

Places to Hike in Greater Worcester



6th Edition

Revised

September, 2022

Trail Maps

Directions

Property Descriptions

Places to Hike in Greater Worcester

Worcester is a great place to live. Over the years, many organizations have protected green space, for the benefit of everyone. This guide includes a brief description and map for each of the following areas.

1	Asnebumskit Hill	Paxton, Holden
2	Blackstone River Greenway & Blackstone Gateway Park	Worcester, Millbury
3	Blueberry Hill	West Boylston, Holden
4	Bovenzi Conservation Park	Worcester
5	Broad Meadow Brook	Worcester
6	Buck Hill Conservation Center	Spencer
7	Burncoat Pond	Spencer
8	Carlstrom Memorial Forest	Shrewsbury
9-1	Cascades & Boynton Parks	Paxton, Holden, Worcester
9-2	Cascading Waters & Cook's Pond	Worcester
10	Coes Reservoir	Worcester
11	Cook's Canyon	Barre
12	Cookson Park	Worcester
13	Cormier Woods	Uxbridge, Mendon
14	Cow Tunnel (Midstate Trail Segment)	Charlton
15	Crow Hill Savannah	Worcester
16	Difley Family Forest	Paxton
17	Donker Farm & Cook's Brook	Worcester
18	Eagle Lake	Holden
19	East Side Trail, Green Hill Park & Trinity Woods	Worcester
20	East-West Trail	Worcester
35	Elm Park & Newton Hill	Worcester
21	Elmer's Seat	Boylston
23	Fowler Brook Gorge & Fowler Brook South Fork	Worcester
22	Frank Cooke Forest	Leicester
23	God's Acre or Deed Rock & Tetasset Ridge	Worcester
24	Hadwen Arboretum	Worcester
25	Hadwen Park	Worcester
29-2	Holbrook Forest, KinneyWoods & Cook's Woods	Worcester, Holden
26	Henrickson Orchard	Holden
27	Illig Pond Conservation Area, Paxton Recreation Commission	Paxton
28	Kettle Brook	Worcester
29-1	KinneyWoods & Cook's Woods	Worcester, Holden
30	Lake Park	Worcester
31	Mandell Hill	Hardwick
39	Marois 28	Worcester
32	Moore State Park	Paxton
33	Moose Hill Wildlife Management	Paxton, Spencer
34	Moreland Woods	Worcester
51	Muir Meadow & Southwick Pond	Paxton

35	Newton Hill & Elm Park	Worcester
36	Nick's Woods	Worcester
37	Oak Hill & Waterman	Holden
38	Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge	Devens, Harvard, Ayer, Shirley
39	Parson's Cider Mill & Marois 28	Worcester
40	Patch Reservoir	Worcester
41	Perkins Farm	Worcester
42	Pierpont Meadow	Dudley
43	Porcupine Hill & Potter Sanctuary	Paxton, Holden
44	Poutwater Pond	Holden
45	space for new property	Holden
46	Purgatory Chasm	Sutton
47	Rail Trails	Sterling, Holden, Rutland, West Boylston
48	Rocky Pond Community Forest	Boylston
49	Sibley Farm	Spencer
50	Slater Woods & Hiland Park	Dudley, Oxford
51	Southwick Pond & Muir Meadow	Paxton, Leicester
52	Spencer State Forest	Spencer
53	Summer Star Wildlife Sanctuary®	Boylston
23	Tetasset Ridge	Worcester
19	Trinity Woods & East Side Trail	Worcester
54	Trout Brook	Holden
55	Tufts Branch Valley & Keekamoochaug Wildlife Sanctuaries	Dudley
56	Wadsworth Brook Conservation	Holden
57	Wieloch Woods	Dudley
58	White Oak Trail	Holden

Princeton, Massachusetts has not been included in this guide. This is a large area that has many recreational areas. Two significant ones are:

Mount Wachusett - <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/wachusett-mountain-state-reservation.html>

Wachusett Meadow - massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Wachusett_Meadow/index.php

Hunting

Hunting is prohibited in Worcester, but is allowed in most of the surrounding communities. Following is a copy of the hunting schedule for 2022. During hunting season it is prudent to wear blaze orange or similarly bright clothing. If dogs are allowed, it is good to keep them on a short leash. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays.

HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ANNUAL LIMIT
DEER					
Deer (Big Game)	Youth Deer Hunt Day	Oct. 1, 2022	See full regulations for more information.	1 antlered deer OR 1 antlerless deer in Zone specified in permit during season	
	Paraplegic Hunt	Nov. 3 – 5, 2022			
	Shotgun	Nov. 28 – Dec. 10, 2022	See full regulations for more information.	2 antlered deer + antlerless deer by permit	
	Archery	Zones 10–14: Oct. 3 – Nov. 26, 2022			
	Primitive Firearms	Zones 1–9: Oct. 17 – Nov. 26, 2022 Dec. 12 – Dec. 31, 2022			
BLACK BEAR					
Black Bear (Big Game)	Zones 1–14	Sept. 6 – Sept. 24, 2022 Nov. 7 – Nov. 26, 2022 Nov. 28 – Dec. 10, 2022	See full regulations for more information.		1
UPLAND GAME BIRDS*					
Crow	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – April 9, 2022 July 1, 2022 – April 10, 2023 (M, F, Sat only)	—	—	—
Pheasant	Youth Hunt Zones 1–14	Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1, 8, 2022 Oct. 15 – Nov. 26, 2022	2	4	No limit
Quail	Zones 11–14	Oct. 15 – Nov. 26, 2022	4	8	No limit
Ruffed Grouse	Zones 1–14	Oct. 15 – Nov. 26, 2022	3	6	15
Wild Turkey (Big Game)	Youth Hunt: Zones 1–13 Fall: Zones 1–9 Fall: Zones 10–13 Spring: Zones 1–13	Apr. 23, 2022 (special restrictions apply**) Oct. 17 – Nov. 26, 2022 Oct. 3 – Nov. 26, 2022 Apr. 25 – May 21, 2022	See full regulations for more information.		
* Upland game bird hunting is closed during shotgun deer season. Migratory game birds (includes waterfowl, woodcock, snipe, rails): Seasons and bag limits set annually. For Migratory Game Bird Regulations visit mass.gov/migratory-game-bird .					
** Must have completed the Youth Turkey Hunt program.					
RABBIT, HARE & SQUIRREL					
Cottontail Rabbit	Zones 1–12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022 and Oct. 15, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	5	10	—
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022 and Nov. 15, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	5	10	—
Snowshoe Hare	Zones 1–4	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022 and Oct. 15, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	2	4	—
	Zones 5–12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5, 2022 and Oct. 15, 2022 – Feb. 4, 2023	2	4	—
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5, 2022 and Nov. 15, 2022 – Feb. 4, 2023	2	4	—
Gray Squirrel	Zones 1–9	Sept. 12, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023	5	10	—
	Zones 10–14	Oct. 15, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023	5	10	—
Rabbit, hare, and squirrel hunting are closed during shotgun deer season.					
FURBEARERS					
Bobcat	Zones 1–8	Jan. 1 – March 8, 2022 and Dec. 20, 2022 – March 8, 2023	—	—	—
Coyote	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – March 8, 2022 and Oct. 15, 2022 – Mar. 8, 2023	—	—	—
Fox (red or gray)	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022 and Nov. 1, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	—	—	—
Opossum	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, 2022 and Oct. 1, 2022 – Jan. 31, 2023	—	—	—
Raccoon	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, 2022 and Oct. 1, 2022 – Jan. 31, 2023	3	See full regulations for more information.	—
All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during shotgun deer season except for coyotes. Special restrictions apply. The following species may be taken year-round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.					

TRAPPING

	OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)
Beaver ¹	Jan. 1 – April 15, 2022 and Nov. 1, 2022 – April 15, 2023
Bobcat ^{1,2} , Coyote ¹ , Fox ¹ , Weasel	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 2022
Fisher ¹	Nov. 1 – Nov. 22, 2022
Mink ¹ , River Otter ¹	Nov. 1 – Dec. 15, 2022
Muskrat, Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022 and Nov. 1, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023

1 – Pelt checking/reporting required; see below.

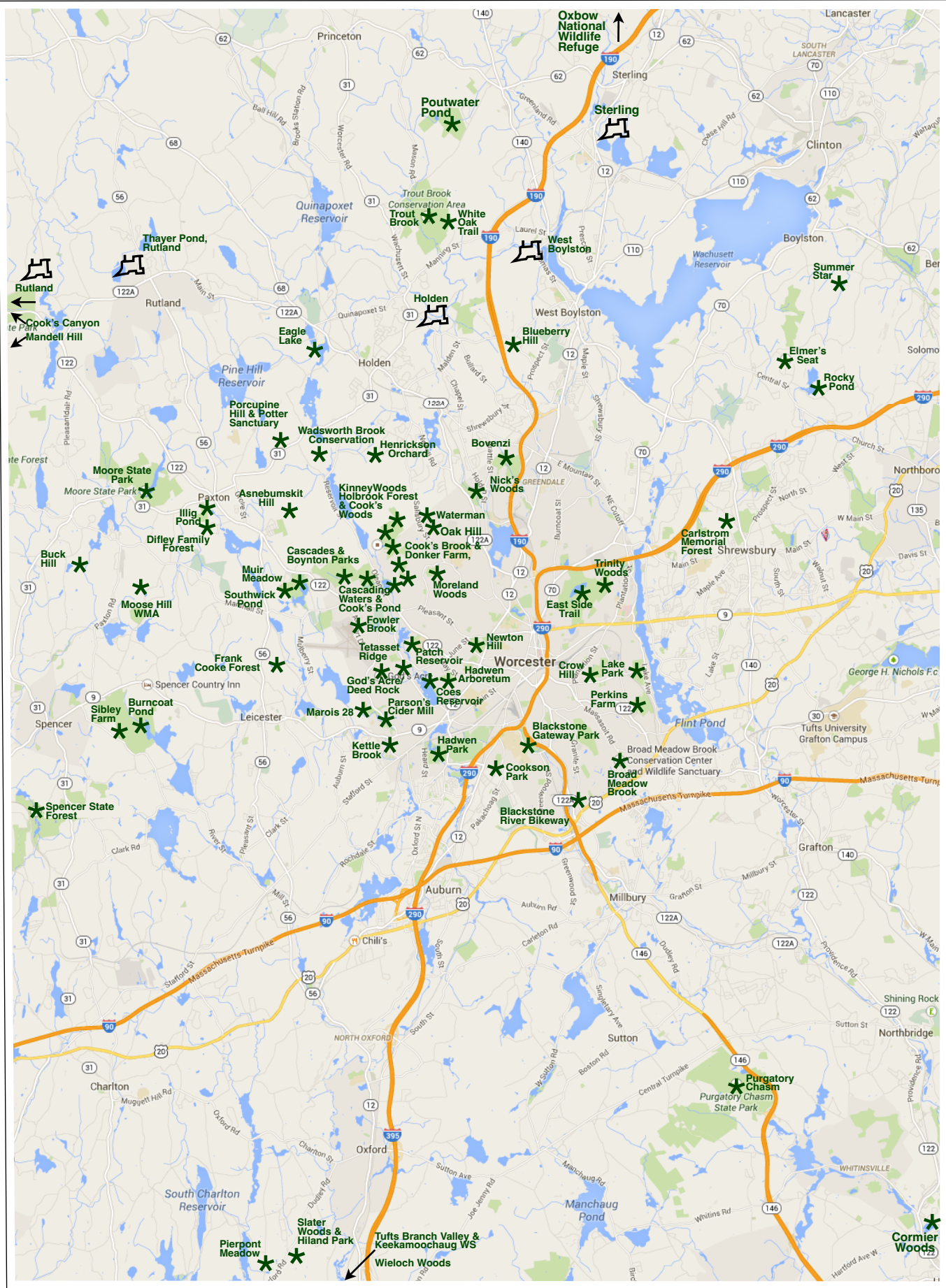
2 – Bobcats may only be trapped or salvaged in Wildlife Management Zones 1–8.



TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
(800) 632-8075

www.mass.gov/ole

Places to Hike in Greater Worcester



 Rail Trails

 Park Locations

Asnebumskit Hill

Paxton, Holden

The Greater Worcester Land Trust
White Oak Land Conservation Society
The City of Worcester

Northern Side: Asnebumskit Ridge Trail

- Location: 1) Asnebumskit Road: From the intersection of Route 122 North and Asnebumskit Road in Paxton, turn East on Asnebumskit Road. Drive .80 mile. The trailhead is on the left. Park on the side of the road, near the sign.
- 2) South Road: From the intersection of Reservoir Street and South Road in Holden, travel .80 mile North on South Road. There is a parking lot on the left side of road. The blue sign reads "Asnebumskit Trail".

Length: 2.18 miles each way

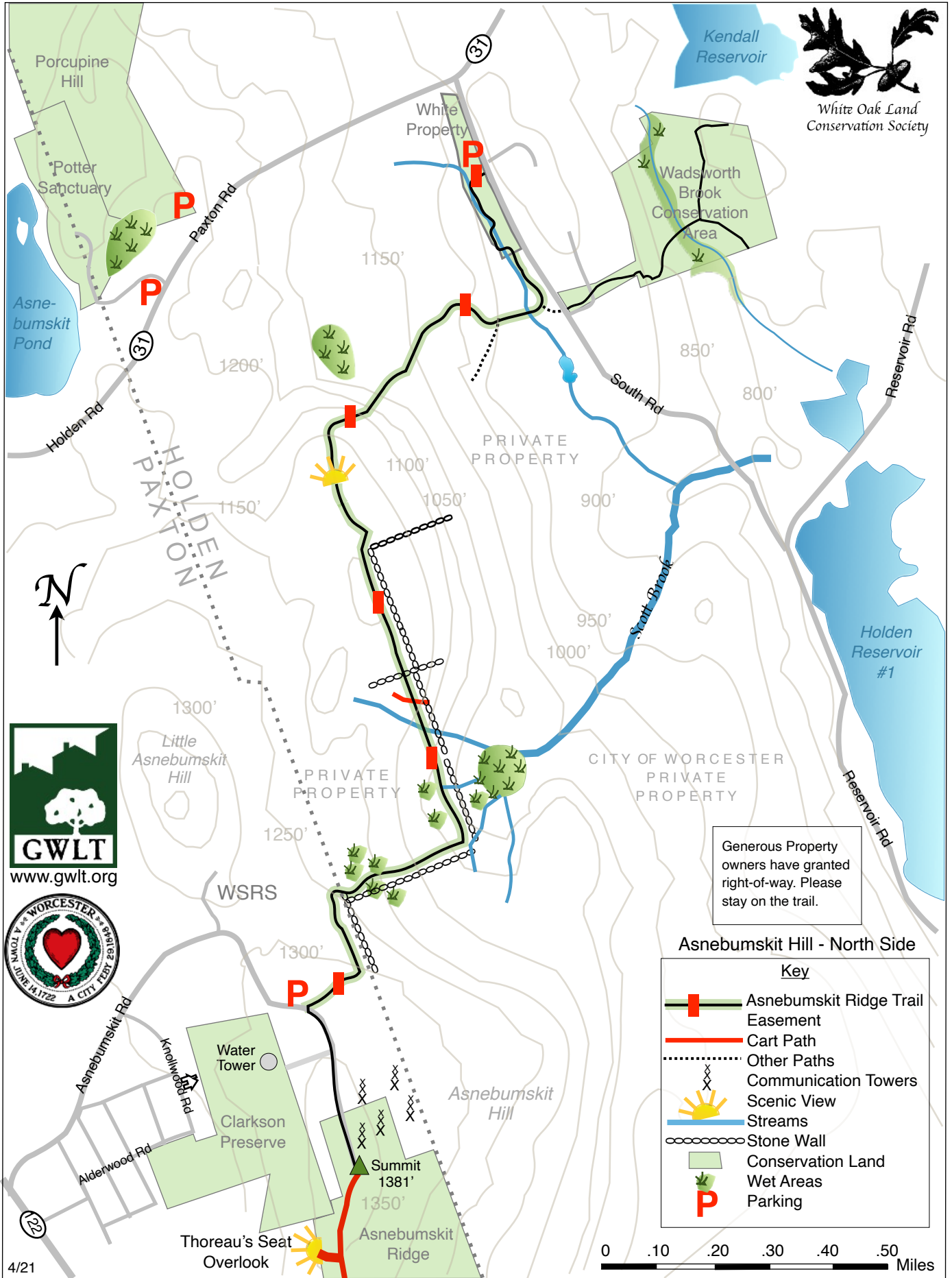
Asnebumskit Ridge Trail: Generous land owners have given right of way to their properties. This trail crosses both private property and land that protects our drinking water supply. In appreciation for this easement, please obey the following trail rules.

- Use permitted from sun-up to sun-down only
- No littering
- No fires or smoking
- No dogs, horses, or other animals
- No alcoholic beverages
- No motorized vehicles
- No firearms, bows, or other projectiles. No loud noises
- No destruction or defacement of plants or other property

If you start at Asnebumskit Road, the majority of this one way hike is downhill. The first portion of the trail takes you through a woodland. Along the narrow trail are ferns and moss-covered logs, as well as wet areas and streams to cross. You emerge from the woods into a formerly logged area. The balance of the hike follows old logging roads. There are fields of ferns, wildflowers, Mountain Laurel and other shrubs among the remaining trees. When the leaves are off of the trees you may get a glimpse of Mount Wachusett. To complete the hike, retrace your steps uphill to the trailhead.

Asnebumskit Ridge Trail

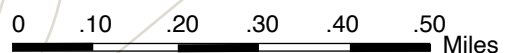
Paxton, Holden



Generous Property owners have granted right-of-way. Please stay on the trail.

Asnebumskit Hill - North Side

Key	
	Asnebumskit Ridge Trail
	Easement
	Cart Path
	Other Paths
	Communication Towers
	Scenic View
	Streams
	Stone Wall
	Conservation Land
	Wet Areas
	Parking



Asnebumskit Hill

Paxton, Holden

The Greater Worcester Land Trust
White Oak Land Conservation Society
Town of Paxton & the City of Worcester

Southern Side: Asnebumskit Ridge & Thoreau's Seat

- Location:
- 1) Park around the cul-de-sac at the end of Briarcliff Lane, Paxton
 - 2) Western end of Nipmuck Road. Park on the side of the road at the trailhead. (There is no visible sign. See map.)
 - 3) Asnebumskit Road: From the intersection of Route 122 North and Asnebumskit Road in Paxton, turn East on Asnebumskit Road. Drive .80 mile. The trailhead for the Asnebumskit Ridge Trail is on the left. Park on the side of the road near the sign. Walk to the summit on Asnebumskit Road to continue the Asnebumskit Ridge Trail.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

The South side has two new acquisitions that protect a large portion of this side of Asnebumskit Hill. There are a pair of cart paths that extend from Asnebumskit Road at the summit to Pleasant Street. The upper path is the continuation of the Asnebumskit Ridge Trail, (red rectangular blazes), that started on South Road in Holden. A special highlight, near the summit is Thoreau's Seat. Thoreau's Seat is an overlook that offers a spectacular view of Kettle Brook Reservoir Number Four and the valley to the West. After visiting the hill, Henry David Thoreau referred to this place as "one of the true temples of the earth"

The second cart path is lower and has the advantage of giving you glimpses of both the valley on one side and rocky cliffs on the other. This path features many Beech trees. The bright yellow foliage in the fall is stunning against the sky.

Another portion of the property starts at the end of Briarcliff Lane in Paxton. This area was used for years to store unneeded supplies. Volunteers with the Greater Worcester Land Trust have spent a year removing junk from this site. They are transforming the area into gathering spot. From the base of the hill, you get a good look up at the hill. A short difficult path has been blazed up the rocky slope. This path (blue rectangles) is a challenge, but it is a good way to access the rest of the hill. This path connects Briarcliff Lane and Pleasant Street with the lower cart path. From here, several trails connect the cart paths giving you access to the whole hill.

Blackstone River Greenway (Bikeway)

Worcester/Millbury

US National Park Service

- Location: Parkings areas include:
- 1) Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Visitor Center
(also called the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center)
3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester (Off of McKeon Road)
 - 2) 1265 Millbury Street, Worcester (the intersection of Cliff & Millbury Streets)
 - 3) 205 North Main Street, Millbury (off of Route 122A, East of The Shoppes at Blackstone Valley.)
- Length: 3 miles from Worcester to Millbury, MA. This is a completed portion of a bikeway that will run the length of the Blackstone River Corridor, from Worcester, MA to Providence, RI.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This greenway (bikeway) is popular with bikers, runners, and walkers of all ages. The paved path follows the Blackstone River; it takes you along the highway, under overpasses and beside ponds. Native shrubs and flowers have been planted along the greenway and the area attracts many birds like Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Belted Kingfishers and many ducks. Painted Turtles can be found on rocks and logs in the wetland areas.

This universally accessible greenway has been completed to McKeon Road. The path crosses under the road and ends at the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center. This center is located at the headwaters of the Blackstone River and is the gateway to the Blackstone Heritage Corridor. It is to be the hub for recreational, cultural, and historic happenings in Central Massachusetts. Next to the Visitor Center is Blackstone Gateway Park.

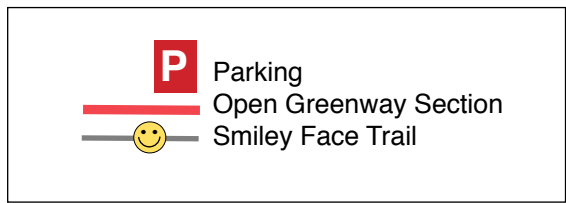
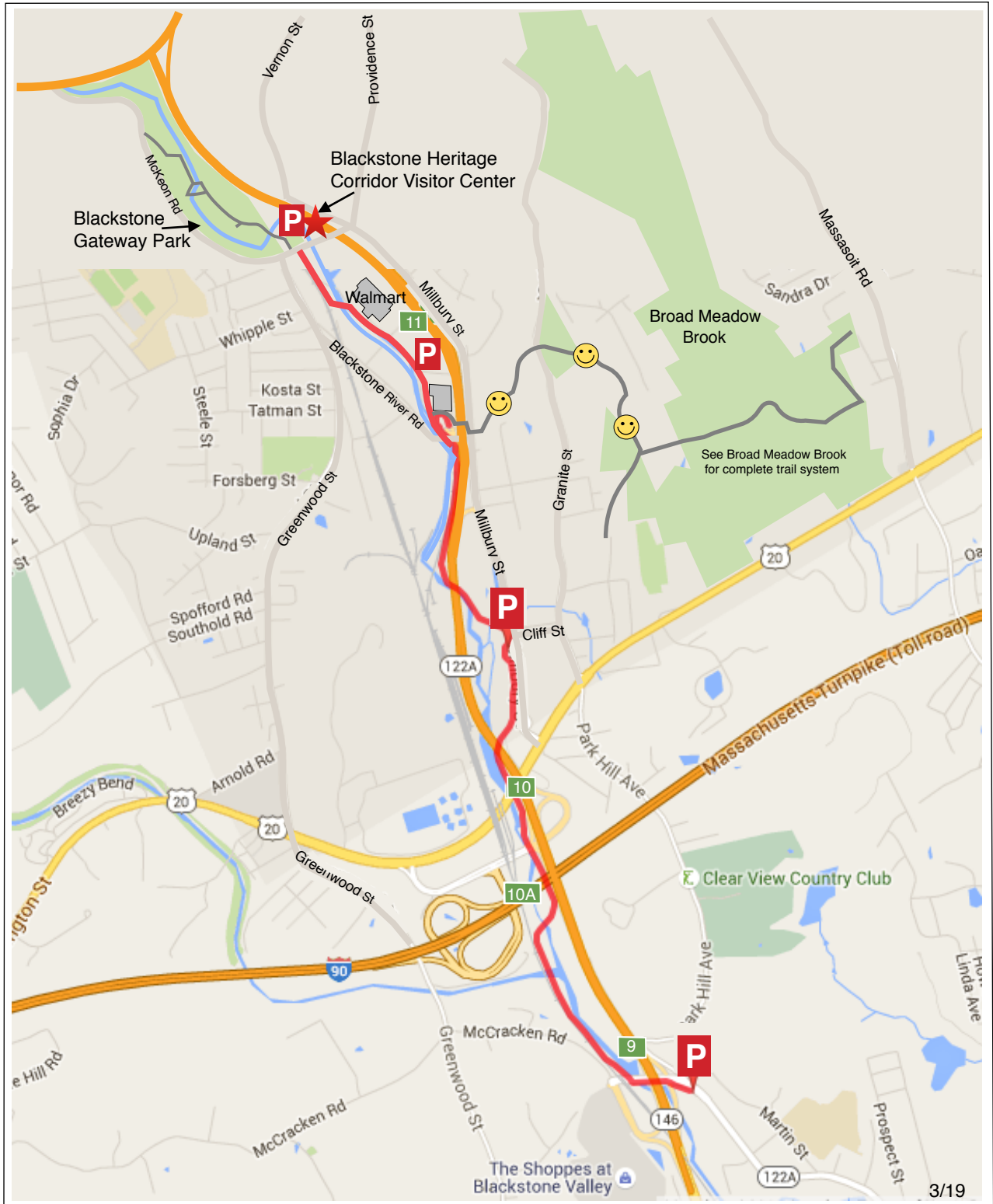
The greenway also connects to other wildlife conservation areas. The Smiley Face trail starts about .75 mile from the Visitor Center, South of Sam's Club. Follow Smiley Face markers as they cross several roads and climb out of the city and into the woods. The trail goes through the Harvey Ball Conservation Area and continues to Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary. This woodland features many large boulders.

Blackstone Gateway Park

City of Worcester

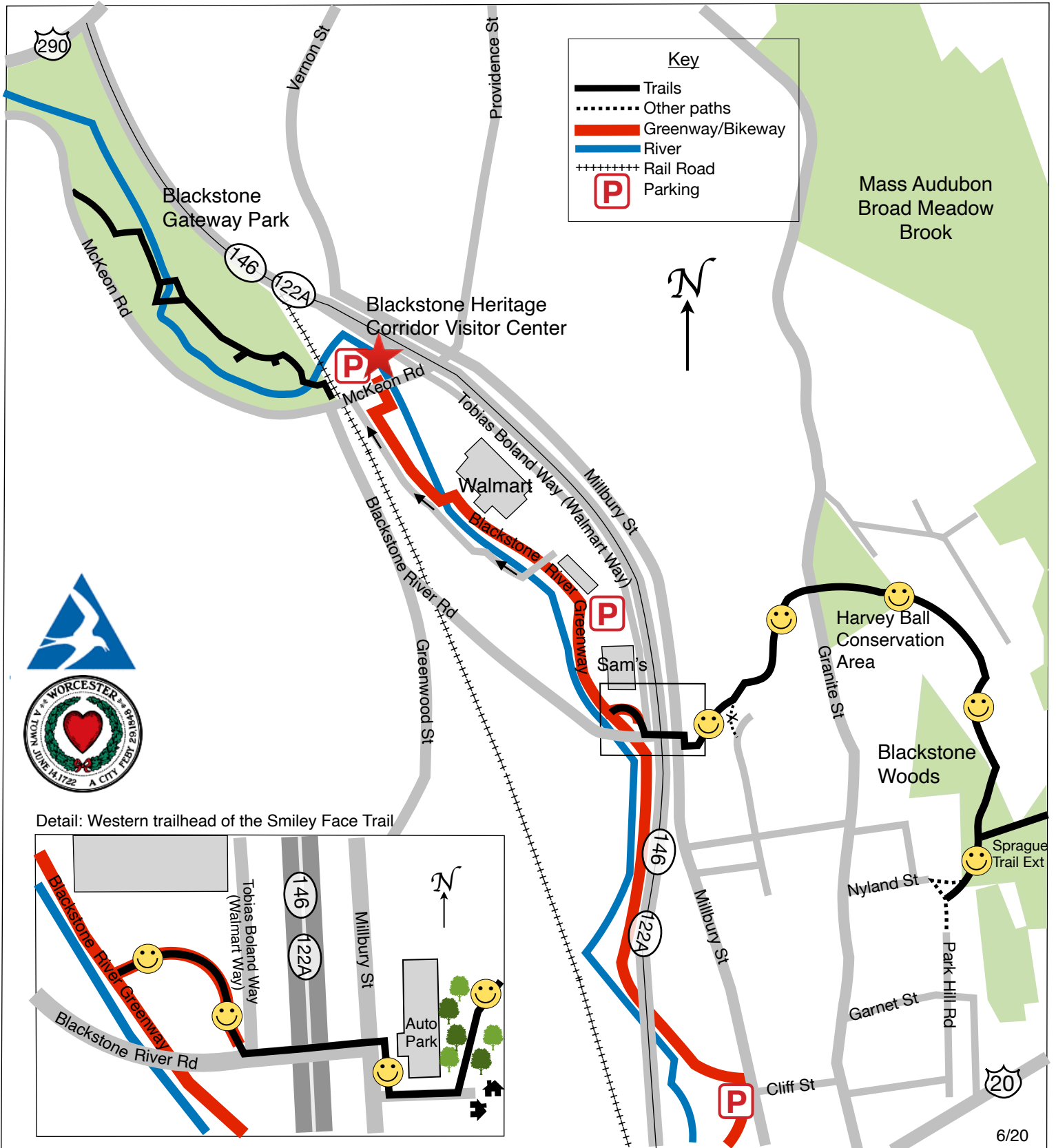
Blackstone Gateway Park is located adjacent to the Blackstone River Heritage Corridor Visitor Center. Much of this accessible path is on an elevated boardwalk that follows along and crosses the Middle River (a Blackstone River tributary). This half-mile path lets you explore the river and the wetlands, and is a fabulous place to view the birds and animals that live here. Viewing areas include interpretive signs that describe what you may see and explain the local ecosystem.

Blackstone River Greenway (Bikeway) Worcester to Millbury Section



☺ Smiley Face Trail

Blackstone Gateway Park & Blackstone River Greenway (Bikeway)



Blueberry Hill

West Boylston, Holden
Town of West Boylston
Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: The parking lot is located on the Holden, West Boylston town line, where Malden Street, Holden changes to Goodale Street, West Boylston. A GPS reading of 355 Goodale Street, West Boylston pin points the location. (See map) Currently there isn't a property sign.

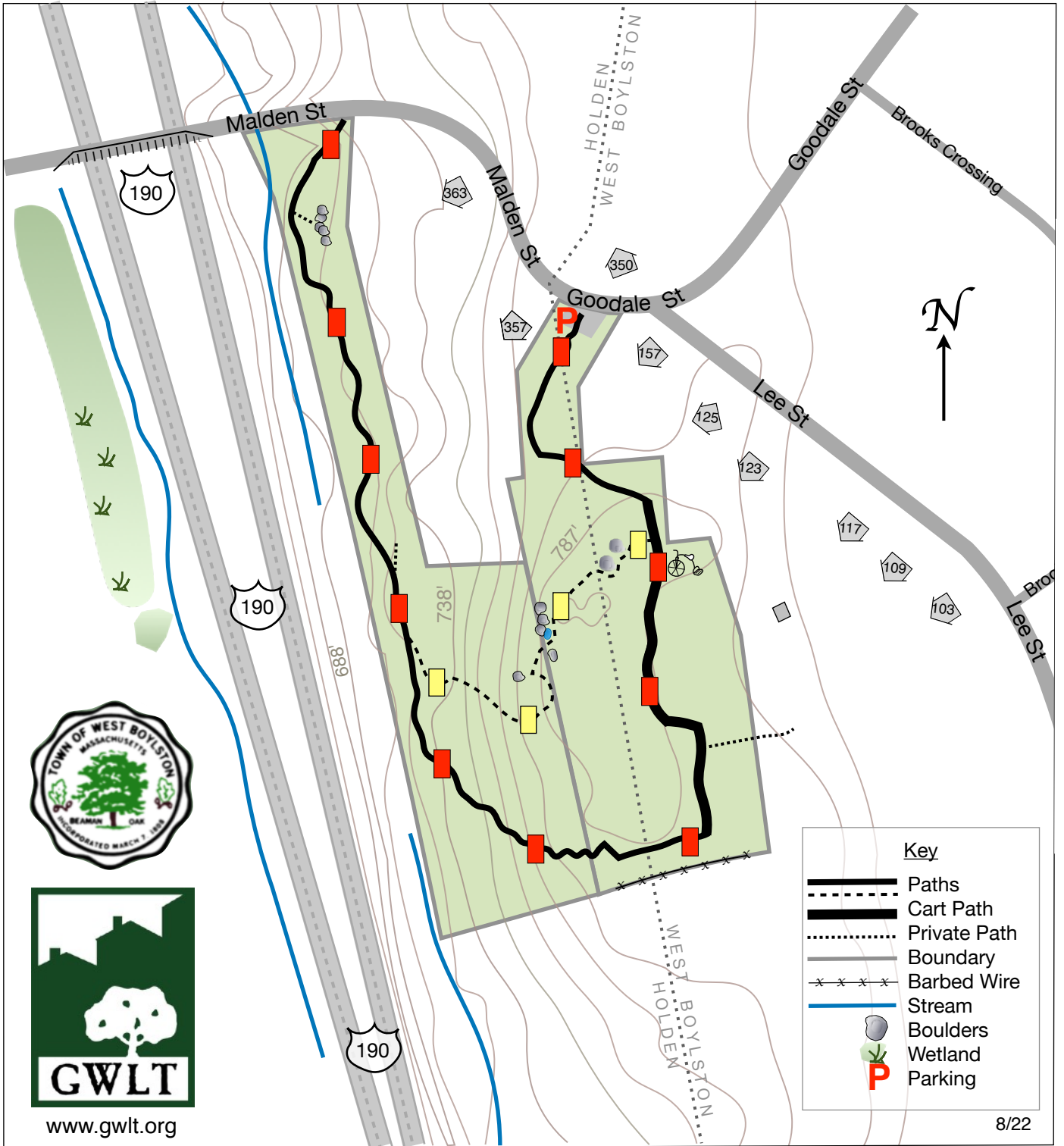
Length: About 1.650 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is a lovely wooded area that is being developed. It combines two narrow parcels of land that have been preserved by the town of West Boylston and the Greater Worcester Land Trust. The main path follows the property boundaries forming an "L" (red blazes). There is also a cross path that features many glacial boulders as well as evidence of former quarrying. (yellow blazes). I like to take the cross path first. The walk approaching the ridge and then along it, allows a captivating view of hillside below. The entire property is covered in berry bushes. There are some blueberry bushes, but the majority are huckleberries. So, I invite you to 'find your thrill on Blueberry Hill'.

Blueberry Hill

Holden, West Boylston



www.gwlt.org

Bovenzi Conservation Park

Worcester

Greater Worcester Land Trust

- Location:
- 1) Maravista Road. Off West Mountain Road. Follow Maravista Road to the end. Park near the gate.
 - 2) Sunrise Avenue. From Ararat Street, follow Sunrise Avenue North to the end. Park in front of the sign.
 - 3) Marchen Drive. From Brattle Street, head South on Marchen Drive. Park at the end of the road near the trailhead.

Length: Several miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

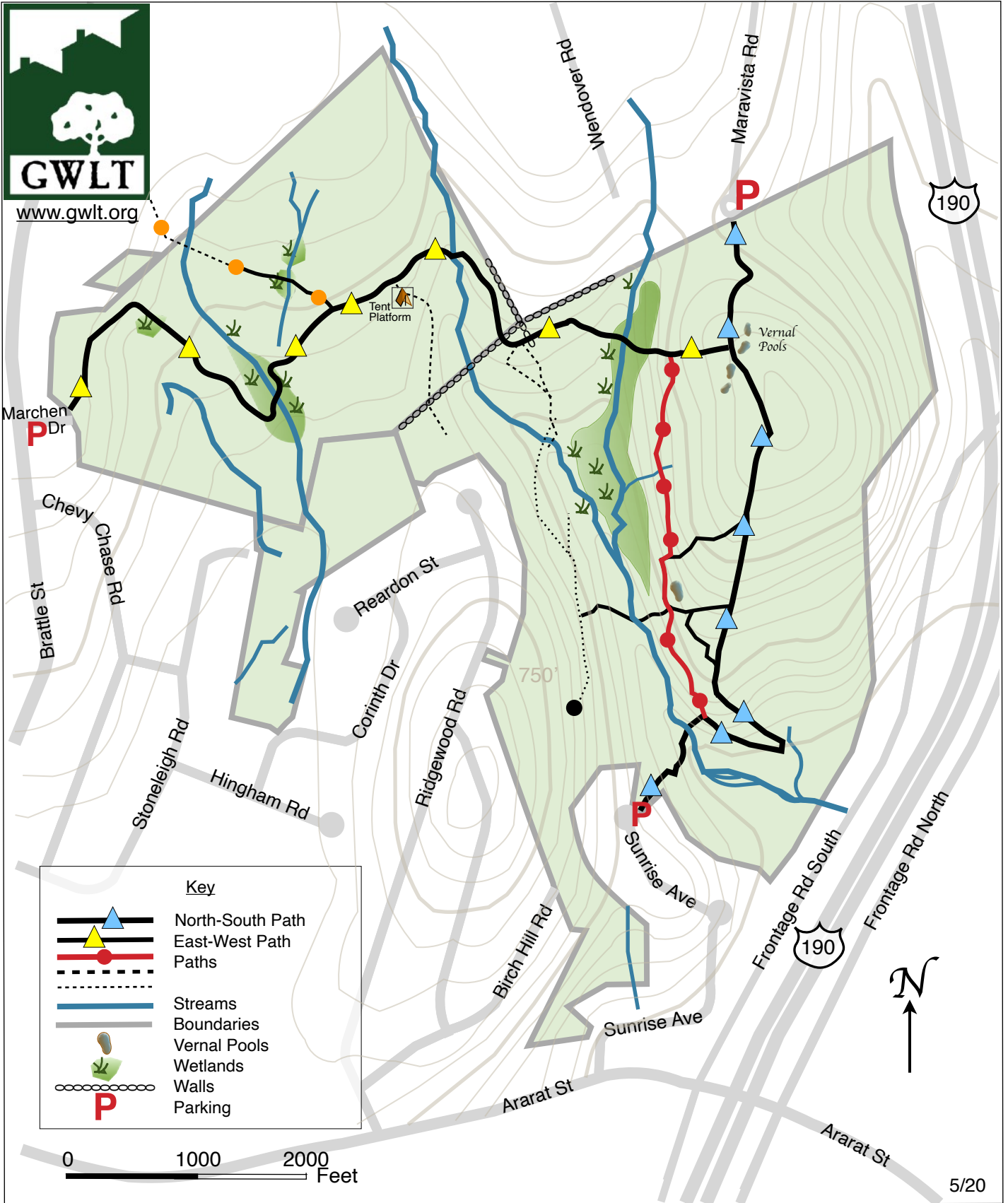
This is a lovely wooded area with streams running through it. It was decimated by the Asian Longhorned Beetles and the resulting tree removal in 2009. Most of the original trails were obliterated by tractors, but remnants of some trails still remain, along with “logging” roads and newly blazed paths.

The following map shows the current paths. The North-South path goes from Maravista Road across the property to Sunrise Avenue. Another trail, the East-West path, starts from Marchen Drive and meets the North-South path near Maravista Road. The Greater Worcester Land Trust has built a tent platform near the East-West path. Camping is offered by permission. For information please check the GWLT website; <http://www.gwlt.org/resources-and-research/request-camping-permit/>

The recovery that has taken place is amazing. Young trees have gotten the chance to grow and older trees are filling out. In the Spring there are at least five vernal pools that are fun to explore. Bovenzi Conservation Park has a wide variety of wildflowers and has attracted many birds, butterflies, chipmunks, coyote and deer. It was also recently visited by a moose. Among the highlights in Fall are the numerous Witch Hazel trees in flower.

Bovenzi Conservation Park

Worcester



Key	
	North-South Path
	East-West Path
	Paths
	Streams
	Boundaries
	Vernal Pools
	Wetlands
	Walls
	Parking

0 1000 2000 Feet

Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

Worcester

Mass Audubon Society

Location: 414 Massasoit Road
Worcester, MA
(508) 753-6087

Length: 5 Miles of hiking trails, 1 mile is universally accessible.

No dogs allowed.

This full service Audubon Center has an environmental resource center, meeting spaces, a gift shop, and rest rooms, as well as an education center. The Fargo Education Center has been designed to be highly energy-efficient.

The sanctuary offers many diverse programs and activities for all ages, all year long. In the winter, snowshoes can be rented by the hour for a small fee.

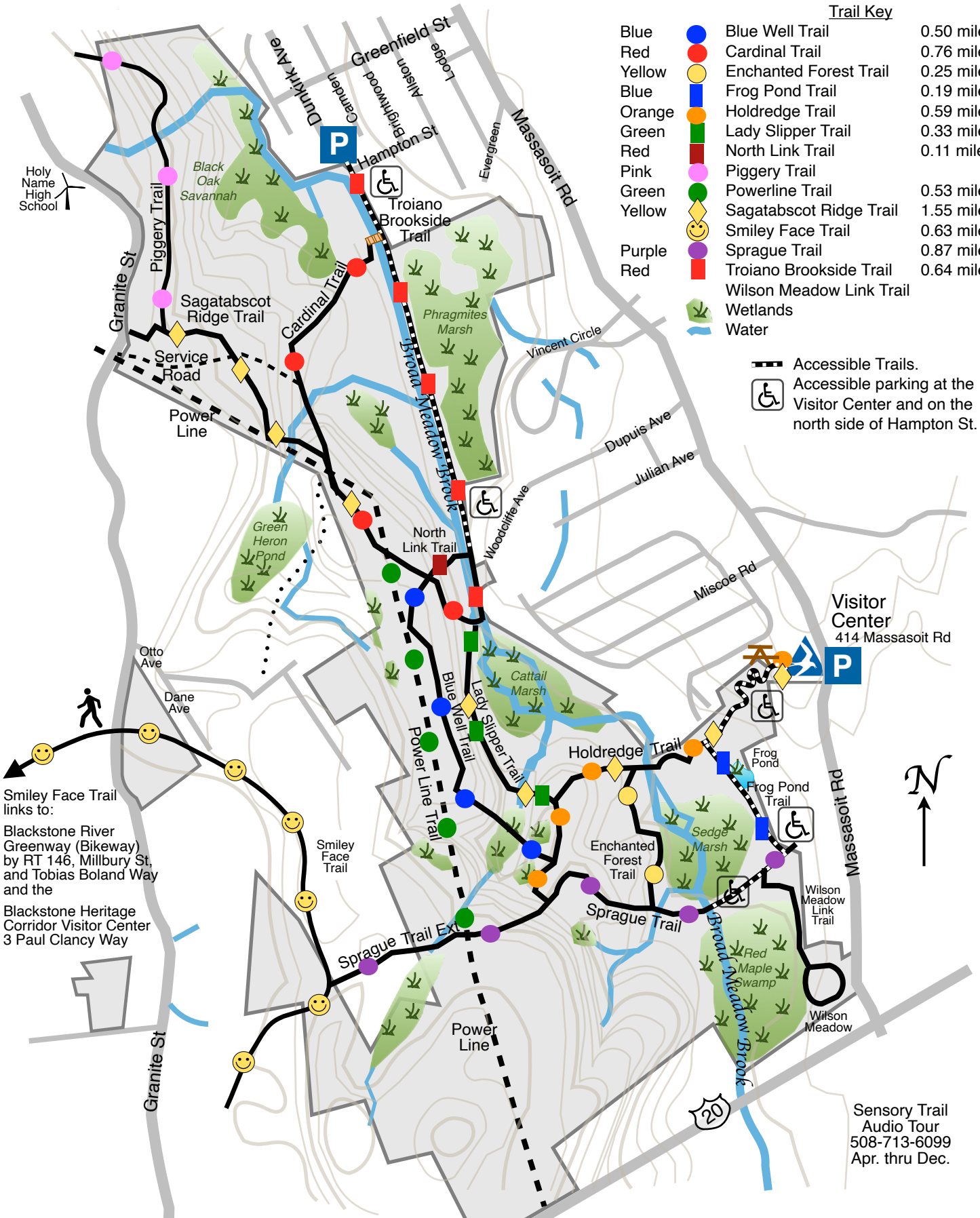
Broad Meadow Brook offers hiking trails that are moderately easy, taking you through a wide range of habitats including fields, wetlands, across brooks, and into oak forests. There is an excellent opportunity to see butterflies and dragonflies in the butterfly garden in front of the Nature Center, on Wilson Way and along the Power Line Trail.

Troiano Brookside Trail is a universally accessible trail that runs along Broad Meadow Brook and wetland. Ducks, many other bird species, turtles, raccoon, and muskrats frequent the brook.

The Sanctuary has a half-mile Sensory Trail. It is a universal access trail, which features fourteen stops that explain the natural history of the area as well as the sights and sounds that can be found. Signs have the stop number and name in braille and the walk has a companion audio presentation that is available in multiple options. The Frog Pond on the Frog Pond Trail is one of the stops that is fun to check out.



Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Worcester



Smiley Face Trail links to:
 Blackstone River Greenway (Bikeway) by RT 146, Millbury St, and Tobias Boland Way and the
 Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center 3 Paul Clancy Way

Sensory Trail Audio Tour
 508-713-6099
 Apr. thru Dec.

An Easy Way to try Snowshoeing

Find a friend and go to:

Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary
Broad Meadow Brook
414 Massasoit Road
Worcester, MA
(508) 753-6087

Snowshoes can be rented by the hour
from the Nature Center:

Audubon Members:	\$3/hour *
Non-Members:	\$5/hour

Snowshoe Rental Hours:

Tuesday thru Saturday	9:00 am - 3:30 pm*
Sunday	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm



There are many trails that you can try. For a fairly easy loop that takes you about 1 hour:

Take the “universal access” trail from the Nature Center down the Holdredge Trail. Turn left onto the Frog Pond Trail. Follow this trail until you meet the Sprague Trail. Turn right and follow the Sprague Trail SW until you meet the Enchanted Forest Trail. Turn right and head North on the Enchanted Forest Trail until you meet the Holdredge Trail. Turn right again and head East on the Holdredge Trail, cross the brook and climb up the hill returning to the Nature Center.

Snowshoeing Basics:

Snowshoeing is like marching.

Try not to step on your other snowshoe or anyone else's.

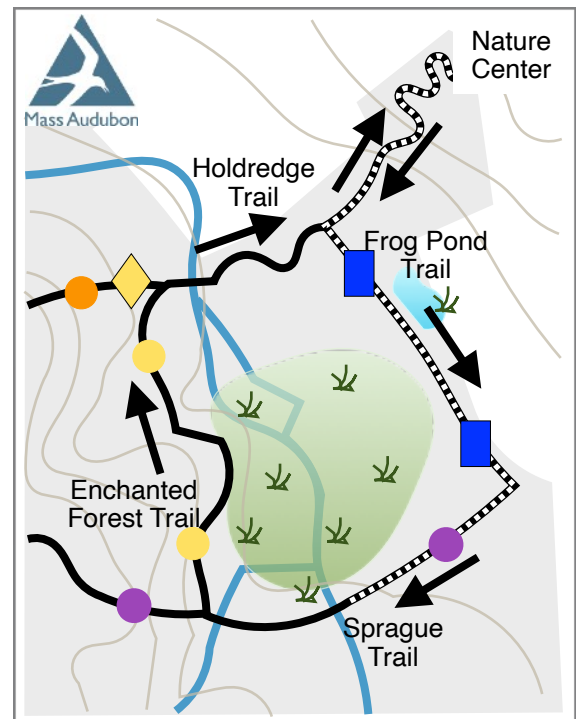
Following a packed down path is fairly easy.

Walking in deep snow can be more difficult.

Modern snowshoes are small, light, and easy to walk in, but they will sink in deep snow.

Turning around will take a few extra small steps.

A hiking or ski pole can make maneuvering easier.



* 2020 Information. Check with the Nature Center for current hours of operations and pricing.

Buck Hill Conservation Center

Spencer

Worcester County 4-H Center

Camp Marshall

Location: From the intersection of Routes 122 and 31 in Paxton, take Route 31 South. Drive 3.2 miles, and turn left onto Thompson Pond Road. There will be a sign for 4-H Camp Marshall. Drive for .30 mile, turn right onto McCormick Road. Drive .90 mile. (You will be passing Worcester County 4-H Center, Camp Marshall.) The parking area for Buck Hill is a generous pull off on the right side of the road, opposite Buckhill Pond.

Length: The Pond Trail is a loop of about 1 mile. There are various options to extend your walk many more miles on snowmobile trails, the Midstate Trail, and into Spencer State Forest.

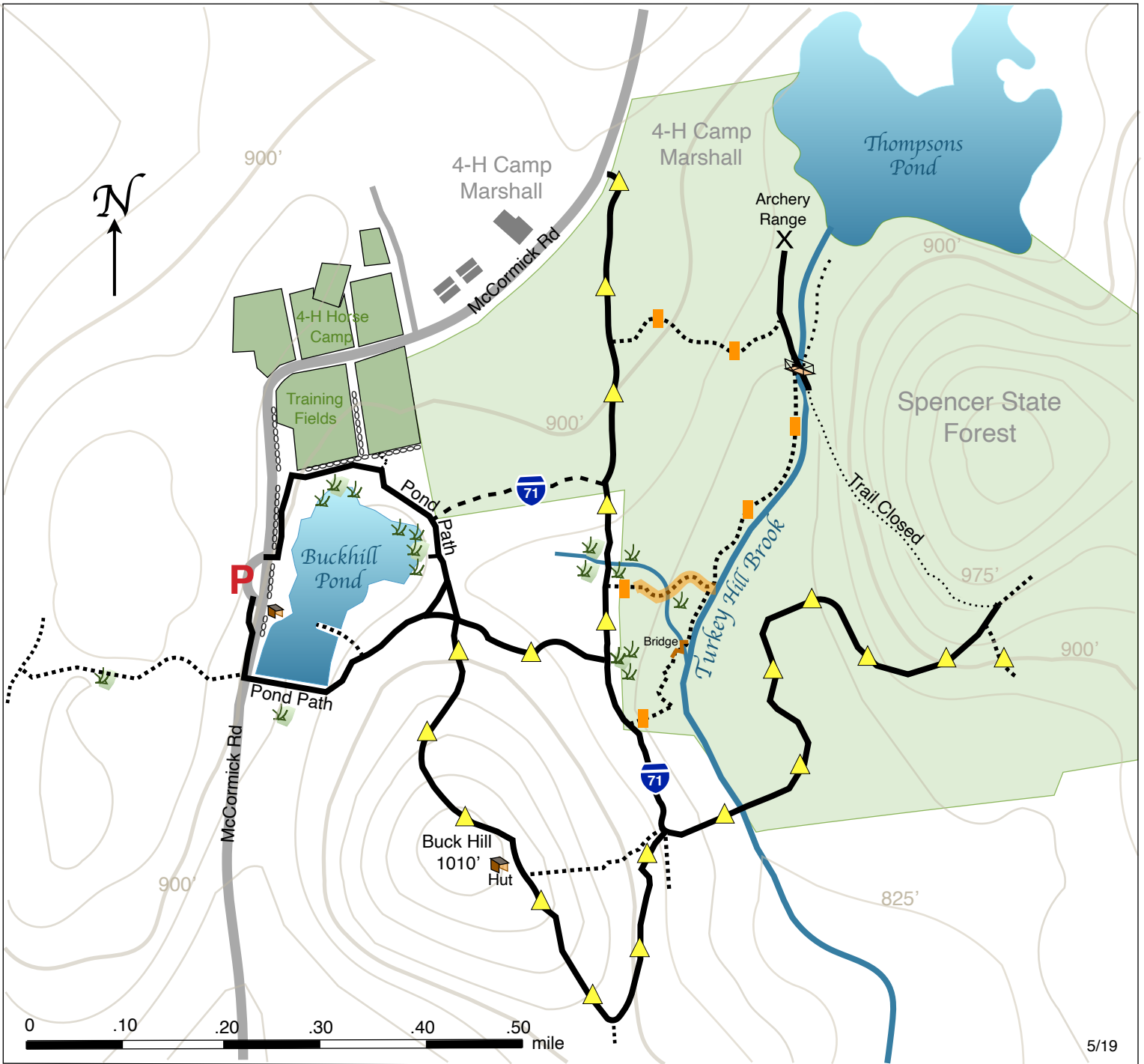
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Buck Hill Conservation Center has 128 acres, part of the Camp Marshall 4-H Center, and is adjacent to Spencer State Forest. This wooded area has a variety of trails ranging from well used woods roads, to less travelled paths. There are snowmobile trails that connect you with areas all around Spencer, and the Midstate Trail meanders through the property on its way through the state. One trail takes you through the meadow on top of Buck Hill, while other paths follow along the banks of Turkey Hill Brook. The Buck Hill portion of the area conducted a timber harvest in the Fall of 2016 to improve the health and quality of the forest, as well as improve wildlife habitat, and recreational access. Logging temporarily scarred the property but nature is nicely rebounding from this harvest.

The trails are lined with woodland plants like Winterberry and Partridge-berry. In the Spring you may see ephemeral flowers like Red Trillium, Marsh-marigolds, Clintonia, and Indian Cucumber-root. Buckhill Pond is stunning all times of the year, from the reflections of clouds in the water, to a rainbow colored floral display in the summer. Moose have been seen swimming across the pond.

Camp Marshall has a Horse Camp and the trails are used by the camp.

Buck Hill Conservation Center Spencer State Forest Spencer



Key

	Pond Trail		Walls
	Midstate Trail		Streams
	Snowbird Trail		Wetlands
	Other Trails		Parking
	Property Logged Fall '16. Path Unusable		

(not an official map.)

Burncoat Pond

Spencer

Mass Audubon Society

- Location:
- 1) The official entrance has been established in conjunction with Sibley Farm. The parking area is on Greenville Street 1.20 miles from the intersection of Route 9 and Greenville Street in Spencer.
 - 2) At the Leicester/Spencer Line on Route 9 (Main Street), take Polar Spring Road (a dirt road adjacent to a golf driving range and the Spencer Country Inn) to the end, about .20 mile. Park on the left side of the road where indicated.
- Length: There is a total of 8 miles of trails in the Burncoat Pond and Sibley Farm trail system. The following map shows the Burncoat Pond trails in more detail. For the map of the whole trail system, see Sibley Farm.

No dogs allowed.

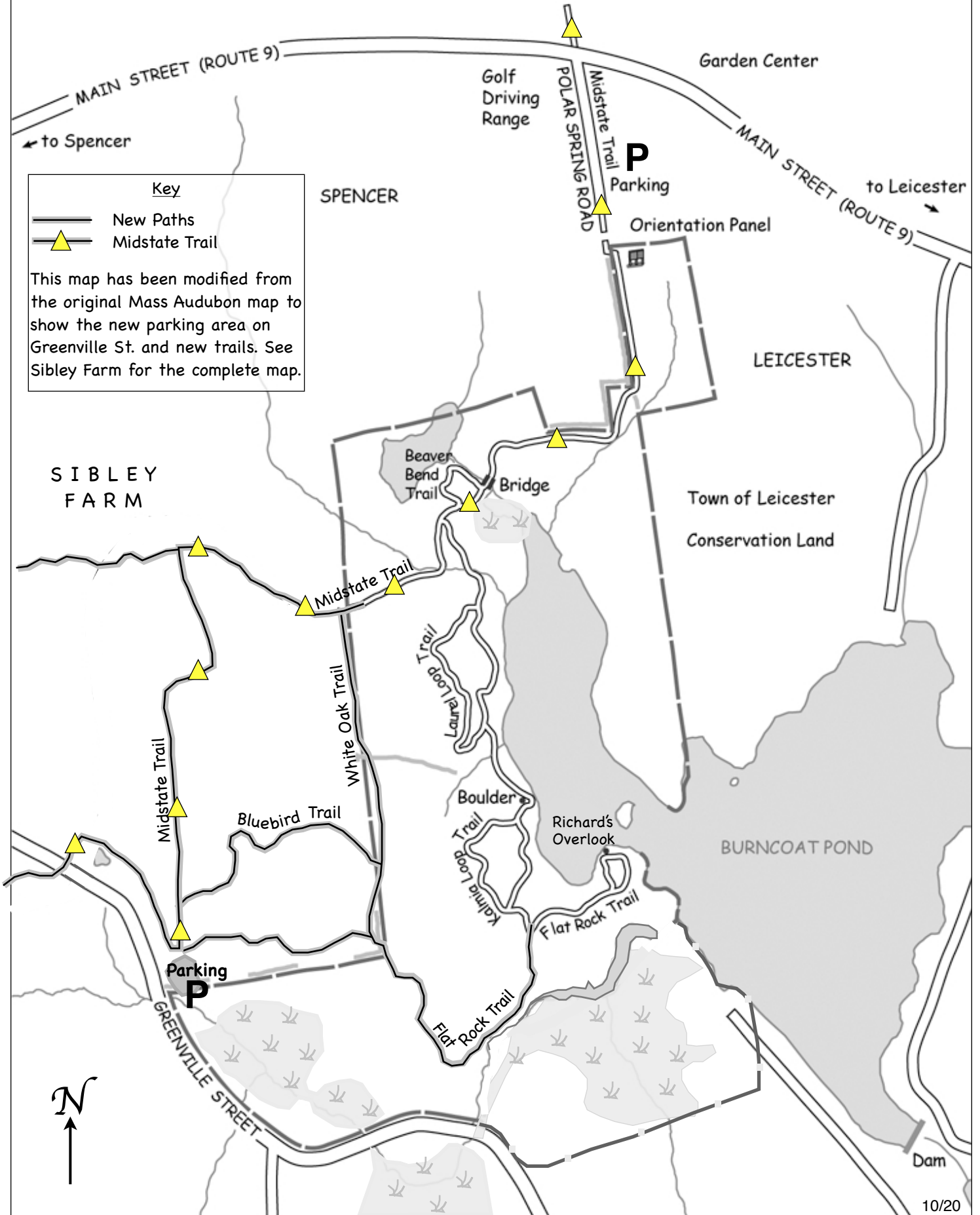
The parking area on Greenville Street is shared with Sibley Farm. There is a path that connects with the Flat Rock Trail and the balance of the Burncoat Pond trails. This fern-lined trail takes you past many glacial boulders and makes it easy to visit Richard's Overlook as well as the other loop trails.

The Polar Spring Road entrance takes you along the Midstate Trail through a pasture, woodlands, wetlands and a picturesque pond. From the pond you should hike the Beaver Bend Trail. This short loop trail takes you along a beaver wetland. In the Spring, check out the nesting Great Blue Herons. Shortly after the Beaver Bend Trail rejoins the Midstate Trail, the newer Burncoat loop trails split off to the South. The Midstate Trail heads off in an Easterly direction, continuing onto the Sibley Farm property.

Other highlights include the Red Trillium, followed by the Painted Trillium in Spring and in mid-June, beautiful displays of Mountain Laurel.

Burncoat Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

Spencer, MA ▲ 978-464-2712 ▲ www.massaudubon.org/burncoatpond



Key
— New Paths
▲ Midstate Trail

This map has been modified from the original Mass Audubon map to show the new parking area on Greenville St. and new trails. See Sibley Farm for the complete map.



Carlstrom Memorial Forest

Shrewsbury

New England Forestry Foundation

Location: From the intersection of Main Street and Route 140 in Shrewsbury, drive North on Route 140 for .40 mile. Turn left onto Boylston Circle. Drive for about .20 mile to Gulf Street and take a slight left onto Gulf St. The sanctuary is .10 mile on the left. The small parking area holds three cars. The incline of this narrow driveway may be treacherous in winter. Additional parking spaces may be found on the side of Wheelock Street. Wheelock Street widens near the intersection with Wachusett Circle accommodating several cars.

Length: 1.50 to 3 miles

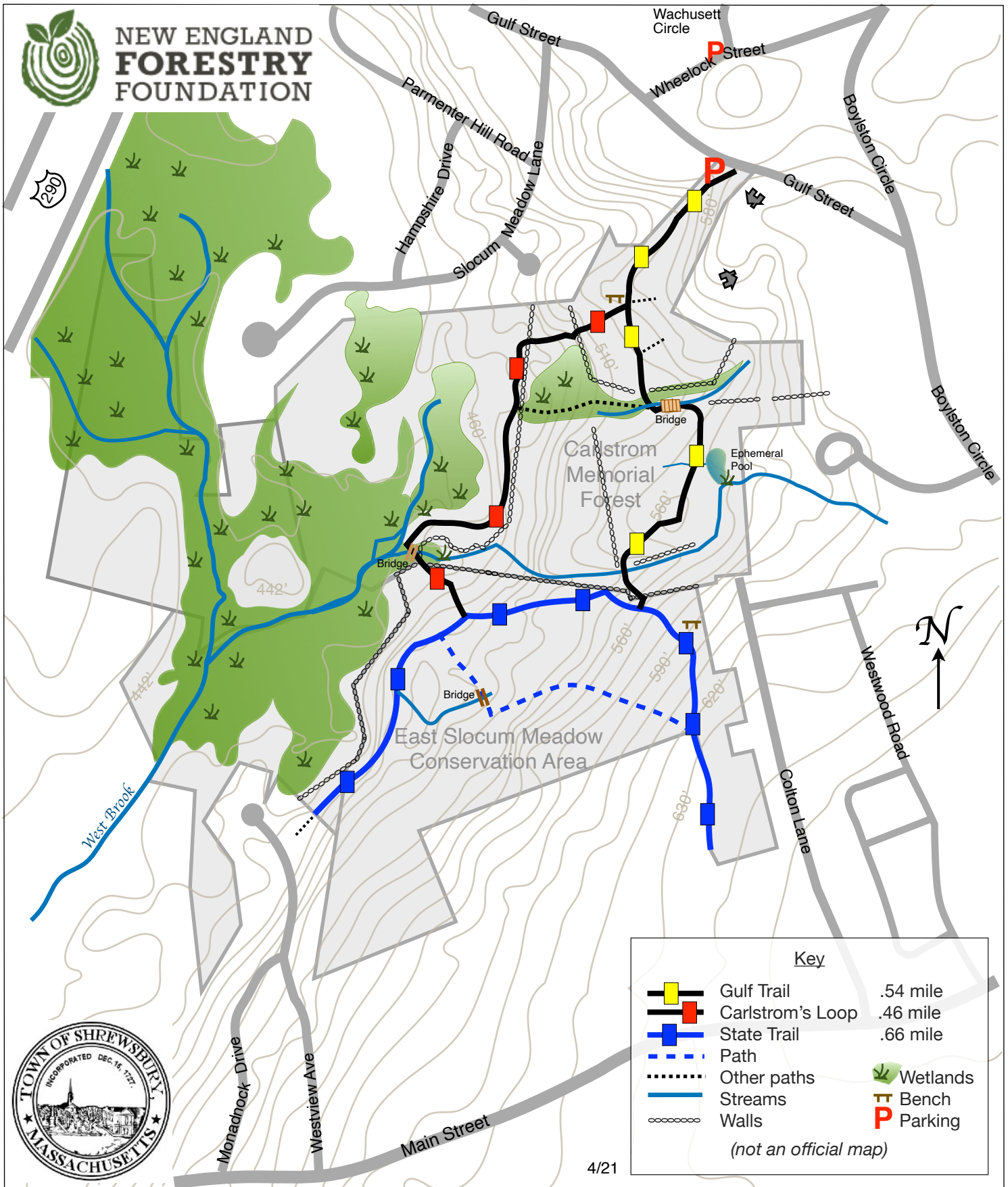
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is a popular neighborhood park. The New England Forestry Foundation sustainably manages this forest to create income while conserving it for wildlife and community recreation. The hilly terrain has broad well-traveled paths and old logging roads. There are connecting paths that enable you to hike a variety of routes. The paths are fairly well marked and special features include several distinctive wooden map signs and many posts with QR codes on them. The QR code posts identify many plants and trees as well as describing natural features like an ephemeral or vernal pool.

One plant, that is new to me, is Hercules'-club or Devil's walking stick. It is a shrub or small tree that produces a cloud of white flowers. As the flowers age, the stems get pink and shiny purplish-black fruit is produced. This a favorite food for deer to browse.

These paths are decorated with colorful kindness stones. Zoe Wolfus, a Shrewsbury high school student, began painting rocks at the beginning of the pandemic. She wanted to bring happiness to the community. In August 2020 she died from suicide. A lifelong friend continues this tradition to honor Zoe and to keep her message of kindness alive. (see "Zoe's Rocks".) In the Fall of 2022, there aren't as many "rocks" here, but they have traveled around the world, as documented by photos on several websites.

Carlstrom Memorial Forest Shrewsbury



The Cascades and Boynton Park

Worcester/Paxton/Holden

Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: Starting from the Worcester Airport rotary on Route 122, drive .20 mile West, towards Paxton. Turn right onto the second Mower Street, drive .20 mile to a fork in the road. Take the right hand road and follow it for another .20 mile to the parking area.

Length: This park is made up of several parcels of land: Boynton Park, Cascades West, Cascades East, Cascades Park, and Cascading Waters. Cascading Waters will be addressed on the next page. There are many trails that cross these parks. Trails can be combined for a short hike or one that covers many miles.

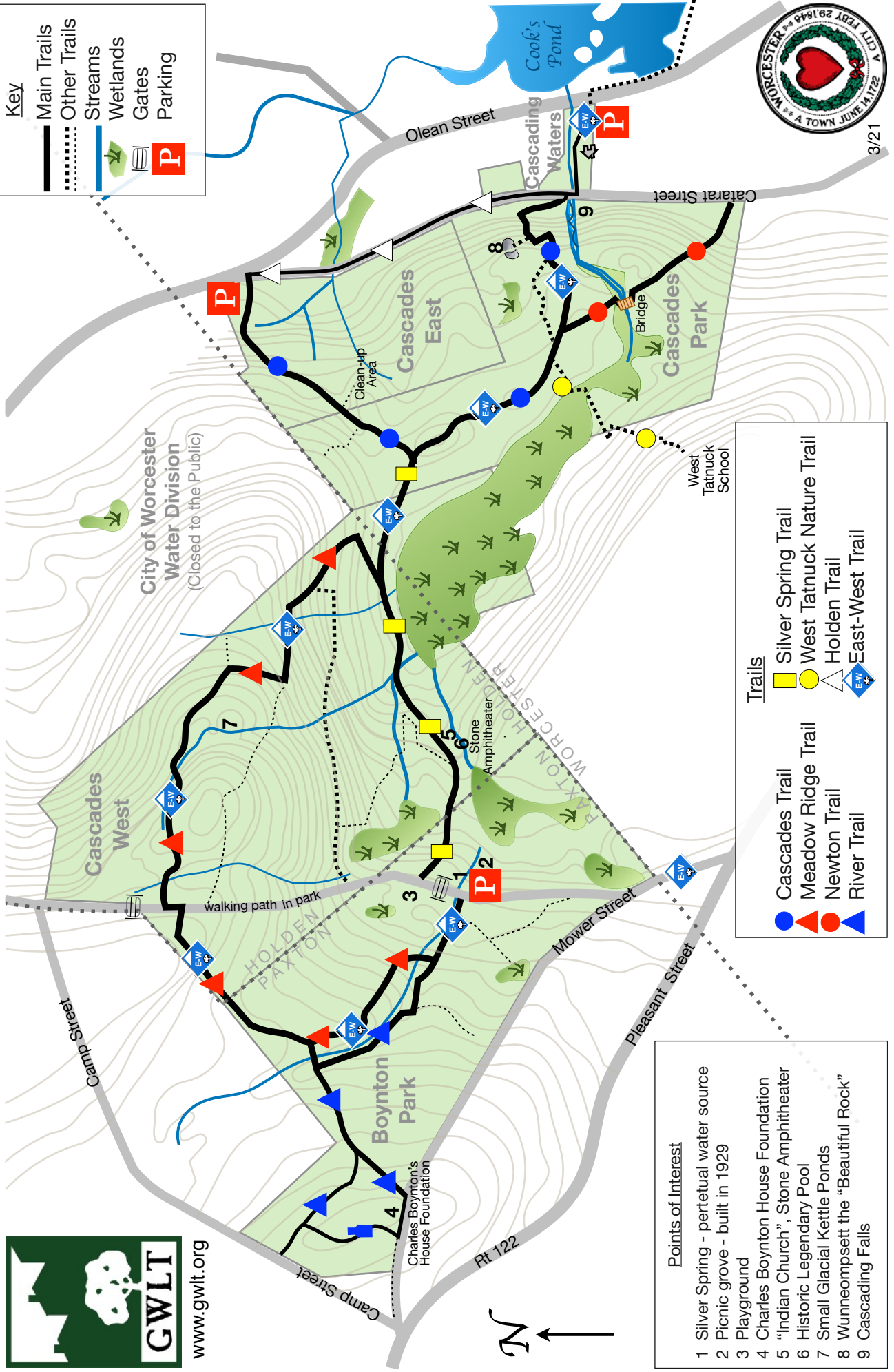
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

These parks are on the foothills of Asnebumskit Hill, and most of the trails involve elevation change. Many of these trails are also rocky and some double as streams in wet weather. Most of the area is wooded, but there is a meadow in Cascades West that has been enlarged to expand the opportunities for wildlife habitat. Several trails follow along streams and there are vernal pools that can be explored in the Spring.

There are many highlights, starting with the Spring ephemeral flowers; Blood-root, Red Trillium, Trout-lilies, Blue Cohosh, and Marsh-marigolds. The waterfall that crosses the Silver Spring Trail and the "Indian Church" or Stone Amphitheater are also destinations not to miss.

The Cascades Trail System

Paxton, Holden, Worcester



www.gwlt.org

- Points of Interest**
- 1 Silver Spring - perpetual water source
 - 2 Picnic grove - built in 1929
 - 3 Playground
 - 4 Charles Boynton House Foundation
 - 5 "Indian Church", Stone Amphitheater
 - 6 Historic Legendary Pool
 - 7 Small Glacial Kettle Ponds
 - 8 Wunneompsett the "Beautiful Rock"
 - 9 Cascading Falls

- Trails**
- Cascades Trail
 - Meadow Ridge Trail
 - Newton Trail
 - River Trail
 - Silver Spring Trail
 - West Tatnuck Nature Trail
 - Holden Trail
 - East-West Trail

- Key**
- Main Trails
 - Other Trails
 - Streams
 - Wetlands
 - Gates
 - Parking



3/21

Cascading Waters

Worcester

Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: From the intersection of Chandler and Pleasant Streets, take Mower Street traveling Northwest. (In front of the Santander Bank.) Continue for about .10 mile and bear slightly right onto Olean Street. Continue about .40 mile. A large wooden sign for Cascading Waters will be on the left along with a parking area.

Length: Follow the path .10 mile to the waterfall. Other trails in the Cascade Park System can be accessed from here and from Cascades East which has an entrance about .50 mile further North on Olean Street.

Some highlights include spectacular views of the falls in the Spring or after a heavy rain. Spring is also the time to see an expanse of ephemeral flowers like Blood-root, Trout-lilies and Blue Cohosh, as well as Jack-in-the-pulpits. In Winter, the frozen falls on a beautiful day are a sight to remember.

Cook's Pond

Smith's Pond Corporation

The Greater Worcester Land Trust

Cook's Pond is located across the street from Cascading Waters. You can park at Cascading Waters and walk South on Olean Street about .10 mile (back towards Pleasant Street). The walking trail takes you around much of the pond, over a dam. You can walk 1 - 2 miles enjoying many spectacular views of the pond. Great Blue Herons, ducks and muskrats are often found here. There are White Water-lilies in the pond and an extensive variety of colorful wildflowers that line the pond's banks.

To extend your walk you can cross Tory Fort Road and visit Donker Farm.

Cook's Pond Worcester



Key			
	Woonaskochu's Path		Wetlands
	Paths		Bench
	Stream		Parking
	Property Boundary		

Coes Reservoir

Knights of Columbus Park, Columbus Park, Coes Park

Worcester

City of Worcester

The Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: Knights of Columbus Park. There is a parking lot and entrance at the Northwest end of Englewood Avenue. (This lot is often locked.)

Other parking options:

- 1) There is a small parking lot located at the end of Circuit Avenue North. There is room to park several cars.
- 2) Parking is available at the Knights of Columbus, 44 Circuit Avenue North, Worcester. This lot is open in the winter.
- 3) There are two parking lots at the Southern end of Coes Reservoir at Coes Park. They are off Mill Street on Coes Street. These lots are open during the Winter.

Length: 1 - 2 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

The entrance off Englewood Avenue is also accompanied by a play area, and a multi-purpose field. A new boardwalk has been constructed along the reservoir that showcases views of Paper Birches against the water. Many birds including Mute Swans, Ring-billed Gulls, Canada Geese and a Red-tailed Hawk, as well as muskrat make this area their home. The path continues over the foot bridge on the dam spillway, past Coes Park, all the way to the beach on Mill Street.

Coes Park is a multigenerational park and universally accessible playground located off Mill Street at the former Coes Knife property. This state-of-the-art playground is enjoyed by people of all ages. Dogs are not allowed in the play area. Sterns Tavern, which was moved to the site in October, 2016 has been renovated. During the milder months a small snack shop is open.

This is part of the East-West Trail. You can extend your walk by including Hadwen Arboretum. The following map shows both properties.

Coes Reservoir Worcester, MA



Key	
	Current Paths
	Boardwalk
	East-West Trail
	Property Boundaries
	Parking
	Playgrounds



RCAP Solutions

Coes Reservoir & Hadwen Arboretum Worcester, MA



www.gwlt.org

Key	
	Current Paths
	Boardwalk
	East-West Trail
	Property Boundaries
	Parking
	Playgrounds

Cook's Canyon

Barre

Mass Audubon Society

Location: From the intersection of South Street and Route 122 in Barre Center, travel .30 mile South on South Street. The Sanctuary is on the left.

Length: About 2 miles

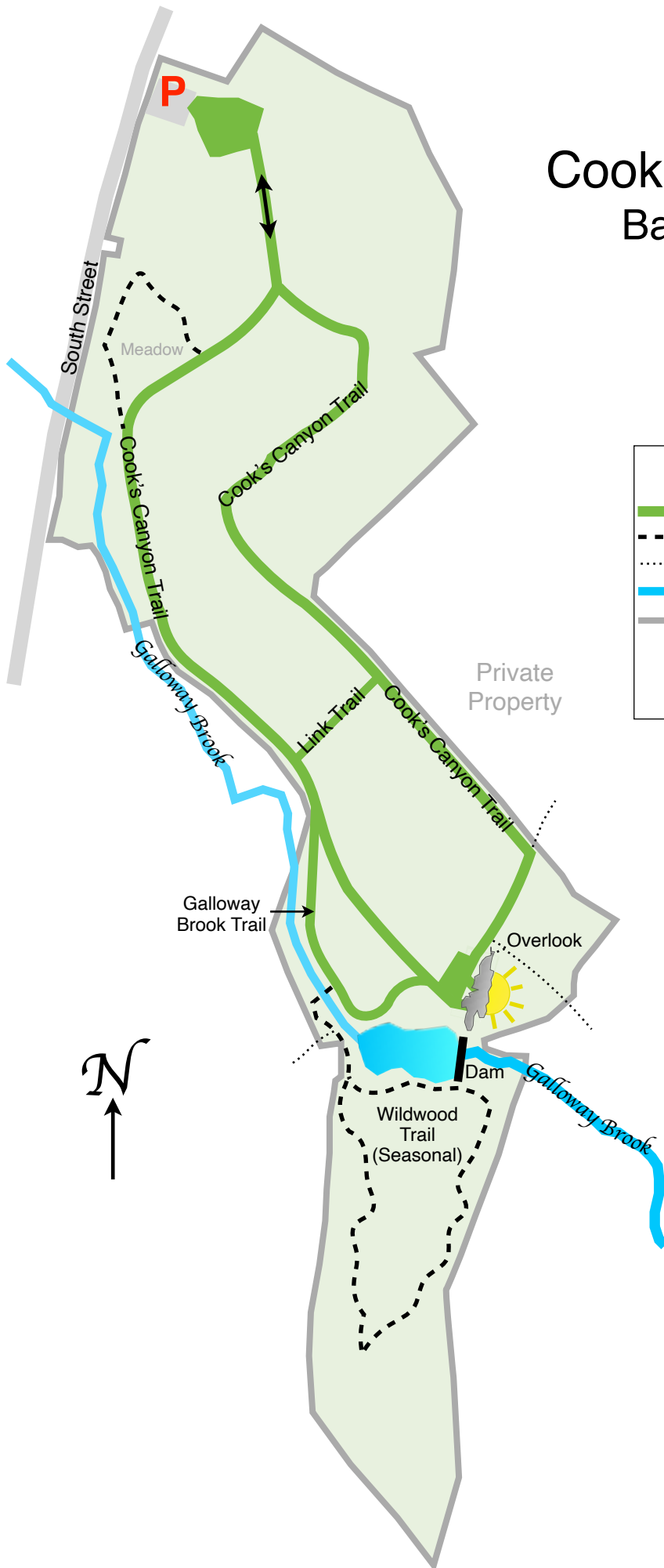
No dogs allowed.

Cook's Canyon Trail is an easy level trail that circles the property. The Western side of the trail follows a broad dirt road through the woods. There is a meadow with a mowed path that you can walk around, and a large hollow oak tree you can take your picture in. Galloway Brook Trail is a short side trail that takes you along Galloway Brook. It rejoins the main trail near the wetland pond.

The Wildwood Trail, is accessed by crossing Galloway Brook, when the water level is low. This narrow path heads South along the pond, then splits forming a loop trail. The right side continues South taking you through the woods, then turns Northeast to follow Galloway Brook's spectacular canyon. This rustic trail may not be well marked. You complete the trail by re-crossing the brook and joining the Galloway Brook Trail.

At the Southern end of the main Cook's Canyon Trail the pond flows over a waterfall and the brook continues through the canyon. The footing on the rocks along the canyon can be treacherous. There is a stone ledge to the left (North) of the canyon that overlooks the valley. The best view can be seen when the leaves are off of the trees. Continuing on the Eastern half of the property, you will be walking on a narrow path. This side is wooded and travels through some damp areas. Wooden planks are strategically placed over the wetter areas. This side runs along a stone-wall property boundary. Take care to not inadvertently take a private trail onto private property.

Cook's Canyon Barre, MA



Key

- Main Paths
- Other Paths
- Private Paths
- Brook
- Property Boundary
- P Parking

(not an official map)

10/20



Cookson Park

Worcester

City of Worcester

Location: Cookson Park (or Cookson Field) is located on College Hill near Holy Cross. Take College Street up the hill and turn West onto Kendig Street. (The Kendig Street sign is not very noticeable, but there is a sign for Cookson Field.) The parking lot is at the end of Kendig Street.

Length: About 2 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Cookson Park is a 26.50-acre property located on top of College Hill. There is a large kiosk at the entrance that welcomes you to the park. It has a large property map and a lot of specific information about the history, geology and nature to be found here.

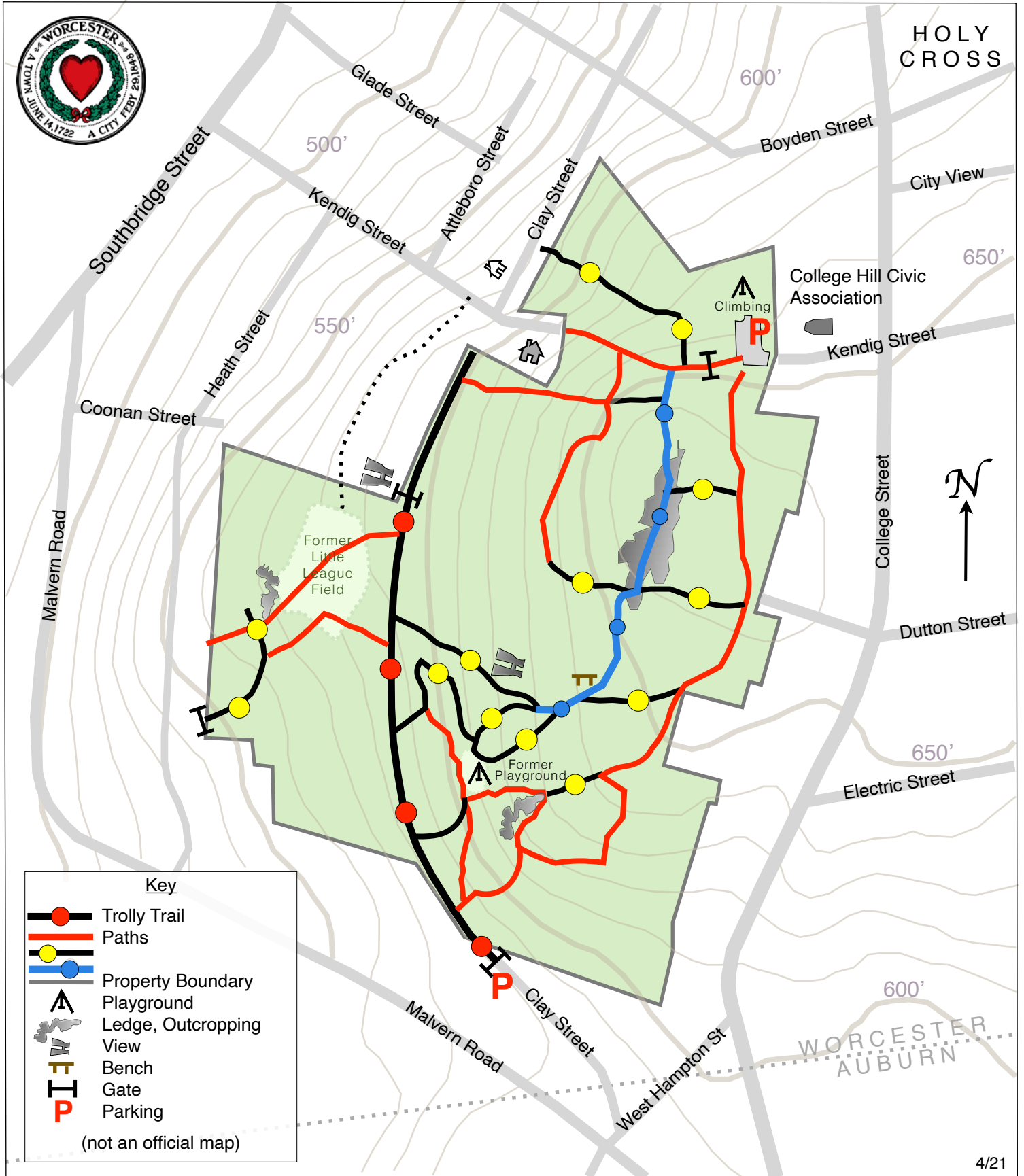
The park prominently features massive Paxton Schist bedrock; much of it is covered with mosses and lichens. In dramatic contrast are the towering oak trees that form a canopy over the property. In the Spring there are Pink Lady's-slippers, Spotted Crane's-bills and Canada-mayflowers along the paths.

A former Little League field has developed into a colorful meadow. Yarrow, Spotted Knapweed, Annual Fleabane, Red Clover, Queen Anne's Lace and goldenrod are some of the flowers on display. Some of these plants are non-native, but the butterflies don't seem to mind. Wild Turkeys, Cooper's Hawks, Barred Owls and White-tailed Deer have been spotted in the park.

The property is easy to navigate. Many of the trail blazes are faded, but the paths frequently intersect each other as you hike up and down the property. Year round you can get a view of Worcester from a few spots, but when the leaves are off the trees, there are many more opportunities. The only drawback is that without the foliage, the property can be noisy from the traffic on I-290.

The City of Worcester, Friends of Cookson Park, Greater Worcester Land Trust, students from Holy Cross and others are continuing to improve and develop this property.

Cookson Park Worcester, MA



Cormier Woods

Uxbridge and Mendon

The Trustees of Reservations

Location: From the intersection of Routes 16 and 122 in Uxbridge, follow Route 16 East for about 1 mile. Take a slight right turn onto Henry Street and continue for .40 mile. Turn right onto Blackstone Street and continue on Blackstone for .30 mile. Turn at the second left, Chapin Street. Follow Chapin for .75 mile, the sanctuary will be on the left side of the road.

Length: 1.50 to 3 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This former farm has four easy loop trails that take you through a variety of habitats. There is a barn by the parking area and a farmhouse (private residence) across the street.

On the Eastern side of Chapin Road is an easy loop trail that goes through a woodland and over a small stream. There are native grass fields that have a variety of wildflowers including Black-eyed Susan, Showy Goldenrods and asters.

On the Western side of the road, the main loop goes through a woodland area which features a field of glacial boulders, rocky ledges and outcroppings. The stream that crosses the path has Jack-in-the-pulpits along its banks, and in the Fall, an area has a large display of the red Hairy Pine-sap. Two smaller loops take off from this main trail. Here you can find the remains of the Jonathan White homestead.

Cormier Woods now connects to Meadow Brook Woods in Mendon, MA. This gives you many additional hiking opportunities. I have not done any of these new trails.

The Trustees of Reservations has well over 100 properties across the state and many of them have hiking paths. Check their website for information. <https://thetrustees.org>



CORMIER WOODS

A PROPERTY OF THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS (186 ACRES)

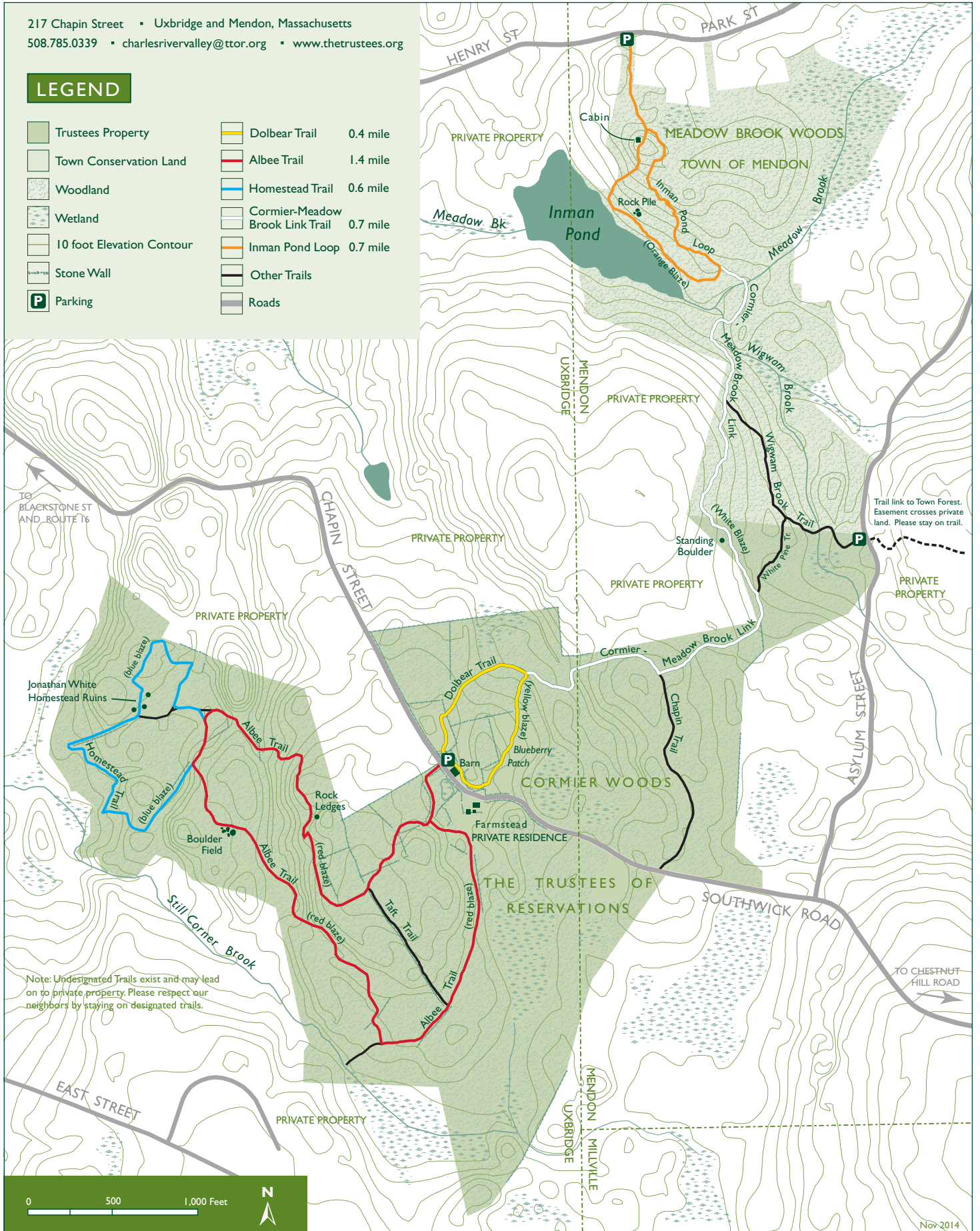
AND MEADOW BROOK WOODS

TOWN OF MENDON (76 ACRES)

217 Chapin Street • Uxbridge and Mendon, Massachusetts
 508.785.0339 • charlesrivervalley@ttor.org • www.thetrustees.org

LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| | Trustees Property | | Dolbear Trail | 0.4 mile |
| | Town Conservation Land | | Albee Trail | 1.4 mile |
| | Woodland | | Homestead Trail | 0.6 mile |
| | Wetland | | Cormier-Meadow Brook Link Trail | 0.7 mile |
| | 10 foot Elevation Contour | | Inman Pond Loop | 0.7 mile |
| | Stone Wall | | Other Trails | |
| | Parking | | Roads | |



Note: Undesignated Trails exist and may lead on to private property. Please respect our neighbors by staying on designated trails.



This map is a product of the Geographic Information System of The Trustees of Reservations. Source data obtained from 1:25,000 scale USGS topographic maps, field surveys, Global Positioning System (GPS), and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, MassGIS. Boundary lines and trail locations are approximate. November 2014.

Cow Tunnel
A Section of the Midstate Trail
Charlton
Midstate Trail
Greater Worcester Land Trust

- Location: 1) From the traffic lights at the intersection of Route 20 and Carroll Hill Road, Charlton, head South crossing Route 20. Turn at the first left onto Old Worcester Road and drive to the end of the road. Park around the cul-de-sac.
- 2) Park on the side of Carroll Hill Road, just South of 101 Carroll Hill Road. The trail is on the Eastern side of the road.
- Length: 1.50 miles round trip for this section, but your walk can be extended on either side for miles.

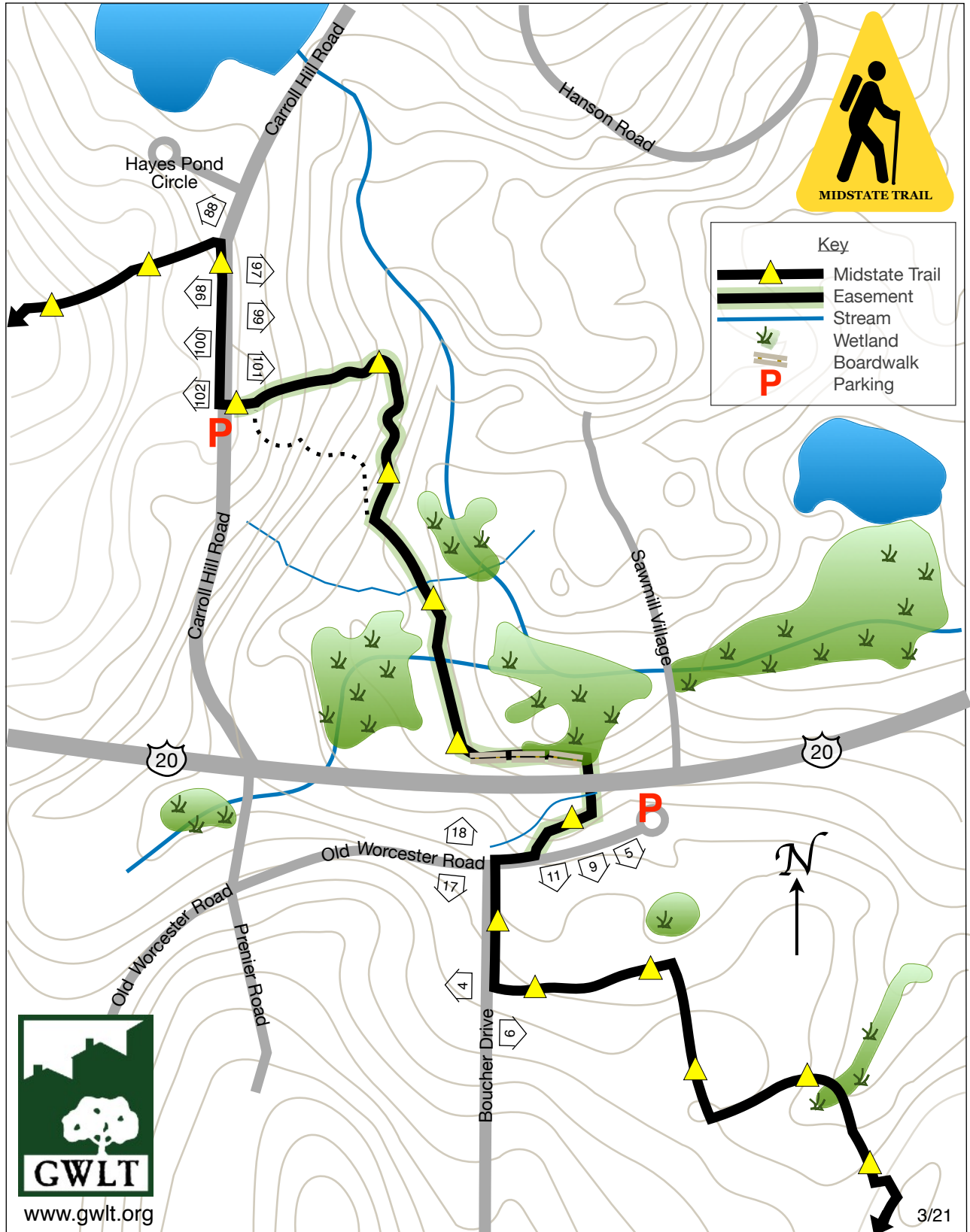
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

The Midstate Trail is a 92 mile trail that crosses Central Massachusetts extending from the Rhode Island border to the Wapack Trail in New Hampshire. The Cow Tunnel is a small, but important feature on the trail. It has a tunnel that goes beneath Route 20 in Charlton. It was rebuilt in 2005 when Route 20 was renovated, splitting a farm in half, separating the cows in the field from the farmhouse.

Look for the distinctive yellow Midstate Trail triangle blazes to start. Today, this section is a beautiful wooded lot of rolling hills and wetlands. The trip through the tunnel is a fun experience. There is a wooden boardwalk that leads you to the tunnel on the Northern side. The Southern side has a steep rocky approach. The tunnel has turned into an intermittent stream, a few inches deep, after a spring rain.

For more information on the Midstate Trail, check www.midstatetrail.org

Cow Tunnel Segment Midstate Trail Charlton, MA



Crow Hill Savannah

The Worcester Conservation Commission
The Greater Worcester Land Trust
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Ecotarium

- Location: There are two entrances on Harrington Road.
- 1) Across from the Ecotarium (222 Harrington Way)
The parking area is open:
Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Closed Mondays and Holidays
 - 2) Parking is available at the visitor's parking lot at North High School.
(140 Harrington Way)

Length: Several miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This property is a beautiful Black Oak Savannah. There are large Black Oaks, meadows, wetlands and ponds. Many paths were originally carved by all-terrain vehicles but they are weathering into good paths. Some scars from these vehicles can be found on top of the hill. The Greater Worcester Land Trust has blazed additional trails.

This property is a magnet for many species of birds and there is a diverse array of wildflowers. The pond located in the Western corner of the property, is home to Painted Turtles and Mallard Ducks.

During wet weather, a few paths may have standing water on them. I'd also suggest wearing long pants, as many paths are lined by various fast growing prickly shrubs and berries.

Crow Hill Savannah Worcester



12/21

Difley Family Forest

Paxton

Greater Worcester Land Trust

Paxton Conservation Commission

Paxton Recreation Commission

Location: Take Route 122 to the center of Paxton. At the lights, turn South onto Route 31 (West Street). Turn left at the first road into the parking area for Paxton Center School. Pass the school and drive to the end of the road. Park near the sign for the Illig Pond Conservation Area and the Paxton Recreation Commission Trail System.

Length: Several miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

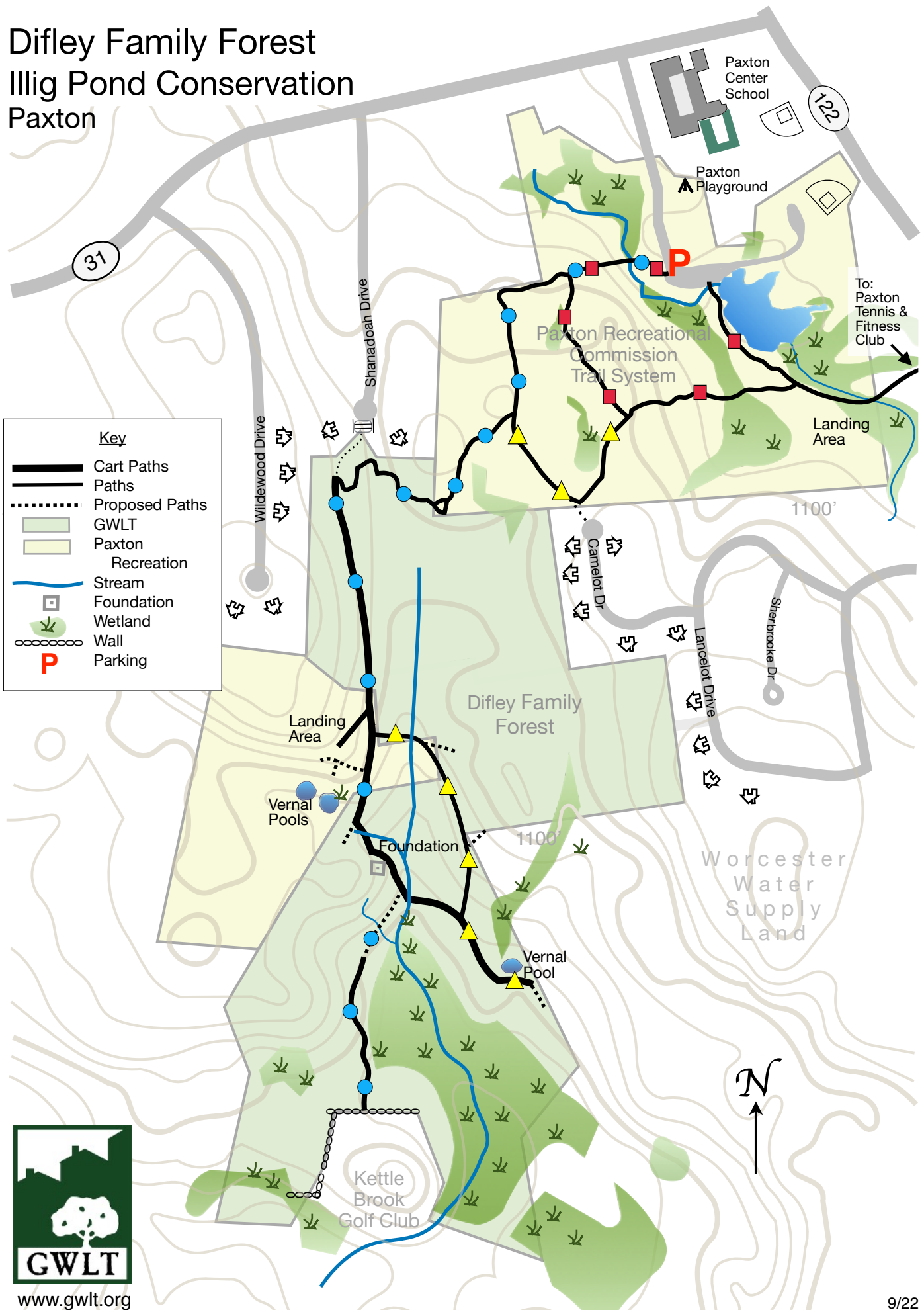
Difley Family Forest is now a part of a collection of properties. The Greater Worcester Land Trust and the town of Paxton have combined their resources and established a 200 acre parcel of land. Parking for the Difley Family Forest is at the trail head for Illig Pond. This enables you to enjoy and experience all this area has to offer.

A new trail has been blazed to connect the Western Loop of Illig Pond to Difley Family Forest. The connector meets a cart path that takes you across the property. There are also two large vernal pools that support a variety of wildlife. The path turns Southeast and you pass the cellar hole foundation of the Difley family homestead. It is a beautiful example of a one room cabin with a central chimney. If you follow this cart path to the end of the property, you come to a dammed pool that was the water supply for the homestead. Today, it is a beautiful deep vernal pool. In the spring, you can hear the Wood Frogs quacking one week, and find egg masses on your next visit.

Other trails are planned for this former logging site. One heads South ending at the stonewall boundary with Kettle Brook Golf course. Other woods roads will need to be connected and blazed.

Return to the parking area at Illig on the same connecting path you came in on. When you reach the outer loop of Illig Pond, head South and see the other side of this property. When you reach the pond, head North, enjoying the wildlife and views as you return to the parking area.

Difley Family Forest Illig Pond Conservation Paxton



Donker Farm and Cook's Brook

Worcester

Greater Worcester Land Trust

City of Worcester

- Location:
- 1) Tory Fort Lane: .30 mile from the intersection of Mower Street and Tory Fort Lane. There is a small parking lot on the right side of the road.
 - 2) Moreland Green Drive: From the intersection of Moreland Street and Moreland Green Drive, drive .50 mile West. Park near the property sign, along the right side of the road.
 - 3) For an extended hike, include a walk around Cook's Pond. Park at Cascading Waters on Olean Street. Walk .10 mile South on Olean Street to Cook's Pond.
- Length: About 1 mile. The walk can be extended many miles to the South or North on the multi-property Woonaskachu's Path.

Dogs are not allowed in the animal enclosure.

Dogs on leashes can enjoy the balance of the property, by following Tory Fort Lane North to Caton Road and following the Yellow Triangle path. (See map.)

Donker Farm is a great place to see farm animals. There are sheep, chickens and geese. The sheep are free to graze in the field and interact with you, but please do not enter the barnyard to engage them or approach the farmhouse, which is private property.

From the parking area on Tory Fort Lane, walk down the corridor past the barnyard and enter the animal enclosure through a stile. The path continues down the field under the power lines and enters the woods. You exit the animal enclosure as you go through a livestock gate.

One highlight of the property is Thinking Rock. Take the Thinking Rock Loop trail heading East up the hill to the "Rock". In Summer, the view of the "Rock" in a sea of ferns is inspiring. Another highlight is the wide variety of wildflowers found in the field under the power lines.

The main Blue Triangle path is part of the multi-property Woonaskachu's Path. It heads North to Moreland Green Drive and continues through Cook's Brook. Cook's Brook is a dramatic property which connects Donker Farm to KinneyWoods to the North. The uphill climb following the brook gives you nice views of the brook and the rocky terrain.

Donker Farm and Cook's Brook Worcester, MA



Do not enter barnyard or private residence

Dogs are not permitted in the animal enclosure. Those with dogs should follow Tory Fort Lane to Caton Rd.



Eagle Lake

Holden

Mass Audubon Society

Location: From the intersection of Routes 31 and 122A in Holden, travel Northwest on Route 122A (Main Street) for about 1.50 miles. Turn left onto Causeway Street. Continue about .70 mile on Causeway Street (across the lake). Park at the pull off area on the left side of the road.

Length: 3 miles roundtrip

No dogs allowed.

This is a wonderful moderate hike that takes you on two loops through many different environments, including deciduous and coniferous woodlands, along wetlands, a brook and the lake.

Follow half of the Appleton Loop to the trail over the top of a municipal pipeline. This pipeline connects you to the Asnebumskit Loop. This loop takes you along Eagle Lake and Asnebumskit Brook. The actual path doesn't take you down to the lake, but there are several places that are clear enough to get you closer to the water.

You complete the hike by retracing your steps over the pipeline and then doing the other half of Appleton Loop.

One caution. The entrance to both loop paths from the pipeline are marked with signs that may be obscured by vegetation. Look for a waist-high, small green sign with a white arrow.

Highlights include many stunning views of Eagle Lake and Asnebumskit Brook, along with the Cardinal-flowers that grow in the brook in August. Starting in mid-Summer and continuing through Fall, the area displays mushrooms of every color.

In the last few years, Eagle Lake's dam has been in need of repair. For safety, the State has required the owners of the dam to reduce the water level in the lake. The level of the water may be lower, but that hasn't changed is the beauty of this "new" lake.

Eagle Lake Park

Swimming Picnic Area

Holden Department of Public Works

Location: Follow the directions for Eagle Lake, except instead of following Causeway Street to the right and crossing the lake, continue straight and park either on the left side of the road, or continue to the end of the road and park at the beach and recreation area.

Length: About .70 mile roundtrip

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

There is a short path that follows along the lake. If you parked on the left side at the beginning of the road, take the wooded path that begins across the road. You will emerge from this path on the beach, near the water. To complete the trip back to your car, walk along the road. In the Spring, the road is lined with azaleas and various wildflowers including a large area of Pink Lady's-slippers.

Eagle Lake - Alder Trail

Holden

Mass Audubon Society

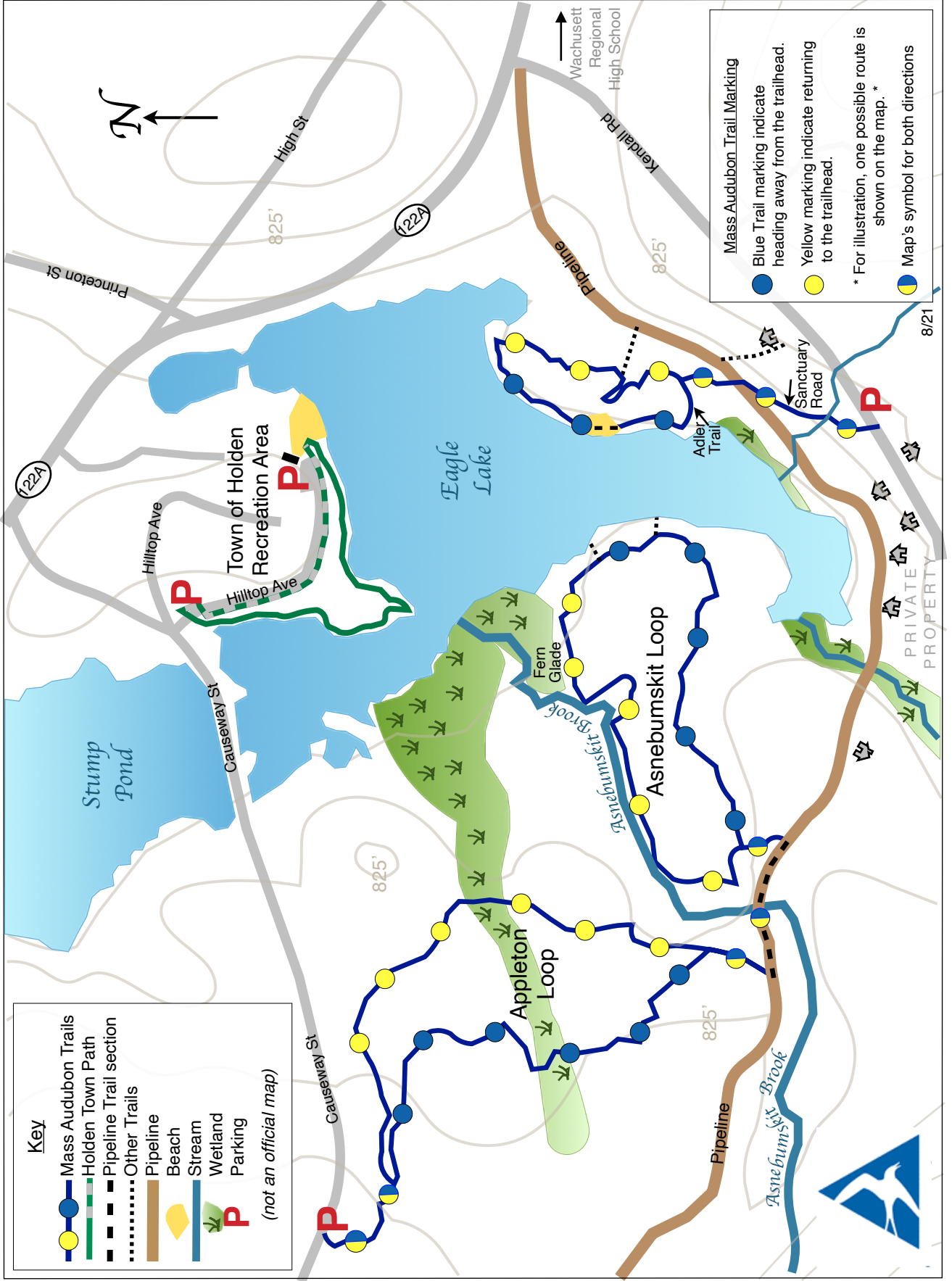
Location: From the intersection of Routes 31 and 122A in Holden, travel Northwest on Route 122A for about .90 mile. Turn left onto Kendall Road. Drive for about .40 mile until you see a chain gate on the right side of the road. There is a small pull-off diagonally opposite the gate. Space to park is very limited.

No dogs allowed.

This is a level, .90 mile loop trail that takes you through the woods, over a municipal pipeline and along Eagle Lake. On the Eastern side of the loop is a side path that takes you above the former beach area. From here you get some good views of Eagle Lake. The other two Audubon loop trails can be accessed by walking Southwest on the pipeline for .50 mile to reach the Asnebumskit Loop. You will be crossing private property when passing the houses along the pipeline.

Eagle Lake

Holden



East Side Trail
Green Hill Park
Trinity Woods
Worcester
The City of Worcester
The Greater Worcester Land Trust

The East Side Trail is a green belt that extends from Cristoforo Columbo Park (East Park) on Shrewsbury Street to Lake Quinsigamond. The trail covers 3.44 miles (one way) and is very well marked with blue paint. There are “yellow” spur trails that link up with the main trail, as well as several other well marked trails that make up Green Hill Park. Accompanying the map is the official description of the trail. There is also a larger two page map. There are many places to park near this trail, so planning the length walk you want is easy. For this guide, here are four suggestions.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

1) Cristoforo Columbo Park to Route 9

Location: Park at either end. Shrewsbury Street near the park or at Bell Pond on Belmont Street (Route 9).

The Trail begins at the stone lions on Shrewsbury Street and follows the path across Cristoforo Columbo Park and into the woods. The climb through the forest and up the hill is short but very steep. This section ends with an easy walk along Bell Pond. There are birds, ducks, turtles and frogs in the marshy areas of the pond. This section is .625 mile, one way.

2) Route 9 to the Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Location: Park at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial or at Bell Pond.

If you start at the Memorial, take the time to enjoy the floral plantings, the walk along the pond, and the Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial’s monuments. At the back of the Memorial, a short spur trail will connect you to the main trail. This portion of the trail is a combination of both paths and woods roads. A highlight of this section is the walk around the quarry, and the view of the countryside to the South. Climbing down the cliff to continue the hike on the other side of Belmont Street (Route 9) to see Bell Pond, is a challenge. Otherwise, this is an easy .750 mile hike, one way.

3) Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Lake Quinsigamond.

Location: Park at the Memorial or along the side of North Lake Drive near the Boat Ramp.

From the parking area at the Memorial, you can connect with the main trail. Head East along the rocky path that takes you behind the Zoo and by a stone quarry. After crossing Skyline Drive this wooded trail become smooth and easy. You walk along a cliff and emerge from the woods near the 13th hole of Green Hill Golf Course. Your hike continues as you weave your way down the hill through a field, across walls and streams. A highlight is following Coal Mine Brook as it cuts its way down the hill and takes you by dramatic Coal Mine Shaft. You will emerge from the woods at Plantation Street. This road has a lot of traffic, so be careful when crossing. You finish the hike at stunning Lake Quinsigamond. This section is about 2 miles each way with an elevation change of about a 370'.

4) Trinity Woods to Lake Quinsigamond.

Location: Park on Trinity Avenue near the intersection with Bryn Mawr Avenue or along the side of North Lake Drive near the Boat Ramp.

This is a shorter alternate option for doing the Eastern end of the East Side Trail. Start at the Trinity Spur and follow the trail through the woods down to Coal Mine Brook. The trail divides; turn left (Northeast) on the Brook Loop. This loop takes you along Coal Mine Brook and then steeply up hill towards the apartment complex. Follow the path along side of the apartment complex and meet up with the East Side Trail. Follow this down to Lake Quinsigamond as in option 3. On the return trip follow the Trinity Spur to Trinity Avenue. One interesting feature is a bicycle wheel rim that has grown into two trees. This option is about 1 mile each way.

EAST SIDE TRAIL

Worcester, Mass.



1 inch = 1500 ft.
04/29/18 - PAGE 1 OF 4

THIS MAP WAS PREPARED FROM COMPILED PLAN/GIS DATA AND HANDHELD GPS OBSERVATIONS. TRAIL ROUTES AND VARIOUS FEATURES SHOWN HEREON ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY. DRAWN BY: EFT

N 2931000
E 575000



NOTES

- * EAST SIDE TRAIL MILEPOST 0.00 TO TRINITY AVE = 2.98 MILES
- * TRINITY SPUR (TS) - 0.31 MILES TO JCT. WITH EAST SIDE TRAIL AND BROOK LOOP (LOOP "C")
- * GHOST TRAIL (GT) - 0.57 MI
- * MILLSTONE TRAIL (MST) - 0.69 MI (MST BLAZED S OF TECH SCHOOL BY FENCE ± E TO GATE AT POND)

N 2920000
E 575000
MASS STATE PLANE
COORDINATE SYSTEM

LEGEND

- BLUE RCTGL. - EAST SIDE TRAIL (EST)
- WHITE RCTGL. - GHOST TRAIL (GT)
- BLUE CIRCL. - MILLSTONE TRAIL (MST)
- RED RCTGL. - LOOP TRAIL
- YELLOW RCTGL. - SPUR TRAIL
- ===== PAVED ROAD
- DIRT ROAD
- STONE WALL
- CYCLONE FENCE
- MAIN TRAILS
- SPUR TRAILS
- BROOK
- Q QUARRY
- VVM VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
- WT WATER TANK
- WX WATER TANK (BASE ONLY)
- A LEDGE LOOP 0.30 MI
- B BROOK LOOP S 0.16 MI
- C BROOK LOOP N 0.16 MI
- P PARKING
- MS MINE SHAFT

E.S.T. MILEPOSTS ±

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1 EAST PARK TRAILHEAD AT STONE LIONS | 0.00 |
| 2 SUMMIT OF BELL HILL (200' ON LT.) | 0.36 |
| 3 BELL POND PARKING & ROUTE 9 | 0.61 |
| 4 ASCEND SLOPE OPPOSITE BELL POND | 0.70 |
| 5 EST / QUARRY BYPASS SOUTH INT. | 0.88 |
| 6 EST / (JCT. GT/MST ON RT.) | 0.96 |
| 7 EST / QUARRY BYPASS NORTH INT. | 1.07 |
| 8 JCT. EST / LUCY LN. / STANTON ST. SPUR | 1.20 |
| 9 SPUR TRAIL TO VIETNAM VETS. MEM. | 1.36 |
| 10 PICNIC GROVE / GREEN HILL PARKING | 1.46 |
| 11 SPUR ON RT. TO TECH BALL FIELDS | 1.55 |
| 12 SPUR ON LT. TO LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD | 1.71 |
| 13 CROSS SKYLINE DR. NE OF QUARRY | 1.80 |
| 14 LT. ON EST (WX 200' RT) (JCT. GT/MST) | 1.93 |
| 15 JCT. RED TRAIL ON RT. (LOOP "A") | 2.09 |
| 16 JCT. RED, BLUE & YELLOW TRAILS | 2.25 |
| 17 ENTER SW COR. FIELD AT WALL CROSSING | 2.33 |
| 18 EXIT NW EDGE FIELD AT WALL CROSSING | 2.43 |
| 19 JCT. RED (LOOP "B") / WALL CROSSING | 2.59 |
| 20 JCT. RED (LOOP "C") / TRINITY SPUR | 2.67 |
| 21 COAL MINE SHAFT / SPUR TRAIL ON RT. | 2.86 |
| 22 CROSS NOTRE DAME DRIVEWAY | 3.05 |
| 23 SPUR TRAIL ON RT. TO KNOLL | 3.21 |
| 24 KNOLL SPUR ON RT. ± / PLANTATION ST. | 3.29 |
| 25 LAKE QUINSIGAMOND / END EST | 3.44 |

EAST SIDE TRAIL

Worcester, Mass.

www.gwlt.org

The East Side Trail was initially conceived in the mid 1980's and envisioned as a continuous greenbelt linking East Park (Cristoforo Colombo Park) with Lake Quinsigamond. Construction of the trail commenced in the spring of 1997 with the original route being completed in a span of just over three weeks. Due to the construction of the Worcester Technical High School at Green Hill Park, a major portion of the trail was relocated away from the school site in the fall of 2003.

The current trail route begins at the twin stone lions flanking the entrance to East Park on Shrewsbury Street. Following a walkway through the park, it then climbs steeply to the top of Bell Hill. From the summit, just off the trail, limited views may still be had. Descending – partly by a guardrail – the trail reaches and skirts the westerly shores of Bell Pond. It then runs a short distance along and crosses Route 9, ascending a ledge slope entering into Green Hill Park.

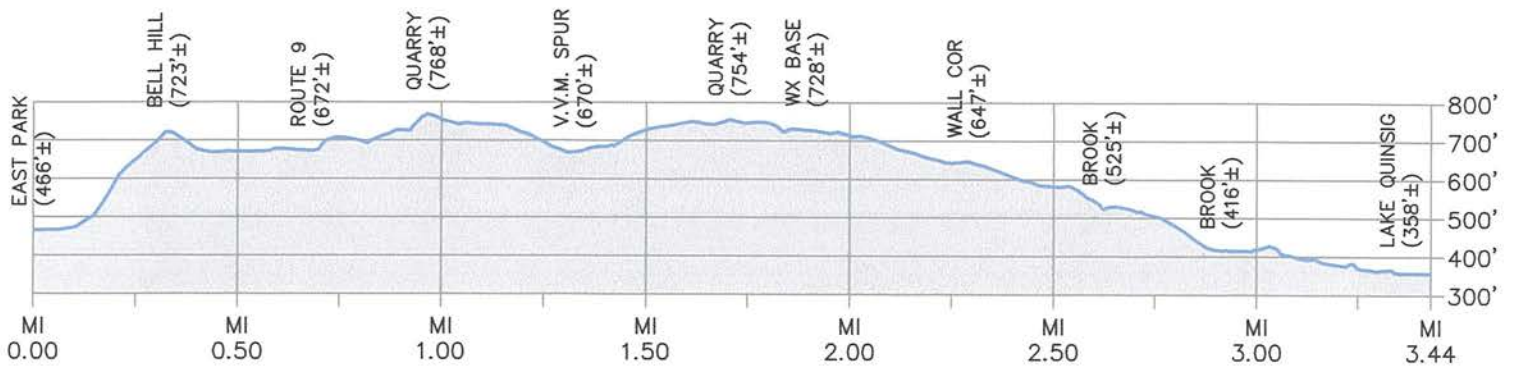
The lands comprising Green Hill Park were first settled in 1755 by Thomas Green. The property passed from father to son until it was deeded to the City in 1905 with the understanding it would remain as a park in perpetuity. Passing an overlook of Bell Pond, the trail reenters the woods following cart paths and a foot trail to the site of an old stone quarry, one of several on Millstone Hill. Much of early Worcester's foundation stone and curbing was quarried from here.

Moving into the core of Green Hill Park the trail travels along a section of Lucy Lane, passing a spur trail on the left to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, before turning back onto a network of serpentine foot trails. Past the Barnyard Zoo and a small quarry, the trail turns east and crosses Skyline Drive. At a cart road junction just north of the old water tank base, the East Side Trail rejoins its original route. The many stone walls in this section were built by a former resident of Worcester State Hospital. Working six days a week, never on Sunday and always alone, the several miles of remaining walls are testament to his more than thirty years of efforts.

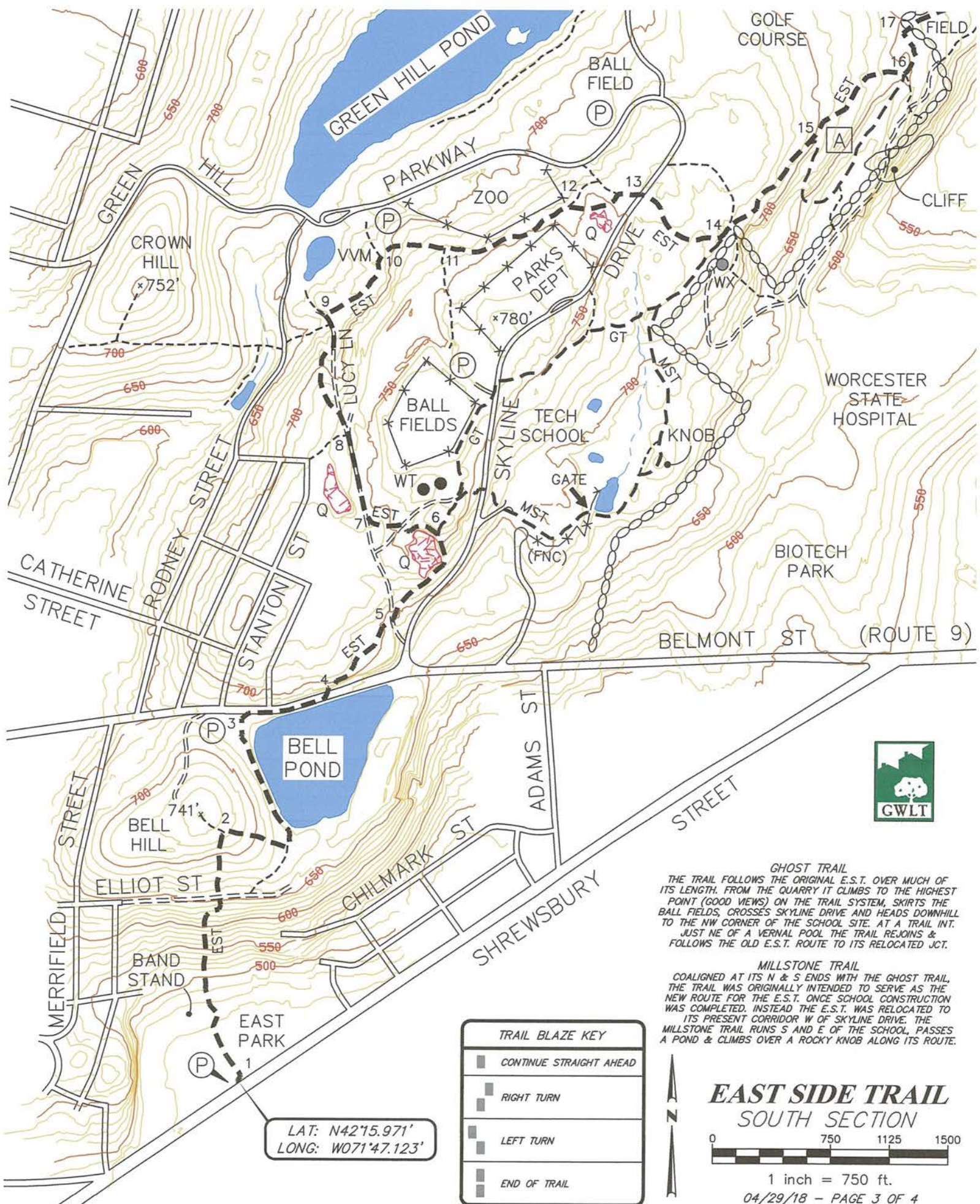
Traversing an open field the trail runs alongside, then crosses a stone wall, entering the northerly portions of Green Hill Park. The trail descends through a high canopied forest to a junction with the Trinity Spur & Brook Loop, at a small brook crossing. Heading east over private property, the trail crosses a paved drive before arriving at a ledge overhang, site of the old coal mine shaft. Known as Nackor's mine it produced much coal at first but the coal was of poor quality and the mine was finally abandoned. Nearby Indians used the black lead as part of their war paint.

Passage over other private lands northeast of the shaft – permitted by a trail easement granted in June 2011 – allows for an unbroken trail route of nearly 3.5 miles from Shrewsbury Street to Lake Quinsigamond and completes the trail after 14 years of efforts. In 2018 the Brook Loop was expanded. It's bisected into equal halves by the Trinity Spur; a main access trail between the East Side Trail and Trinity Avenue. The southerly half of the Brook Loop runs on the Fisher Link, the northerly half on the Brook Trail. Other spur trails not previously shown have been added.

EAST SIDE TRAIL ELEVATION PROFILE



1" = 2500' / VERTICAL EXAGGERATION: 5



LAT: N42°15.971'
LONG: W071°47.123'

TRAIL BLAZE KEY	
	CONTINUE STRAIGHT AHEAD
	RIGHT TURN
	LEFT TURN
	END OF TRAIL

GHOST TRAIL
THE TRAIL FOLLOWS THE ORIGINAL E.S.T. OVER MUCH OF ITS LENGTH. FROM THE QUARRY IT CLIMBS TO THE HIGHEST POINT (GOOD VIEWS) ON THE TRAIL SYSTEM, SKIRTS THE BALL FIELDS, CROSSES SKYLINE DRIVE AND HEADS DOWNHILL TO THE NW CORNER OF THE SCHOOL SITE. AT A TRAIL INT. JUST NE OF A VERNAL POOL THE TRAIL REJOINS & FOLLOWS THE OLD E.S.T. ROUTE TO ITS RELOCATED JCT.

MILLSTONE TRAIL
COALIGNED AT ITS N & S ENDS WITH THE GHOST TRAIL, THE TRAIL WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO SERVE AS THE NEW ROUTE FOR THE E.S.T. ONCE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETED. INSTEAD THE E.S.T. WAS RELOCATED TO ITS PRESENT CORRIDOR W OF SKYLINE DRIVE. THE MILLSTONE TRAIL RUNS S AND E OF THE SCHOOL, PASSES A POND & CLIMBS OVER A ROCKY KNOB ALONG ITS ROUTE.

EAST SIDE TRAIL SOUTH SECTION



1 inch = 750 ft.





QUINSIGAMOND

LAKE



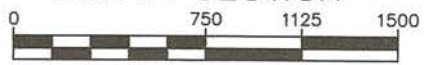
THOSE PORTIONS OF THE EAST SIDE TRAIL AND OTHERS SHOWN AS SHADED PASS THROUGH PRIVATE PROPERTY. IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE COURTESY OF THE LANDOWNERS THAT THE TRAILS MAY BE USED. PLEASE RESPECT THE PRIVILEGE GRANTED AND STAY WITHIN MARKED TRAILS INTENDED FOR FOOT TRAVEL ONLY.

USE EXTREME CAUTION CROSSING PLANTATION ST.

TRINITY SPUR
 PROVIDING CONVENIENT ACCESS TO THE N'LY PORTIONS OF THE SYSTEM, THE TRAILHEAD FOR THIS NEW SPUR IS LOCATED AT THE INT. OF TRINITY AVE & BRYN MAWR AVE. ENJOY A SHORT STROLL ALONG THE CASCADES ON THE BROOK LOOP OR OPT FOR A LONGER HIKE TO EITHER END OF THE EAST SIDE TRAIL.

BROOK LOOP
 SOUTH - FISHER LINK (FL)
 NORTH - BROOK TRAIL (BT)

EAST SIDE TRAIL
 NORTH SECTION



1 inch = 750 ft.

East-West Trail

Worcester
Park Spirit of Worcester, Inc
Friends of Newton Hill
Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: The City of Worcester

Length: 14 Miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

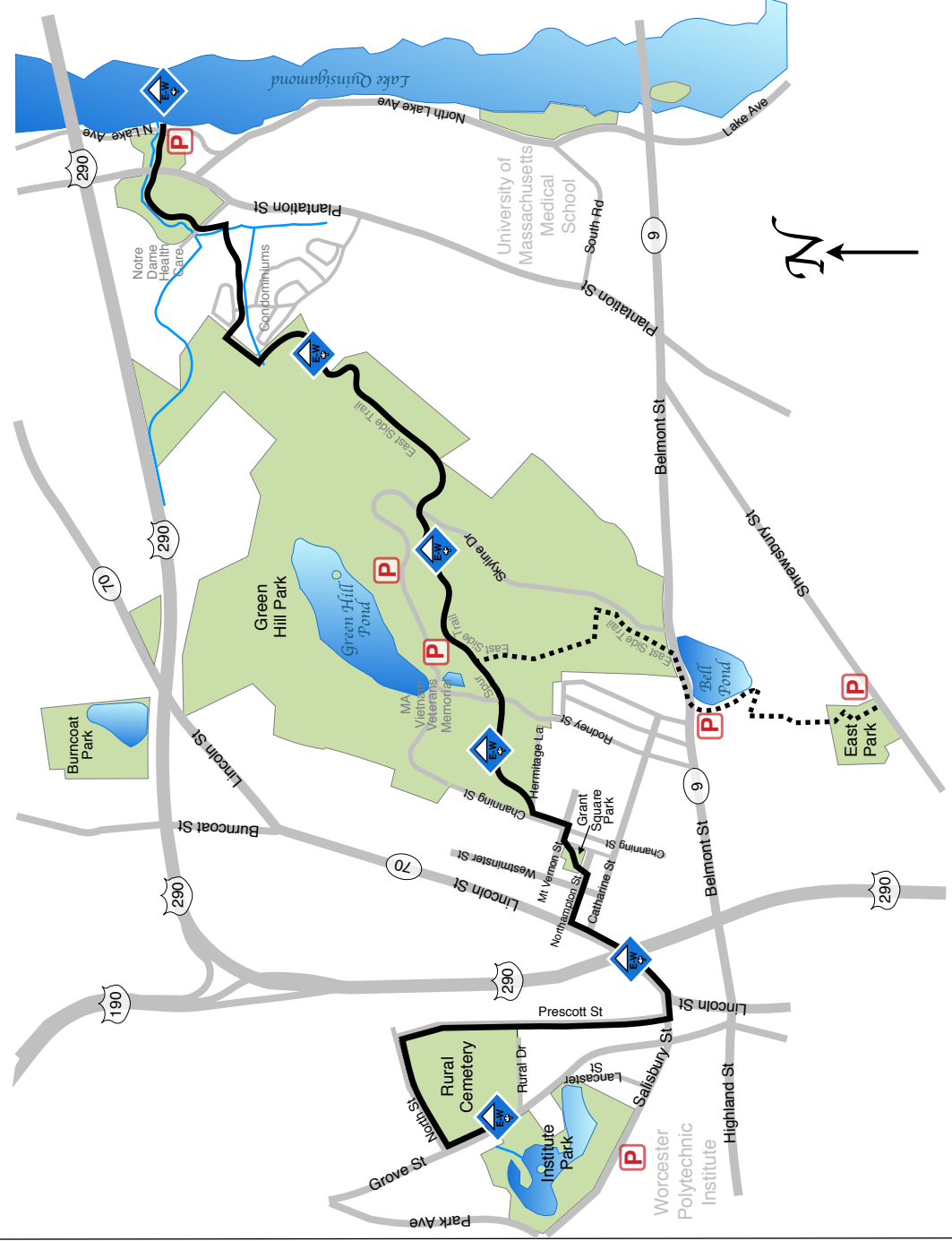
The idea for a trail that linked together many of the City's parks and conservation areas with city streets was imagined in 2001. It became a reality several years ago. The trail goes through many of the parks that are highlighted in this guide. Other spots to enjoy are Bancroft Tower in Salisbury Park and Rural Cemetery. Institute Park features Salisbury Pond. The city has constructed a boardwalk at the Western end of the pond and established the Worcester Firefighter's Memorial. The boardwalk takes you over the wetlands to the Memorial, past O'Connell Field to Grove Street. This enables you to effectively walk around the pond. The walk around Salisbury Pond is 1 mile.

Following is a 2 page map of the trail. For addition information check out the Park Spirit website at parkspirit.org. They have an incredible amount of information on the history of the trail as well as the Parks, historic sites, restaurants and services that are along the route.

East-West Trail

Eastern Section

Worcester, MA



WEST

Continued from East-West Trail - Western Section.

P There is parking along Salisbury St.

Begin at the **RURAL CEMETERY** Gate. Head South on Grove St. Turn East and walk along Southern side of Rural Cemetery on Rural Drive.

Head South on Prescott Street and walk to Salisbury Street. Turn East on Salisbury Street and walk to Lincoln Street. Head Northeast on Lincoln Street and walk to Catharine Street.

Turn East on Northampton Street and walk one and a half blocks to **GRANT SQUARE PARK**.

Walk Northeast through the **GRANT SQUARE PARK** exiting the park at the intersection of Mount Vernon Street and Windsor St. Turn East on Mount Vernon Street and follow it to Channing Street. Head North on Channing Street for one block to the corner of Channing Street, Hermitage Lane, and the Southwestern corner of **GREEN HILL PARK**.

Enter **GREEN HILL PARK** and walk Northeast to Rodney Street. Cross the road and take the spur trail (yellow markings) of the East Side Trail. This trail will join with the East Side Trail behind the Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

P There is parking at the Memorial.

Follow the East Side Trail, East, crossing Skyline Drive. Then continue Northeast passing the Green Hill Golf Course, and crossing a road in a condominium complex. The trail continues Northeast following Coal Mine Brook. It crosses the access road for the Notre Dame Health Care complex, Plantation Street and Lake Avenue before it reaches Lake Quinsigamond and the end of the East Side Trail.

P Parking is available along the side of Lake Avenue.

EAST



East-West Trail

Western Section

Worcester, MA



EAST

Begin at RURAL CEMETERY Gate. Walk SE on Grove St. Turn South onto Lancaster St and follow Salisbury Pond into INSTITUTE PARK.

P There is parking along Salisbury St. Head NW, crossing Park Ave. Turn SW onto Massachusetts Ave. Then NW on a path to Bancroft Tower. Walk through SALISBURY PARK, passing the Tower. Follow Bancroft Tower Rd. SW Turn South onto Bechmont St. Turn West, then immediately South onto Haviland St. Turn East onto Highland Ave, and continue into

NEWTON HILL - Follow the East-West Trail across the park. Turn East onto Pleasant St. Walk for about a block and Turn South onto Abbott St. Turn West onto Chandler St.

BEAVER BROOK PARK - Cross Park
P There is parking off of Chandler St. Walk 2 blocks South on Mann St. Turn West onto May Street. Walk 2 blocks. Cross the street at Lovell Street and enter

HADWEN ARBORETUM - Cross the park. Exit by walking along the South side of the softball field.
P Parking is available here at COLUMBUS PARK

Continue the East-West Trail. See Eastern Section.

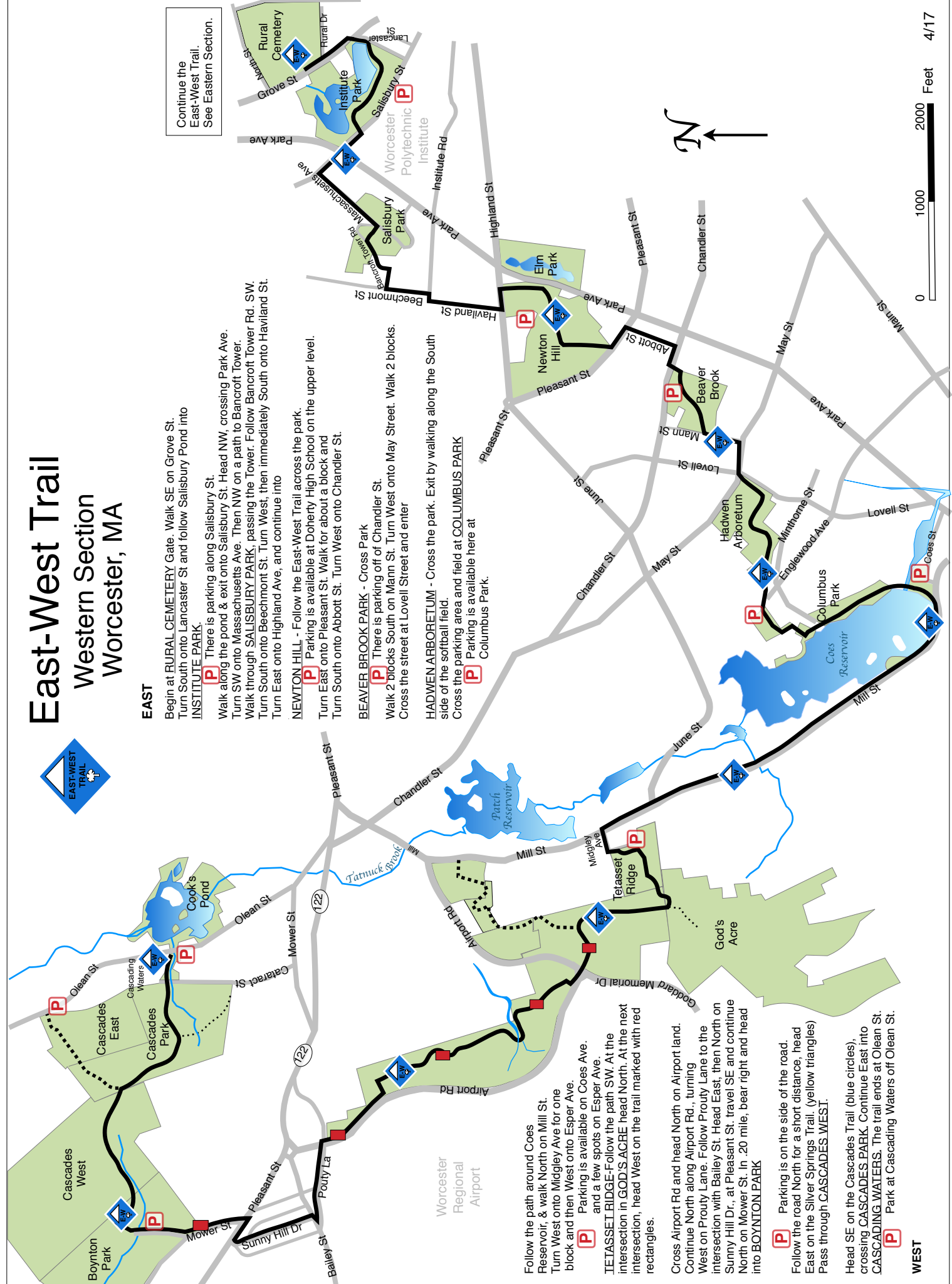
Follow the path around Coes Reservoir, & walk North on Mill St. Turn West onto Midgley Ave for one block and then West onto Esper Ave.
P Parking is available on Coes Ave. and a few spots on Esper Ave.
 TETASSET RIDGE-Follow the path SW. At the intersection in GOD'S ACRE head North. At the next intersection, head West on the trail marked with red rectangles.

Cross Airport Rd and head North on Airport land. Continue North along Airport Rd., turning West on Prouty Lane. Follow Prouty Lane to the intersection with Bailey St. Head East, then North on Sunny Hill Dr., at Pleasant St. travel SE and continue North on Mower St. In .20 mile, bear right and head into BOYNTON PARK

P Parking is on the side of the road. Follow the road North for a short distance, head East on the Silver Springs Trail. (yellow triangles) Pass through CASCADES WEST.

Head SE on the Cascades Trail (blue circles), crossing CASCADES PARK. Continue East into CASCADING WATERS. The trail ends at Olean St.
P Park at Cascading Waters off Olean St.

WEST



East-West Trail



PARKSPIRIT
of Worcester, Inc.

Elmer's Seat

Boylston

Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: From I-290 East, take Exit 27 (formerly Exit 24), Church Street. Turn left onto Church Street (continuing as Central Street) and drive for 1.30 miles. Turn right onto Rocky Pond Road. Drive .10 mile and continue straight onto Warren Street. Continue for .20 mile and turn at your first left, Maple Way. Continue for about .50 mile and park near 31 Maple Way. You can also park near 14 Pleasant Lane. See the map.

Length: About .75 mile

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This property is located in a residential area, perched on a granite ledge surrounded by houses. There are a few spots where you can easily access this property. One spot is from the property sign near 14 Pleasant Lane. Head Southwest to start a moderate loop trail that is made up of former logging roads and recently blazed paths. The trail divides once you are in the woods and you can either continue Southwest or head Northwest. This Eastern side of the property features a wetland, glacial boulders and a vantage point that overlooks a vernal pool. The granite ledges are covered with various mosses and lichens, the glacial boulders have both Smooth Rock Tripe and Toadskin Lichens on them.

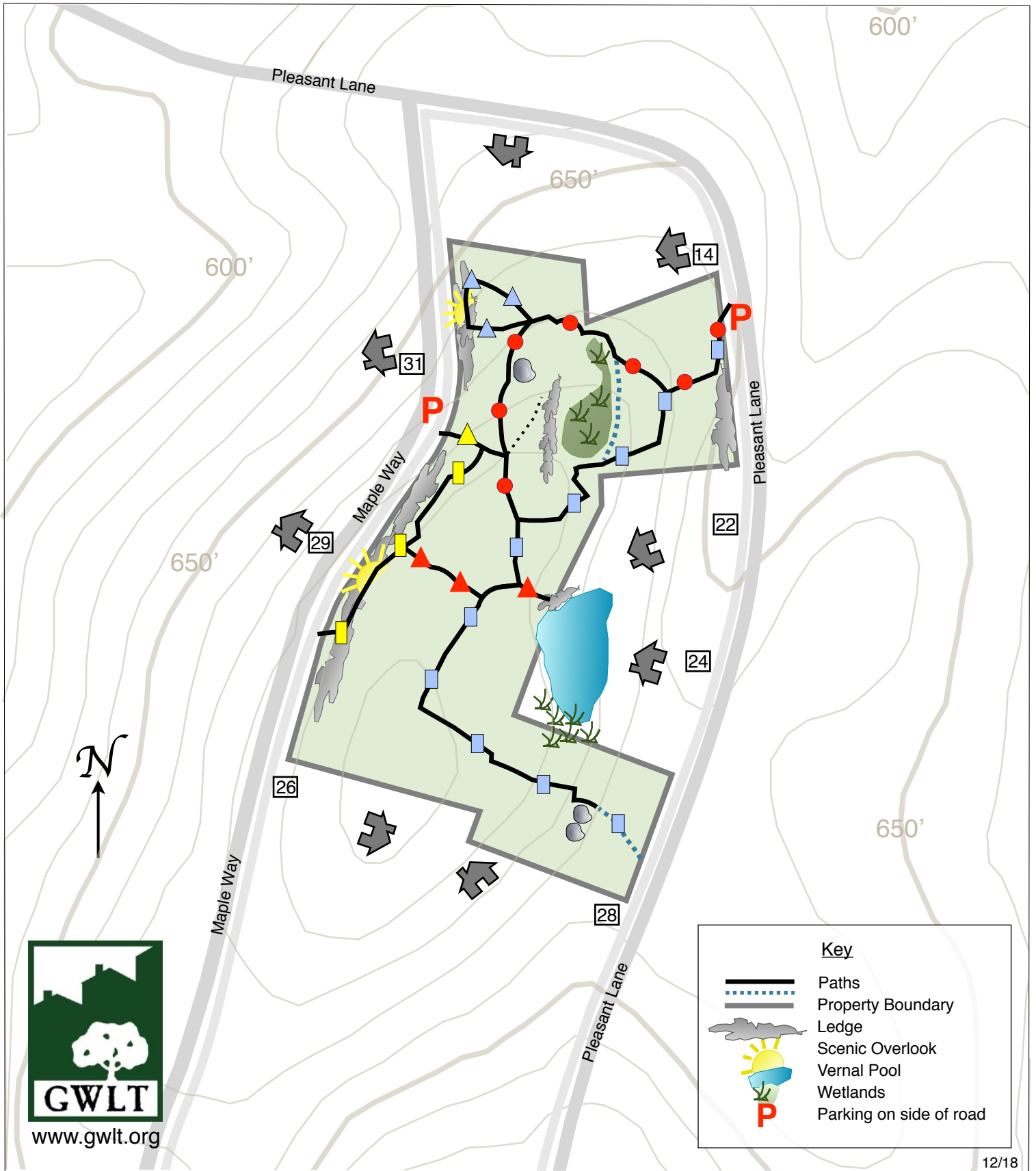
On the Western side of the property, park across from 31 Maple Way. From this side you can start the loop with nice views of Mt. Wachusett and the surrounding countryside.

Highlights begin in the early Spring when the Shadbush in bloom. As Spring ends, you'll see extensive areas of Whorled Loosestrife. Summer brings blueberries and huckleberries and the Fall, a colorful view.

The property is only seven and one-quarter acres. The Greater Worcester Land Trust is putting up property boundary signs at key points on the trail. Please respect our neighbors by not wandering on to their properties.

Elmer's Seat

Boylston, MA



Key	
	Paths
	Property Boundary
	Ledge
	Scenic Overlook
	Vernal Pool
	Wetlands
	Parking on side of road

Frank Cooke Forest

Greater Worcester Land Trust

The City of Worcester

Leicester

- Location:
- 1) Route 56 at the intersection with Washburn Street. Park on the side of Washburn Street. Cross Route 56 and start hiking at the gate.
 - 2) Manville Street: .80 mile South from the intersection on Route 56. Park near the gate on the side of the road.

Length: About 2 - 2.50 miles

Dogs are not allowed.

Note: Visit this property, only if you don't mind tromping through uncleared areas. The trail under the power lines is rustic and not well maintained. There may also be a large section that is very wet. The wooded area East of the power lines is very rocky and has areas of dense Mountain Laurel growth. I'd suggest, if you want to see the the wetlands, head into the forest South of power line tower #485. The map shows some red asterisks that are the best spots. All this being said, I love this property. JL

To reach Frank Cooke Forest, from either entrance, walk .30 mile on a cart road through City of Worcester Reservoir property. This rocky road is lined with majestic Sugar Maples and oaks. At the midway point, you will reach a North-South cart road. Walk around the gate, and follow this cart road South. You will be entering Frank Cooke Forest shortly after you cross Kettle Brook. This road forms the Northern boundary of the property.

Currently, the path is the maintenance road that runs the length of the power lines. There is a wide variety of shrubs, blueberries and raspberries. You'll also find wildflowers like Black-eyed Susan, Whorled Yellow-loosestrife, St. John's-wort, Yarrow, and Joe-Pye weed along this corridor. The towers are numbered and the map can help you follow your progress through the property. You will find many birds, and possibly White-tailed deer.

At the Southeastern corner of the property is a beaver wetland. It's fun to see the seasonal changes that take place. Plants like Sphagnum Peat Moss, cattails, Swamp Yellow-loosestrife, American Burnweed and Winterberry can be observed. There currently is a Red-tailed Hawk nesting on the edge of the wetland.

In Spring you can find ephemeral flowers like Red Trillium, Wood Anemone, Sessile-leaved Bellwort and Solomon's-seal in the woods. As you would after any hike, be sure you do a tick check when you leave.

Frank Cooke Forest Leicester



Key			
	Paths		Gates
	Cart Paths		Transmission Towers (Numbered)
	(Worcester Reservoir)		Possible entrance to woods
	Proposed Path		Parking
	Streams		
	Wetlands		

God's Acre or Deed Rock, Tetasset Ridge, Fowler Brook Gorge and Fowler Brook South Fork The City of Worcester The Greater Worcester Land Trust

- Location:
- 1) Deed Rock is located East of the airport. Parking is difficult because the roads that access this area are in poor condition. There is a small area for parking near Deed Rock, but Swan Avenue can be barely passable. The easiest place to park is the lot on Outlook Drive, near Swan Ave. It is about a .50 mile walk up Swan Avenue to Deed Rock. (See map for other parking ideas.)
 - 2) Tetasset Ridge is located off of Mill Street. Turn right (West) onto Midgley Avenue, then left onto Esper Avenue. Each of these roads is only a block long. There is a parking area at the end of Esper Avenue on the right side. From here it is a short .60 mile uphill hike to intersect with the "blue square" trail in God's Acre.
 - 3) Park near Logan Field, located at the intersection of Mill Street and Airport Drive. Starting at the concession stand, walk between the two fields and follow the "blue square" trail up the hill to Deed Rock. It is about a 1.50 mile walk, each way.
 - 4) Airport Road. Park by the Fowler Brook South Fork sign.

Length: There are miles of paths and dirt roads.

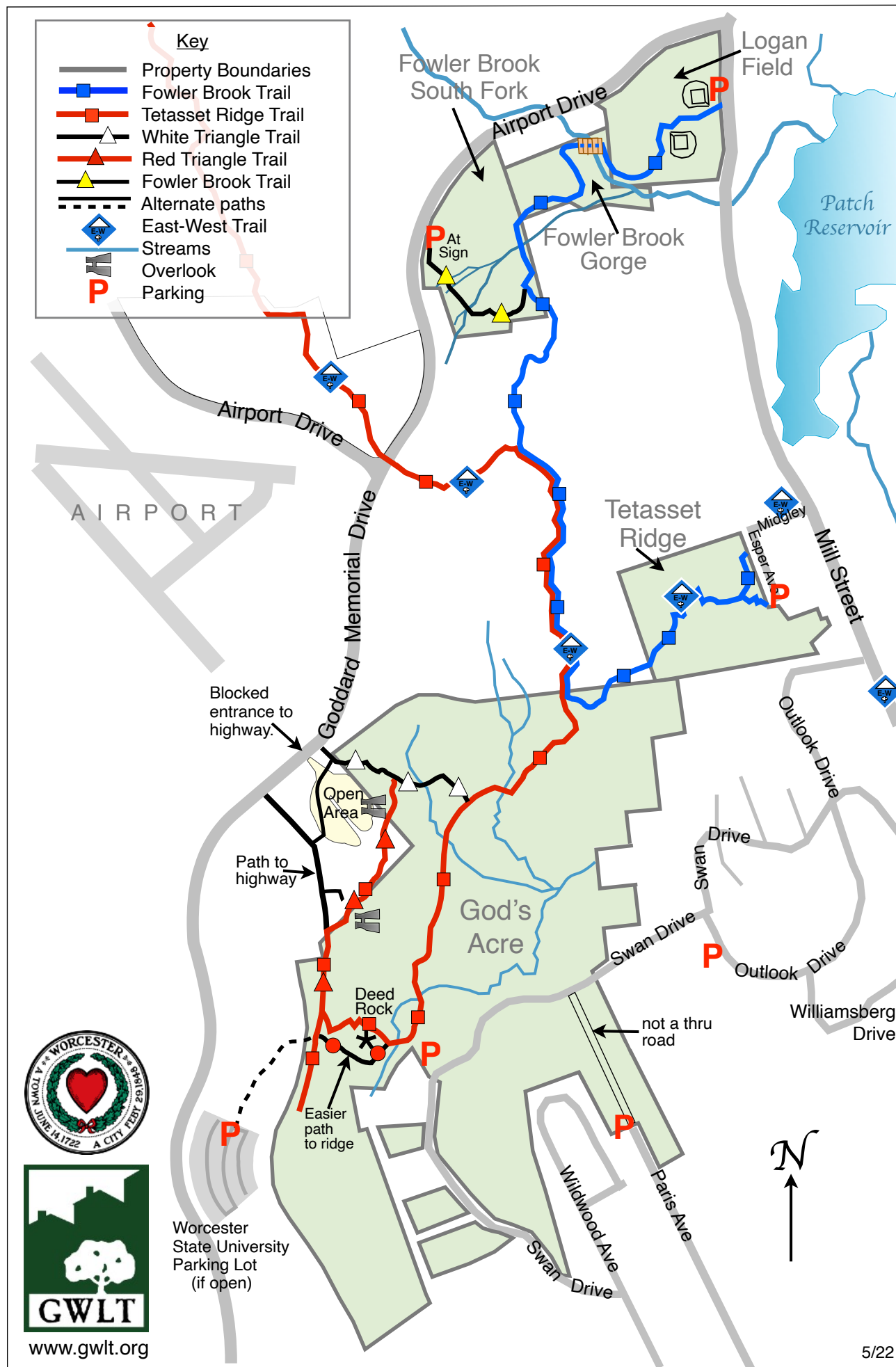
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Solomon Parsons deeded these 10 acres to God in 1840. The "deed" was chiseled into a large rock. Today, you can find Deed Rock located at the base of Rattlesnake Ridge. In the Spring, Red Trillium and Wild Sarsaparilla grow near the "rock". There is a loop trail that passes by Deed Rock. You climb over boulders up the steep ridge. The Greater Worcester Land Trust has also blazed an easier .10 mile trail to the left, that avoids the difficult climb. On top, there is a beautiful corridor of Paper Birches and Mountain Laurel. Other highlights include the "open area", used by the city in the winter to warehouse extra snow. In the summer and fall it has wildflowers, and offer an excellent view of the city.

Tetasset Ridge has many features besides being a convenient place to park for God's Acre. The woods have a variety of trees including some venerable Sugar Maples. There are several large vernal pools. White-tailed deer, dozens of Wild Turkeys, and numerous woodpeckers make the area their home, and unusual flora like Maidenhair Ferns, White Baneberry, and Blood-root grow here.

Fowler Brook Gorge and Fowler Brook South Fork are two properties you travel through if you hike from Logan Field. You follow along the bank of Fowler Brook and it's spectacular rocky gorge. In the winter there can be some dramatic ice formations. Fowler Brook South Fork's Northwestern boundary is on Airport Drive. If you park near the sign, there is a short spur trail, "yellow triangle", that connects you to the main "blue square" trail.

God's Acre, Tetasset Ridge & Fowler Brook



Hadwen Arboretum

Worcester

Clark University

Location: Hadwen Arboretum is located at the corner of May and Lovell Streets. Parking along either street is impossible. The best place to park is at the parking lot at Coes Reservoir/Columbus Park. This parking lot is located at the Northwest end of Englewood Avenue. Parking is also available at the Knights of Columbus. From here walk Northeast to Clark University's softball field. Walk along the right side of the field and climb up the hill into Hadwen Arboretum.

Length: Up to several miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

In 1907 Obadiah Hadwen left this property to Clark University for use as an Arboretum to educate students in the art and science of arbor culture. In 1978, Clark students cataloged 40 different types of trees. Today, many of these trees remain.

There are two parallel dirt roads that cross the property as well as numerous other paths. Besides the huge diversity in the trees, there are many wildflowers. One unusual Spring flower is Dutchman's-breeches which is in bloom around the same time as Blood-root and Siberian Squill. Another stunning display is the White Wood-asters that blanket the forest floor in the fall. This is an easy property to navigate. Depending on the trail maintenance, some of these paths may disappear and others may be newly blazed.

For a longer hike, combine this hike with a walk along Coes Reservoir. This is part of the East-West Trail.

Hadwen Arboretum Worcester, MA



Hadwen Park

Worcester

City of Worcester

- Location:
- 1) The main entrance to Hadwen Park is located on Heard Street .20 mile from Stafford Street. Immediately after the railroad tracks, turn left into the parking area.
 - 2) During the winter the parking area on Heard Street is blocked off. On the Eastern side of the park, parking is available on the side of Knox Street.

Length: 3-4 miles

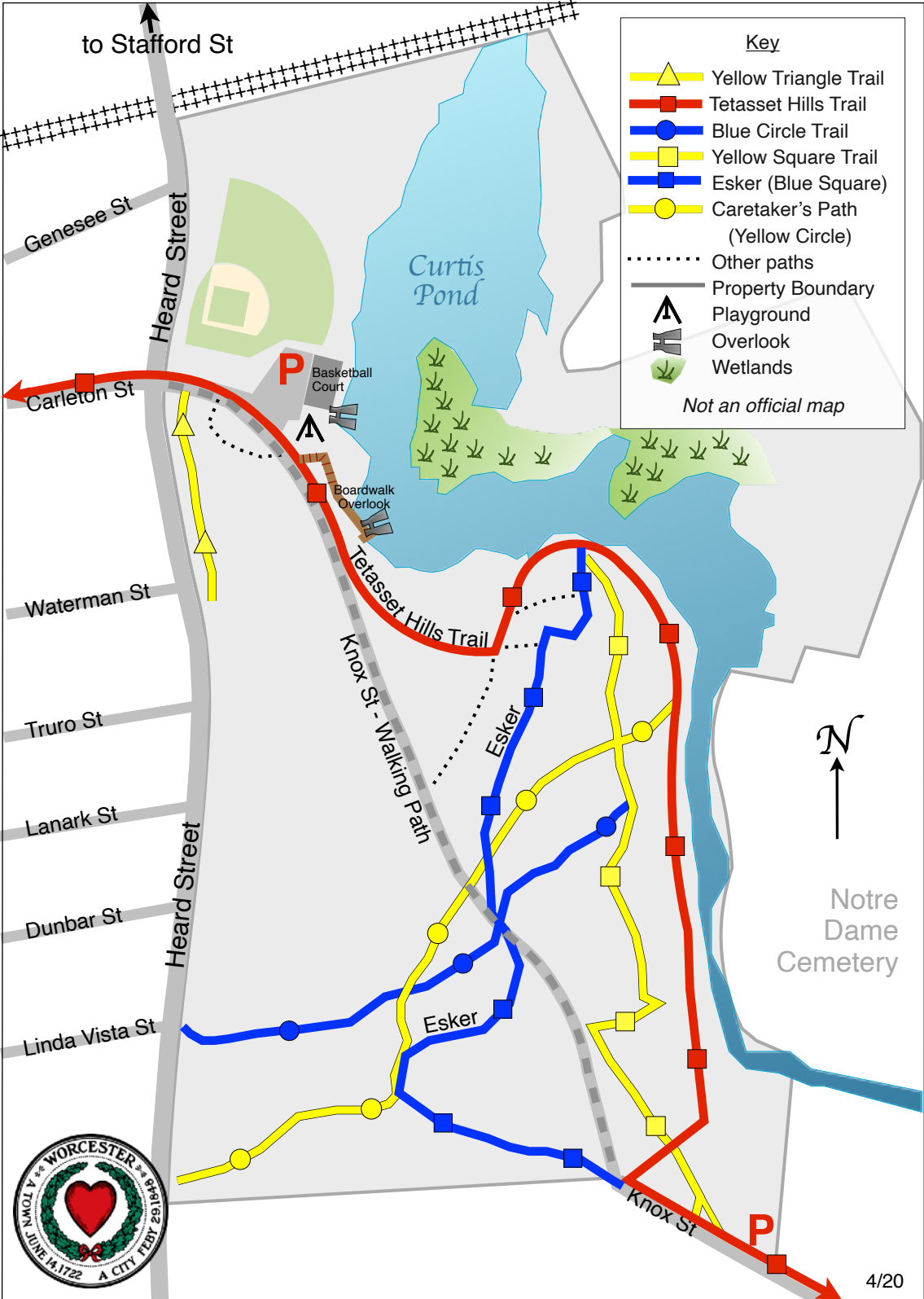
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Hadwen Park is being renovated. There is a new playground near the parking area on Heard Street with a scenic overlook. There is also a new boardwalk and observation area that overlooks Curtis Pond.

This park has many diverse features. There is Curtis Pond and the wetland associated with it, a brook, a forest, and an esker. There is a series of paths that cross each other giving the hiker many route options. The section of Knox Street that runs through the park is a walking path that links many of the trails together. The paths accessing the esker often have dramatic elevation changes. A Barred Owl inhabits these woods.

This park is enjoyable to visit at any time of the year. The inhabitants of the pond change with the seasons. Mute Swans, Cormorants, Mallard Ducks, Canada Geese and Great Blue Herons are spotted at various times of the year, and there are a variety of diving ducks that visit in the Fall and Winter.

Hadwen Park Worcester, MA



Henrickson Orchard

Holden

White Oak Land Conservation Society

Location: Chapin Road. From the intersection of Bailey Road and Chapin Road, drive .10 mile South on Chapin Road. Park either on the left side of the road or near the property sign.

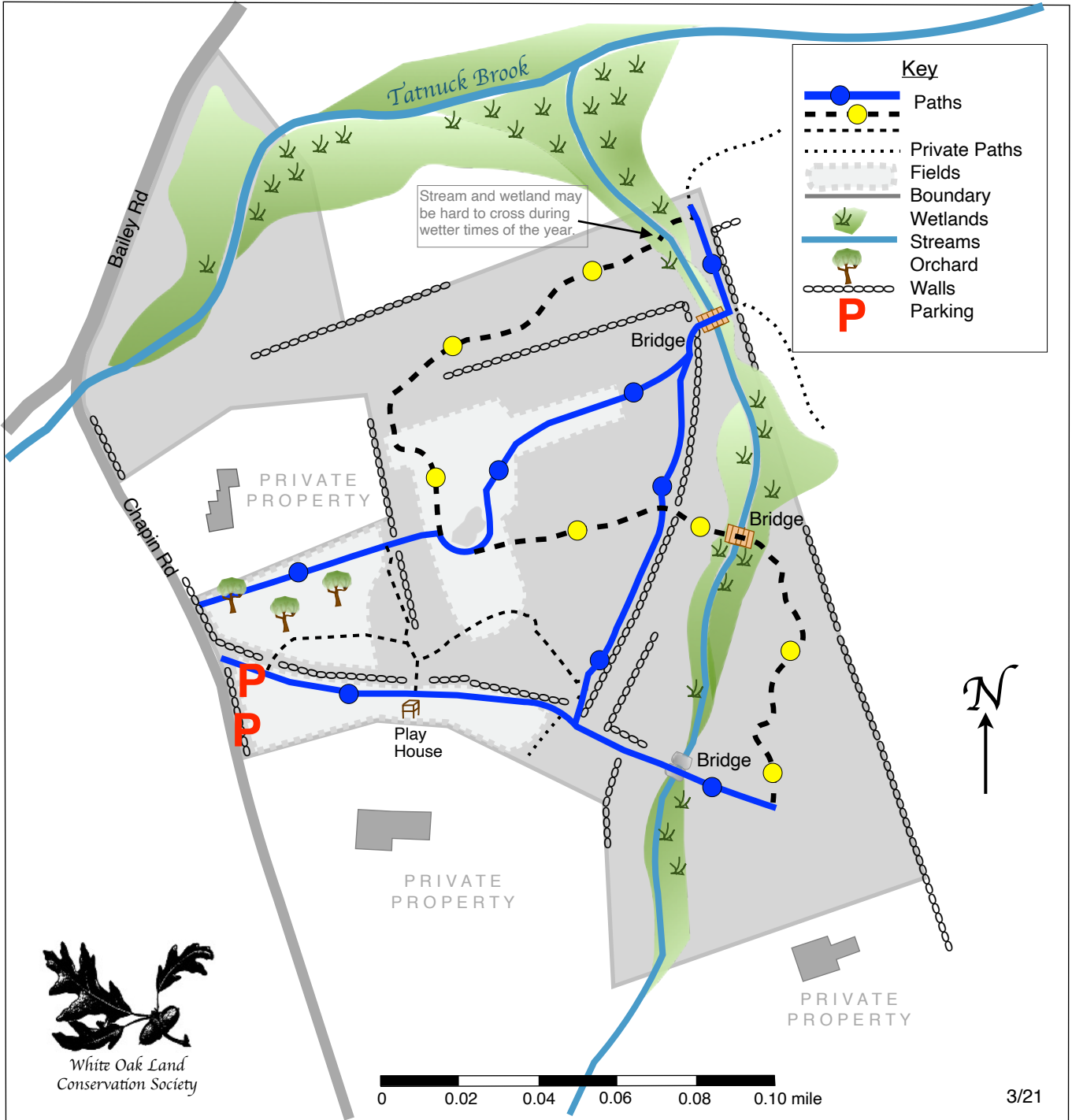
Length: About 1 mile

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is a small beautiful 14-acre property that boasts a variety of habitats. There is an orchard, field, White Pine grove, woodlands, wetlands, and a stream. Trails have been established to make all of the areas accessible.

The apple orchard has goldenrod and Stiff Asters among the trees. The meadow is highlighted with Squarrose Goldenrod, meadowsweet and a host of butterflies and dragonflies. The wooded areas have stone walls lined with ferns and Sweet-pepperbush. After a rain, Red Efts are easy to find along the paths. In the fall, there is a brilliant display of many types of mushrooms. Bridges help you cross the stream. One older bridge is made of stone slabs.

Henrickson Orchard Holden



Illig Pond Conservation Area
Paxton Recreation Commission Trail System
Paxton
Paxton Conservation Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Location: Take Route 122 to the center of Paxton. At the lights, turn South onto Route 31 (West Street). Turn left at the first road into the parking area for Paxton Center School. Pass the school and drive to the end of the road. Park near the sign for the Illig Pond Conservation Area and the Paxton Recreation Commission Trail System.

Length: 1 - 2 miles

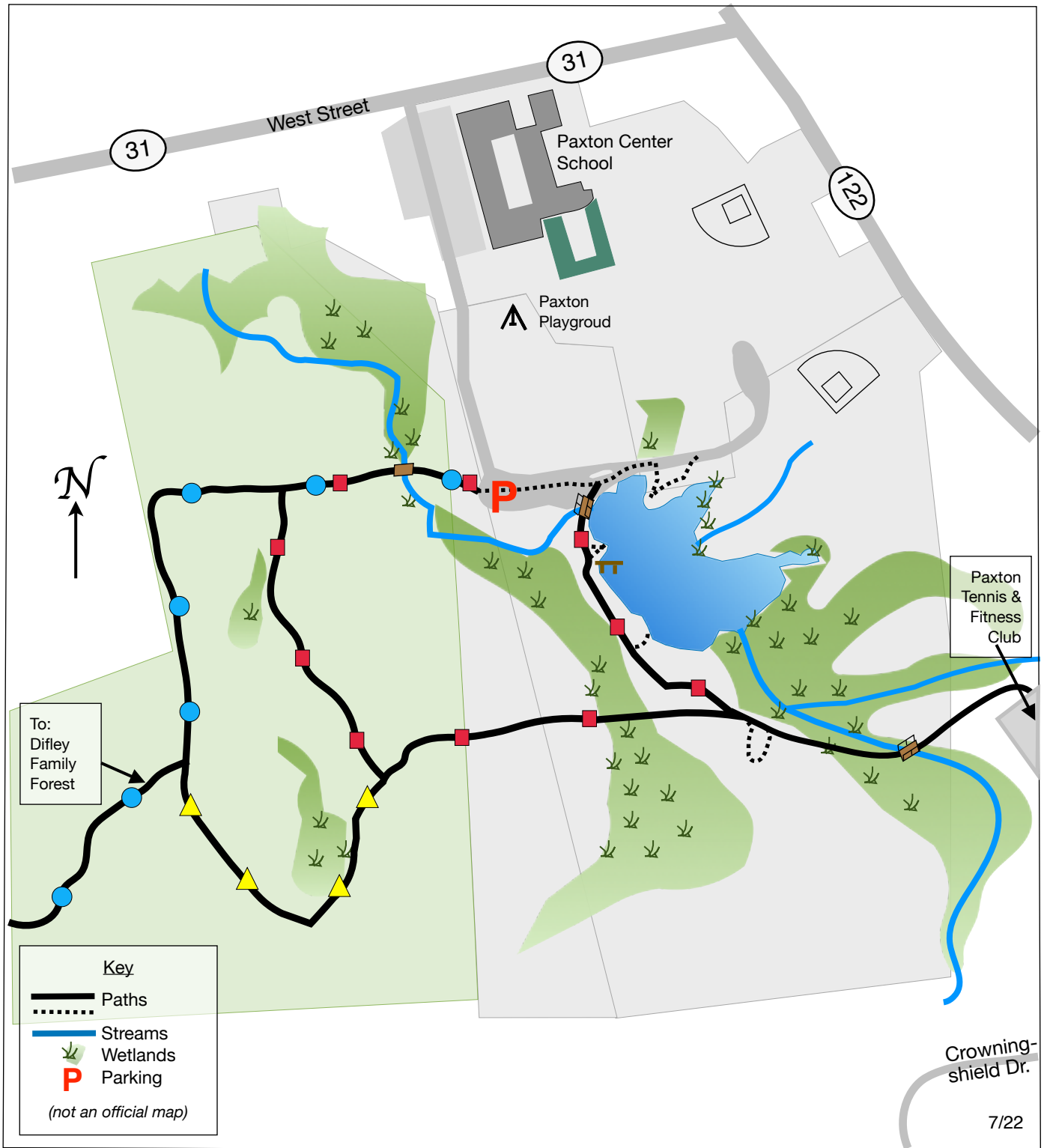
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is a charming property. There are two loop trails that take you through a diverse woodland that features a stream, wetlands, a large expanse of Mountain Laurel and several nice areas of Hobblebush. Midway on the Western Loop is a connecting path to Difley Family Forest. This beautiful forest has vernal pools and the foundation from a one room cabin. It can extend your walk for miles. Return to Illig on the connecting path and complete this woodland trail. You emerge from the woods at Illig Pond. This beautiful pond has cattails at the Southern end and water-lilies throughout. You will find many birds and dragonflies here. There are several benches along the pond that let you pause and enjoy the serenity of the place. The trail exits in the parking area near where you started. If you head East, following along the pond, you will find some short side paths. As with the rest of the property, you will find a variety of wildflowers, including some Pink Lady's-slippers.

At the Southern end of the pond there is a boardwalk and a bridge. You can continue following the pond and wetland East ending near the the parking area of the Paxton Tennis and Fitness Club.

Illig Pond Conservation Area

Paxton Recreational Commission Trail System



Kettle Brook

Worcester

The Greater Worcester Land Trust

Worcester Academy

- Location:
- 1) Park near the GWLT sign located at the Northern end of Kettle Brook Lofts, (1511 Main Street (Route 9)). There are several parking spaces designated for visitor parking. You can also park at the gate on Aldena Road. (See map)
 - 2) From the intersection of Park Avenue (Route 9), Main Street, and Stafford Street, drive South on Stafford Street for 1.30 miles. Parking may be available at Worcester Academy's "New Balance Fields", when the gate is open.

Length: 2 to 3 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Starting from the GWLT sign at Kettle Brook Lofts, enjoy the view of the brook and pond as you walk towards Kettle Brook Lofts and cross the car bridge. Head South past the condominium complex to the start this easy hike. From the property boundary continue South for .20 mile on the cart path (blazed with blue circles) and turn left (East) and head down hill. There is a gorge and the remnants of a large stone dam. Depending on the time of year and water level of the brook, you can explore the area around this dam.

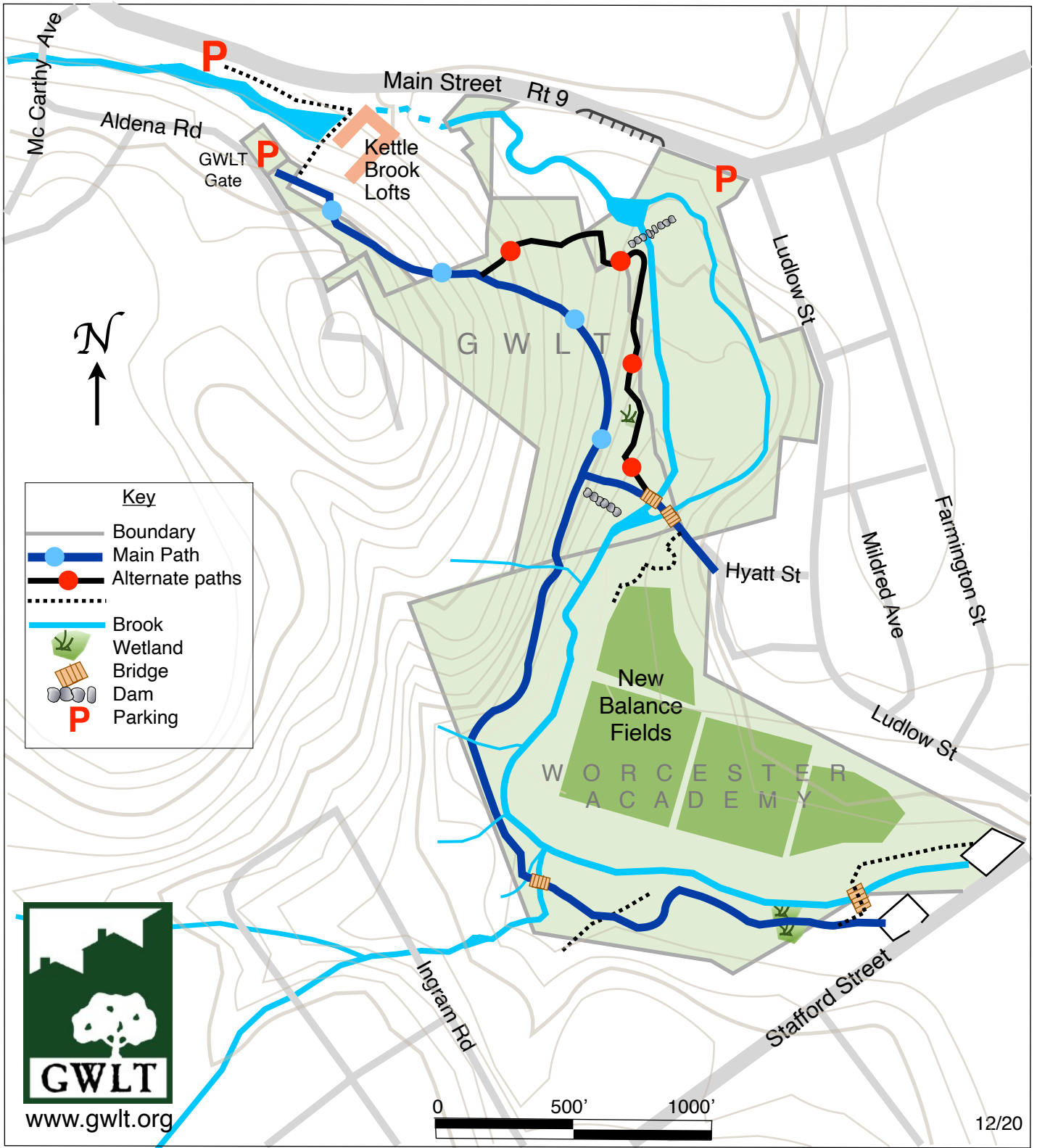
Another starting option from the Northern boundary is to head East on the trail blazed with red circles. This is a challenging trail that closely follows the brook. You hike to a marshy pond with a broken dam. The path passes by the dam where Kettle Brook splits into two streams. Continue along the edge of the brook where you encounter several very steep sections as you follow the contour of the land. This path ends in the gorge at the large stone dam as in the first option above. From here, climb the hill and return to the main cart path. (See map)

Head South onto the Worcester Academy portion of this property. Worcester Academy's fields were designed to fit neatly within the space bordered by Kettle Brook. The wide dirt path follows along the brook. This is part of their cross-country course. In the Spring the path has a large variety of woodland flora, including Red Trillium, Solomon's-seals, Wild Sarsaparilla, and Hobblebushes.

When you get to the gated parking area for Bulbs.com and the Worcester Academy Fields retrace your steps back up the hill to the parking area at Kettle Brook Lofts.

Kettle Brook

Worcester, MA



KinneyWoods & Cook's Woods

Worcester, Holden
City of Worcester
The Greater Worcester Land Trust
White Oak Land Conservation Society

Location: From the intersection of Pleasant and Chandler Streets (in front of the Santander Bank), take Mower Street for about .15 mile, bear slightly right onto Olean Street. Continue for .70 mile and turn right onto Dawson Road. Drive .50 mile to the end of Dawson Road. (The last .20 mile is unpaved and has many potholes.) Park in front of the gate. Please don't block the private driveway.

Length: 3 miles or more

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is a beautiful hardwood forest. Various conservation groups have combined to form a truly wonderful collection of properties: KinneyWoods, Cook's Woods, and Holbrook Forest (see next page). These properties are connected to Donker Farm by Cook's Brook. Cook's Brook is located on the Southern side of Brigham Street. The path takes you steeply down hill towards Donker Farm. This trail is part of the Woonaskochu's Path that starts on Marshall Street in Leicester and ends at Salisbury Street in Holden.

Each path offers a different hiking experience. There is a lovely view of the pond on the Crystal Pond Loop (red blazes). In the Spring, Mountain Laurels and the Paper Birches contrast nicely against the water.

The Dresser Loop (yellow blazes) takes you North along streams, crosses wetlands and climbs hills. In the Spring you will find Red Trillium, Dwarf Ginseng, and Wood Anemones along this path and Marsh-marigolds, Jack-in-the-pulpits and American False Hellebore in the streams. One highlight near the top of the Dresser Loop is a huge glacial boulder with a Black Birch growing out of it. You can access Holbrook Forest on a short spur from Dresser Loop.

The Cross Loop Trail (red triangle blazes) takes you to the property's Northwestern corner where you will find the stone wall boundaries forming a cross. The Greater Worcester Land Trust has built two tent platforms and an outhouse, just off of the Dresser Loop. Camping is offered by permission. For information please check the GWLT website; <http://www.gwlt.org/resources-and-research/request-camping-permit/>

Hunting is allowed in the Holden portion of the property, so wearing bright colors during Hunting Season is recommended. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays.

Holbrook Forest

Holden

White Oak Land Conservation Society

Location: 1) From the intersection of Salisbury Street and Fisher Road in Holden, take Fisher Road West for .60 mile. The parking lot is on the left side of the road.

2) Salisbury Street, Holden near the Worcester and Holden border.

Length: 1.50 miles and more depending on the paths walked

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This property joins KinneyWoods and Cook's Woods on the Worcester/Holden boundary. This trio of properties offers a variety of hiking options. In contrast to the other two properties, Holbrook Forest is relatively flat with broad paths, remnants of old logging roads. The open areas created from logging activity have created a place for wildflowers, blueberries and blackberries to grow. In the fall the brilliant red leaves of the blueberry bushes line the paths.

The Wall Trail follows a beautiful stone wall property boundary. Another highlight is Cousins' Rock, a former meeting place for children. This quartz glacial erratic is nestled in a dense grove of young White Pine trees.

To lengthen your hike, the Woonaskochu's Path heading South connects you to the Dresser Loop in KinneyWoods. This path continues through a succession of properties, eventually ending on Marshall Street in Leicester. The Holbrook Forest parcel has acquired an additional piece of land that enables the Woonaskochu's Path to continue West to Salisbury Street.

This is a multi-use property. Wear blaze orange or other bright clothing during hunting season. No hunting is permitted on Sunday.

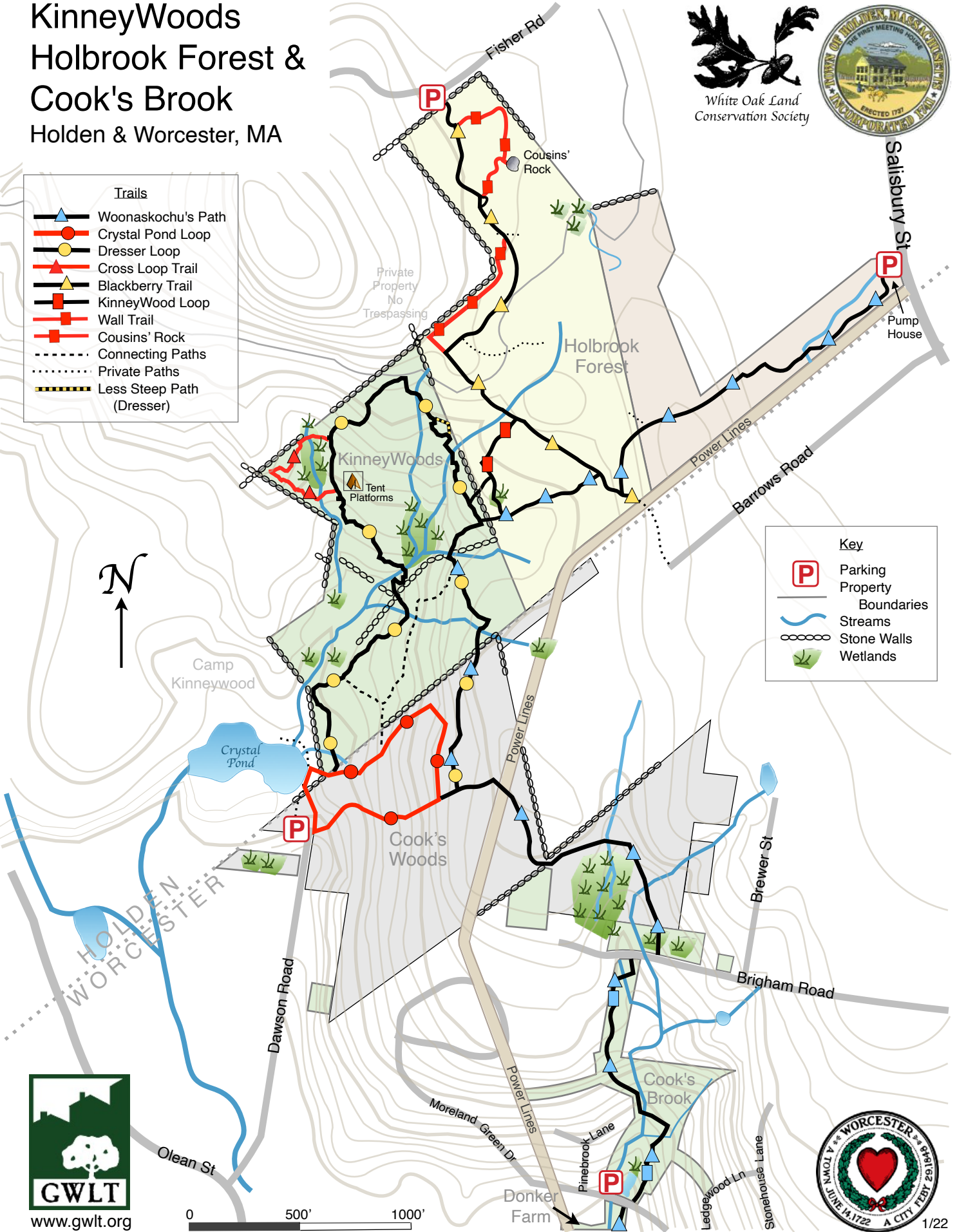
KinneyWoods Holbrook Forest & Cook's Brook

Holden & Worcester, MA



- Trails**
- Woonaskochu's Path
 - Crystal Pond Loop
 - Dresser Loop
 - Cross Loop Trail
 - Blackberry Trail
 - KinneyWood Loop
 - Wall Trail
 - Cousins' Rock
 - Connecting Paths
 - Private Paths
 - Less Steep Path (Dresser)

- Key**
- Parking
 - Property Boundaries
 - Streams
 - Stone Walls
 - Wetlands



Lake Park

Worcester

City of Worcester

Location: Lake Park is located on Lake Avenue about a mile South of the intersection of Route 9 and Lake Avenue. From Lake Avenue head West up Bigelow Davis Parkway. There is a parking lot near Tivnan Field and another parking area a block West on Coburn Avenue across from Morano Field.

Length: 3-4 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Lake Park has well established paths that are easy to walk on. The trails are under a canopy of towering oak trees and the property features many large glacial boulders. Wildflowers flourish along some of the wider paths and along the stream and wetlands. The paths intersect to create many walking options. Currently, only some of the paths are marked at some intersections.

The following map has been modified from the one posted, to reflect the paths that are currently being used.

Lake Park

Quinsigamond State Park

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Location: Lake Avenue, about 1 mile South of Route 9. Located on Lake Quinsigamond, East of the City of Worcester's Lake Park (see above).

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is a popular recreational area. There is a paved walking path as well as a beach, tennis courts, a playing field and picnic tables. There are also rest rooms that are open during the Summer season.

Lake Park Worcester



Mandell Hill

Hardwick

East Quabbin Land Trust

Location: 660 Barre Road. From the intersection of Route 122 and Old Turnpike Road in Oakham, turn left onto Old Turnpike Road. Continue straight for 8.80 miles. The road's name changes to Ravine Road, Hardwick Road and Barre Road, as it continues to get narrower. The sanctuary is on top of a hill at the intersection Barre Road and Ridge Road. The parking lot is on the left side of the road.

Length: 1.50 miles, Loop Trail. Other trails can be combined for many miles of hiking.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

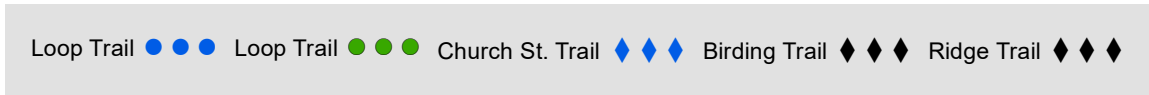
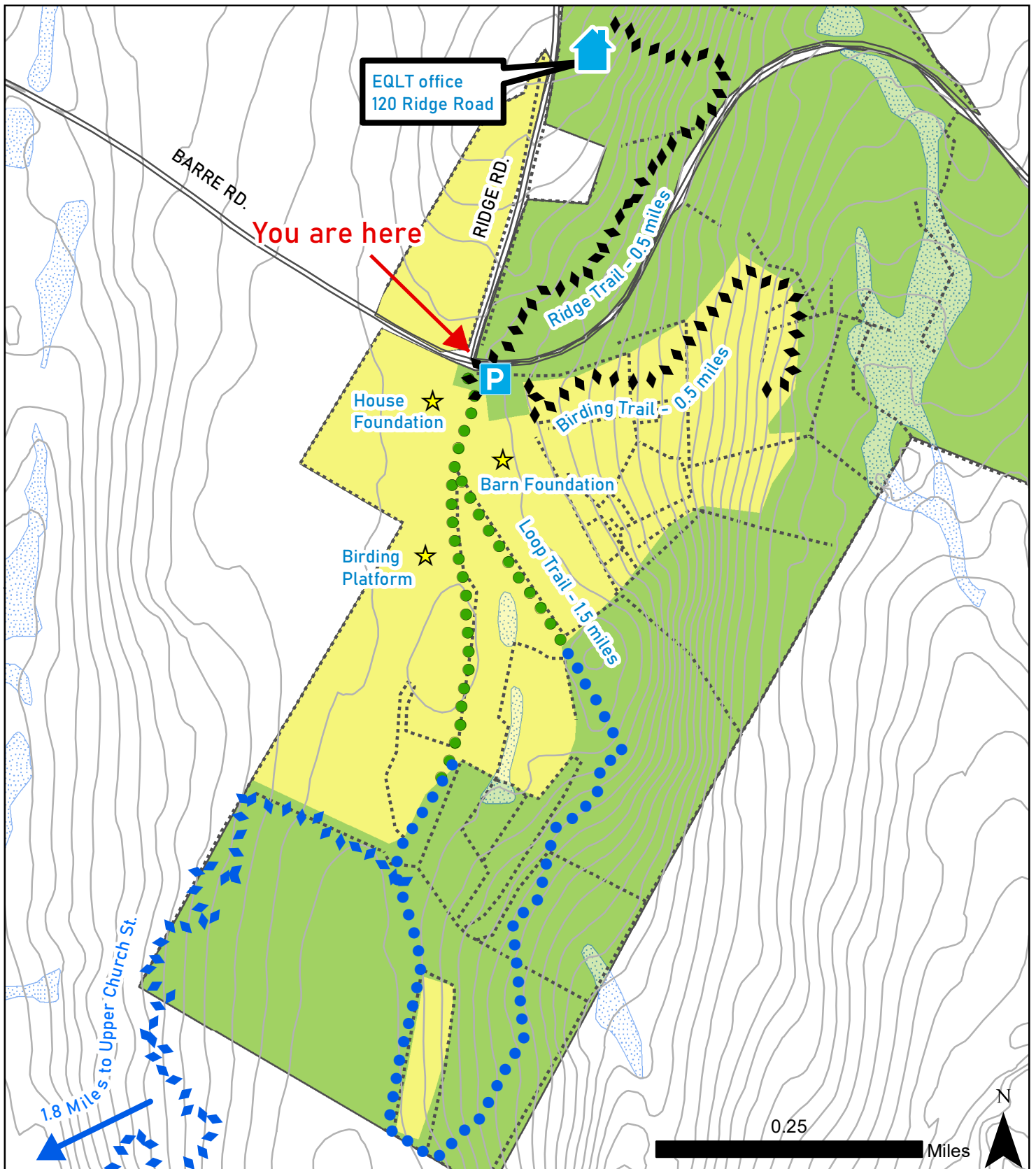
Passing through the gate from the parking area, you will find the large reclaimed foundation of the Mandell Farm barn. This foundation is a marvel, made up of multiple deep rooms and birch trees. Beyond the foundation, you'll get the spectacular view of the valley including Winimusset Wildlife Management Area and Mount Wachusett. You can do the loop trail in either direction. I prefer heading to the right and starting out with the climb up the twelve foot high birding platform. This platform gives you an even more dramatic look at the valley and the birds in the field below. The property is being managed to encourage ground-nesting birds like Bobolinks.

The hike through the field is easy, but there are some elevation changes in the wooded portion. There are also rocks and roots to watch out for, especially on the Eastern side.

This is a complex property. Mandell Hill is a working farm for grass-fed cattle. In the field there are electrified fences that you should be aware of. A Motus Wildlife Tracking station has been installed in the field. It tracks tagged birds, bats, and insects up to ten miles away, providing scientists with real-time data. Another priority is reclaiming the property from invasive plants like bittersweet.

Hunting is permitted here, so wear bright colorful clothing during hunting season. No hunting is permitted on Sunday.

Mandell Hill is the flagship property of the East Quabbin Land Trust (EQLT). The EQLT has five thousand of acres of conserved lands and many miles of hiking trails of varying difficulties. Check them out at <https://eqlt.org/our-properties/>.



Mandell Hill

660 Barre Road, Hardwick
 200 Acres
 Donated by Betty Morss

Enjoy the extensive trail system at EQLT's flagship property. The birding platform offers beautiful panoramic views. Beyond the agricultural fields are trails that wind through woodlands. This is a working farm; please respect rules, close gates, and use caution around electric fencing.



Moore State Park

Paxton

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Location: Take Route 122 to the center of Paxton. At the lights, turn South onto Route 31 (West Street). Travel about 1.30 miles. Bear right onto Mill Street. The parking area will be on the left.

Length: 1 mile and up

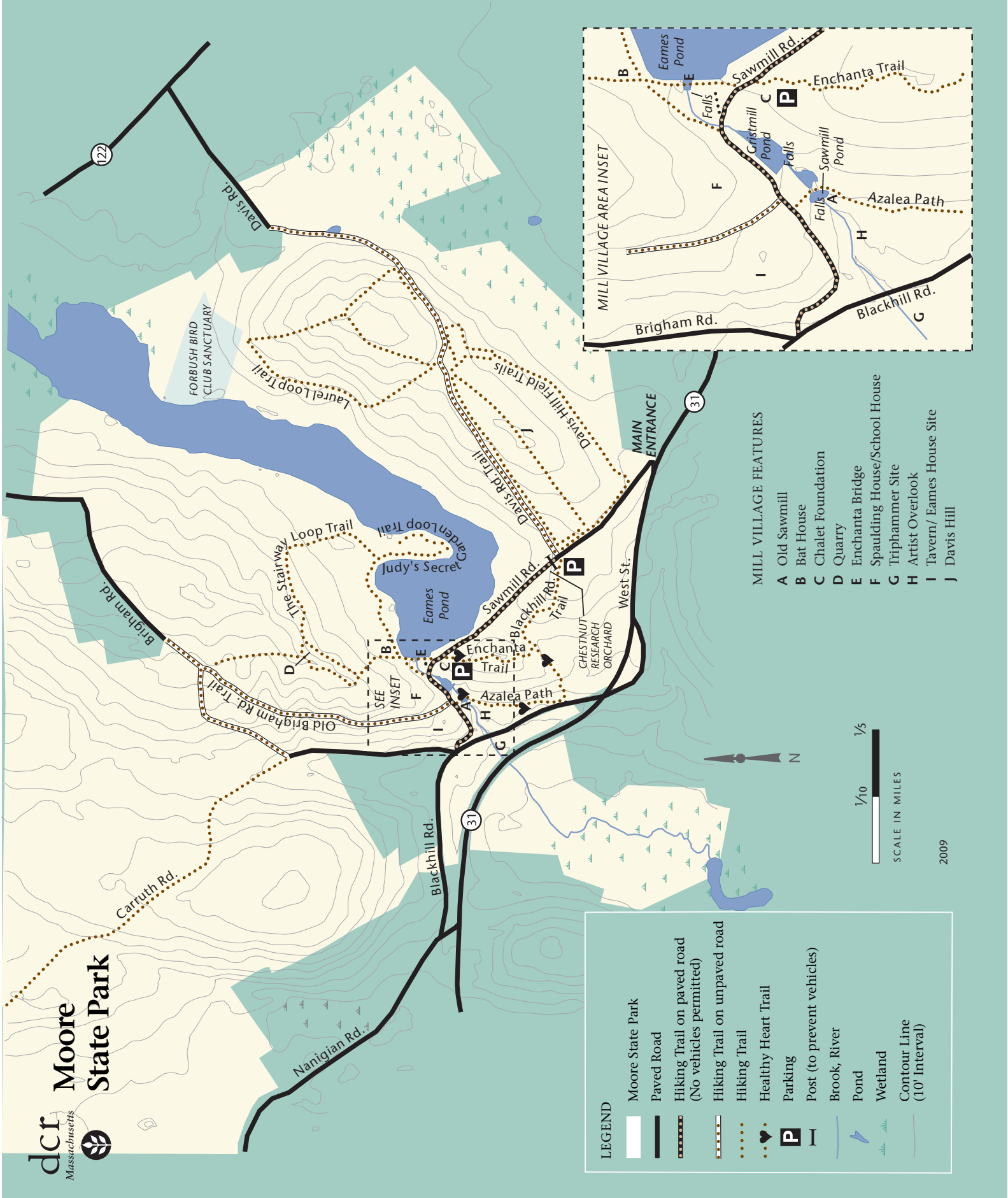
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Moore State Park is a combination of spectacular cultivated displays of rhododendrons and azaleas with paved paths, and easy hiking paths through the woods on this former estate.

Some highlights in the cultivated area are the immense colorful floral displays in early June. Another is the Artist Overlook, an inspirational view of the 1740's sawmill and the stream that runs by it. There are waterfalls and ponds that feature wildflowers along the banks and water-lilies in the water. One area beneath a waterfall has Cardinal-flowers growing near its base.

The hiking paths feature a 1 mile DCR "Healthy Heart" trail. There are impressive ledges and outcroppings and views of the pond. The woodland has beautiful native flowers like Pink Lady's-slippers and the meadows have a colorful array of wildflowers.

Moore can be enjoyed all year round. The parking area and paved paths are plowed in the winter.



LEGEND

- Moore State Park
- Paved Road
- Hiking Trail on paved road (No vehicles permitted)
- Hiking Trail on unpaved road
- Hiking Trail
- Healthy Heart Trail
- Parking
- Post (to prevent vehicles)
- Brook, River
- Pond
- Wetland
- Contour Line (10' Interval)

MILL VILLAGE FEATURES

- A Old Sawmill
- B Bat House
- C Chalet Foundation
- D Quarry
- E Enchanta Bridge
- F Spaulding House/School House
- G Triphammer Site
- H Artist Overlook
- I Tavern/ Eames House Site
- J Davis Hill



Moose Hill Wildlife Management Area

Paxton, Spencer, Leicester

Massachusetts Division of Fish & Wildlife

The Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: From the intersection of Marshall Street and Route 56 in Leicester, cross Route 56 and drive North on Marshall Street for 2.50 miles. You will be passing Kettle Brook Golf Course. Immediately after a power line transmission tower turn left onto Laurel Street and drive about .70 mile. As you drive downhill you will come to a 90 degree bend in the road. Park on the right side of the road on the wide pull off area near the gate. There are signs for the Wildlife Management Area.

Length: Loop trail is 1.50 Miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

The Greater Worcester Land Trust was instrumental in acquiring this parcel and adding it to the State's division of Fish & Wildlife's growing land holdings here. Unlike many properties that merely allow hunting, Moose Hill WMA welcomes it. There is a loop trail with red circular blazes, that goes around the property. It is a combination of old logging roads, a section of the Midstate Trail and a newly blazed path. This is a beautiful property with towering trees and an understory of Mountain Laurel. The land hasn't been logged in decades, but left behind are many beautiful stumps that nature is reclaiming with mosses, lichens and mushrooms.

Hikers are also encouraged to forge their own hikes through the property. You can also extend your hike for miles in either direction on the Midstate Trail.

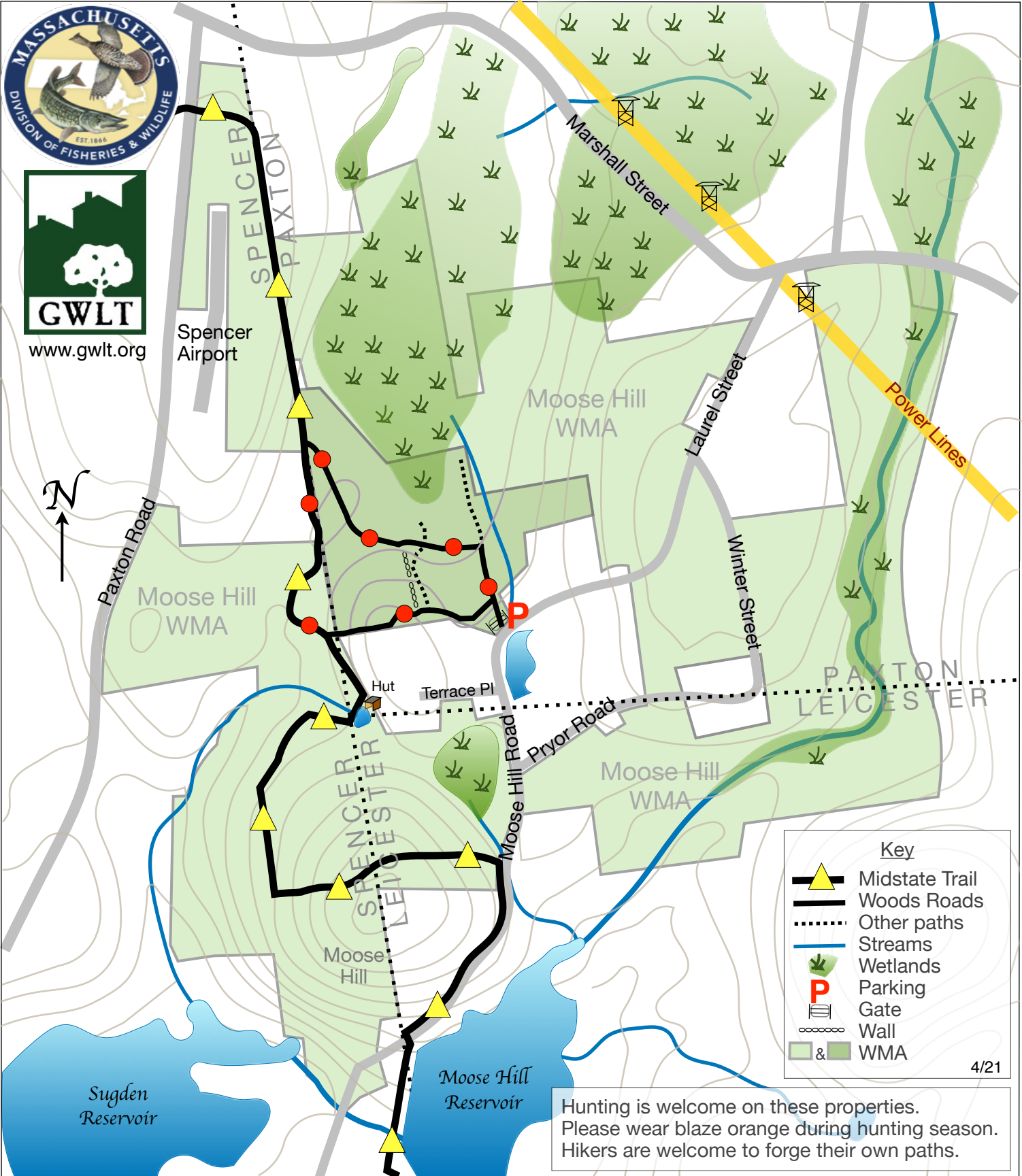
As mentioned earlier, hunting is welcome on this property. Wear blaze orange or other bright clothing during hunting season. No hunting is permitted on Sunday.

Moose Hill Wildlife Management Area

Paxton, Spencer, Leicester



www.gwlt.org



Key	
	Midstate Trail
	Woods Roads
	Other paths
	Streams
	Wetlands
	Parking
	Gate
	Wall
	WMA

4/21

Hunting is welcome on these properties. Please wear blaze orange during hunting season. Hikers are welcome to forge their own paths.

Moreland Woods

Worcester

The Worcester Conservation Commission
The Greater Worcester Land Trust
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- Location:
- 1) Orrison Street, Southern Entrance. Drive to the end of Orrison Street. Park on the left side of the road. The path begins near the utility pole.
 - 2) Moreland Street, Northern Entrance. The property entrance is at the top of Moreland Street, on the section that leads down to Salisbury Street. A green sign marks the trailhead (See map). Park on the side of Brigham Road.

Length: .75 to more than 1 mile

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

There are now two entrances to the property. Both entrances have paths that take you to the loop trail that circles the property. This trail takes you through a variety of habitats. You walk along a stream, wind your way through deciduous woods, as well as an evergreen grove of White Pine and Eastern Hemlock. There are wetland areas where you can find Marsh-marigolds in the Spring and asters in the Fall.

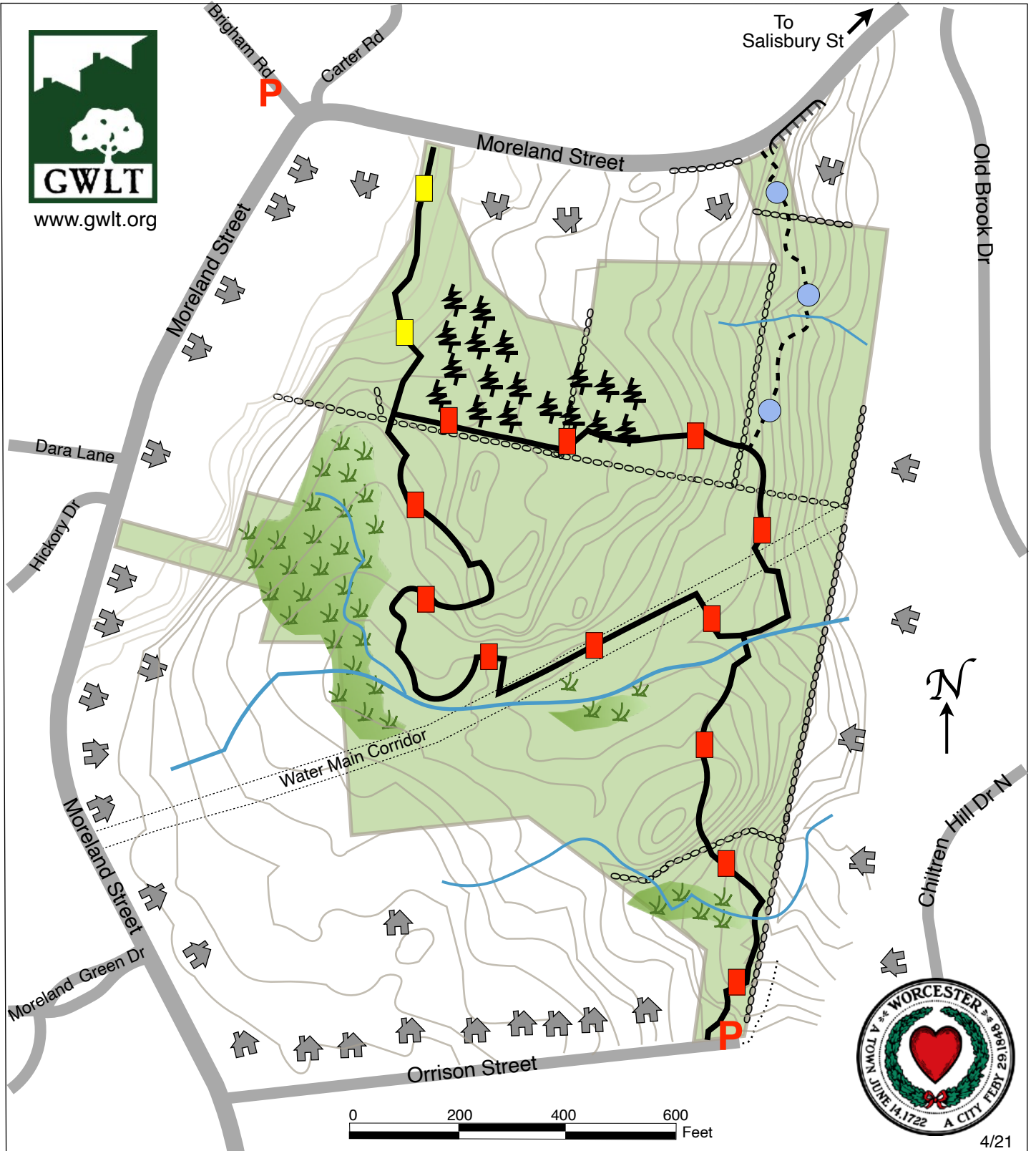
This property is full of birds and wildlife. Wild Turkeys are often seen or heard, along with many other bird species including Red-bellied, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Barred Owls, Northern Cardinals, and American Robins. A pair of White-tailed Deer were also spotted recently.

Moreland Woods

Worcester, MA



www.gwlt.org



4/21

Key			
	Path		Evergreen grove
	Private Path		Wetlands
	Alternate Route		Stone walls
	Property Boundary		Guard Rail
	Stream		Park on street

Newton Hill

Worcester
City of Worcester

Location: Behind Doherty High School and bordered by Pleasant Street and Park Avenue.

Length: Paths vary from a few tenths of a mile to a mile or so.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

There are several well maintained and marked woods roads and trails, as well as some well-traveled unnamed trails. The park includes an 18-hole disc golf course, as well as a 12-station Fitness Course. The disc golf course crosses the paths, but golfers are respectful of walkers. The course is used mostly in late afternoon and on weekends.

The trails are lined with oak, birch and White Pine trees which are a haven for birds, squirrels, and chipmunks. You also get a lot of exercise walking up and down the hill. It's fun to cross-country ski and snowshoe here in the winter.

Elm Park

Worcester
City of Worcester

Location: Bordered by Highland Street, Park Avenue, Elm Street, and Russell Street.

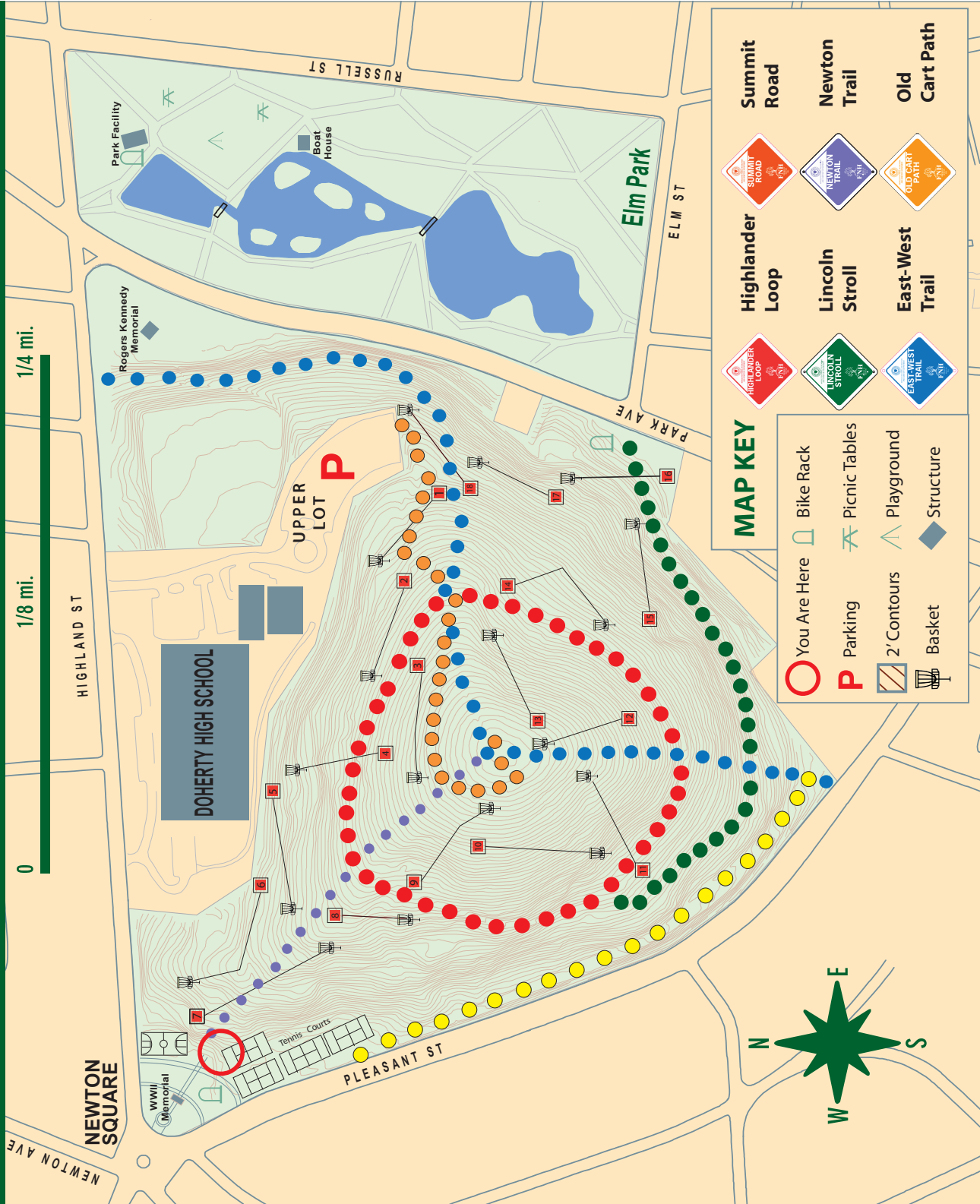
Elm Park has two miles of tree lined walking paths, that take you by a large pond spanned by two foot bridges. There is a playground and areas for varied outdoor activities. The Morse Stroll is the .750 mile walk around the perimeter of the the park.



WELCOME TO NEWTON HILL



Friends of Newton Hill
at Elm Park



Nick's Woods

The Greater Worcester Land Trust

Worcester

Location: Nick's Woods is located in the triangle formed between Grove and Holden Streets. The property sign is located on Grove Street, but the best access to the property is from Smith Lane. Smith Lane is located off Holden Street, just South of the intersection with Brattle Street. The entrance to the property is at the end of Smith Lane. The trail is the dirt road on the left. The road to the right is a private driveway.

The best places to park are across Holden Street at the Trilife Church (formerly the Triumphant Life Church) or along the side of Stetson Road. It's a short walk down Smith Lane to the trailhead.

Length: 2 - 3 miles

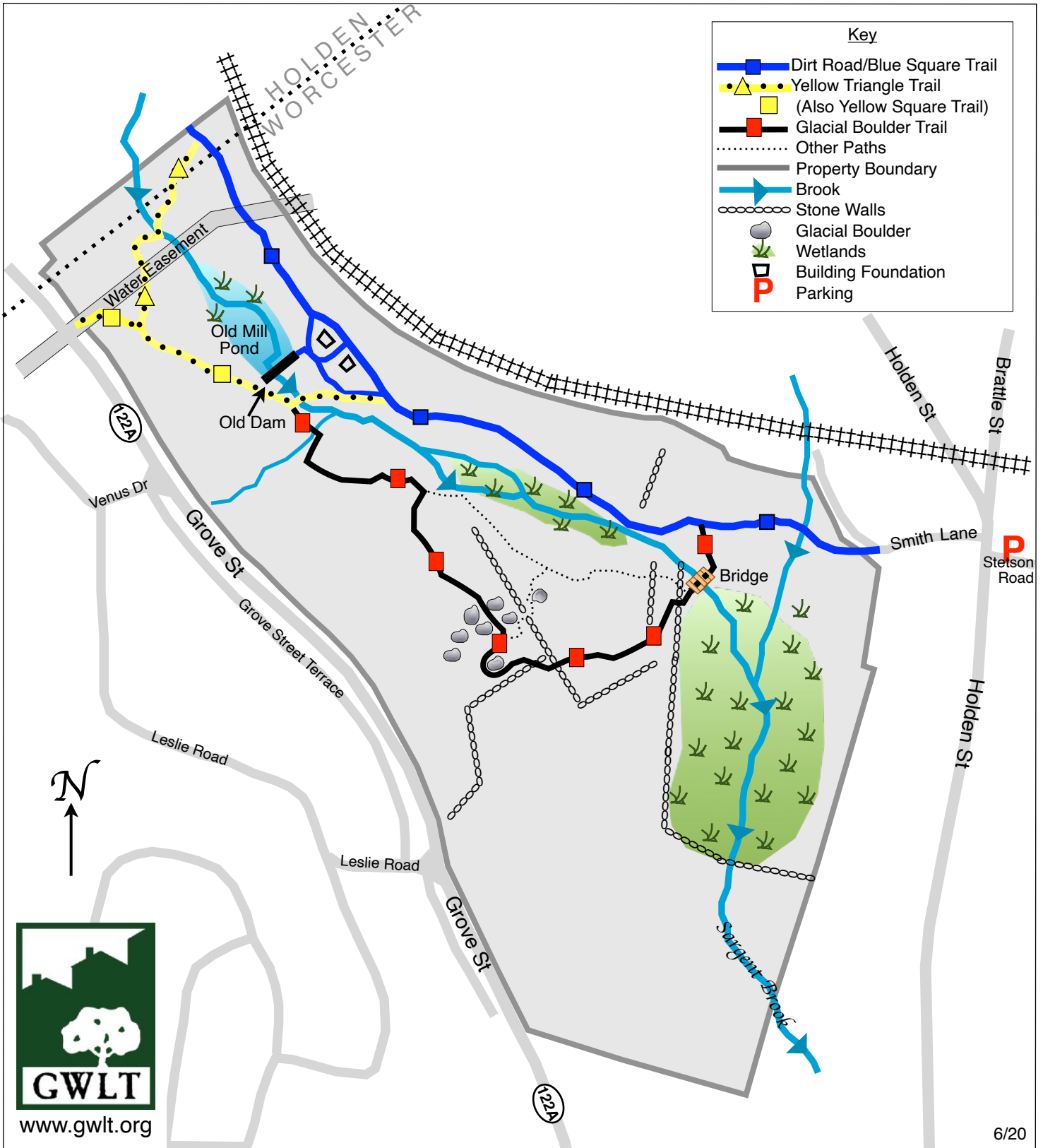
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

The main path is a rocky dirt road that runs along the North side of Sargent Brook. It is an easy walk that takes you from Smith Lane to the end of the property at the power lines. There are several route choices near the Northeast end of the road. A fun detour is walking out on the old dam. It offers a great view looking down the brook. Many different flower species decorate the banks.

You can return following the same dirt roads back to Smith Lane or follow the "Yellow-Triangle Trail" that crosses Sargent Brook near the power lines. This path takes you to the South side of the property, where you hike through woods which feature an understory of Mountain Laurel and Witch Hazel. This side gives you a good look at the old dam and brook, as well as taking you through a large boulder field on the "Glacial Boulder Trail". The trails on the Southern side of the brook are more challenging, with several stream crossings.

Nick's Woods

Worcester, MA



Oak Hill and Waterman Holden White Oak Land Conservation Society

- Location:
- 1) There is a parking area on Salisbury Street, Holden at the "Oak Hills Trails" sign. It is about .50 mile North of the Worcester/Holden line.
 - 2) Drive about .30 mile North of the Worcester/Holden line. Turn right on Jordan Road, the Oak Hill residential development. Park on the side of the road before 12 Jordan Road. (See map.)

Length: 1 - 2 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

White Oak Land Conservation Society holds the Conservation Restriction on the property that surrounds this development. A loop trail that incorporates existing woods roads, new paths and easements, has been blazed on the Western part of the property. It also runs through the wooded center of the development.

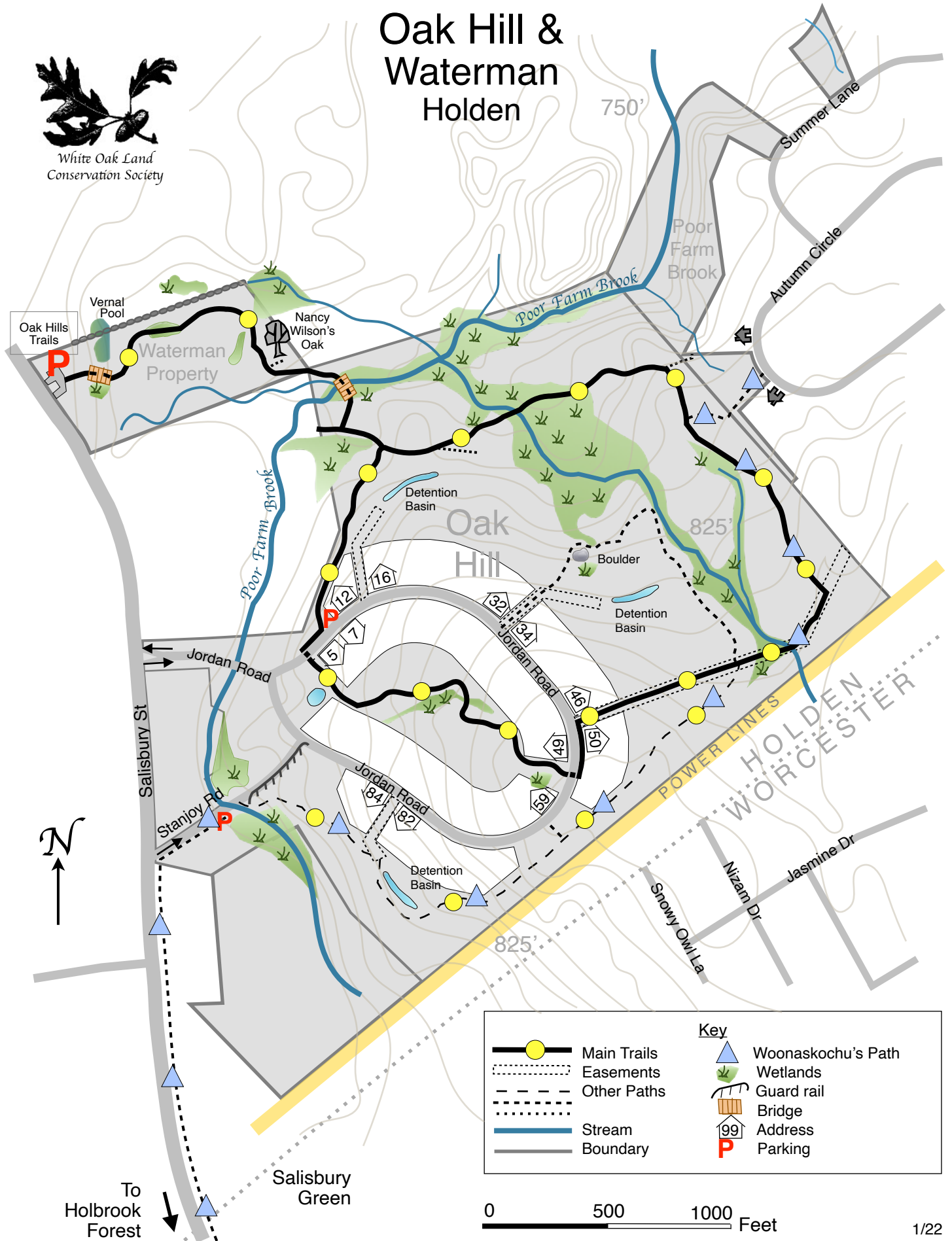
This is an interesting property; the trail follows Poor Farm Brook and its tributaries. There is a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees and the ground is covered year round with Wintergreen and at least three types of club mosses. In the Spring, Marsh-marigolds appear in a wetland area and Canada-mayflower, Wood Anemone, Dwarf Ginseng, Starflowers and Fringed Milkwort grow along the trail.

A .30 mile trail has been blazed from the parking area on Salisbury Street to the main loop trail in the Oak Hill residential development. Two beautiful bridges have been installed to take you over a brook and some wet areas. This trail winds through the woods passing several vernal pools and a very large White Oak tree. This tree has been named for Nancy Wilson, a long time White Oak Land Conservation Society board member and conservation advocate.

Depending on the trail maintenance schedule, you may find tall grass on the easements. As you would after any hike, be sure you do a tick check when you leave.



Oak Hill & Waterman Holden



Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge

Harvard, Lancaster, Shirley, Ayer
U S Fish and Wildlife Service

- Location:
- 1) Bill Ashe Visitor Facility, Bill Ashe Trail: 80 Hospital Road, Devens.
From Route 2 East, Take exit 37, Jackson Road. Drive 1.30 miles on Jackson Road. Turn Left onto Givry Street and drive .20 mile. Bear left onto Spruce Street and drive .20 mile. The Visitor Facility will be on the left. (See map.)
 - 2) Riverside & Turnpike Trails and Tank Rd: Still Water Depot Rd., Harvard.
From the intersection of Routes 110 and 117 in Harvard, travel 3 miles North on Route 110. Turn left onto Still Water Depot Road. Drive approximately .60 mile. Cross the railroad tracks, the parking area will be on the right.
 - 3) Esker Loop Trail: Off Walker Road in Shirley.
From Route 2 East, Take exit 36 towards Shirley Road. Take Shirley Road for about 2.20 miles. Turn right onto Main Street and continue for 1.80 miles. Turn left onto Walker Road, cross the railroad tracks, and drive .80 mile. The Refuge will be on the right.

This refuge was established in 1974 beginning with land transfers from the Department of Defense. It now encompasses 1667 acres and protects 8 miles of the Nashua River. Trails are being developed for people to be able to observe nature.

No dogs allowed.

1) Bill Ashe Visitor Facility, Bill Ashe Trail. Devens

There are outdoor displays to read, a composting toilet and a Pavilion for special events. Bill Ashe Trail is an easy walk on a mowed power line trail. The Boathouse trail is a short walk to the Nashua River and the brick remains of a boathouse. The Lake George trail is another short trail that takes you to a wetland pond. There is canoe access from a parking area that is just West of the Visitor Facility on Hospital Road.

2) Riverside Trail, Turnpike Trail and Tank Road. Harvard

This is a level 1.90 mile loop trail that takes you along the Nashua River and through wetlands. There are numerous wooden bridges and walkways over the wetter areas. During wet periods, part of the trail can become temporarily flooded. There are 12 stations around the loop that help describe the natural world surrounding you.

The Goddard Trail can be accessed by walking North on the Tank Road. See the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/oxbow> for more information. At this time the Tank Road is closed for renovations. Check the above link for updates.

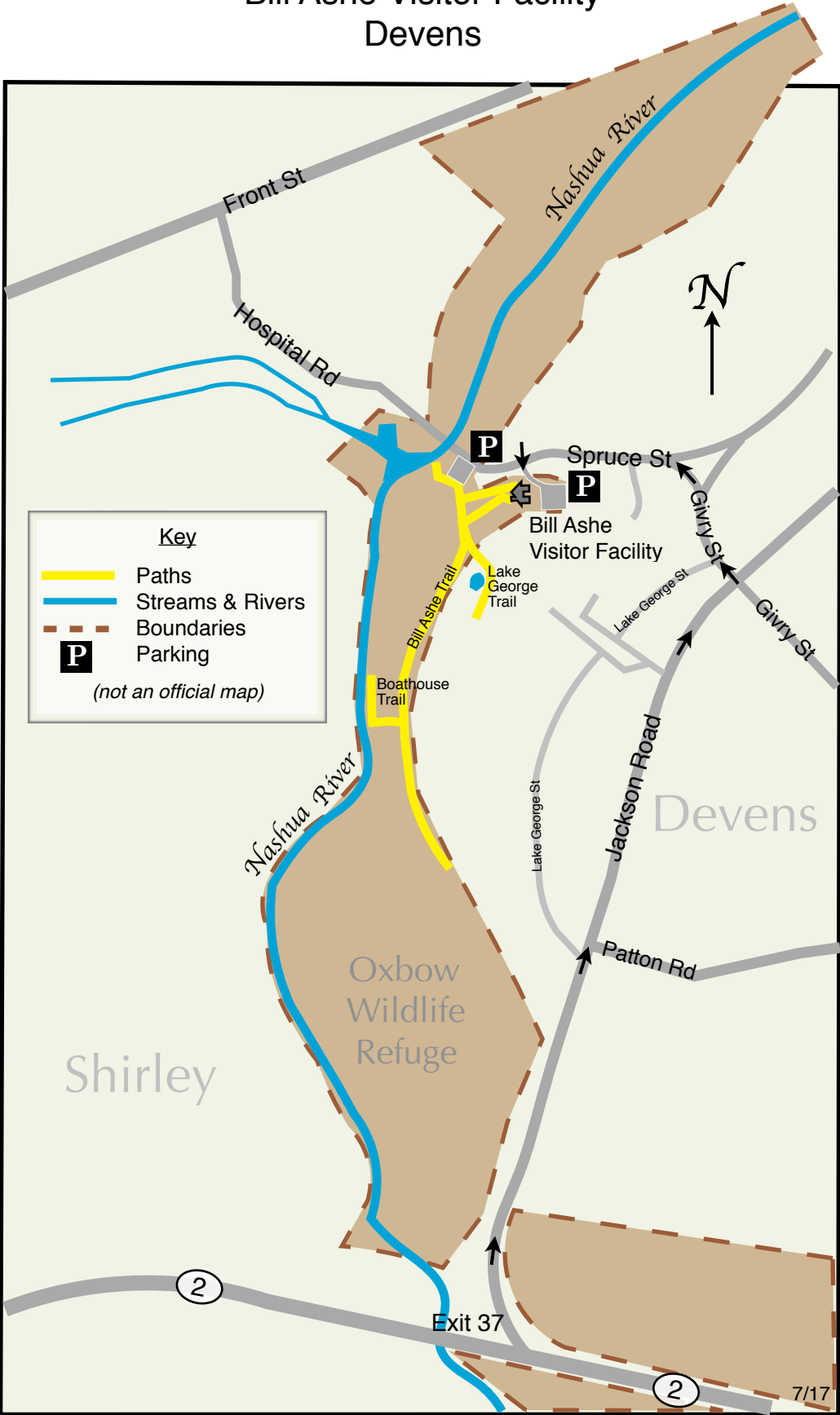
3) Esker Loop Trail. Off Walker Road in Shirley.

This is a 2 mile hike. Start by following the dirt road and walking next to an esker. After about .50 mile you turn right and climb steeply up onto the esker. Follow the top of the esker for about another .50 mile. From this vantage point, you get great views of the Nashua River and the forest below. At the end of the property, there is a very steep climb back down to the dirt road. Return to the parking area on the dirt road.

Oxbow Wildlife Refuge

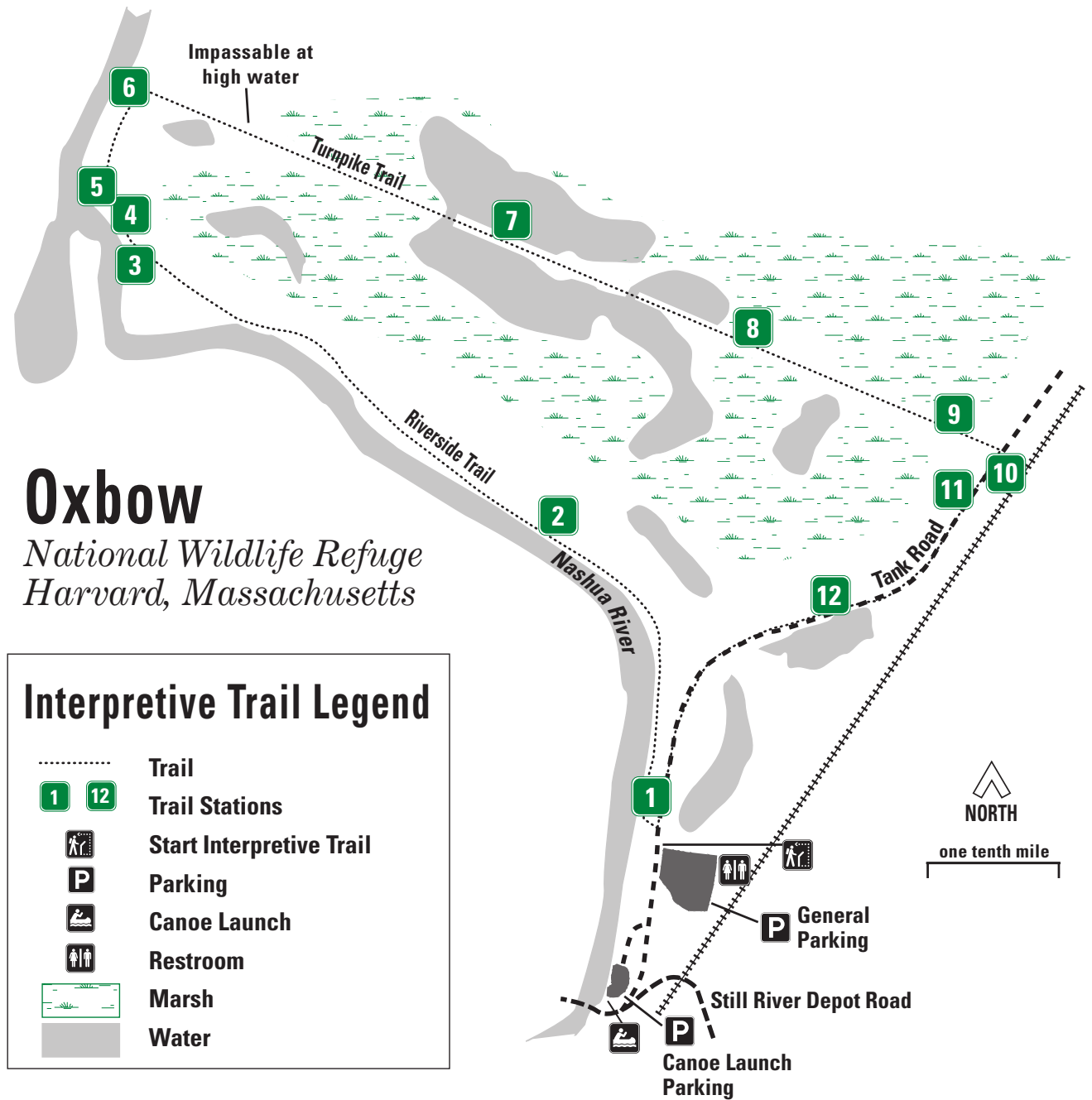
Bill Ashe Visitor Facility

Devens



Oxbow

National Wildlife Refuge
Harvard, Massachusetts



Interpretive Trail Legend

- Trail
- 1** **12** Trail Stations
- Start Interpretive Trail
- P** Parking
- Canoe Launch
- Restroom
- Marsh
- Water

Interpretive Trail Stations

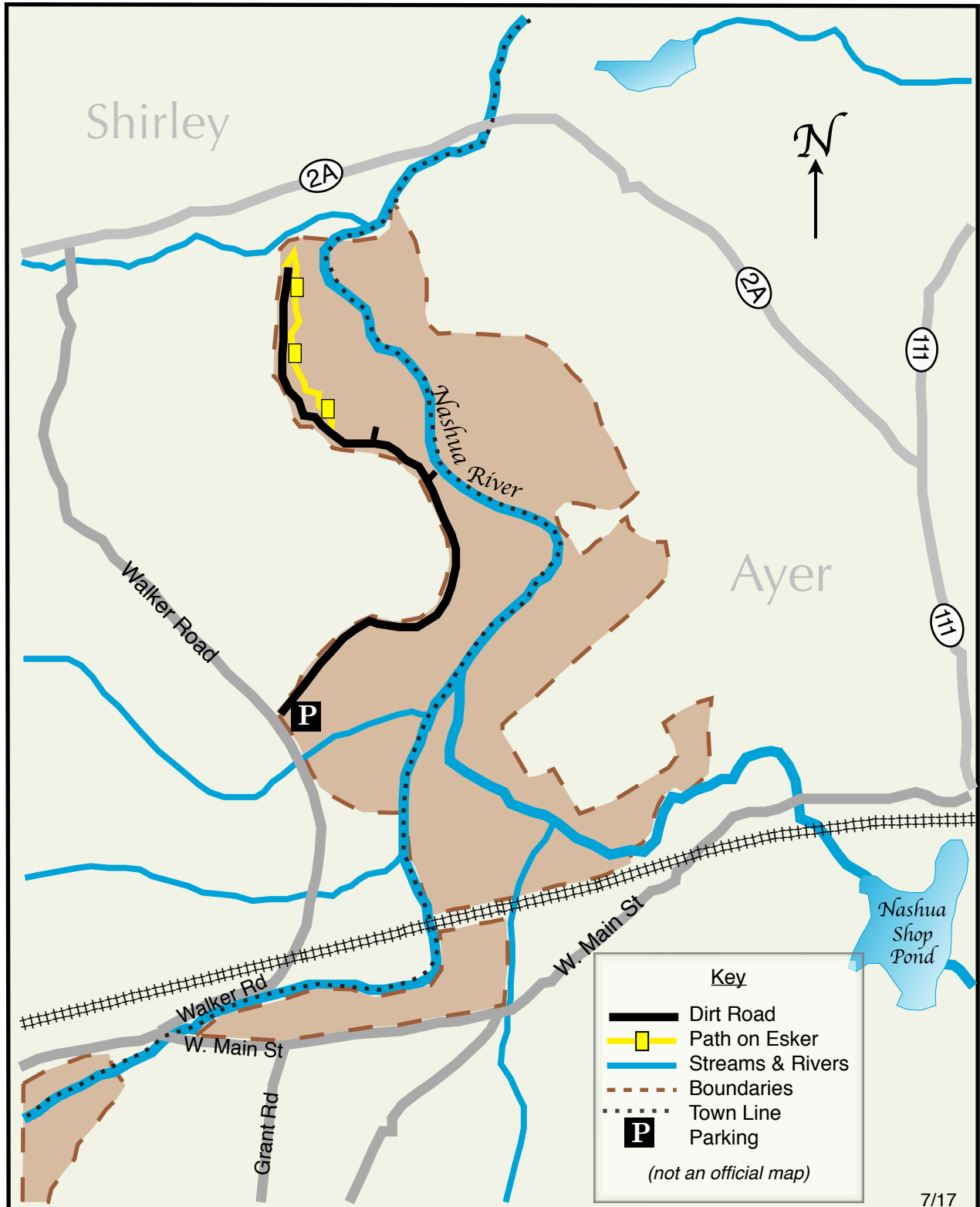
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Nashua River | 5) Slough | 9) Glacial Terrace |
| 2) Reading the Landscape | 6) Bridge Abutment | 10) Tank Road |
| 3) Natural Levee | 7) Beaver Lodge | 11) Turnpike Trail |
| 4) Riparian Forest | 8) Turnpike Trail | 12) Beaver Management |

The complete descriptions can be found in a brochure at the Kiosk in the parking area on Still River Depot Road. It can also be downloaded from:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/oxbow>

Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge

Esker Loop Trail
Shirley & Ayer, MA



Parson's Cider Mill and Marois 28

Worcester

Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: Parson's Cider Mill: Intersection of Goddard Memorial Drive and Apricot Street. Robert H. Goddard Memorial is on the corner. The parking area is West of the Memorial, on the right hand side of Apricot Street. This lot is often closed. You can park on the side of Merchant Street, and walk back to the Parson's Cider Mill.
Marois 28: Park on the side of Beatrice Drive.

Length: 1.5 miles and up

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

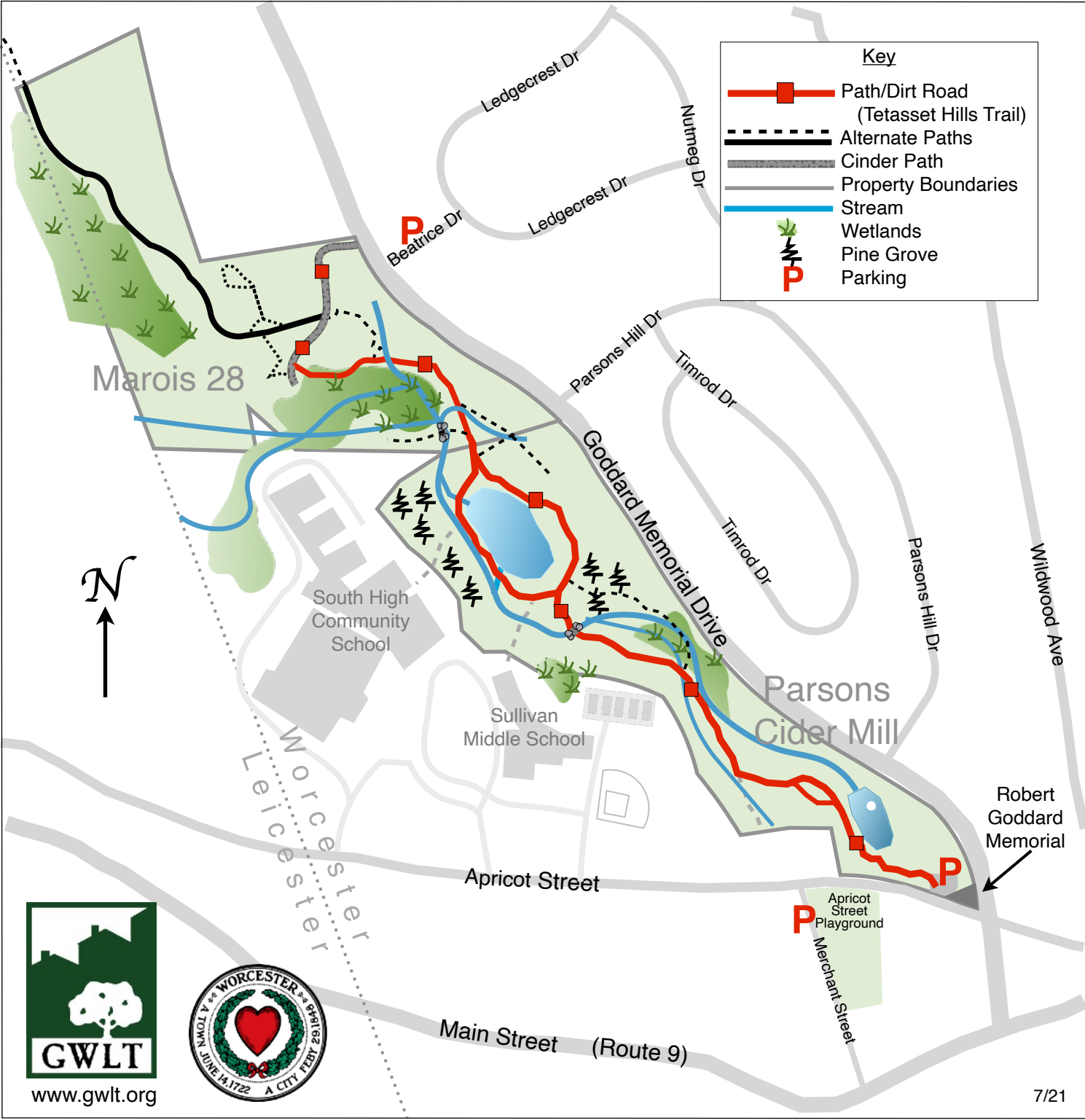
The Parson's Cider Mill section of this property is an easy walk along dirt woods roads. It begins at the former Mill's foundation, situated over a stream. The path takes you along two man-made ponds and a stream. You can walk around the second pond. In the Spring there is a large expanse of Bloodroot along the path and Marsh-marigolds along the streams. Mallard Ducks and Canada Geese can be found mating and nesting near the ponds.

The second property, Marois 28, is connected by a path from the far end of the second pond. You can walk either direction around a wetland area. To the right you pass a drainage channel from Goddard Memorial Drive. Continuing, you walk on a narrow path on the border of the wetlands, reaching a cinder road that takes you up the hill to Goddard Memorial Drive. You emerge from the woods across from Beatrice Drive. From the cinder road, several other paths head North along a wetland.

Walking to the left you pass a campfire site and the wetland. In August there is an explosion of Cardinal-flowers, Monkey-flowers, Joe-Pye weed and Jewelweed. A trail around this wetland that meets on the cinder path has been proposed, but has not been completed. If completed it will have precarious footing.

The only drawback to this property is that it is located behind two schools. There may be some litter along the paths. Trash can be deposited in the receptacle at the Goddard Memorial.

Parsons Cider Mill and Marois 28 Worcester, MA



Patch Reservoir

Worcester

City of Worcester

Location: Mill Street .40 mile South of the intersection of Mill Street and Airport Drive. There is a sign for Patch Reservoir and a wide shoulder on the East side of the road that accommodates parking for several cars. Canoes and non-motorized boats can put in here. To locate the path, walk South for about .10 mile and enter the woods beyond the house with the white plastic fence (464 Mill Street).

Length: 1 - 1.50 miles

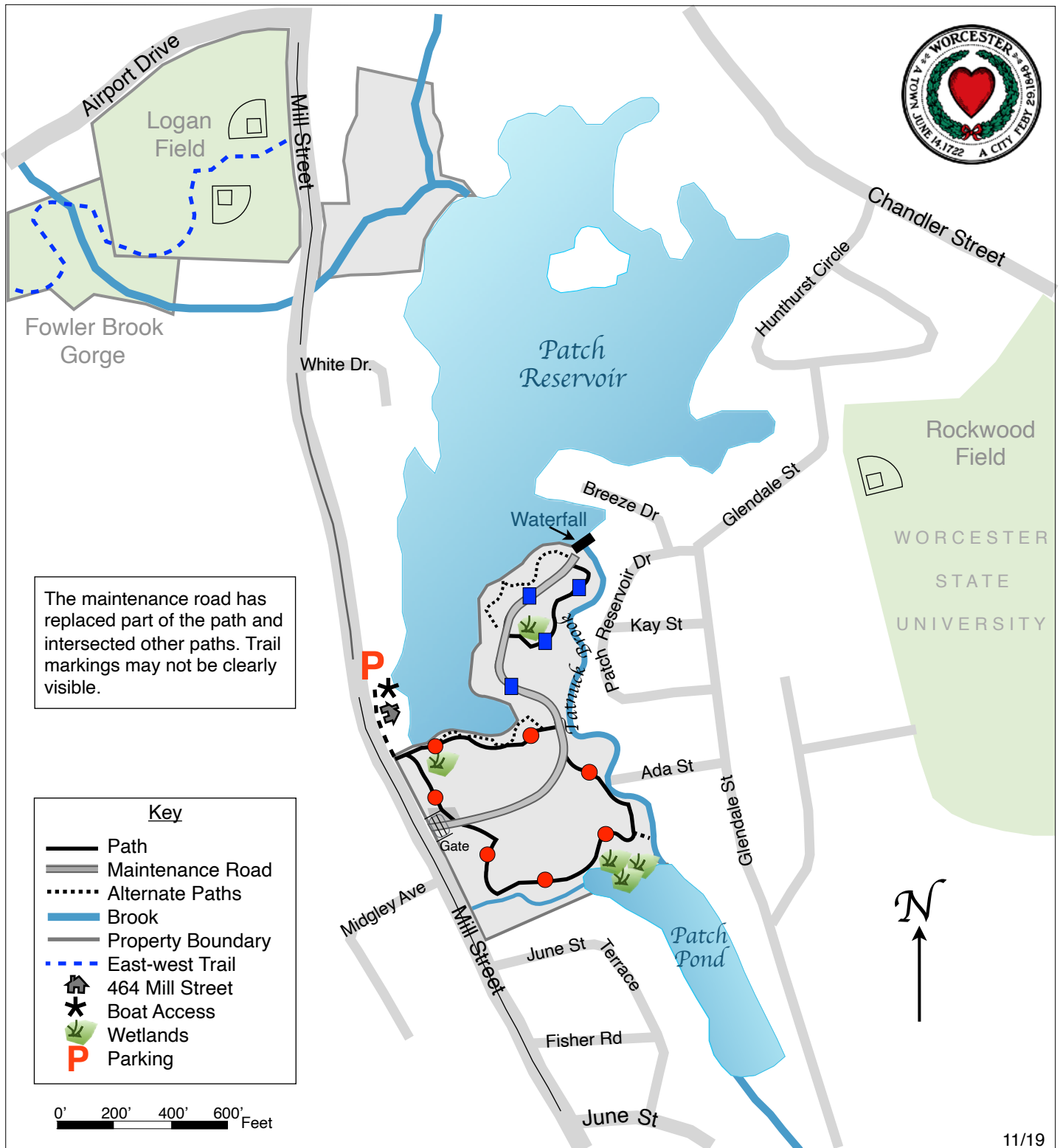
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

The City of Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks has constructed a crushed stone road that crosses the entire property. The road provides access to the dam area for maintenance. This road has replaced part of the existing trail system and intersects other portions. Parking along the side of Mill Street and entering the property at the maintenance road's gate is a starting option. You either join the red circle loop trail or follow the maintenance road to the waterfall. An area set aside inside the gate may someday be turned into a parking lot.

Start by hiking along the edge of the reservoir. There are terrific views of the water and the Mute Swans and other water fowl that frequent the area. This portion of the trail has recently been re-routed to remove some of the challenging parts of the path, but the footing is still very uneven, and there may still be some poison ivy to avoid. After you leave the woods you meet the maintenance road. Head North on this trail blazed with blue rectangles to visit the dam area. This area is honeycombed with intersecting small paths that take you closer to the water. You end up at a stepped waterfall which is quite impressive in the Spring or after a heavy rain. This trail now continues South along the brook before it rejoins the maintenance road.

A second loop trail (red circle) starts along the reservoir as the first route did. At the intersection with the maintenance road, head South and follow along the brook and through the woods. You will cross the maintenance road as the path heads back to the entrance of the property. This loop has created more hiking options on the property.

Patch Conservation Area Worcester, MA



Perkins Farm

Worcester

Worcester Conservation Commission

Location: Route 122 - Grafton Street. Located at the Perkins Farm Marketplace. Drive behind the right side of the Stop & Shop. There are signs that designate where to park, behind the building near the trailhead.

Length: There are many different trails that crisscross this property. You can walk as far as you want, for up to several miles.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is the site of one of the last farms in Worcester. It is an area which is forested with beautiful large oak trees that form a majestic canopy over the property. There is a short uphill climb to get into the property, but after that, most of the paths are relatively flat. The understory contains blueberries, Bracken Ferns, Sweet-fern, Sassafras, Yellow Wild Indigo and other wildflowers. In the Spring, one trail has a cluster of Pink Lady's-slippers.

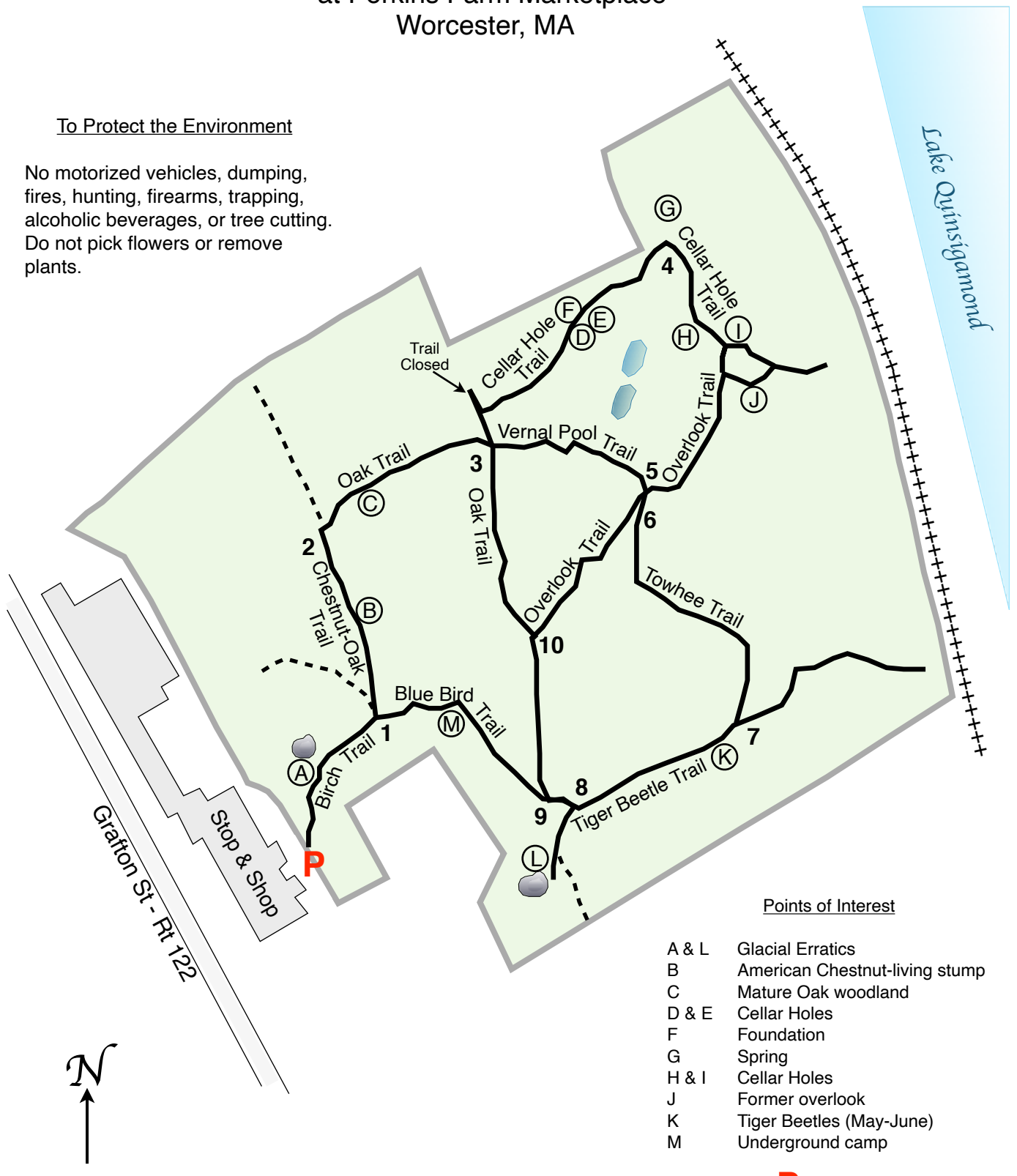
Another highlight is the view overlooking the railroad tracks and Lake Quinsigamond from the extension of the Tiger Beetle Trail. The view is especially memorable in the Spring and Fall when the leaves are off the trees. One caution - don't venture out onto the railroad tracks. These are two active CSX tracks and trains regularly come by at high speed.

Perkins Farm

at Perkins Farm Marketplace
Worcester, MA

To Protect the Environment

No motorized vehicles, dumping, fires, hunting, firearms, trapping, alcoholic beverages, or tree cutting. Do not pick flowers or remove plants.



Points of Interest

- A & L Glacial Erratics
- B American Chestnut-living stump
- C Mature Oak woodland
- D & E Cellar Holes
- F Foundation
- G Spring
- H & I Cellar Holes
- J Former overlook
- K Tiger Beetles (May-June)
- M Underground camp

P Parking

Pierpont Meadow

Dudley

Mass Audubon Society

Directions: From Worcester head South on I-290 to I-395. Follow I-395 South to exit 7B (formerly exit 4B) to Oxford Center. At the traffic light in Oxford center continue straight onto Charlton Road. Follow Charlton Road for .70 mile and take a left on Dudley Road (not Old Dudley Road). Go approximately 3 miles and take a right on Marsh Road (not Henry Marsh Road). The sanctuary is 0.25 miles on your left.

Length: Several miles

No dogs allowed.

Pierpont Meadow is a combination of many environments that make this a fun place to explore. There are wetlands and a meadow with a mown path around it. Here you can find beautiful flowering plants and dozens of species of butterflies and dragonflies throughout Spring, Summer and Fall. The woodlands are dominated by towering White Pine trees. In the Spring you can find Fringed Milkwort and Pink Lady's-slippers along some paths. Pierpont Meadow Pond has Bullhead pond-lilies and White Water-lilies floating on the surface, and Sweet-pepperbush along the shoreline. There is often a Great Blue Heron hiding somewhere around the pond and the tree limbs in the water often host basking Painted Turtles. The whole property attracts many species of birds.

All of the different woods roads and paths are relatively flat and smooth, and easy to walk on.

Pierpont Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

Dudley, MA ▲ 978-464-2712 ▲ centralproperties@massaudubon.org
www.massaudubon.org



Porcupine Hill & Potter Sanctuary

Holden/Paxton Line

White Oak Land Conservation Society

Location: Porcupine Hill is on Route 31 near the Paxton/Holden Line .40 mile West of South Road in Holden. There is a small parking area that holds four cars.

Potter Sanctuary is about .10 mile further West. There is room for several cars to park at the entrance.

Length: 2 - 3 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

These are a pair of lovely adjoining wooded properties. There are well-marked trails that combine for a variety of hikes. Blue markers indicate going out and yellow markers indicate that you are returning to the Porcupine Hill parking lot. White markers return you to the Potter Sanctuary parking area. It is also possible to walk the .10 mile distance between the two parking areas along the highway.

Porcupine Hill: This hike begins on the Peabody Family Trail. This trail is narrow in sections and takes you through dense thickets of Mountain Laurel. You'll find Sweet-pepperbush and Indian Cucumber-root along the sides of the trail. There are some rocks, stumps and roots to look out for on the trail. Damper areas have wooden bridges over them. You continue the climb up the hill over granite ledges on the Wilson Way loop trail. You will pass a picnic table set off on a nice ledge. For a longer hike, you can access the Summit Loop and Hemlock Path from here. These hikes are more challenging than the ones at Potter Sanctuary.

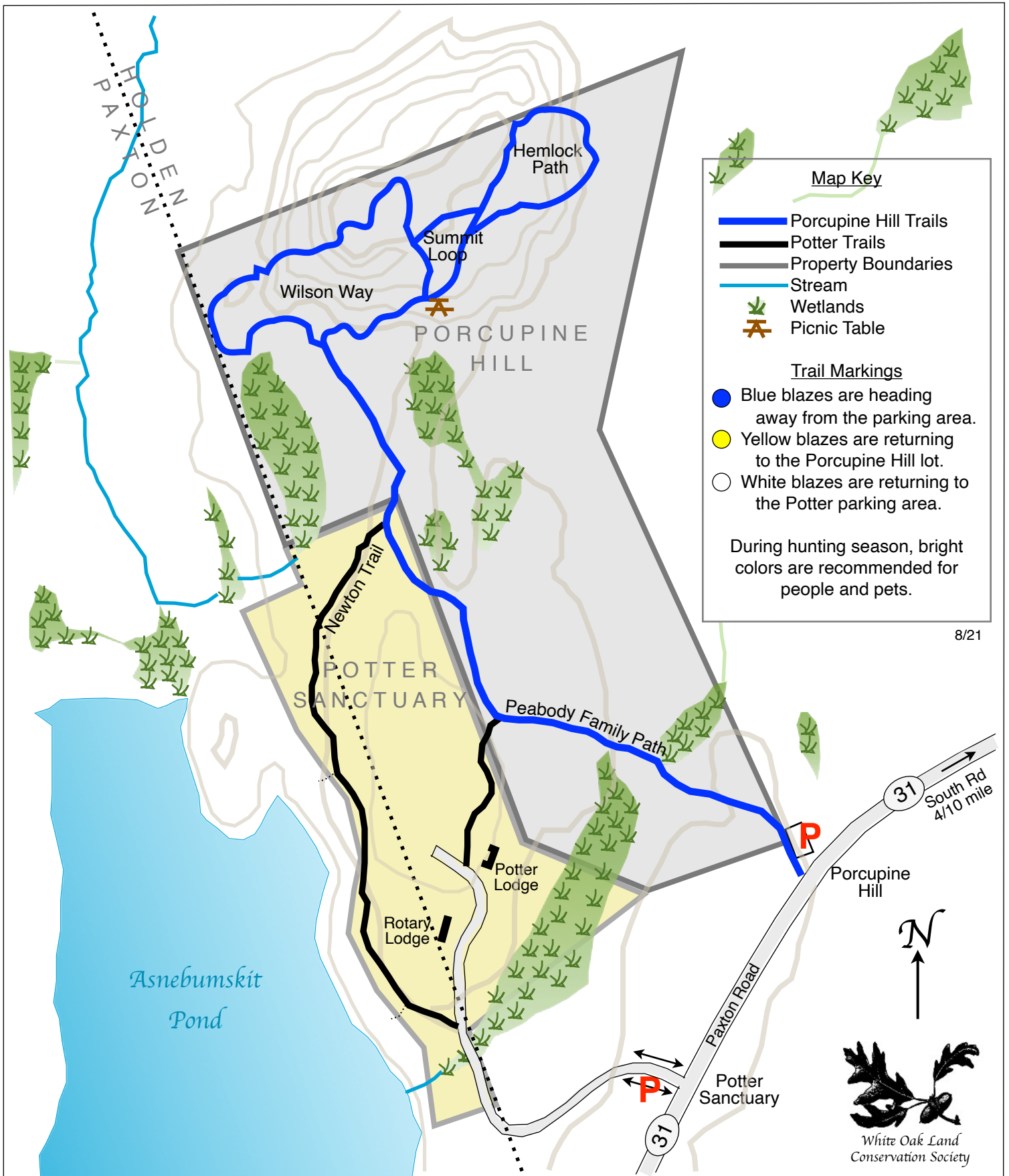
Potter Sanctuary: Follow the winding dirt road North to Potter Lodge. Continue North on the link trail that takes you to Porcupine Hill's Peabody Family Path. At the intersection, turn left and continue to head North. You will have a choice of going further North to the summit loop trails, or heading Southeast then South and following the Newton Trail. In Spring, Fall and Winter when the leaves are off the trees, the Newton Trail has a nice view of Asnebumskit Pond. Complete the hike on the dirt road that returns you to the Potter Sanctuary parking area.

In the Spring these properties are alive with flowers such as Fringed Milkwort, Clintonia and Pink Lady's-slippers. In mid-June this is one of the best places to see a spectacular display of Mountain Laurel. In the Fall, asters and Witch Hazel are in bloom.

This is a multi-use property and hunting is allowed. During hunting season please wear bright clothes. Hunting is not allowed on Sunday.

Potter Sanctuary and Porcupine Hill

Paxton and Holden, MA



Poutwater Pond

Holden/Sterling Line

Wachusett Reservoir Watershed

Massachusetts Nature Preserve Council

Location: From the intersection of Routes 122A and 31 in Holden, drive North on Route 31 for 3.10 miles. Turn right onto Mason Road. Travel for 1.20 miles, then turn right onto Sterling Road. Drive for 1.60 miles to the Holden/Sterling town line. Park in the lot on the left side of the road.

Length: 2 miles

No dogs allowed.

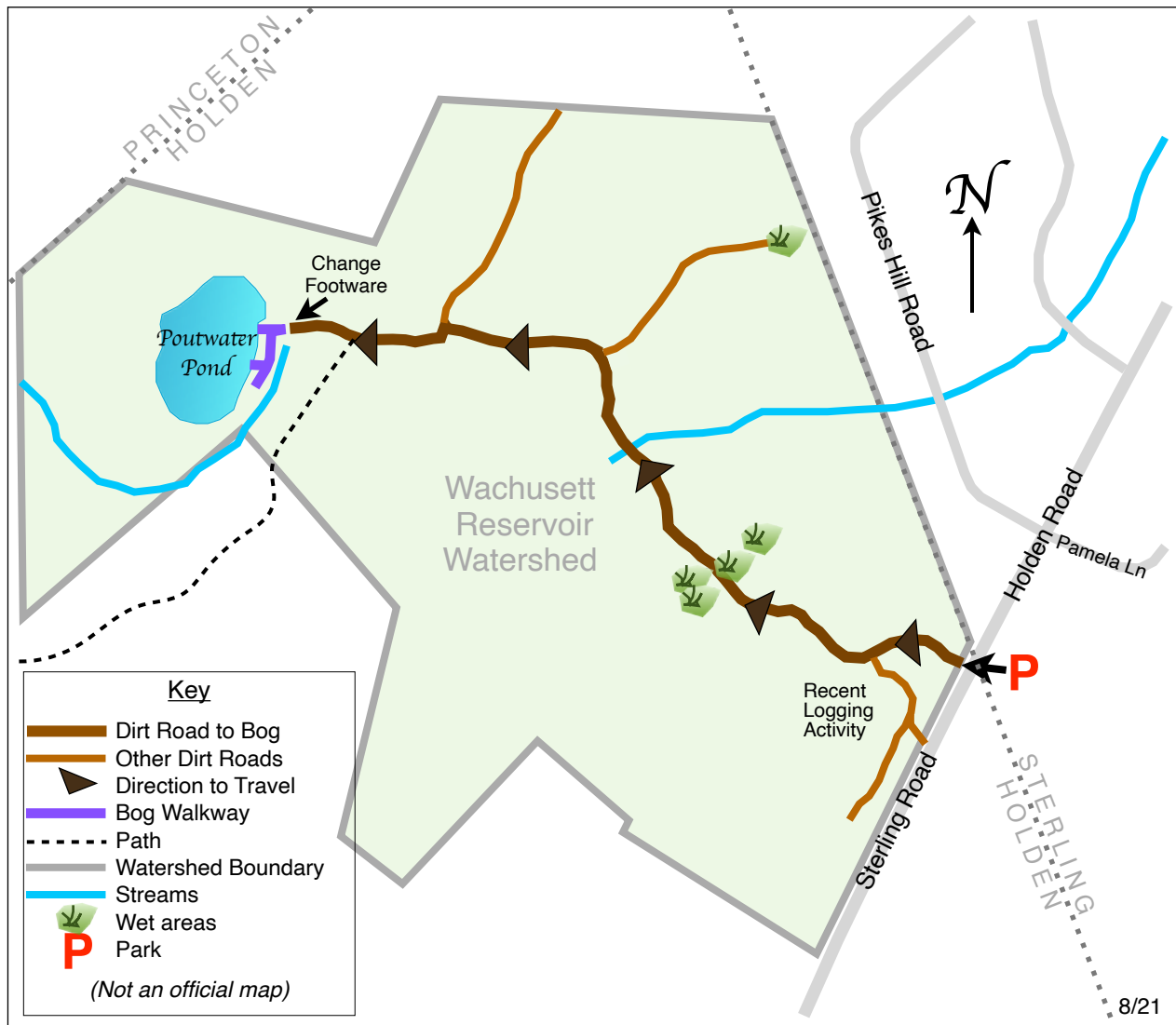
Poutwater Pond has a bog. The bog is a wonderful, colorful world of plants associated only with bogs. There are Purple Pitcherplants, Swamp-loosestrife, Small Cranberries, Spatulate-leaved Sundews, Arrow-arums, Bog Laurels, as well as Calopogon, Rose Pagonia, and White-fringed Bog-orchids. Highbush Blueberries and American Larch or Tamarack stand out here. You'll also find a wide variety of dragonflies and butterflies. To get to the bog, head Northwest on dirt logging roads for about .70 mile. There are several intersecting roads; bear right at the first intersection and left at the next two.

The path through the bog is a series of plastic walkway sections, that have a one inch square grid pattern. The walkway was replaced in July 2019. They did a fantastic job. The sections have been secured together, so that there are no gaps between the sections. Eventually, sphagnum peat moss will grow through the grid-work, obscuring it, but the walkway should remain safe as long as you are cautious.

This is a multi-use property. During hunting season, wear bright colorful clothing. No hunting is permitted on Sunday.

Poutwater Pond

Holden, MA



Special Instructions

The walkway in the bog was rebuilt in July 2019, and is in great shape. Your feet will not get wet unless you want them to. I like the feel of the cold water on my feet, so I usually change into sandals. See instructions following.

Wear your normal sneakers or hiking boots.
Bring the following:

- 1)An OLD pair of Teva **sandals** or OLD sneakers
- 2)An OLD Pair of **socks**. (Change just before you go into the bog.)
- 3)A plastic bottle filled with **water** to rinse your feet. (one bottle will rinse off 2 people)
- 4)A small OLD **hand towel** to dry off with.
- 5)A **plastic bag** to put wet things in, to carry out.

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

Sutton

Commonwealth of Massachusetts - DCR

Location: From Route 146 take Exit 6, Purgatory Road. Continue West for .25 mile to the Reservation's entrance and the visitor center.

Daily Parking Fee (from May 14 to October 30):

\$ 5.00 for MA Vehicle

\$20.00 for Non-MA Vehicle

Yearly parking passes are available to MA residents. For details:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/parking-at-massachusetts-state-parks#->

Lifetime Senior passes are available to MA residents over the age of 62.

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/get-a-senior-parking-pass>

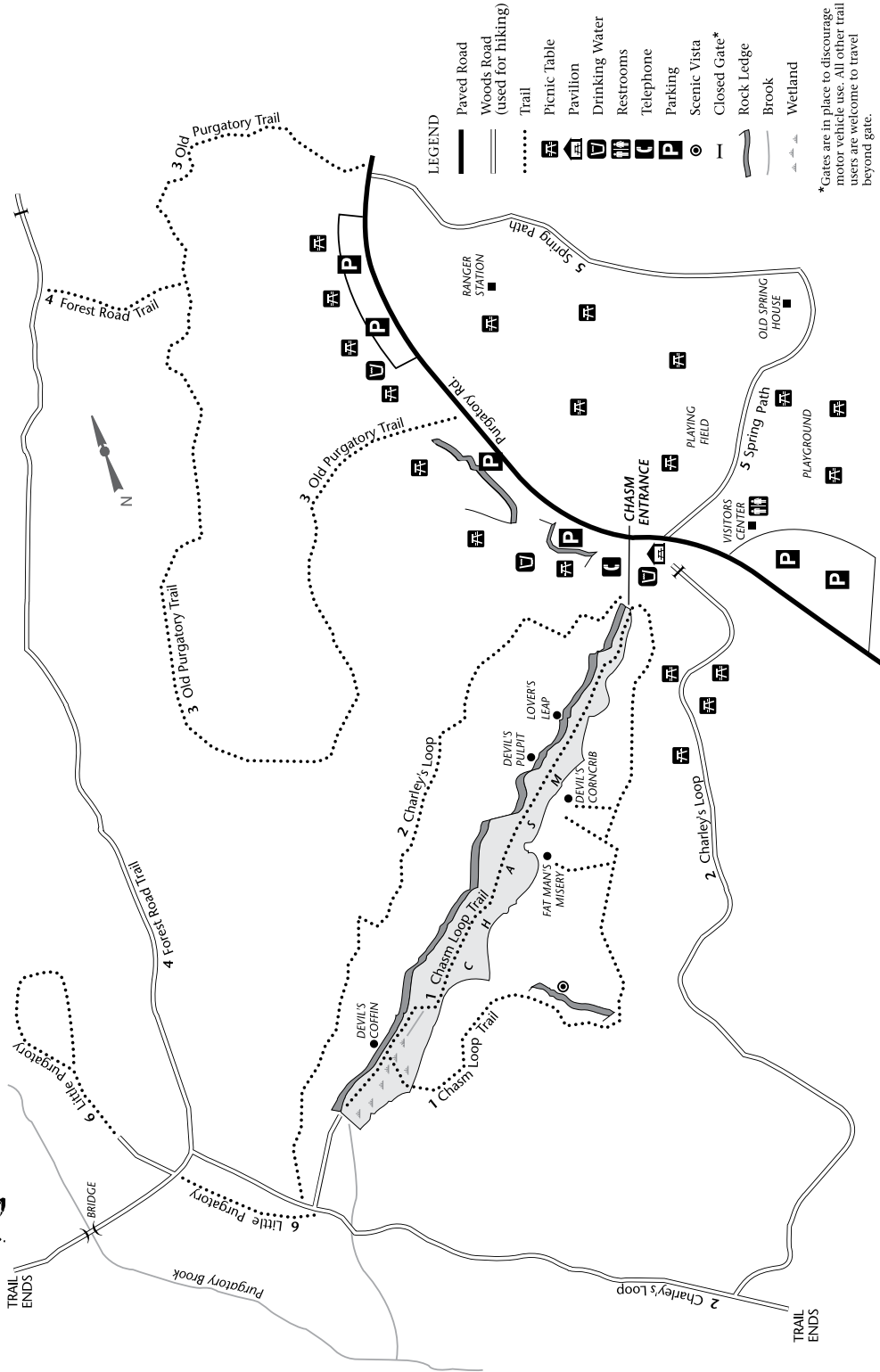
Length: 4 miles

"Well behaved dogs" on leashes are allowed.

If you grew up in this area, you probably took a school field trip to Purgatory Chasm. This property is more than the Chasm. There are miles of moderate to difficult trails around the chasm, including a DCR "Healthy Trail". Most of the dirt roads and trails involve elevation changes and there are many tree roots and rocks to avoid. There is a vernal pool to be explored in the Spring and mushrooms of every color, shape and size in the Fall.

The chasm itself is a unique natural landmark that is .25 mile long with granite walls rising 70 feet on either side. The chasm is thought to have been formed near the end of the last glacier, 14,000 years ago. There is a visitor center that has displays that explain the geology as well as the history and flora and fauna of the area. There are several picnic areas.

dcr Massachusetts  Purgatory Chasm State Reservation



*Gates are in place to discourage motor vehicle use. All other trail users are welcome to travel beyond gate.

PLEASE

- Be aware - chasm rocks and slopes are slippery: wear rubber-soled shoes or hiking boots.
- Stay away from the edges of the chasm.
- Keep dogs on a leash.
- Do not pick flowers or other vegetation.
- Deposit trash in receptacles.

PLEASE NO

- Alcoholic beverages.
- Rock climbing without a special permit.
- Open fires.
- Mountain bikes in or around chasm area or in picnic areas.

PARK HOURS

- Sunrise to sunset, daily. Open year-round.

ROCK-CLIMBING PERMITS

- To obtain a permit, please apply at the Park Headquarters. Bring your climbing gear
- IF A SERIOUS INJURY OCCURS, DO NOT MOVE THE VICTIM. Find a park employee or use the pay phone at the pavilion to call the Police at 911.

TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

- Stay on designated trails and roads.
- Observe all posted rules and regulations.
- Motorized vehicles prohibited.
- Be alert for other trail users.

TRAIL LENGTHS

- 1 Chasm Loop Trail - .5 miles
- 2 Charley's Loop - 1.0 miles
- 3 Old Purgatory Trail - .75 miles
- 4 Forest Road Trail - .5 miles
- 5 Spring Path - .25 miles
- 6 Little Purgatory - .25 miles

LEGEND

- Paved Road
- Woods Road (used for hiking)
- Trail
- Picnic Table
- Pavilion
- Drinking Water
- Restrooms
- Telephone
- Parking
- Scenic Vista
- Closed Gate*
- Rock Ledge
- Brook
- Wetland

Rail Trails

Mass Central Rail Trail - Wachusett Greenways Section

Wachusett Greenways is working to open new Rail Trail sections. Following are five existing sections.

Sterling

- Location:
- 1) From Route 12 in Sterling Center, turn Southeast onto Waushacum Avenue. Travel about .10 mile, turn right into the Sterling Cider Mill Complex. Park beyond "Oh My Gosh Antiques & Collectibles". On the way out, Waushacum Avenue is one way, but turning either right or left on School Street will help you get back to Route 12.
 - 2) At the Intersection of Route 12 and Gates Road in Sterling, head East on Gates Road for .30 mile. A parking lot will be on the right side of the road.

Dogs on leashes are only allowed for the first .20 mile on the Northern end, after that they are not allowed. If you start from Gates Road, they are not allowed at all.

This section is 1.70 miles long. It takes you through wetlands, woodland and between two picturesque ponds. There are opportunities to see many wildflowers, birds and woodland creatures.

West Boylston

- Location:
- From Route I-190 take exit 9 (formerly exit 5), Route 140 South. Drive about 1.20 miles to the intersection where Route 140 turns left. Instead, bear right onto Thomas Street. Continue approximately .10 mile to the Thomas Street Parking Lot on the right side of the road.

Dogs on leashes are permitted on the trail for about the first 1.50 miles. After passing under Route I-190, the trail becomes part of the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed, and no dogs are allowed.

From the parking area head West along the path. This Rail Trail follows the Quinapoxet River. There are side trails that can be explored as well as remnants of the Springdale Woolen Mill complex. Wildflowers and lots of small animals can be seen along the trail.

Holden

Location: From the intersection of Route 122A and Route 31 in Holden, drive about 1.40 miles North on Route 31. Turn right onto Wachusett Street and then in .10 mile turn left onto River Road. Continue on River Road for about .90 mile. The Rail Trail parking area will be on the left.

No dogs allowed.

From this River Street parking area, you will find a hairpin turn. If you head East, you can access the same 3 mile section as you would from West Boylston. If you head West, you will continue to follow the Quinapoxet River, but the trail is narrower, hillier and has tighter turns than the standard Rail Trail path. Either direction has a nice assortment of flora and fauna.

Rutland

Location: From Routes 56 North and 122A, head North on Route 56 for .30 mile. Turn left onto Miles Road and continue for .30 mile. Parking will be on the left.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Thayer Pond: Head West on the Rail Trail and walk along Thayer Pond. This is an incredibly beautiful walk along the pond, some wetlands and the Charnock Cut.

Location: From the intersection of Routes 122 and 122A in Rutland, travel Northwest for .90 miles. The large parking area will be on the right. There is a sign for the Rail Trail along with a small sign for the Midstate Trail which crosses Route 122 and the Rail Trail here.

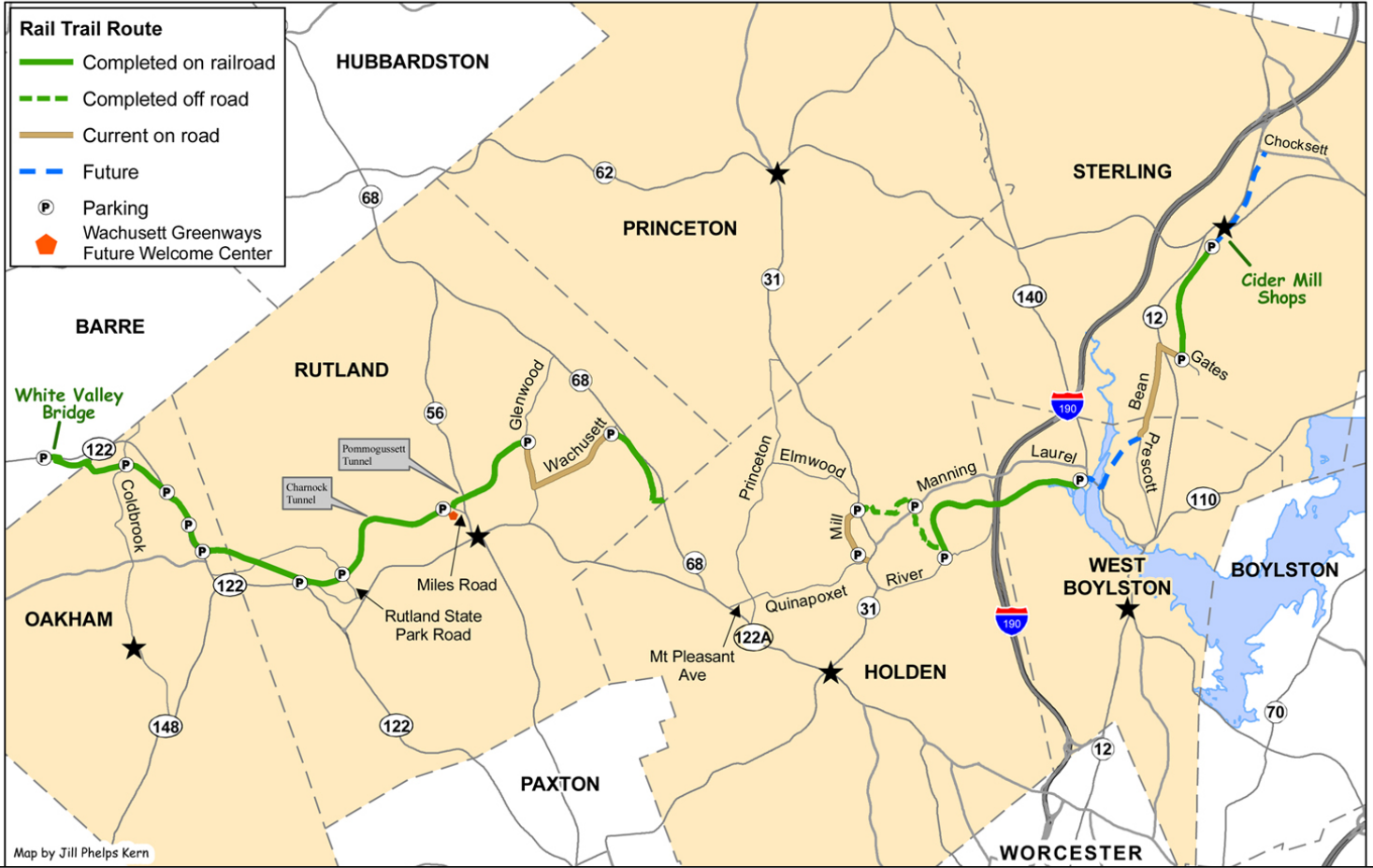
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is a nice tree-lined trail that gives you excellent views of ponds and wetlands. From this parking area you can walk in either direction. There are many side trails that take you into the woods and along side ponds.

Maps

Wachusett Greenways is updating their maps. There is an overview map and other resources. For more information see:

www.wachusettgreenways.org/wordpress/maps-and-trail-sites/mcrt-map/



- 1. 1.7 miles – Sterling Center to Gates Road, Sterling**
Park at the old Sterling Cider Mill beyond Oh My Gosh antiques. From Route 12 in Sterling center take Waushacum Ave. southeast to the entrance. Or park at the Gates Road entrance. The West Waushacum Bridge is 0.2 miles from Gates Road and 1.5 miles from the Cider Mill entrance.
- 2. 3 miles – Gates Road, Sterling to trailhead off Route 140, West Boylston**
Park at Gates Road in Sterling 0.2 mile east of Route 12. This trail section is on active and former roads. Ride on Gates Road to Route 12. Cross Route 12 to Bear Road with extreme caution! Travel south along Bear Road to the Sterling/West Boylston town line. Cross active railroad tracks, then immediately turn right through a yellow DCR gate. Take this rough-graded, inactive road one mile to pass through the next yellow DCR gate. Turn right onto Route 140. Use extreme caution on this causeway where the sidewalk is missing along one bridge. Where Route 140 turns right, turn left and travel a short distance to the Oakdale trailhead on the right.
- 3. 3 miles – Thomas St. off Route 140, West Boylston to River Street, Holden**
Park near the Quinapoxet River just off Route 140 in West Boylston. [From I-190 take Exit 5, Route 140 south one mile. Where 140 bears left over causeway, continue straight ahead to first parking area on the right.] This 3-mile section of trail on the rail bed follows the Quinapoxet River, crossing the Charlotte Kaplan and Jeremiah Kaplan Bridges to reach River Street, Holden.

- 4. 2.2 miles – Connector from River Street – Manning Street – Route 31 at Mill Street, Holden**
Park at River Street (just west of where River Street bridges the Quinapoxet at Harris Street). Access the trail at the back of the parking lot behind the yellow gate. The 2.2-mile connector is not part of the original railroad. The trail from River St. to Manning Street is moderately hilly. The section from Manning Street to Mill Street/Route 31 has steep slopes, better walked in some sections. Parking is also available at Manning Street where the trail crosses and at Mill Street/Route 31. [The Trout Brook Reservation entrance is near the MCRT crossing on Manning Street, and accesses 10 miles of Reservation trails for hiking, mountain biking, dogs on leash, horseback riding, cross-country skiing.]
- 5. 3 miles – Route 31 at Mill Street to Princeton Street, Holden**
Park at Route 31 at Mill Street (north of Holden center). The trail is on-road along Mill Street west for one mile to the old mill site and waterfall on the right. Limited parking is also available just before the bridge. Turn right through a yellow DCR gate and travel up a steep hill to return to the railroad grade. The trail from here to Princeton Street is not yet developed and travels along the railroad bed and old logging roads. Continuing from Princeton Street near Maple Spring Pond to the Holden/Rutland town line off Route 68, the trail is not yet developed. Travel on roads of your choice to reach the town line at Route 68 where you can pass through a gate on the left and climb back to the railroad bed or continue on-road to Route 68 and Wachusett Street.

- 6. 1.2 miles – Wachusett Street off Route 68, Rutland to Holden line**
Park at Wachusett Street just west of Route 68. Travel south 1.2 miles to the Holden line or a bit beyond. This section of trail is complete. Return to the parking lot to complete the 2.4-mile round-trip. To continue, travel on Wachusett Street west to Glenwood Road less than 2 miles, then travel north (right) approximately 1 mile on Glenwood to the bottom of a hill where the former railroad crosses.
- 7. 1.6 miles – Glenwood Road to Route 56, Rutland**
Park at the Glenwood Road trail entrance one mile north of Wachusett Street. Travel west on the completed rail trail 1.6 miles to end before Route 56. See views of Moulton Pond. When the tunnel under Route 56 is developed you will be able to continue thru to the west. will be able to continue thru to the west.
- 8. 4.1 miles – Miles Road, Rutland, to Route 122, Oakham just west of Old Turnpike Rd.**
Park at Miles Road entrance. Travel west over Thayer Pond, through the long, beautiful, mossy Chamock cut, then through the Chamock tunnel. Continue west across Barrack Hill Road, cross the paved Rutland State Park entrance road, the Midstate Trail intersection and travel over Muddy Pond west to outlet. Parking available at the Rutland State Park entrance road, at Route 122 at the Midstate Trail, and at Route 122 just west of Old Turnpike Road.
- 9. 2+ miles – Route 122, just west of Old Turnpike Road, Oakham, to Route 122 crossing, to Coldbrook Road, Oakham**
Continue west from Muddy Pond outlet to where the trail crosses Route 122. Cross Rte. 122 with great caution, pass over WG's 110' bridge and continue to Coldbrook Rd. The section was constructed in 2010 with the final stone dust "paving" planned for 2011.
- 10. 1.3 miles – Coldbrook Rd, Oakham to Ware River crossing in Barre**
Construction planned for 2012. Available now as unimproved route.

Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) Progress Map Sterling Center to Oakham



Portable toilets located at Sterling center and Oakdale, West Boylston trailheads.
These trail sections are complete with a stone dust surface for bicycles, stroller, wheelchairs and other non-motorized use.
Updated 1/11

Rocky Pond Community Forest

Boylston

New England Forestry Foundation

Location: Rocky Pond Rd.: From I-290 East, take Exit 27 (formerly Exit 24), Church Street. Turn left on Church Street/Central Street and drive 1.30 miles. Turn right onto Rocky Pond Road. Drive .10 mile, turn right, continuing on Rocky Pond Road for about .20 mile.

- (1) Park on the right side of the road for a pond view, and access to a dead end/former logging road, Boulder Way.
- (2) Continue on Rocky Pond Road for an additional .50 mile. There is a sign at the trailhead and an area to park on the left side of the road.

Green St.: From the corner of Central Street and Rocky Pond Road drive .10 mile and continue straight onto Warren Street. Drive .70 mile and bear right onto Green Street. Continue for .80 mile, passing Mile Hill Road.

- (3) At the sign, park on the right side of Green Street

Length: The trails and roads can be combined for several miles of hiking. Green Street to the Pond view is 1 mile. I haven't GPS'd Rocky Pond Road to the Pond view, but it but it seems longer.

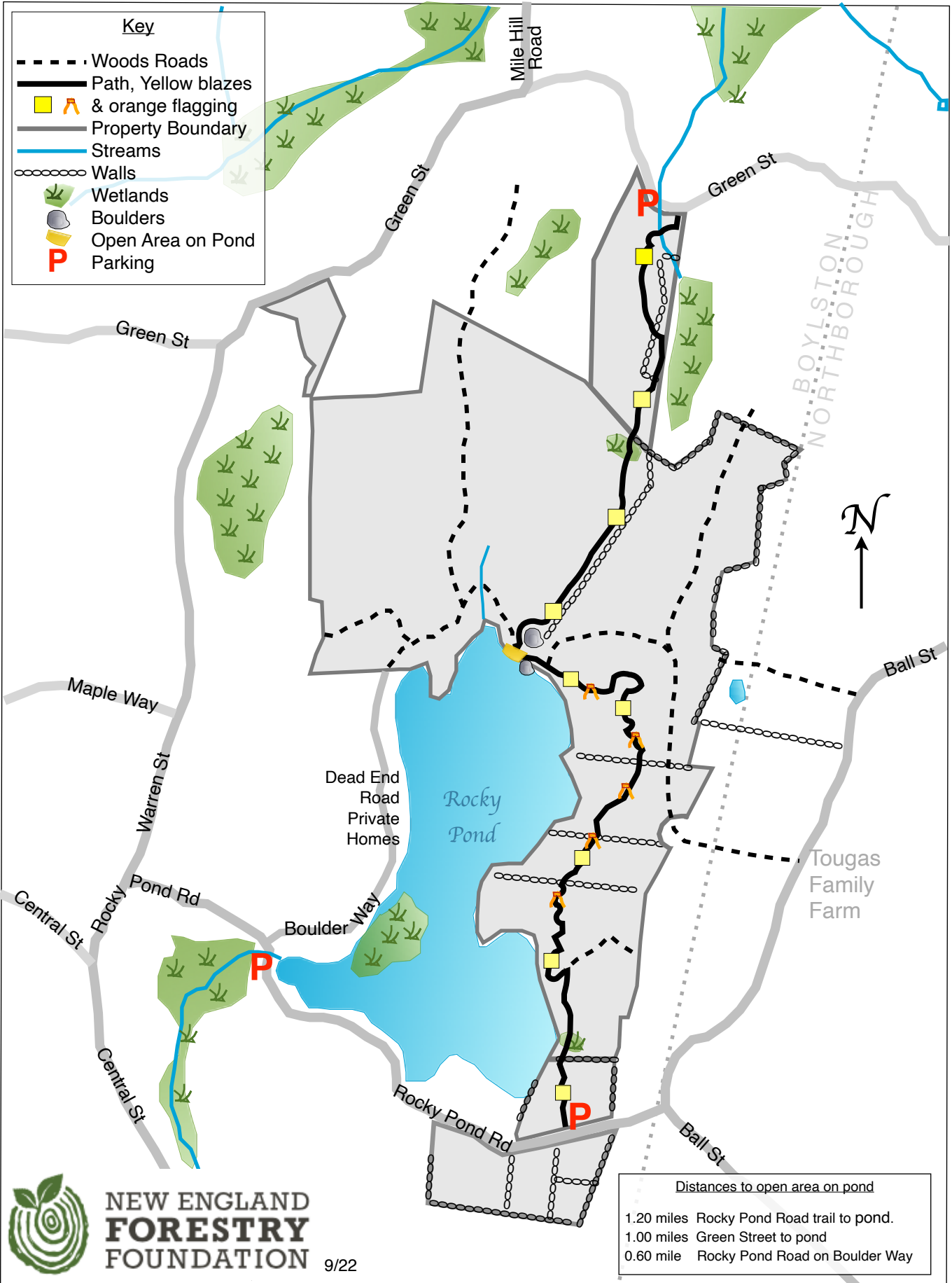
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is a sustainably managed forest. The New England Forestry Foundation manages this forest to create income while conserving it for wildlife and the community. The property has old logging paths and a hiking trail that take you through this beautiful diverse forest. The trails are lined with ferns and various wildflowers. There are mature trees as well as an understory of Witch Hazel and young trees. There are many glacial boulders throughout the property.

The hiking path that crosses the property has entrances on Rocky Pond Road and Green Street. At the midpoint of the path is an open area on Rocky Pond where you get an excellent view of the pond and some huge glacial boulders. This area can be accessed from all three parking areas. The easiest walk is from parking area (1) (see above) and the dead end, Boulder Way. You pass private homes, then enter the woods.

The other two sections of the trail have some challenges. Both have areas of moss-covered rocks that need to be navigated. Using a hiking pole or walking stick may be helpful. One rocky portion South of the open area is poorly marked. Look for orange flagging tape as you pick your way through the rocks. Another observation: after periods of wet weather, several spots on the path may have standing water on them. Also, in mid-summer, if the path has not been recently cleared, there will be many thorny fruit bushes arching into the path. It's a good idea to bring a pair of gloves and clippers with you.

Rocky Pond Community Forest Boylston, Northborough



Sibley Farm
Spencer
Common Ground Land Trust
The Greater Worcester Land Trust
Mass Audubon

Location: From the intersection of Route 9 and Greenville Street in Spencer, drive for 1.20 miles Southeast on Greenville Street. There is a parking area on the left that is a starting point for both Sibley Farm and Mass Audubon's Burncoat Pond Sanctuary. (See map for other parking suggestions.)

Length: The Sibley Farm and Burncoat Pond trail system combine for 8 miles of trails.

Dogs on leashes are allowed on the Sibley Farm portion of the property. Dogs are not allowed on Mass Audubon's Burncoat Pond Sanctuary.

In 2012, this 352-acre property was saved from development and protected by the hard work of many conservation organizations, the Town of Spencer, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. There are fields, meadows, forests, ponds, and wetlands to be explored. Volunteers worked hard to restore the property after years of neglect. A trail system has been developed that can be used for hiking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. The Midstate Trail also crosses the property as it makes its way across the state.

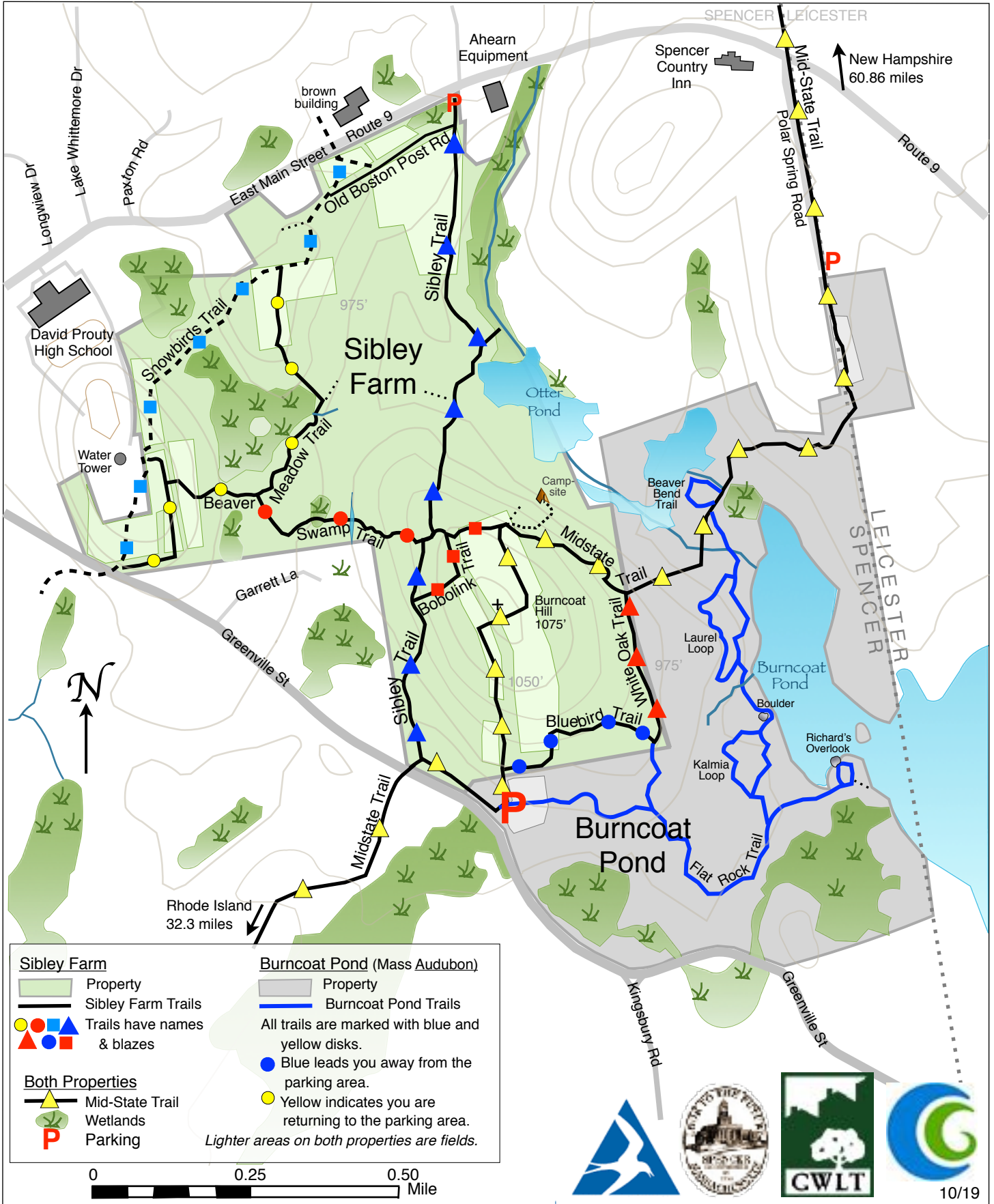
This is a special place that attracts birds and wildlife. A flock of Eastern Bluebirds was spotted in the meadow near the parking area. There are beavers in the wetlands and porcupine, fox, and deer in the woods. The meadows are alive with Queen Anne's Lace, goldenrods and thistles. Painted Trillium grows along one path and White Baneberry grows along another.

The Greater Worcester Land Trust has erected a tent platform and outhouse. Camping is offered by permission. For information please check the GWLT website; <http://www.gwlt.org/resources-and-research/request-camping-permit/>

This is a multi-use property and hunting is allowed on the Sibley Farm portion of the property. During hunting season please wear bright clothes. Hunting is not allowed on Sunday.

Sibley Farm and Burncoat Pond

Spencer, Leicester



Slater Woods and Hiland Park

Dudley, Oxford
Dudley Conservation Land Trust
Mass Audubon Society
Mass Wildlife

Location: From Worcester drive South on I-290 to I-395. Follow I-395 South to exit 7B (Formerly exit 4B) to Oxford Center. At the traffic light in Oxford center continue straight onto Charlton Road. Follow Charlton Road for .70 mile and take a left on Dudley Road (not Old Dudley Road). Go approximately 2.30 miles and park near the sign on the left side of the road.

Distance: About 4 miles

No dogs allowed.

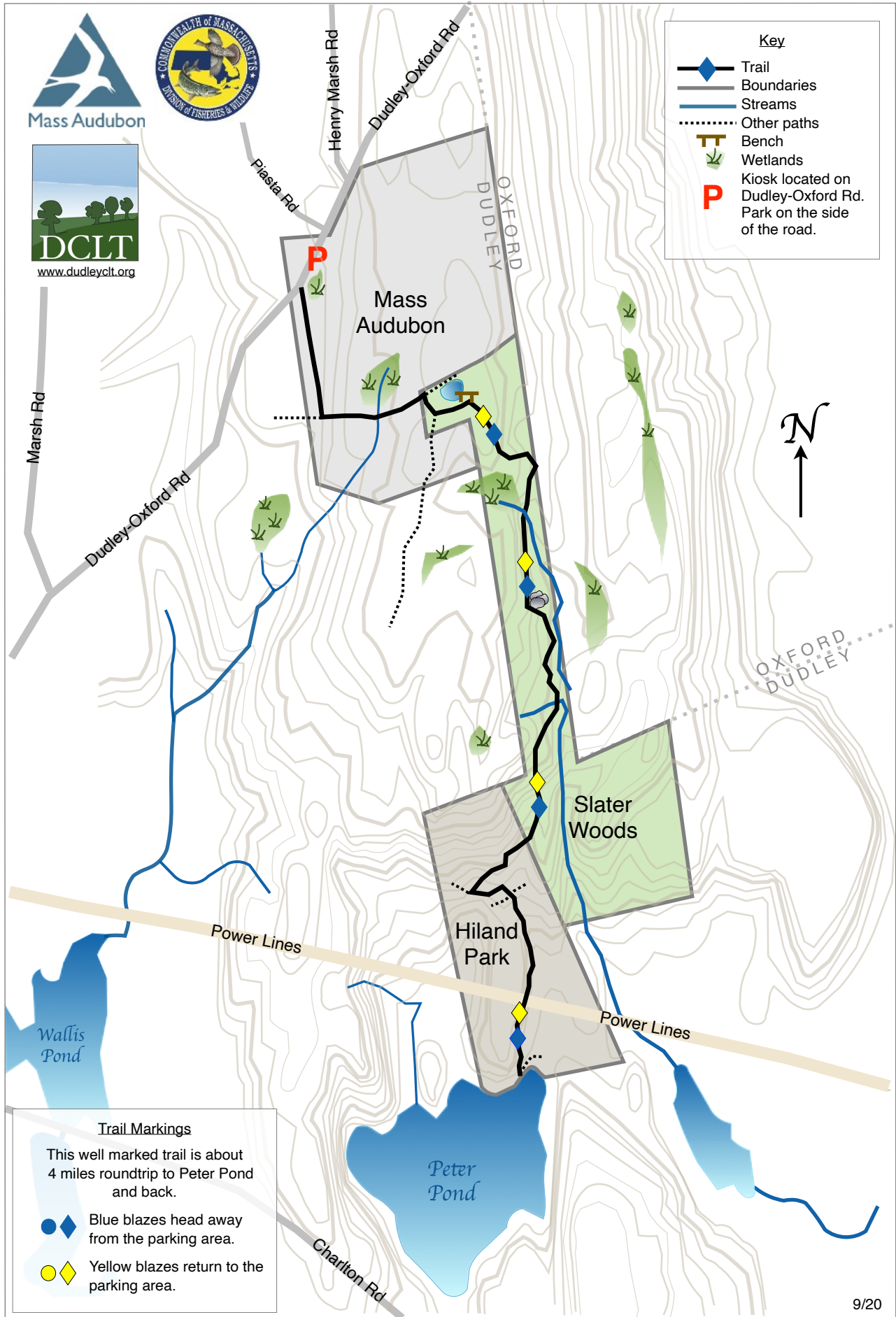
This trail takes you on an adventure that starts on Mass Audubon property. You follow a cart path and then the Olde County Road, a discontinued town road. A more rugged path continues through Slater Woods and Hiland Park and takes you by a wetland, along the top of a wooded ridge, and up and down some impressive outcroppings. The path ends at the beautiful Peter Pond.

The roundtrip is about four miles, so plan your time accordingly. The paths are well marked. Mass Audubon uses circular blazes and the Slater Woods and Hiland Park use diamond shaped trail markers, but the color scheme is the same. Blue indicates going South towards Peter Pond and Yellow markers are returning to the trailhead on Dudley Oxford Road. There are other woods roads that would take you onto private property, so if you don't see any trail markers, you may have accidentally taken a wrong turn.

Mass Audubon does not allow hunting, but the other properties do, so wear bright colorful clothing during hunting season. No hunting is permitted on Sunday.

Slater Woods and Hiland Park

Dudley, Oxford



Key

- Trail
- Boundaries
- Streams
- Other paths
- Bench
- Wetlands
- Kiosk located on Dudley-Oxford Rd. Park on the side of the road.

Trail Markings

This well marked trail is about 4 miles roundtrip to Peter Pond and back.

- Blue blazes head away from the parking area.
- Yellow blazes return to the parking area.

Southwick Pond & Muir Meadow

Paxton/Leicester Line

The Greater Worcester Land Trust

Location: Southwick Pond can be accessed from Route 122 in Paxton. Take Walbridge Road (across from Pleasant View Nursery) to the end (.40 mile). Parking is on the right.
Muir Meadow is located on Pleasant Street in Paxton. Park on the side of Indian Hill Road or at Howe's Nursery. If you park at Howe's Nursery, please ask permission.

Length: About 2 miles round trip, or more depending on the route you pick

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

These two abutting properties are beautiful any season of the year. Both properties have moderately easy trails that take you through many habitats.

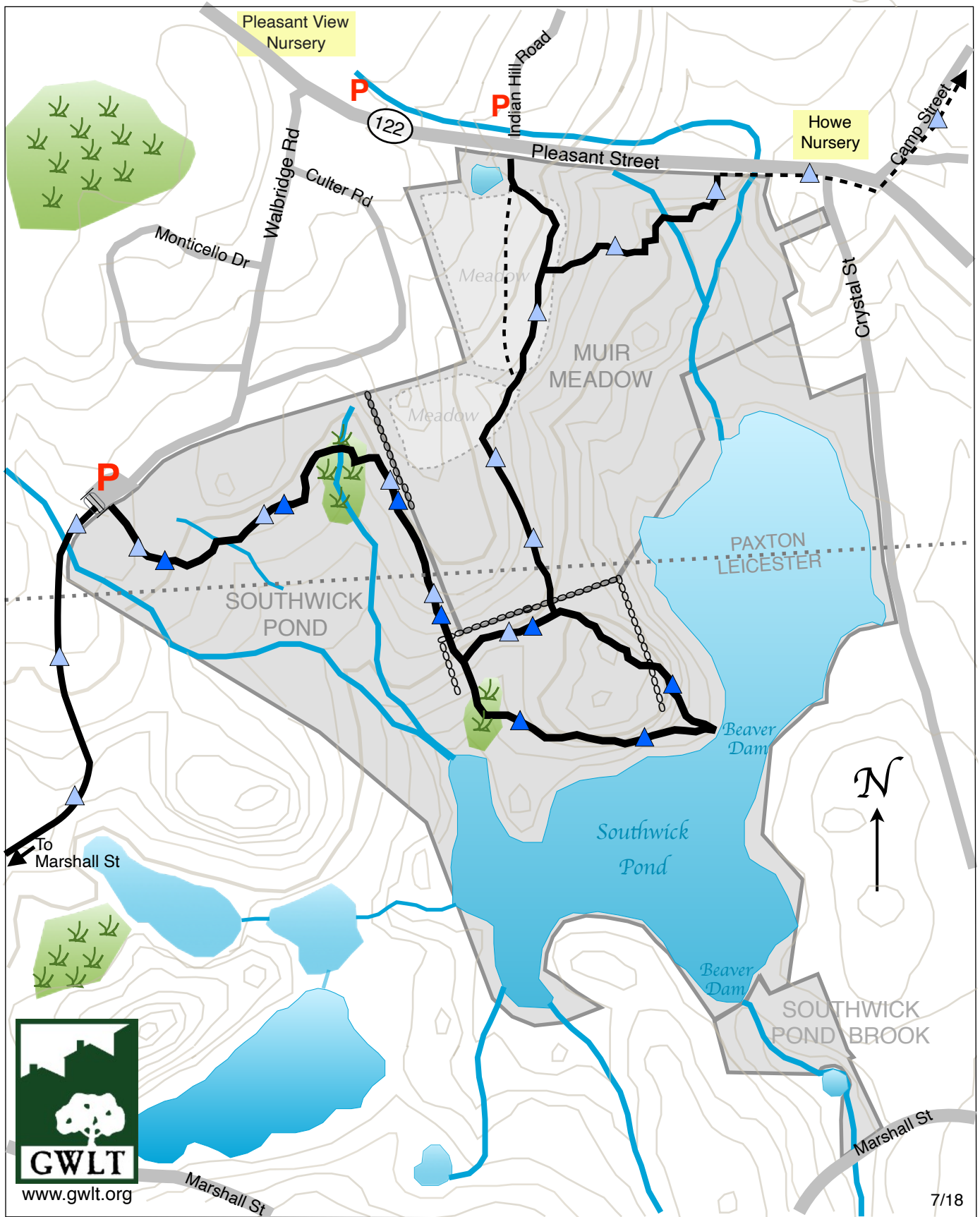
Southwick Pond: This is a special place. The trail takes you through a diverse woodland. There are log bridges that take you over a wetland that features Jack-in-the-pulpits, Cinnamon Ferns and frogs. These paths are also a good place to find Red Efts the day after it rains. The trail is in the shape of a lasso. When you reach the beginning of the loop, where the trail divides, continue straight to get spectacular views of the pond. In mid-June, the Mountain Laurel is beautifully showcased against the water. Go to the water's edge at the beaver dam. The pond has cattails and White Water-lilies. As you complete the loop, look for the main trail, turn right and head in a Northeasterly direction, to return to the parking area. From the parking area, you can head South, past a gate, and follow woods roads to Marshall Street in Leicester on the multi-property Woonaskachu's Path.

Muir Meadow: There is a path that starts on Pleasant Street, just North of Howe's Nursery. Step over the guard rail to begin your hike. The trail is the continuation of the Woonaskachu's Path and is blazed with light blue triangles. This path takes you through woods which have some unusual plants like Blue Cohosh and Beaked Hazelnuts as well as Mountain Laurel and blueberries. The path continues along the meadow. Larger Blue Irises, Black-eyed Susan, many species of goldenrod, asters and milkweed make a series of colorful displays. This trail eventually crosses a stone wall and connects up with the loop section of the Southwick Pond trail. You can do the Southwick Pond loop or retrace your steps to complete the hike.

Another starting point is at the Muir Meadow sign and gate, across the street from Indian Hill Road. After the gate, check out the "farm pond" on the right hand side. The footing may be a little wet, but there are often surprises like seeing a Great Blue Heron. To cross the meadow you have a choice of turning left (East) and walking along the edge of the meadow or walking straight (South) on the route used by Worcester Water Department maintenance vehicles.

Southwick Pond & Muir Meadow

Paxton and Leicester



www.gwlt.org

Key

	Woonaskochu's Path		Wetlands
	Southwick Pond Path		Contour Lines
	Property Boundaries		Parking
	Streams		

Spencer State Forest

Howe State Park

Spencer

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Location: From the intersection of Routes 9 and 31 in Spencer, head South on Route 31 for 1.10 miles. Turn right onto Howe Road and drive for 1 mile. The road bears right; you will find parking areas for the Park on both sides of the road.

Length: Many miles through the 965-acre property

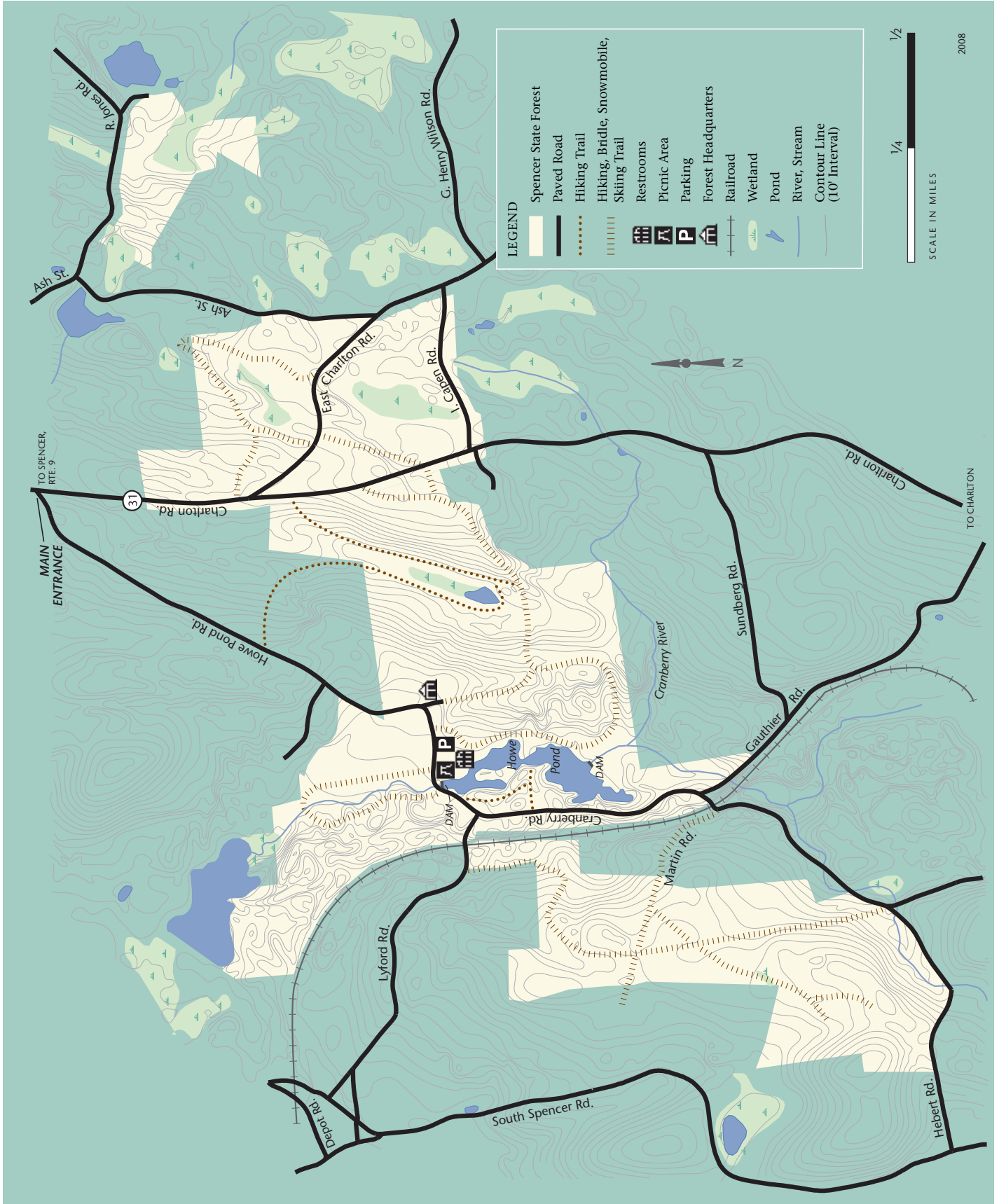
Dogs on leashes are allowed.

This is the birthplace of three Spencer inventors; Elias Howe, Jr., the inventor of the sewing-machine, and his uncles, William Howe, inventor of the "Howe truss" bridge, and Tyler Howe, inventor of the spring bed. There is a stone memorial near their former house's foundation.

This property offers many recreational opportunities including swimming, fishing and picnicking. There are rest rooms which are open during the warmer months. Most of the paths were established for multiple uses including hiking and horseback riding, and in the winter, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. These paths are wide and easy to walk on. There are also a few hiking paths that are narrower and cover more rugged terrain.

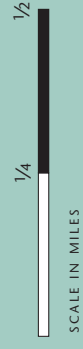
In the picnic area, Howe Pond and Cranberry River have beautiful stone work along their banks. This area attracts many species of birds like Great Blue Herons, and an assortment of ducks. Every season brings a procession of colorful wildflowers like Marsh-marigolds in the Spring; Pickerelweed, Jewelweed and Joe-Pye weed in the Summer; and asters and goldenrod in the Fall.

Spencer State Forest is a multi-use property. During hunting season, wear bright colorful clothing. No hunting is permitted on Sunday.



LEGEND

- Spencer State Forest
- Paved Road
- Hiking Trail
- Hiking, Bridle, Snowmobile, Skiing Trail
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Forest Headquarters
- Railroad
- Wetland
- Pond
- River, Stream
- Contour Line (10' Interval)



2008

Summer Star Wildlife Sanctuary®

690 Linden Street
Boylston, MA

Location: From I-290 East, take Exit 27 (formerly Exit 24), Church Street. Turn left, on Church Street/Central Street and drive 1.30 miles. Turn Right onto Rocky Pond Road. Drive .10 mile and continue straight onto Warren Street. Drive .70 mile and bear right onto Green Street. Continue for .50 mile. Turn left onto Mile Hill Road and drive for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Linden Street. Drive for .80 mile, Summer Star will be on the right.

Length: 1.75 miles

No dogs allowed.

Hours: The trails are open Saturday through Tuesday
Summer Hours: Dawn until dusk.
Winter Hours: Dawn to 3:00 pm on the same days.
The Trailhead House is open 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Saturday through Tuesday

Summer Star Wildlife Sanctuary® is the inspiration of one person. It is a place “where wildlife lives freely, and where people can appreciate and celebrate nature. The Sanctuary is a place of tranquility and self-reflection.”

This 45-acre property is located in the heart of a conservation effort in Boylston, Berlin and Northborough. The Tri-town Landscape Partnership Project is trying to to protect hundreds of acres of roadless land to link critical wildlife habitats and maintain wildlife corridors.

Summer Star’s trails take you through a rich wooded landscape that features many glacial boulders. There are beautiful stone walls and evidence of past quarrying. There is a path to Wrack Meadow Brook, a beautiful babbling stream. On the other side of the brook is another protected property, the Sudbury Valley Trustees’ Wrack Meadow Reservation.

An exciting addition to the Sanctuary is a beaver dam that brings another habitat to the property. A series of boardwalks have been added to prevent the Beaver Pond and intermittent tributaries from flooding the path.

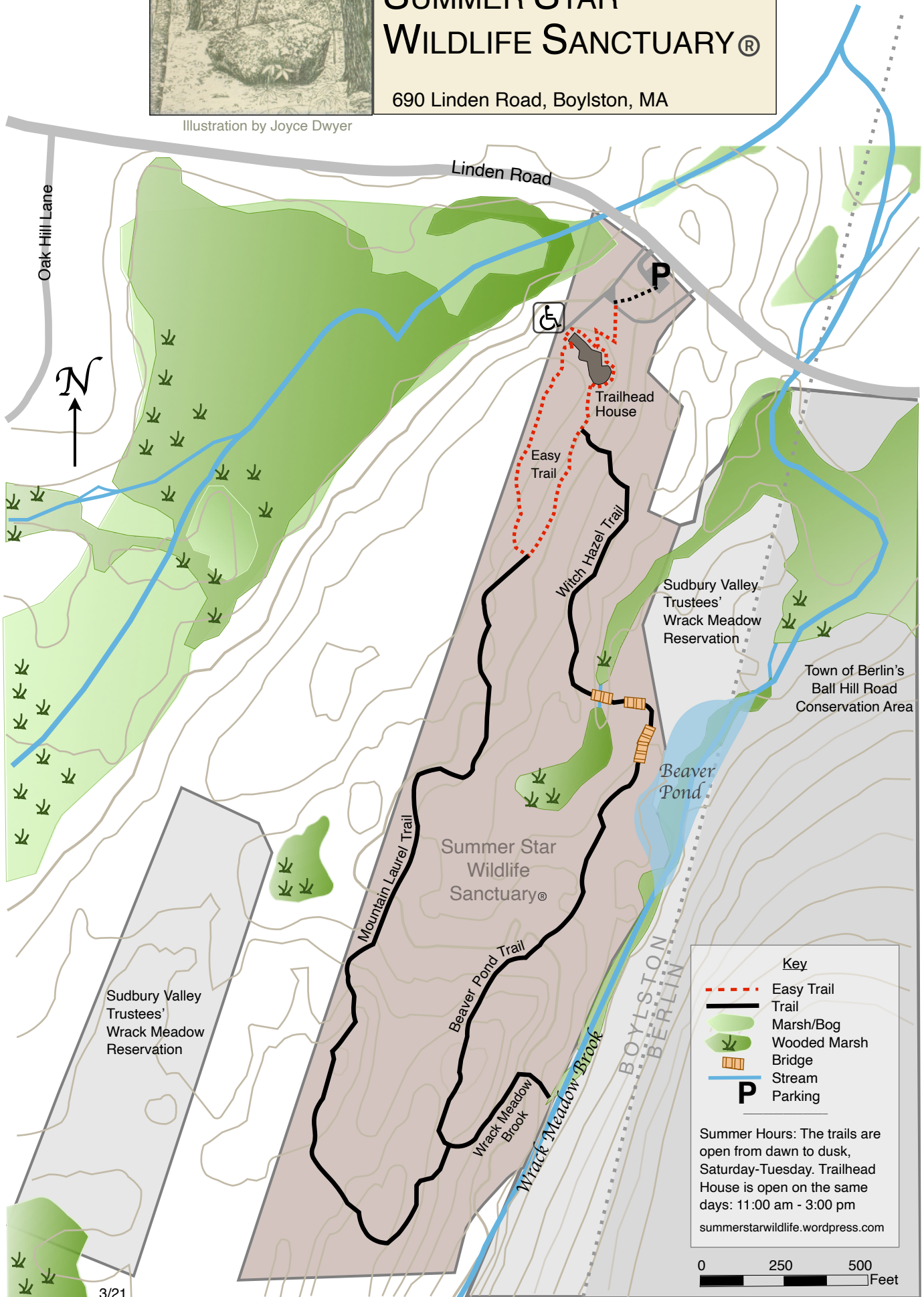
The Trailhead House is environmentally designed, from the composting toilets to the rooftop Earth garden that complements the surrounding landscape. The Trailhead House is a work of art which has been built from sustainable materials. It houses several art shows every year. The building lets you be part of and one with nature.



SUMMER STAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY®

690 Linden Road, Boylston, MA

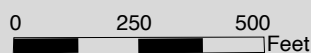
Illustration by Joyce Dwyer



Key

- - - Easy Trail
- Trail
- Marsh/Bog
- ▼ Wooded Marsh
- Bridge
- Stream
- P** Parking

Summer Hours: The trails are open from dawn to dusk, Saturday-Tuesday. Trailhead House is open on the same days: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
summerstarwildlife.wordpress.com



Trout Brook

Holden

Town of Holden

- Location: There are four parking areas. The following directions start from the intersection of Routes 122A and 31 in Holden.
- 1) Manning Street - Drive North on Route 31 for 2 miles. Turn right onto Manning Street. Drive East for .90 mile. The parking lot is on the left. All of the trails can be accessed from here.
 - 2) North Street - Follow the directions for Manning Street. Continue .20 mile further and turn left onto North Street. Continue for about .70 mile. The parking area will be on the left side of the road. The White Oak Trail starts across the street. See the next section for the description of the White Oak Trail.
 - 3) Mason Road - Drive North on Route 31 for 3.10 miles. Turn right onto Mason Road. Continue for .90 mile. The parking lot is on the right side. The Red, White, and Blue Trails can be accessed from here.
 - 4) Sterling Road - Follow the directions for Mason Road. Pass the Mason Road parking area and turn right onto Sterling Road. Drive about .10 mile. The parking area will be on the right. Access the Bob Elms (Blue) Trail from here.

Length: There are many paths that can be combined for 8-10 miles of hiking.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Trout Brook is a multi-use property. Wear bright colorful clothing during hunting season. No hunting is permitted on Sunday.

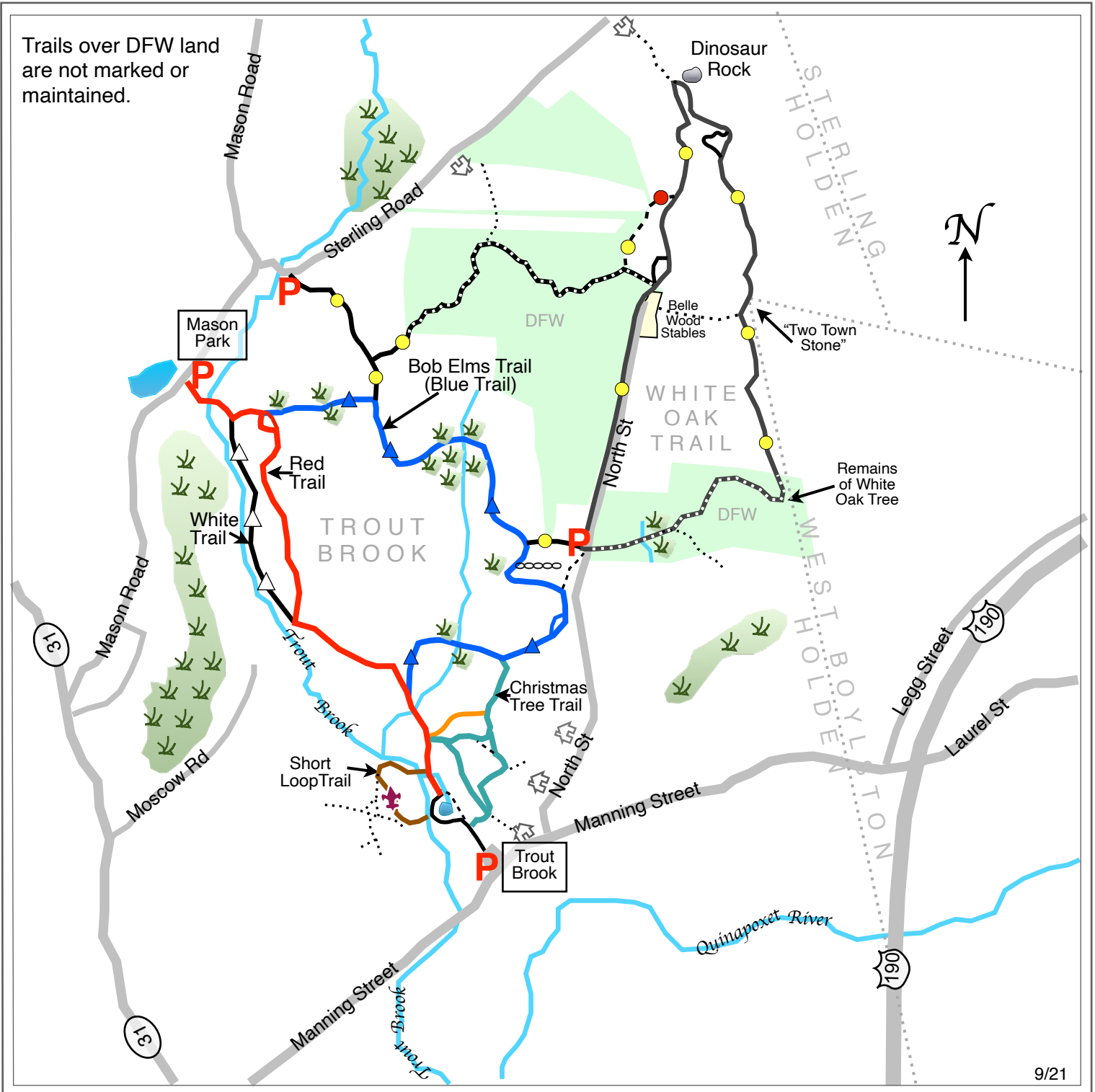
This is a hugely popular property with many varied hiking opportunities. From the parking area of the main entrance on Manning Street, walk North passing by a large picnic area that includes many tables. To start hiking, walk around the left side of the small pond. The Red and White Trails begin on the other side of the pond. This point is about .40 mile from the parking area. The Red and White trails can be combined for a nice loop. The Red Trail goes through the woods while the White Trail walks along Trout Brook and crosses wetlands.

The Short Loop/Mushroom Trail starts from a point midway around the pond. Walk through a picnic structure and cross a bridge. This short steep trail climbs up through the forest and then takes you down to the old mill dam. This gives you a great look at Trout Brook. Follow the brook East and cross a bridge that takes you to the beginning of the Red and White Trails. To continue a short combined trail hike, walk .50 mile North on the Red/White Trails and turn West onto the Bob Elms Trail (Blue). Walk for about .40 mile and turn South onto the Christmas Tree Trail. This trail features a field of wildflowers and Winged Sumac. In the fall the Sumac has brilliant red leaves. The trail divides and you can either reconnect with the Red/White Trails or head South emerging from the woods North of the parking lot.

The Bob Elms Trail (Blue) is named in honor of Bob Elms, who worked on the trails of Trout Brook, and the White Oak Trail. This is a very wet trail, especially at the northern end. In wet weather, there may be some large areas of shallow water that have to be crossed. This also is an incredibly beautiful area. Downed trees are covered in moss, and wherever you look is a terrarium-like scene of woodland ground covers. Part of this trail crosses land owned by the Department of Fish & Game (DFW). This part of the trail is not marked or maintained.

Trout Brook Reservation and White Oak Trail

Holden



9/21

Key	
	White Oak Trail & connecting trails
	Bob Elms Trail (Blue Trail)
	Red Trail
	White Trail
	Christmas Tree Trail
	Brook, River, or Ponds
	Parking
	Short Loop Trail & Mushroom Trail
	Alternate paths
	Private paths
	Wetlands
	Stone Walls
	DFW land

Tufts Branch Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
Keekamoochaug Wildlife Sanctuary
Dudley
Dudley Conservation Land Trust

Location: Healy Road: .20 mile East of the intersection of Route 31 (Dresser Hill Road) and Healy Road. There is a small parking lot on the Northern side of the road by the kiosk.

Length: .625 mile roundtrip to the knoll, several miles with an extended hike

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

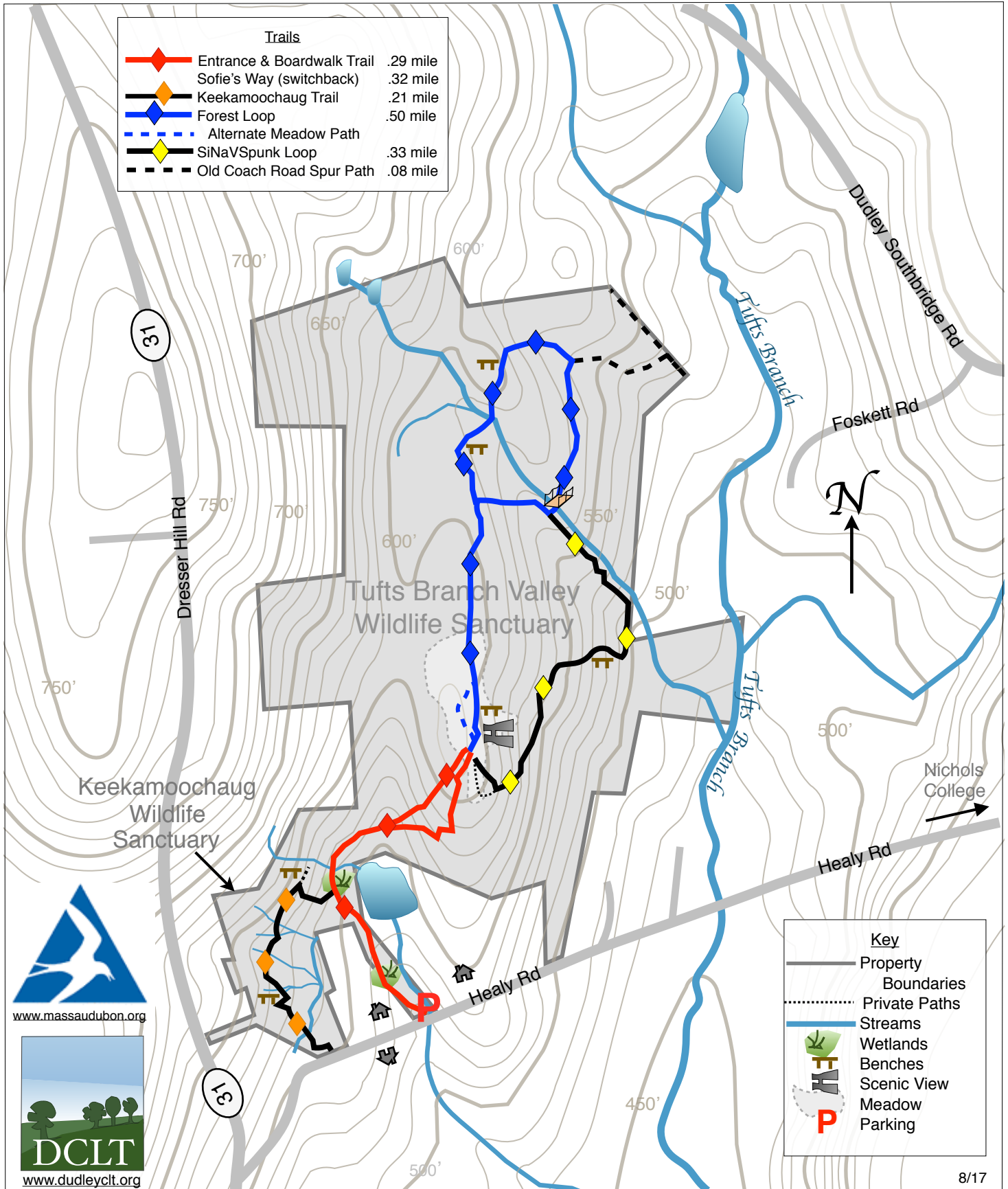
This is a pair of adjacent, unique properties. Both have beautiful stone walls at their entrances. The path from the parking area at Tufts Branch Valley Wildlife Sanctuary passes many wet areas that are covered with a boardwalk. In the Spring, Spotted Crane's-bill, Jack-in-the-pulpit and Cinnamon Ferns grow along the boardwalk, and later in the Summer, Jewelweed, Virgin's-bower, and asters are in bloom. Near the top of the Boardwalk Trail you have a choice of going directly to the top or taking Sofie's Way, an easier path with switchbacks. As you reach the knoll, a grassy vista opens before you. This extensive open area is well maintained and offers incredible views East of Dudley Hill and South to Connecticut. A Bench allows you to relax and enjoy this spot. In the late Summer there is a large area of goldenrod and milkweed. In Fall, there are many birds eating the berries that grow along the trails.

From the knoll, there are paths that take you into the woods where you follow a tributary of the Tufts Branch and enjoy a winding path through the forest. There are benches placed at prime spots along the path.

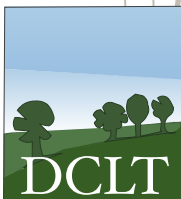
This area is a magnet for wildlife; deer, raccoons, rabbits, chipmunks, possum, skunk, fishers, coyotes and bobcats have all been spotted.

There is a .20 mile moderately difficult trail that you can take from the Keekamoochaug Wildlife Sanctuary property sign to join the Boardwalk Trail. This sanctuary has several intermittent streams and beautiful wildflowers. There is a dedication plaque to the park's benefactors on a boulder near the trail. It is an easy walk on Healy Road to get from one property entrance to the other.

Tufts Branch Valley Wildlife Sanctuary & Keekamoochaug Wildlife Sanctuary Dudley, MA



www.massaudubon.org



www.dudleyclt.org

Wadsworth Brook Conservation

Holden

White Oak Land Conservation Society

Location: South Road, Holden. Park at the "Asnebumskit Trail" parking lot, about .80 mile from the intersection of South and Reservoir Roads in Holden. Walk South on the road for about .20 mile. The path starts in the meadow just North of 540 & 560 South Road address posts. (See map)

Length: About 2 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Start at the parking lot for the Asnebumskit (Ridge) Trail and walk on the road to Wadsworth Brook Conservation's trailhead on South Road. There isn't a property sign, but start walking up the hill, just to the left of two address posts 540 and 560. Depending on the season, the grass on the hill can be dead, mowed, there could be two foot high grass with no visible path or covered in snow. If you walk straight up the hill, you will be on track.

From the top of the hill, hike straight down the hill and look for the opening to the woods. This is hard to spot until you get closer to the opening. A steep winding path takes you from the meadow, through the woods, to the main path. A broad cart path continues downhill to Wadsworth Brook. This cart path splits, with each fork taking you to a property boundary. The Northern path ends at a gate and the Southern path takes you to a wetland pond, possibly a vernal pool. The end of the property is beyond the pool.

This is a beautiful property. There are many different habitats. The meadow is dotted with flowers that attract many butterflies and dragonflies. The woods have an understory of Mountain Laurel and the ground is blanketed with various types of woodland ground cover.

A special loop trail starts beyond the brook, on the right side. The trail starts by paralleling a stone wall. This trail takes you past some impressive glacial boulders. For now, this path is marked with flagging tape.

Wadsworth Brook Conservation Holden



Key			
	Meadow Path		Wetlands
	Cart Paths		Gate
	Glacier Boulder Loop		Meadow
	Asnebumskit Ridge Trail		Vernal Pool
	Brook		Glacial Boulder
	Walls		Parking

Trail Markings	
	Blue blazes are heading away from South Road.
	Yellow blazes are returning to South Road.
	Glacier Boulder Loop is marked with flagging tape.

Weiloch Woods

Dudley

Dudley Conservation Land Trust

Location: Route 197 (West Main Street) .25 mile East of Center Road. There is a Weiloch Woods sign at the small entrance, immediately after the 3rd house (380 West Main Street, fronted by a white plastic fence). This is a fast road, so be careful when entering and exiting the access road.

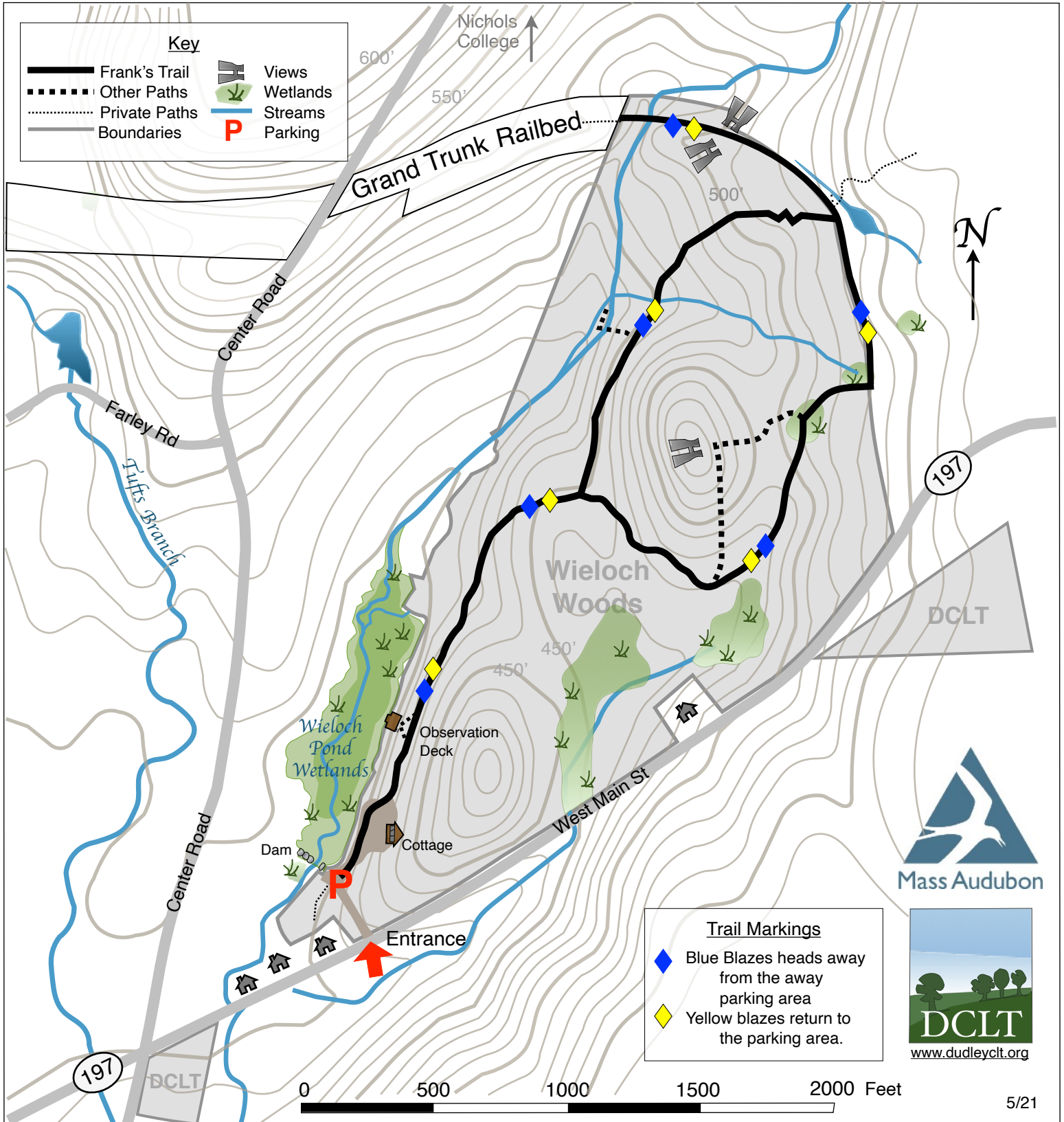
Length: 2 - 3 miles

No dogs allowed.

This is a beautiful 86.66 acre woodland. The parking area is near a recently decommissioned dam. The first sight you see is the large open expanse of the newly created wetland. A wide pine-needle covered woods road takes you through the property. There is an observation deck overlooking the wetlands for birdwatching, where Great Blue Herons, Eastern Kingbirds, Pine Warblers, and Red-tailed Hawks have been spotted. The woods road continues through White Pine groves and follows a stream Northeast to a section of the Grand Trunk rail bed. Head West on the rail bed path and find a breathtaking view North and South of a tributary of the Tufts Branch and the valley below.

When you reach the property boundary, reverse direction and head Southeast. This portion of the trail is narrower and has a few wetter spots. It continues South completing a loop that returns you to the original woods road. You can detour from this lowland path and take a path that climbs up a hill, where there is a nice view of the area when the leaves are off of the trees. From the summit this trail loops back down to the path. (See map.)

Wieloch Woods Dudley, MA



White Oak Trail

North Street, Holden

White Oak Land Conservation Society

Location: From the intersection of Routes 122A and 31 in Holden, drive North on Route 31 for 2 miles. Turn right onto Manning Street. Drive East for 1.10 miles and turn left onto North Street. Continue for about .70 mile. The parking area will be on the left side of the road. The trail starts across the street.

Length: 3.50 miles

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

The White Oak Trail was built under the auspices of Wachusett Greenways and is dedicated to Rolf Larson, a leader in making the trail. This trail is well established and easy to hike on. In the Spring there are Trailing-arbutus, Wintergreen, Indian Cucumber-root and Pink Lady's-slippers along the trail. In fall, asters bloom and there are mushrooms of every color. The White Oak Trail has the natural beauty of the trails in Trout Brook, along with several notable landmarks. The White Oak Land Conservation Society's name was inspired by a majestic White Oak tree. This tree fell during the winter of 2014. The remains of this landmark can be found at the Southwestern corner of the trail. There is also an old town boundary marker on the Holden/West Boylston line. The chiseled town initials are still visible on the marker. There are also many large glacial boulders. One found at the Northeastern portion of the trail is affectionately called Dinosaur Rock.

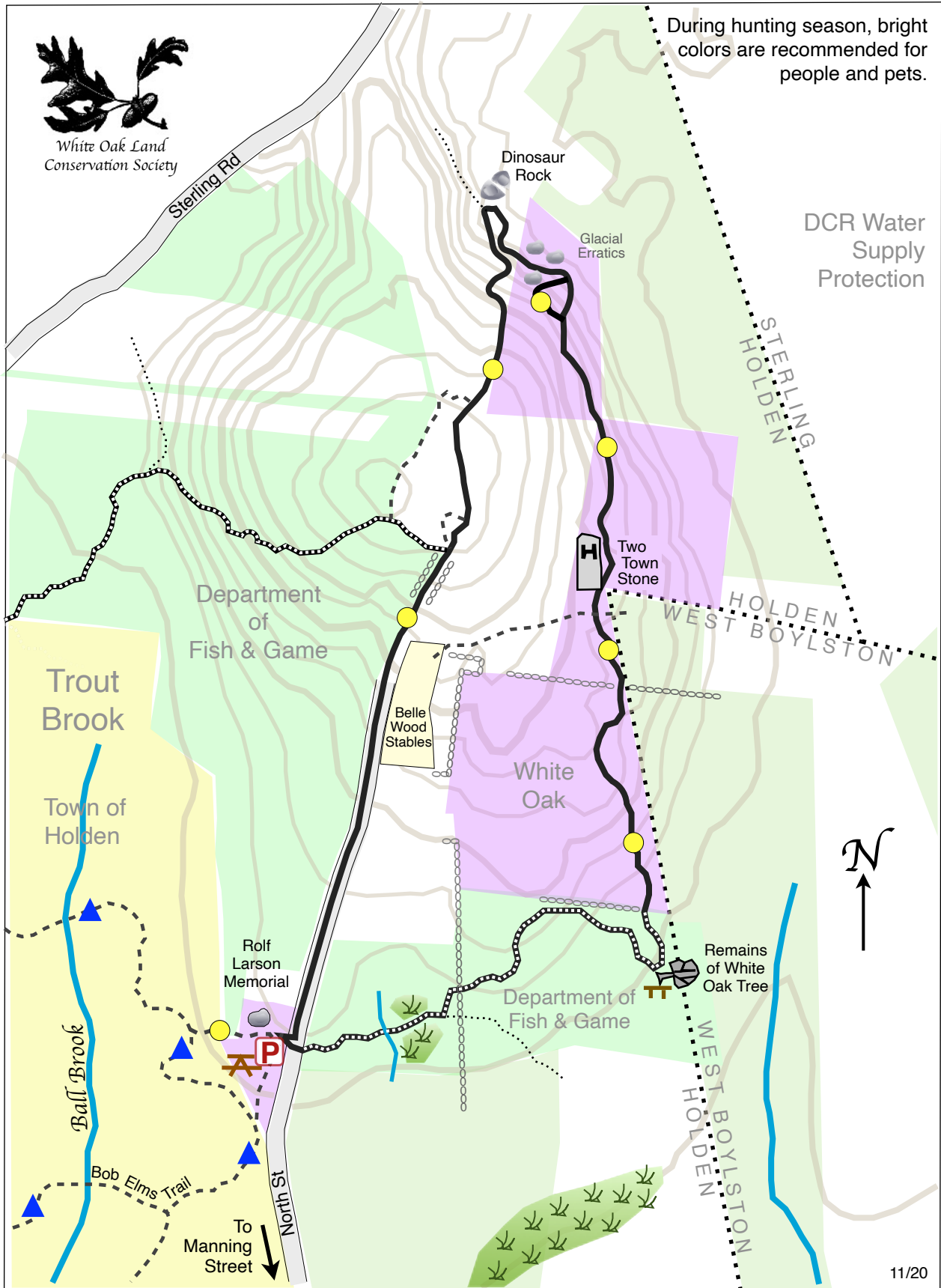
One different treat is seeing the horses at Belle Wood Stables as you walk back to the parking area on North Street.

The White Oak trail passes through properties that are owned by various organizations. The parts of the trail owned by the DFW (Department of Fish and Game) are not marked or maintained.

This is a multi-use property. Wear bright colorful clothing during hunting season. No hunting is permitted on Sunday.

White Oak Trail

North Street, Holden



During hunting season, bright colors are recommended for people and pets.

DCR Water Supply Protection

Trails over DFW land are not marked or maintained.

1/4 mile