fields.



The Wading River, which begins at Lake Mirimichi, travels through the swampy area just north of Cedar Street, then flows southerly through Mansfield and Norton, and eventually joins Three Mile River. Since 1670, the Wading River has served as the boundary between Mansfield and Foxborough.

The MA Department of Fish and Game used to stock the river with trout near the Cedar Street crossing area but, unfortunately, no longer does this.

The nearby Witch's Pond and abutting Atlantic white cedar swamp (*left*) are managed by the Town's Water and Sewer Commission. This area is critical to the environmental integrity of the southwestern portion of Town, so is included in Foxborough's 2011-2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Unfortunately, it is not open to the public.

Wading River Watershed

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission

Fall 2016

Legend

- Rivers and Streams
- Wetlands
- Ponds and Lakes
- Conservation Land



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Walden Farms Area / Mechanic Street

Access: The property's field is located at 200 Mechanic Street, but the easiest way to access this conservation area is from the end of Maura Elizabeth Lane.

Acquisition began: 1995

Donated to the Town by Walden Farms Corporation as open space area for the Walden Farms subdivision, this 60-acre property is home to a variety of ecosystems, including a field, vernal pools, wetlands, and forest, but it does not yet have a formal trail system.

Mitchell Green, a Foxborough teen who is working towards Eagle Scout rank, has been studying the site's unique vernal pools. The vernal pools' water quality varies, since one abuts houses and lawns, one is relatively isolated and one appears to be polluted by an unknown source. Mitchell has been performing water quality studies on the three vernal pools since 2014. In 2015, his project tied for third place at the State's Science Fair. He still continues his project, which now focuses on discovering the reason for the third vernal pool's pollution. The data he has collected has been very useful to the Commission, helping them to determine the overall environmental health of the conservation area.

All of the property's vernal pools and most of its uplands provide excellent habitat for spotted salamanders and other amphibians, as well as reptiles, including a healthy population of spotted turtles, recently delisted by the State's NHESP.



Walden Farms Area

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission

Fall 2016

Legend

-  Rivers and Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Ponds and Lakes
-  Conservation Land



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Hersey Farm

Access:

- Park at Community Farm Stand on Walnut Street and *carefully* cross Rt. 140 to the field.
- The Hersey Farm fields can also be accessed from the rear of the High School.

Foxborough's license for the property began: 1986

Hersey Farm was licensed to the Town in 1986 from the MA Department of Agriculture after a legislative Bill regarding the property was passed. The area is divided into three parcels; parcel one (7.1 acres) is used by Foxboro Soccer Association for athletic fields, and parcels two (43 acres) and three (9.5 acres) were to be used for agriculture and recreation purposes.

Located on Walnut Street, the Community Farm Stand is staffed solely by volunteers, with all proceeds going back into the community via the Discretionary Fund (which is a non-profit group with no ties to Town government). Crops grown at Hersey Farm, including corn and other vegetables, are sold wholesale on a rotating cycle in which no crop is grown more than three seasons in a row.

The Farm Stand, which is now in its 26th season of growing and giving, is still run by volunteers of all ages. Many Foxborough families and Scouts donate their time picking in the garden and operating the stand. According to Earle Ferguson (one of the volunteers who help run the Farm Stand), “families that pick together, stick together.”

The Town's license for this 60-acre farmland is renewed for five to 10 years at a time. The hay-fields, which are maintained by a local farmer, may be used for various passive recreation activities including hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching and kite flying.



Hersey Farm

Foxborough
Conservation
Commission

Fall 2016

Legend

- Rivers and Streams
- Wetlands
- Ponds and Lakes
- Conservation Land



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Notes:

Foxborough Emergency	(508) 543-4343
Conservation Commission	(508) 543-1251
Environmental Police	(800) 632-8075

