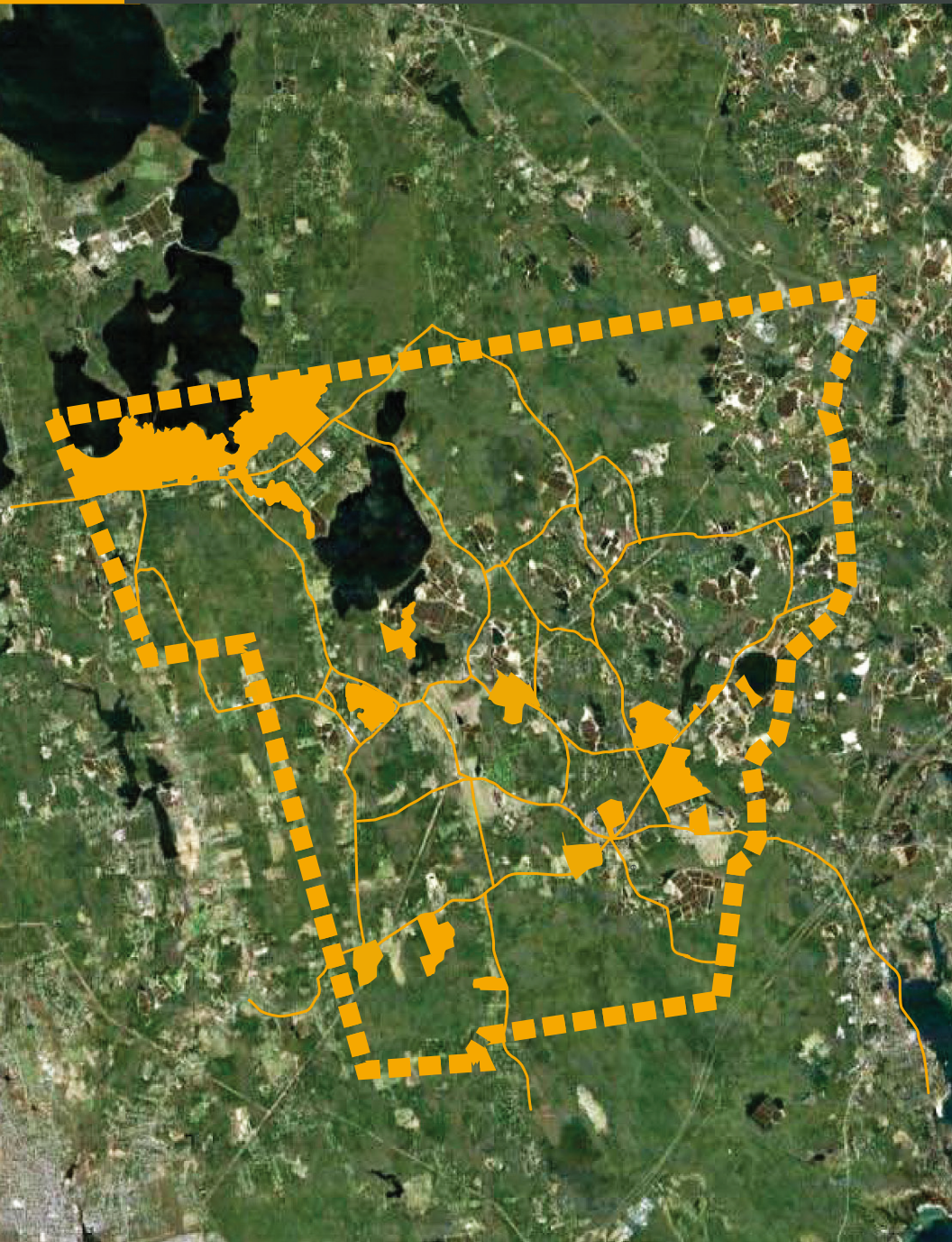


EXPLORE ROCHESTER

Town of Rochester, Massachusetts

Revised Second Edition



Explore Rochester

Revised Second Edition 2016

Public Trail Guide

This Revised Second Edition is the result of a true collaborative volunteer effort by the Rochester Land Trust, the Open Space Action Committee and the Rochester Conservation Commission. Open Space Action Committee members visited each of the properties, provided narrative, and shared input on the Trail Guide's creation.

This Trail Guide presents information about great opportunities for nature walking, hiking, birding, fishing, cross country skiing, and horseback riding so that more people can benefit from some of the accessible protected properties within Rochester.

This guide contains information on 15 properties and many miles of public trails within Rochester. Each property is described and mapped. When available, information on the property's natural and cultural history is included. We have done our best to provide accurate information and maps. We hope you find this guide helpful in your adventures and explorations of Rochester's open space.

Please follow some simple guidelines when visiting these special places:

- No motorized vehicles allowed on any of these trails
- Respect wildlife and plants
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Help keep air and water clean
- Carry out what you carry in
- Use marked paths when available
- Keep dogs on leash and on paths so they do not disturb the wildlife or damage the vegetation
- Carry plastic bags with you to pick up dog waste and dispose of it off the property
- Respect the privacy of the neighboring land owners
- Enjoy and share the landscape with others

Downloadable and printable versions of the trail guide maps are available on the Rochester Conservation Commission website at www.rochestermaconservation.com.

Acknowledgements

Rochester Open Space Action Committee

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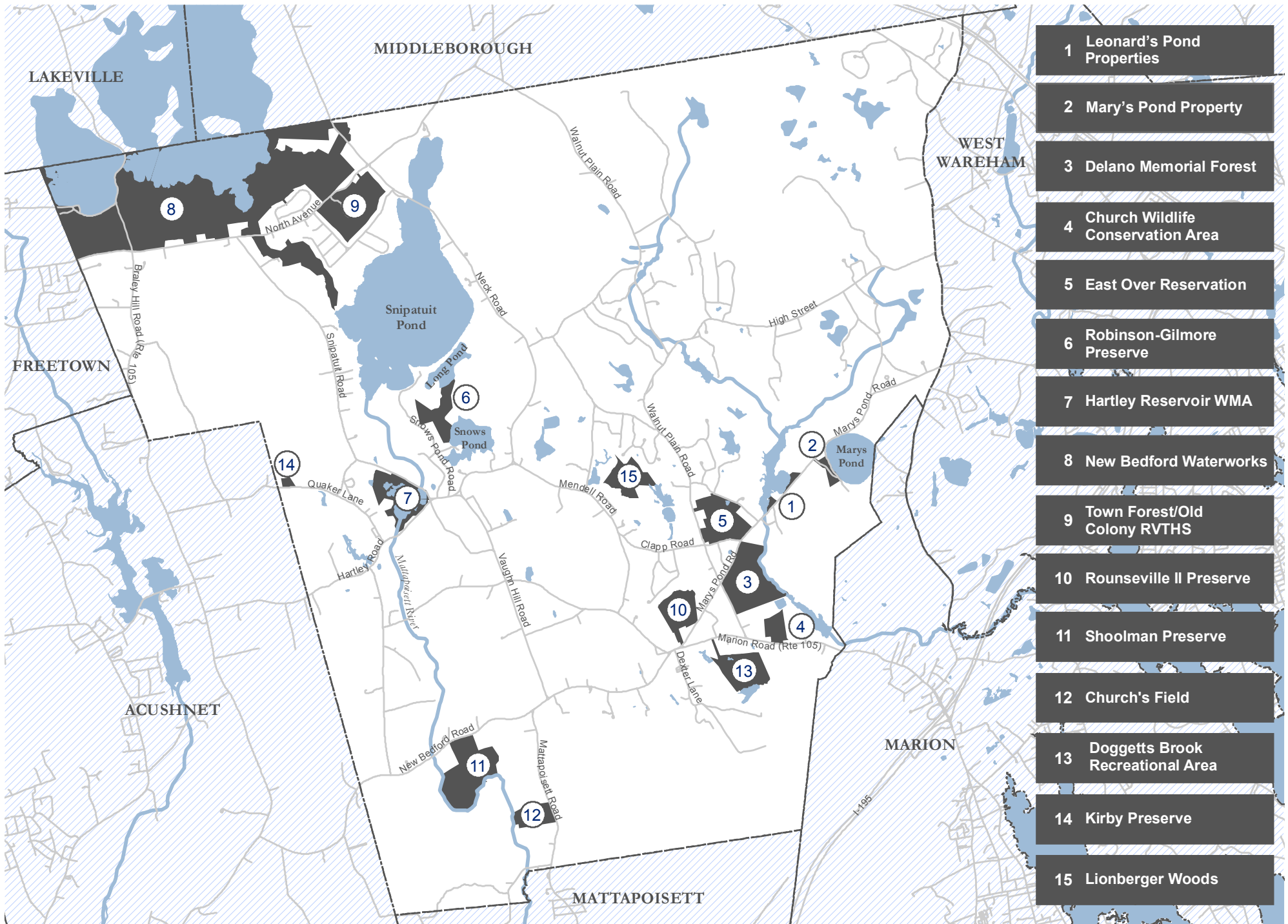
Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School

Special thanks to:

Makepeace Neighborhood Fund for a grant funding the second printing.

Special thanks to the following property owners for allowing their properties to be included in this Trail Guide:

Rochester Land Trust
Town of Rochester
Wildlands Trust
City of New Bedford
The Trustees of Reservations
Mattapoissett Land Trust
MA Dept. of Fish & Game



1. Leonard's Pond Properties

A 2.95 - acre RLT property owned by the Rochester Land Trust and a 4.1 - acre property owned by The Town of Rochester



(RLT) This trail was named in memory of Herbert Wood, Jr., a long time Rochester resident and devoted RLT Board Member and Treasurer.

(TOWN) This parcel was purchased from the Hiller family by the Town of Rochester to provide residents with over 450-linear feet of frontage to enjoy on the pond.

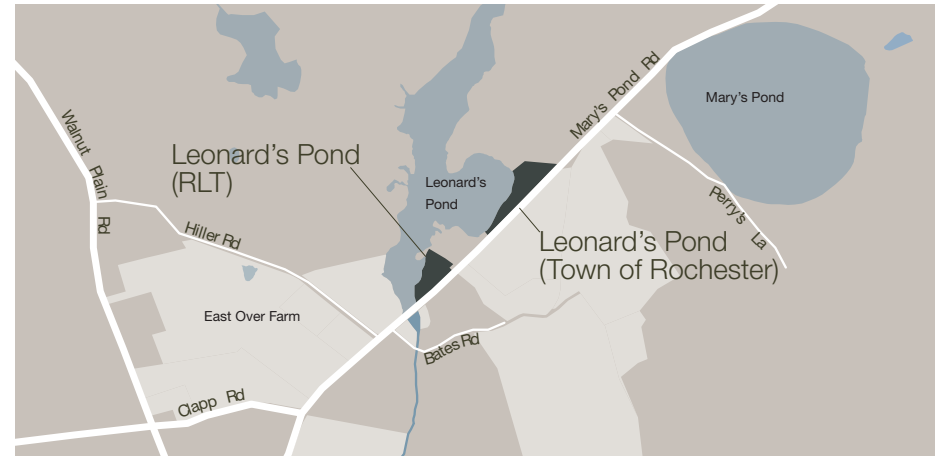
Native Americans camped along the Sippican River and used it as a water highway. Early European settlers built several mills near here. The land around Leonard's Pond was cleared for hay fields, pastures, and for crops. In the 1900s it was a dairy. In recent years, some of the cleared areas have grown up in white pines, our 1st succession trees. Eventually, hardwoods will fill in as the pines fall.

The path, cut by an Eagle Scout in 2009, follows the edge of the pond and offers views framed by a shrub layer of mostly Sweet Pepper Bush, Blueberry and Red Maple. The bobbers

festooning the trees tell of the many fishermen who try their luck here. In the spring, alewives, an anadromous fish, swim upstream along the Sippican River through a special fish ladder to spawn in the pond. The young will then return to the sea, but will come back to Leonard's Pond in a few years to spawn and complete the cycle.

The pond side upland of the TOWN property contains pine and hardwood. The understory is thin enough for blueberrying and birding. A canoe/kayak boat launch and off road parking for 6 cars is provided.

Location



Activities

Walk

The .25 mile circular trail starts and ends near the pond at the off road parking area.

Watch

Lovely views of Leonard's Pond. Various waterfowl use the pond at different times of the year. Chickadees, tit-mice and woodpeckers flit through the trees. The pond teems with reptiles and amphibians such as snapping and painted turtles and bull and pickerel frogs. Migrating birds, including geese, mergansers and buffleheads use the pond as a stopover.

Fish

With a valid license - fresh water fish including Bass, Sunfish, Perch, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Pickerel, Shiner, Bullhead, and Black Crappie.

Picnic

A table on the RLT parcel provides a water view for your meal.

Boat Launch

Canoes / kayaks and electric motor boats permitted.

Leonard's Pond Properties



10 ft. Contour

Trail

Protected Land

Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



2. Mary's Pond Property

A 10.29 - acre property owned by the Town of Rochester



Mary's Pond is a very popular fishing spot for local fishermen. The Mary's Pond property was purchased by the Town as a potential site for a Town beach but due to lack of funding the beach has not yet been constructed. A parking area for canoe/car top boat access, constructed by the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife, offers access to Mary's Pond for fishing and canoe/car top boats.

Mary's Pond is an 81-acre natural kettle hole pond, having no inlet or outlet, with its water level rising and falling along with the height of the ground water. It is also an endangered habitat, a coastal plain pond that supports globally rare plant species such as the Plymouth Gentian.

It is reportedly named after a man named Merry who lived near here many years ago.

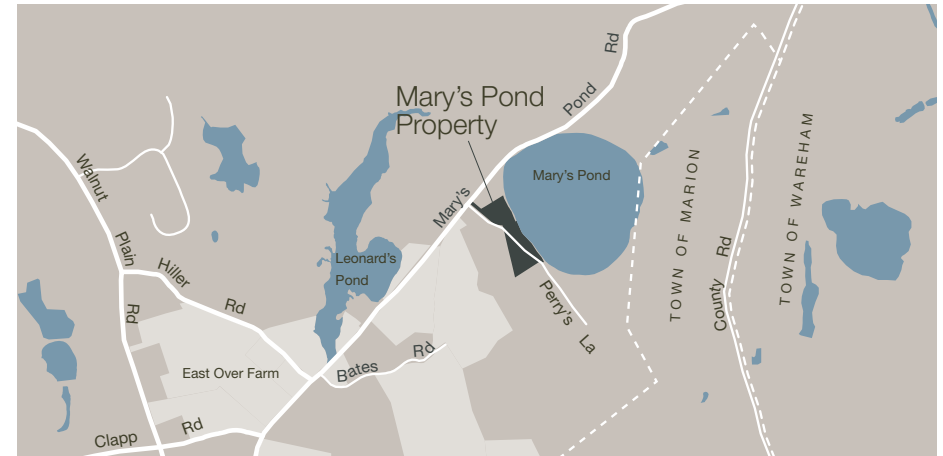
Historically, residents retted or rotted their flax plants here before spinning the fiber into linen.

Mary's Pond is also considered a "Great Pond" in Massachusetts because it is larger than 10 acres.

Pond access was recently improved by a handicapped accessible paved boat launch and slope stabilization project. Work was performed by an eagle scout, local boy scout troop, and Rochester Highway Dept. A commemorative stone bench was donated by the Chamberlain family.

The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game regularly stocks the pond with brook, brown and rainbow trout, explaining why many fishermen (and women) are seen here in all types of weather.

Location



Activities

Walk

A short pond-side walk along the old stage road.

Picnic

There are several nice spots to spread out a blanket and enjoy a picnic.

Watch

Look for the osprey nest across the pond. The osprey's distinctive call and fishing techniques are easily appreciated at Mary's Pond.

Fish

With a valid license - stocked with Brown, Brook and Rainbow Trout; other species also present.

Boat

Canoes, kayaks, and electric motor boats permitted.

Mary's Pond Property



10 ft. Contour



Protected Land

Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



3. Delano Memorial Forest

A 110 - acre property owned by the Wildlands Trust



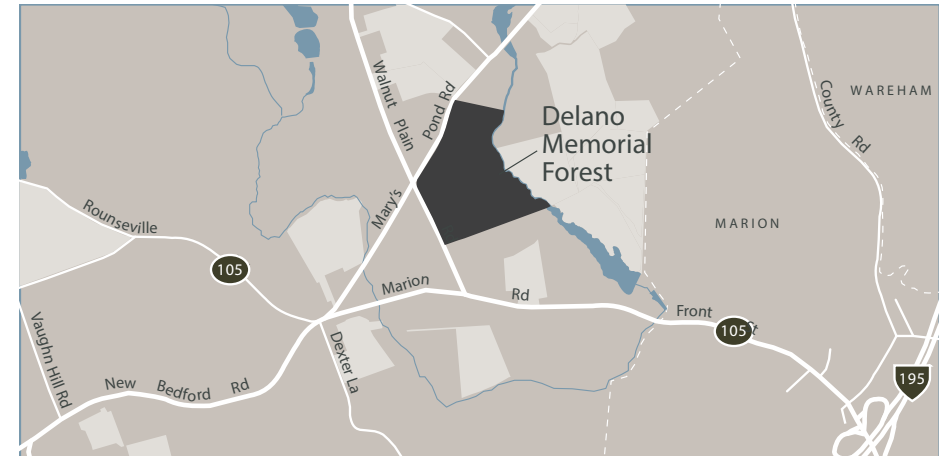
The Delano Family of New Bedford managed this property as a white pine and mixed hardwood woodlot for many years prior to donating the property to the Wildlands Trust in 1985. Many older Rochester residents fondly remember the property as “Mayflower Ridge” for the Mayflower gathering parties held there up until the Second World War.

The main trail head and designated parking area is located off Mary's Pond Road north of the intersection of Mary's Pond and Walnut Plain Roads. The trails take approximately 35 minutes to walk and provide views of mixed woodlands, wooded swamps, a kettle pond, beech and holly groves, and a ridge that is carpeted with trailing arbutus. The upland forest is dominated by white pine, black oak, and red maple. A side trail branches off the loop trail north towards the Sippican River to a stone honoring Stephen Delano. The adventuresome can travel down a steep hill to the river. This flood plain habitat offers different trees from the drier uplands. Large

old beech, black gum, birch and holly edge the river and views look across the river. Deer, fox, raccoon and squirrel call these woods home; many forest birds such as thrushes, chickadees and woodpeckers live here as well.

The riverine habitat is perfect for many birds that rely on water such as herons, ducks and geese. Besides the Mayflower, our state flower, many ground species such as club mosses, checkerberry, lady slippers and ferns can be found in the uplands. Arums, cattails and a small orchid, the downy rattlesnake plantain, can be found near the river.

Location



Activities

Walk

Moderate hiking. Complete trail route takes about 35 minutes. Loop trail is 1.1 miles long.

Watch

Look for thrushes, chickadees and woodpeckers at the top of the hill. Herons, ducks and geese inhabit the riverine area.

Bike

Start your trek at the Mary's Pond Road parking area entrance. Please respect other park users. No motorized vehicles allowed.

Ski

Enjoy the scenery and stay safe by following the trails. Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

Delano Memorial Forest



10 ft. Contour

Trail

Protected Land

Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



4. Church Wildlife Conservation Area

A 21 - acre property owned by the Rochester Land Trust



This beautiful pine forest is permanently protected through the generosity of George E. and Katherine H. Church, a beloved Rochester couple who dedicated themselves to the Town of Rochester throughout their lives. An off-street parking area is available on Marion Road/Route 105 to access this property.

George Church & Katherine Hartley married in the 1950s - thus joining two of Rochester's oldest families.

The Hartleys were one of Rochester's largest and most influential families, owning and operating Hartley's Saw Mill and store located on Gifford's Brook. The Church family owned the sawmill on the Mattapoissett River since the mid 1700s.

Katherine's first love was working with and nurturing young lives both through her work as a school nurse in Acushnet and in Rochester teaching first aid and swimming at the family compound on

Snow's Pond. During World War II, George served in the Army Air Corps in England and Katherine in the Nurse Corps.

It was Katherine's wish that this land be preserved for all to enjoy in its natural state. Following her death in 2007, George honored Katherine's wish and worked with the Rochester Land Trust to dedicate the property in her memory.

Enjoy your visit to this peaceful spot and remember the generosity of the couple that helped preserve this corner forever.

Location



Activities

Walk

The circular trail begins and ends at the field surrounding the cellar hole of an old homestead. Loop trail is .5 miles long.

Watch

Signs of deer, fox and raccoon abound. Many woodland birds have been sighted here.

Picnic

A picnic table is available. Please take your trash with you.

Church Wildlife Conservation Area



10 ft. Contour

Trail

Protected Land

Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



5. East Over Reservation

A 75 - acre property owned by The Trustees of Reservations and the Town of Rochester



East Over Reservation is the crown jewel of Rochester's permanently protected open spaces. Its open fields, iconic yellow barns and farmhouses, miles of stone walls and lazy millpond make it the perfect spot to spend an afternoon.

In 2004, The Trustees of Reservations, Town of Rochester, Rochester Land Trust, Town of Marion, and the Sippican Land Trust worked together to permanently protect 800-acres of land known as the East Over Reservation.

Rochester residents overwhelmingly approved a 1.7 million dollar override to purchase the 75-acre open fields and woodland. For its efforts, the Town of Rochester was named Conservationist of the Year in recognition of the Town's commitment to land preservation.

The Trustees of Reservations maintain over 40-acres of fields dedicated as a specific habitat for grassland species of birds such as bobolinks and field sparrows. Trails circle the fields starting at the small parking area and kiosk off Clapp Road.

Be sure to notice the over two miles of double faced stone walls built in the mid 1800s at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Also be sure to visit the small stock pond on Hiller Road.

Location



Activities

Walk

Over 1.75 miles of marked trails with maps available at the trail head kiosk off Clapp Road. Please leash your dogs.

Watch

The fields support bobolinks, meadowlarks, field sparrows, voles, wild turkey, cottontail rabbits and many species of butterflies.

Ski

Follow the trails only. Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

East Over Reservation



10 ft. Contour

Trail

Protected Land

Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



6. Robinson - Gilmore Preserve

A 40 - acre property owned by the Wildlands Trust



The Robinson-Gilmore Preserve was originally donated to The Nature Conservancy by a member of the Gilmore family with instructions that it be preserved in its natural state. It was later transferred to the Wildlands Trust and continues to be permanently protected in honor of the Gilmore family's wishes.

Proceed past the Wildlands Trust sign where the pavement ends and turn into a dirt road. Continue straight and bear right at the fork and follow the dirt road .4 miles to the trail head kiosk.

This diverse property is remarkable not only for its location on the shores of both Snows Pond (a coastal plain pond) and Long Pond, but also for its glacial topographical features.

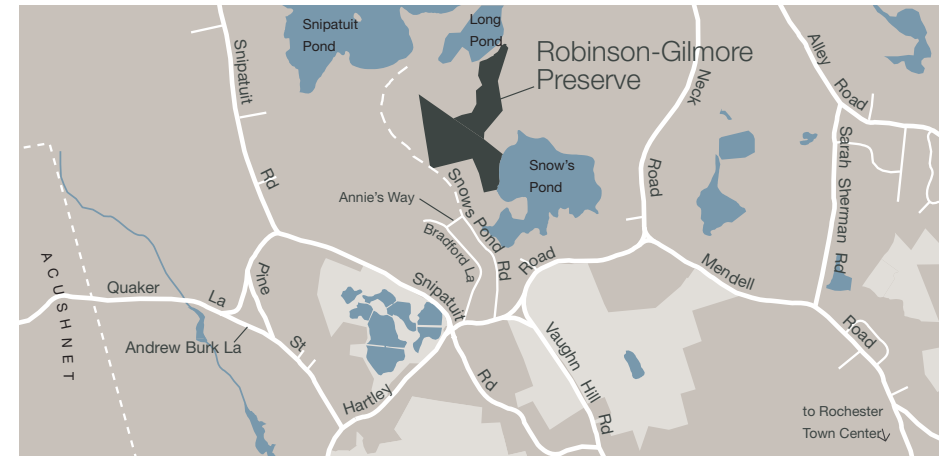
Notice the kettle holes of varying size throughout and the prominent southwest rocky ridge. Its amazing height is not typical for Rochester. This is a glacial esker, or remnant of a melting glacier with the ponds formed behind it. The main path travels along

a cart path through a cathedral like Hemlock grove that is being decimated by the invasive woolly adelgid insect. Forest birds, wetland birds, osprey, and great horned owls have been sighted on the property. There is evidence of deer, squirrel and fox throughout the property.

Many wildflowers grow in the varied communities that patchwork the property, including a globally rare coastal plain pond species on Snow's Pond.

Due to the sensitive nature of this unique plant community, please heed the refrain "leave only footprints, take only memories (or photographs!)"

Location



Activities

Walk

The paths both begin at a parking area adjacent to Gilmore's bogs at the end of Snows Pond Road and proceed to the pond or along the esker. Return by same route or along bog roads. The Gilmore family generously allows people to walk the bog dike roads. Trail is .9 miles long.

Watch

Raptors including great horned owls, osprey and even bald eagles hunt these woods and ponds.

Fish

With a valid license.

Ski

Caution - trails are steep! Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

Robinson-Gilmore Preserve



- Stream
 - Robinson-Gilmore Preserve
 - Houses/Buildings
 - Wetland
- Trails
 - Private Property
 - Water Bodies
 - Cranberry bogs



7. Hartley Reservoir Wildlife Management Area

A 70 - acre property owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts



This popular fishing spot and walking trail provides scenic views of open ponds, woodland and the Mattapoissett River. The easternmost reservoir off Snipatuit Road, known as Grandma Hartley's Pond, is the starting point for the annual Rochester Memorial Day Boat Race that has been held since 1934. The abandoned cranberry bog complex and reservoirs were built over a century ago.

This property consists of flooded former cranberry bogs, reservoirs and dikes and their associated uplands and wetlands.

In the spring, alewives run up the Mattapoissett River to spawn in Snipatuit Pond. Freshwater fish such as pickerel, bass, perch, sunfish and bullheads abound. With a valid license, it can be an excellent place to introduce children to the joy of fishing. Several types of turtles are found here as well as many other reptiles and amphibians.

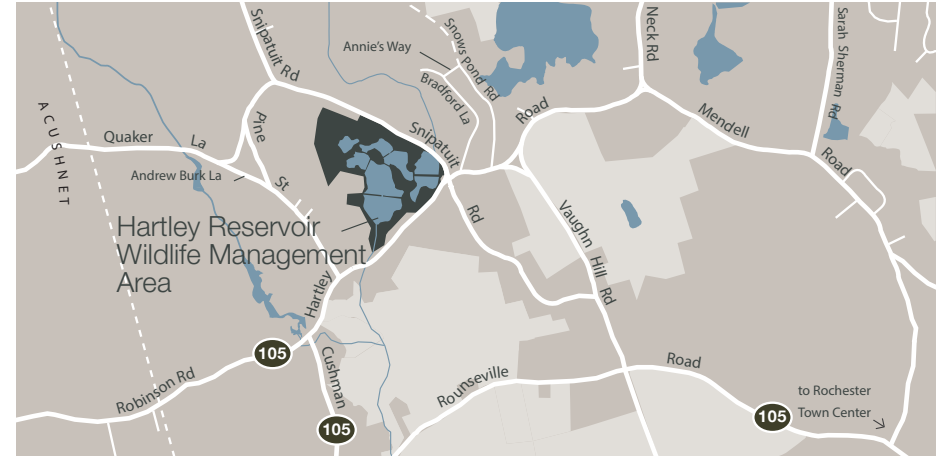
Wetland plants here include reeds, water lilies, and buttonbush. Pine,

oaks and blueberry dominate the uplands. Various wetland birds, muskrat, river otter, wild turkey, fox and deer have made this area home.

Since this property is managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, hunting for waterfowl is allowed, but not encouraged. Wear orange during hunting season. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays.

Pick up a copy of the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Guide at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall for information before walking in the woods in Rochester.

Location



Activities

Walk

Loop trail begins at parking lot on Hartley Road and runs east or west and circles back. The trail may be wet in places. Loop trail is .75 miles long.

Watch

Waterfowl of all types live or visit here. Lucky visitors may see a river otter.

Fish

Allowed with a valid license - Pickerel, Bass, Perch, Sunfish and Bullheads.

Bike

On the paths only. No motorized vehicles are permitted.

Ski

On the paths only. Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

Boat

Water level permitting.

Hartley Reservoir Wildlife Management Area



10 ft. Contour

Trail

Protected Land

Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



8. New Bedford Waterworks

A 842 - acre property owned by the City of New Bedford



Along Route 105 South to North Avenue, along the north side of North Avenue and along Neck Road, there are red fence posts with a white R and numbers 1- 18. These posts mark the entrances to the fire roads that crisscross the Waterworks property. Park off street, not blocking the fire lane and enter any lane that is NOT marked 'no admittance'. An APC map may be purchased at Lakeville Town Hall.

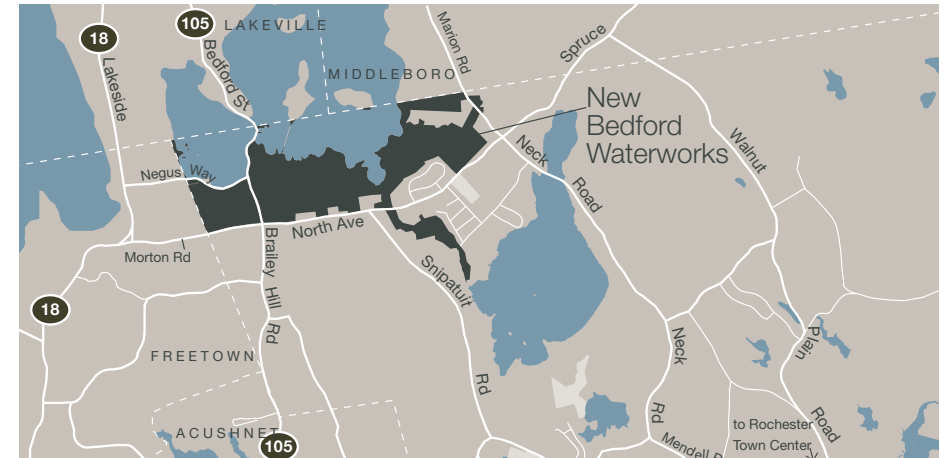
One of Rochester's nicest walks starts just east of the North Rochester Congregational Church. Park in the church lot and walk east along the fire lane that parallels North Avenue until you get to Gate # 10. After you enter the gate, the trail climbs a series of turns through beech forest.

When the trail turns down hill, you have left the Buzzards Bay Watershed and entered the Taunton River Watershed. The trail levels out and approaches Great Quitticas Pond. This slice of heaven is right here in Rochester. There are many interior trails available for your enjoyment.

Snipatuit Brook, a man made herring connection also east on North Avenue, flows either north or south depending on which watershed is higher.

It is easy to imagine Native Americans paddling a canoe, traveling the water route from the north to Buzzards Bay ...or to see Thoreau walking along in the 1850s examining fresh water mussels and listening to the loons that used to nest here. This area is alive with many types of birds including many migrants in the spring. There are osprey and sometimes bald eagles spotted here.

Location



Activities

Walk

On any open fire road marked R for Rochester.

Watch

Eagles, osprey, migrating birds, small and large mammals, native plants, various tree species.

Fish

With valid license allowed at some points on the shoreline. Please see APC map for details.

Bike

On the trails only. No motorized vehicles allowed.

Ski

On the trails only. Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

Ride

On the trails only. Park horse trailers at the corner of Route 105 and North Avenue.

All APC (Assawompsett Pond Complex) rules apply, including specific fishing areas. No wading or swimming as this is a public water supply.

New Bedford Waterworks



10 ft. Contour

Trail

Protected Land

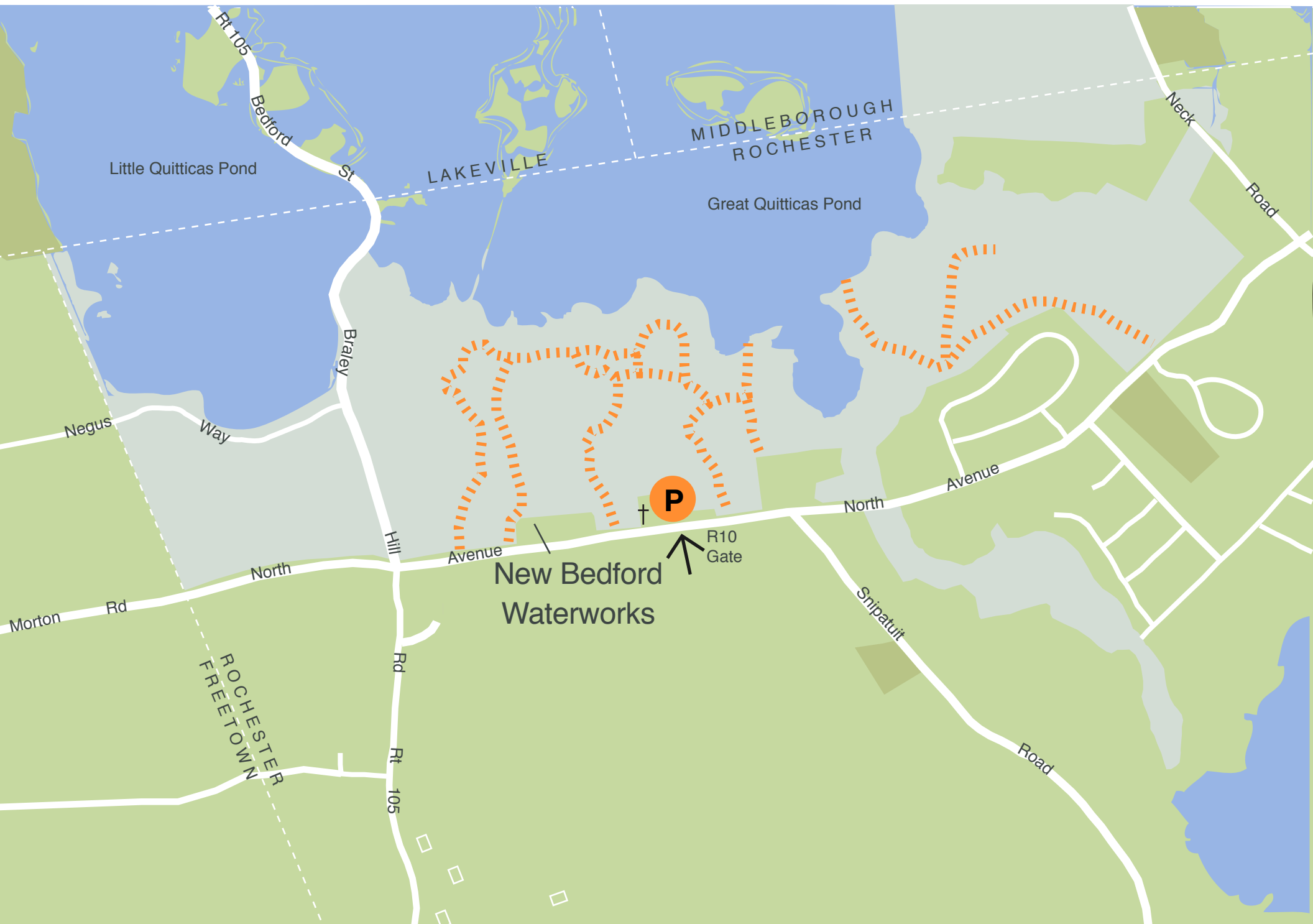
Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



9. Town Forest / Old Colony RVTHS

A 17.62 - acre property owned by the Town of Rochester



Clarence W. Maxim donated this 17- acre property to the Town of Rochester in 1952 in memory of his parents Marcus and Rebecca Officer Maxim. The trail connects at both ends with the cross-country trail that runs around the perimeter and through the grounds of Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School. The entire trail is open but the cross-country team has the right of way!

This densely wooded property contains mostly mature white pine and hardwoods. The existing trail passes through thick woods.

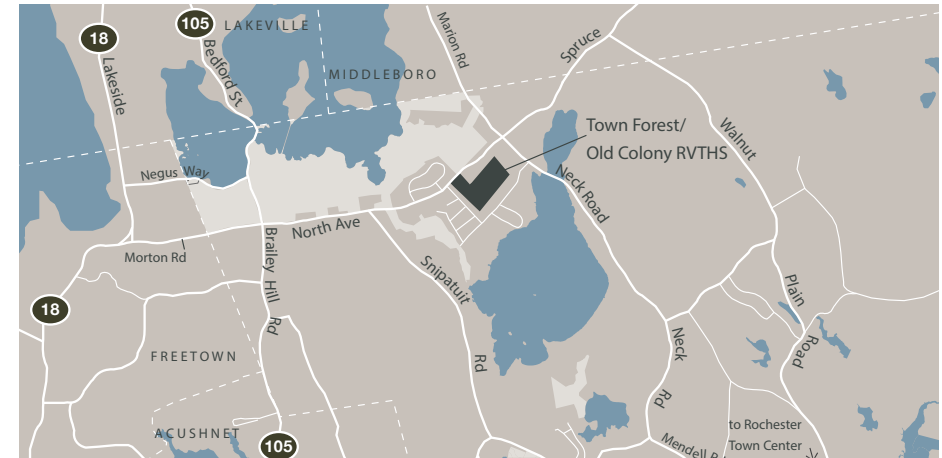
The Algonquin Gas easement is open grassland and the area on either side of the easement is relatively accessible. This property is a managed woodlot so occasionally tree cutting and forest management will occur here.

This land and the surrounding Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School were part of the farm that Charles Maxim built on returning from

the Civil War. As recently as the 1960s, the Reeds lived here and grew large fields of melons and strawberries that they sold at a farm stand in a former gas station on North Avenue. Many of the pine forests in Rochester were fields as recently as the 1960s.

In approximately 1970 the land was sold for the high school and the frontage for houses. There is a local tale that Mr. Lawrence, a well driller, was able to dowse to find the school's required water source after many engineering tests and searches had failed.

Location



Activities

Walk

The circular path starts on the entry road to the school. Park in the first lot to the right at the Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School. Loop trail is 1.3 miles long.

Watch

Many species of field and forest birds and animals.

Bike

On the trails only. No motorized vehicles allowed.

Ski

On the trails only. Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

Town Forest / Old Colony RVTHS



10 ft. Contour

Trail

Protected Land

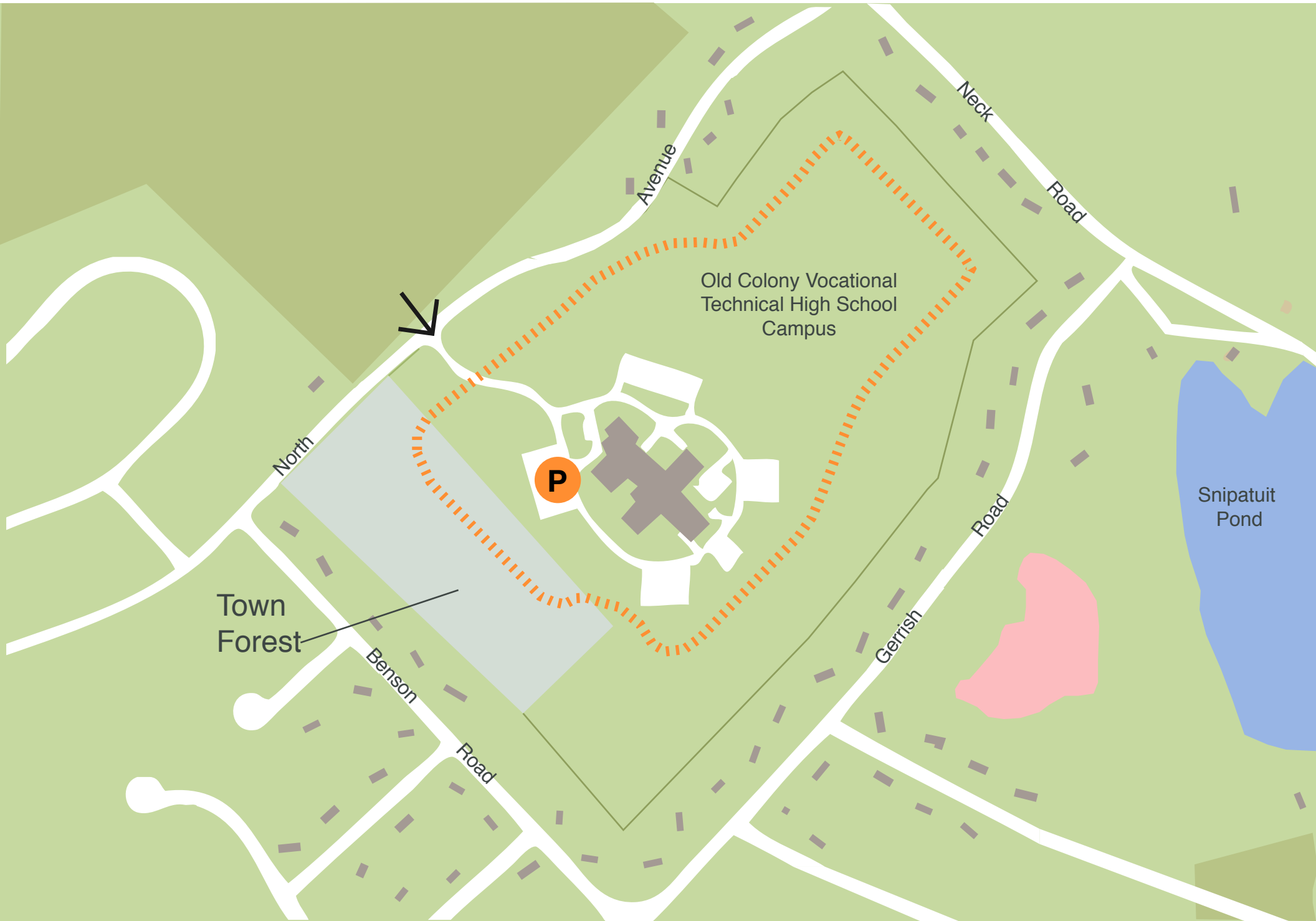
Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



10. Rounseville II Preserve

A 48.3 - acre property owned by the Wildlands Trust



This Wildlands Trust property was a gift from Winifred Rounseville in 1994. The entrance is off Mary's Pond Road with off-street parking to the rear of the Raynor Gifford ball field. The trailhead is in the back corner of the ball field.

The Rounseville family has been stewards of land in Rochester since Alden Rounseville returned from the California gold fields in the 1850s and enlarged the family's saw mill on the Mattapoissett River. The family continued to buy tracts of land for woodlots and, starting with Winifred, continuing with her son Linc (pictured above) whose kindly face many remember, and now with the next generation, the family has insured the preservation of hundreds of acres of land in Rochester.

The trail enters pine-oak woodlands and passes an old bog before ascending a large (for Rochester!) hill. Below the hill is Sherman Brook, which flows into Doggett's Brook, one of the

few streams in Rochester that has a native brown trout population.

The main trail encircles a wooded swamp and returns back to the entrance trail behind the ball field. The property was logged heavily in the 1970s and has grown up substantially since then.

The abundant lady slipper population has diminished due to less light and deer predation, but they are still easy to find in the Spring. The small bog area behind Plumb Corner has some unusual plants including cotton grass which looks like its name.

Bird songs abound allowing many sightings for the quiet walker.

Location



Activities

Walk

Circular trail from back corner of Raynor Gifford Park. Loop trail is 1 mile long.

Watch

Signs of deer and fox, sightings of woodland birds including towhee and flicker.

Picnic

There are no picnic tables available, but an area at the top of the hill is perfect for an impromptu meal.

Bike

Trails are steep in some sections. No motorized vehicles allowed.

Ski

Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

Rounseville II Preserve



10 ft. Contour



Protected Land

Private Property



House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs



11. Shoolman Preserve

A 112 - acre property co-owned by the Mattapoissett and Rochester Land Trusts and Rochester Conservation Commissions.



The Shoolman Preserve (formerly called Olde Field or Oldfield Farm) was donated to the Mattapoissett Land Trust by Edith and Eliot Schoolman in 1984. The Mattapoissett and Rochester Land Trusts entered into a joint ownership/stewardship agreement in 2015. Edith was an avid birder and wanted the land to remain as a habitat for wildlife. The adjacent Olde Field house and barns are private property.

This property was part of an historic farm built by the Gammons family prior to 1850. In the mid-1960s, the farm was owned by the Oldfield family.

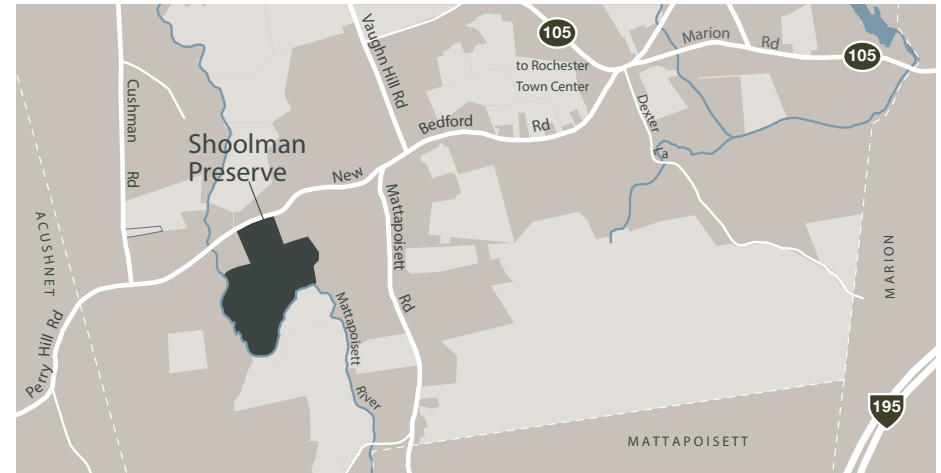
A parking lot and kiosk are located at approximately 200 New Bedford Road, by the 'Public Welcome' sign at the west edge of the field. A one mile loop trail may be entered in either direction from the kiosk. The main/eastern trail is accessed by following the mowed path along the fields west edge, close to the woods and across the back of the field until entering the woods on an old woods road near a picnic table. Soon after entering the

woods, a trail spur to the left leads to a vernal pool. This half-mile main/eastern trail leads to the Mattapoissett River and another picnic table.

The second entrance to the right of the kiosk leads to a newer/western trail, which cuts through property owned by the Rochester Conservation Commission, and splits to continue the loop or leads to a quarter mile spur to a lovely Holly Grove by the river.

Licensed hunting is permitted. Non-hunters should be aware of seasons and dress accordingly.

Location



Activities

Walk

Main/eastern trail is relatively flat and easy walking. The newer/western trail has a hill and rougher footing throughout. Trails total 1.5 miles.

Watch

Many species of field, wood and riverine birds along with deer, fox, wood frogs, and box turtles have been seen. The woods have significant populations of Holly and Pitch Pine.

Picnic

One picnic table is located at the back of the field and another close to the river.

Hunt

Licensed hunting is allowed. Visitors should be aware of hunting seasons when visiting this property and dress accordingly.

Fish

Fishing is allowed with a valid license. There is limited access to the Mattapoissett River.

Motorized Vehicles

Not permitted anywhere on this property.

Shoolman Preserve



Parking and Kiosk

River



Houses/Buildings



Other Protected Land



Trail

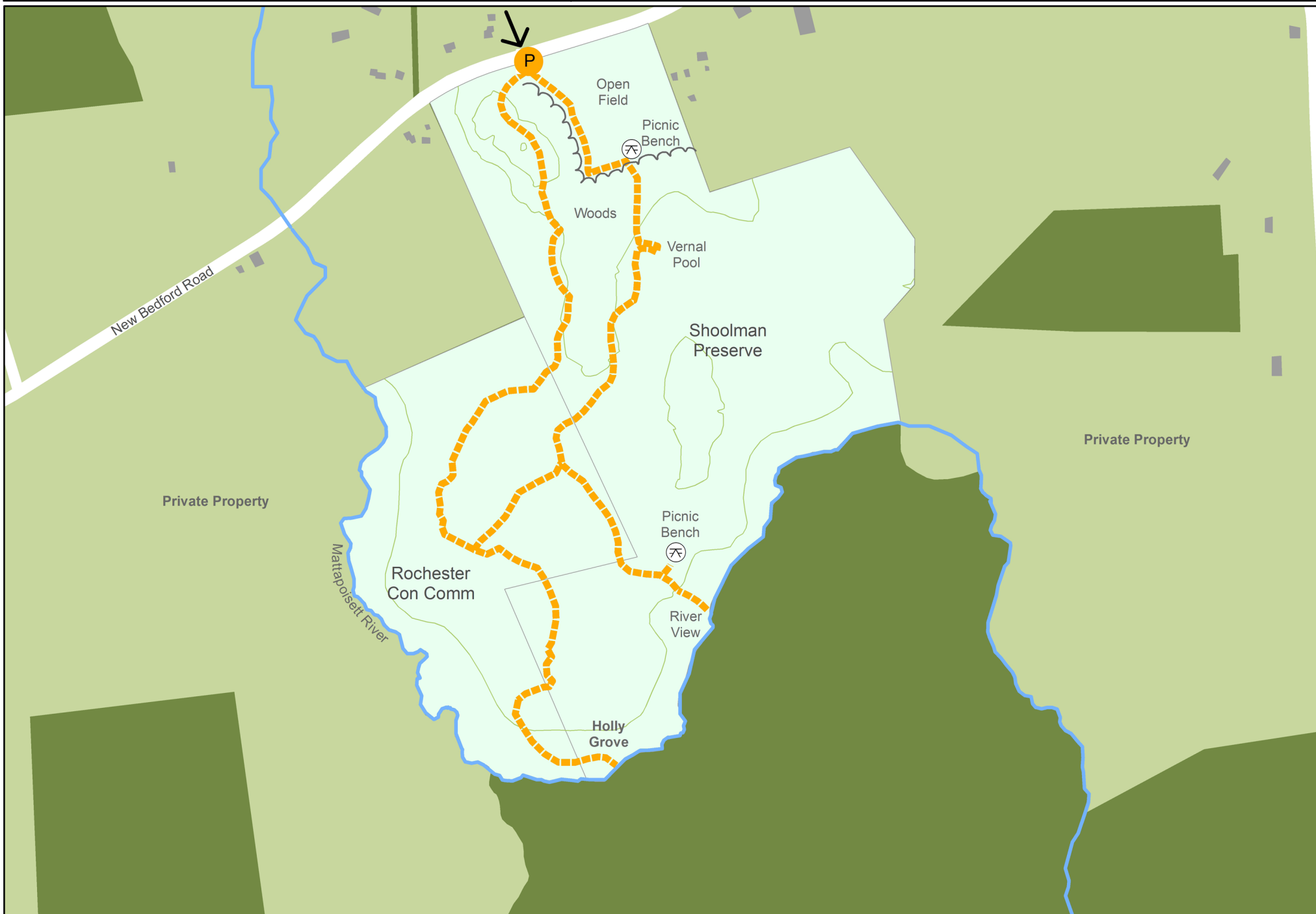
10-foot Contour



Protected Land



Private Property



12. Church's Field

A 32 - acre property owned by the Rochester Land Trust



This property was purchased by the Rochester Land Trust in 2010 from George Church. The property consists of an open field, wet meadow, wooded uplands, hardwood swamps and a floodplain on the Mattapoissett River.

This land was part of an original 1600s colonial grant from the King of England to Benjamin Church, one of the heroes of King Philip's War. Although Church settled in the Somerset area, his sons settled in Rochester. There is a cellar hole from one of their houses on the west side of the river. The family farmed and sold timber sawn at their mill to the thriving shipbuilding industry located in Mattapoissett Village.

Park near the Church's Field sign and cross the field, which will be maintained for optimum field bird habitat, and enter the woods through the opening in the stone wall. The trail passes through a mixed hardwood

forest and wetlands where frogs and diverse ferns and mosses grow. There is a pile of glacial erratics just before the river that may have been an Indian landmark. Tousand, one of Phillip's war chiefs, had his village across the road in Haskell (Bear) Swamp.

The trail finally comes to the Mattapoissett River where the benches at this peaceful site are perfect for private reflection.

Return by the same route or continue onto the woods road that is on the property of the Church Cultural and Historic Family Trust.

Location



Activities

Walk

From the road through the field and then along the woods trail to the Mattapoissett River...be aware of State hunting seasons when walking the trails. Trail is .85 miles in length.

Watch

Various upland mammals, field and forest birds and riverine reptiles and amphibians. The summer wildflower display at the river is outstanding.

Picnic

On the table in the field or on the benches near the Mattapoissett River. Please take any trash away with you.

Fish

With a valid license.

Ski

On the trails only. Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

Hunt

Licensed hunting is allowed. Visitors should be aware of hunting seasons when visiting this property and dress accordingly.

Church's Field



Parking



Trails



Church's Field



Other Protected Land



Private Property



Houses/Buildings



Wetland



Open Field



Mattapoissett River



10-Foot Contours



13. Doggetts Brook Recreational Area

100 acres of land protected by the Town of Rochester, Rochester Land Trust, and The Wildlands Trust



The trail originates at the Dexter Lane ball fields and meanders by a reservoir, abandoned cranberry bogs, vernal pool and through open fields and woodland bordering on Doggetts Brook in a circular route.

The 1.5 mile loop trail is marked in both directions and is an easy walk that takes about 30-40 minutes to complete.

The Town of Rochester collaborated with the Rochester Land Trust and the Wildlands Trust to acquire a 29.61 acre key parcel of land linking the Dexter Lane Recreational Area and Town owned abandoned cranberry bogs to the Wildlands Trust owned Lincoln Holmes Memorial Woods. Over 100 acres of contiguous land is now available to residents for both active and passive recreational use.

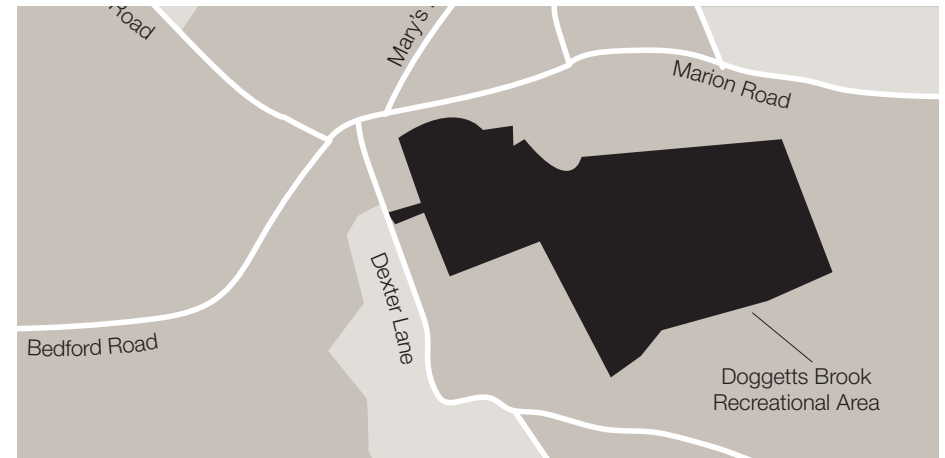
This land is thought to be the area of White Hall, an English styled estate

named after the family seat in England owned by Samuel Prince, the largest land owner in Colonial Rochester.

The corduroy or log road, named "The Long Bridge" passed through here from Sippican Harbor to the church in Rochester Center.

Visit the vernal pool just off the trail in the northern portion of the site in the spring to see egg masses of the spotted salamander, wood frog, and other amphibians. Vernal (spring) pools are temporary ponds created by spring rains and snow melts and often dry up by mid-summer. These unique wildlife habitats are best known as amphibian breeding sites.

Location



Activities

Walk

Access the loop trail from the Dexter Lane Recreational Area restrooms, cross between the ball fields to the trail sign at the edge of the woods, go over the bog dike road to the kiosk. The loop trail starts on either edge of the field ahead. Walk is .25 miles from the trail head to kiosk. Loop trail is 1.1 miles long.

Watch

Various upland mammals, field and forest birds and riverine reptiles and amphibians.

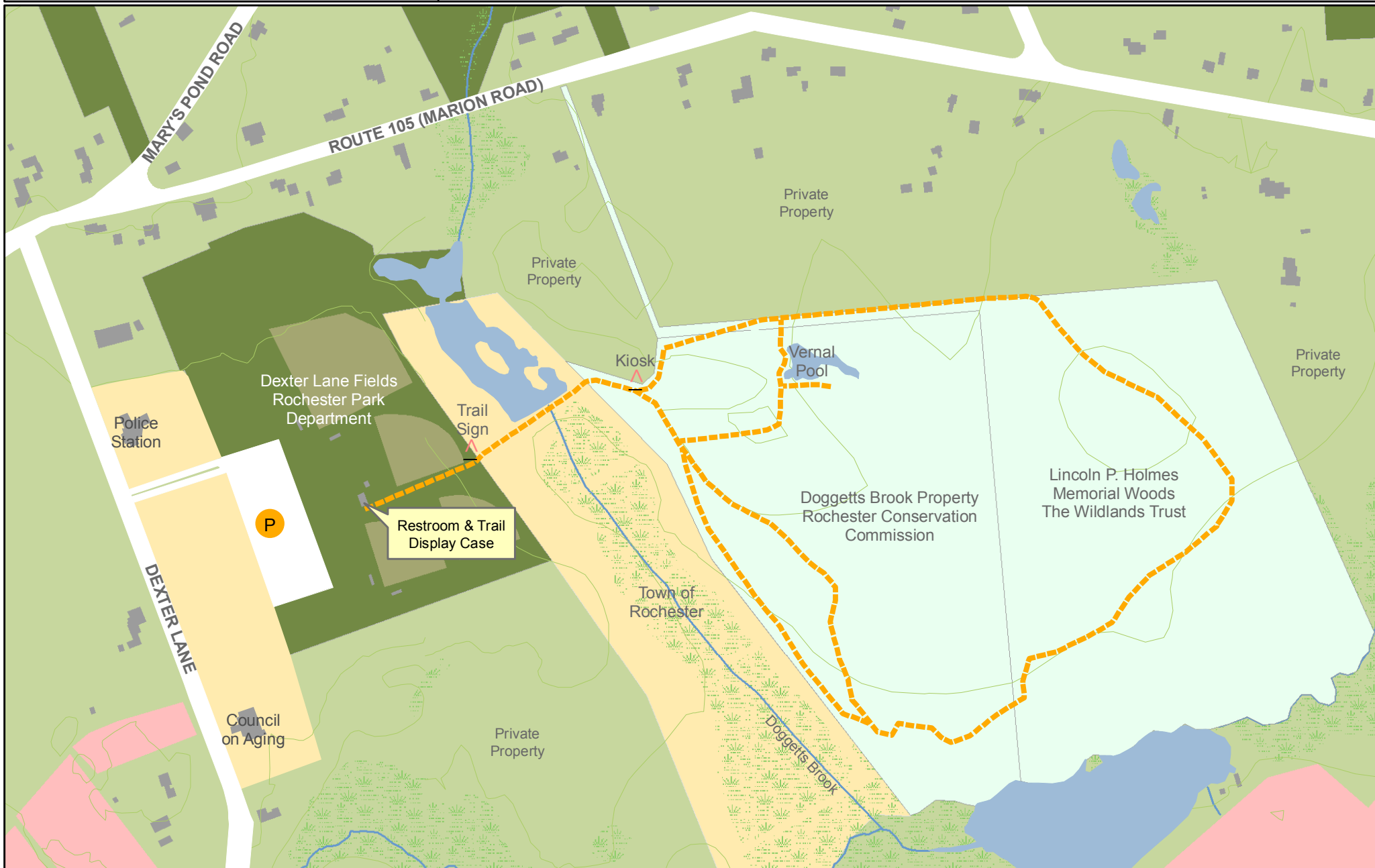
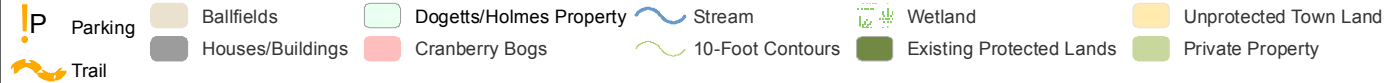
Fish

With a valid license. Doggetts Brook has a population of Sea Run Brown Trout.

Ski

On the trails only. Motorized vehicles are not permitted.

Doggetts Brook



14. Kirby Preserve

A 3.5 acre property owned by the Rochester Land Trust



This 3.5 acre diverse property with varied terrain was donated to the Rochester Land Trust by Meryden Kirby, a long time Rochester resident that wanted to see the property permanently protected.

The Kirby Preserve is a small but interesting property with loop trails that meander around small hills and lowland that used to be an old gravel borrow pit. A short plank footbridge crosses an intermittent stream, which flows from the north into a certified vernal pool.

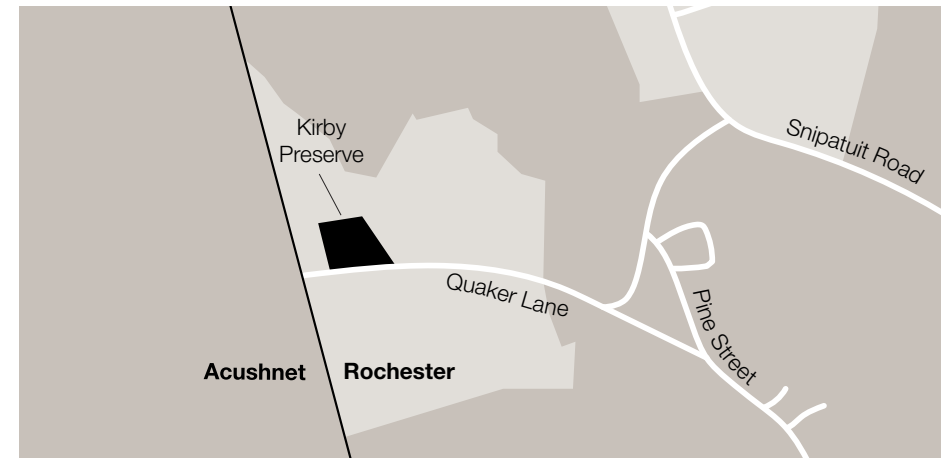
Vernal pools are unique wildlife habitats best known for the amphibians and invertebrate animals that use them to breed. Vernal pools typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rainfall and rising groundwater and remain ponded

through the spring and into the summer. Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations, which is critical to the success of many amphibian and invertebrate species.

Visit the vernal pool in the spring to see egg masses of the spotted salamander, wood frog and other amphibians.

Parking is limited to the roadway shoulder.

Location



Activities

Walk

Enjoy a quiet getaway on a short loop trail that can be walked in as little as 15-20 minutes. Entrance to trail is located where roadway shoulder is most level. Loop trail is .2 miles long.

Watch

Climb one of the small hills and look down on the wetlands, intermittent stream and vernal pool. Look for various upland mammals, forest birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Picnic

There are several nice spots to spread out a blanket and enjoy a picnic.

Kirby Preserve



Kirby Preserve



Private Property



Houses/Buildings



Wetland



Vernal Pool



Intermittent Stream



Trails



10-Foot Contours



15. Lionberger Woods

43.3 - acres of land protected by the Rochester Land Trust and Town of Rochester



This special property was named to commemorate Arthur and Alene Lionberger, whose generosity has significantly contributed to allowing the Rochester Land Trust (RLT) to preserve land in Rochester.

Much of this property and the neighboring Haskell Ridge development was originally part of the Major Nathaniel Haskell Farm.

Access the property through the town owned drainage parcel located at approximately 75 Haskell Ridge Road. Park beside the split rail fence, enter by the RLT sign and follow the left side path to the kiosk at the property entrance.

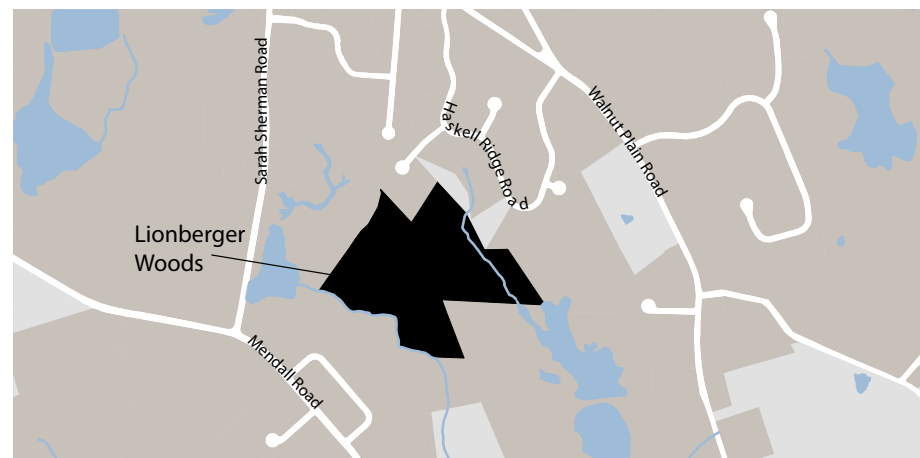
A 26.5 - acre property (originally called Haskell Woods) was donated to the RLT in 2006 by the Fordyce Properties Trust, but due to inaccessibility wasn't

opened to the public until 2016, when RLT purchased an abutting parcel.

The property acquisition gives visitors access to several trails made by wildlife, neighborhood kids, and hunters over the years. Staying to the right and climbing the hill leads to the Conservation Commission property, which has a shaded picnic table overlooking neighboring cranberry bogs.

Hunting and motorized vehicles are prohibited as requested by the donors.

Location



Activities

Walk

Follow the trail to the right as it winds up the hill toward the Conservation Commission parcel or take one of the several offshoots to the left, which loop back to the main trail. There are over 1.5 miles of trails.

Bird

Woodpeckers, thrushes, jays, and many more woodland species can be heard and seen throughout.

Watch

Signs of deer, fox, and owl may be seen along the trails.

Picnic

Enjoy the shade of the thick canopy while picnicking at the table near the top of the hill trail.

Ski

The main trail offers a moderate hill where a skier might pick up a little speed. Snowshoeing is also a possibility.

Lionberger Woods



10-foot Contours



Trail



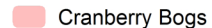
Stream



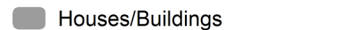
Waterbodies



Houses/Buildings



Cranberry Bogs



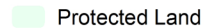
Unprotected Town-owned Land



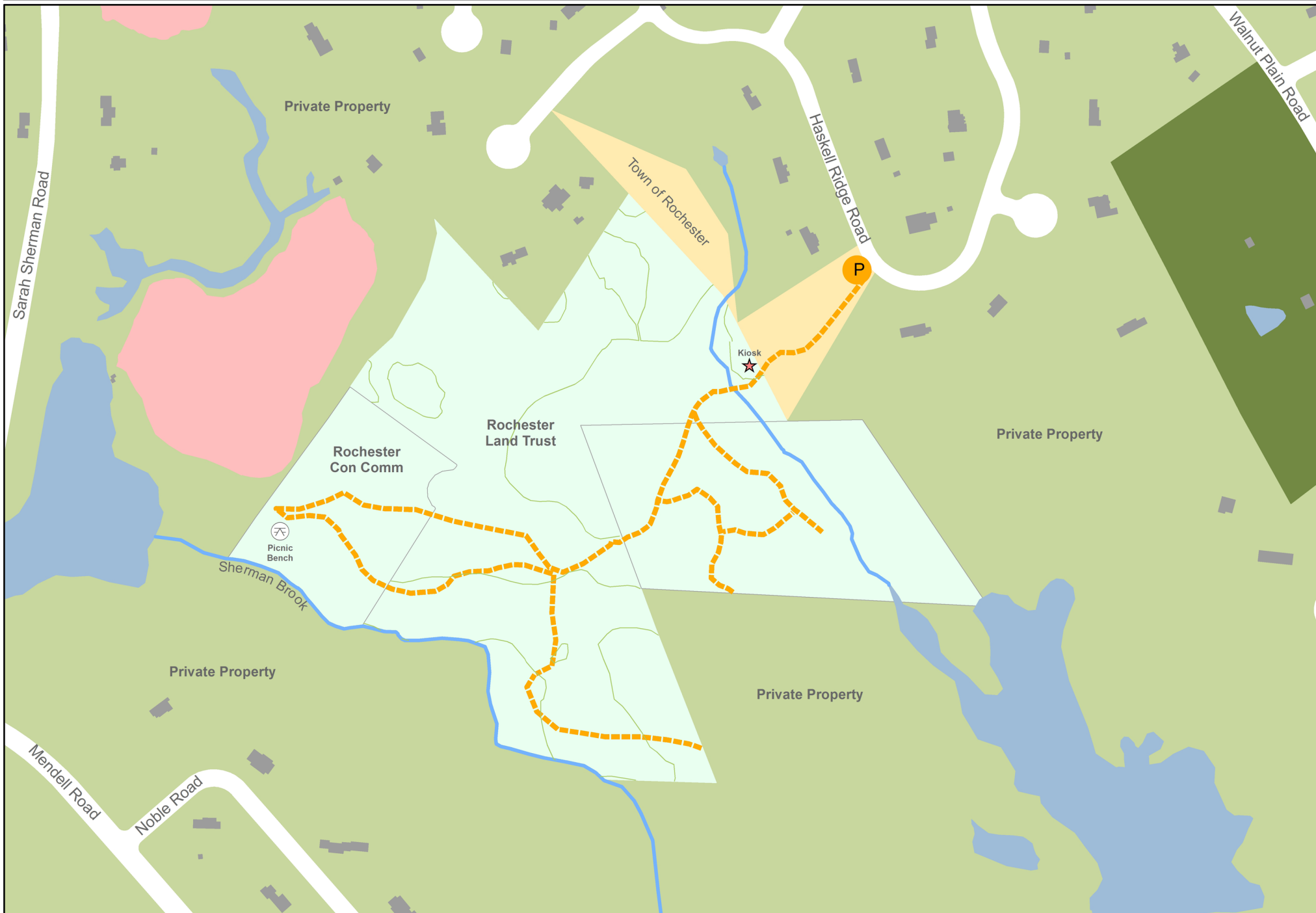
Other Protected Land



Private Property



Protected Land



Resources and Links

Any of these properties may be seasonally flooded or have other hazards. If you encounter blowdowns over trails or any property disturbances, please contact the respective property owners so the problem can be corrected.

If these walks whet your appetite, check out these connections to the owners of the properties. You may find other places nearby to enjoy the outdoors.



Rochester Land Trust:

PO Box 337, Rochester, MA 02770
info@rochesterlandtrust.org
www.rochesterlandtrust.org



Town of Rochester:

Conservation Commission
37 Marion Road, Rochester, MA 02770
lfarinon@townofrochester.com
www.rochestermconservation.com



Mattapoissett Land Trust:

P.O. Box 31 Mattapoissett, MA 02739
info@mattlandtrust.org
www.mattlandtrust.org



Wildlands Trust:

675 Long Road Plymouth, MA 02360
info@wildlandstrust.org
www.wildlandstrust.org



The Trustees of Reservations:

Doyle Center
464 Abbott Avenue Leominster, MA 01453
information@ttor.org
www.thetrustees.org



Massachusetts Dept of Fish & Game Wildlife Field Headquarters

1 Rabbit Hill Rd Westborough, MA 01581
Mass.Wildlife@state.ma.us
www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw

