

August 2023

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Brook Way

Description

This property is pie-shaped with 340 feet of frontage on King Street extending northerly about 1000 feet. Most of the land is wet meadow with a brook flowing through the center of the property. The east side, bordering on the Castle-in-the-Trees playground, is dense woodland with very old trees and abandoned farmland.

Note that this trail is not accessible most of the time. Animal trails are abundant with evidence of beaver and deer but it is difficult to get in to see them except during very dry times.

Size: 7.2 acres

Directions

Parking is available at Castle-in-the-Trees off King Street. A brown sign marked "Brook Way" is visible from King Street.

Note that this trail is not accessible most of the time.

Trails

Short trail to a beaver dam from the abandoned skate board park. Beaver dams and debris have resulted in flooding of the trail along the brook and made most of this area inaccessible.

History

In 1998, R. D. Kanniard Homes Inc. donated the land now known as Brook Way to the Littleton Conservation Trust.

Cautions

Soft mud in meadow, often wet and impassable.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

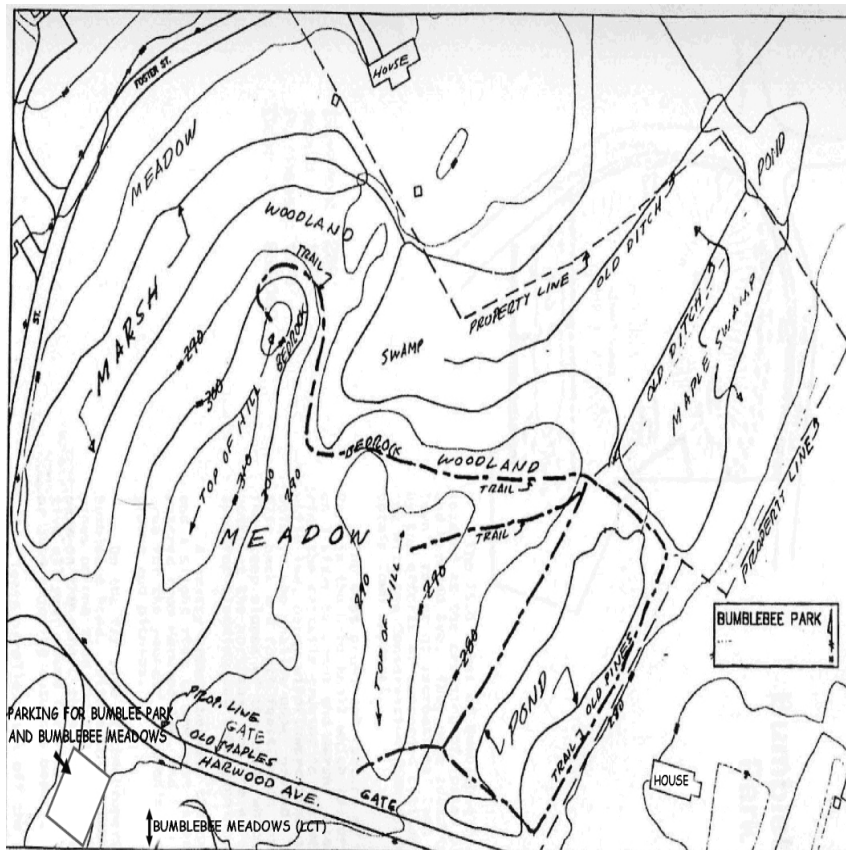
Bumblebee Meadows

Description

Bumblebee Meadows is open space across from Bumblebee Park.

Size: 10 acres

Trail Map



Trails

There are no trails.

History

See Bumblebee Park information.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

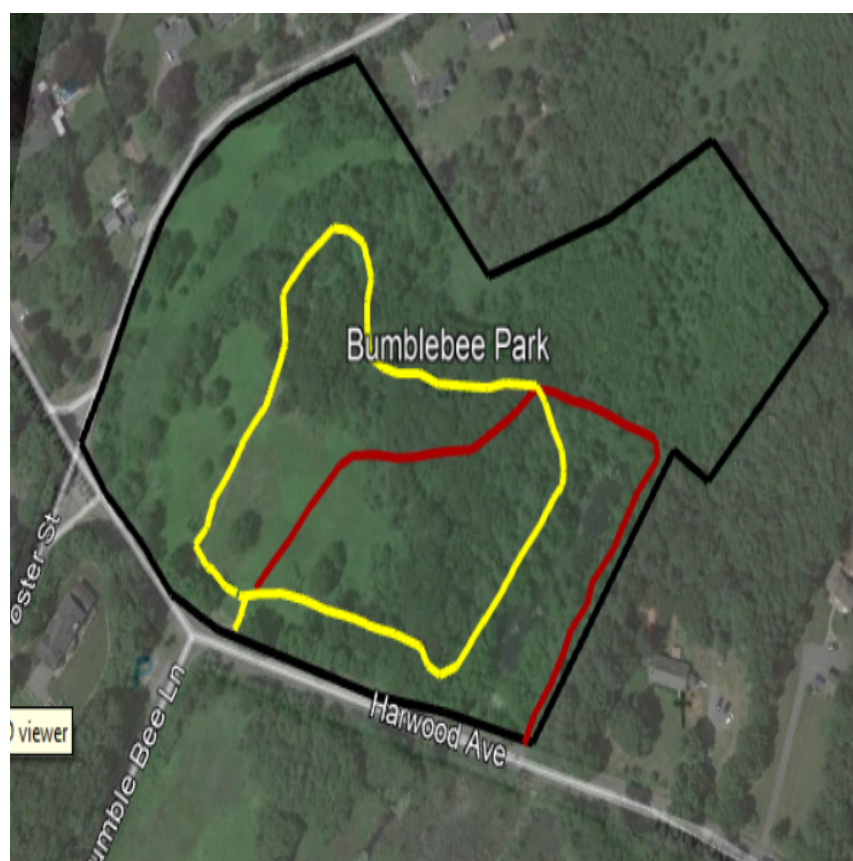
Bumblebee Park

Description

Bumblebee Park is popular for short walks, wildlife study, and sledding in winter. It features a variety of habitats in a relatively small area: hill meadow, bedrock outcrops, woodland, pond, red maple swamp, and marsh.

Size: 15.5 acres

Trail Map



Directions

At the gate on Harwood Avenue and across the street (as you enter Bumblebee Lane) in a marked parking area.

Trails

Well-developed.

History

This land was purchased by the citizens of the Town in 1973 from Malcolm and Judith Dunn. The cost was \$57,500.

Cautions

Poison ivy. Soft muck in swamp and marsh.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Cloverdale Conservation Area

Description

Cloverdale Conservation Area contains open pastureland and lightly wooded terrain with white pine, poplar, oak, maple, and occasional old apple trees which still provide a beautiful spring display of flowers. The center portion of the property is an abandoned beaver meadow.

A multitude of birds and other wildlife can be seen at Cloverdale. Some of the birds residing in Cloverdale include Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Killdeer, Wild Turkeys, Great Blue Heron, Canada Geese, Red-winged Blackbirds, Woodpeckers, and Red-tailed Hawks. The tracks of many animals including deer, foxes, otters, rabbits, fishers, bobcats and coyotes are easy to spot, especially in winter.

Size: 20 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Ample parking is located at the entrance on Great Road.

Latitude:42.527778 N

Longitude:71.441111 W

Trails

A gentle trail meanders through the property providing nice views of the meadow and the abundant wildlife that resides within. This loop trail, approximately .60 mile long, winds along the edge of the pasture and around the southwest edge of the meadow before it turns into a more densely wooded area along the easterly side of the property. The trail eventually reaches the edge of the woodland where it crosses the meadow. The view from here overlooks eleven acres of meadow which stretches approximately 1600 feet from the northern to the southern edge of the property. The trail then crosses the six hundred foot wide meadow and returns to the pasture area. Wet areas of the property are accessed by a short bridge across the inlet stream and four boardwalks of varying length.

The longest boardwalk, at 370 feet, provides up close views of a multitude of birds and occasional glimpses of otters and muskrats as it crosses the meadow.

Primary access to the loop trail is at the parking area on Great Road. Additional access is planned via spur trails leading from Gristmill Road and Surrey Road.

History

The twenty acre Cloverdale property was donated to the Town of Littleton when the Apple D'Or neighborhood was developed. It is located on the eastern end of town bordered by Great Road on the west, Grist Mill Road on the north and south, and Surrey Drive on the east.

The property was previously owned by Irish immigrants, John Mannion and his wife Julia, who began farming here in the 1870s. Their dairy farm, called Cloverdale Farm, was passed down to the Mannions' son Thomas, and his wife Katherine, who continued operations until the 1950s.

The pastureland was once surrounded by apple orchards which stretched up the hillside to what are now Grist Mill and Surrey Roads.

Route 2 (Great Road), an old stagecoach road, ran through Littleton past Cloverdale Farm. It was a main thoroughfare to the northern and western parts of Massachusetts until a new four lane road was constructed from the Concord Rotary to Fitchburg between 1950 and 1953. That section of the new Route 2 in Concord and Acton follows the path of the older two lane Route 111. The Littleton section of the old Route 2 became Route 2A.

Originally, Route 2 / Great Road followed the path of what is currently known as Mannion Place. In the late 1930s, the State of Massachusetts relocated the roadway to its current line of travel. Unfortunately that action cut Cloverdale Farm in half. Cloverdale's cows were housed in the barn on Mannion Place. In order to safely transport the cows to pasture across the road, a tunnel was constructed under Great Road. The "Cattle Walk" tunnel, one of Cloverdale's unique features, remains in very good condition. It is located on the southern end of the property.

Eventually the land was taken over by beavers whose dam at the lower end of the property created a flooded pond area killing many of the surrounding trees. The eastern side of Cloverdale still has many standing dead trees which provide a wonderful habitat for Tree Swallows, Woodpeckers, and other cavity nesting birds.

Cautions

Poison Ivy

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Conant Park

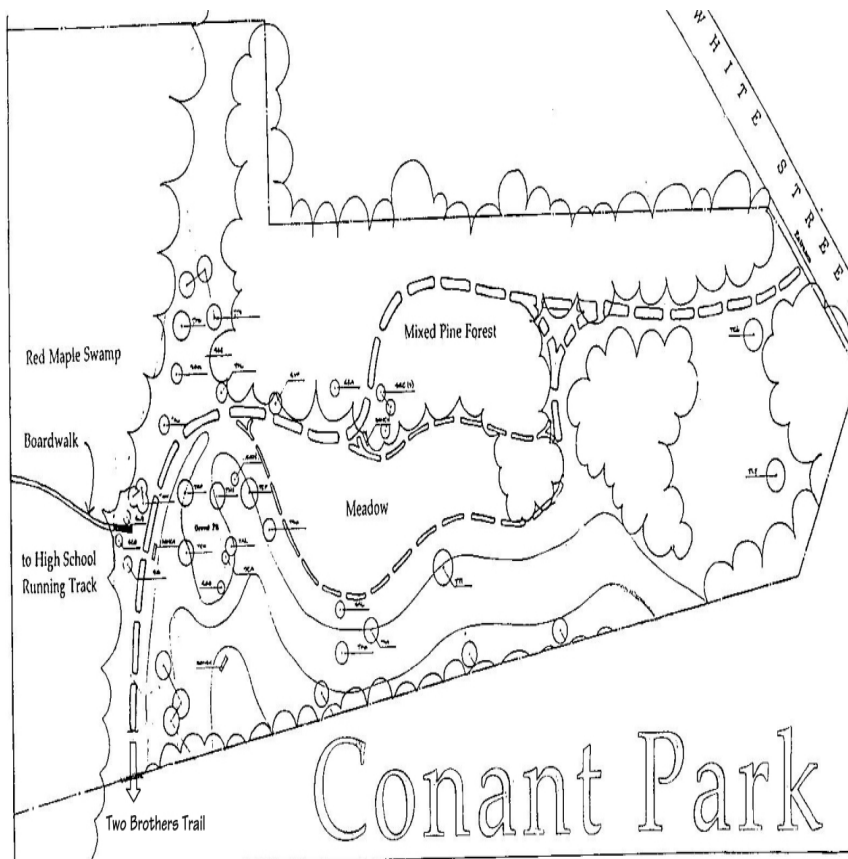
Description

This park consists of two distinctly different wildlife and vegetation habitats. The section near White Street is primarily a mature red and white pine grove and the section near the school playing fields is a swamp. Steep wooded slopes occur on one side of the pine grove. The Trust has planted additional trees and shrubs including larch, azaleas, sweetgum, yellow wood, silverbell, red bud, and a tulip tree.

The elevated level of road noise from nearby I-495 may disturb the tranquility of the area.

Size: 6.7 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Off White Street. In the center of a busy and somewhat congested area of town. It is bounded by Littleton Lumber Company, Pine Tree Park, residences and the Middle School playing fields.

Trails

Well-developed, includes a boardwalk through the swamp.

History

An old sand pit on the property once produced beach-quality sand. This land was donated to the Littleton Conservation Trust in 1977 by Roger and Isabel Conant.

Cautions

Poison Ivy

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

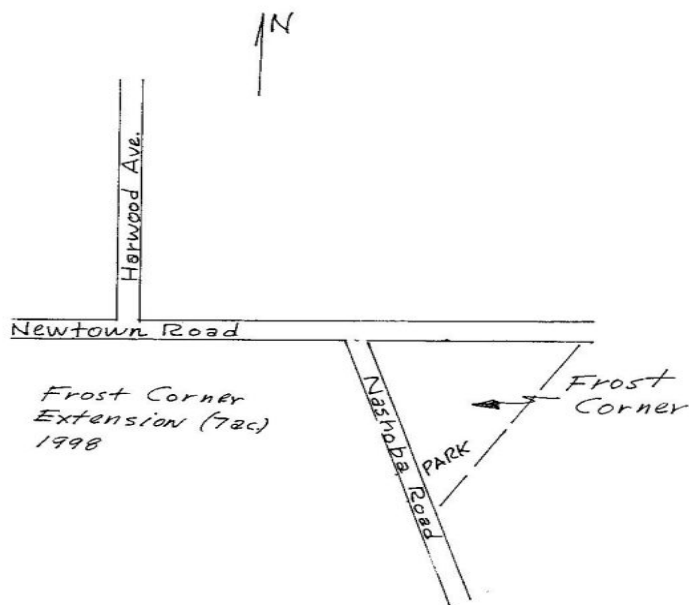
Frost Corner

Description

A wooden bench is nestled into the small hillside. The location is a good place for resting on long walks or bike rides. Frost Corner is a few minutes walk from Long Lake Park, Nashoba Wetlands, and Sarah Doublet Forest.

Size: 9.1 acres

Trail Map



FROST CORNER

Not to Scale

Directions

There is space for one car on the side of Nashoba Road.

History

The lands were gifts in 1967 and 1998 to the Littleton Conservation Trust by the Ruth Frost family who lived on the property across Newtown Road.

Cautions

Watch out for traffic on Newtown Road.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

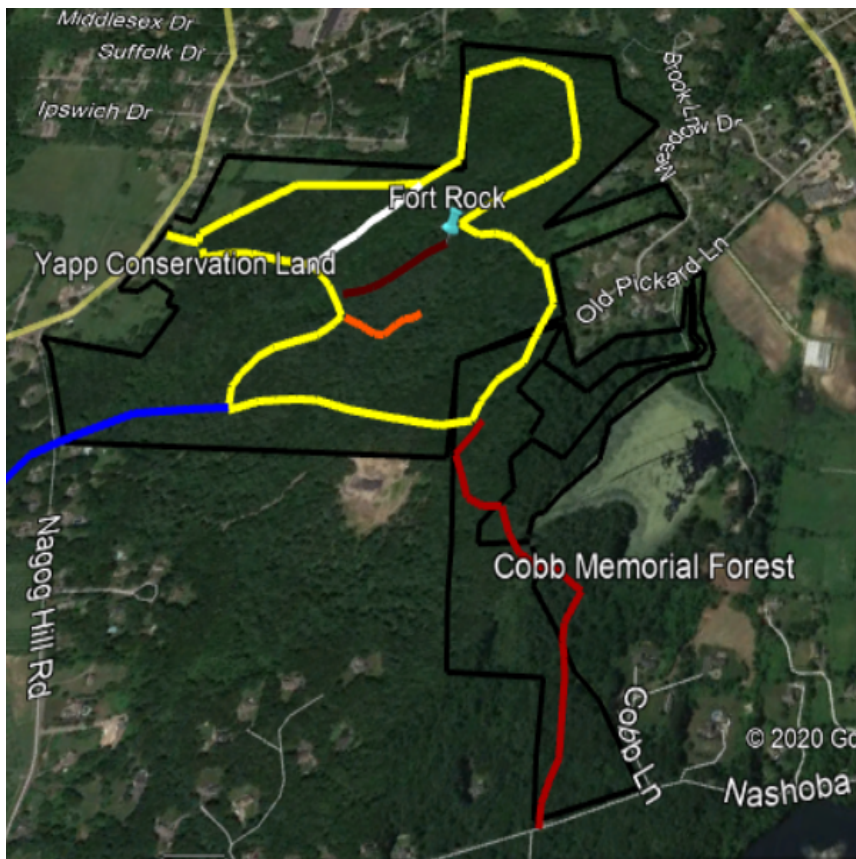
George and Lucy Yapp Conservation Land

Description

This parcel of land and adjoining conservation land is characterized by many small northeast-southwest elongated hills. The property has a dense mature tree cover interspersed with intermittent and permanent brooks with pocket swamps draining in opposing directions. Numerous bedrock outcrops and large boulders are distributed randomly throughout the site. The wooded areas display an interesting variety of deciduous and coniferous trees. A large eight-acre open mowed field is located on the west side of the site adjacent to Newtown Road.

Size: 53.6 acres

Trail Map



Directions

The land is located on the east side (left side going toward Acton) of Newtown Road, south of the intersection with Shaker Lane.

Plenty of parking is available in a field, at the opening in the fence, which extends along the roadside. The opening is visible near the highly visible information kiosk.

Trails

There are four interconnected trails, two of which begin at the parking area. A map of the trails is available at the kiosk. The trails existed prior to the purchase of the property in 2009, and are easy to follow. Signing and trail marking has been completed. Some of the trails are old dirt farm roads and are generally wider and easier walking than the remainder. Two of the trails are connected to other properties and end at University Drive, off Shaker Lane. One trail connects to the Cobb Memorial Forest. Another trail connects to the Morrison Orchard Extension land (owned by the Town). At the terminus of the Morrison Trail at Nagog Hill Road, a trail through private property extends through a forested section of the Nagog Hill Orchard to Nashoba Road and Sarah Doublet Forest. The variety of trails in the area provide hours of walking in the woodlands all the way into the Sarah Doublet Forest.

History

The conservation land was part of a large farm owned by George and Lucy Yapp. The entire farm was passed down to their heirs. The farm was worked for many years. The Town purchased the conservation land parcel in 2009. The Yapp family currently owns the rest of the land.

Cautions

Soft Muck in pocket swamps, vernal ponds and brooks.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** Town of Littleton

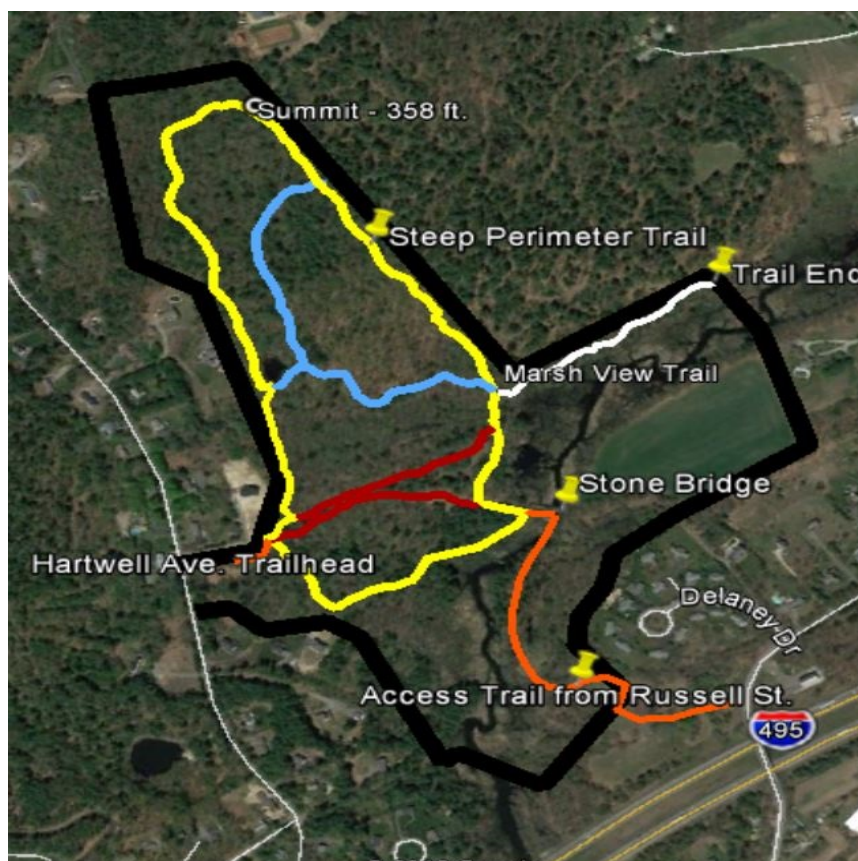
Hartwell Family Memorial Preserve

Description

The Town of Littleton purchased 87 acres of land from the Hartwell family in 2003 for conservation purposes. The land abuts protected Water Department land consisting of 14.7 acres and 3.5 acres of land belonging to the Littleton Conservation Trust, for a total of about 102 acres.

Size: 87 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Off Hartwell Avenue, about six tenths of a mile from Route 2A (Ayer Road). The land is located on the East Side of the street, opposite utility pole number 71.

Parking is behind a green and white sign saying "Hartwell Family Memorial Preserve" Enter between two posts (old utility poles) and park in the grassed area.

Trails

Numerous, well-developed main trails, as well as side trails.

A marked red loop trail starts on a ridge adjacent to the parking lot near a yellow gate. The Loop Trail makes a circle through the land and returns to the parking lot, which is a leisurely half-hour walk. There are numerous smaller side trails and old roads in the property that have been there for many years before town acquisition. An unfinished but passable trail starts at the right hand side of the stone bridge across Beaver Brook and proceeds all the way to Russell Street through Town and Town Water Dept. land. A very steep unmarked trail goes up the side of Proctor Hill, but it is difficult walking. Property lines (where firmly identified) have been marked by aluminum discs with Conservation Commission logo. Other property lines (not yet laid out by survey) are unmarked.

History

The property was formerly part of the Hartwell Hill Cross-country Ski Area which operated there for many years. Most of the seven old trails are still passable, and a few of the old signs are still up.

Cautions

Poison Ivy and Ticks.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** Town of Littleton

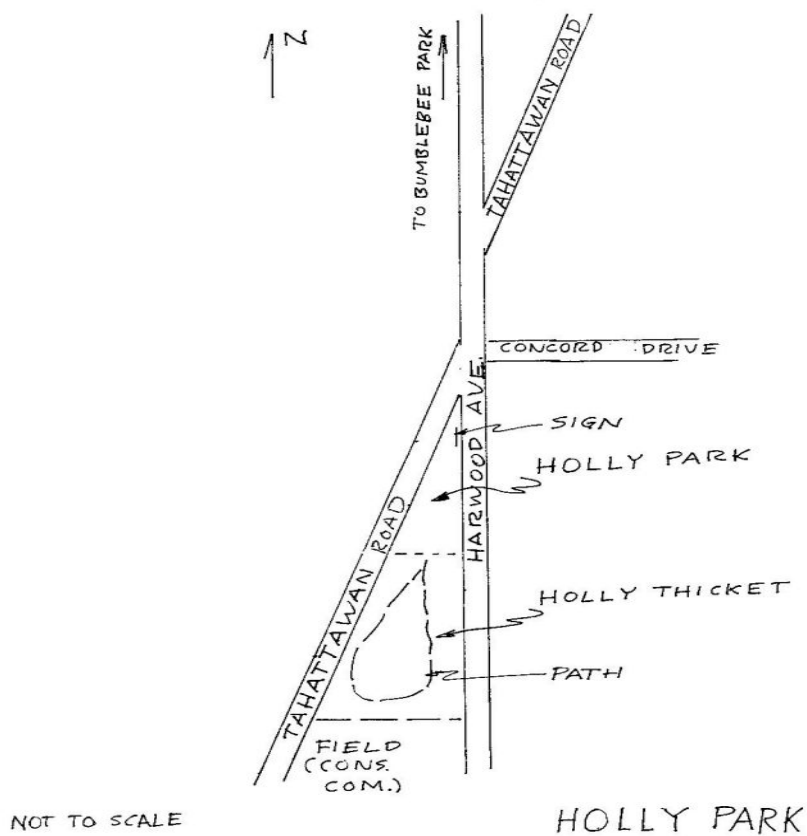
Holly Park

Description

Holly Park consists of a small park and an adjoining natural area. A Littleton Conservation Trust sign is located at the head of the park section.

Size: 1 acre

Trail Map



Directions

Corner of Harwood Avenue and Tahattawan Road

Trails

No trails.

History

Holly Park was donated by Harry and Virginia Sprong in 1969 in memory of their Irish setter, Holly.

Cautions

Watch for traffic.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

Long Lake Park

Description

The site rises gradually from Newtown Road with an elevation of about 260 feet to the hilltop, midway to the rear where the elevation is about 360 feet. From this hilltop, the site slopes downward toward the north with the northerly property line being Long Lake.

Adjacent to the acquired land on the west side are 75 acres of existing conservation land. This land has been acquired through the years by gifts or tax foreclosures. It includes several thousand feet of undeveloped shoreline of Long Lake and the lake's outflow brook. This land is now administered under this same management plan for the acquired Long Lake Conservation Land. This creates 180 acres of conservation land.

Long Lake Park hosts a wide variety of natural habitats including bordering vegetated wetlands, forested wetlands, conifers, hardwoods, grasslands, and edge habitat.

The southernmost portion of the parcel consists of a wet meadow which contains a stream, a vernal pool, and an upland meadow. This area extends several hundred feet north along the eastern half of the property, eventually giving way to a very thick briar patch and a red maple wetland. This wetland continues north for several hundred more feet, decreasing in width, until it ends in a narrow "finger". Here originates the apparently spring-fed stream which flows to Newtown Road. To the east of the "finger" is a mixed hardwood forest of maple, oak, and ash, while to the west is located a several decades old white pine forest. Both forests continue north to the AT&T easement, the area north of that appearing to have been logged in the past and consisting of scattered red pine, white pine, and hardwood species, all of varying degrees of maturity. In the extreme northwest corner is a small hemlock grove and a portion of an unusual wet bottom forest actually growing in the shoreline waters of Long Lake.

Size: 180 acres **Longest walk:** 1.82 miles

Trail Map



Directions

The southeasterly side of town, easterly of Route 495 about midway between Routes 2 and 119. More specifically, it is on the westerly side of Newtown Road, near the intersection of Harwood Avenue.

Access/Parking is available at three locations:

- At the end of Middlesex Drive on the road or in a dirt parking spot on the left. A well used trail starts at this location.
- A parking area on Harwood Avenue near Newtown Road. A sign saying "Town of Littleton Conservation Land" is at the parking area. A new trail starts here and joins a well used older trail.
- At the end of Colonial Drive. A parking area constructed by the Town is on the left before Colonial Drive turns into a narrow dirt road. Walking down the dirt road will take you to Long Lake. A renewed old trail exists on the right as you approach the lake shore.

Trails

Numerous, well-established trails. Those trails that are not old roads are indicated with yellow, blue, white, or red markers on trees. Long Lake Park (LLP) has over 4 miles of trails. Trail marking is currently in the process of being updated and should be completed by Spring 2015.

The Main Loop Trail (Yellow), 1.82 miles long, is located on the northeast side of LLP. It may be accessed by orange spur trails from either Harwood Avenue or Middlesex Drive trail heads. This trail features a wonderful view at the restored grassland meadow, the tranquility of Sitting Rock, the Beaver Dam, and a beautifully forested trail with glimpses of the lake along the way. The elevation along the shoreline of Long Lake is 260 feet with a gradual rise to 360 feet at the restored grassland.

Please **STAY ON TRAIL** and **KEEP DOGS ON LEASH** when hiking in the Wildlife Habitat – Restored Grassland Area to help us protect **NESTING BIRDS**.

The Charles L. Tirone Trail (Red), .65 miles long, is another loop trail on the northwest side of Long Lake Park. It may be accessed from the trail head at the end of Colonial Drive. The trail was named in memory of Charles Tirone who was the steward of this area for over 12 years. He passed away in December 2011. The trail is an easy walk along the wooded shoreline of Long Lake before returning to the parking lot along a portion of the AT&T Right of Way. In addition to the beautiful shoreline views there is a short side trail that features a nice Hemlock grove and vernal pool. The Vernal Pool Trail, .14 miles long, is marked with white blazes.

The Main Loop Trail (Yellow) and the Charles Tirone Trail (Red) are linked by a Blue connector trail, .35 miles long, which begins at the Boy Scout bridge and ends at the junction of the AT&T Right of Way.

Another Blue connector trail, .50 miles long, provides direct access to Sitting Rock from the Tall Pines section of the Main Loop Trail.

The AT&T Right of Way, .65 miles long, runs east to west through Long Lake Park. Beavers have created flooding along Long Pond Brook preventing complete access to this trail.

History

Long Lake Conservation land is formerly the location of cow pastures and apple orchards, with some remaining apple trees.

The land is criss-crossed with numerous stonewalls which are not, in most cases, boundary lines. Some stonewalls eventually lead into the water. Over 7 miles of 200 year old stone walls have been mapped on this property.

The property was most likely used by Native Americans as a campsite through the centuries. The property abuts land that was once part of the Nashobah Praying Village, the last Christian Indian village in the area established by John Eliot. Newtown Road, which is one border of the property, was the border of the 500 acre Nashobah Indian Reserve mentioned in the original deed of the Town of Littleton. Near the shoreline of this parcel arrowheads have been found. There are stone mounds in several places on the parcel which may have significant Native American meanings.

Cautions

Poison Ivy.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Mary Shepherd Open Space

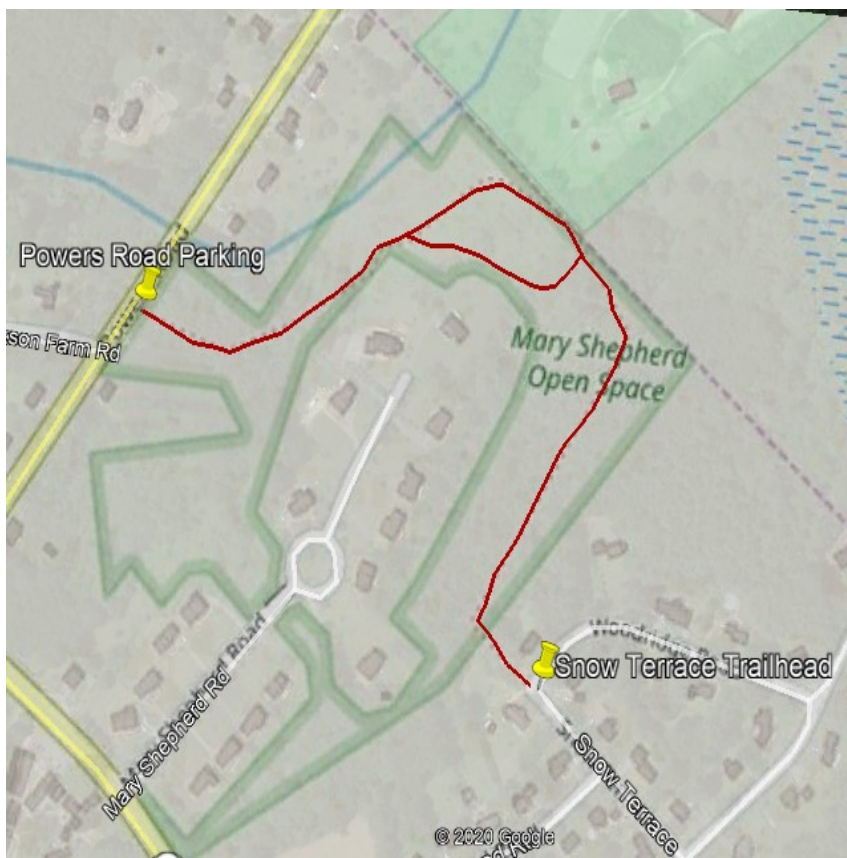
Description

Mary Shepherd Open Space features a one-mile trail through woodlands and a meadow within 20.3 acres of town-owned land.

Follow the white markers between the houses at Snow Terrace. The area may look like a yard, but it is town property. The trail follows a forested ridge (called a glacial esker) easterly toward the Westford town line. The trail proceeds northerly down the side of the ridge to an old farm road, which leads to the open field. The trail makes a circular route (follow the worn area in the grasses) around the rear of the new homes to a wet part of the field and into woodlands to a brook. A footbridge crosses the brook. The trail then proceeds up hill to the top of the hill where a parking area is located off Powers Road.

Size: 20.3 acres **Longest walk:** 1 mile

Trail Map



Directions

Access is at the intersection of Snow Terrace and Woodridge Road, where white trail markers are located on trees. Directional signs are posted at sharp turns.

Park on the edge of the road at Snow Terrace.

An alternate parking area and entrance are on Powers Road.

History

The name Mary Shepherd was associated with the name of the farm that existed on the site prior to the housing development. Mary Shepherd was a girl who lived near this location in the mid- 1600s with her family. During the King Phillip War, the Indians killed her family and she was taken captive. She was later rescued.

In August 2001, Great Road Development LLC deeded the land to the Town as an Open Space Parcel as part of the development of Mary Shepherd Estates, a subdivision of new homes.

Cautions

Wet areas (hiking boots recommended).

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Mill Hill

Description

The Mill Hill property is part of the Beaver Brook green belt. The land, partly wooded and partly cleared, rises from Beaver Brook to the top of the hill.

The trails pass through mature oak woodlands. Beaver Brook borders the area but is difficult to reach because of thick undergrowth. The land is not well known and shows little use. Unfortunately, the noise level is very high from nearby Route I-495.

Size: 24.4 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Mill Hill lies south of Mill Road, adjacent to the Parlee lumber mill, and borders Beaver Brook by some 700 feet.

Parking: Off Mill Road at the signed entrance.

Trails

Several, easy trails. One trail leads to a picnic area at the top of the hill where there are three picnic tables.

The wide main trail makes an ideal walking and picnicking area for families with young children and groups of Brownies and Cub Scouts. The trail is an easy climb and offers the hiker many opportunities for nature study - birds, fish, and many varieties of trees and wild flowers.

History

Mill Hill (the Stewart Land) was purchased by the Town of Littleton in 1965 for conservation and recreational purposes. It was procured by a unanimous vote of the Town by transferring money from the Conservation funds.

Many years ago, the hillside was covered with majestic pines and was dotted with summer rental cottages that extended down to a sandy beach on Mill Pond. All that remains today are two fieldstone chimneys that can be seen among the trees part way up the hill. Access to the pond was cut off by the construction of Route 495.

Cautions

Poison Ivy

CR Holder: LCC **Owner:** Town of Littleton

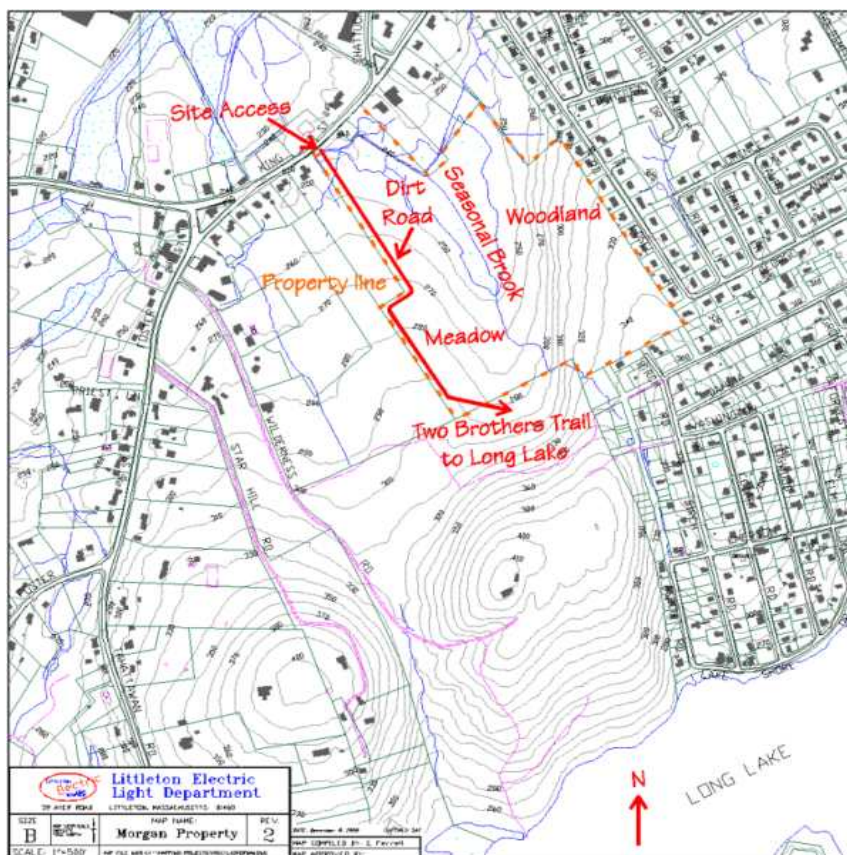
Morgan Land

Description

A former farm, the Morgan Land consists of open fields surrounded by woodlands which are lined with stone walls. The fields and the woodland edge provide excellent bird habitat. The fields are relatively level, the woodland section quite dense.

Size: 50 acres

Trail Map



Directions

The Morgan Land contains one trail which is part of the Two Brothers Trail.

The Two Brothers Trail starts at Conant Park, continues at the Morgan Land property entrance here, enters the meadow and proceeds to the Prouty Woods Community Forest. It takes about 20-25 minutes to walk to the shore of Long Lake from the entrance to the Morgan Land. The trail is well marked.

Trails

The Morgan Land contains one trail which is part of the Two Brothers Trail.

The Two Brothers Trail starts at Conant Park, continues at the Morgan Land property entrance here, enters the meadow and proceeds to the Prouty Woods Community Forest. It takes about 20-25 minutes to walk to the shore of Long Lake from the entrance to the Morgan Land. The trail is well marked.

Cautions

Poison Ivy

CR Holder: Board of Selectmen **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Nagog Hill Orchard

Description

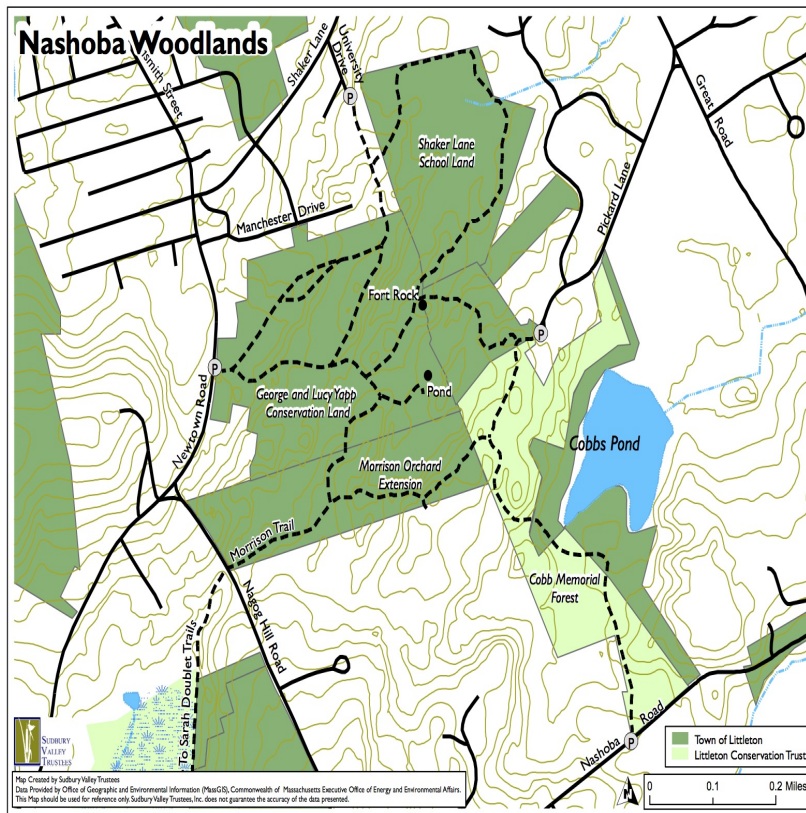
83 acres that include the orchard and buildings (with the exception of the house formerly owned by Mrs. Morrison) are leased to Nagog Hill Fruiterers. The remaining acreage is conservation land split between two parcels (note that the orchard is restricted – it is not land that is open for the public's use):

The Nagog Hill Road parcel is the area below the former Morrison home and the small orchard. This is a southeasterly facing slope that has been mowed for many years. It is bounded by Nagog Hill Road to the east; Mrs. Morrison's lot to the north, west is the tree line, and a small apple orchard to the south. Along the road frontage there is a stone wall with red oaks and poison ivy. The slope has an even, gentle grade and is covered primarily with grasses. The grasses are invaded with violets, hawkweed, crow's foot, everlasting and mullein. The tree line includes red pasture juniper, red maple, black birch; walnut, rose, wild strawberry, blueberry, barberry, rattlesnake plantain, poison ivy and rhododendron.

A second parcel (Nashoba Road) is a wooded slope across from the entrance to Sarah Doublet Forest. This is a west facing slope with a wet swale along the road frontage. A stone wall bisects the wooded area. Trees include hemlock, elm, white birch, black birch, hickory, red maple, white pine, red oak and beech. The under story growth is dominated by saplings of the tree cover. Shrubs observed are raspberry, blackberry, poison ivy (covering many of the trees), bittersweet (several large growths covering the trees), honeysuckle, barberry, dogwood and rose. Herbaceous layer shows horsetails, skunk cabbage, sensitive fern, cinnamon fern, lady fern, poison ivy and Canada mayflower. This larger parcel is exceptionally important, as it provides habitat and a safe migration corridor for the diverse mammal population. This wooded parcel, which is threaded by numerous small drainages from the orchard, is itself a vibrant and valuable "edge" habitat, because it is bordered on one side by orchard. A connector trail starts from Nashoba Road across the road from the Sarah Doublet Forest Road and passes through the parcel to Nagog Hill Road and then connects to the blue dot trail on the detached parcel.

Size: 129 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Off Nagog Hill Road, across from Lake Nagog. The parking area is surrounded by split-rail fence. There is space for seven cars. The Dr. Ed Bell trail starts here and enters Sarah Doublet Forest.

Trails

The Blue Dot trail passes through a detached, Town-owned 24 acre parcel. This rectangular- shaped land is located on the east side of Nagog Hill Road. It is bounded on three sides by stone walls. The land consists of woodland, small swamps, intermittent and permanent brooks, springs, vernal ponds, bedrock outcrops, and large boulders. The trail follows the old road from Nagog Hill Road, near the south side of the property, for about 2000 feet. The last 200 feet proceeds through the woodland to the stone wall boundary. Here it connects to the Cobb Memorial Footpath (for more information, see the section on the Robert and Emily Cobb Memorial Trail).

At the parking area off Nagog Hill Road is access to the Dr. Ed Bell Trail, indicated by blue markers. For more information about this trail, see the description of the Sarah Doublet Forest.

History

Littleton, long a center of apple production, has but one remaining working orchard, Nagog Hill Orchard. The cultural history begins long before apples, however.

The property is the site of a 17th century Native American village called Nashobah, or "between two waters". There are indications that apple growing on the site dates back to the 1600s. The 16 Square mile Nashobah Plantation was formally granted to the Native Americans (who had long lived there) by the General Court in response to their conversion to Christianity. Despite enjoying private property rights, during King Philip's War, the residents of Nashobah were forcibly removed to Deer Island. Few survived the return to Nashobah, but among them was Sarah Doublet, who died in 1736, under the care of two Concord merchants. In exchange for her care, she granted the Jones family 500 acres, the last remnant of Nashoba Plantation. That land transfer marked the last Native American land tenure in the region. In 1990, two elderly women granted the 98 acres abutting the present orchard to the Littleton Conservation Trust which named the tract the Sarah Doublet Forest. For more information, explore the Historical Society records and read *Trespassing* by Littleton resident, John Hanson Mitchell.

Nagog Hill Orchards was a popular pick-your-own operation for many years prior to the death of John Morrison. With its high-quality fruit trees, exceptionally well-maintained grounds, and scenic views, this large tract of land flourished under the stewardship of the Morrision family. Historical data dates farming on these lands as early as 1672. Nagog Hill Road was then known as Cash Road. Through the 1930's this fruit land was an active traditional New England farm. Fresh milk and vegetables were sold locally until John Morrison began the awesome task of clearing land, digging irrigation ponds, rebuilding the main barn and outbuildings, and began the voluminous planting of fruit trees. By the mid 1970's, this large tract was converted solely to fruit trees and vegetables. Upon his death, the orchard closed its retail operation and sold only wholesale fruits to local marketers.

The Town of Littleton purchased the Nagog Hill Orchard in 2000. This apple and peach orchard was the last active, commercial orchard in town. It was acquired from the estate of John Morrison. The town received partial reimbursement of the total cost through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Self Help Program and the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program. The retail sale of apples, peaches and other orchard fruit is in operation now by Nagog Hill Fruiters.

Cautions

Do not enter the orchards or buildings without permission.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Nashoba Wetlands

Description

Approximately 1 to 2 acres of this land is forest, with the remainder being a mature wooded swamp. A small narrow inaccessible pond (about 1 acre) occurs along the western edge of the property. The forested acreage consists of a 500 feet long peninsula perpendicular to Nashoba Road. The land surface of the peninsula rises as high as 7 to 8 feet above the surrounding swamp. Vegetation species observed in 1998 include:

Wooded Swamp: Oaks, red maple, sweet pepperbush, ferns, high bush blueberry, mosses, and button bush.

Forested Peninsula: Beech, oak, red maple, black birch, witch hazel, and tea berry.

The forested peninsula provides an excellent opportunity to penetrate deep into the center of an extensive mature wooded swamp without struggling through muck, water and hummocks. The swamp contains large Maple, and Oak trees with an understory of Sweet Pepperbush, blueberry, mosses and ferns. The trail provides good opportunities to observe swamp wildlife and vegetation species.

Size: 25 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Access is off Nashoba Road. Parking space for one car exists on the opposite side of the road from the sign.

Trails

A center trail was cut in 1998 for the entire length of this peninsula, starting at Nashoba Road by the left side of the sign marked "Nashoba Wetlands".

History

This land was donated to the Trust by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kimball and Josephine R. Whitcomb in 1964 and 1965.

Cautions

Soft muck in swamp.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

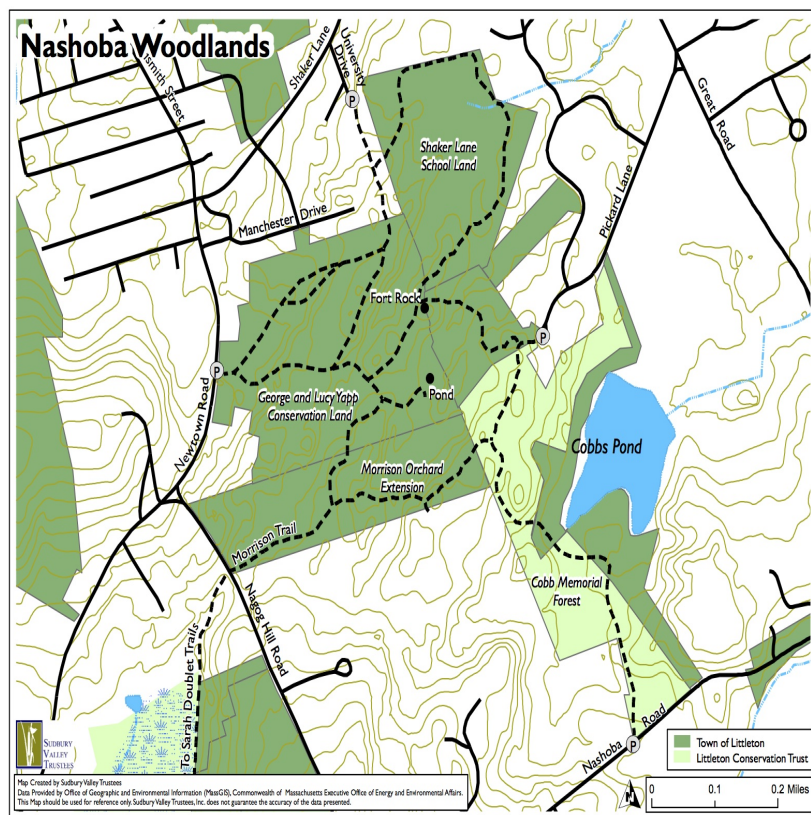
Nashoba Woodlands

Description

See separate entries for Cobb and Yapp areas.

Size: 100 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Nashoba Woodlands encompasses the trails within and connecting Cobb Trail, Cobb Forest, George and Lucy Yapp Conservation Land, Morrison Orchard Extension, Fort Rock and Shaker Lane School Land. It is possible to enter from any of these areas and hike to / through the others.

Trails

Numerous trails as outlined on the map and in the trail entries for associated areas.

Cautions

Poison ivy, soft muck in wet areas, ticks in grassy and wooded areas.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** Town of Littleton, SVT, LCT

Newtown Hill

Description

Newtown Hill conservation land offers an opportunity to enjoy nearly 100 acres of variety. As you begin to climb the paved access road, your eye is drawn upward across the rolling meadows to watch a broadwing hawk soaring and searching for food. On the right, grape vines and bittersweet nearly hide an old stone wall, the first of many surrounding the property. Daisies, Queen Ann's lace, Indian paint brush, clover, milkweed, butter-and-eggs, black-eyed Susans: the pages of your wildflower book will move as fast as those of the birder's 'Peterson'.

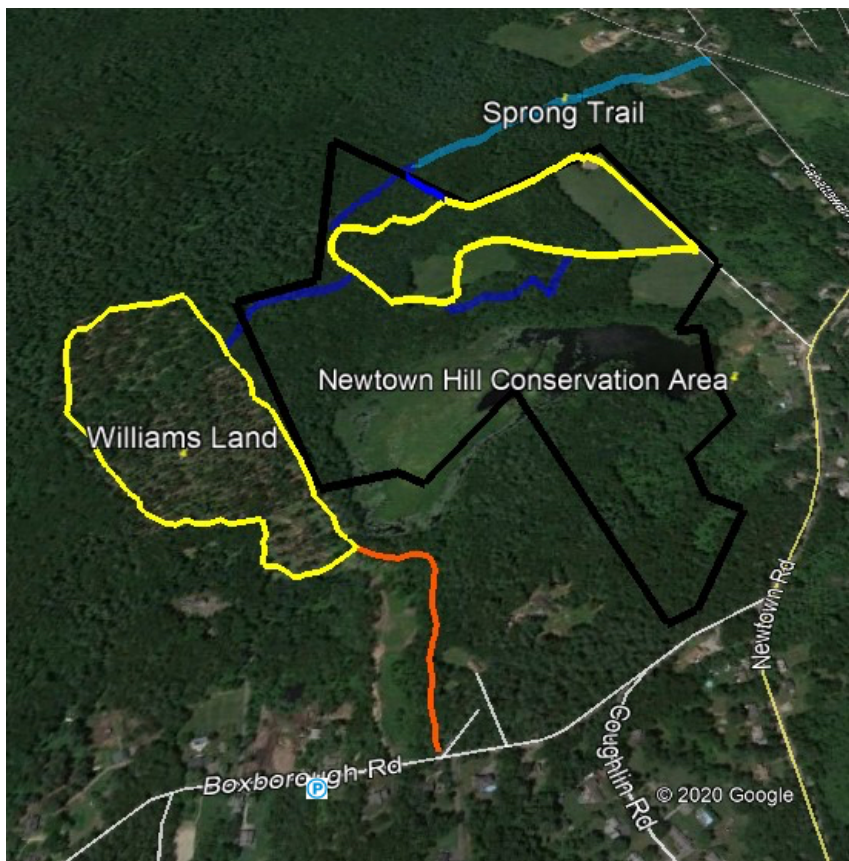
When you reach the large boulder near the crest, sit awhile and enjoy the view eastward. On a clear day Boston's skyline rises straight ahead. Rested, begin to descend toward the old apple trees on the right and continue onto the dirt road which leads you through the woods to the second meadow and a sylvan treat: a magnificent specimen beech tree - friend of lovers for generations, if you believe the carvings. Please don't add to them.

In the spring time, as you leave the beech grove you may glimpse below through the trees the flooded meadow. This is a quaking peat bog and a refuge for migrating Canada geese and duck of several species. The meadow dries to a small pond in summer and tall grasses grow to invite the migrants on their fall return. The woods surrounding you are part of the Town Land but no trails have been cut. Pine, hemlock, ash, maple, birch and other trees grow by natural selection.

This land has always been useful to man - a meeting place, a look-out, a hidden spring, a fort, an apple orchard: each in its turn. Now under the management of the Conservation Commission, the meadow is hayed in summer by a local farmer, and skied on by hardy enthusiasts in the winter.

Size: 98 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Turn off Newtown Road onto paved access road, located next to mailbox 559. Park on the left before the locked gate entrance to the water tower. There is room for several cars in a parking area.

Trails

One short trail leads from the field to the marsh and pond edge. A second trail leads from the 36" beech tree to the water tower.

Please use a direct path across the field (in the spring, summer, and fall) to the woods so that you do not damage the uncut hay.

History

This land was purchased by the citizens of Littleton in 1979.

Cautions

A peat bog when wet will not support the weight of an adult. Poison ivy, briars, barbed wire. Ticks are common in the fields.

CR Holder: LCC **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Oak Hill

Description

Oak Hill is a place to stretch your legs and mind as you walk its trails. This parcel is comprised primarily of oak woodlands with many trails - some of which are old.

Interesting Features - Look for the following features of interest:

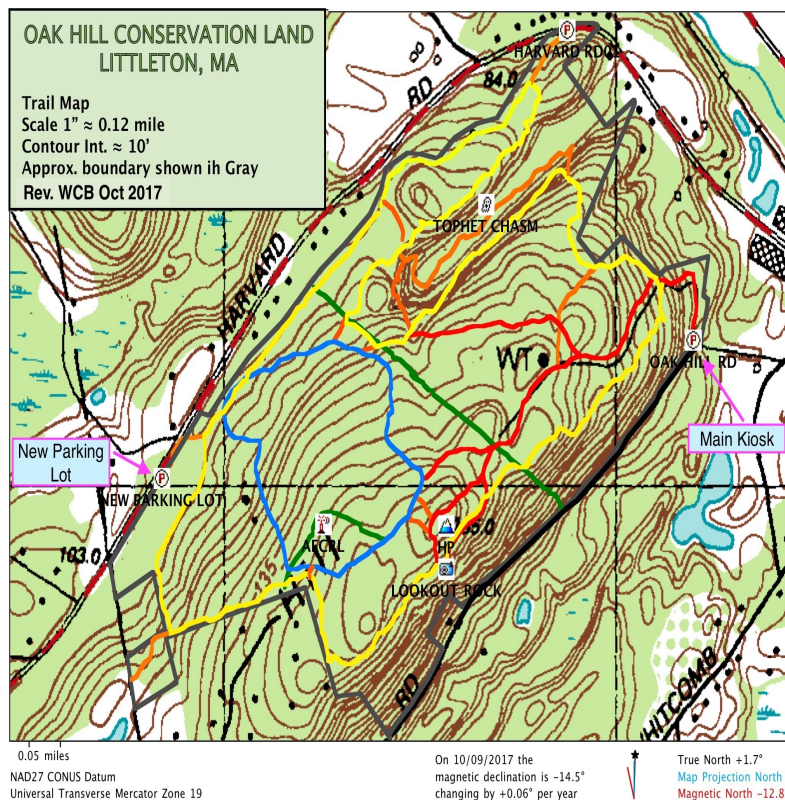
Lookout Rock - 475 feet high, this rock provides a view towards the south and southeast. A joint LCT / LCC undertaking in 2011-2012, in which 28 tall trees were removed below the cliff, has reopened this scenic vista giving panoramic views. One can easily pick out the John Hancock and Prudential Tower buildings on the horizon on a clear day (26.5 miles away, compass heading 118° True).

Tophet Chasm - A temporary outlet carved out of rock for an extensive glacial lake about 15,000 years ago. Oak Hill is the northern tip of a long ridge of hills called Shrewsbury Ridge by geologists. In glacial times, the ridge acted as the eastern shore of a vast glacial lake, Lake Nashua. Its northern shore was the face of the melting glacier. At one stage late in the history of the lake, the water found an eastern outlet through a low weak fault area on Oak Hill. Here the rushing stream fell to carve a deep chasm. The head of the chasm was an ancient waterfall 120 feet high, only 38 feet less than the mighty Niagara's 158 foot drop. Today the falls are silent and the debris of the ages has filled part of the chasm floor so that the walls rise a somewhat lesser 80 feet – still enough to be impressive. The floor of the chasm contains a swampy area, known as Tophet Swamp. This quiet swamp, surrounded by steep bedrock cliffs, abounds in wildlife and vegetation. Dominant species include red maple, high-bush blueberry, hemlocks, black birch, ferns, and a sphagnum moss mat. (Tophet is an old term for “hell” or “place of fire.”)

For more information about Oak Hill, see the Natural Resource Inventory for Oak Hill-Tophet Chasm that was prepared in November 1987 and updated in 1998. Copies of the inventory are available at the Reuben Hoar Library and at the Conservation Commission office in the Town Offices.

Size: 220 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Near Littleton Depot, 1/2 mile from the junctions of Route 2 and 495. Main parking area and entrance is off Oak Hill Road. New 10 car lot opened on Harvard Rd. in Sept. 2017.

Trails

Approximately seven miles of trails, last remarked in 2010. There are three principal trails marked red, yellow, and blue, 1.1 miles of orange marked link trails, and 0.8 miles of unmarked trails.

Summit trail (red markers) - Starts at the main entrance (parking lot/kiosk) and brings you up to Lookout Rock (0.7 miles, 200' climbing). After passing by Lookout Rock, the trail continues up to the vicinity of the highest point in Littleton (508') and circles back down to re-join the main trail (0.15 miles). Two spurs are now marked and have signs: one that leaves the main trail below the water tower (0.3 miles long), and a short spur that connects to the Interior Loop Trail (0.1 miles).

Features include bedrock, wagon wheel grooves worn into the rock (see History), a spring, mountain laurel thickets (blooms in May/June), and a beech tree grove. Scattered sassafras and American chestnut sprouts on the way to Lookout Rock. The bedrock schist rock is more than 900 million years old.

Boundary trail (yellow markers) - This loop trail is the longest trail on the property and starts 0.1 miles from the main entrance where there is a sign. Followed in a counter-clockwise direction, the trail takes you over to and along the south edge of Tophet Chasm; out to the AT&T easement; back to and along the north side of Tophet Chasm (new section of trail blazed in 2010); follows an old stage coach road; and the perimeter of the property to Lookout Rock and back to the starting point (3.3 miles, 420' climbing).

Features include fine groves of gray birch and eastern hemlock as well as thickets of mountain laurel, and four significant erratic boulders.

Interior Loop (blue markers) - A woodland trail on the north facing side of the hill (1.0 miles, 150' climbing) that can be accessed directly or by links from the Summit Trail or Boundary Trail. This trail has an interesting 'natural arch' tree that is a remnant of the December 2008 ice storm.

Link Trails (orange markers) - These short trails, which range from 0.02 miles to 0.4 miles in length, are generally used to connect one principal trail to another. There are two links off the stagecoach portion of the Boundary Trail which both go out to Harvard Road (Note that there is parking space for two vehicles near the gated/signed entrance on the north-east side of the property). There is a steep link near the head of Tophet Chasm that connects the Boundary Trail. The original Tophet Chasm Trail, which had not been maintained since the late 1980's, was cleared and improved as an Eagle Scout Service Project in 2014. This 0.4 mile challenging link gets one down to the dramatic floor of the chasm/swamp, and also connects the Boundary Trail. There is a short link in the SW corner of the property that connects to the 8.1 acre Plante Tax Title Conservation Land in Harvard, which contains a scenic small pond.

Unmarked Trails (no markers, but shown in green on the accompanying map) – There are two major unmarked trails. The AT&T easement trail (0.5 mile), where an underground fiber optic cable crosses the property from Oak Hill Road to Harvard Road, was once the route of the Transcontinental Cable. The other trail is part of Fire Road 1 that goes by the defunct AFCRL site (see Interesting Features).

History

Historic stagecoach roads – Two stagecoach lines crossed Oak Hill in the 1830s. The one from Acton entered Oak Hill at the present main entrance, skirted the hill just below the standpipe and met the Lowell-Worcester route, which ran parallel to Harvard Road. They are now part of the hiking trails. You can note the grooves in boulders and ledges worn by the iron-bound wheels of the heavy coaches.

Oak Hill Electronics Laboratory - The US Government leased property here from 1958 to 1964. An Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory (AFCRL) receiving station used in radio propagation research was located inside the chain link fenced area off Fire Road 1. Nearby there are two sets of concrete piers that must have supported antenna towers.

The Town purchased this land as conservation land in 1972 for \$66,000. The Town of Littleton has a water tower near the top of the hill. A telecommunication tower is located adjacent to the water tower.

Cautions

You should stay on marked trails until you are familiar with the hill and chasm. Roads and house lots encircle this property; so if you do get lost it will only be temporary.

CR Holder: LCC **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Prouty Woods

Description

Prouty Woods is a unique and significant tract of woodland within minutes of Route 495. The property includes 1600 feet of frontage on Long Lake and the top of Wilderness Hill with expansive views to the west and north including Mount Monadnock. The combination of forest, hay fields and riparian zones provide much-needed habitat for a variety of species. The forest has been under professional forest management for many years. Walking trails maintained by Stewards of the Littleton Conservation Trust (LCT) connect to a one-mile trail called the Two Brothers trail that extends to Conant Park. The main house serves as the headquarters for the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF). The Wilderness House (King Center) situated on top of Wilderness Hill hosts educational programs that promote an understanding of forestry and the natural world.

Prouty Woods is a 107-acre parcel of land located centrally in Littleton. The land is a unique mixture of mature woodland, mowed fields and lush wetlands, which are just a short, walk from the center of town.

The outstanding feature of Prouty Woods is Wilderness Hill, which rises 170 feet above the surrounding land. There are beautiful views of the Monadnock Range to the north and Mount Wachusett to the west. The hill and the adjoining hill to the Southwest are locally known as the Two Brothers. The Two Brothers Trail, which bisects the property, has access from King St. across from the Congregational Church. The trail passes through mowed fields of the town -owned Morgan Property and on to Prouty Woods land. It passes through the upper terminus of a densely vegetated wooded wetland, crosses over the hill through mature woods with sparse undergrowth, and then traverses down to the Long Lake shore. Additional trails connect Prouty Woods to Birch Street and Edsel Road. Many old interesting stone walls in usual patterns cross through the property.

Watershed Protection: The Prouty Woods south facing hillside is a major component of the Long Lake watershed, with direct access to the waterfront. The undeveloped hillside provides a clean groundwater and surface water supply to the lake. The mature tree canopy and undisturbed leaf litter provide erosion protection and protection from pollution. This protected property is critical to the continued health of the lake. The north-facing hillside is the watershed to the large wooded wetland and intermittent stream system at the toe of the slope of Prouty Woods hill. Numbers of seasonal streams break out of the hillside creating the hydrology needed to sustain the lower wetlands. The streams typically have a red maple tree canopy with a dense shrub layer of high bush blueberry, burning bush in sections, and withered winterberry. Skunk cabbage, sensitive ferns, sedges and rushes are also abundant within the wetlands. Water from the wetland flow north in small brooks to Beaver Brook and then eventually to the Merrimack River.

Vegetation and Wildlife Value: The top of Wilderness Hill is a broad rounded knob. The north-facing slope near the top is maintained as an open brushy field and provides vegetative diversity and fringe that is attractive and beneficial to wildlife. Moles, voles, turkey, bluebirds, meadowlark and hawks frequent these types of areas. Areas that are mowed once per year also provide the sapling growth that is an

invaluable food source for browsing animals during the long winter months. Wildflowers and grasses are a good food supply and cover for grazers, rodents, snakes, birds, insects and butterflies. The remainder of Wilderness Hill is mature woods with oaks, shagbark hickory, red maples, sugar maples, black birch and stands of white pines. Other areas on the north-facing hillside are more densely vegetated with a thick shrub layer or dense stands of pines. Deer tracks and burrows for woodchucks and skunks are visible. Fishers have been spotted on the property.

Geology: Wilderness Hill is in the center of a row of hills, named the Long Pond Brothers on the USGS topographic maps. The hills are adjacent and are aligned in an east -west direction. Wilderness Hill is the highest of the nearby hills. The tops of the hills delineate the boundary between two watersheds. Water that flows from the hill tops southerly into Long Lake is in the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord Rivers drainage basin. Drainage from the northerly side of the hill flows into the Stony Brook subbasin via Beaver Brook within the Merrimack River Watershed. The local hills are considered to be "drumlins" which are generally north -south oriented on an individual basis. Drumlins are composed of glacial debris deposits resulting from the north to south grinding action beneath an advancing continental glacier commonly thought to be about one mile thick. This glacier is thought to have melted away completely about 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. The drumlin normally forms when a pinnacle or small hill of bedrock is encountered and the glacial ice was plastered over it. It is not known whether the bedrock is close to the surface or whether it could be over 100 feet deep. No bedrock outcrops have been observed on the land. Drumlins are composed of a dense unstratified mixture of clay, silt, sand, gravel and boulders. Ice rafted boulders called erratics, are present on the land and are identified by their size, often exceeding four to six feet in diameter. The erratics were deposited upon recession of the glacial ice mass. The surface layer of soil, just below the recent humus layer, is composed of windblown silt to a depth of six inches to one foot, that was deposited in the cold desert environment following the retreat of the ice mass. Long Lake was formed by a massive ice block that broke away from the melting glacier and was partially buried in outwash deposits (stratified sand and gravel). When the ice block melted, the resulting depression became filled with water and resulted in the lake we see today. The opposite side of the lake has a long glacial meltwater channel that drained the melting ice and continues to be the outlet for the lake. That channel is part of the 185-acre town-owned Long Lake Park.

In 2007, NEFF conducted a timber harvest using sustainable forest techniques involving 1-acre "patch cuts", which have the additional benefit of increasing wildlife and vegetation diversity.

For more detailed information about NEFF, go to their web site: <http://www.newenglandforestry.org>

Size: 107 acres

Trail Map



Directions

On Wilderness Road (which is off Foster Street) between Faye Park and the Fire stations. A short distance from Foster Street are a parking lot, kiosk, and barn. To access NEFF offices take the first right on Wilderness Road, park behind the garages and walk down the driveway to the main entrance under the portico.

Trails

Trail maps are located at the kiosk.

History

The New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) purchased this 107-acre property from the Prouty family in the fall of 2003 to establish an exemplary forest demonstration site. The Town of Littleton holds a conservation easement on 85 of the 107 acres. Prouty Woods is a truly unique and significant tract of woodland within minutes of Route 495.

CR Holder: NEFF **Owner:** NEFF

Robert and Emily Cobb Memorial Forest

Description

The Robert and Emily Cobb Memorial Trail parcel provides a variety of features within a relatively small area. The land is quite different from other conservation areas in Littleton.

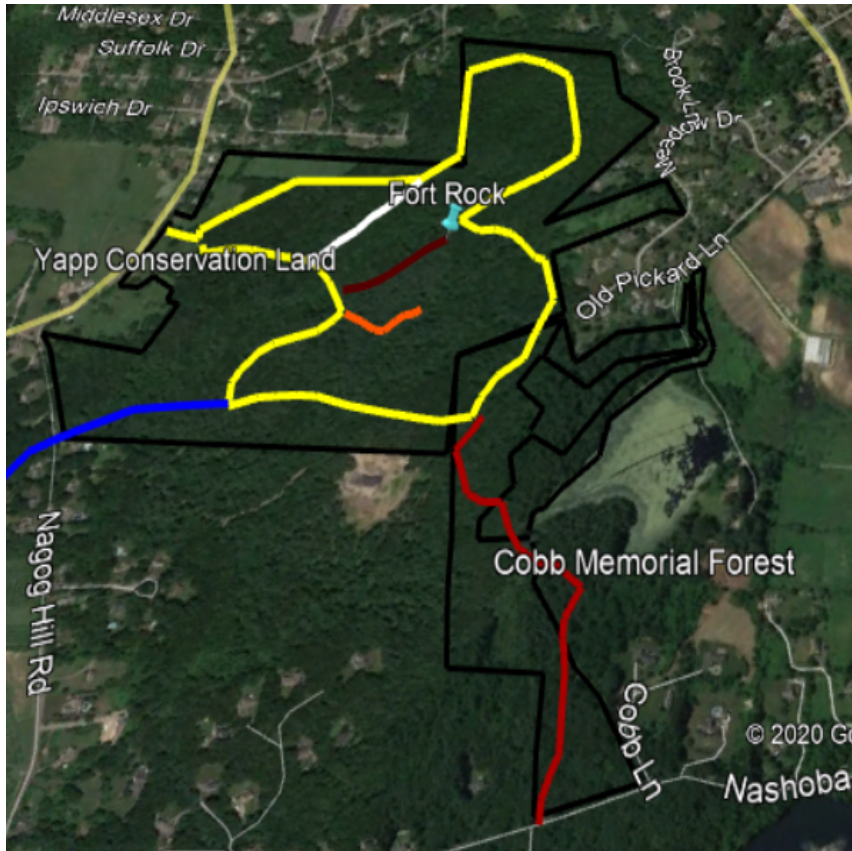
Extends in a linear pattern from the Pickard Lane Extension on the north, by Cobb's Pond on the east, to Nashoba Road on the South. It abuts the 30 acre town owned Nagog Hill Orchard extension on the west.

Note: The trustees of Emily R. Cobb did not grant use of Cobb's Pond to the public.

A peninsula extending into Cobb's Pond is owned by the Town and is under the management of the Littleton Conservation Commission and Littleton Water Department. Another recently acquired section is owned by the Town and managed by the Littleton Conservation Trust for the Littleton Conservation Commission.

Size: 47 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Located at a small gravel parking lot on Nashoba Road and within the cul-de-sac at Pickard Lane Extension.

Trails

The Cobb Memorial Trail extends 0.7 miles from Pickard Lane extension to Nashoba Road. The trail mostly follows an old cart road. Brown and white signs saying "Cobb Memorial Footpath" are located at each end of the trail which is indicated in the field with red markers. The foot path connects to the "Blue Dot Trail" which leads westerly to Nagog Hill Road, a distance of 0.5 miles. A nearly 100 foot long boardwalk over a swamp is located near the Nashoba Road entrance. This boardwalk was an Eagle Scout project.

Near the Pickard Lane parking area is a trail that connects to the trails in the Yapp Conservation Land and also to Shaker Lane.

History

This land was once the site of a chicken farm and a major producer of eggs and chicks.

Cautions

Some remnants of old barbed wire remain far off the trails.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

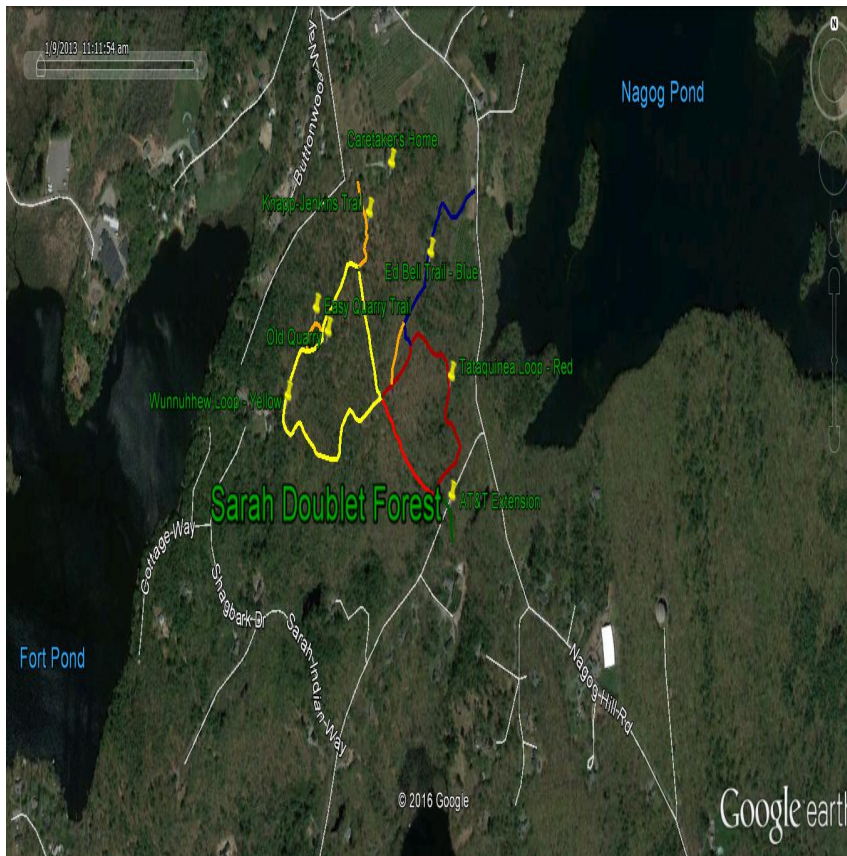
Sarah Doublet Forest

Description

Sarah Doublet Forest is the largest property of the Littleton Conservation Trust. This area is within the historic Nashoba Indian plantation.

Size: 98 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Access is by way of Charter Road (a dirt road) leading off Nashoba Road. A Trust sign is on the corner of this dirt road and Nashoba Road. The dirt road leads to a parking area on the left where another Trust sign is located. Another access way is through the Ed Bell trail starting at the town-owned parking lot on Nagog Hill Road.

Trails

Well-developed and maintained. The kiosk at the parking area has copies of trail maps and other information about the property.

The Knapp-Jenkins Trail (Orange) takes you from the parking area past the old foundation with standing chimney and across the AT&T cable line to the Wunnuhhew Loop (Yellow). This trail goes up and down through overgrown pasture and into pine forest passing an old stone quarry. When you return to the cable line, go down hill a few steps to find the Tatatiquinea Loop (Red) which goes down past some vernal ponds and into a wonderful yellow (in late autumn) area of witch hazel shrubs. You can return on the AT&T line or reverse direction (red markers) on the trails.

Another trail (White) proceeds from the parking lot area downhill to the shore of Fort Pond.

At the intersection of Charter Way and Nashoba Road, a new trail has been established that proceeds northerly through the Nagog Hill Orchard woodlands and private property to Nagog Hill Road. The trail continues on the northerly side of Nagog Hill Road.

History

This property was willed to the Trust in stages (1975 and 1976) by Edith Jenkins and Fanny Knapp, two nurses who turned farmers in retirement. The house and final acreage were passed to the Trust in 1988.

Chuck Roth, biologist and educator, created an inventory of the wildlife and plants observed on the property. This list is posted at the kiosk.

The Trust owns the house near the parking area. Rick Roth (Chuck Roth's son) and his family are the caretakers of the house.

The Dr. Ed Bell trail (Blue) is named in memory of Dr. Ed Bell who died in 2001. Dr. Bell was a leading citizen in Town who was well-known for helping others. He was a Littleton Conservation Trust board member for nearly 40 years. Sarah Doublet Forest was one of his favorite places. The trail starts at the town-owned parking lot on Nagog Hill Road. It passes over the hill top and along a unusual bedrock ridge topped with a curved stone wall and meets the Sarah Doublet forest trail.

The stone cairn is in Ray Grande's memory. Ray was a tireless volunteer in Littleton Conservation Trust, the Reuben Hoar Library and Loaves & Fishes Pantry. Ray and others created many of the trails on this property.

Cautions

Trails are steep and rocky at some locations. Poison ivy is under control.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

Sprong Land

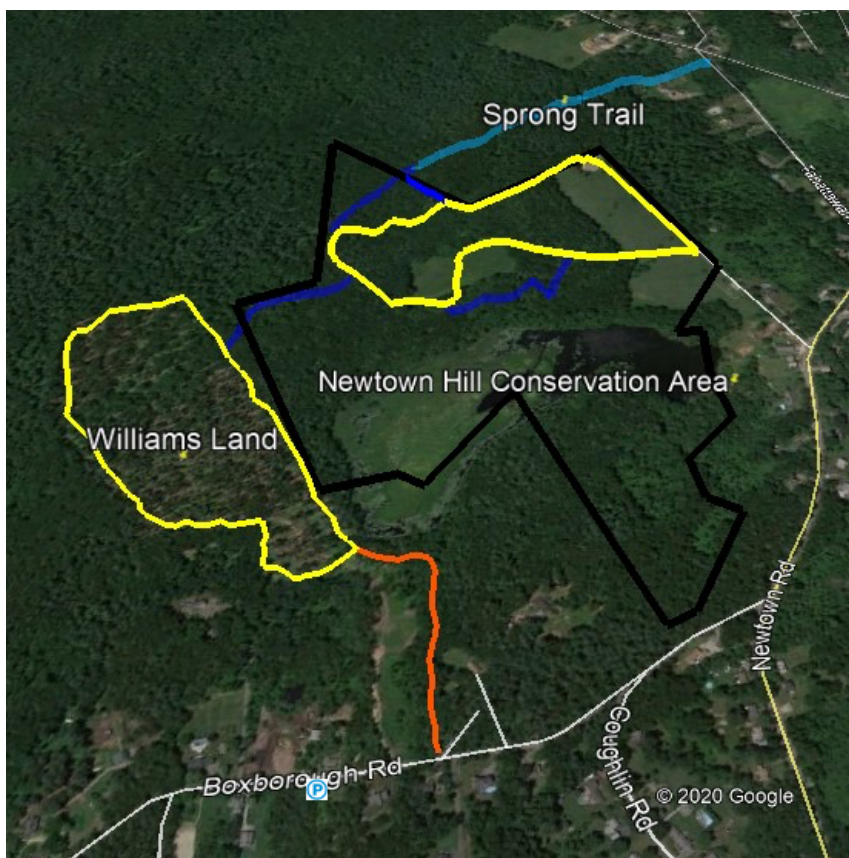
Description

This parcel connects Newtown Hill and Holly Park.

Virginia and Harry Sprong came to Littleton in the 1960s for its rural character and soon after donated some 33 acres of land around their home to the Conservation Trust to preserve that very aspect of the community that drew them here.

Today we have Holly Park, named after her prized Irish Setter, and this land that provides access to Newtown Hill Conservation Land thanks to their generosity. During Gina's tenure as LCT trustee she demonstrated strong interest in conservation land protection and bird watching.

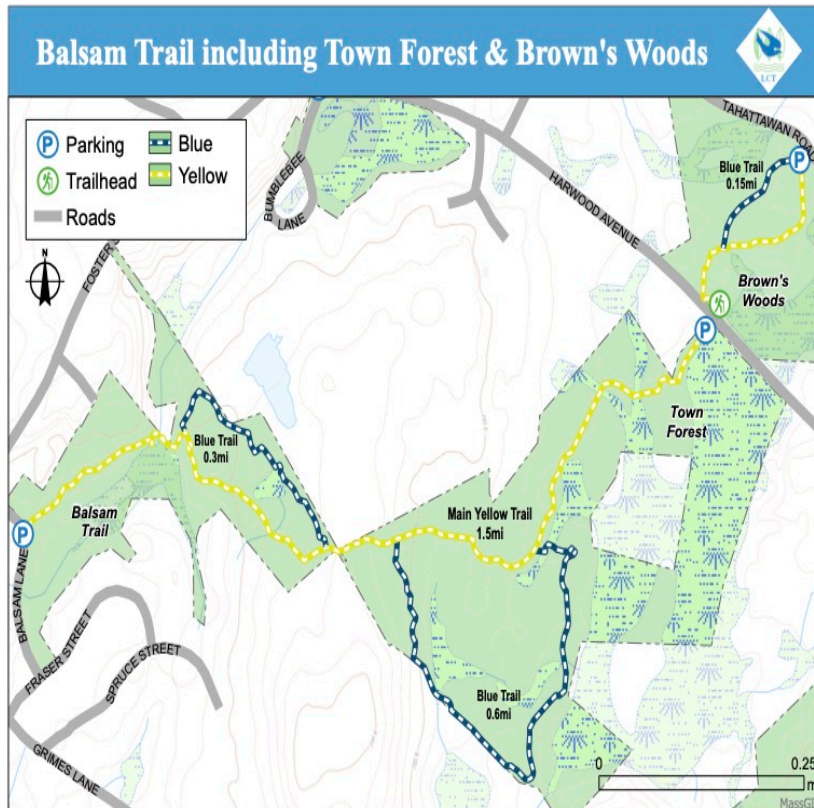
Trail Map



Town Forest

Size: 77.5 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Access to the property is by a trail that starts approximately 300 feet north of the parking pull off and sign (toward Foster Street). Parking is very difficult as the shoulders are very narrow along Harwood Avenue at this location. Parking is best at Bumblebee Park with a walk of 5-10 minutes to the trail head.

Cautions

Poison ivy, swamp.

CR Holder: Board of Selectmen **Owner:** Town of Littleton

Two Brothers Trail

Description

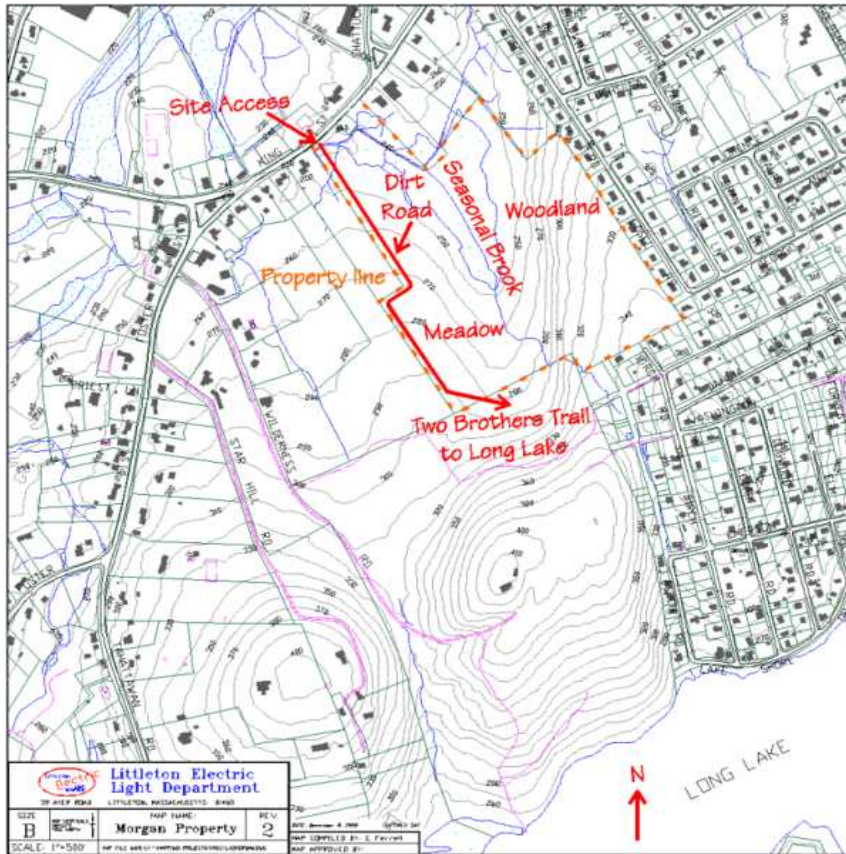
This trail begins at Conant Park. It is 1.5 miles long (about a 45 minute walk). After following the trail for a while you can see a boardwalk on the right. The boardwalk leads to the Russell Street School and the track area. When you continue on the trail, you cross an old fire road. Cross over the fire road to stay on the trail. In a few minutes the trail takes a sharp left. Follow the trail to the left and you see a flight of stairs. When you reach the top of the stairs, you are at the parking lot behind the town offices.

Walk to King Street and turn right down the sidewalk until you reach the Congregational Church. Across from the church, you can see a sign for Two Brothers Trail. (This parcel of land is known as the Morgan Land.) Cross the street and follow the old dirt road to the field. Once in the field, follow the trail along the stone wall until you reach the edge of the forest. You might be lucky enough to see a red-tailed hawk circling overhead.

As you enter the forest, you cross a stone wall that signifies the end of the Morgan Land and the beginning of the Prouty Woods Community Forest, a 107 acre forest owned and maintained by the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF). Follow the Conservation Trust markers to the top of the hill down to the Long Lake shore. At trail intersections, there are 4x4 wooden posts giving directions.

Following the direction of the sign post, continue on the trail as it goes up to the top of Wilderness Hill. From there, the trail proceeds down the hill to the shore of Long Lake.

Trail Map



Directions

Three places to park and access the trail:

Off White Street at Conant Park.

In the Congregational Church parking lot.

In the parking lot near the Town Offices on Shattuck Street.

Trails

The Two Brothers Trail, established by Boy Scouts over 10 years ago begins in Littleton Conservation Trust property (Conant Park) and traverses Town owned land and streets all the way through the Morgan Land and terminates on NEFF property (Prouty Woods) where there is a NEFF loop trail (see Prouty Woods Forest map).

See the Morgan Land map for the section of Two Brothers trail that continues from King St. into the NEFF Prouty Woods Community Forest and the Prouty Woods map for the trail to Long Lake.

History

The Two Brothers Trail was constructed by Eagle Scout candidates working with the Littleton Conservation Trust. The Eagle Scout candidates were from Littleton Boy Scout Troop 1 and included: Greg Billingham, Zach Brown, Chris Sewell, and Ryan Smith. Funding for the trail was provided by a grant from the Department of Environmental Management Greenways and Trails program.

Cautions

Steep hillside at Prouty Woods Community Forest.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT, Town of Littleton

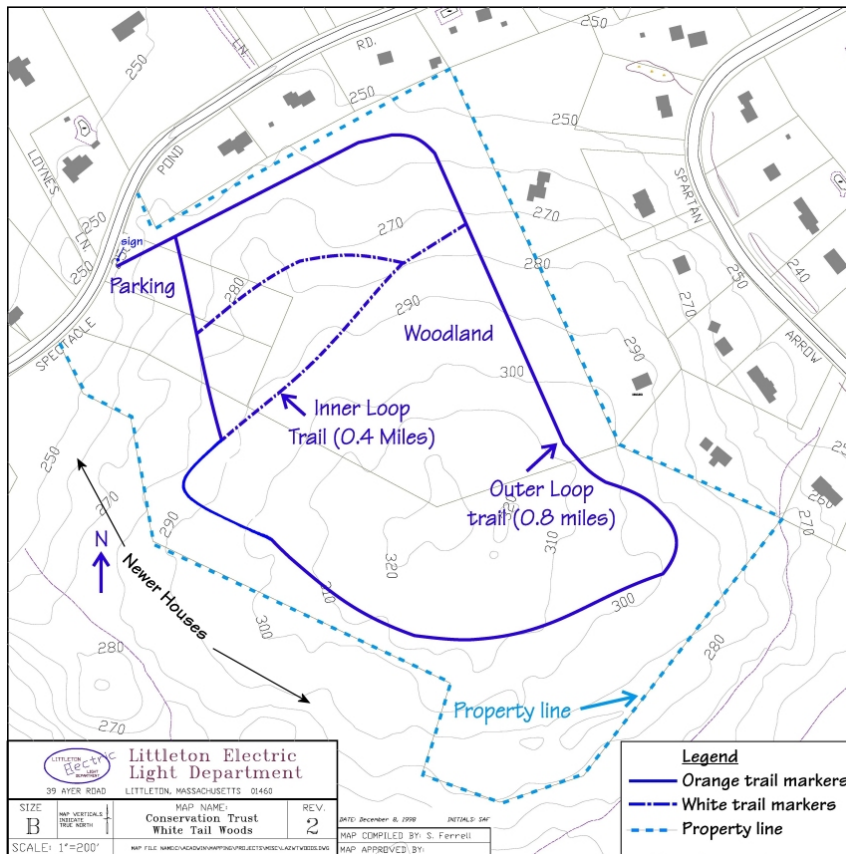
Whitetail Woods

Description

The Whitetail Woods parcel consists primarily of mature oak woodland features. This area is a pleasant location for a short walk or to cross country ski amongst the oak and pine woodlands.

Size: 36.8 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Park off Spectacle Pond Road. A Trust sign is adjacent to a kiosk that shows a map of the area.

Trails

Two loop trails developed by the Boy Scouts begin at the off-street parking area.

History

In 1994, the Tidan Corporation donated this woodland to the Littleton Conservation Trust.

Cautions

Some adjacent homeowners have created side trails to the rear of their properties which can cause confusion when following the Boy Scout trails. Watch for the orange markers to stay on the correct trail.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** LCT

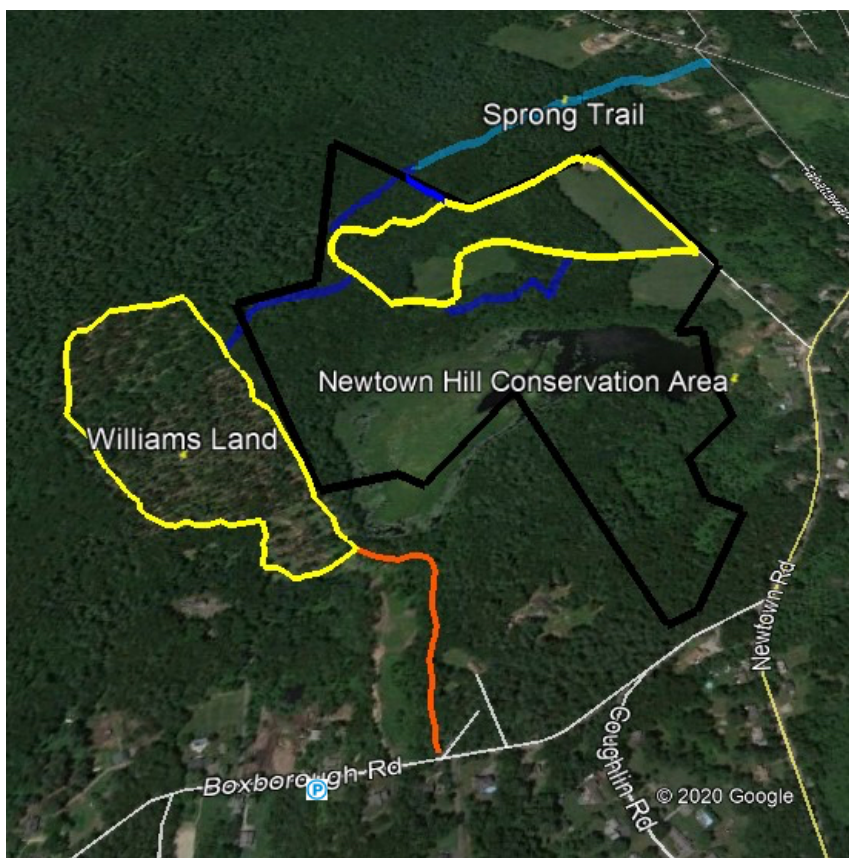
Williams Land

Description

The Williams property is 32.25 acres and connects to the Newtown Hill Conservation Area. It has trails for recreation, wetlands including part of Doleful Pond and mature forests. It is peacefully quiet, offering a respite from today's noise and always-on electronics. The trails are in active use for horseback riding and are also attractive for hiking and mountain biking. The Williams property is appealing for its size, proximity to existing conservation land and because about 20% of it lies within or abuts MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program BioMap2 Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape designated areas.

Size: 32.25 acres

Trail Map



Smith Conservation Land

Description

The Smith Property consists of 61 acres of forest, open fields, wetlands, and old farm fields. Located on Whitcomb Avenue in Littleton, it boasts expansive views from the shores of both Beaver Brook Marsh and Black Pond. Trails take visitors past farm fields, water features, and caverns where bobcat, bear, coyote, and porcupine have been spotted!

With all of these features as well as with a ridge running along its western border and with caverns and caves scattered throughout, it is no surprise that the Smith Property has become a beloved community asset, well-known for its spectacular views, its unique wildlife habitat, and its agricultural history.

The property, which is entirely designated as a BioMap 2 Core Habitat, provides vital habitat for three Species of Conservation Concern, as determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), and Blanding's turtle (*Emidoidea blandingii*). It is also designated as BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape for a Landscape Block, an area that will remain resilient in the face of climate change because of its ability to buffer hazards, provide connectivity for wide-ranging species, allow for natural disturbances that are needed to sustain certain species, and ensure the protection of existing water resources. It is used by a variety of wide-ranging species, including black bear, deer, coyote, fisher, and turkey, while also providing habitat to rare species. In an area in which natural lands are fragmented by development, wildlife need corridors connecting larger blocks of conservation land to keep their populations healthy and genetically diverse. Such a corridor is critical to ecosystem health, allows wildlife to move safely through the landscape, and allows plants and animals to adapt and relocate as the climate changes.

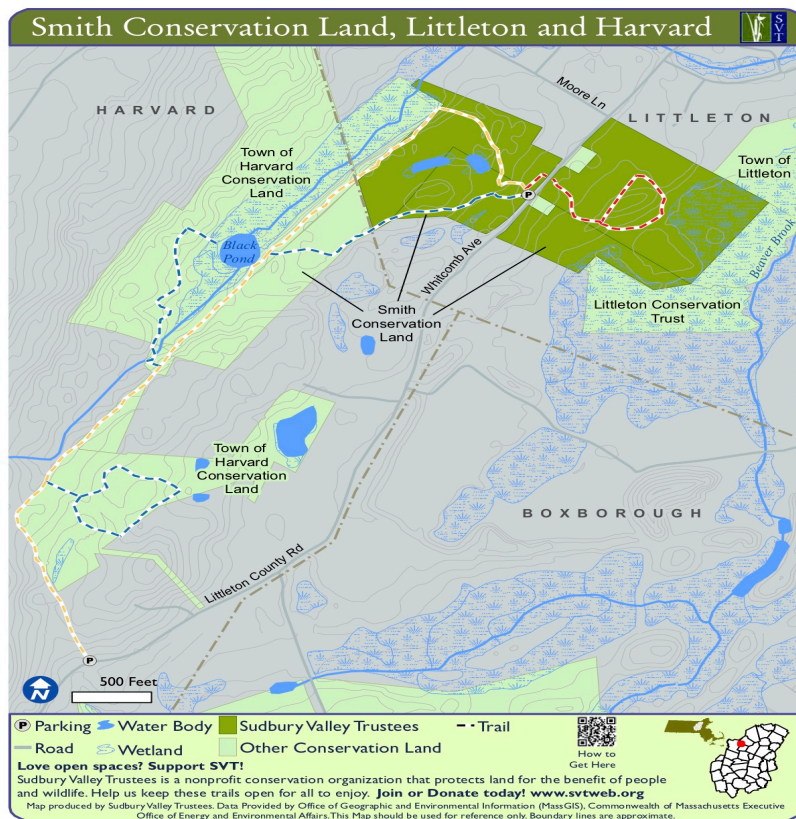
Additionally, the property lies at the headwaters of three major river basins: the Nashua River Watershed; the Sudbury, Assabet, Concord River Watershed (SuAsCo); and the Stony Brook Watershed, through Elizabeth Brook, Bennet's Brook, and Black Pond Brook. The latter two watersheds are both sub-watersheds of the Merrimack River Watershed, which is now listed as one of the most imperiled in the nation due to development pressures.

The Smith Property offers unspoiled views of forest on both sides of Whitcomb Avenue, spectacular views of Black Pond from the top of its ridge, and expansive views of Beaver Brook. Its varying terrain has enabled SVT to create diverse trails, suitable for hiking, horseback riding, and skiing, as well as provide opportunities for environmental education.

Please note: Dog walking is allowed, however dogs must be on a leash.

Size: 61 acres

Trail Map



Directions

The property is easily accessed from Whitcomb Avenue in Littleton, having significant frontage on both sides of the road.

With mapping software, search for this address: 199 Whitcomb Avenue, Littleton, MA

If driving from Route 2, take Exit 39 for Taylor Street, and turn left onto Taylor Street toward Littleton. Take a left immediately after the Route 2 ramps, onto Porter Road. Drive for 0.5 mile and turn left onto Whitcomb Avenue. After approximately 0.8 mile, the Smith Conservation Land parking area will be on your right, marked with an SVT sign and kiosk. The barn across the road from the parking area is private property. Please do not park on that side.

Trails

Look for tracks and signs of bobcat, porcupine, and even bear along your walk. The yellow trail along the ridge overlooking Black Pond and its stream offers wonderful birding opportunities in the spring. Continue onto additional Town of Harvard Conservation lands for a longer walk or return to the parking area via the blue trail.

A red trail departs the yellow trail shortly after its beginning, and will lead you across the road, by an old farm field, and to Beaver Brook Marsh. Look across the marsh for several great blue heron nests, which promise great sights in the springtime nesting season. Look for remains of a glacial esker on your return.

CR Holder: LCT **Owner:** SVT

Jones Meadow

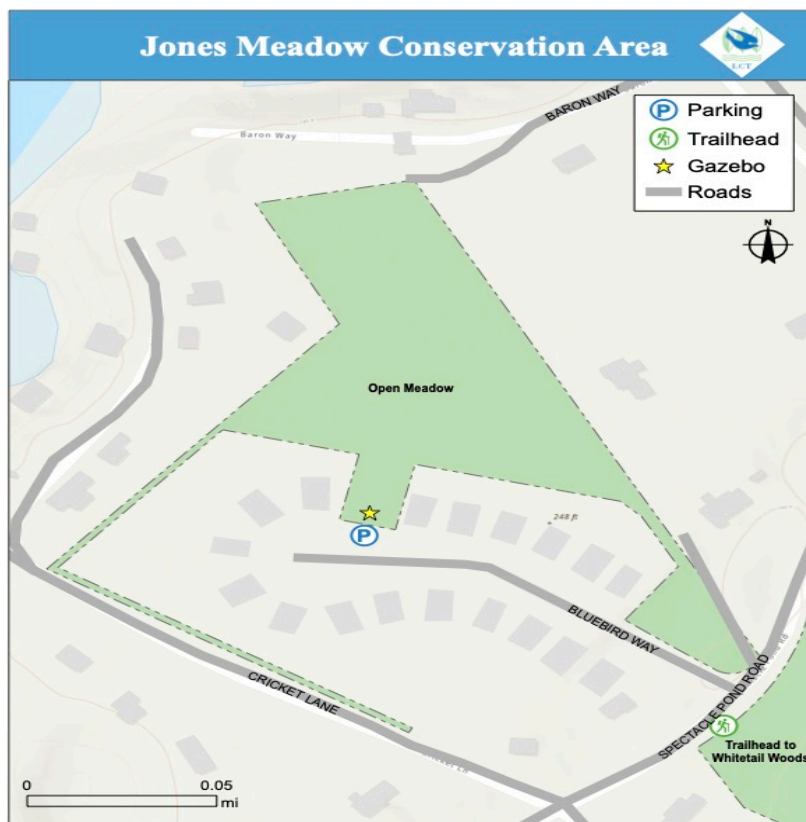
Description

Jones Meadow is an open meadow with a small area of woods.

The conservation commission will hold the conservation restriction on the property, with the intent of keeping it in its natural and open state with mown paths for walking and wildlife observation.

Size: 4 acres

Trail Map



Directions

Spectacle Pond Road to Bluebird Way (a cul de sac). Park in the public spaces provided in front of the gazebo. The meadow is accessed across a grassy area behind the gazebo and walking paths are cut around the perimeter with a connector through the middle of the field. Parking is also available directly across Spectacle Pond Road at Whitetail Woods conservation land.

History

Jones Meadow was given to Littleton Conservation Trust in 2021 for permanent protection. It was given to LCT as part of a preservation set-aside for the approval of the Bluebird Way 55+ cluster housing development off of Spectacle Pond Rd.

CR Holder: Littleton Conservation Commission (in process as of 5/2023) **Owner:** Littleton Conservation Trust