Guide to Foxborough's Conservation Land & Open Spaces

April 2018

(QR Code for more detailed Trail Maps)

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; 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

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With Sincere Thanks To:

Ryan Clapp, Conservation Intern (summer 2016), who drafted the First Edition of this Guide

Ryan Norton, DPW GIS Specialist, who created/updated the Town's Trail Maps

Third Edition, April 2018

Edited/updated by Jane Sears Pierce

To the Residents of Foxborough:

The Conservation Commission is pleased to provide this Guide to our Town's conservation lands and open spaces. Compiled in this Guide is information about more than 2,000 acres of permanently protected land in Foxborough, plus close to 700 acres of the F. Gilbert Hills State Forest. The properties in this Guide are held by various public entities, including Foxborough's Conservation Commission, Water Department, and Board of Selectmen, as well as the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Norfolk County Commission.

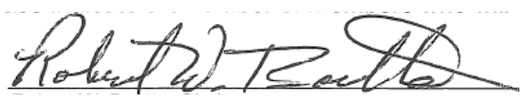
In reviewing this Guide, you will quickly understand why Foxborough's conservation areas draw outdoor enthusiasts to our Town; residents and visitors alike. We hope the information in this Guide will help improve and preserve our open spaces, now and for future generations to come.

Entrances to conservation area trails may or may not be identified by signs. When enjoying our open spaces, it is always important to be aware of your surroundings. Many of our public lands 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 in this guide *(updated trail maps will be added as they become available).*

Increased development pressure on Foxborough's remaining open spaces makes it clear that we must work diligently to protect our protected public lands. Since the Conservation Commission is a volunteer board, we depend upon the help of volunteers like the Friends of Foxborough Conservation, Scouting groups and others. The rest is in your hands. Any support that you can give us is welcome, including ideas about volunteer activities to help improve our Town's open spaces.

But how do you protect something if you've never experienced it, been immersed in it, or enjoyed it? We hope that this Guide might lead you to the path of conservationism by encouraging you to get outdoors to explore our many wild and scenic places, all of which are free.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Boette, Chairman
Foxborough Conservation Commission

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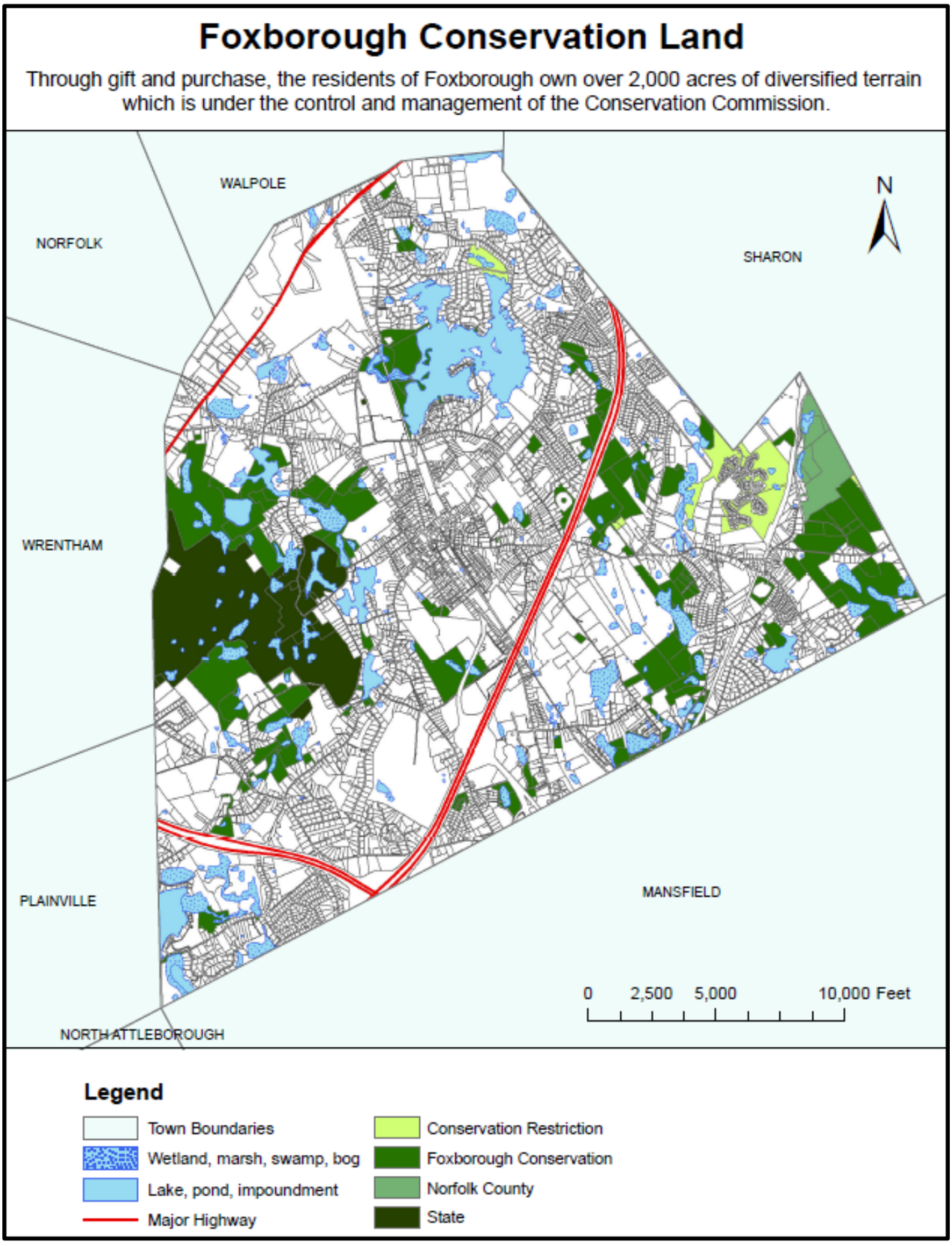
Foxborough Conservation Land



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

Conservation Land is managed by the Conservation Commission 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, unless authorized by the Conservation Commission or its Agent.
- Due to environmental reasons, trails may be closed without prior notice.

Vehicles

- The operation of ***any*** motorized vehicle is strictly prohibited *(see page 3).*
- Vehicles should park in designated parking areas or safely along public roads.
- Parking after hours is prohibited, unless permitted by the Conservation Commission or its Agent.

Property / Plants ~ Prohibited Activities

- The dumping of yard waste or other materials is prohibited.
- Carry out what you carry in; no littering please.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages or glass containers is prohibited.
- Metal detectors are not allowed; removal of artifacts is prohibited.
- The removal, cutting or damaging of trees, shrubs, plants, flowers or fungi.
- The introduction of any non-native plants.
- Cutting trails or installing signs without the Commission's written approval.

Animals

- Control of pets must conform to the Town's animal control laws.
- The collection of wildlife is prohibited.
- The introduction of any non-native wildlife is prohibited.
- Hunting on Commission-approved (only) conservation lands is allowed, but hunters must visit the Conservation Office before they begin to hunt.
- Target shooting and trapping is prohibited.

Group Activities and Camping ~ Prohibited Without Written Approval

The following group (10+ people) activities may be allowed, but only after obtaining written permission from the Commission at least 21 days in advance:

- Group activities such as scouting events, picnics, weddings, or similar events.
- Recreational activities such as foot races, hikes, orienteering, classes, etc.
- Camping, but no fires allowed without written approval of Fire Department.
- Organized or commercial events, which charge fees or raise or collect funds for any purpose.
- License or lease for agricultural or forestry use.

The complete version of the current rules and regulations (as well as land use application forms) is available online and at the Conservation Office.

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 conservation areas in Town are being ruined by the unauthorized use of motorized vehicles, whose careless and/or reckless operators are destroying our trails and wildlife habitats. ATVs/OHVs not only threaten our trails and wildlife, but the noise they cause diminishes the enjoyment of visitors seeking peace and quiet.

Under MA General Law Chapter 90B, offenses related to unauthorized ATV 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 on Town properties and also imposes fines related to illegal ATV use.

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation and good land stewardship.

ß *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 inhabit wooded areas and can be found on leaf litter or low vegetation. They cannot jump or fly, but become attached after brushing up against them. Deer ticks can carry Lyme disease bacteria, as well as several coinfections.

If you are bitten by a tick, use pointy tweezers to grab the head of the tick, not the body. Do not squeeze the belly of the tick, since it will inject the bacteria into your bloodstream. Do not use oils, petroleum jelly, matches, etc. to remove the tick and if is deeply embedded, go to the doctor. After removal, wash the bite area; identify the type of tick that bit you; and dispose of it.

The two most common types of ticks in this 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 you identify the type of tick. The conception that a tick has to be attached for 48 hours to inject the bacteria is completely outdated (studies now show that only 15 minutes can give you anaplasmosis). Please note that ONLY deer ticks transmit Lyme disease, but dog ticks have been associated with other illnesses.

Lyme disease symptoms *may* include an increasing, circular red rash (bull's-eye), muscle and joint pain, chills, fever and headache. If you experience any of these symptoms after being bitten by a tick, consult a doctor immediately. While tick-borne illnesses can be very serious if left untreated, they are completely preventable, but early detection is critical.

You can get a tick-borne disease year-round, so for outdoor activities, you should wear light-colored clothing, tuck your pants into your socks, and regularly check your legs for ticks. Permethrin treated clothing has been shown to be effective against ticks, as well as repellents containing DEET, which 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 20 minutes to kill any ticks that might be attached.

For more information, check the CDC's website at *http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/*

Deer tick and dog tick *(approximate size)*

A female dog tick is roughly 2.7mm in length, males are smaller. Deer ticks are about half the size of a dog tick.

Information from the Center for Disease Control

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 is 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 smooth, shiny, 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.

Poison Ivy – The "Curse"

Jewelweed – The Natural "Cure"

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 Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) protects rare native plants and animals.

Please help us ensure that Foxborough's rare animals will remain in Town for future generations to enjoy. If you find any of the following animals, please use your cell phone to take a few photos and immediately call Conservation Manager Jane Sears Pierce (508-282-6960) to let her know about your discovery. She will then document your find, which will help to protect its habitat. 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. The swamps and streams, as well as Lake Mirimichi, attracted Native American Ponkapoags as well as 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.

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 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 com-munity'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.

1872: Yellowstone is the first National Park in the nation and in the world.

1875: American Forestry Association is founded.

1885:
- New York creates forest reserves in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains;
- Niagara Falls State Reservation is created as the first state park in the eastern U.S.

1890: Congress establishes Sequoia, Yosemite, and General Grant National Parks in California.

1891:
- Congress passes Forest Reserve Act, authorizing 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.

1933: President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC).

1957: Mass. Conservation Commission Act is passed, authorizing conservation commissions to protect natural resources, acquire land, and manage conservation properties.

1961:
- Foxborough Firsts: Town Meeting adopts the Conservation Commission Act; the Conservation Commission is established; and the Land Use Plan is written.
- Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) is formed.

1962:
- Foxborough's first conservation land parcels are acquired.
- Foxborough's first Open Space and Recreation Plan is drafted and approved.
- *Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson, reveals the negative effects of pesticides and A-bombs.

1964: Congress passes the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

1965: Mass. Hatch Act is the first state inland wetland protection law in the U.S.

1970: *The Lorax*, published by Dr. Seuss, describes why land conservation is so important.

1972:
- Article 97 of the Mass. Constitution is passed to permanently protect open lands.
- Mass. Wetlands Protection Act enacted (combines Jones and Hatch Acts)

1979: David Risch, Foxborough's first Conservation Manager, is hired (retired 2009).

1980: Foxborough's Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Article IX) is adopted.

1983: Mass. Wetlands Protection Act Regulations are adopted.

1986: Wildlife habitat is added as an interest of the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act.

2000: Vernal pool buffer protection is added to Foxborough's Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

2011: Foxborough's *(long-expired)* Open Space and Recreation Plan is rewritten.

2016:
- Foxborough Wetlands Protection Regulations are drafted and adopted.
- Conservation Manager Jane Sears Pierce initiates Foxborough's trail mapping program.
- Ryan Norton, DPW Mapping Technician drafts first 8 trail maps and posts on website.
- Conservation Commission Intern, Ryan Clapp, 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, wetlands, and systems 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 southern parts of Town. In the northwest, the topography is more rugged, with hilltop elevations reaching 430 feet above sea level. However, the Town's highest elevations are no more than 100 feet above surrounding areas. Although it wouldn't appear to be the case, the highest elevation is in the center of Town.

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 *(NW and eastern sections of Town)*
- Barefoot Hill Quartz Monsonite *(north central region of Town)*
- Sharon Syenite *(NW edge of Town near Crack Rock Pond and Edwards Road)*
- Rhode Island Formation *(SW edge of Town; South St to Foolish Hill, E to Mansfield)*

Water

Foxborough is situated on top of the divide between Neponset and Taunton River Basins, with groundwater aquifers that are only replenished by rainfall and snowmelt.

The Taunton River is the longest coastal river in New England unimpaired by dams, with a watershed of about 562 square miles, that ends at Narragansett Bay. The watershed's streams include Wading River, Cocasset River, Rumford River, Canoe River, and Billings Brook and Robinson Brook. In general, the watershed is characterized by low-permeable (glacial outwash) soils, shallow depths to groundwater and wetlands.

The Neponset River watershed, roughly 130 square miles in size, begins at the Neponset Reservoir's Gudgeon Brook (not far from Gillette Stadium). The river then flows in a northeasterly direction and eventually exits at Dorchester Bay. Since the river ultimately enters Boston Harbor, it is considered to be a part of the larger Boston Harbor Watershed.

Water (continued)

Neponset Reservoir, one of the largest water bodies in the I-95 Providence/Boston corridor is about 320 acres in size (including islands, around 11 acres). The Reservoir is a relatively shallow waterbody that is one to four feet deep in northern and eastern sections, four to seven feet in southern areas, and is deepest near the dam, where it is eight to 10 feet. The Neponset Reservoir has close to nine miles of shoreline *(see page 17)*.

Ten Mile River Basin, which begins at Witch Pond in the southwestern part of Town, has only a small part of its upper watershed in Foxborough. The river originates in Plainville and then meanders south into Rhode Island, where it empties into the Seekonk and Providence Rivers of Narragansett Bay.

The Ten Mile River is fed by two major tributaries, the Seven Mile River and Bungay River, located in Attleboro. Bungay River, whose headwaters extend into Town, is flanked by what is said to be the best red maple swamp habitat in MA and also supports 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, often traveling 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 state-listed amphibians and reptiles require several types of habitats for overwintering, breeding, feeding and nesting. NHESP lists the following rare animals in Foxborough:

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

Salamanders. The major threats to most salamanders include the loss, degradation and fragmentation of their breeding habitats, including vernal pools and the abutting upland habitats they depend upon for breeding, feeding and overwintering, as well as road crossing casualties that occur during annual migrations to vernal pools.

Marbled Salamanders *(T)* – As of 2015, only around 85 populations of the marbled salamander had been documented in 61 towns in MA (since 1990). Marbled salamanders were first discovered in Foxborough in 2013 *(1" larvae, above).*

Rare and Endangered Species (continued)

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 female, left)*. They usually over-winter in permanent wetlands, feed in vernal pools, nest in open gravelly areas, and move among shrub swamps, marshes, and wetlands throughout the summer. In order to access all of their required resources in one season, many will need to cross roads.

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 fields and forests, before returning to their over-wintering streams in the fall.

Population declines are known to be caused by road-crossing casualties, hay mowing activities, habitat degradation and fragmentation, 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. Box turtle sightings have been reported in Foxborough, but only one has been officially documented (unfortunately, it was an adult male box turtle that was run over and killed while trying to cross a busy 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 multi-cellular 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."

Adult spotted salamander

"Vernal" means spring and although many vernal pools fill during spring's rain and snow melt, they are known to have variable hydro-periods. Many vernal pools fill in 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, enabling the animals that breed exclusively in vernal pools (including wood frogs and spotted salamanders) to survive.

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

Other Wildlife

Mammals

Foxborough's mammals include a wide variety of species, from the ever-expanding deer populations, to red and gray foxes, fisher, bobcat, mink and a host of other animals found in New England (except for bear, porcupine, and moose, which have not yet been reported in Town).

While neither native nor wild, the Town is fortunate to have a small herd of Scotch Highland cows *(right)* living in a field on Cocasset Street.

Children and adults alike enjoy visiting Foxborough's "hairy 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 bald eagles *(below, right)* have been seen at the Neponset Reservoir.

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 in town, known only to a few long-time fishermen.

In 2003, the Neponset Reservoir was documented to have chain pickerel, largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, sunfish, brown bullhead, golden shiner, American eel, white sucker, white perch, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, red-breast sunfish, 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 Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Norfolk County Commission.

	Acres
Lane Homestead and other Neponset Reservoir Properties*	89
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	114
Total Acres of Foxborough Open Space	2,753

* *Acreage does not include the Reservoir's water surface and several islands, which would add approximately 320 acres.*

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

*** *The Cocasset River Greenbelt area includes lands that are managed by Foxborough's Conservation Commission, Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, Board of Recreation/Board of Selectmen, as well as the MA DCR; the quoted acreage, doesn't include Foundry Pond's water surface).*

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

***** *Hersey Farm, which is owned by the MA Department of Agriculture, is leased to the Town Foxborough and managed by the Conservation Commission.*

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

Access:

- ø Laprelot Road, off North Street near RR tracks, has a large gravel parking lot.
- ø Munroe Street, park at the end of the street.
- ø Chestnut Street, east of the RR, trail entrance (with sign) and small parking area.
- ø 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 Clifford and Edith Lane estate. Combined with abutting conservation parcels, the area has about 89 acres of protected open space, including 1 1/2 miles of shoreline, forests, three hay fields, wetlands and the reservoir's dam.

In 2014, one of the descendants of the Lane family, Edith Erickson, proposed the *Lane Homestead Picnic Area and David Risch Memorial Beech Grove* project to the Conservation Commission, but the project was never fully funded.

In 2016, the Friends of Foxborough Conservation, James DeVellis, Town Historian Jack Authelet, 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 (and invasive plant removal); an enhanced entrance on North Street; an indoor/outdoor nature classroom; an interpretive walking trail with educational signage about environmental topics; an observation deck overlooking Crack Rock Pond; picnic areas; landscaping, using native plants; security system; and a memorial garden for David Risch, who was the Town's first Conservation Manager (who served the Town for 30 years and worked tirelessly to preserve many of our Town's conservation areas, including the Lane Homestead).

This collaborative project, which was completed in June 2017, shall serve as a reminder to future generations that great things can be accomplished through a community's commitment to environmental preservation and 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 from the park's large parking area.

When fishing in the Neponset Reservoir or Crack Rock Pond, catch and release is both 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).
N
Feet
0
500
1,000
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.
MUNROE STREET
MCKENZIE LANE
NORTH STREET
CHESTNUT STREET
CROSS STREET
New Learning Center
Learning Center
1. Learning Center
2. Observation Deck
3. All Person's Trail
4. Kiosk

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 on Granite Street, but there is limited parking.

Acquisition began: 1963

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

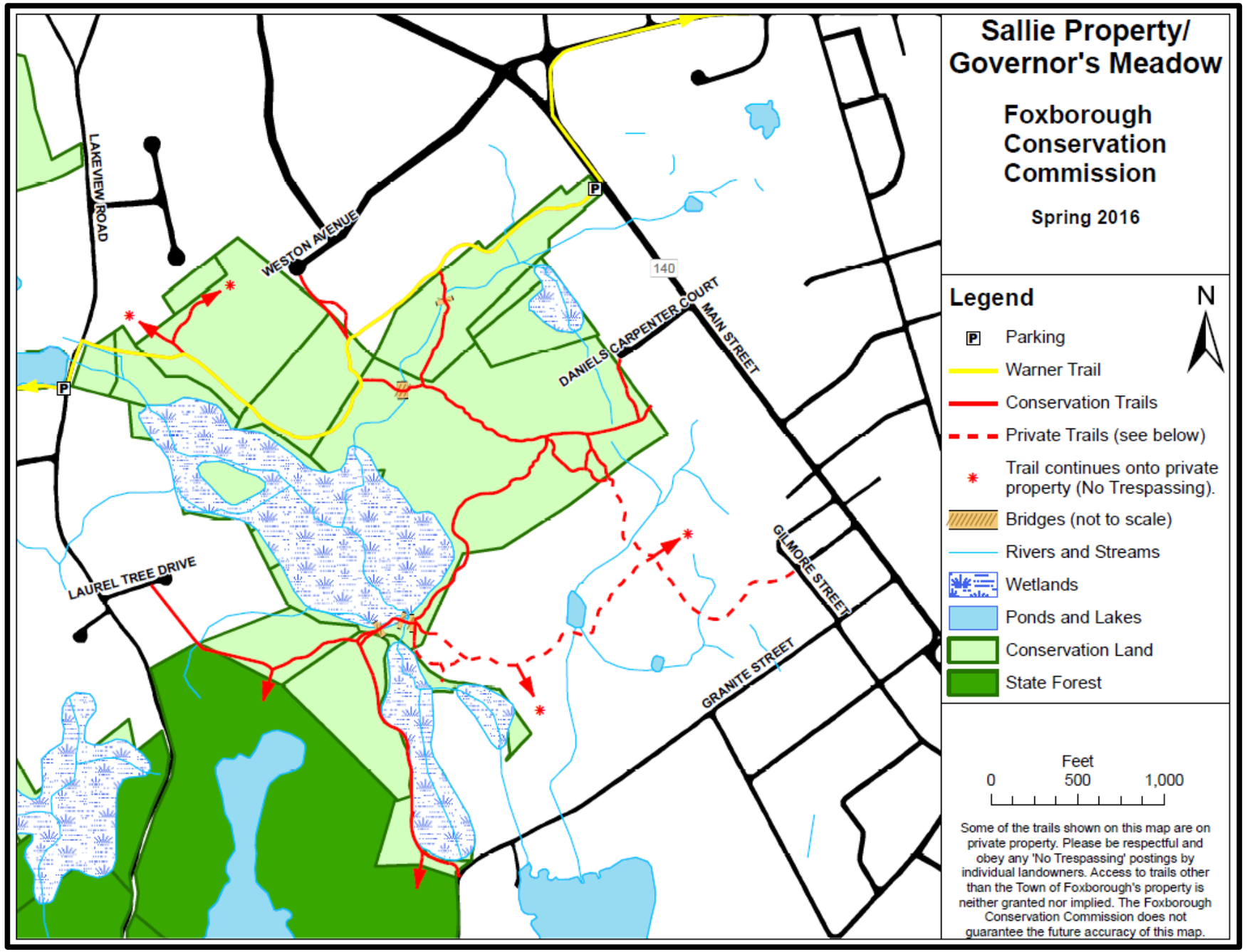
The trailhead to this 133-acre conservation area begins at the property's Main Street parking lot, where you will find a large wooden trail map kiosk, which was created and built by Thomas Donnelly as his Eagle Scout Project.

In 1967, a 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 Norfolk County Extension Service determined the area to be exceptionally well-suited for wildlife and recreation. The low-lands, nature trails, and inviting picnic spots certainly contributed to this determination.

Trails from Granite Street lead to the Devil's Den area *(left)*, which is a large boulder next to the brook that runs through Governor's Meadow. This property has many trails for passive recreational use only.

The Sallie ("Say-lee") property's trails (some of which overlap) include the following:

- 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 could often be found "playing" in the woods and loved to hike in this area. He also enjoyed studying the property's diverse geology, including many 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
N
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
Feet
0
500
1,000
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LAKEVIEW ROAD
WESTON AVENUE
140
DANIELS CARPENTER COURT
MAIN STREET
GILMORE STREET
GRANITE STREET
LAUREL TREE DRIVE
P

Harold B. Clark Town Forest

Access:

- Park at the end of Forest Road for the main trail 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 areas of this property were purchased in 1980 from Foxboro Co. (now Schneider Electric).

This conservation area, named after longtime Conservation Commission Chair Harold B. Clark, has over 300 acres of woodlands, a floating bog, two ponds, and vernal pools.

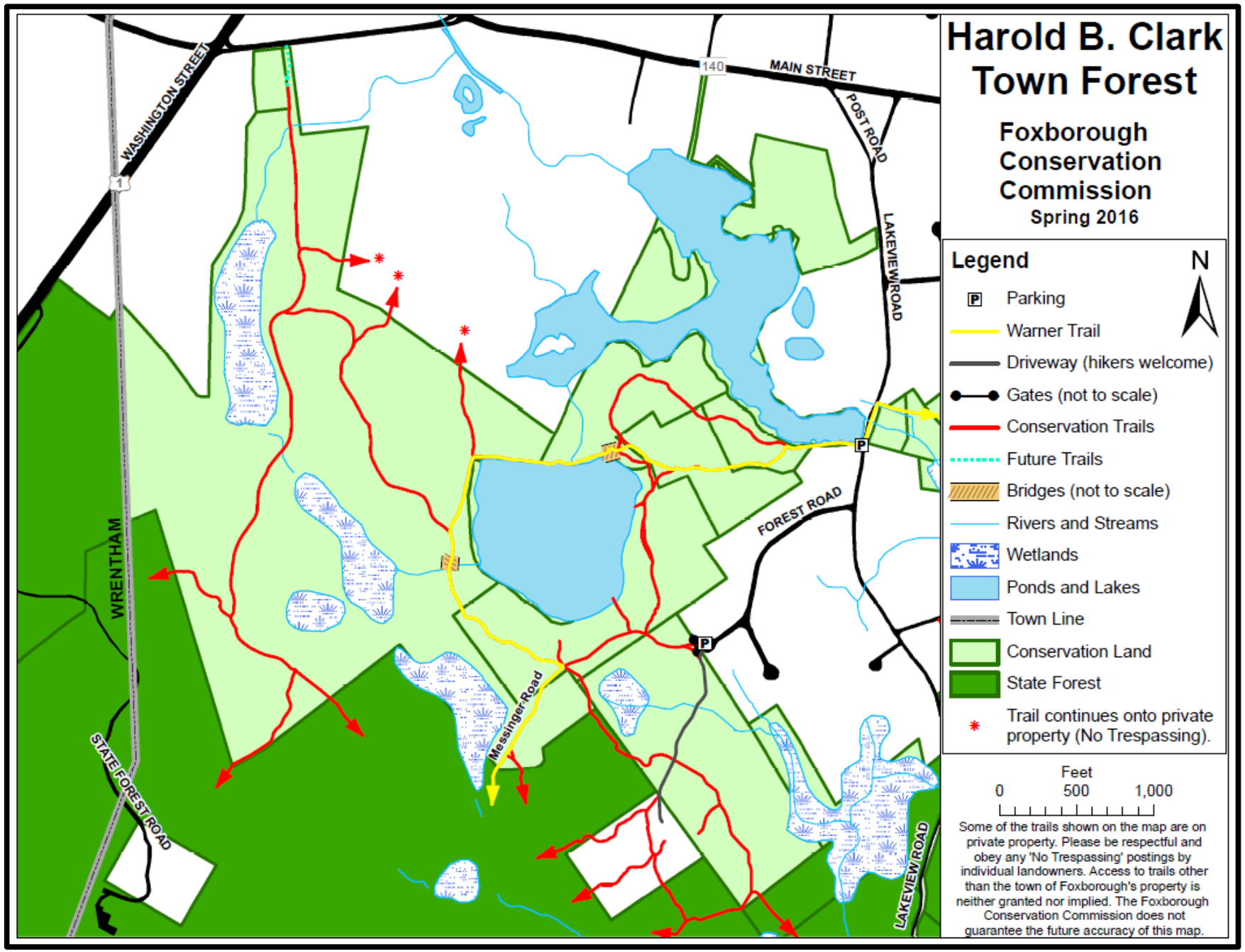
Both Lakeview Pond (31 acres) and Upper Carpenter Pond (20 acres) are shallow, so are best paddled (kayak/canoe) in spring/early summer.

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 has been developed. Lakeview Pond also has a launching area that can be used for canoes, kayaks and Jon boats; no gas-powered boats are allowed.

From the trailhead at the end of Forest Road, a trail encircles the 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
N
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).
Feet
0
500
1,000
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WASHINGTON STREET
1
140
MAIN STREET
POST ROAD
LAKEVIEW ROAD
FOREST ROAD
WRENTHAM
STATE FOREST ROAD
Messinger Road
LAKEVIEW ROAD
P

F. Gilbert Hills State Forest

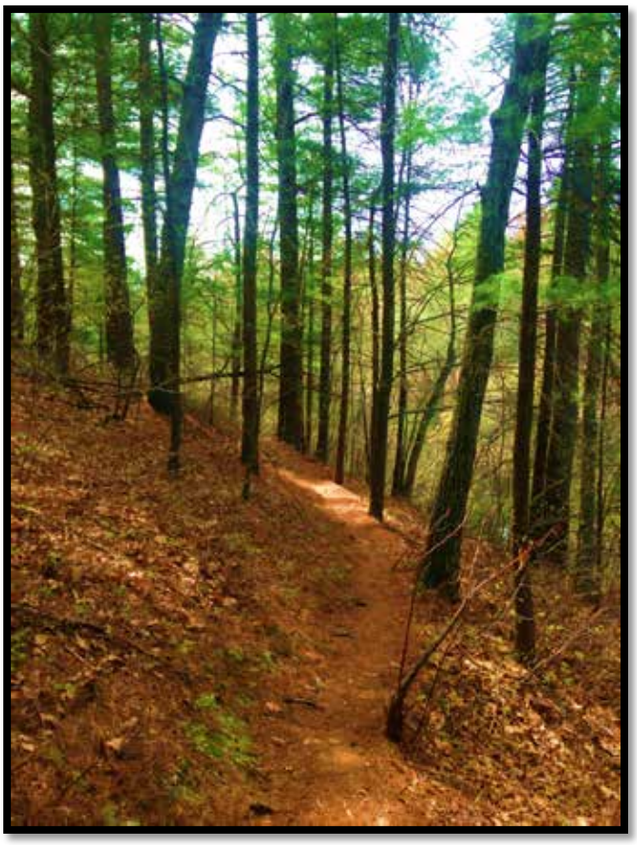
Access:

- A small parking area is across from the State Forest Headquarters on Mill Street, but the park has many entrances; 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 for only $5 an acre. Since 1992, the DCR has added 200 acres to this State Forest.

The State Forest has 23 miles of trails for visitors to enjoy. Included in these trails is a section of the Warner Trail, a long-distance hiking trail that runs between Sharon and Rhode Island.



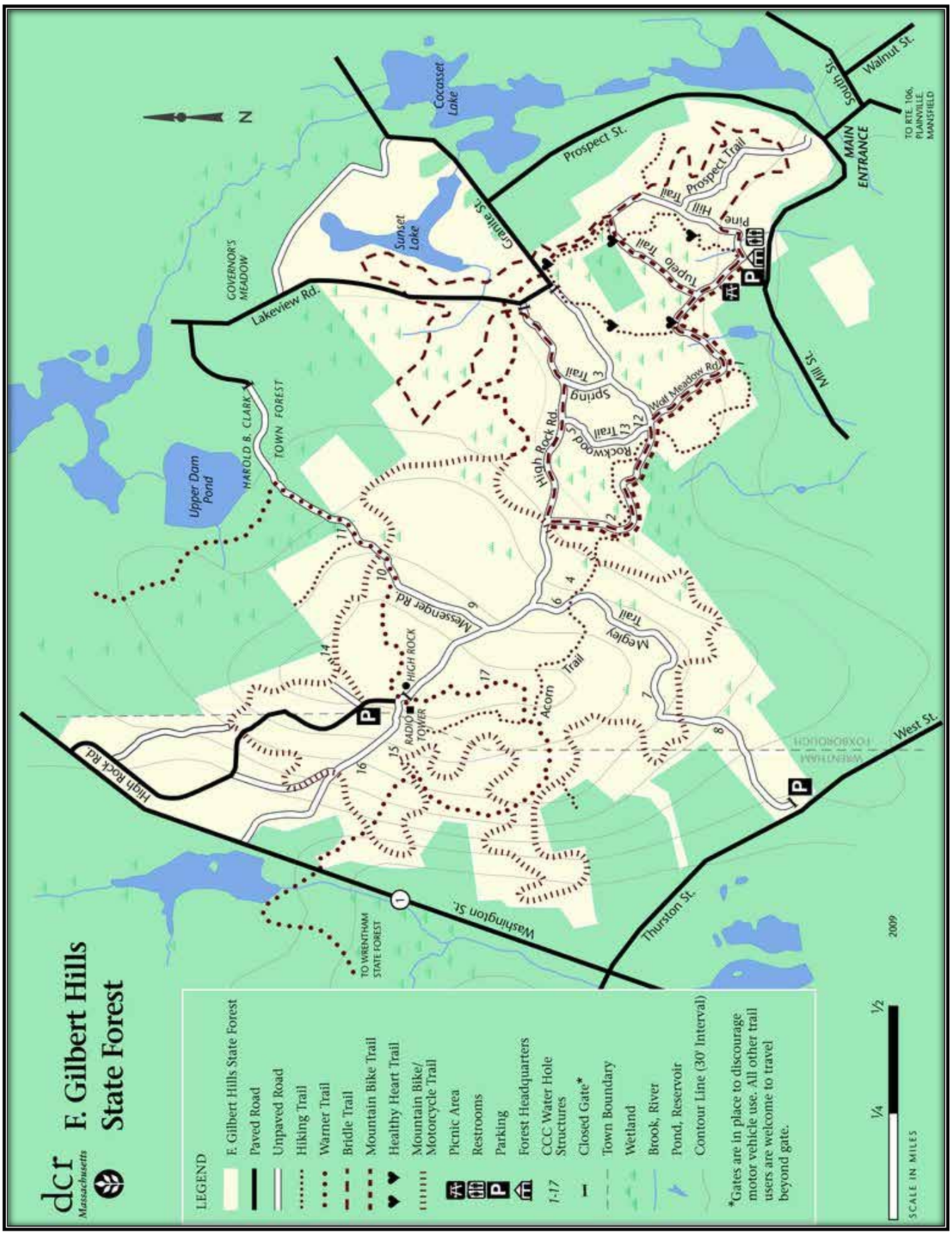
There are several vernal pools along the trails that you can carefully explore. If you are lucky, you may be able to find some of the creatures that live and breed exclusively in these unique and fragile habitats, including frogs, toads, salamanders and a variety of bugs.

With many rock outcroppings and overlooks that offer a variety of scenic vistas, people like to visit the summit of High Rock to gain expansive views of land as far away as Rhode Island.

Mountain biking is a popular activity on the property, and there is also a designated trail for off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and horseback riding. OHMs are allowed ***only*** on the designated loop (blazed in yellow) and are strictly prohibited from all other trails. In addition, OHM use is only allowed during the riding season, which generally runs (weather permitting) between early May through November. Other passive recreation activities are also allowed, including orienteering, bird watching, snowshoeing 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 MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's 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 parking is available on Mill Street, just past a dip in the road near guard rails near a stream crossing, where you will see a small pull-over area. Trails can also be accessed through the State Forest's trails.

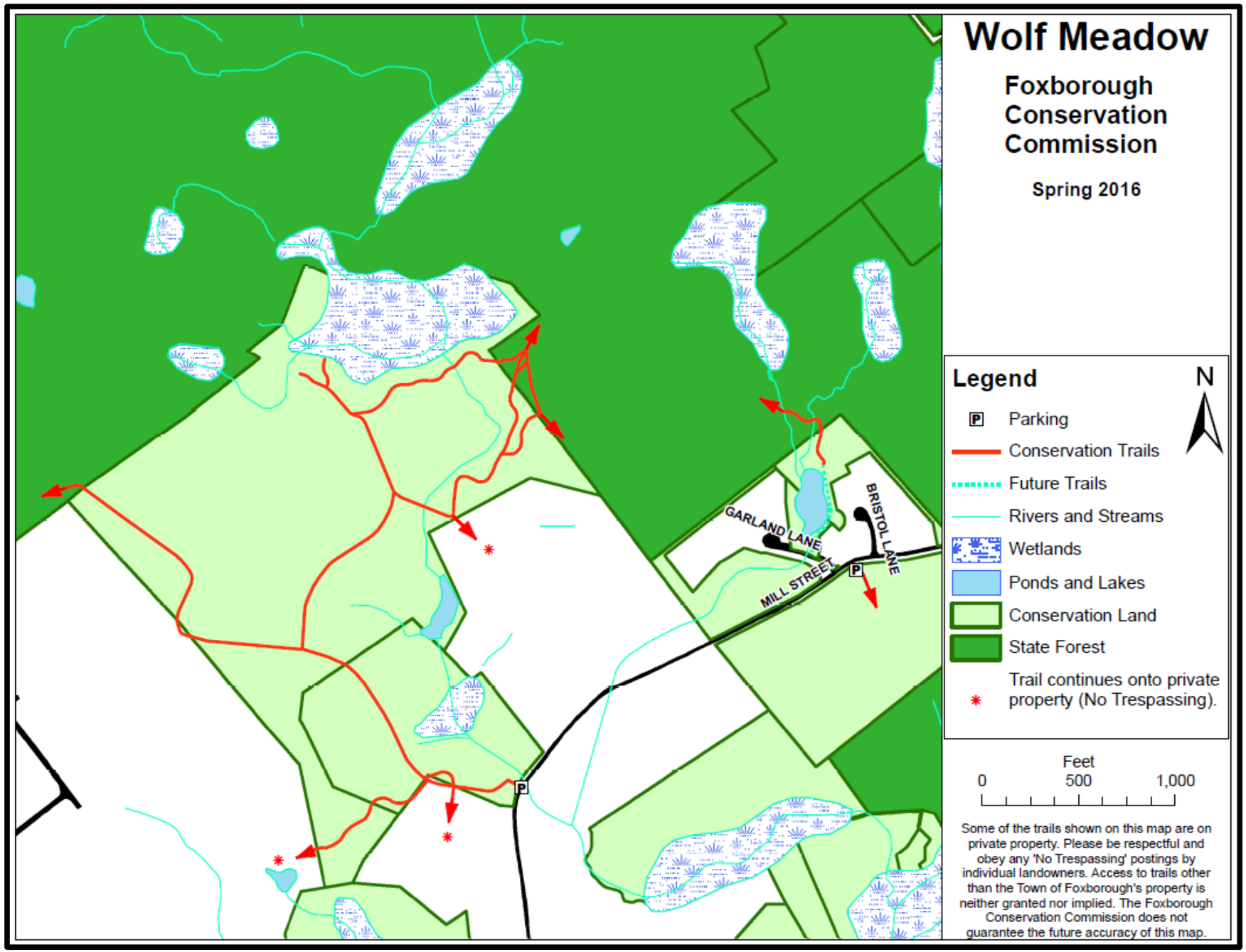
Acquisition began: 1964

This 102 acre area is named after Wolf Meadow, 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 through the woods. This large forested area has trails that take you deeper into the State Forest, so it can be easy to lose track of where you are. Please make note of any landmarks you can find to avoid losing your sense of direction.

The vernal pools that are scattered throughout the property are most noticeable in the spring and early summer. In mid to late summer, salamander metamorphs (halfway through the process of becoming adults) emerge from the water and then 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 their original locations to minimize your impact on the habitat for these animals.

Spotted salamanders and red-backed salamanders may be found under logs and rocks in the park's upland areas. However, we have 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 leave them where they are but take photos and then let the Conservation Manager know about them as soon as possible. Thank you!


Wolf Meadow
Foxborough Conservation Commission
Spring 2016
Legend
N
Parking
Conservation Trails
Future Trails
Rivers and Streams
Wetlands
Ponds and Lakes
Conservation Land
State Forest
Trail continues onto private property (No Trespassing).
GARLAND LANE
BRISTOL LANE
MILL STREET
Feet
0
500
1,000
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Cocasset River Park

Access:

- Off Mill Street, between houses #130 and 136 with a large parking lot.
- Off South Street, near a brown conservation sign, with parking for a few cars.

Acquisition began: 1962

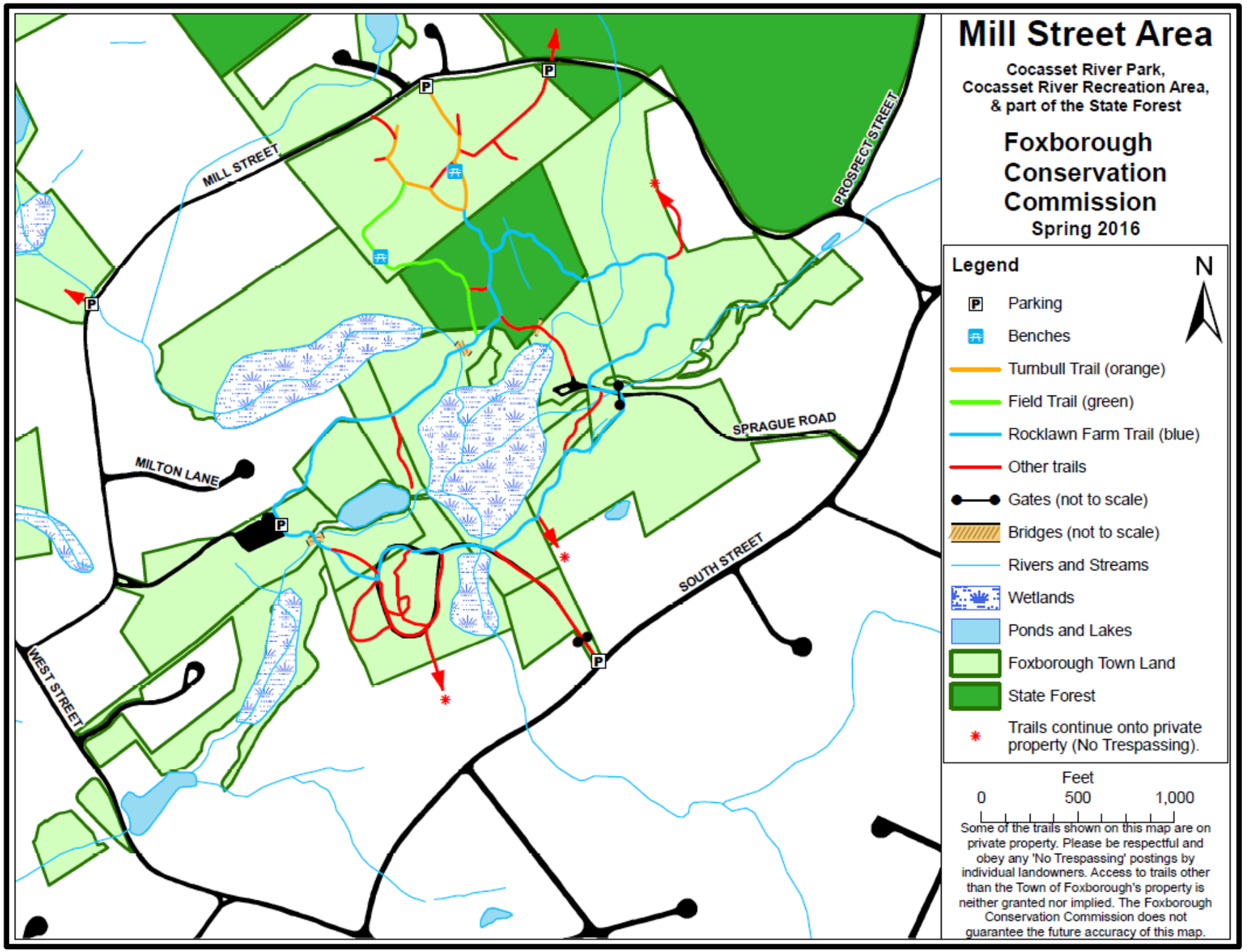
This 50-acre property established on June 25, 1966, has an excavated spring-fed pond *(right)*, which was initially created for use as a swimming beach, has swings, picnic areas, two ball fields, and a large net-work of nature trails.

The fenced in area around the pond is currently closed to the public. Without many visitors, the area has unintentionally become a sanctuary for a wide variety of wildlife species. The beach is a very popular nesting area for the property's thriving turtle population *(see photo, below, of snapping turtle in the process of laying her eggs)*.

This conservation area's trails, combined with the Cocasset River Recreation Area's trails, create an extensive trail network between Mill, West and South Streets.

In addition to a pond and the Cocasset River, the conservation area has a cranberry bog, vernal pools, and a variety of wetland types. The area's diverse habitats provide some exceptional opportunities for passive recreational use, including nature and bird watching, hiking, fishing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and fishing.

The conservation area also serves a vital role in the protection of Foxborough's public drinking water supply. Nearby Town wells contribute 600,000 to 700,000 gallons of water per day to the Town.


Mill Street Area
Cocasset River Park,
Cocasset River Recreation Area,
& part of the State Forest
Foxborough
Conservation
Commission
Spring 2016
Legend
N
Parking
Benches
Turnbull 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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MILL STREET
PROSPECT STREET
SPRAGUE ROAD
MILTON LANE
SOUTH STREET
WEST STREET

Cocasset River Recreation Area (CRRA)

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

Acquisition began: 1964 ~ *Please note that the CRRA 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 adult parishioners were employed, so could not look after their children during the summer, so Rock Lawn Farm became their children's summer refuge, teaching them good values and preparing them for the future. When it was sold in 1898, it was named St. Augustine's Farm.

During World War I, SSJE lacked funding to maintain the farm, so 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, when it 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 Town's Board of Recreation 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):* ¼ mile
- Field Trail up and back *(green markers):* ¾ mile
- Rocklawn Farm Trail loop *(blue markers):* 1½ 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, near the Sharon town line.
- Park just off East Street (east side) at a pull-off with 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

This 400 acre greenbelt, located in the Canoe River Aquifer's *(see map, next page)* upper watershed, runs between Greeley's Pond to the north and Mansfield's town line to the south.

The area's first acquisitions focused on parcels abutting the Canoe River, followed by an aggressive land acquisition program lasting through the 1980s.

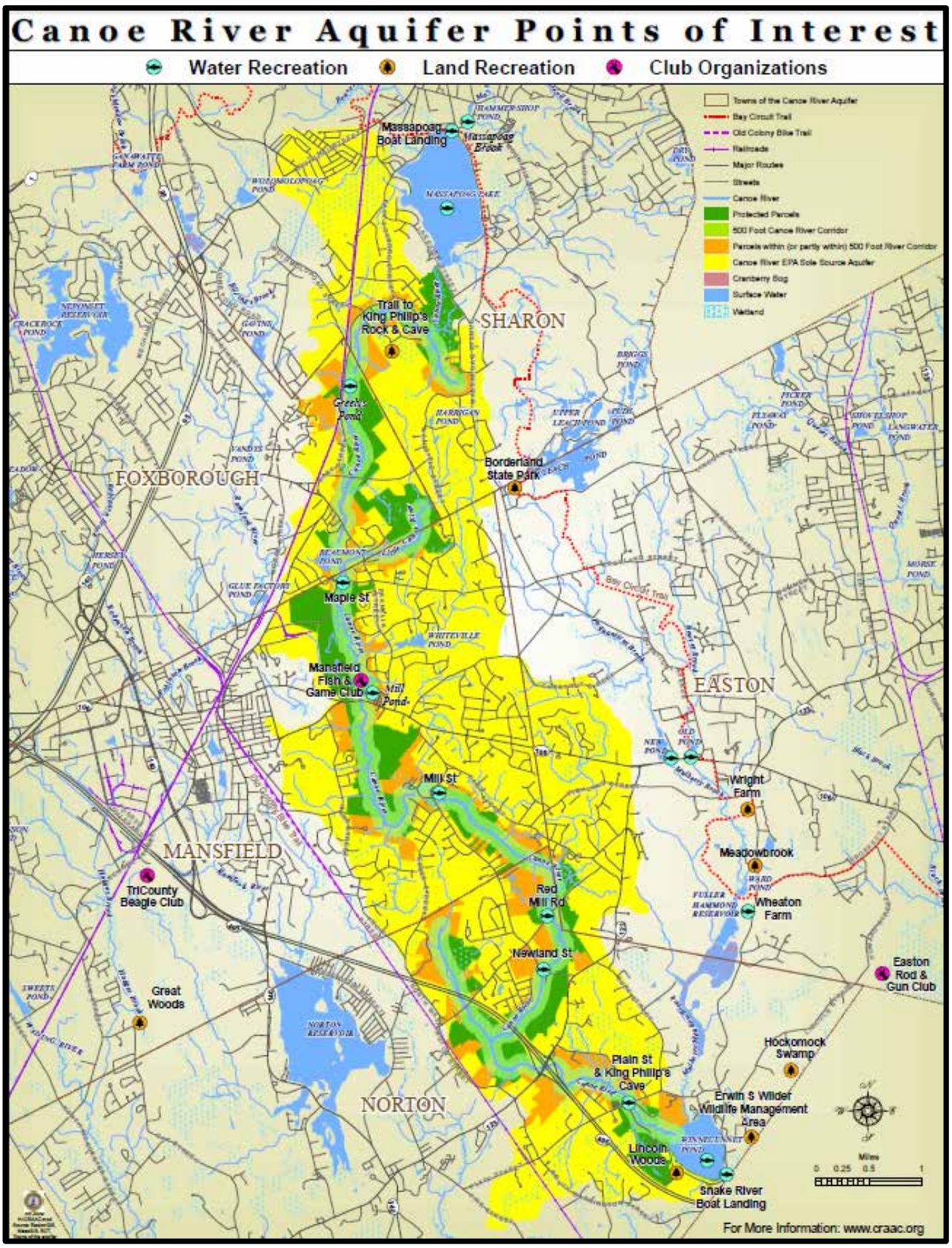
This large greenbelt, traversed by a power line corridor, has many trails for passive recreational use running along or through fields, vernal pools, oak/pine forests, wetlands, shrub swamps, streams and the Canoe River.

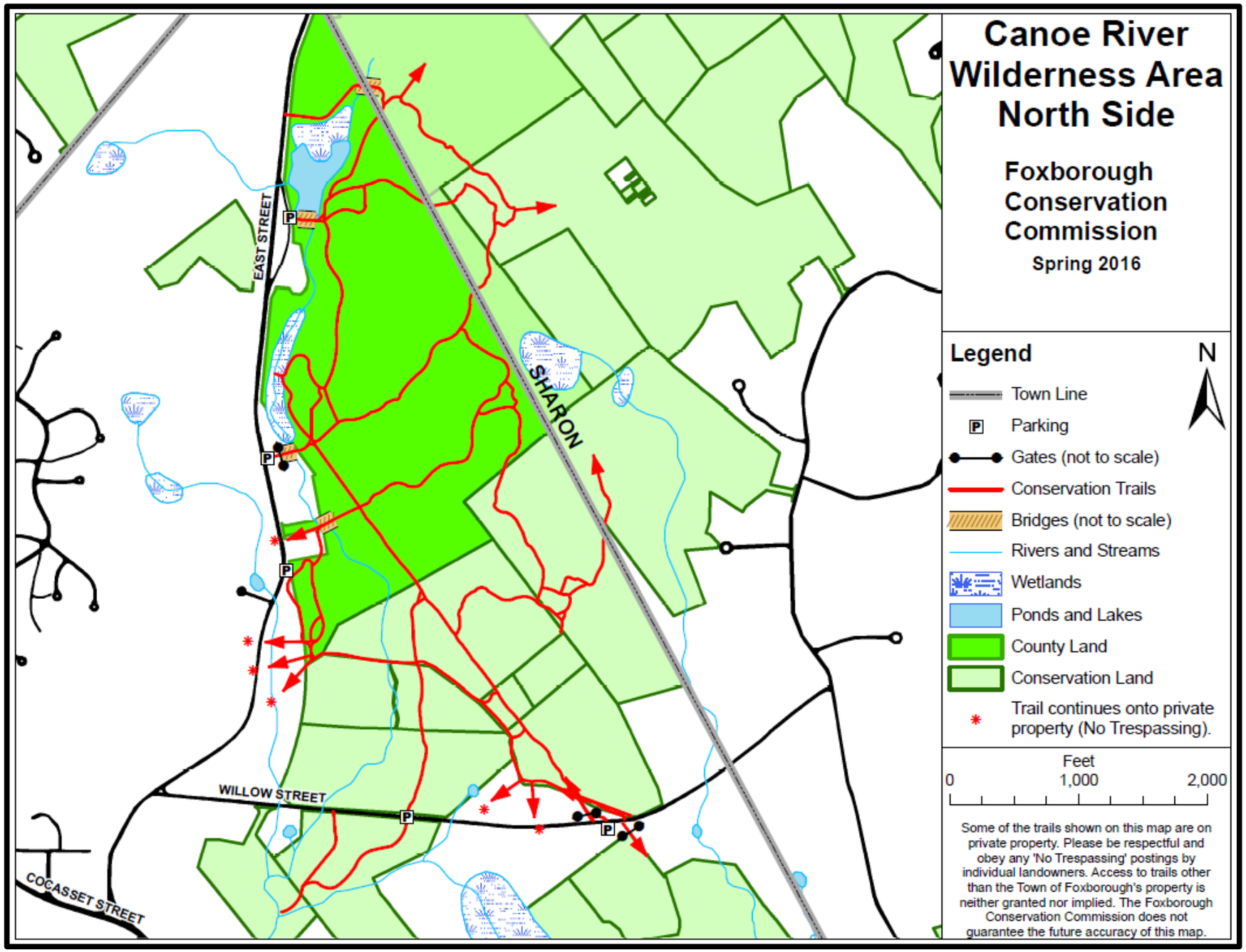
In 1974, the MA Landscape and Natural Areas Survey rated the area's excellent bird habitat to be of local, state, and regional significance. Noteworthy bird sighting have included bluebirds, indigo buntings, rough legged hawks (nesting far south of their traditional breeding range), various warblers,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

While wandering along the trails, look for several vernal pools that abut the trails. 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 the many Scout projects that created 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 1991, and was 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. This sole source aquifer supplies drinking water for more than 66,000 people (1993 data).


Canoe River Aquifer Points of Interest
Water Recreation
Land Recreation
Club Organizations
Towns of the Canoe River Aquifer
Bay Circuit Trail
Old Colony Bike Trail
Railroads
Major Routes
Streets
Canoe River
Protected Parcels
500 Foot Canoe River Corridor
Parcels within (or partly within) 500 Foot River Corridor
Canoe River EPA Sole Source Aquifer
Cranberry Bog
Surface Water
Wetland
Massapoag Boat Landing
Massapoag Brook
Trail to King Philip's Rock & Cave
SHARON
Borderland State Park
FOXBOROUGH
Maple St
Mansfield Fish & Game Club
Mill Pond
EASTON
Mill St
Wright Farm
Meadowbrook
Wheaton Farm
MANSFIELD
TriCounty Beagle Club
Red Mill Rd
Newland St
Easton Rod & Gun Club
Great Woods
Hockomock Swamp
Plain St & King Philip's Cave
Erwin S Wilder Wildlife Management Area
NORTON
Lincoln Woods
Snake River Boat Landing
Miles
0 0.25 0.5 1
For More Information: www.craac.org


Canoe River Wilderness Area North Side
Foxborough Conservation Commission
Spring 2016
Legend
N
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).
Feet
0
1,000
2,000
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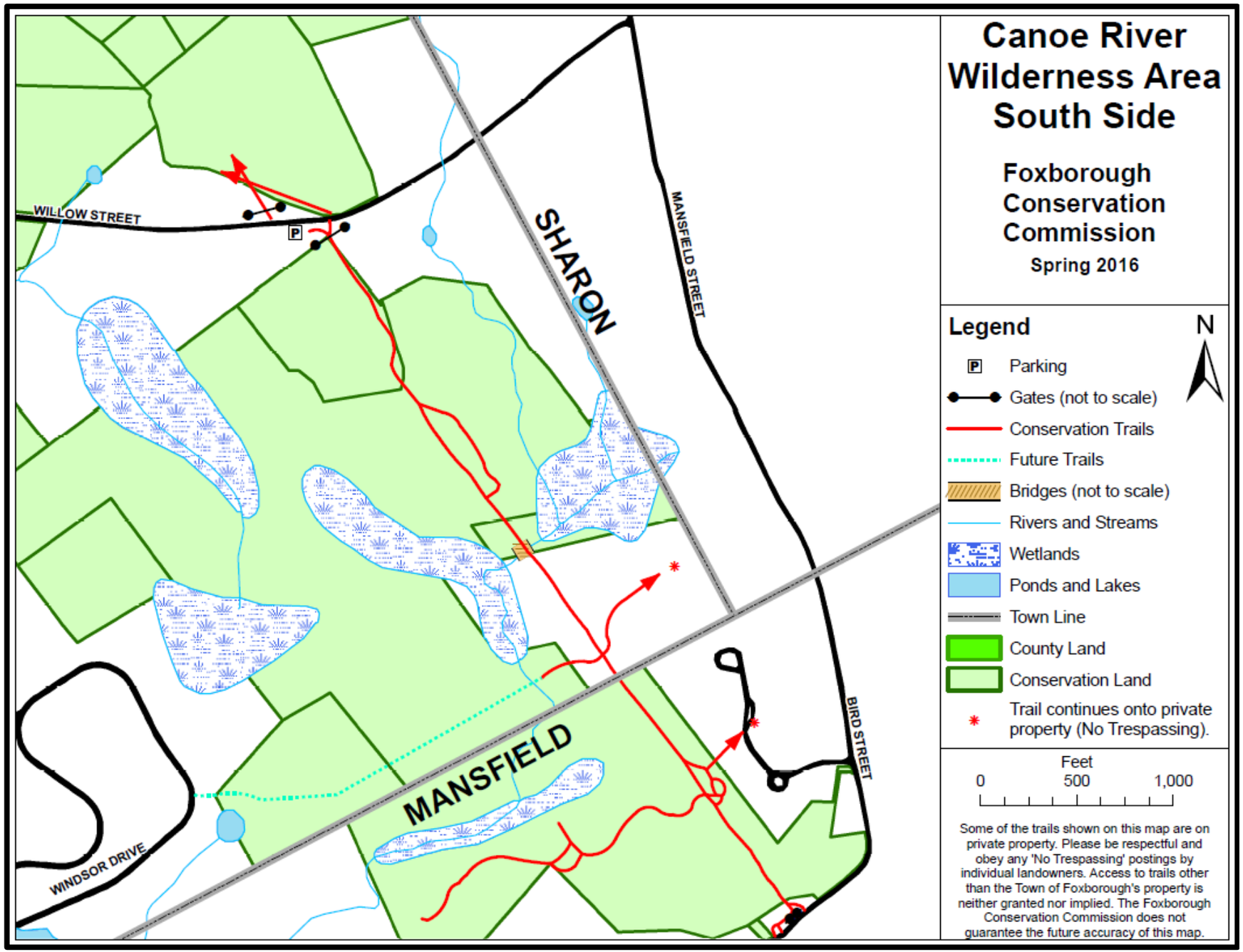
EAST STREET
SHARON
WILLOW STREET
COCASSET STREET
P


Canoe River
Wilderness Area
South Side
Foxborough
Conservation
Commission
Spring 2016
Legend
N
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
Trail continues onto private property (No Trespassing).
Feet
0
500
1,000
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WILLOW STREET
SHARON
MANSFIELD STREET
MANSFIELD
BIRD STREET
WINDSOR DRIVE
P

Beaumont's Pond Area

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

Acquisition began: 1975

The Town purchased this area from Musto Corp. in 1997 (negotiations began in 1975) for $120,000. This 20-acre property is located off of Hodges Road / Brookside Drive and is home to a wide variety of wildlife. After it purchased the property, the Conservation Commission held an extensive cleanup to restore the area to a pristine condition.

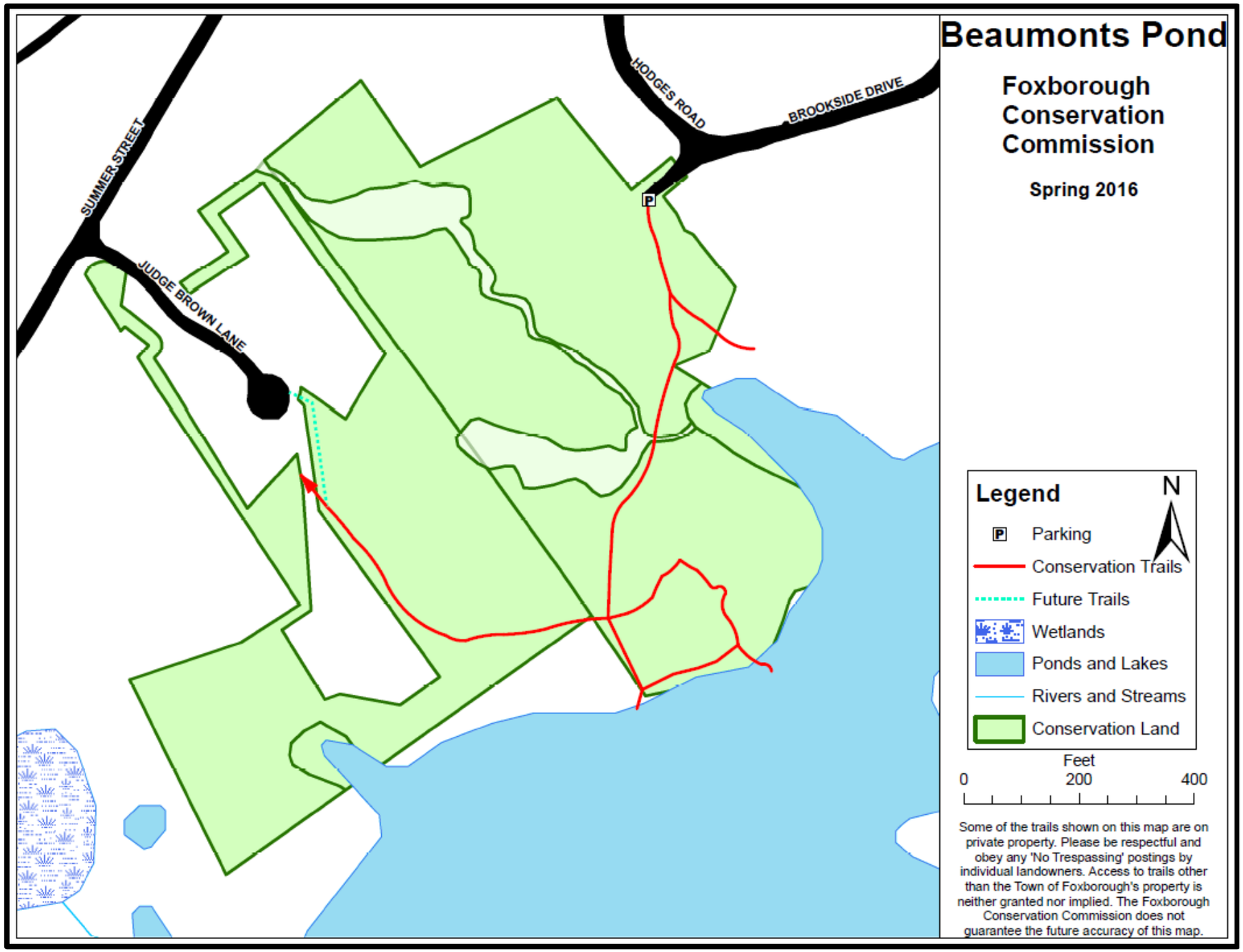
The property abuts Beaumont's Pond, which is fed by the Canoe River after it flows out of the Canoe River Wilderness Area green-belt (which is a stretch of land set aside for conservation purposes). The pond, however, is privately owned.

Hodges Brook begins on this property and flows into Beaumont's Pond. The brook is said to support a 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, including many species of birds, amphibians, mammals and bugs. A healthy population of dragonflies lives in the area and seems to be keeping down the mosquito population, since surprisingly few of these pests seem to be here.

During the winter, if you look closely, you will probably be able to find animal tracks in the snow, including fisher tracks (who are not cats). Fishers are energetic members of the weasel family and their tracks can often be found hopping 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 tracks during the winter, which is one of the best times to visit the woods and swamps of Foxborough.


Beaumonts Pond
Foxborough
Conservation
Commission
Spring 2016
SUMMER STREET
JUDGE BROWN LANE
HODGES ROAD
BROOKSIDE DRIVE
P
Legend
N
Parking
Conservation Trails
Future Trails
Wetlands
Ponds and Lakes
Rivers and Streams
Conservation Land
Feet
0
200
400
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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 from #170); a conservation area sign will soon be added.

Access, East Side *(Lincoln Hill):*

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

Acquisition began: 1985

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

Murray's Brook, on the western side of Oak Street, is a 136 acre area located between I-95 and Oak Street. The property includes forest, vernal pools, wetlands, and Murray's Brook, which eventually flows into the Rumford River.

Lincoln Hill, located on the eastern side of Oak Street, is 71 acres in size and is named after the former children's camp at the site.

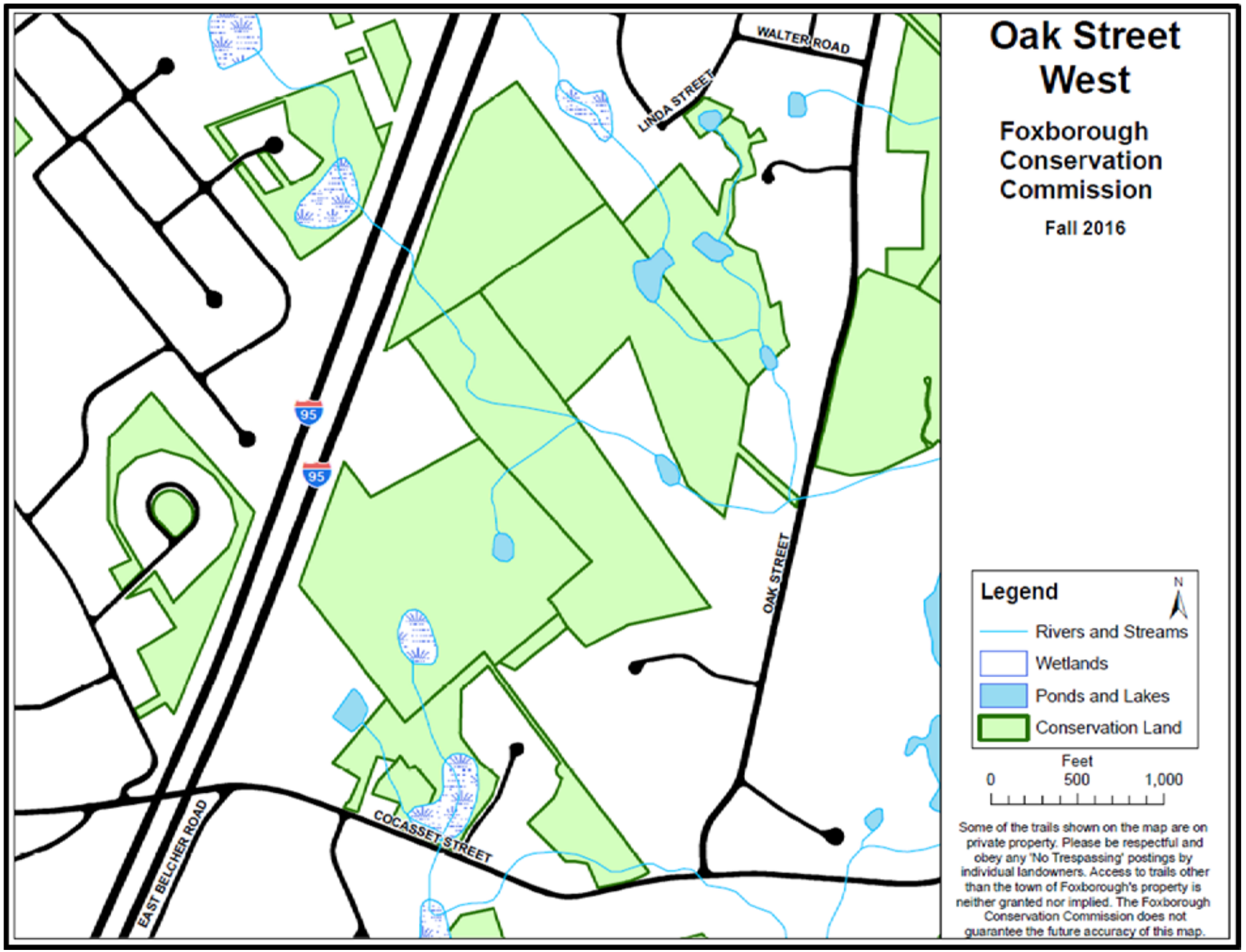
This property has numerous wetlands and vernal pools, as well as streams, woodlands, and the western shore of Smith's Pond.

After the Town purchased Lincoln Hill, the Jaycee's leased the site for a children's camp and they also held an annual Halloween "haunted" house in one of the property's buildings.

Several old and dilapidated cabins were removed years ago, but if you search the property and look closely, you may still be able to find the 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
WALTER ROAD
LINDA STREET
OAK STREET
95
95
EAST BELCHER ROAD
COCASSET STREET
Legend
N
Rivers and Streams
Wetlands
Ponds and Lakes
Conservation Land
Feet
0
500
1,000
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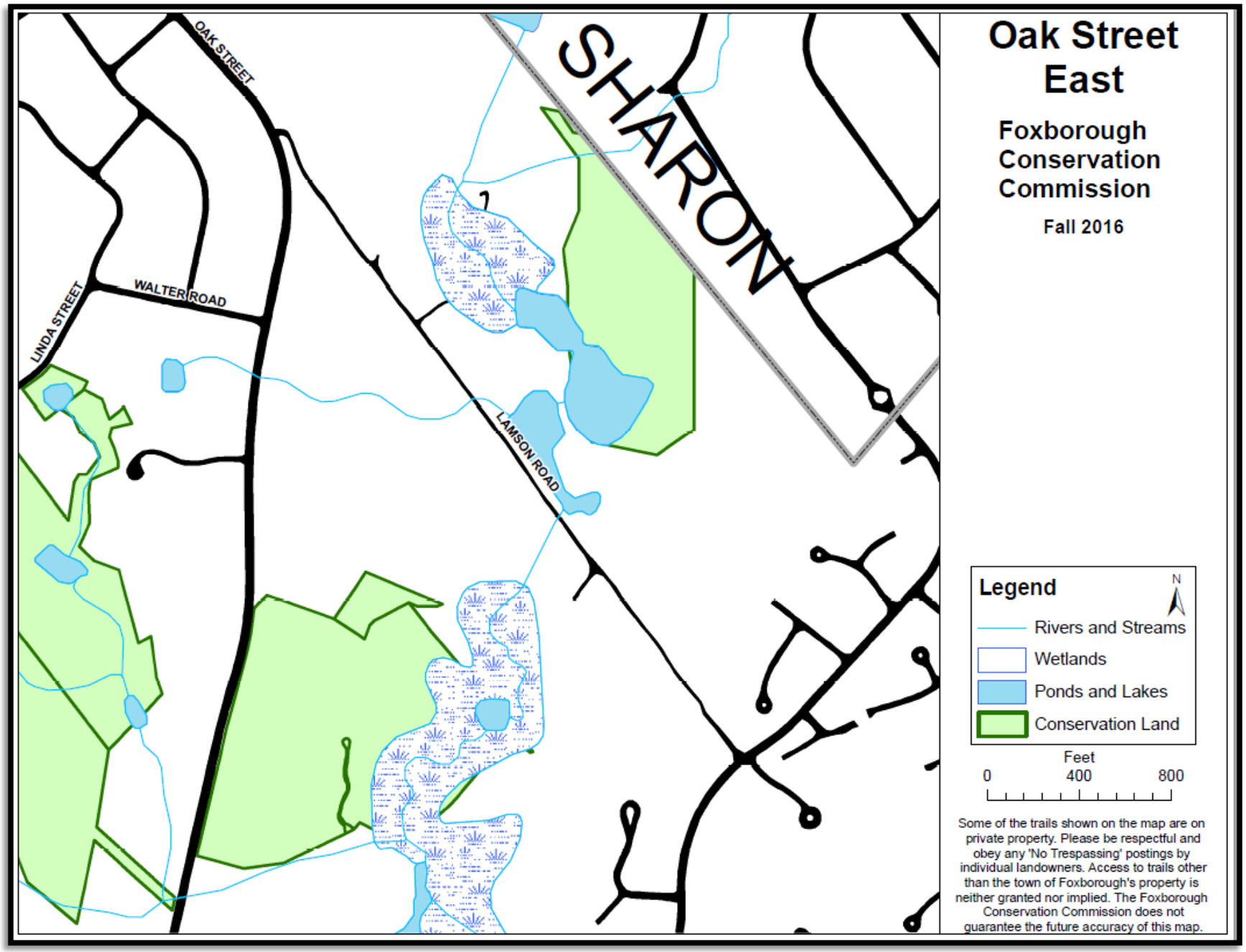
OAK STREET
SHARON
WALTER ROAD
LINDA STREET
LAMSON ROAD
Oak Street East
Foxborough Conservation Commission
Fall 2016
Legend
N
Rivers and Streams
Wetlands
Ponds and Lakes
Conservation Land
Feet
0
400
800
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Rumford River Greenbelt

Access *(Rumford River, Hocking's Ridge):*

- Off Cocasset Street *(roughly across from Oak Street);* enter along the left side of a fenced horse pasture. *Please note that parking may prove to be difficult.*
- The area can also be accessed through the end of Aldrich and Alexander Roads.

Access *(Bleachery Ponds):* Morse Street; *parking is limited.*

Acquisition began: 1969

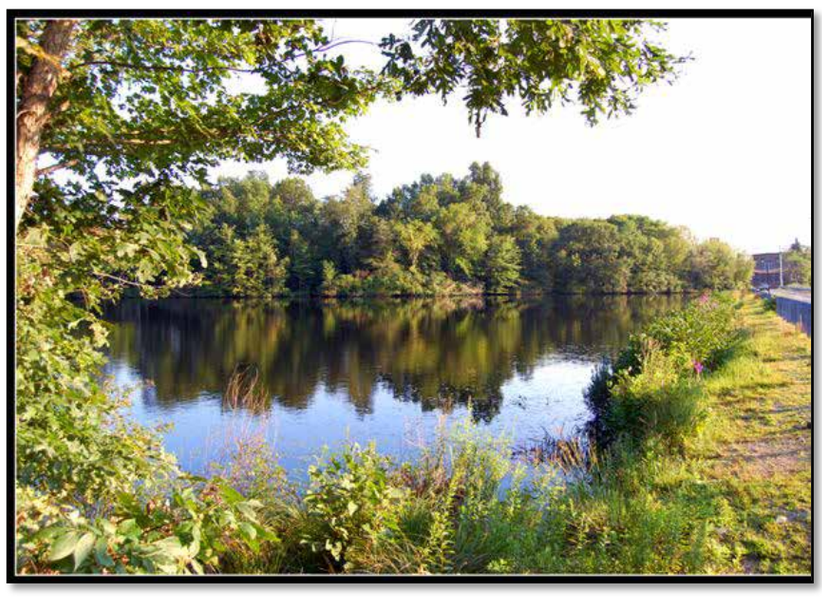
This large greenbelt of open space is comprised of nearly 300 acres of land that is bisectected by the Rumford River; please be aware that the area's trail system is not well developed. ***The use of motorized vehicles in this conservation area is strictly prohibited.***

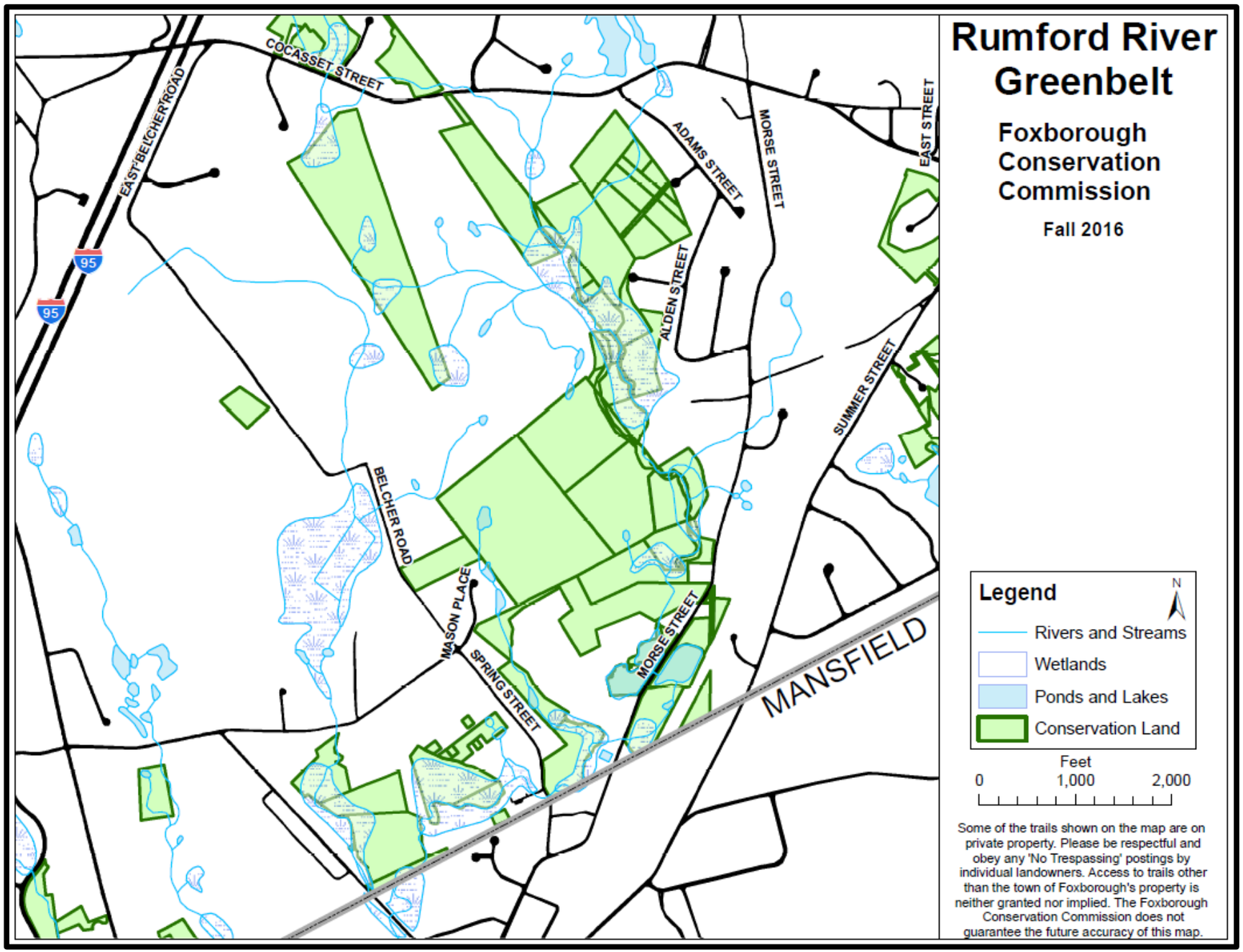
Rumford River and Hocking's Ridge

This 164-acre area, purchased by the Town in 1974 for $175,000, is located between Cocasset Street to the north and the Bleachery Ponds to the south-west. The area contains a wide variety of habitats including wetlands, fields, forests, vernal pools, eskers, swamps, and ponds. The Rumford River *(left)* runs through the center of the property, as does the Hocking's Ridge (an esker, created 15,000 years ago during the last Ice Age), named after long-time Conservation Commission Chair-man Bill Hocking, who was fond of the area's unique geology.

The Bleachery Ponds (Glue Factory Ponds)

The Bleachery Ponds, bisected by Morse Street, are in an industrual area that has old brick factories. The ponds are nice places to visit to watch wildlife, fish (catch and release only), or just search for frogs, turtles or other critters that inhabit the area. The eastern pond has a rocky shoreline that is fun to explore in the late summer, when the water levels are usually low.




Rumford River Greenbelt
Foxborough Conservation Commission
Fall 2016
COCASSET STREET
EAST BELCHER ROAD
95
95
ADAMS STREET
MORSE STREET
EAST STREET
ALDEN STREET
SUMMER STREET
BELCHER ROAD
MASON PLACE
SPRING STREET
MORSE STREET
MANSFIELD
Legend
N
Rivers and Streams
Wetlands
Ponds and Lakes
Conservation Land
Feet
0
1,000
2,000
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Wading River Watershed

Access:

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

Acquisition began: 1970

The Turner Property, located off Cedar Street, is bordered by the Wading River. This 24 acre property has a variety of habitats, including vernal pools, swamp, woodlands, and the Wading River. Ironically, the river is so swampy that it is unsuitable for wading. The scenic upstream area of the river is where the first beaver activity in the Town's recent history was documented.

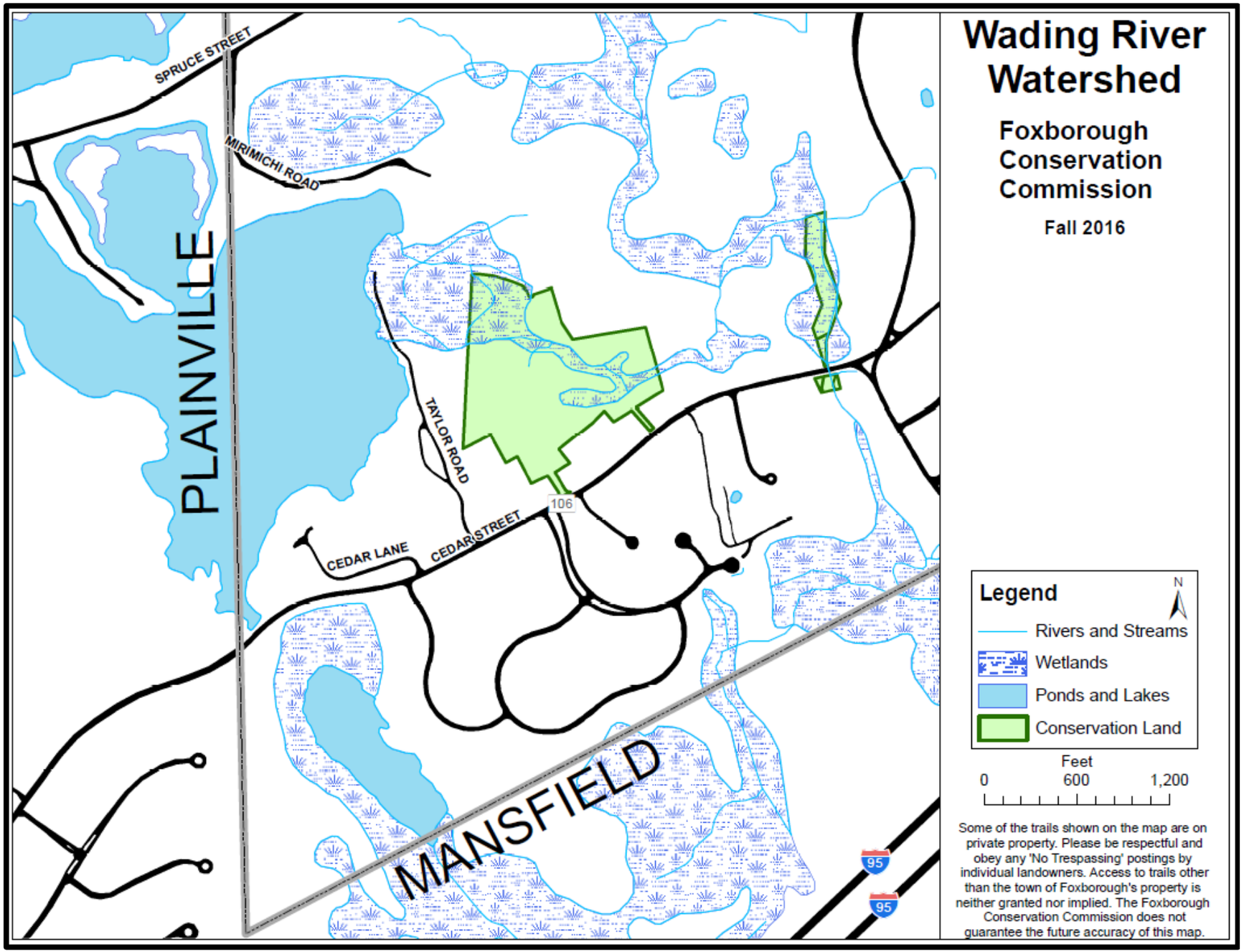
The Turner Property is located across the river from the Independent Sportsmen's Club, so visitors should be aware that they could hear gun shots during their visit. The Club, which gives firearms training classes, has rifle and pistol ranges, a sporting clays course, and skeet fields.

The Wading River, which runs along the property, begins at Lake Mirimichi, travels through the swampy area just north of Cedar Street, then flows south through Mansfield and Norton, before joining the Three Mile River. The Wading River has served as the boundary between Mansfield and Foxborough since 1670.

In the past, the MA Department of Fish and Game stocked the river with trout at the Cedar Street crossing but, unfortunately, no longer stock the area.

Nearby Witch's Pond and the abutting Atlantic white cedar swamp *(left)* are managed by the Town's Water and Sewer Commission.

The area, which is critical to the environmental integrity of the southwestern portion of Town, is included in Foxborough's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Unfortunately, since it is the site of the Town's public wells, the area is not open to the public.


Wading River Watershed
Foxborough Conservation Commission
Fall 2016
SPRUCE STREET
MIRIMICHI ROAD
PLAINVILLE
TAYLOR ROAD
106
CEDAR LANE
CEDAR STREET
MANSFIELD
95
95
Legend
N
Rivers and Streams
Wetlands
Ponds and Lakes
Conservation Land
Feet
0
600
1,200
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Walden Farms Area / Mechanic Street

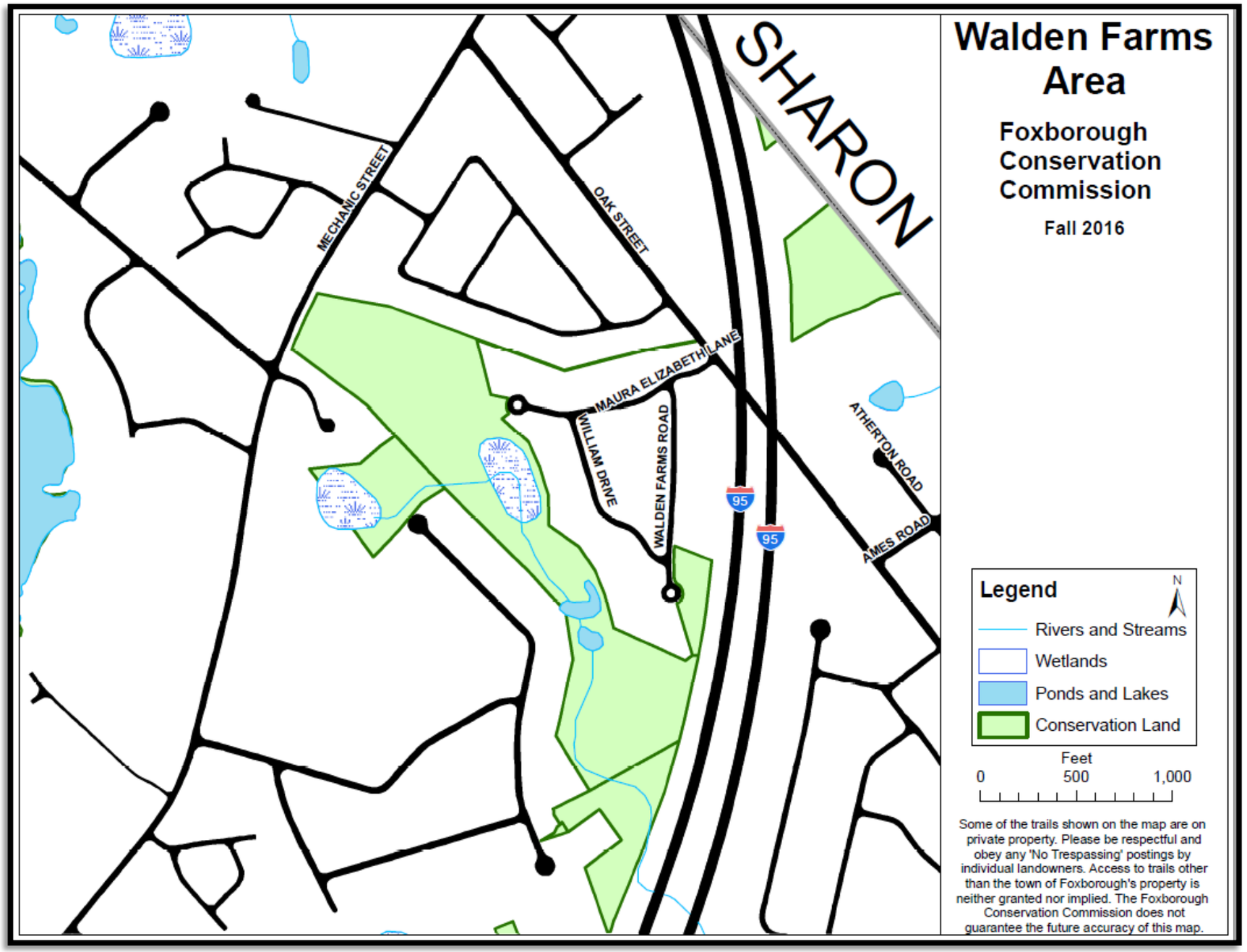
Access: This property's field is located at 200 Mechanic Street, but the easiest way to access the conservation area is from the end of Maura Elizabeth Lane.

Acquisition began: 1995

Donated to the Town by Walden Farms Corp. as the open space area of 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. All of the property's vernal pools and most of its uplands provide excellent habitat for amphibians and reptiles, including a population of spotted turtles (which were recently delisted by the MA NHESP).

Mitchell Green, a Foxborough *teen* who is working towards Eagle Scout rank, has been studying the site's unique vernal pools for several years. The water quality of the three vernal pools varies, since one abuts manicured lawns, the second is relatively isolated *(photo, below)* and the third is polluted by an unknown source. Mitchell has been studying the water quality of the three vernal pools since 2014.

In 2015, Mitchell's research project tied for 3rd place at the State's Science Fair and, in 2017, he came in second at the Regional Science Fair, qualifying him for the state finals at MIT. His project also won the Dr. Levin Award for public interest, Water Environment Federation Award, and invitation to the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition. Mitchell's water quality project still continues, but now focuses on discovering the source of one of the vernal pool's pollution. The data that he has collected has been very useful and allows the Commission to monitor the overall environmental health of the conservation area.


Walden Farms Area
Foxborough Conservation Commission
Fall 2016
SHARON
MECHANIC STREET
OAK STREET
MAURA ELIZABETH LANE
WILLIAM DRIVE
WALDEN FARMS ROAD
ATHERTON ROAD
AMES ROAD
95
95
Legend
N
Rivers and Streams
Wetlands
Ponds and Lakes
Conservation Land
Feet
0
500
1,000
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Hersey Farm

Access:

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

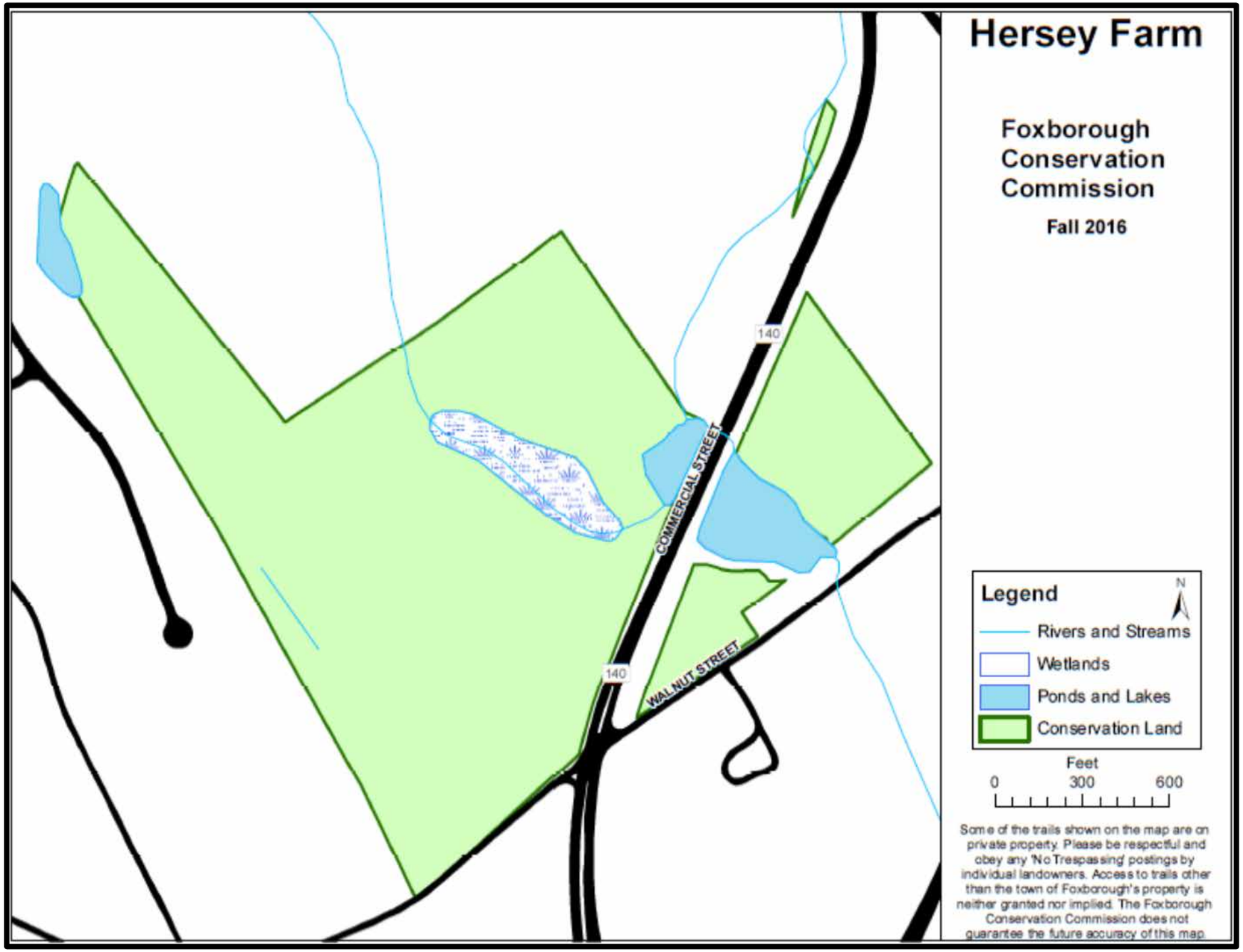
Foxborough's license for this property began: 1986

Hersey Farm was licensed to the Town in 1986 by MA Department of Agriculture after a legislative Bill regarding the property was passed. The property 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.

The Community Farm Stand on Walnut Street is staffed solely by volunteers, with all proceeds going back into the community via the Discretionary Fund (a non-profit group with no ties to Town government). Crops at Hersey Farm, including corn and other vegetables, are sold wholesale and grown on a rotating cycle; 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 to 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 hayfields, which are maintained by a local farmer, may be used for passive recreation activities including hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching and kite flying.


Hersey Farm
Foxborough
Conservation
Commission
Fall 2016
140
COMMERCIAL STREET
140
WALNUT STREET
Legend
N
Rivers and Streams
Wetlands
Ponds and Lakes
Conservation Land
Feet
0
300
600
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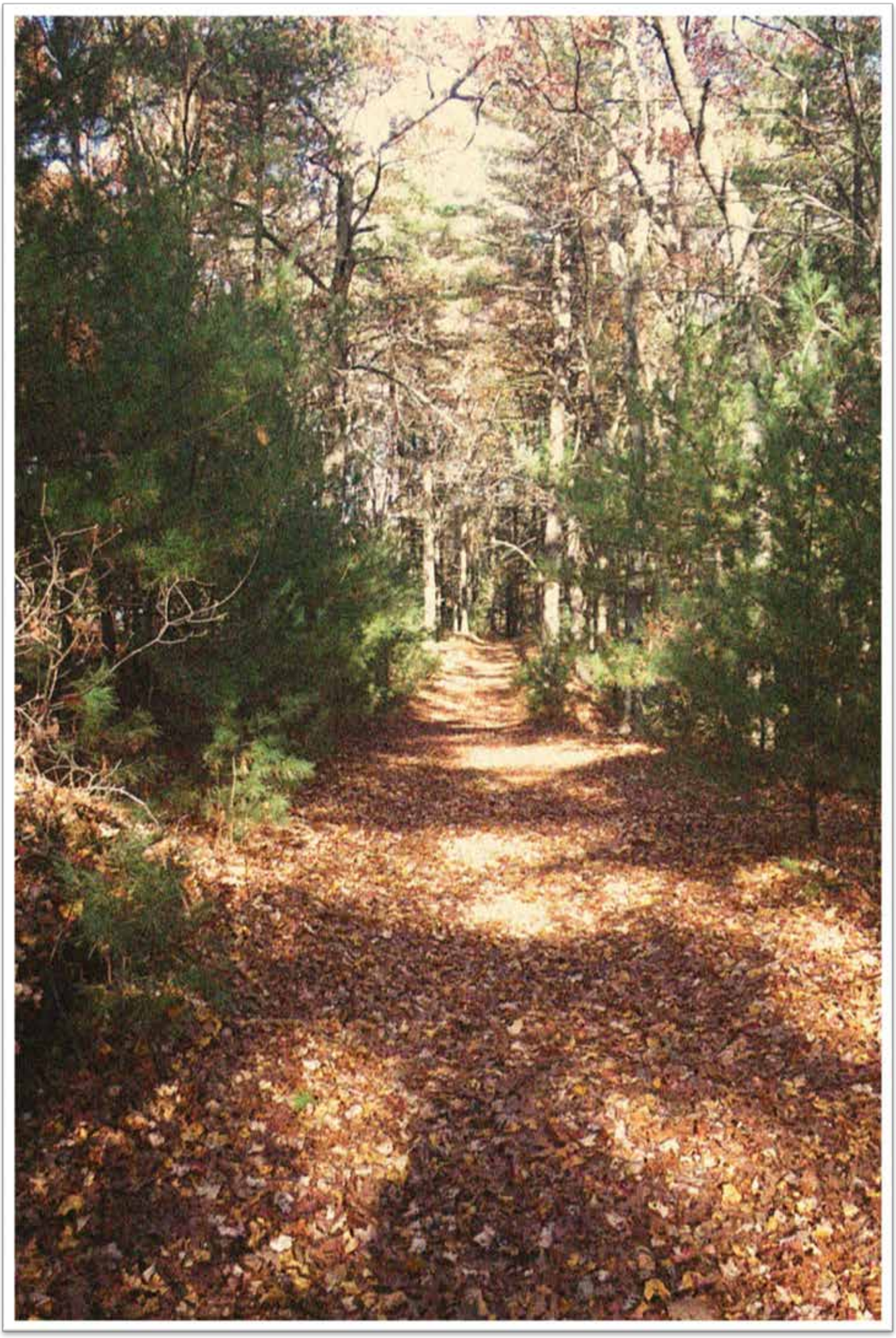
Notes:

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