

# TRAIL GUIDE



## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area. All people are allowed to enjoy AVIS land.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)



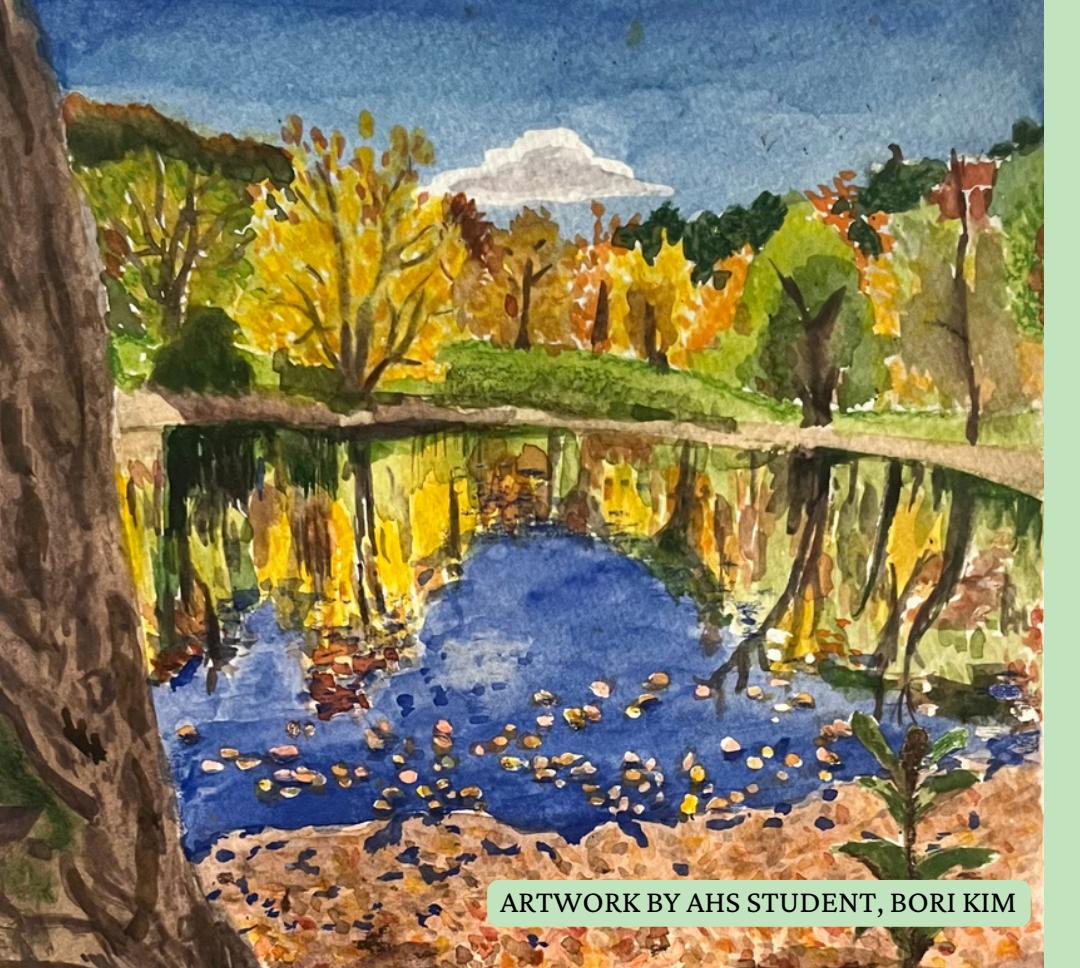
## Indian Ridge, West Parish Meadow, Baker's Meadow, And Sakowich Reservations

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

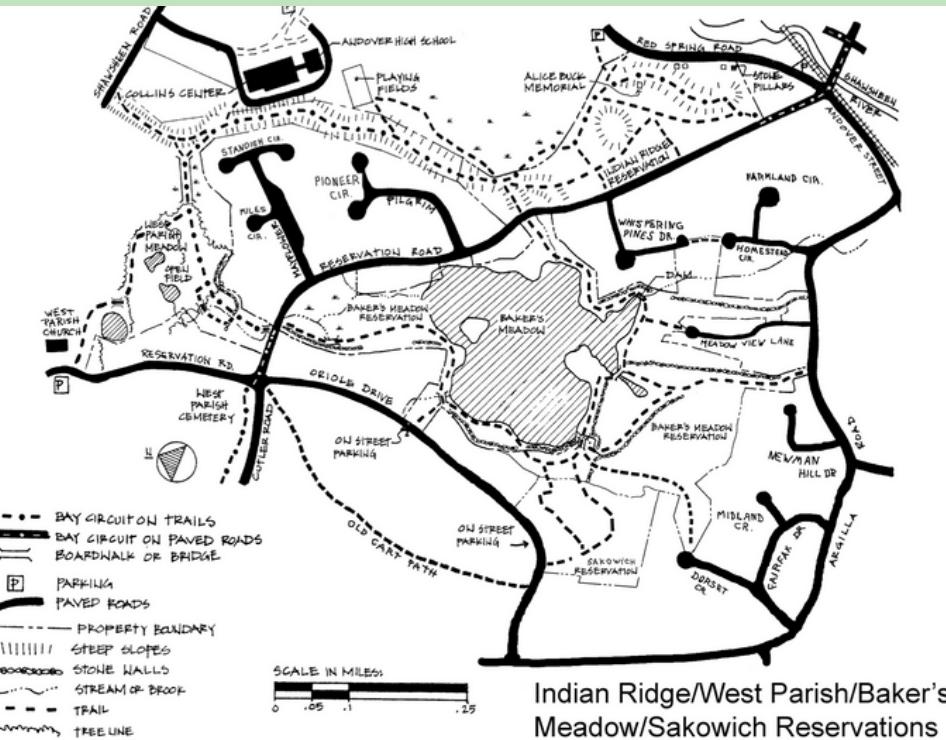
"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"  
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

### INDIAN RIDGE, WEST PARISH MEADOW, BAKER'S MEADOW, AND SAKOWICH RESERVATION MAP



Indian Ridge/West Parish/Baker's Meadow/Sakowich Reservations

#### Features:

- Baker's Meadow: More than 145 species of birds, including herons, migrating ducks and nesting Canadian geese, have been observed in Baker's Meadow. The wetlands also provide vital habitat for muskrat, mink and beaver.
- Indian Ridge: 10,000 to 12,000 years ago the Wisconsin Glacier covered Andover. Eskers, reach up to 50 feet.
- West Parrish Meadow: One of the few true meadows remaining in town, has several small ponds, beautiful expanses of wildflowers, and many birds
- Sakowich: Encompasses a wooded knoll with mixed hardwood and pine, providing access to the pond and the Baker's Meadow Reservation trails.

#### History:

- Baker's Meadow: really a pond, was named for Dr. Symonds Baker, who owned most of the area during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
- Indian Ridge: In 1896, Indian Ridge was offered for sale by the Hartwell Abbots. Alice Buck, one of Andover's first conservationists, led efforts to save the Ridge. Her cause inspired editorials in Boston and New York newspapers and articles in national magazines.
- West Parrish Meadow: In 1992, AVIS purchased West Parish Meadow from nearby West Parish Church.
- Sakowich: Gladys and Tony Sakowich purchased eight house lots and built a home in the middle of them in 1961. In 2011, they generously donated their nine acre house lot at the northwest corner of the pond to AVIS.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Bonier Reservation

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"  
- Sylvia Plath

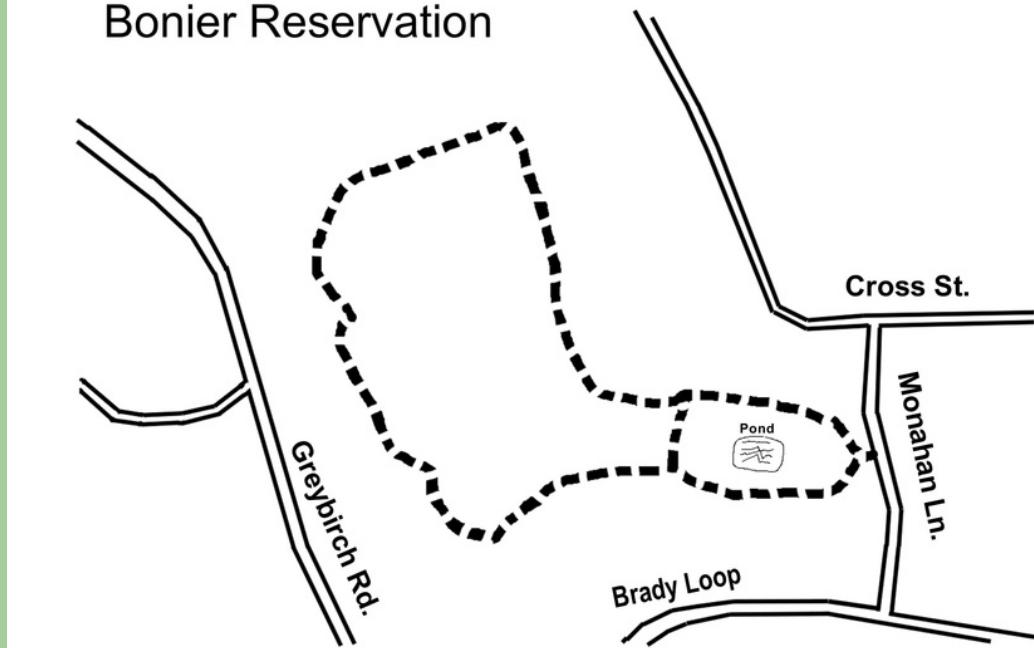
Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## BONIER RESERVATION MAP

Richard J.  
Bonier Reservation



### Features:

This forest is preserved through the care and foresight of Dick Bonier and his family. This loop trail is filled with contrasting textures: the moist soil underfoot, the mosses and ferns along the trail, the shaggy shagbark hickory bark, the smooth gray "muscles" of the ironwood trunks, and the delicate curls of birch bark. The dying white ash trees along the trail show damage from the Emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that is killing ash trees across the country. As you look, you'll see that woodpeckers have peeled back sections of bark, exposing the bore-holes that these insects leave behind. Dying trees create an opening in the tree canopy, allowing more light to reach the soil and begin the cycle of regrowth.

### History:

Once apart of the historic Bailey Farm said to encompass 700 acres along the Merrimack River. This 28-acre property was given to AVIS in 1983 by Helen Collins Dooley in memory of her parents, Joseph Morris Collins and Margaret Scannell Collins, and her grandparents, Morris Collins and Mary Schofield Collins.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Goldsmith Reservation

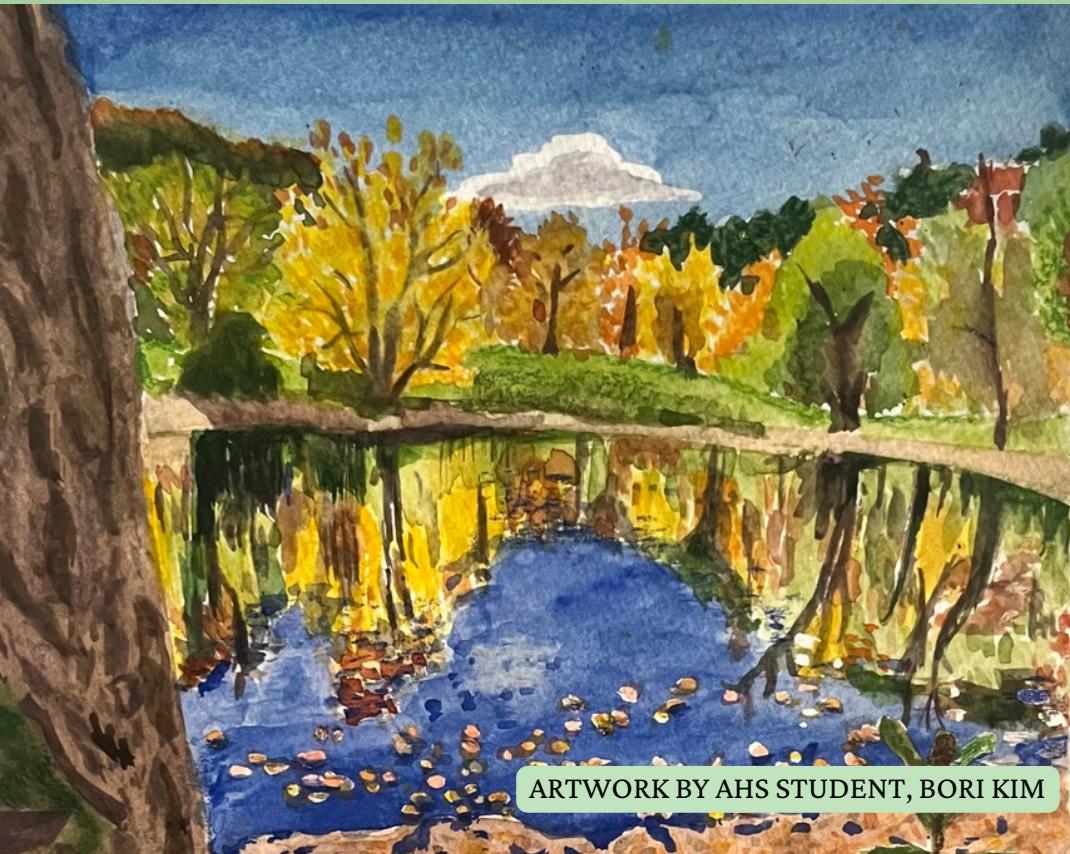
"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

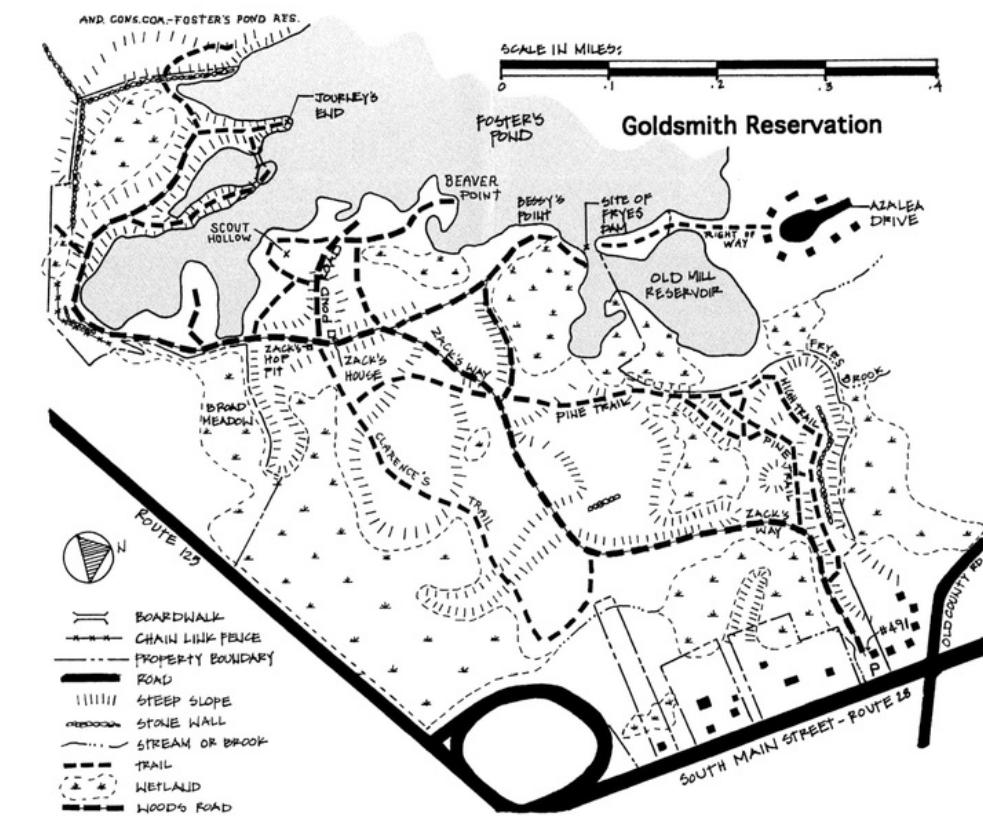
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## GOLDSMITH RESERVATION MAP



### Features:

Some of the trees, rhododendrons and laurels growing along the roadway in Goldsmith Woodlands were planted by Bessie Goldsmith herself. Note the avenues of black pines, so dense that few plants can grow beneath them. Lady slippers abound here in late spring and other plants rarely seen are visited by Harvard University botanists. The marshes adjacent to the pond are home to cattails, pitcher plants, sundew, snapping turtles and Great Blue Herons. The uplands provide habitat for resident deer, fisher, fox and wild turkey while owls patrol the margins.

### History:

Goldsmith Woodlands is rich in history. Relics of an Indigenous encampment have been found near Foster's Pond and a large number of projectile points (arrowheads) have been discovered north of Foster's Pond in Ballardvale. During the early 20th century, Goldsmith Woodlands were a favorite summer retreat. Bessie Goldsmith collected rent from those who had cottages on her land, the stories about Bessie Goldsmith's somewhat eccentric behavior in her devotion to protecting her woodlands are legendary. She lived in a rustic cabin on a knoll overlooking Foster's Pond on what is now called Bessie's point. In 1974, Bessie Goldsmith, a dedicated conservationist, donated her woodlands and land inherited from her brother Clarence to the Fund for Preservation of Wildlife and Natural Areas. AVIS became the caretakers in 1977 with funds given for maintenance out of Bessie's trust.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

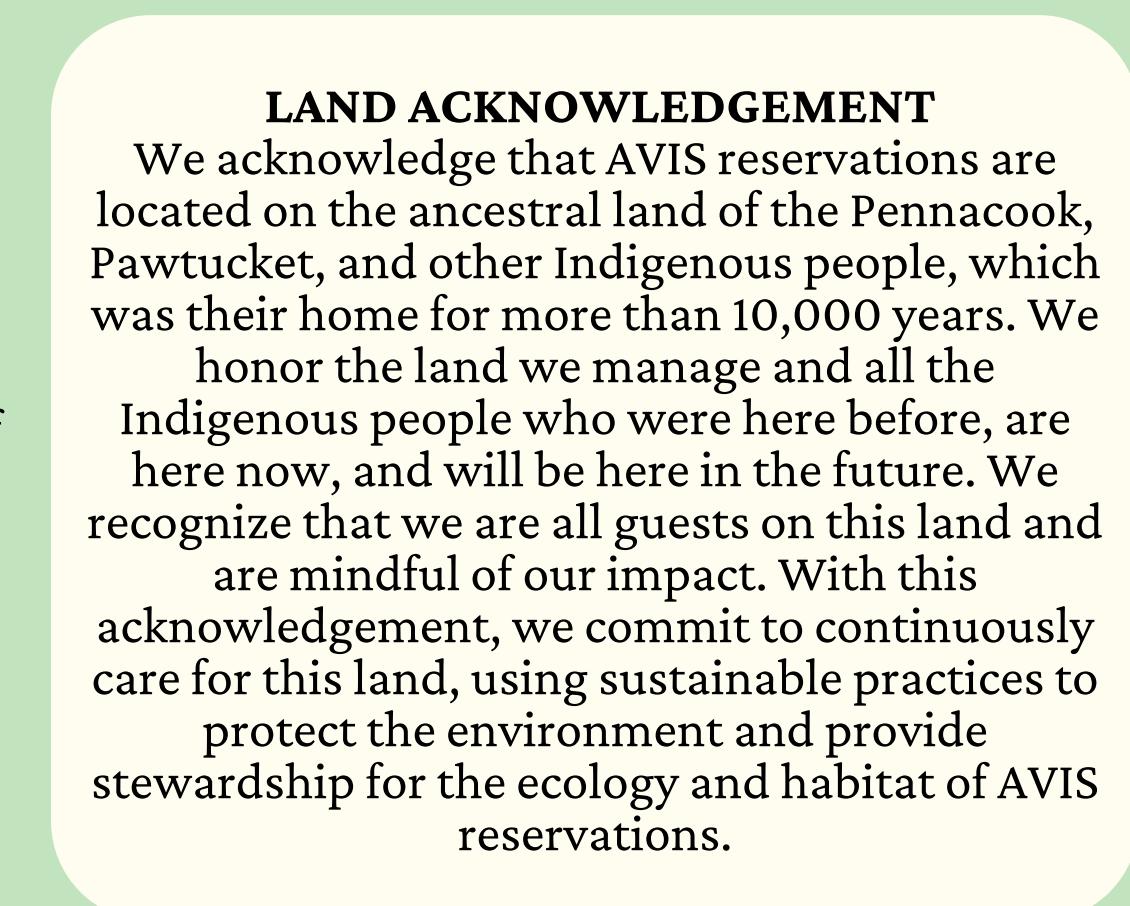
[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:



### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that AVIS reservations are located on the ancestral land of the Pennacook, Pawtucket, and other Indigenous people, which was their home for more than 10,000 years. We honor the land we manage and all the Indigenous people who were here before, are here now, and will be here in the future. We recognize that we are all guests on this land and are mindful of our impact. With this acknowledgement, we commit to continuously care for this land, using sustainable practices to protect the environment and provide stewardship for the ecology and habitat of AVIS reservations.



## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

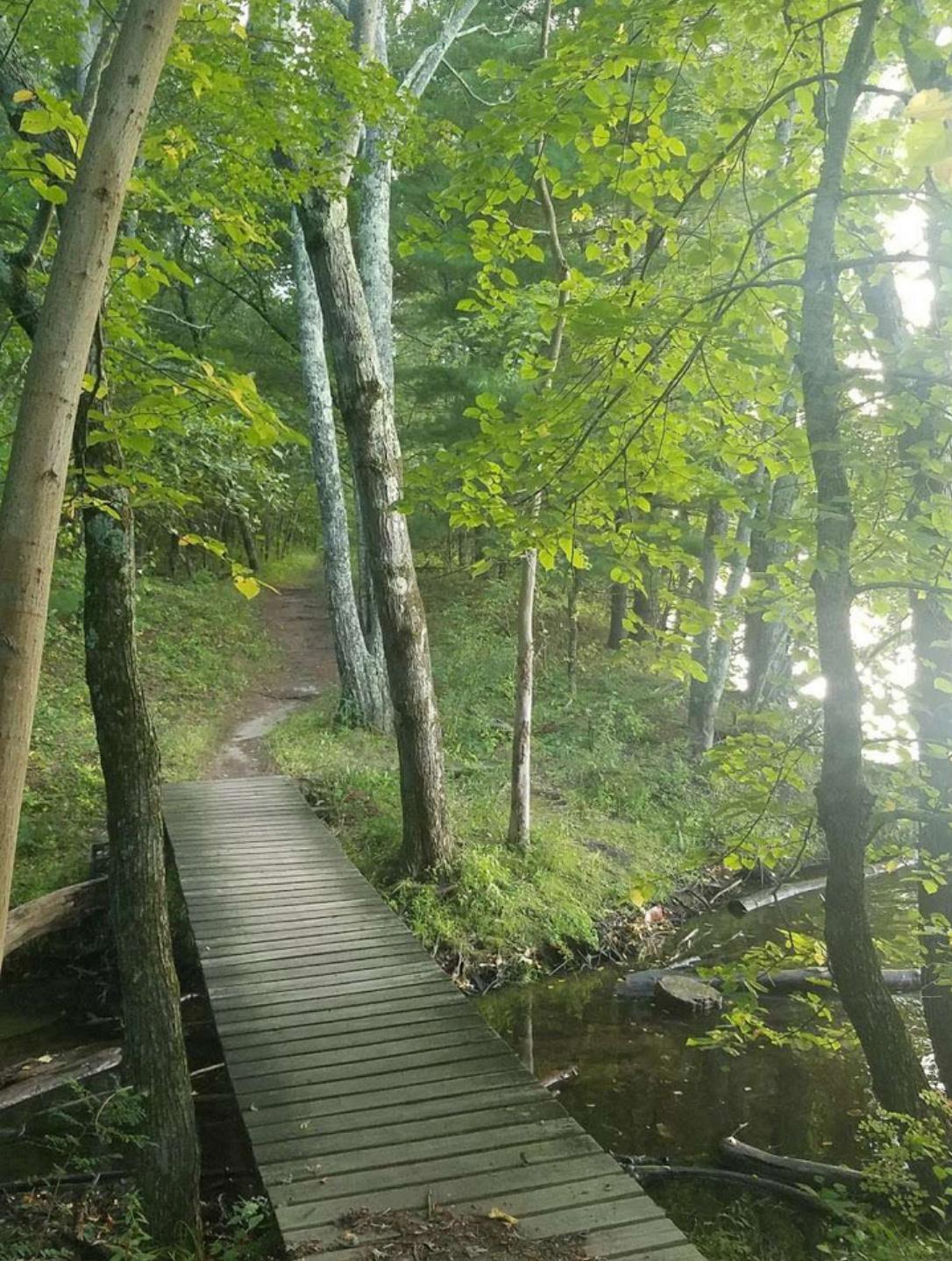
**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.

For further information, look online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Spalding, Deerjump, and Behrakis Reservations

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

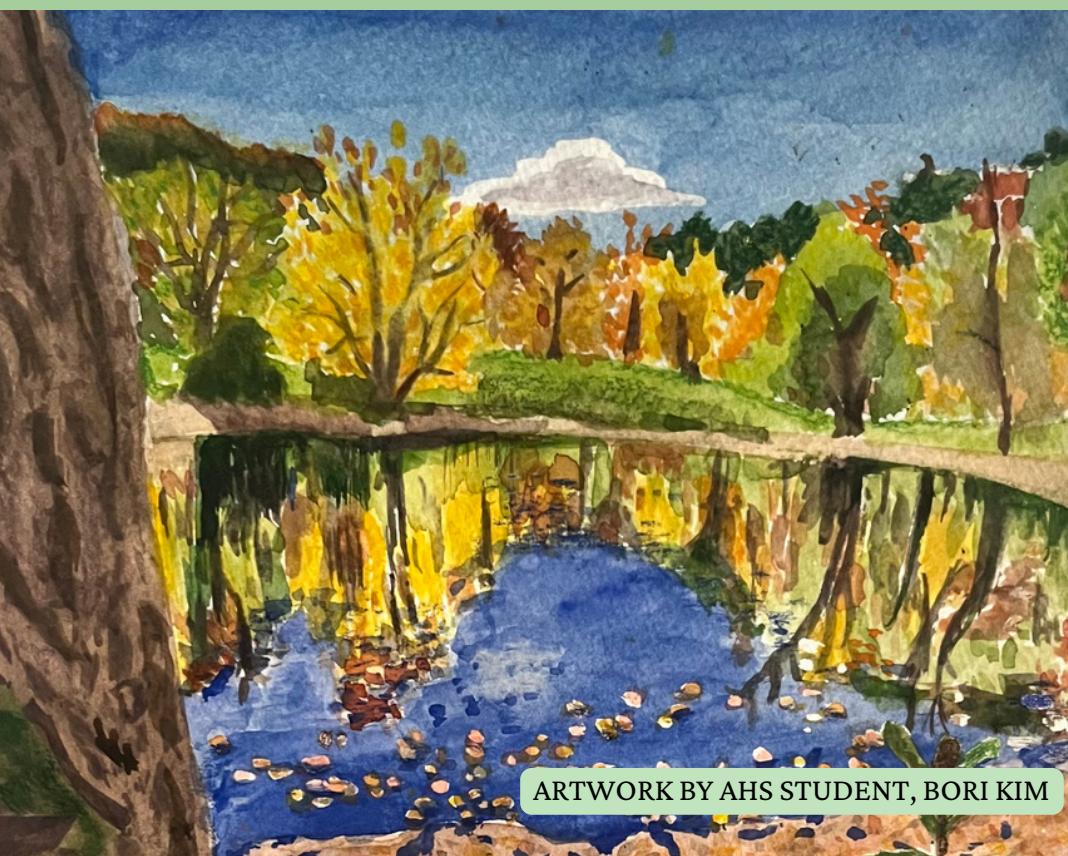


## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

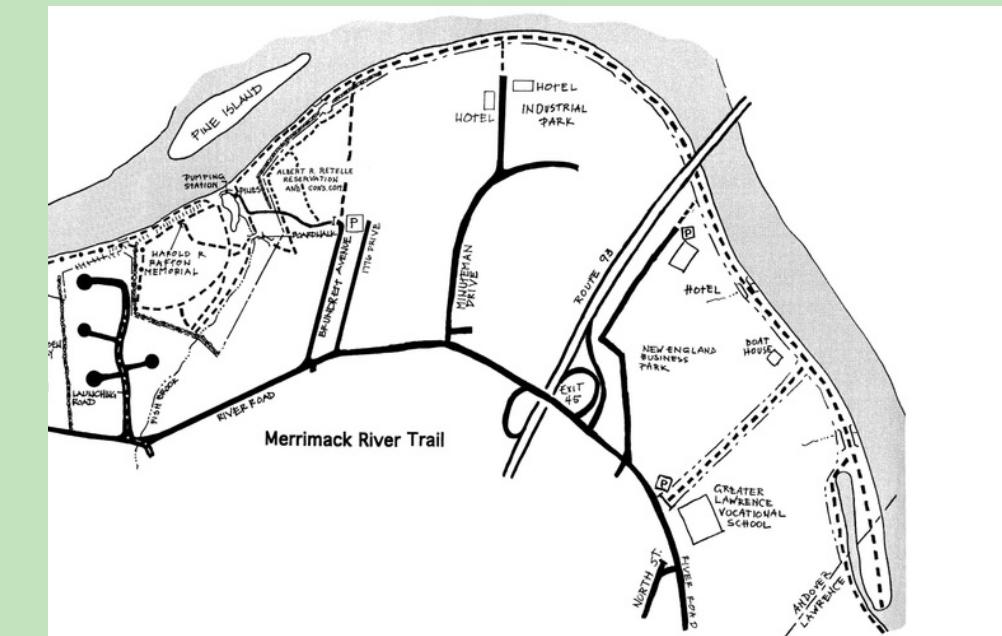
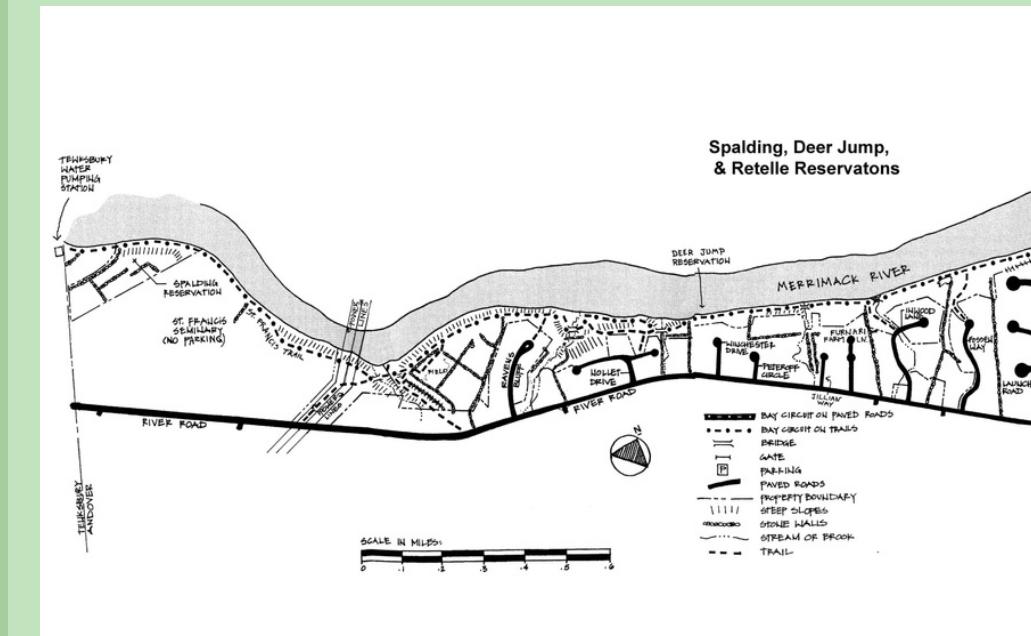
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## SPALDING, DEERJUMP, AND BEHRAKIS RESERVATION MAP



This beautiful collection of reservations is home to many beautiful hemlock groves, horsetail, an open meadow, and high bluffs. Filled with birches and wildflowers, the riverside trails encompass the Indigenous history of Andover as well. Long before European settlers came to Andover, the Pennacook Native Americans settled up and down the Merrimack River, fishing and hunting game. A Pennacook village was located on Pine Island and burial grounds have been found near the riverbank. Local Native American artifacts can be seen at the Phillips Academy Peabody Museum. This reservation is rich with history, and is great for understanding how our current town and land conservation organizations came to be.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

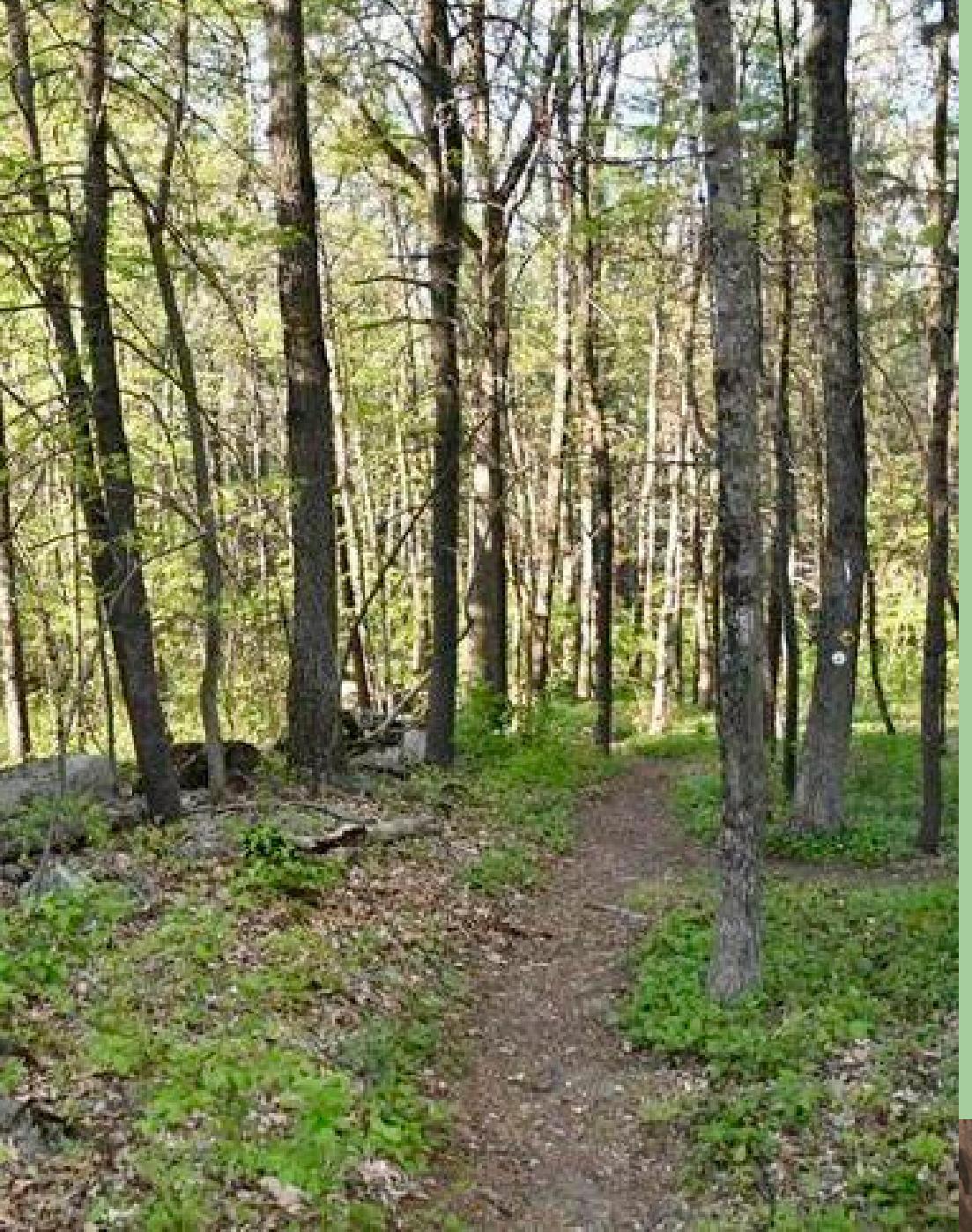
AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)



## Rafton Reservation

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

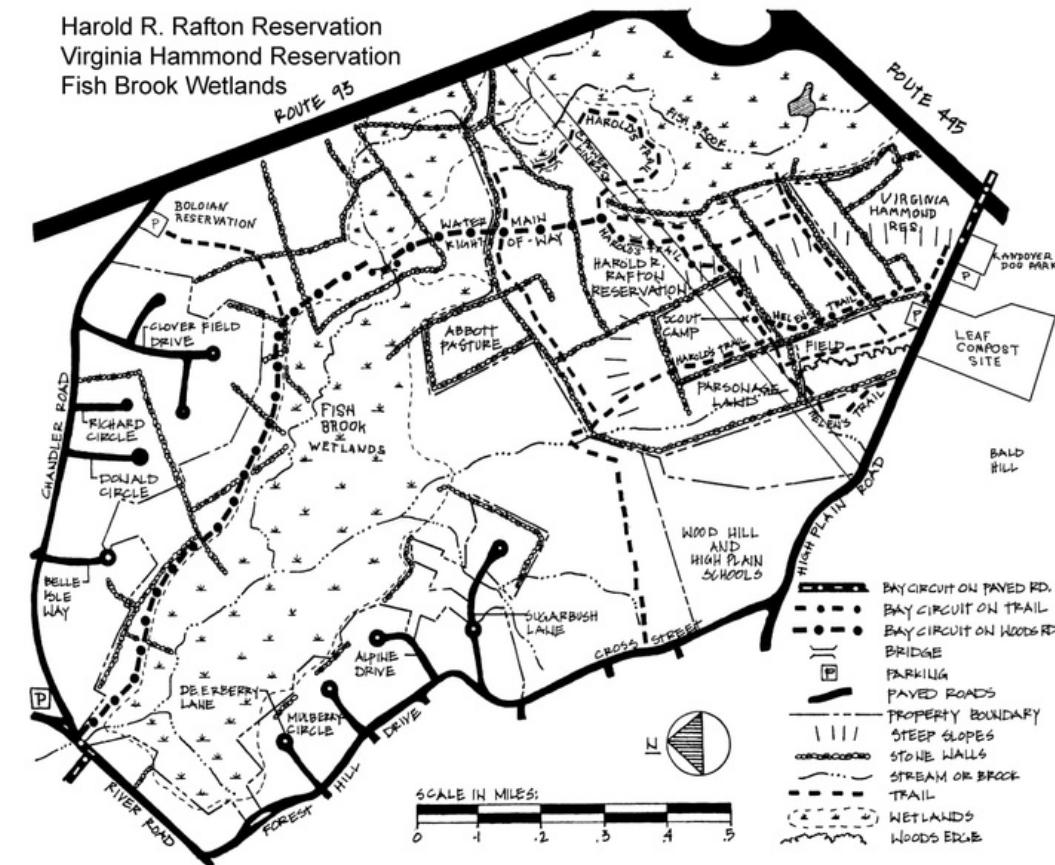
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

### RAFTON RESERVATION MAP



#### Features:

The largest of the AVIS reservations. Maple, birch, oak, hickory and sassafras trees can be found in these serene woods. Tall white pines grow along the ridges and hilltops and the ski loop trail passes through lovely hemlock groves. The forest floor is carpeted with ferns, partridgeberry and teaberry. Deer, beaver, fox and numerous bird species have been observed here.

#### History:

In 1968, this 226 acre property was named for Harold R. Rafton, Andover's "sturdiest conservationist." Mr. Rafton's ability to persuade landowners to sell or bequeath land to AVIS for conservation and public use is legendary. Rafton Reservation was once farmland and woodlot. Many of the old stone walls remain, evidence of this area's agricultural past. An annual winter breakfast followed by skiing or hiking through the reservation has become a modern AMC and AVIS tradition.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Stanley Reservation

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

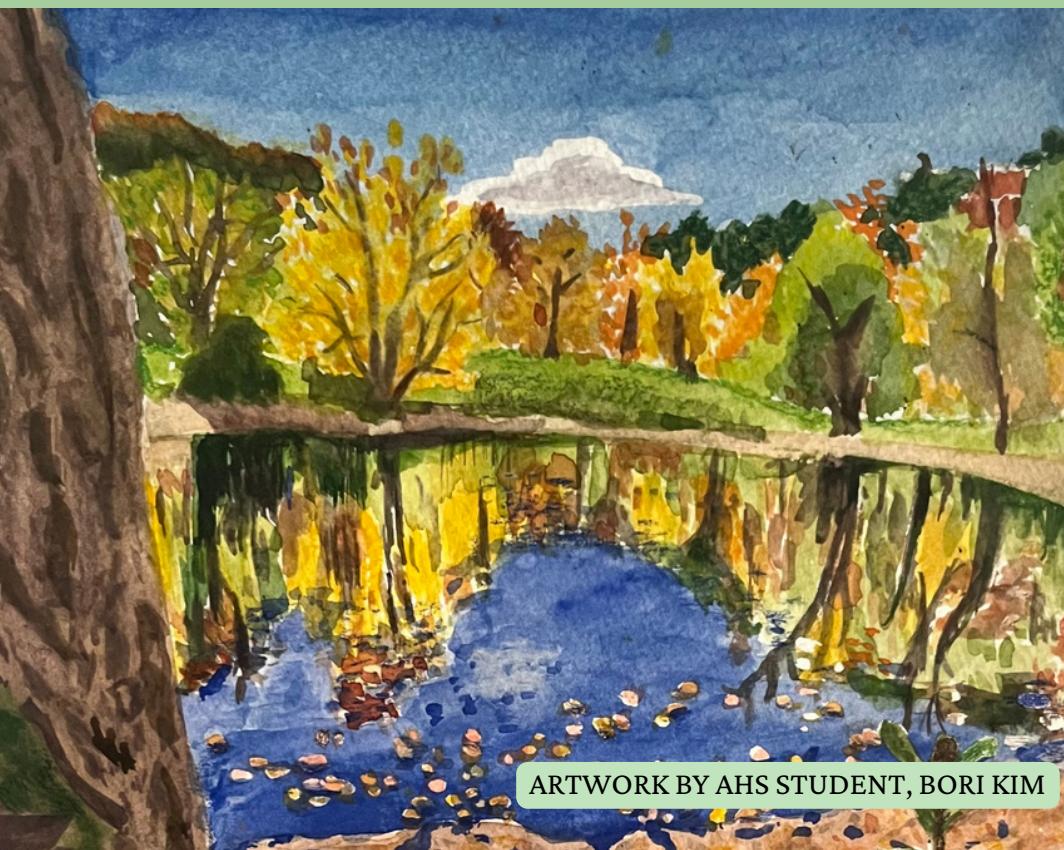


## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

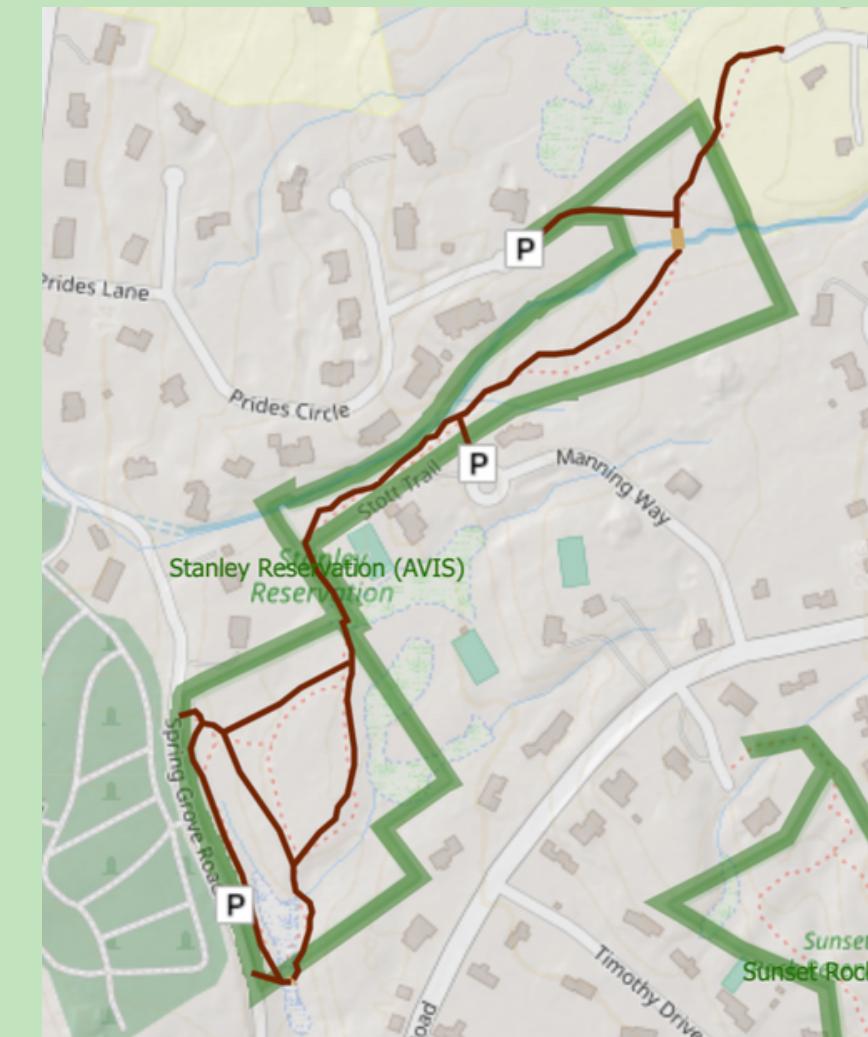
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## STANLEY RESERVATION MAP



### Features:

The woods in Stanley Reservation are characterized by tall oaks, mature pines and young maples. In summer green-headed coneflower, a pretty daisy-like flower, blooms in wet areas. There is a vernal pool in Stanley Reservation. Vernal pools are temporary ponds that fill up with water in spring as a result of snowmelt, spring rains and/or elevated groundwater tables. These pools provide valuable wildlife habitat for small amphibians. Vernal pools provide safer breeding grounds than permanent waters because they contain no fish that might eat amphibian eggs and larvae. On rainy spring nights salamanders make their way from the woods to vernal ponds to breed. The plants that grow in the rich vernal pool soils when the ponds are dry provide food for worms, mollusks, crustaceans and insects. These animals in turn become food for salamander and insect larvae, birds, reptiles and amphibians. This reservation also features two boardwalks constructed by Phillips Academy students, staff, and volunteers.

### History:

This property was given to AVIS in 1988 by Georgia Stanley. Her aim was to protect land that had been in her family for almost 60 years. The trail through the Reservation was cut by neighborhood volunteers, allowing walkers to enjoy the small streams and stately trees. The trail that leads into the reservation has been recently dedicated to two honorable AVIS members, Susan and Fred Stott.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Wilkinson Reservation

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

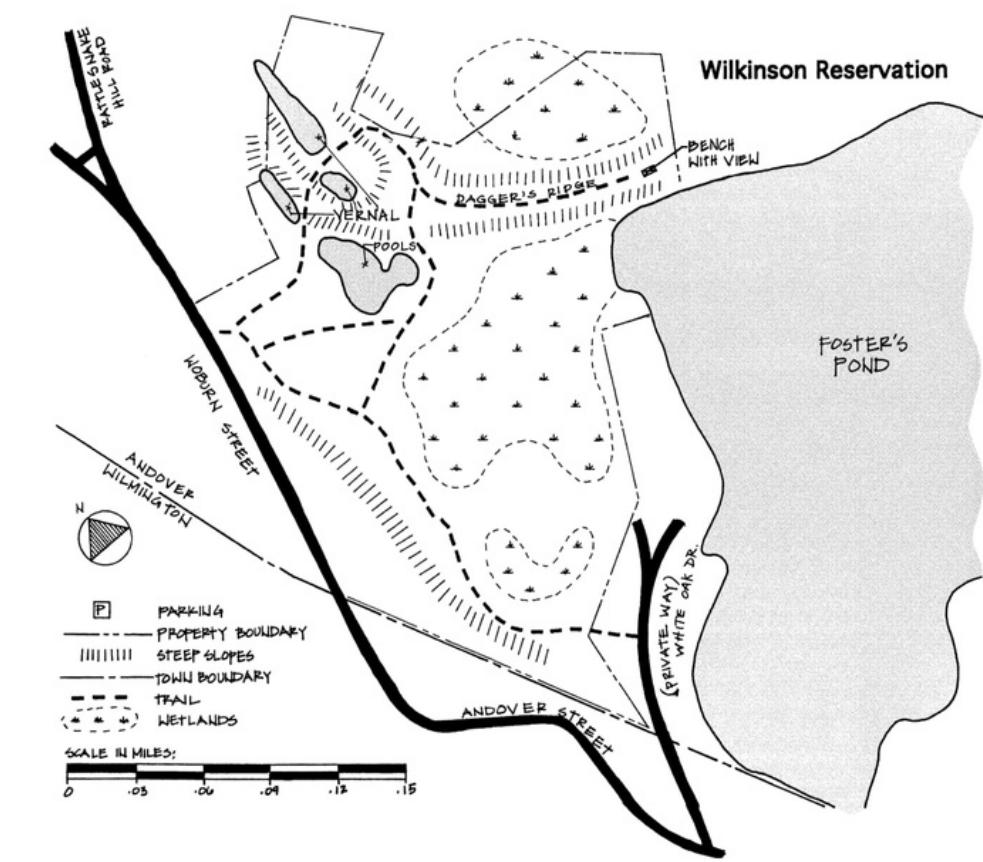
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## WILKINSON RESERVATION MAP



### Features:

Wilkinson Reservation contains several lower but steeply banked eskers (are ridges of rocks and coarse gravel that were deposited by meltwater streams flowing through crevices and tunnels in the glacier). A ridge overlooking the marshy end of Foster's Pond offers bird watching opportunities. A sturdy bench built by an Eagle Scout provides a comfortable resting spot. A mating pair of blue herons have been observed here and an osprey has been sighted in an impressive grove of graceful hemlocks. In spring, Wilkinson woodlands are filled with lady slippers, trilliums, white swamp azaleas, pinks, mountain laurel and many more wildflowers and flowering shrubs. The kettle hole ponds are home to several species of frogs and other amphibians. Deer hunting is permitted during the hunting season only. Though not large, this reservation is rich in geological interests, wildflowers, and lovely trees.

### History:

The glaciers that covered Andover 10,000-12,000 years ago shaped the topography of Wilkinson Reservation. Wilkinson Reservation was given to AVIS in 1981 by Irvin and Marsha Wilkinson, to be preserved and cared for. Their son, David, a science teacher at Andover High School, used this geologically interesting property as a laboratory for his students.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

## Shawsheen, Vale, Burns, and Greene Reservations

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

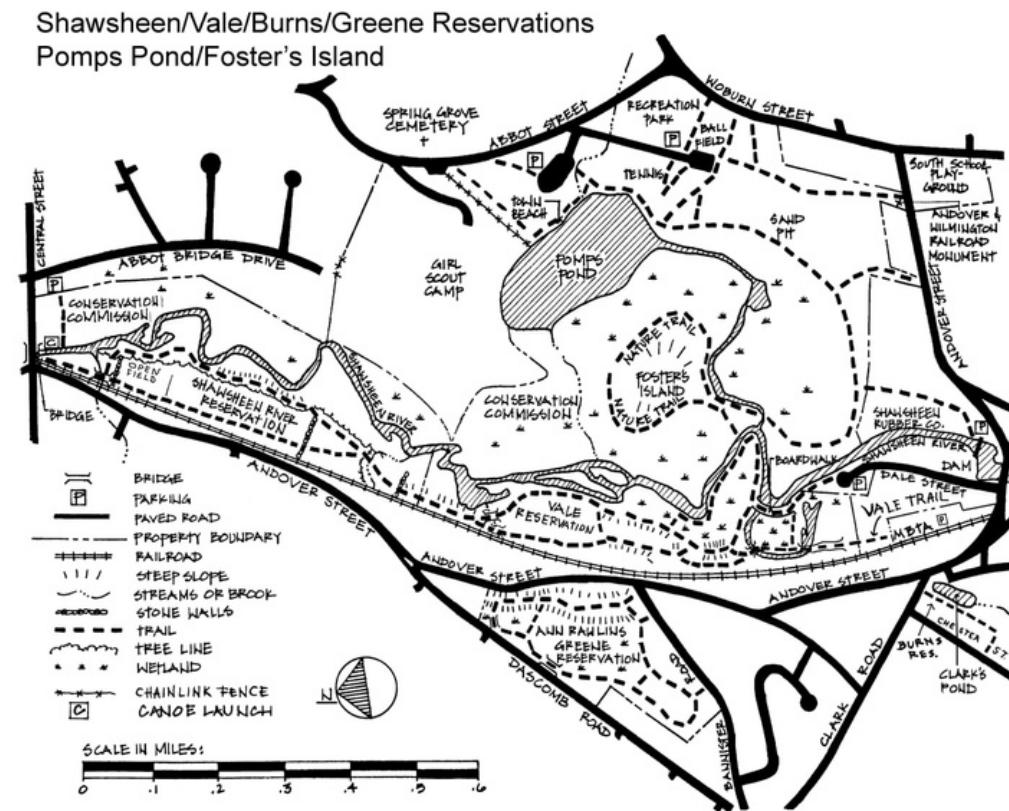
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

### SHAWSHEEN, VALE, BURNS, AND GREENE RESERVATION MAP



The Shawsheen, Vale, Burns, and Green Reservations are a rich collection of land reservations consisting of ponds, rivers, boardwalks, scout camps, and trails that shine in every season. The river and pond provide unique aquatic ecosystems filled with all types of fish and amphibians. The area is well kept by AVIS and the Conservation Commission, providing great educational and recreational resources for Andover. Wildlife and aquatic plants can be observed up close, as trails wind along the river bank and pond shores. The Shawsheen River rises gently from a Bedford meadow, eventually flowing into the Merrimack River. Its name comes from the Indigenous words for "Great Spring" and "Beauty's Pathway". This group of reservations have been acquired in pieces throughout the years, and now form a beautiful puzzle of land.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Collins Reservation

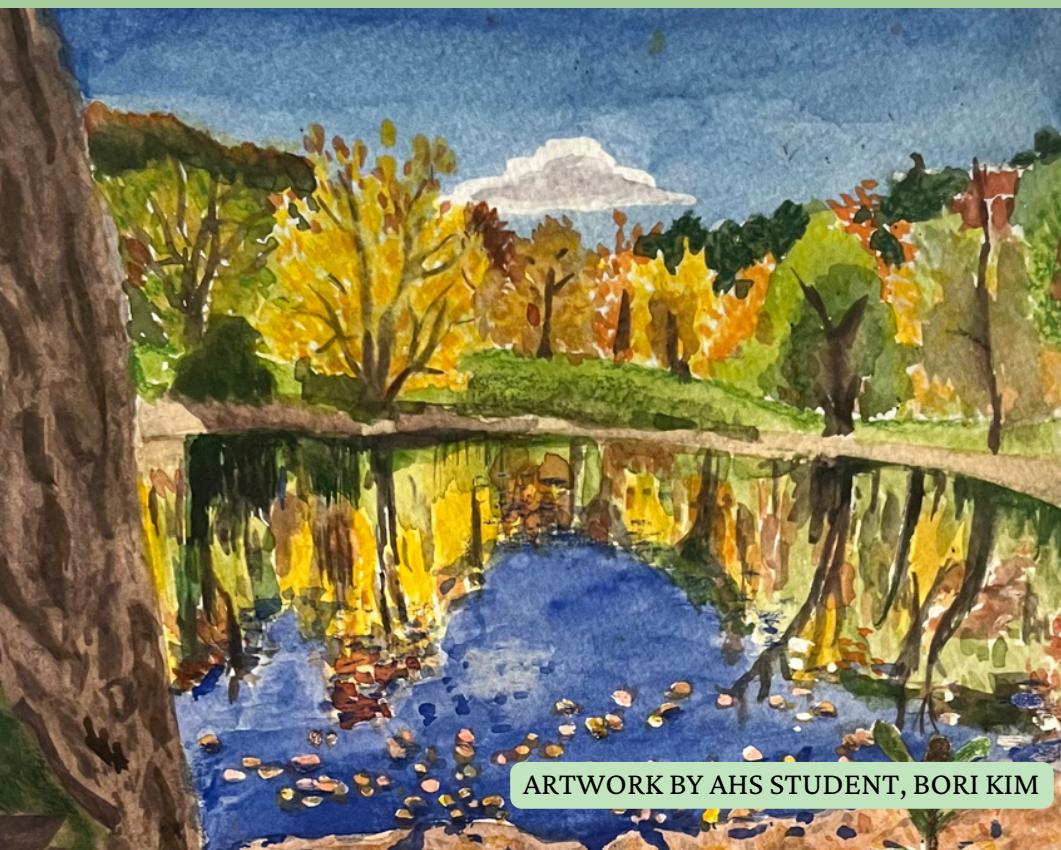
"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

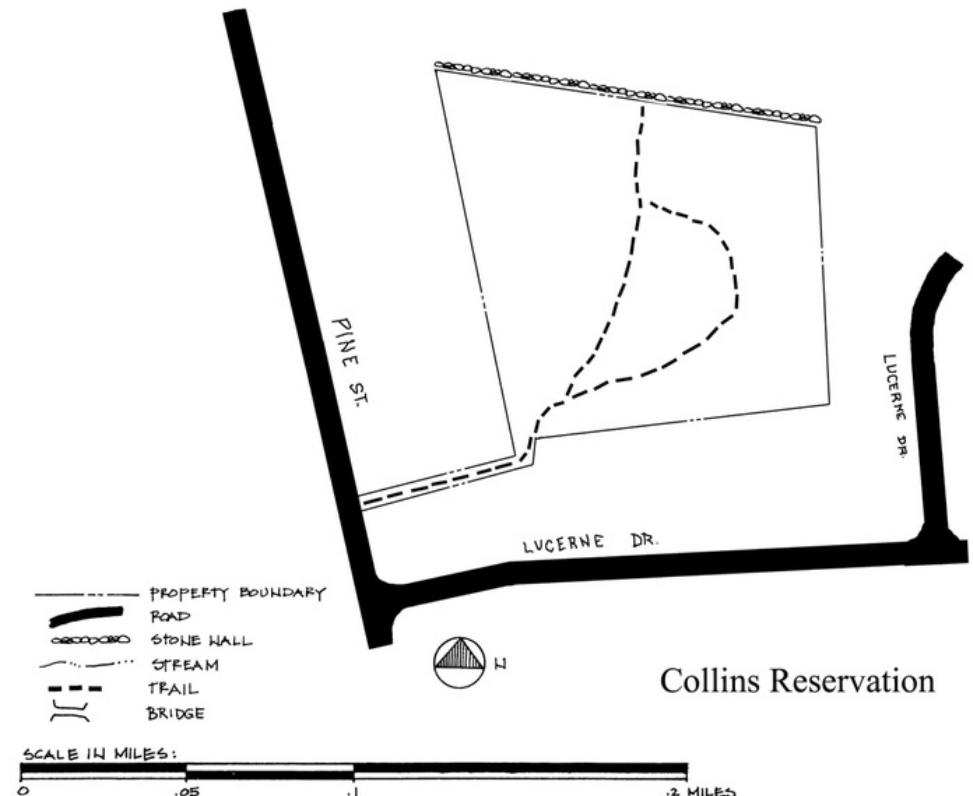
"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"  
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## COLLINS RESERVATION MAP



### Features:

A marked circular trail provides access to a small brook, a variety of trees, remnants of an old cranberry bog, and a variety of wildlife in this downtown reservation.

### History:

This property was given to AVIS in 1983 by Helen Collins Dooley in memory of her parents, Joseph Morris Collins and Margaret Scannell Collins, and her grandparents, Morris Collins and Mary Schofield Collins. At one time, the grandparents owned 25 acres of farmland along Pine Street.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Keck Reservation

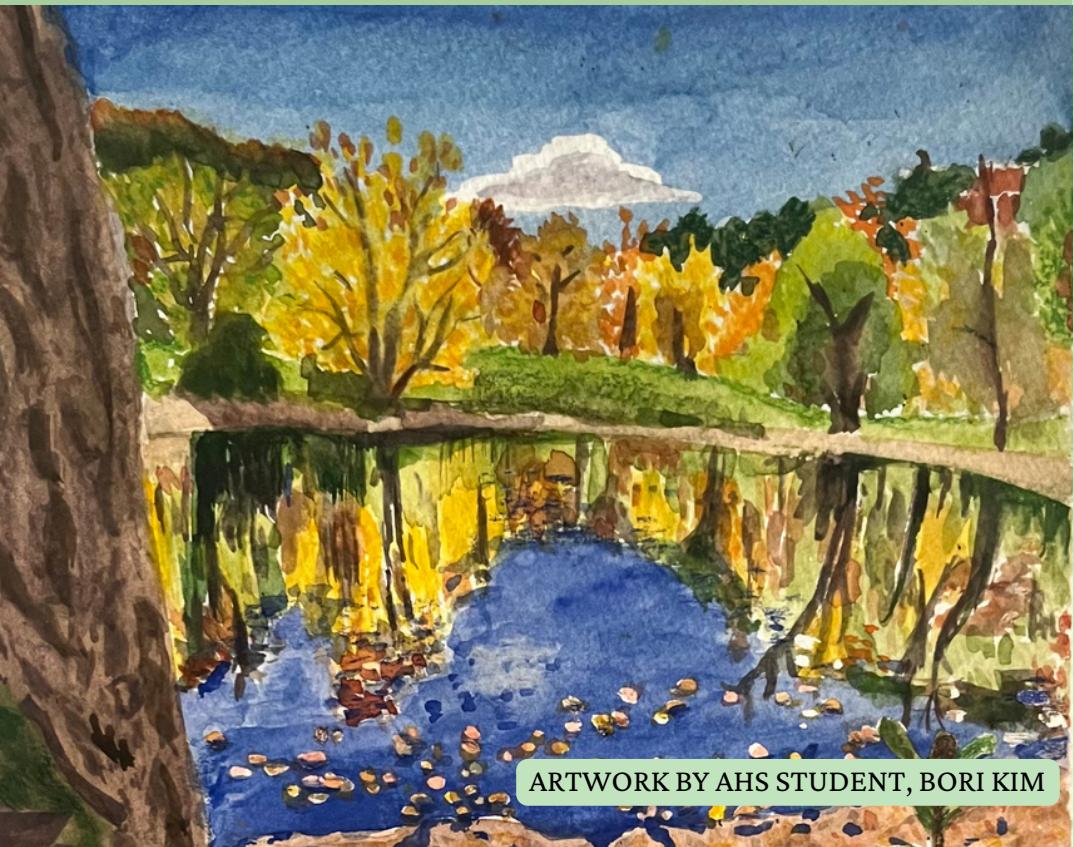
"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

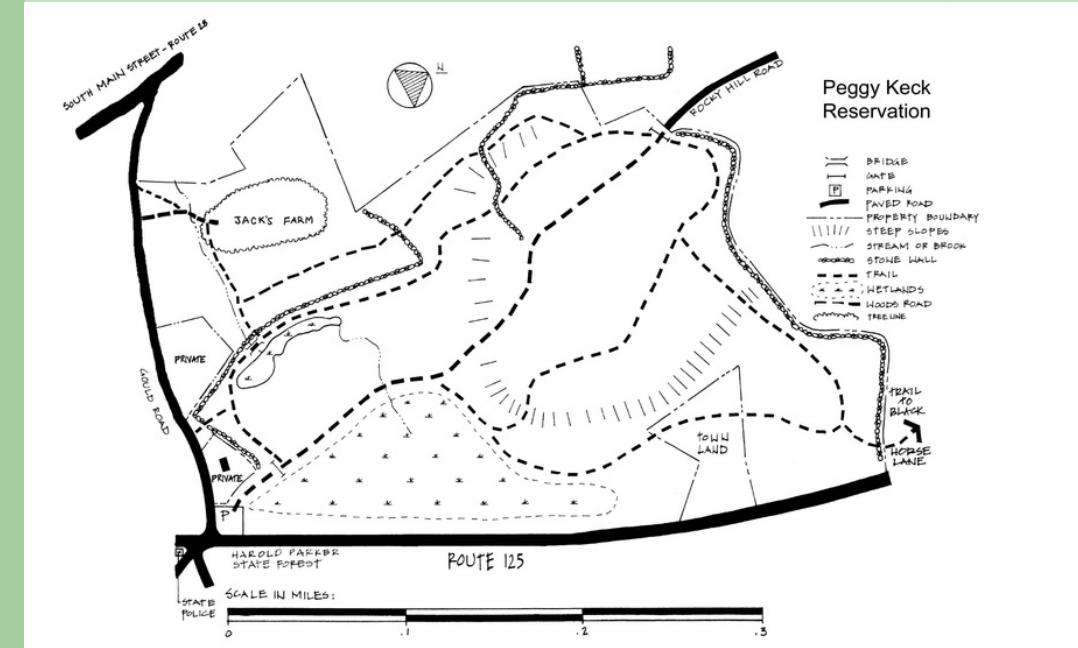
"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"  
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## KECK RESERVATION MAP



### Features:

A geological gem, the rocks here are among the oldest in the world; they are all that remain of mountains that have been eroded down through countless ages of exposure. The two major rock types found here are the light colored, coarse grained Andover granite and the darker, fine grained Salem diorite.

### History:

Ten to twelve thousand years ago, the Wisconsin Glacier covered the Peggy Keck Reservation. The rocks and landforms here provide evidence of this glaciation. The moving glacier, carrying stones and debris, polished underlying rock, leaving behind striations that are still visible in some places. On the east side of the reservation, a path circles the steep, granite cliff. Suddenly the hiker is standing on the edge, looking down on the lush vegetation, oblivious of a state highway nearby. The donation to AVIS of eight acres of ecologically important swampland and high quality bird habitat by Phillips Academy in 1963 marked the beginning of this reservation. AVIS acquired the rest of the property between 1963 and 2008, through the purchase of separate parcels. This reservation was renamed to the Peggy Keck Reservation in 2005 in honor of Peggy, an AVIS vice-president and Chairman of Land Acquisition for 20 years.



Scan this QR code created by Walter Kittredge, a botanist from Harvard, to see a full list of plant species at the Keck reservation!





# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Sanborn Reservation

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"  
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".

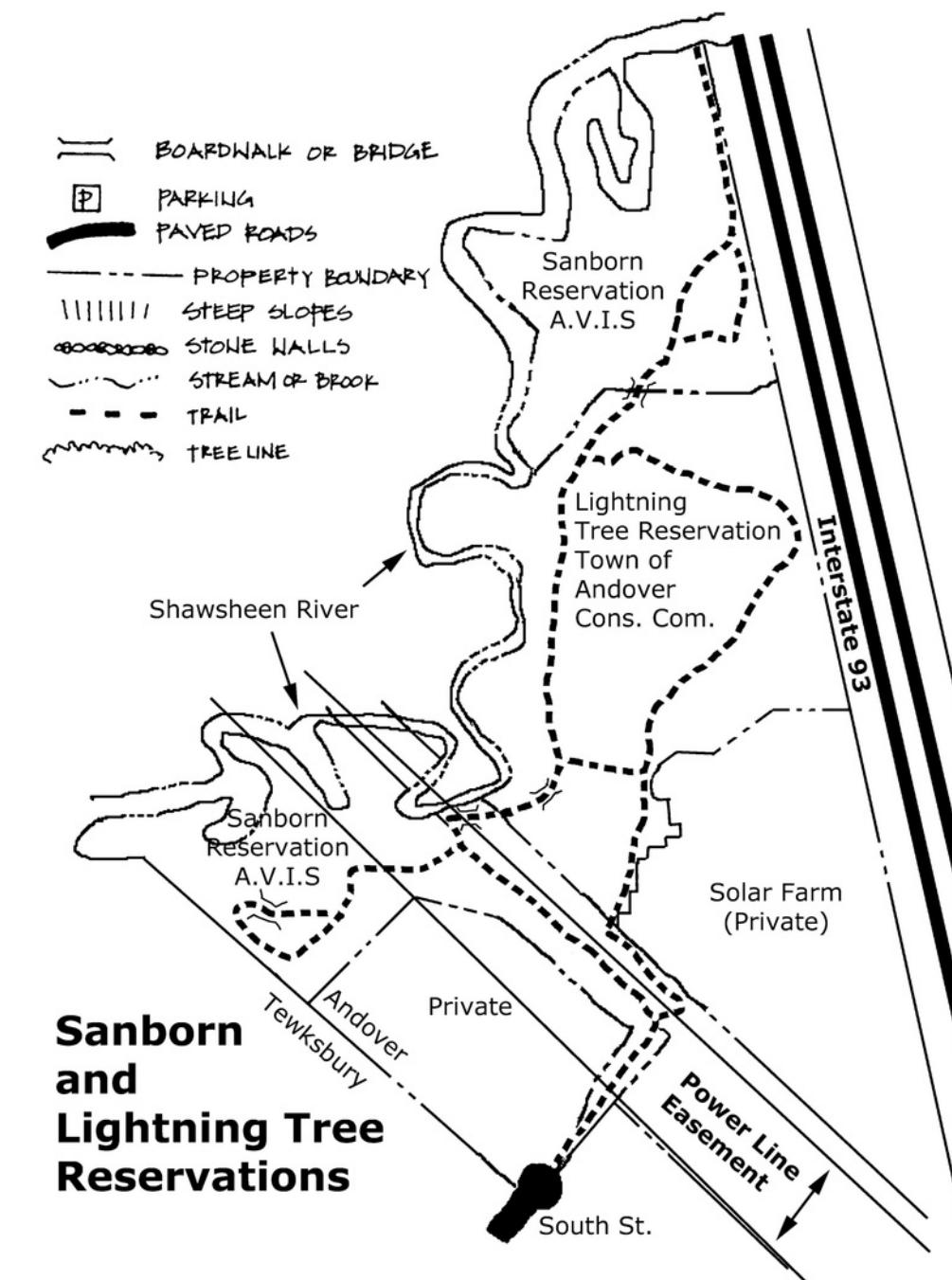
### Features:

This reservation is the most ecologically diverse of the AVIS reservations. It serves as a habitat for deer, a multitude of butterflies, singing frogs, and many other species. It also contains a pine grove, numerous interesting tree specimens as well as a marsh. Its location along the Shawsheen River and away from residences makes it an ideal natural habitat for birds and wildlife.

### History:

The original 14.5 acres was a gift from George K. and Frances Sanborn in 1959. George was an AVIS trustee at the time and provided this gift as an incentive for others to donate land. An additional one-half acre on the east bank of the Shawsheen between the original parcel and Route 93 was purchased by AVIS in 1966. An additional AVIS purchase of 11 acres in 2015 provided road access to the property that formerly could only be reached by water. With this additional land the Meg Batcheller trail was created connecting through the Town Conservation Commission's Lightning Tree reservation. An improved parking area was added in 2017.

## SANBORN RESERVATION MAP





# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Nat Smith Reservation

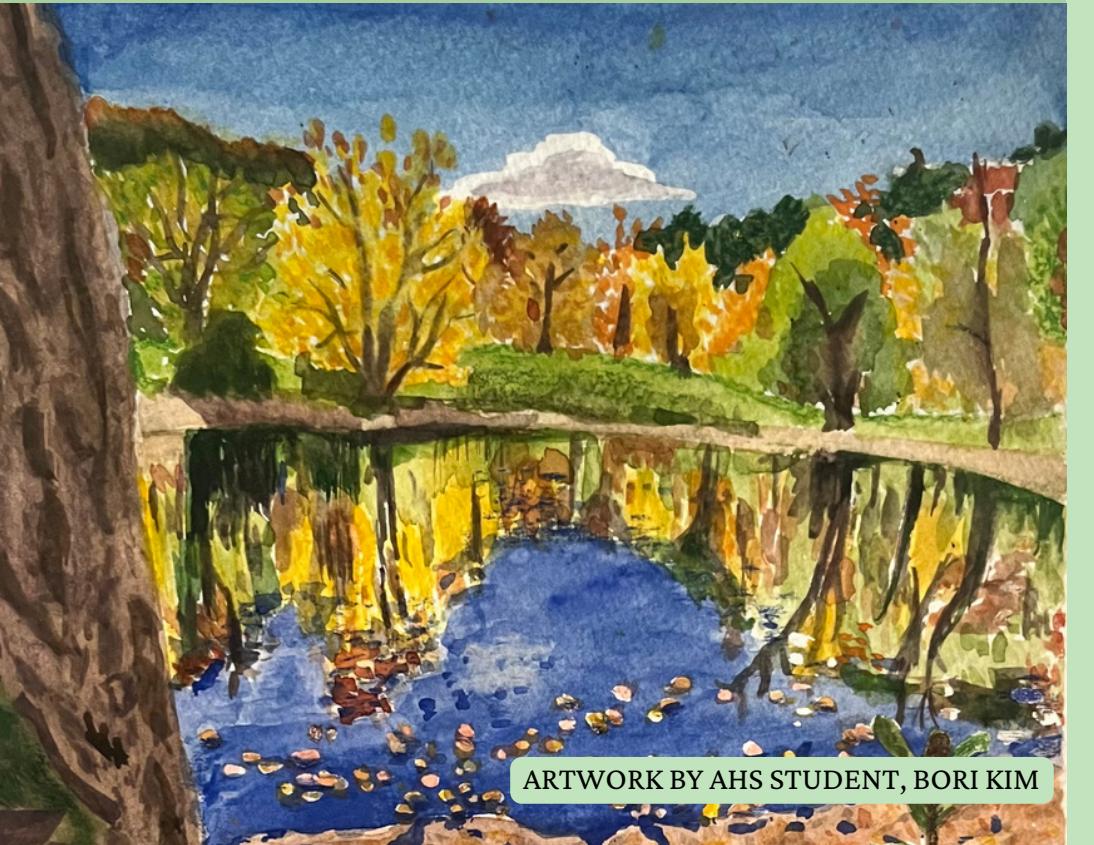
"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"  
- Sylvia Plath

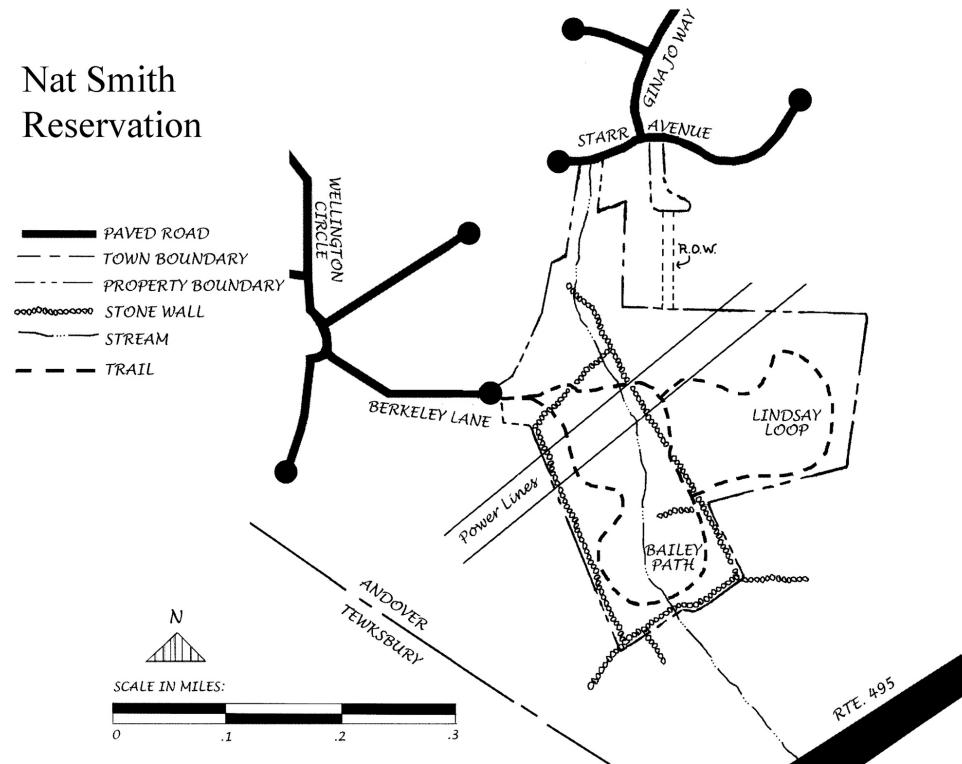
Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## NAT SMITH RESERVATION MAP

Nat Smith  
Reservation



### Features:

The trails through the Nat Smith Reservation wind their way across several peaks and boulders. Sightings of wildlife, including deer, moose and fish, have been reported. The power line right-of-way is a nice place to observe wildlife, including eastern towhee, common yellowthroat and red-tailed hawks. A main stream flows through the reservation, becoming indistinct and marshy in a couple of spots, but with a noticeable flow most of the year. In late May, the mountain laurel is in full bloom along the paths.

### History:

In the 1800s, the area of land now known as the Nat Smith Reservation was called "Pitts Wood Lot" by its owners, the Bailey family. Originally known as the AVIS Bailey Reservation, it became an AVIS property in 1963 when the three heirs to the estate of Henry Bailey, each with a one third interest in a number of separate parcels, all agreed to sell their interests to AVIS, provided AVIS purchase all of the parcels. Richard Lindsay purchased an additional parcel of the original "Pitts Wood Lot" from William Bailey. AVIS' Bailey Reservation expanded when Richard Lindsay sold his parcel to AVIS in 1982. AVIS has since acquired additional parcels of land, designated open space from residential cluster developments. This reservation was renamed to the Nat Smith Reservation in 2005 in honor of Nat, an AVIS president for 35 years.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

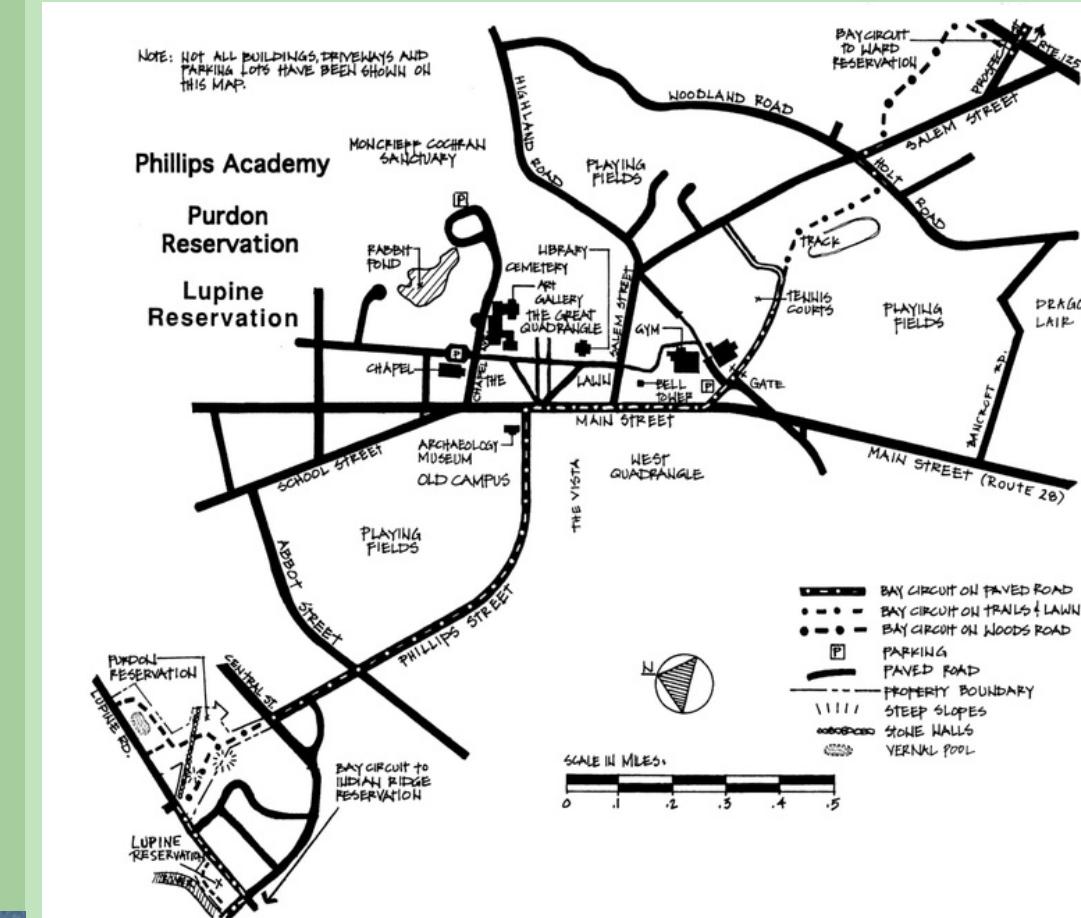
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".

# Purdon and Lupine Reservations

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

## PURDON AND LUPINE RESERVATION MAP



### Features:

The Lupine Reservation offers multiple spots for fishing along the Shawsheen River as well as a view of a beautiful 19th-century stone arch railroad bridge. The Purdon reservation also has a natural amphitheater (open air theater).

**History:** The original five acres of the Purdon Reservation was a gift to AVIS from Susanne Smith Purdon in 1964. In 2001, AVIS added on to the Purdon Reservation with the purchase of 4.4 acres of adjacent land from the Estate of Celia Kutz. In 1843, Purdon Reservation's natural amphitheater was the site of a speech by Daniel Webster. To an audience of thousands, Webster spoke eloquently of his reunification with the Whig party and of the upcoming presidential campaign. Lupine Reservation has a plaque near the remaining piers of the Andover Canoe Club, circa 1910.



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Skug River and Hammond Reservations

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

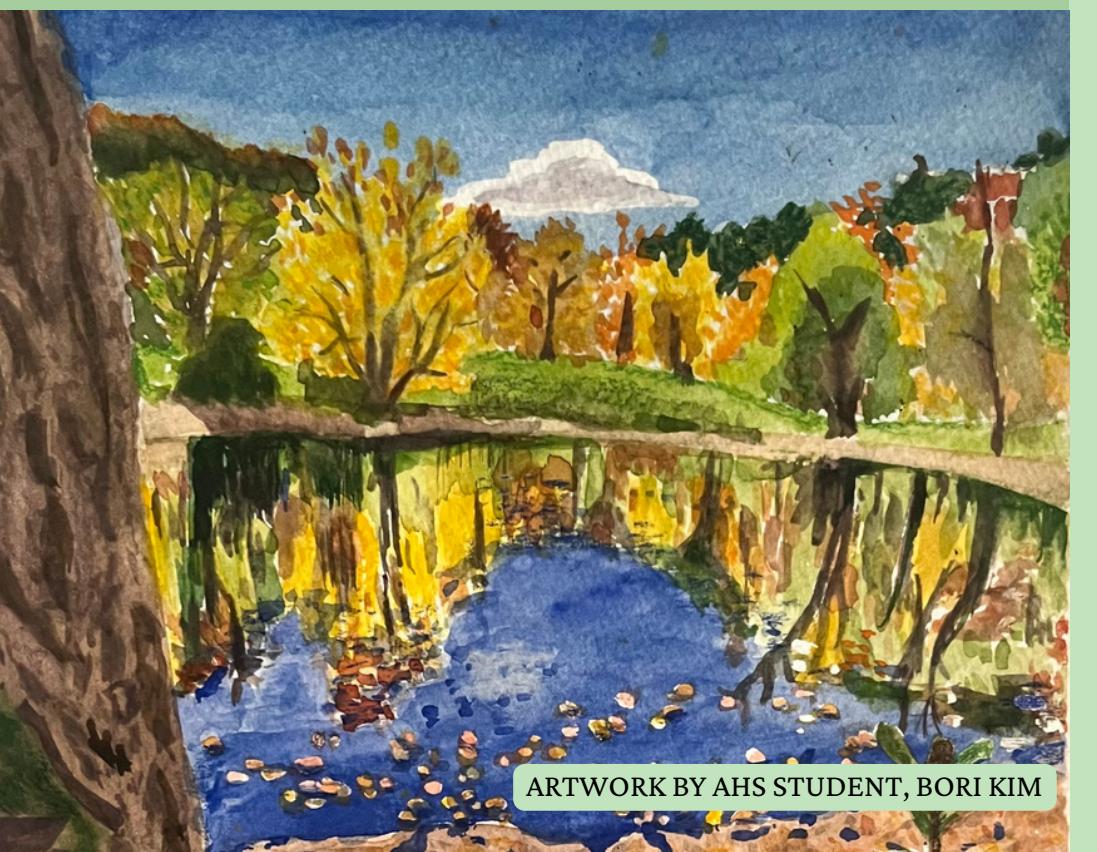


## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

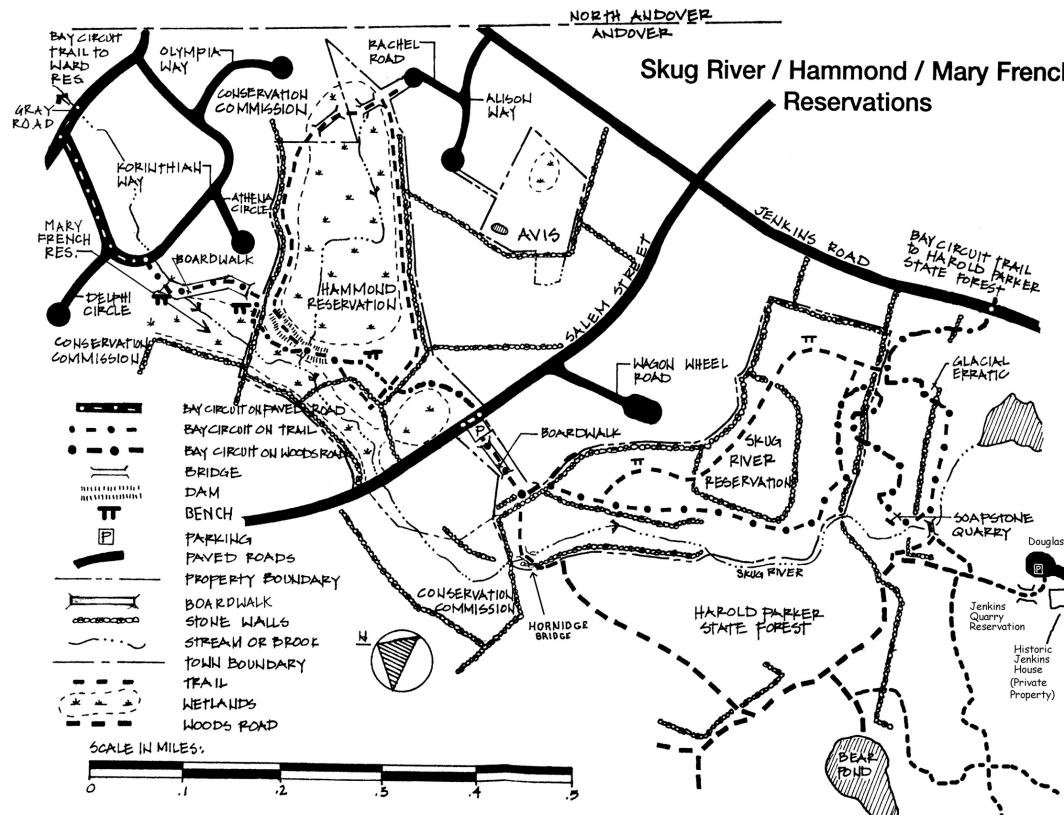
- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".



ARTWORK BY AHS STUDENT, BORI KIM

## SKUG RIVER AND HAMMOND RESERVATION MAP



### Features:

Just adjacent to the Skug Reservation, in Harold Parker State Forest, you can find a glacial erratic, which is an enormous stone monolith dropped here by the receding glacier at the end of the ice age. This erratic is sometimes used by climbers to practice elementary climbing techniques. Soapstone can also be found here. Shortly past the mill and quarry in Harold Parker State Forest, the Bay Circuit Trail crosses in and out of the Skug Reservation, passing vernal pools and interesting rock formations along the way. The Bay Circuit Trail also enters the Hammond Reservation across Salem Street. Follow the trail about 0.2 mi., cross a small wooden bridge along a stone and earthen nineteenth century dike, and turn left into the Mary French Reservation. The trail continues through an extensive wetland area bordering the Skug River via a wooden bog bridge and boardwalk and emerges on Korinthian Way.

### History:

The Skug River got its name from the Native American word for Snake. Over 200 years ago, its waters were dammed to power a portable sawmill and gristmill. The dam has long since washed away, but the massive stone walls of the millrace can still be seen in adjacent Harold Parker State Forest from the Skug River Reservation trail. William Jenkins quarried soapstone here, leaving behind the massive outcropping of wedged rock near the bridge. The Reservations' woodlands were once cleared farmlands. The stone and earthen causeway in Hammond Reservation was originally a dam, creating an ice pond and livestock watering hole. Hammond Reservation was named for Edmund E. Hammond, a former AVIS president.



# TRAIL GUIDE

## About Us:

Founded in 1894 as The Andover Village Improvement Society, AVIS is one of the oldest land conservation organizations in the country.

AVIS manages more than 30 reservations comprising more than 1,200 acres in the Town of Andover. It relies on a corps of volunteers to lead the organization and to provide maintenance of its recreational trails and stewardship for the land and its wildlife habitat. Donations from community members and grant sources provide the funds to acquire, protect and manage its reservations.

-----

## Contact :

**The Andover Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810

[members@avisandover.org](mailto:members@avisandover.org)

[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

GET  
OUTSIDE!



Listen to our  
hiking playlist  
here:

## ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

AVIS invites use of this property from sunrise to sunset for passive recreation including hiking, skiing, and nature walks. AVIS assumes no responsibility for any injuries to persons or property to anyone using this area.

### Dogs

AVIS follows the town's leash bylaw — All dogs must be on a leash at all times on AVIS land.

**PROHIBITED** Items or uses include any activity which diminishes or harms the natural resources or tranquility of the reservation including –

- Weapons of any type including bows and arrows – see online at [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org) for exceptions during deer hunting season.
- Bicycles & Motorized vehicles
- Access from Routes 93, 495, and 125
- Fires & Camping
- Alcohol
- Paintball and Airsoft
- Tree cutting, including gathering and piling of branches, brush, & logs
- Plant collecting
- Littering
- Dumping of any kind, including leaves, grass clippings, and brush
- Repeated violations of the Rules may result in prohibition to use AVIS properties.



For further information, look online at  
[avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org)

# Sunset Rock Reservation



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery- air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'this is what it is to be happy'"

- Sylvia Plath

Nature is a healthy way to cope with the stress of real life. In a society where the majority of the population work indoors, exposure to the benefits of nature are limited. Getting outdoors can contribute to physical wellness, mental wellness, and wellness in communities. According to Michelle Kondo, a research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, "Wellness is wholistic in that it is comprised of physical and mental health as well as the health of our communities...All of these benefits add up and reduce adverse impacts on our bodies, and have restorative characteristics. So get outdoors and enjoy nature's gift of wellness".

### Features:

The 25 foot tall Sunset Rock marks the beginning of a mile of ledge extending parallel to Sunset Rock Road and ending deep in the woods. The sunset rock ledge is honeycombed with hollows and is perfect for climbing adventures.

"AVIS manages its reservations to protect native habitat and provide opportunities for the public to experience, enjoy and learn about nature through passive recreation."

## SUNSET ROCK RESERVATION MAP

