Trail Guide

Bedford, Massachusetts

Trail Guide 2015

Bedford, Massachusetts

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Open Space Lands in Bedford

Town-owned open space lands include 800 acres held as conservation areas for the preservation of natural resources, controlled and managed by the Bedford Conservation Commission. Most of these areas were conveyed to the Town under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8C - The Conservation Commission Act. Lands conveyed under this statute are protected in perpetuity from development and other changes that would detract from their functions and values. Maintenance of these areas in a natural state contributes to the protection of water resources, plant communities, scenic vistas, unique wildlife habitat and floodplain functions, and provides trail connections, neighborhood open space, and buffers between varying land uses.

All conservation areas are open to the general public for passive recreation use such as hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature study, and picnics. The trails are maintained by the Conservation Commission, the Trails Committee and the Conservation Land Stewards.

In addition to the 800 acres of conservation land, restrictions protecting the natural resources of private lands total 308 acres. With the 672 acres within the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Bedford, the total protected or conservation-managed land in Bedford is 1,780 acres, approximately 21 percent of the Town's land area.

Bedford municipal lands also include many undeveloped acres of natural resource and open space value; public access trails have been established in several of these areas.

Directions to the Trails

The directions provided in this guide begin at Mudge Way at the intersection of The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) in the center of town. The Library, High School, Police Station and Town Hall are all located on Mudge Way.

Trail Marking

Trail routes are marked by colored disks with raised arrows that are installed along the pathway. These trail markers are placed where they will be most visible to hikers. The arrow points in the direction of the trail where it turns. Three different colors designate trail types.

Blue trail markers designate the main route through an area. Blue trails may lead through varied terrain from one area to another, or form a perimeter loop around an area.

Orange trail markers designate a secondary trail. An orange trail always connects to the main trail either as a loop or to and from a specific destination such as a viewpoint, picnic spot, historic site, or access to a different trail area.

Yellow trail markers designate an access route between a trail and a road, parking lot, or other access point. Yellow trails clearly mark the way out of a trail area in case of an emergency.

Trail routes shown on the maps in brown indicate unblazed, private or informal trails.

Bedford is one of 34 towns in eastern Massachusetts to have trail links included as part of the Bay Circuit Trail. The Bay Circuit Trail is a permanent recreation trail and greenway corridor linking parks and open space from Plum Island and Ipswich to the Duxbury/Kingston shore – over 200 miles. The Bay Circuit Trail (baycircuit.org) is blazed with its own signature trail marker/logo at various locations throughout the Town and is shown on the following trail maps:

Buehler Ponds / Governor Winthrop Conservation Areas

Concord Rd / Massport Area

Elm Brook Conservation Area

Fawn Lake Conservation Area

Town Campus

York Conservation Area

In Bedford, the Bay Circuit Trail extends from the Concord town line to the Billerica town line, through the Middlesex Community College campus, where there are additional trails to explore.

Many trail entrances are marked by a wooden post bearing a circular marker with the "Town of Bedford Public Trail" logo. This logo invites public entrance to the trails where it might not be obvious. Not all access points are marked. The absence of a public trail marker does not mean that public access is not allowed.

Sign posts with inscribed directions mark some important trail intersections and trailheads and note areas of interest. In some locations, kiosks display trail maps and other relevant information and may include a map box to provide copies of trail maps to the public.

Download Trail Maps

The trail maps are available in PDF format for residents to view and download at the Town of Bedford website: www.bedfordma.gov. There are also regional trail maps available for north, west and south Bedford.

Stewardship

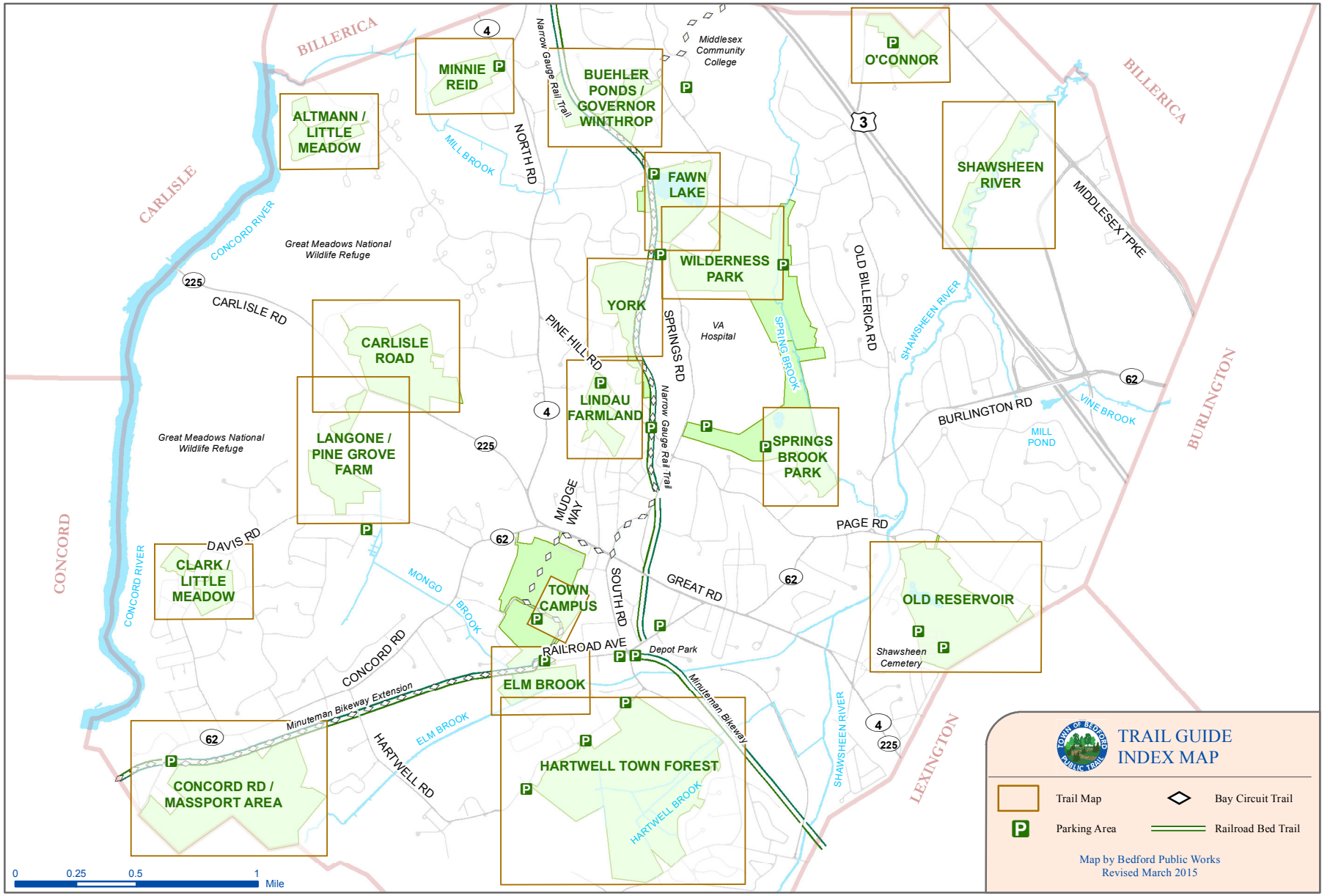
Bedford trails are preserved and maintained by volunteers in several organizations. Participation is encouraged and appreciated!

The Conservation Commission consists of members appointed by the Selectmen to oversee the protection of wetlands, waterbodies, waterways, floodplains and riverfront areas, and to acquire and maintain open space land for the protection of natural resources and for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Bedford. (www.bedfordma.gov/conservation-commission)

The Bedford Trails Committee is appointed by the Selectmen to plan and implement maintenance and improvements to the public access trails. Improvements include placing bog bridges in wet areas of the trails, installing trail markers and signs, clearing brush and obstructions, mapping trails, and working with the Conservation Commission to create new trail connections. Members of the Trails Committee hold monthly public trail walks around town. (www.bedfordma.gov/trails-committee)

The Land Acquisition Committee facilitates land purchases, gifts, trail easements and other projects for the preservation of natural resources, open space, recreation, and municipal use. The Committee researches open lands, contacts and initiates discussion with property owners, and recommends appraisals, acquisitions, and other land protection options to the Selectmen and Conservation Commission. (www.bedfordma.gov/land-acquisition-committee)

The Bedford Conservation Land Stewards are a group of residents who monitor conservation and other trail areas. The land stewards are not officially affiliated with the Conservation Commission or the Trails Committee. The land stewards observe conditions in the areas they are responsible for and report needed improvements or other important information in their bi-annual reports. Many Trails Committee projects are the result of stewards' reports. (bedfordlandstewards.blogspot.com)


TRAIL GUIDE
INDEX MAP
Trail Map
Bay Circuit Trail
Parking Area
Railroad Bed Trail
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015
MINNIE REID
ALTMANN / LITTLE MEADOW
BUEHLER PONDS / GOVERNOR WINTHROP
O'CONNOR
SHAWSHEEN RIVER
FAWN LAKE
WILDERNESS PARK
YORK
CARLISLE ROAD
LANGONE / PINE GROVE FARM
LINDAU FARMLAND
SPRINGS BROOK PARK
CLARK / LITTLE MEADOW
TOWN CAMPUS
OLD RESERVOIR
ELM BROOK
HARTWELL TOWN FOREST
CONCORD RD / MASSPORT AREA
BILLERICA
CARLISLE
CONCORD
BURLINGTON
LEXINGTON
Middlesex Community College
Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
VA Hospital
Shawsheen Cemetery
Depot Park
MILL POND
CONCORD RIVER
MILL BROOK
MONGO BROOK
ELM BROOK
HARTWELL BROOK
SPRING BROOK
VINE BROOK
SHAWSHEEN RIVER
Narrow Gauge Rail Trail
Minuteman Bikeway
Minuteman Bikeway Extension
NORTH RD
CARLISLE RD
PINE HILL RD
SPRINGS RD
OLD BILLERICA RD
MIDDLESEX TPKE
BURLINGTON RD
PAGE RD
MUDGE WAY
SOUTH RD
GREAT RD
RAILROAD AVE
DAVIS RD
CONCORD RD
HARTWELL RD
0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile

Altmann Conservation Area and Pickman Meadow

The Altmann Conservation Area is associated with early colonial Massachusetts. The parcels of land that make up the area were purchased by the Town in 2002 through a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Bedford's Community Preservation Fund.

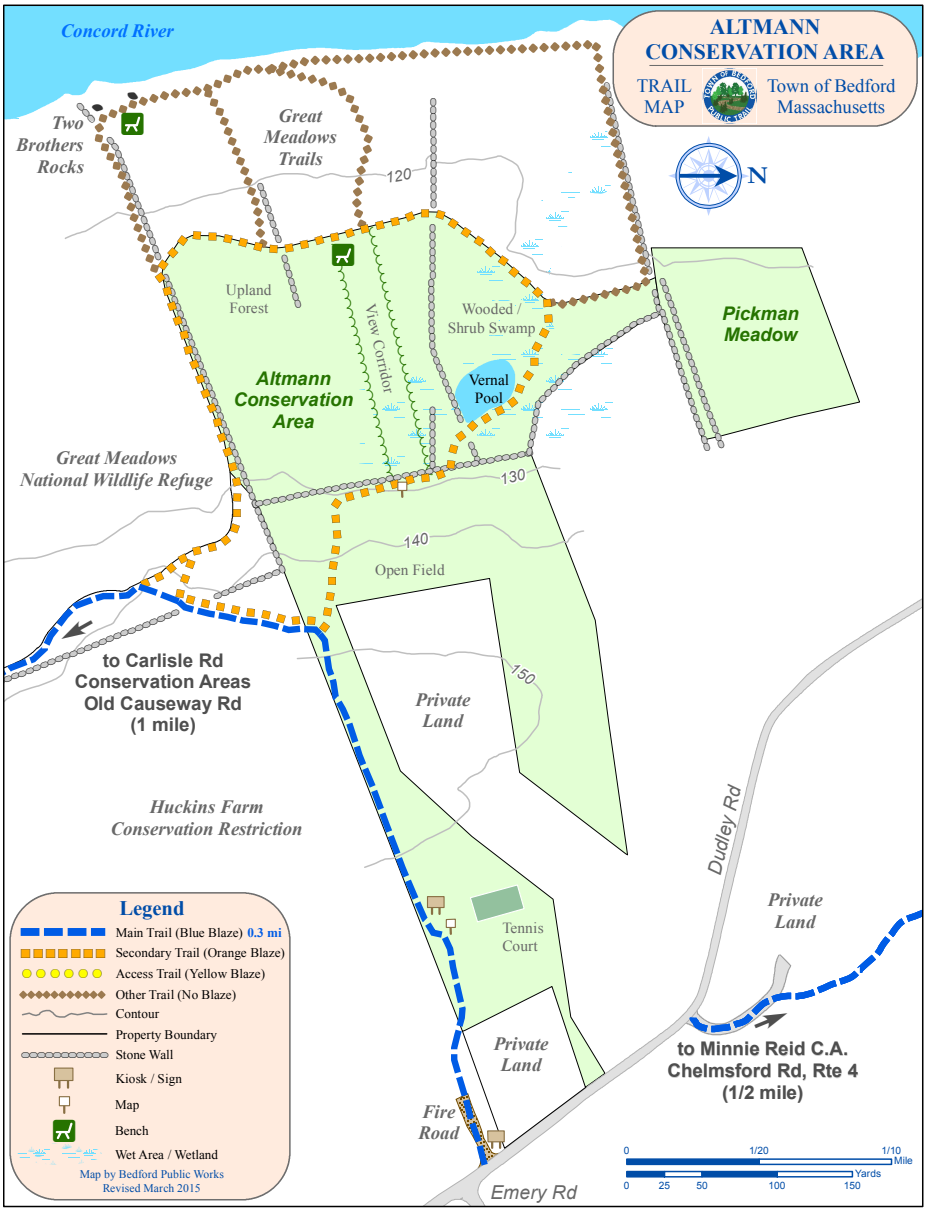
The 15.9 acre area abuts the Huckins Farm Conservation Restriction, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and the Town-owned Pickman Meadow. Its blue trail joins the Huckins Farm public access trail easement to form an integral part of the west Bedford trail system. The loop trail connects with Great Meadows trails that lead to the Concord River and Two Brothers' Rocks, where Governor Winthrop and his deputy Thomas Dudley divided Winthrop's property in 1638.

Mostly wooded, the terrain slopes gradually toward the river. The trails lead to picturesque stone walls, open fields, and a certified vernal pool. Remnants of an old "bog garden" near the vernal pool features a variety of naturalized plants, including Carolina hemlock, sweet bay magnolia, sweet shrub, and several species of azalea, interspersed with native highbush blueberry, swamp winterberry, alder and ferns. A view corridor is managed by the Conservation Commission as a native shrub community. The northern part of Altmann is designated as Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Altmann flourishes with indigenous trees including oak, white pine, eastern hemlock, eastern red cedar, red maple, tupelo, and birch, found in the wooded swamp and upland forest. Nearby Pickman Meadow is an open field and wet meadow acquired in 2006.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue on North Road (Route 4) 1.3 miles. Turn left on Dudley Road and continue 0.9 miles. Park on the side of the road without blocking the gate. The blue trail begins at the kiosk by the fire road gate.


ALTMANN CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford Massachusetts
N
Concord River
Two Brothers Rocks
Great Meadows Trails
120
Upland Forest
View Corridor
Wooded / Shrub Swamp
Vernal Pool
Pickman Meadow
Altmann Conservation Area
Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
130
140
Open Field
150
Private Land
to Carlisle Rd Conservation Areas Old Causeway Rd (1 mile)
Huckins Farm Conservation Restriction
Dudley Rd
Private Land
Tennis Court
Private Land
to Minnie Reid C.A. Chelmsford Rd, Rte 4 (1/2 mile)
Fire Road
Emery Rd
0 1/20 1/10 Mile
0 25 50 100 150 Yards
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.3 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Contour
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Kiosk / Sign
Map
Bench
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015

Buehler Ponds and Governor Winthrop

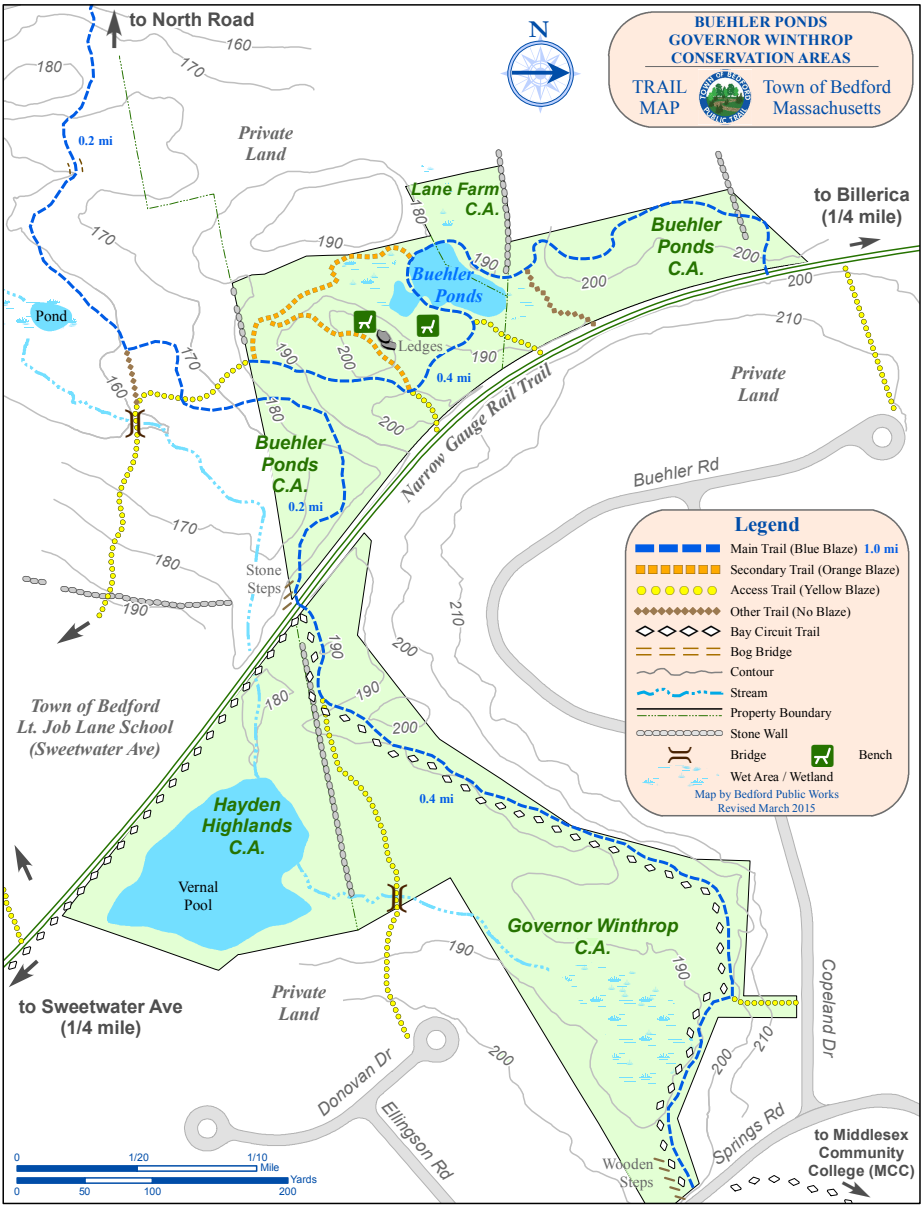
Long enjoyed for its scenic terrain, the Buehler Ponds Conservation Area includes two ponds created by former owners. Between 1978 and 2008, three parcels were acquired to make up the current configuration of protected lands. In 1978 six acres were purchased with State Self Help funding and in 1987 three acres were acquired as a gift. The last parcel was the Lane Farm Conservation Area, which includes most of the western shore of the larger pond.

There are multiple entrances to the Buehler Ponds Conservation Area from the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail (NGRT). The main blue trail traverses north to south and leads over ledges and along the pond shore, where fish, turtles, and frogs may be observed in their natural habitats. Follow the orange trails south of the ponds to serene viewing areas and diverse species of native plants. Although tall maple and pine trees dominate the canopy, cedars are also prevalent along these trails. Gneiss bedrock outcrops marked by glacial sculpting can be viewed from the upper trails. Lowbush blueberry and other upland plants grow along the drier paths, while ferns and skunk cabbage are common in lower areas. The rolling terrain throughout the trails adds to the uniqueness and beauty of this property.

The Governor Winthrop and Hayden Highlands Conservation Areas were donated to the Town in 1995. Together, the parcels contribute 18 acres of open space to the protected lands along the NGRT. The Hayden Highlands Conservation Area is mostly wetland, does not contain any blazed walking trails, and is distinctive for its large vernal pool area. The Governor Winthrop Conservation Area contains a blue trail leading from Springs Road to the NGRT, and a yellow access trail from Donovan Drive. Across from the west end of the Governor Winthrop trail at its intersection with the NGRT, an extension of the blue trail continues west to North Road through the Buehler Ponds Conservation Area and the Job Lane School property.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62). Continue 1.5 miles on North Road (Route 4). Turn right on Sweetwater Avenue and continue 0.4 miles. Park at the Fawn Lake parking area and head north on the NGRT to access the trails.


BUEHLER PONDS
GOVERNOR WINTHROP
CONSERVATION AREAS
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
N
to North Road
to Billerica (1/4 mile)
to Sweetwater Ave (1/4 mile)
to Middlesex Community College (MCC)
Private Land
Lane Farm C.A.
Buehler Ponds
Buehler Ponds C.A.
Ledges
0.4 mi
0.2 mi
1.0 mi
Pond
Narrow Gauge Rail Trail
Buehler Rd
Stone Steps
Town of Bedford
Lt. Job Lane School
(Sweetwater Ave)
Hayden Highlands C.A.
Vernal Pool
Governor Winthrop C.A.
Donovan Dr
Ellingson Rd
Copeland Dr
Springs Rd
Wooden Steps
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 1.0 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Bay Circuit Trail
Bog Bridge
Contour
Stream
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Bridge
Bench
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015
0 1/20 1/10 Mile
0 50 100 200 Yards

Carlisle Road Conservation Areas

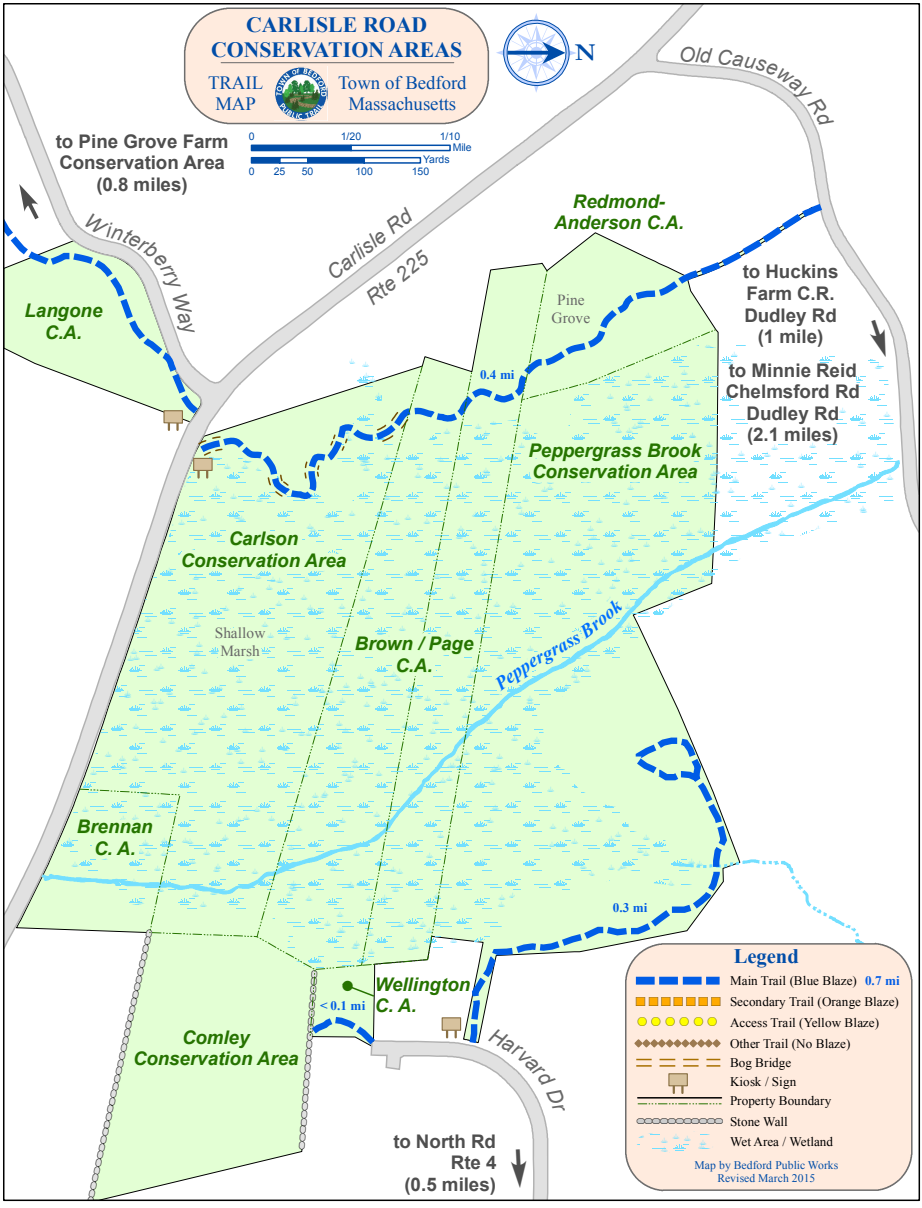
Several contiguous conservation areas between Carlisle Road, Old Causeway Road, and Harvard Drive comprise 75 acres of protected natural resources. This landscape features vibrant upland and wetland habitats bordering Peppergrass Brook. The Carlson Conservation Area near Carlisle Road is an extensive red maple swamp. Sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry and swamp azalea form a dense understory. Cinnamon ferns in this wetland grow to five feet. The Brown and Page Conservation Areas in the center of the landscape are long, narrow strips of shallow marsh, remnants of the colonial practice of dividing cedar swamp and river meadows. The Redmond-Anderson Conservation Area includes a white pine grove, with American beech saplings and a variety of understory shrubs serving as upland habitat for white-tailed deer. Adjacent to Harvard Drive, the Wellington and Peppergrass Brook Conservation Areas include both streamside habitat by Peppergrass Brook and upland pine, oak and yellow birch forest.

The wetlands bordering Peppergrass Brook are wet most of the year, and range from shallow marsh to shrub swamp and forested wetland. The trail to the west of the brook passes through these wetlands. Bog bridges have been installed to traverse the muddy areas.

The Carlisle Road Conservation Areas, along with the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, form an extensive, protected corridor in west Bedford. Wildlife observed in these areas include wild turkey, wood duck, barred owl, pileated woodpecker, fisher and coyote. The trails through these areas form a continuous link from the Minnie Reid Conservation Area on Chelmsford Road in the north, extending south to the Pine Grove Farm Conservation Area on Davis Road.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 0.2 miles. Turn left on Carlisle Road (Route 225) and continue 0.8 miles. Park near Winterberry Way on the left, across from the Carlson Conservation Area. The Peppergrass Brook and Wellington trails begin near the end of Harvard Drive, off North Road (Route 4).

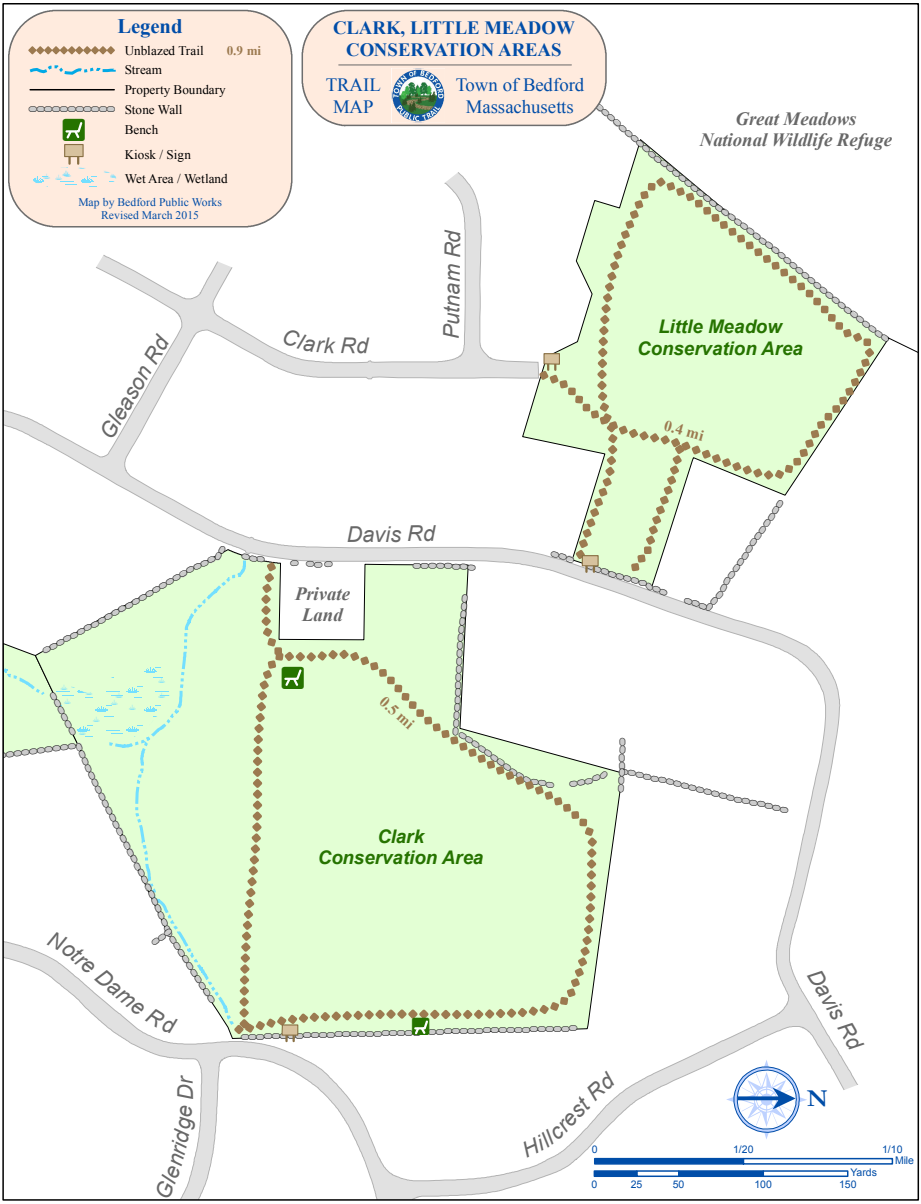

CARLISLE ROAD
CONSERVATION AREAS
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
N
0 1/20 1/10 Mile
0 25 50 100 150 Yards
to Pine Grove Farm
Conservation Area
(0.8 miles)
Winterberry Way
Carlisle Rd
Rte 225
Old Causeway Rd
Redmond-
Anderson C.A.
Langone
C.A.
Pine
Grove
to Huckins
Farm C.R.
Dudley Rd
(1 mile)
to Minnie Reid
Chelmsford Rd
Dudley Rd
(2.1 miles)
0.4 mi
Peppergrass Brook
Conservation Area
Carlson
Conservation Area
Shallow
Marsh
Brown / Page
C.A.
Peppergrass Brook
Brennan
C. A.
0.3 mi
Wellington
C. A.
< 0.1 mi
Comley
Conservation Area
Harvard Dr
to North Rd
Rte 4
(0.5 miles)
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.7 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Bog Bridge
Kiosk / Sign
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015

Clark and Little Meadow Conservation Areas

Situated on either side of Davis Road, the Clark and Little Meadow Conservation Areas have been used as farmland for several generations and are a reminder of Bedford's agricultural heritage. They now provide important conservation functions for open space, passive recreation, wildlife habitat and scenic vistas. Both contribute to cumulative wildlife habitat values: Clark encompassing stream, wet meadow, wooded swamp and upland slopes; Little Meadow lying adjacent to floodplain forest and shrub swamp of the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Both fields have been used as nesting or migration sites for bobolink. Great Meadows harbors populations of state-listed turtles, which seek out suitable nesting and foraging habitats in fields and wetlands. Management of the fields consists of annual mowing in late summer to prevent succession by trees and shrubs, allow grass and wildflower species to mature, and encourage suitable habitat for grassland birds. Perimeter trails are kept open by walkers and horseback riders. The Town purchased Clark and Little Meadow as conservation areas in 1986 and 1988. The south side of Clark was expanded in 2011 with the acquisition of 3.4 additional acres, for a total area of approximately 18 acres. Little Meadow contributes 5.9 acres to the preservation of open field areas in Bedford, and most of the field is designated as both Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare and Endangered Species by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62). Bear left on Concord Road (Route 62) and continue 0.3 miles. Turn right on Davis Road and continue 1.3 miles to the trail entrances, which are opposite each other on Davis Road. Access to Clark is also available from Notre Dame Road at Glenridge Drive, and to Little Meadow from Clark Road.


Legend
Unblazed Trail 0.9 mi
Stream
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Bench
Kiosk / Sign
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015
CLARK, LITTLE MEADOW
CONSERVATION AREAS
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
Great Meadows
National Wildlife Refuge
Putnam Rd
Clark Rd
Gleason Rd
Little Meadow
Conservation Area
0.4 mi
Davis Rd
Private
Land
0.5 mi
Clark
Conservation Area
Notre Dame Rd
Glenridge Dr
Hillcrest Rd
Davis Rd
N
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
Yards
0
25
50
100
150

Concord Road and Massport Area

The Concord Road Conservation Areas and the municipal parcel at 350 Concord Road, purchased in 2010, comprise 84 acres of contiguous open space along the Minuteman Bikeway Extension between Concord Road and Hartwell Road, north of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) lands at L.G. Hanscom Field. In 2010 the Town entered into an agreement with Massport to allow public pedestrian trail connections within two Massport-owned parcels adjacent to Vanderhoof, Dellovo, and 350 Concord Road, including links to Concord Road in Bedford and Virginia Road in Concord.

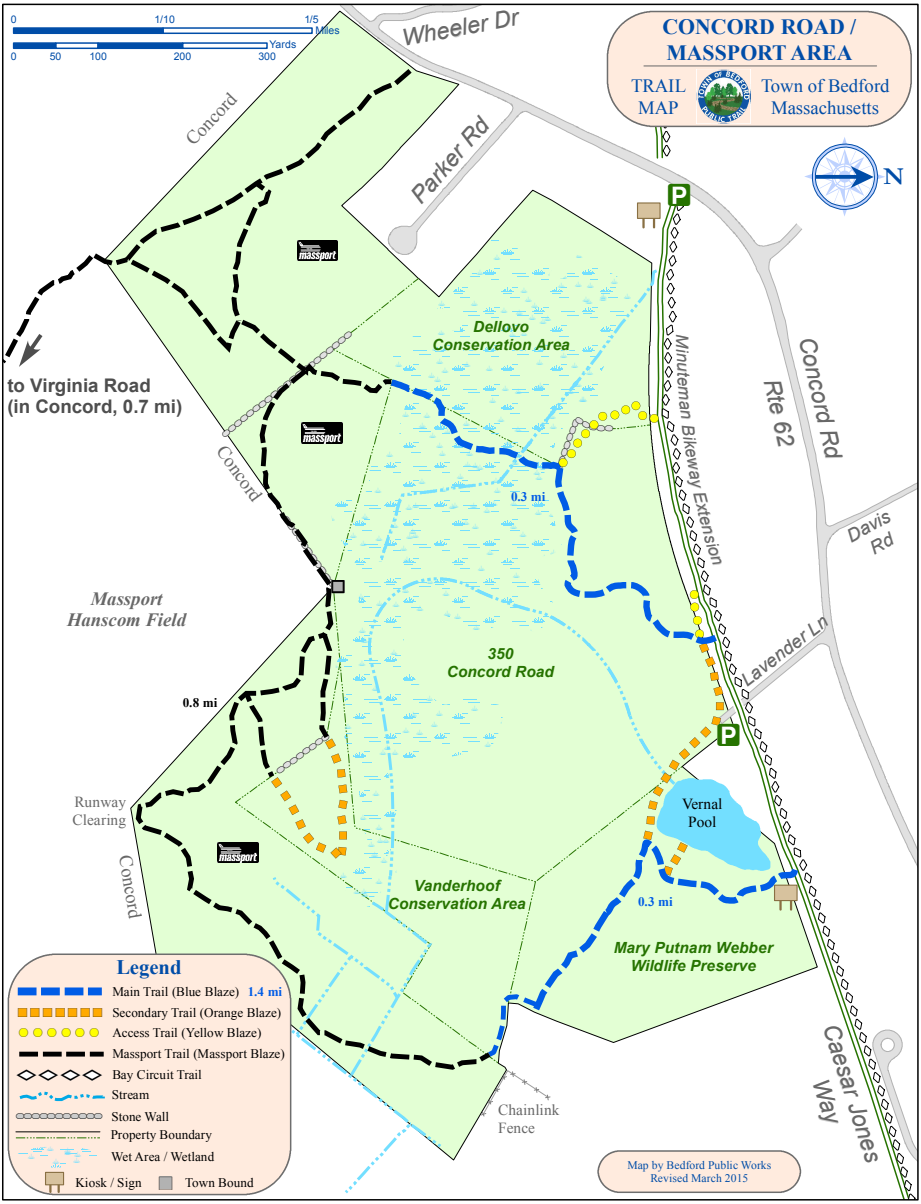
The Mary Putnam Webber Wildlife Preserve was donated in 1990 to protect uplands and sensitive wetlands from proposed use as a landfill. The Town recognized the importance of this 20 acre area to the conservation of natural resources and neighborhood character. The land supports mature forest surrounding a vernal pool certified as wood frog habitat.

In association with Webber, the Town purchased the adjoining eight-acre Vanderhoof Conservation Area in 1990. The blue trail beginning at the Minuteman Bikeway Extension extends southeast from Webber into Vanderhoof, joining a trail that continues south and west through Massport land. There is a link into Vanderhoof from the primary Massport trail, where a hilly knoll forested with white pine is bordered by an orange loop trail.

The purchase of the Dellovo Conservation Area in 1991 added another 15 acres. A short yellow trail leads from the bikeway to the edge of a shrub swamp and wet meadow. Most of the property is designated as Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The Dellovo trail continues south to trails within Massport property.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62). Bear left on Concord Road (Route 62) and continue 1.9 miles to the gravel parking area on the left to access the Minuteman Bikeway Extension. Additional access is available from Lavender Lane.


CONCORD ROAD / MASSPORT AREA
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford Massachusetts
0 1/10 1/5 Miles
0 50 100 200 300 Yards
N
Wheeler Dr
Parker Rd
Concord
Concord
Concord
Runway Clearing
Massport Hanscom Field
to Virginia Road (in Concord, 0.7 mi)
0.8 mi
Dellovo Conservation Area
350 Concord Road
Vanderhoof Conservation Area
Mary Putnam Webber Wildlife Preserve
0.3 mi
0.3 mi
Vernal Pool
Minuteman Bikeway Extension
Concord Rd
Rte 62
Davis Rd
Lavender Ln
Caesar Jones Way
Chainlink Fence
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 1.4 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Massport Trail (Massport Blaze)
Bay Circuit Trail
Stream
Stone Wall
Property Boundary
Wet Area / Wetland
Kiosk / Sign
Town Bound
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015

Elm Brook Conservation Area

The Elm Brook Conservation Area is located between Elm Brook and the Minuteman Bikeway Extension, with access from Railroad Avenue. A large sign near the Minuteman Bikeway Extension marks the beginning of a continuous loop trail through the conservation land along the banks of the Mongo and Elm Brooks before coming to an intersection. A private trail leads to South Road and the blue trail turns left, meandering through a low, floodplain forest and wetland, returning to the entrance by the Minuteman Bikeway Extension. This is a peaceful, wooded area, home to a variety of wildlife including ducks, deer and woodpeckers. Raccoon tracks may be found in the muddy bed of Mongo Brook. The trail is shaded by white pine and swamp maple and is very colorful as the seasons change.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn right on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 0.2 miles. Turn right on South Road, and continue to the intersection with Loomis Street and Railroad Avenue. Turn right on Railroad Avenue and proceed to the parking area and kiosk on the left at the bend in the road.

ELM BROOK
CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL
MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
N
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
Yards
0
25
50
100
150
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.7 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Bog Bridge
Bay Circuit Trail
Property Boundary
Kiosk / Sign
Parking Area
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015
to Hartwell Rd (0.7 miles)
Concord Rd (1.5 miles)
Mongo Brook
Elm Brook
Minuteman Bikeway Extension
Wooded Swamp
Middle School
Athletic Fields
P
Railroad Ave
to
School Campus
and Town Center
(0.5 miles)
Private
Land
Miller-Moore
Conservation
Restriction
to South Rd
(0.25 miles)
to Depot Park
and Minuteman Bikeway
(0.25 miles)

Fawn Lake Conservation Area

As early as the 1600s, colonists learned of a Native American belief that the mineral springs of Fawn Lake held medicinal properties. By the 1850s, a health resort hotel flourished under the ownership of Dr. William R. Hayden. Dr. Hayden built a pharmaceutical laboratory that bottled remedies containing the spring water. The hotel was demolished in 1913 but remnants from this era include the ponds and laboratory, now condominiums.

The Fawn Lake Conservation Area, purchased in 1979, is one of the most popular trail sites in Bedford. Fawn Lake offers a window into Bedford's past, water views, diverse terrain and wildlife, and a variety of native plants.

From Sweetwater Avenue, the main trail leads east around the lake, past the canoe launch to an open lawn. Cross the lawn to the blue trail heading south along the east bank of the lake. An orange trail leads up a hill to a viewing area at an exposed rock ledge.

South of the lake, continue on the blue trail to the perimeter or follow the seasonally wet trails along the lake shore. The shore trail includes a spur to a small peninsula. Native shrubs, including mountain laurel, highbush blueberry, and sweet pepperbush, anchor the shoreline. An old rock wall, built to form the bank, remains visible in some areas.

While walking along the lake, evidence of beaver lodges and gnawed trees may be seen. Turtles sun on low-lying rocks while frogs and snakes hide near the edge of the lake. A variety of fish have been reported by anglers. Recent studies have documented a wide variety of invertebrates, a very important contribution to the lake's biodiversity. Several projects have been carried out to control water lily growth and lake eutrophication.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 1.5 miles on North Road (Route 4). Turn right on Sweetwater Avenue and continue 0.4 miles to the parking area at the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail. Additional access is available from the Middlesex Community College parking lot on Springs Road, south of the Fawn Lake Conservation Area.

FAWN LAKE
CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
N
to Buehler Ponds
Conservation Area
(1/4 mile)
to Fawn Cir
Sweetwater Ave
Lawn
Canoe
Launch
Fawn Lake
Ledges
Gould Rd
Fawn Lake C.A.
Narrow Gauge Rail Trail
Vernal
Pool
Springs Rd
Oak Ridge Ln
Wilderness
Park C.A.
MCC
PARKING LOT
to York C.A.
Wilderness
Park C.A.
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
Yards
0
25
50
100
150
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.8 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Bay Circuit Trail
Stream
Property Boundary
Kiosk / Sign
Bench
Parking Area
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015

Hartwell Town Forest / George Jordan Conservation Area

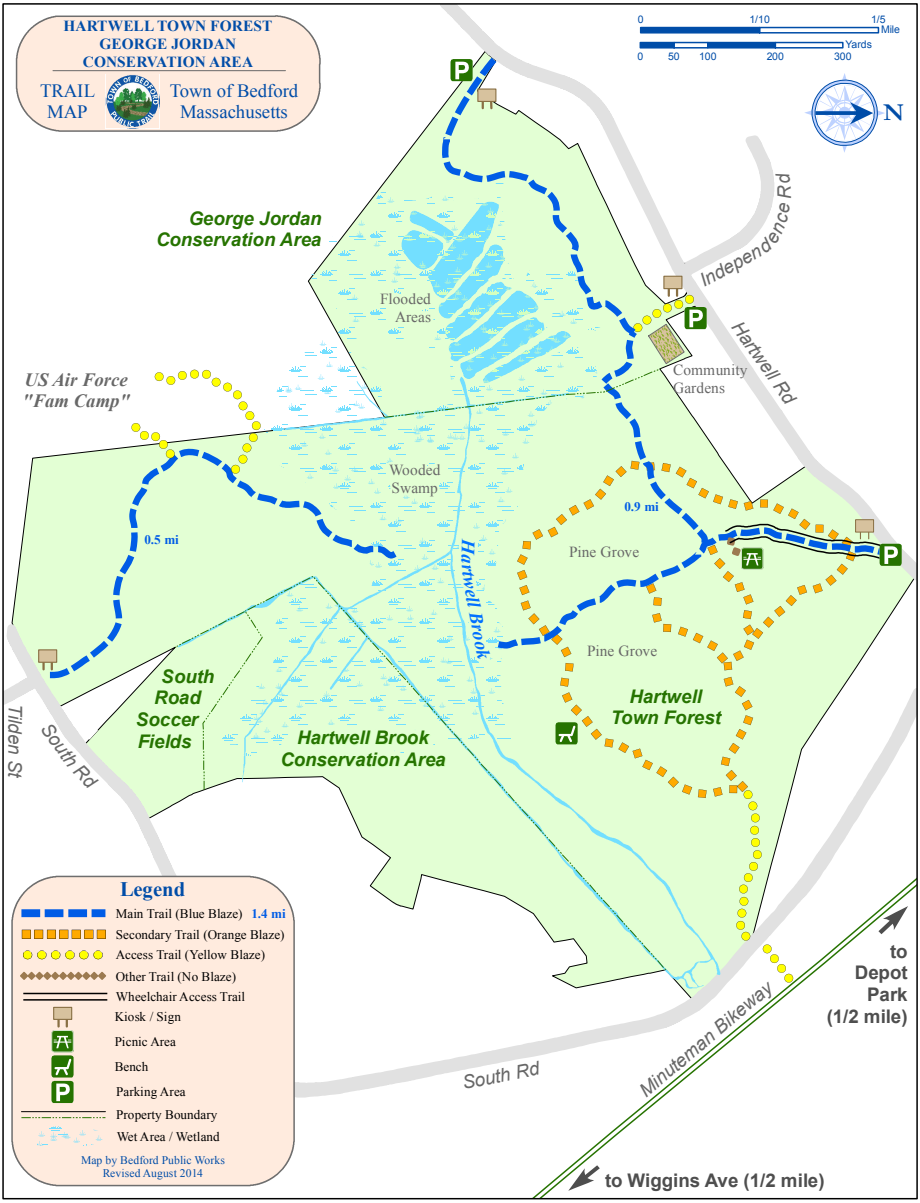
In 1660, William Hartwell of Concord was granted a tract of land including part of what is now southern Bedford. In 1940, his descendants donated their 120-acre wooded lot to the Town. It was first managed by the Hartwell Town Forest Committee. Families picnicked on the land, and on designated days were allowed to cut wood. At the 1977 Town Meeting, management of the land was transferred to the Conservation Commission. Both local and regional Boy Scout groups continue to use the forest for overnight camping.

Bedford's first and largest conservation area supports diverse wildlife, has a history of use for its natural resources, and contains a network of trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. The forest is dominated by mature eastern white pines and an understory of buckthorn, beech, alder, and white pine seedlings and saplings. Indian pipe, jack-in-the-pulpit, lady slipper, partridge berry, and goldthread grow along the paths. Off the path are large cinnamon ferns and sweet pepperbush. Great horned owls, pileated woodpeckers, and many other birds nest here. At dusk, visitors may see deer, raccoon, gray fox, and coyote. In the forest center, the Hartwell Brook provides habitat for beaver, otter, and mink.

From the main entrance, the blue trail passes a stone watering trough that once stood in the town center, and then forks beyond the first picnic area. One blue trail leads west to the community gardens and abandoned cranberry bogs at the George Jordan Conservation Area. The wide cart path to the south leads to the center of the pine grove, and continues as a narrow path to the wetlands bordering Hartwell Brook. The original trail crossed the brook to South Road, but has been flooded by beaver activity and is now impassable. An orange loop trail generally follows the upland forest perimeter, intersecting all the blue trails. A yellow access trail crosses South Road and joins the Minuteman Bikeway.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn right on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 0.2 miles. Turn right on South Road and continue 0.6 miles. Turn right on Hartwell Road. The main entrance and a parking area are immediately on the left. Additional entrances are on South Road, 0.3 miles past Hartwell Road, opposite Tilden Street, and the Jordan gardens area.


HARTWELL TOWN FOREST
GEORGE JORDAN
CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
0
1/10
1/5
Mile
0
50
100
200
300
Yards
N
George Jordan
Conservation Area
Flooded
Areas
Independence Rd
Hartwell Rd
Community
Gardens
US Air Force
"Fam Camp"
Wooded
Swamp
0.9 mi
0.5 mi
Pine Grove
Hartwell Brook
Pine Grove
South
Road
Soccer
Fields
Hartwell
Town Forest
Hartwell Brook
Conservation Area
Tilden St
South Rd
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 1.4 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Wheelchair Access Trail
Kiosk / Sign
Picnic Area
Bench
Parking Area
Property Boundary
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised August 2014
South Rd
Minuteman Bikeway
to
Depot
Park
(1/2 mile)
to Wiggins Ave (1/2 mile)

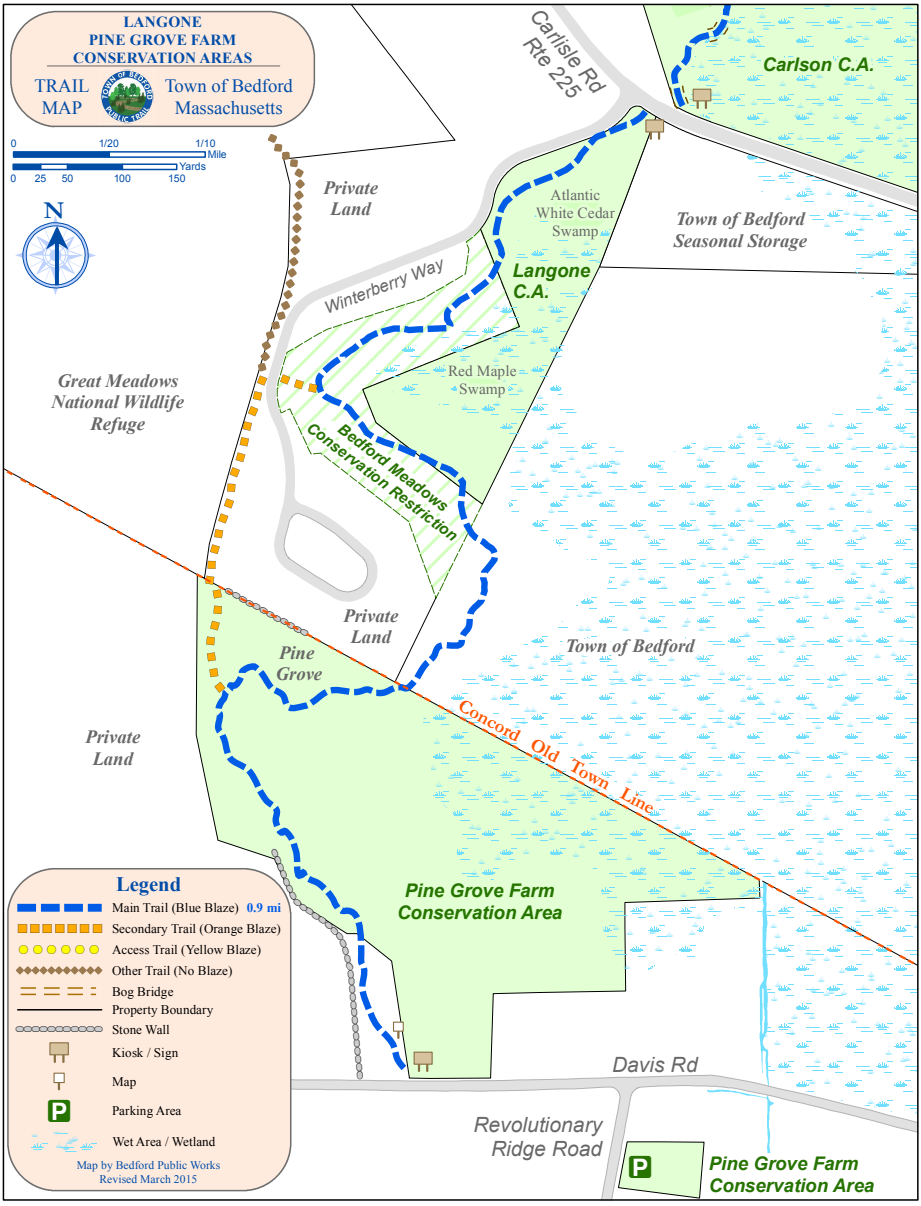
Langone and Pine Grove Farm Conservation Areas

Donated to the Town in 1995, the Langone Conservation Area provides an important link between the Carlisle Road conservation areas and the Pine Grove Farm Conservation Area on Davis Road. Pine Grove Farm consists of five parcels donated in memory of the Lewellen family in 2002. These gifts, along with the Bedford Meadows Conservation Restriction on Winterberry Way, complete a long-planned system of continuous trails, conservation areas, and wildlife habitat corridors. Combined, it comprises approximately 350 acres of protected land and 5 miles of trails between North Road and Davis Road.

The 1.2-mile-long blue trail is narrow at both entry points and widens in the middle where the trees are less clustered. The trail passes through forested wetlands of red maple and near an Atlantic white cedar swamp. Oaks and white pine make up the majority of the remaining tree canopy over the trail. Near Davis Road remnants of the old farm remain, with barbed-wire fence running along the stone wall. The trail is generally an easy walk with flat terrain, although it can be seasonally wet.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62). Bear left on Concord Road (Route 62) and continue 0.3 miles. Turn right on Davis Road and continue 0.5 miles. Turn left on Revolutionary Ridge Road and park in the gravel area on the left. To access the trail, walk back to Davis Road, turn left, and follow the road to the trailhead marker on the right. Additional access is available from Carlisle Road near Winterberry Way, although there is no official designated parking.


LANGONE
PINE GROVE FARM
CONSERVATION AREAS
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
0 1/20 1/10 Mile
0 25 50 100 150 Yards
N
Carlisle Rd
Rte 225
Carlson C.A.
Private Land
Atlantic White Cedar Swamp
Town of Bedford Seasonal Storage
Winterberry Way
Langone C.A.
Red Maple Swamp
Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Bedford Meadows Conservation Restriction
Private Land
Pine Grove
Town of Bedford
Private Land
Concord Old Town Line
Pine Grove Farm Conservation Area
Davis Rd
Revolutionary Ridge Road
Pine Grove Farm Conservation Area
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.9 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Bog Bridge
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Kiosk / Sign
Map
Parking Area
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015

Lindau Farmland at Pine Hill

Located north of the center of town, the Lindau Farmland at Pine Hill provides a hiking and biking connection between neighborhoods in the Pine Hill Road area. From the Pine Hill Road entrance, the blue trail enters a large open field with a variety of grasses, shrubs, and wildflowers including a butterfly way station. The trail descends down a slope past stone walls, a lower field, and through a shady woodland area. Yellow trail spurs lead to Doris Road and Paul Revere Road. The main blue trail continues to Fletcher Road and includes a short trail spur to a vernal pool.

Lindau has been an important part of Bedford's heritage since its incorporation in 1729. The site has a long history as a working farm, remnants of which are apparent in the open fields, ancient specimen trees, well-preserved stone walls, and rows of towering evergreens. Preservation of the landscape establishes links to the town's agricultural heritage and presents visible reminders of land-use patterns of the 19th century. The land was purchased by the town in 1998 and continues to be used for passive recreation.

The site provides an unusually mixed habitat of mature woods, successional growth and open fields, uplands and wetlands (including a certified vernal pool), wooded wetlands and wet meadow, extensive edge habitat, and a continuous wide band of mature wooded cover. The many distinct wetland and upland plant communities each have special habitat value. In combination, and as a reflection of the overall size of the sixteen-acre site, these areas constitute an exceptionally important wildlife habitat for Bedford. Wildlife and plant surveys have demonstrated the rich diversity of the site and its value for bird watching and other nature activities.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62). Continue on North Road for 0.9 miles. Turn right on Pine Hill Road and continue to the top of the hill by the water stand pipe, where there is a sign and small parking area on the right. Follow the blue trail to the open field. Additional entrances are at the end of Doris Road, Paul Revere Road and Fletcher Road.

LINDAU FARMLAND
at PINE HILL
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
N
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
0
25
50
100
150
Yards
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.3 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Wheelchair Access Trail
Bench
Parking Area
Kiosk / Sign
Stone Wall
Contour
Property Boundary
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised August 2014
to York C.A.
(1/3 mile)
Pine Hill Rd
Water Tower
220
210
200
190
180
170
160
Old Field
Butterfly Way Station
Doris Rd
Mickelson Ln
to Narrow Gauge Rail Trail
and Bay Circuit Trail
(1/3 mile)
Vernal Pool
Upland Forest
Paul Revere Rd
Fletcher Rd

Minnie Reid Conservation Area

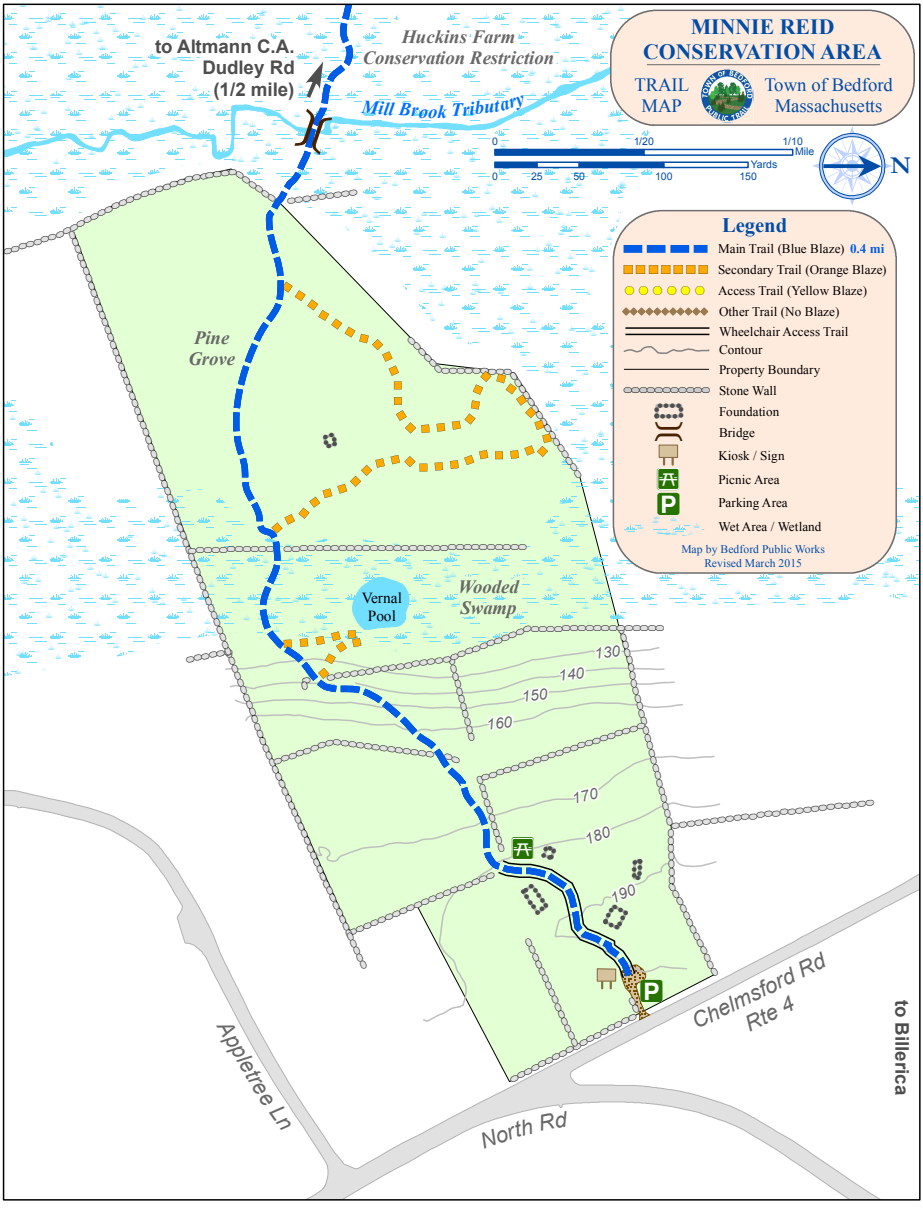
Purchased by the Town in 1986, the Minnie Reid Conservation Area is a valuable acquisition offering varied terrain and habitats including open fields, forested hillsides, white pine groves, wetlands, a vernal pool, and numerous edge habitat areas.

The blue trail begins at the parking area on Chelmsford Road, at the northern point of the West Bedford trail system. The beginning of the trail proceeds through a wooded area and past a picnic table at an opening in a stone wall. The trail then passes a hidden field nestled in the woods on the left before descending further down a hill parallel to an old stone wall. A small orange loop trail on the right leads to a vernal pool before returning to the blue trail. The entrance to a second orange loop trail begins on the right and leads through a white pine grove.

The property abuts the Huckins Farm Conservation Restriction, where the blue trail merges with the public pedestrian easement paths of Huckins Farm, linking to Dudley Road, the Altmann Conservation Area, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and Two Brothers' Rocks on the Concord River. Just past the property boundary with Huckins Farm, a tributary to Mill Brook flows to the north and west. Some sections of the main trail are occasionally flooded due to beaver activity.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62). Continue on North Road (Route 4) 2.1 miles and bear left onto Chelmsford Road (Route 4). The parking area entrance is immediately on the left.


MINNIE REID
CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
to Altmann C.A.
Dudley Rd
(1/2 mile)
Huckins Farm
Conservation Restriction
Mill Brook Tributary
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
Yards
0
25
50
100
150
N
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.4 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Wheelchair Access Trail
Contour
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Foundation
Bridge
Kiosk / Sign
Picnic Area
Parking Area
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015
Pine
Grove
Vernal
Pool
Wooded
Swamp
130
140
150
160
170
180
190
Appletree Ln
North Rd
Chelmsford Rd
Rte 4
to Billerica

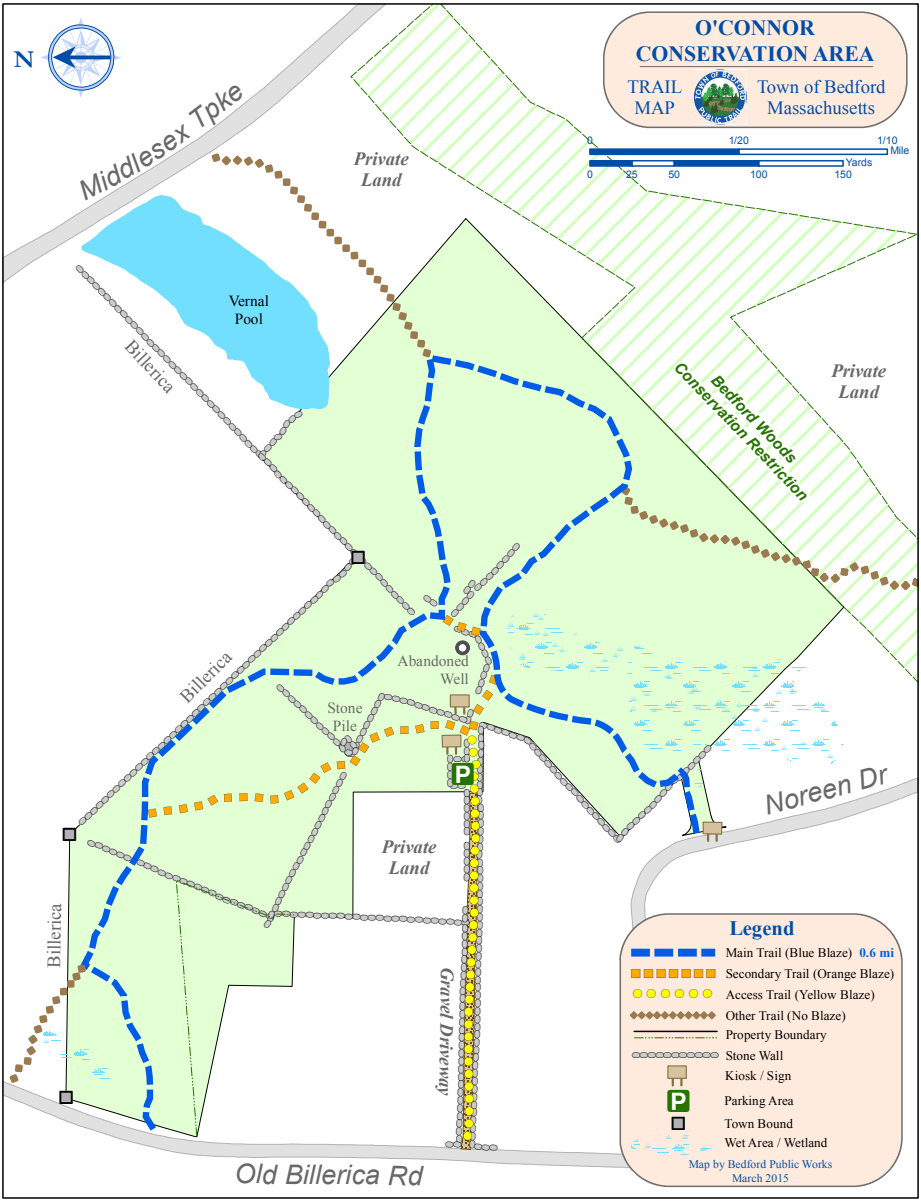
O'Connor Conservation Area

The wide and well groomed trails at the O'Connor Conservation Area provide a window to a previous era in Bedford's history. Remnants of old stone foundations, farm machinery, and other artifacts can be seen near the former farm site. The trails are shaded by tall pine, maple, and oak trees. Clusters of fern beds and other native plants can be found scattered along the trails.

There are three entry points into the O'Connor Conservation Area. The main blue trail begins at the Noreen Drive entrance and loops around the site to Old Billerica Road near the Billerica town line. The yellow access trail begins at Old Billerica Road and follows an easement along a gravel driveway to a well-defined parking area, sign, and kiosk. From the kiosk at the trailhead intersection, the orange trail on the right passes by remnants of old stone foundations and an abandoned well. The orange trail on the left passes by several stone walls and a large pile of stones, which may signify evidence of early land clearing. The terrain is generally flat and the trail passes through a small clearing nestled within the woods. Most of the O'Connor Conservation Area is designated as Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn right on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 0.8 miles. Turn left on Brooksbie Road (Route 62) and continue 1 mile. Turn left on Old Billerica Road and continue 1.9 miles. Pass Noreen Drive and turn right at the gravel driveway lined by two stone walls, across the street from 464 Old Billerica Road. Follow the driveway to a gravel parking area by the conservation area sign. The trail entrance is at a kiosk along the driveway.


O'CONNOR
CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL
MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
N
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
Yards
0
25
50
100
150
Middlesex Tpke
Private
Land
Vernal
Pool
Billerica
Bedford Woods
Conservation Restriction
Private
Land
Billerica
Abandoned
Well
Stone
Pile
P
Noreen Dr
Private
Land
Billerica
Gravel Driveway
Old Billerica Rd
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.6 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Kiosk / Sign
Parking Area
Town Bound
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
March 2015

Old Reservoir / Valente Land

Known as "The Old Rez," the Old Reservoir land is one of the Town's most interesting and popular municipal open space areas. It offers a network of trails with diverse terrain surrounding the picturesque Old Reservoir. The dam and historic well house, built in 1908 and renovated in 2013, add to the appeal of this serene wilderness area. The reservoir itself is no longer in use as a public water supply but the area has been maintained for passive recreation.

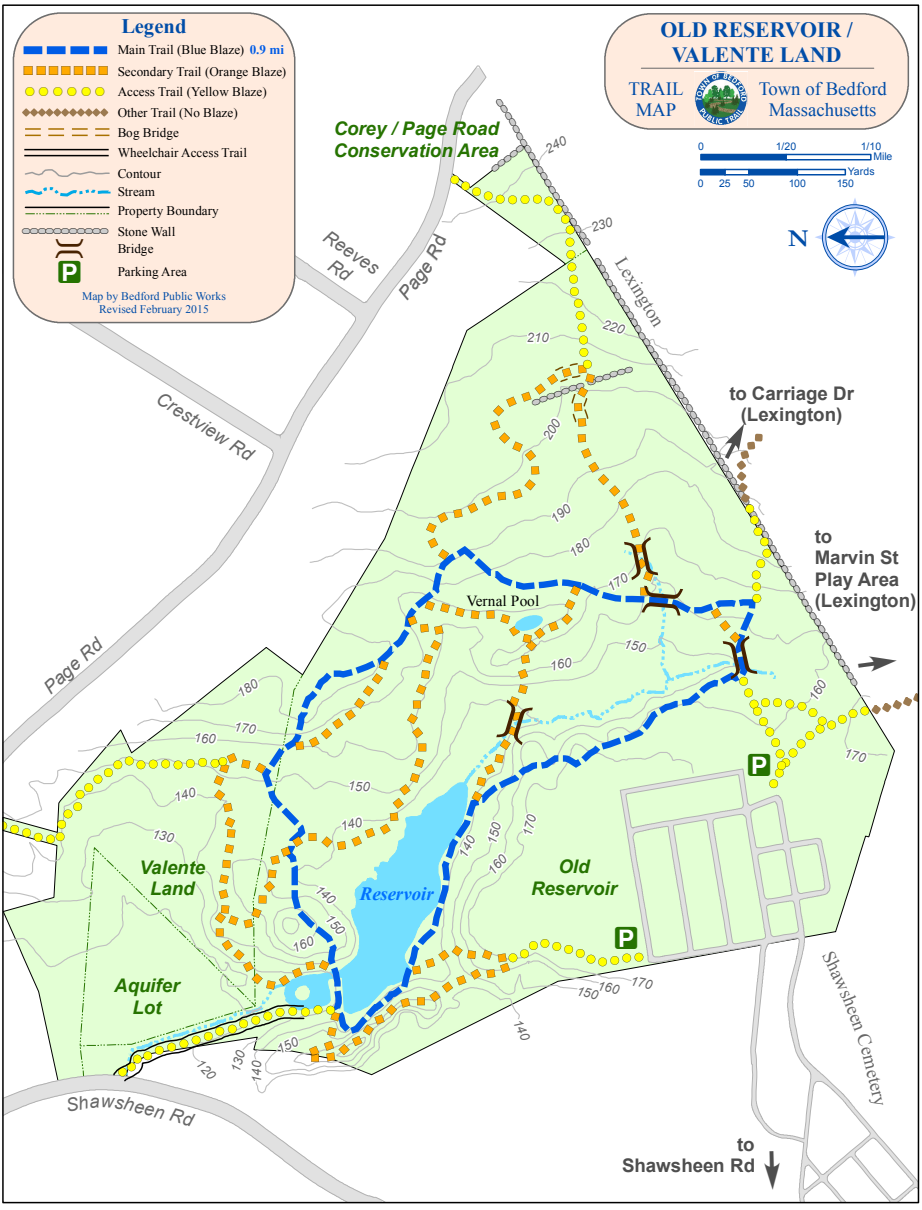
The trail network has several access points from Shawsheen Road, Page Road, and the Shawsheen Cemetery. Ample parking is available in the Cemetery at two yellow access trails. The trails decline sharply and lead to the blue trail loop. Trails can also be accessed from Marvin Street and Carriage Drive in Lexington.

The mile-long blue trail encircles the reservoir, passes over a number of steep hills, and through low-lying areas and streams. The trail meanders under tall pine, maple, oak, and beech trees. Bog bridges are placed over gently running streams and other wetland areas. A variety of native plants grow along the trail, including inkberry, spicebush, lady slipper, skunk cabbage, and jewelweed. Remnants of stone walls add to the trail's charm. The embankment-like ridge along the orange trail just west of the reservoir provides a panoramic view of the water and surrounding woodlands.

One of the significant features of the terrain is its changing grade. Steep inclines and declines provide for more strenuous hiking and biking than typically found on other trails within the Bedford trail system.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn right on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 1.2 miles. Bear left onto Shawsheen Avenue. Cross Shawsheen Road to enter the Shawsheen Cemetery. Bear right at the first fork and follow the road to the rear of the Cemetery. Take the first left at the rear section. Follow the road to the trail entrance past the fence. Parking is available off the cemetery road.


Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.9 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Bog Bridge
Wheelchair Access Trail
Contour
Stream
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Bridge
Parking Area
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised February 2015
OLD RESERVOIR / VALENTE LAND
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford Massachusetts
0 1/20 1/10 Mile
0 25 50 100 150 Yards
N
Corey / Page Road Conservation Area
Reeves Rd
Page Rd
Crestview Rd
Lexington
to Carriage Dr (Lexington)
to Marvin St Play Area (Lexington)
Vernal Pool
Valente Land
Reservoir
Old Reservoir
Aquifer Lot
Shawsheen Rd
Shawsheen Cemetery
to Shawsheen Rd

Shawsheen River Conservation Areas

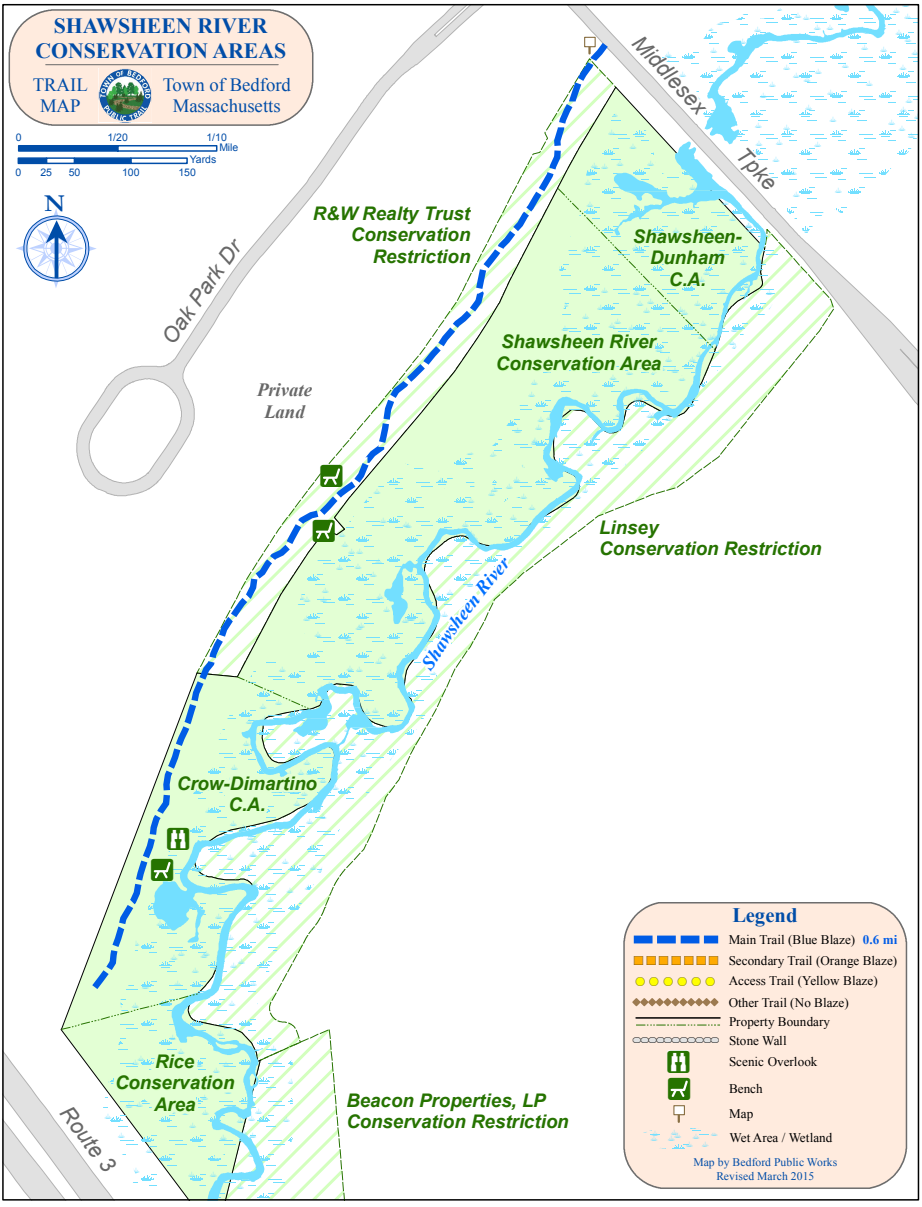
The Shawsheen River Conservation Areas include four conservation areas and three conservation restrictions that together form 28.3 acres of a protected river corridor between Route 3 and Middlesex Turnpike. The area is accessible from a trail off Middlesex Turnpike.

The trail within the conservation restriction and adjacent conservation area follows an upland route that parallels an old stone wall, the Shawsheen River, and the greenway. Parts of the trail follow a ledge and the sloping grade offers slight difficulty for walking. The trail is approximately 0.6 miles long and leads to a small opening that provides views across the open marsh and river, which follows a natural meandering course between Route 3 and Middlesex Turnpike. The northern part of the river corridor is designated as Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Tall white pine, pitch pine, oak, maple, and smaller eastern red cedar trees border the trail, along with clusters of ferns and other native plants.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn right on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 0.8 miles. Turn left on Brooksbie Road (Route 62) and continue on Route 62 for 2.3 miles. Turn left onto Middlesex Turnpike and continue 1.5 miles. The trailhead is on the left immediately after crossing the Shawsheen River and before Oak Park Drive.


SHAWSHEEN RIVER
CONSERVATION AREAS
TRAIL
MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
Yards
0
25
50
100
150
N
Oak Park Dr
Middlesex
Tpke
R&W Realty Trust
Conservation
Restriction
Shawsheen-
Dunham
C.A.
Shawsheen River
Conservation Area
Private
Land
Linsey
Conservation Restriction
Shawsheen River
Crow-Dimartino
C.A.
Rice
Conservation
Area
Beacon Properties, LP
Conservation Restriction
Route 3
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.6 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Scenic Overlook
Bench
Map
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015

Springs Brook Conservation Area and Springs Brook Park

The Springs Brook Conservation Area provides opportunities for exploring trails in the vicinity of Springs Brook Park – the Town's outdoor swimming area.

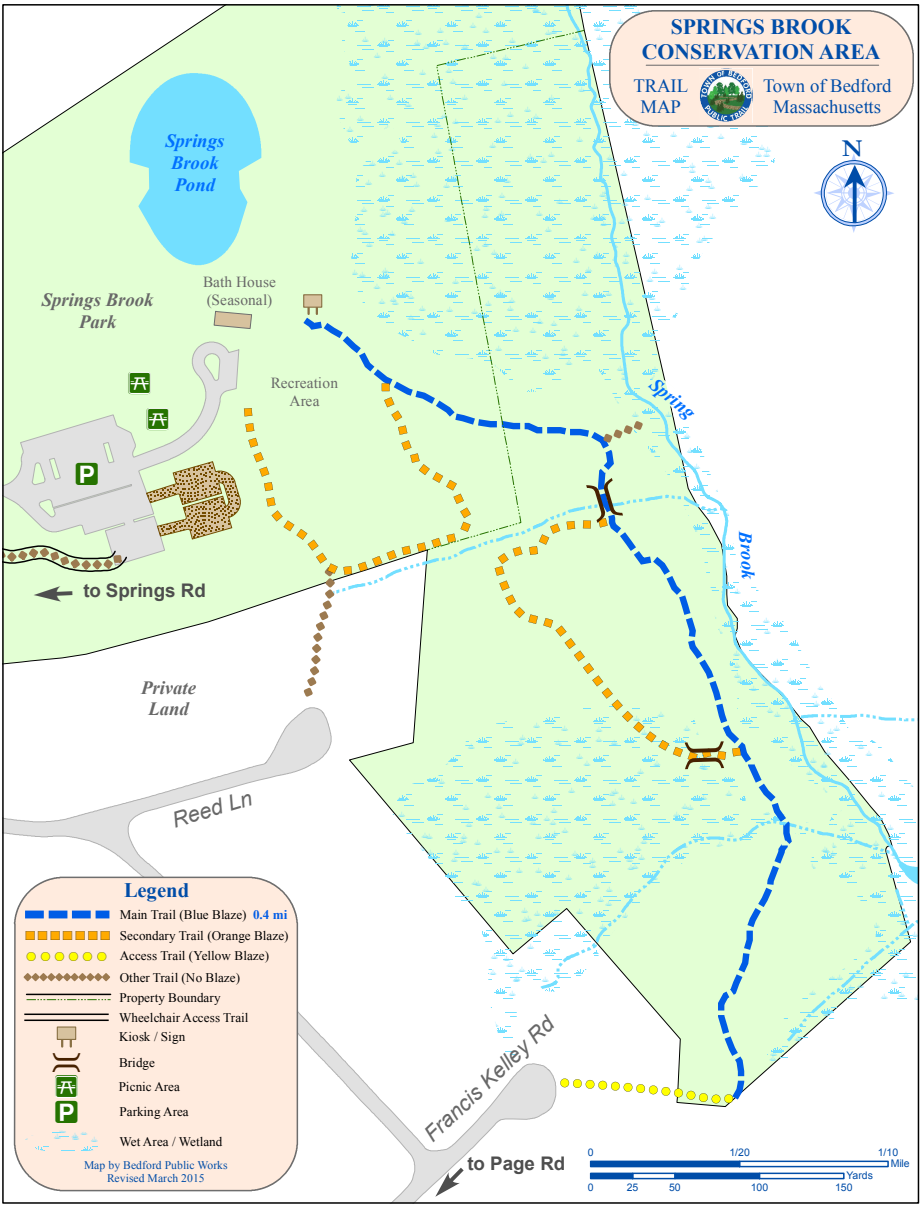
The main blue trail offers a relatively short and level hike that passes through a predominantly wetland area, with a short side trail providing access to a beautiful view of the Spring Brook corridor. If starting from Springs Brook Park, look for the entrance to the blue trail near the playground. The narrow path meanders through woodlands of tall maple and oak trees. The trail will begin to parallel the Spring Brook marshland. The best view is at the bend in the trail, just before reaching the bridge.

Continuing over the bridge, the trail winds through sun-filled openings in the woodlands and passes through masses of low-lying ferns and cattails. An orange loop trail, beginning near the bridge, passes under large white pines and through wetlands. The southern portion of the blue trail eventually joins a yellow access path leading to Francis Kelley Road.

Portions of the trail are seasonally wet. Most of the southern half of Springs Brook Park and all of the Springs Brook Conservation Area are designated as Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn right on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 0.2 miles. Turn left on Springs Road and continue 0.6 miles. Turn right at the entrance to Springs Brook Park. Access to the trailhead is within the park, which is open during the summer months. If needed, park outside the gate at the fields on Springs Road and walk down the trail at the side of the road. Additional access is available from Francis Kelley Road.


SPRINGS BROOK
CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL
MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
N
Springs
Brook
Pond
Springs Brook
Park
Bath House
(Seasonal)
Recreation
Area
P
to Springs Rd
Spring
Brook
Private
Land
Reed Ln
Francis Kelley Rd
to Page Rd
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.4 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Property Boundary
Wheelchair Access Trail
Kiosk / Sign
Bridge
Picnic Area
Parking Area
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
Yards
0
25
50
100
150

Town Campus

Located near the Town's schools and public buildings, the town campus trails are primarily used by students, connecting Railroad Avenue and Elm Street to “B Field”, across from the high school.

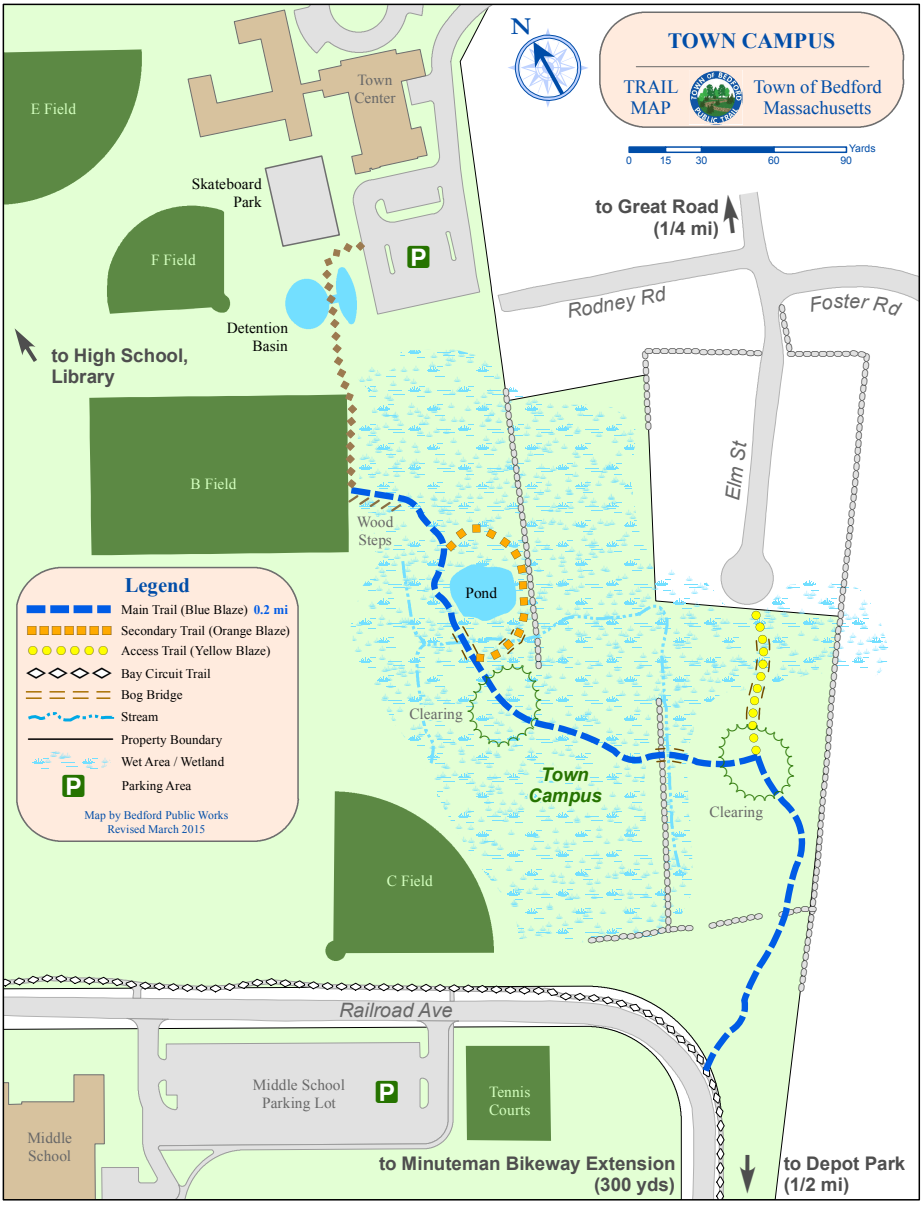
Between Elm Street and Railroad Avenue, the wooded area includes two clearings, a stream, and a pond. In the early 1970's the Conservation Commission under the leadership of Murray York, led a campaign to establish outdoor spaces for nature education at the four elementary schools in use at the time, called “Nature’s Classrooms”. Elementary class workshops at the site were very popular, and “Cattail Corner” at Davis School is a well enjoyed part of science exploration today.

At the town campus, the pond in the wooded wetland along the blue trail was dug as part of the nature's classroom for the nearby Center School, now the Town Center building at 12 Mudge Way. Pollywogs, frogs, and snakes served as short-term classroom pets for close-up study. Mini-courses such as “Life In and Under a Snow Bank” rewarded students with natural discoveries as plants and animals changed during the transition from winter to spring.

The Bay Circuit Trail and the Minuteman Bikeway Extension pass south of the area along Railroad Avenue.

Directions

Parking is available in the Middle School parking lot adjacent to the tennis courts. The blue trail begins across Railroad Avenue.


TOWN CAMPUS
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford Massachusetts
N
0 15 30 60 90 Yards
E Field
Town Center
Skateboard Park
F Field
Detention Basin
to High School, Library
B Field
Wood Steps
Pond
Clearing
Town Campus
Clearing
C Field
to Great Road (1/4 mi)
Rodney Rd
Foster Rd
Elm St
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.2 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Bay Circuit Trail
Bog Bridge
Stream
Property Boundary
Wet Area / Wetland
Parking Area
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015
Railroad Ave
Middle School Parking Lot
Tennis Courts
Middle School
to Minuteman Bikeway Extension (300 yds)
to Depot Park (1/2 mi)

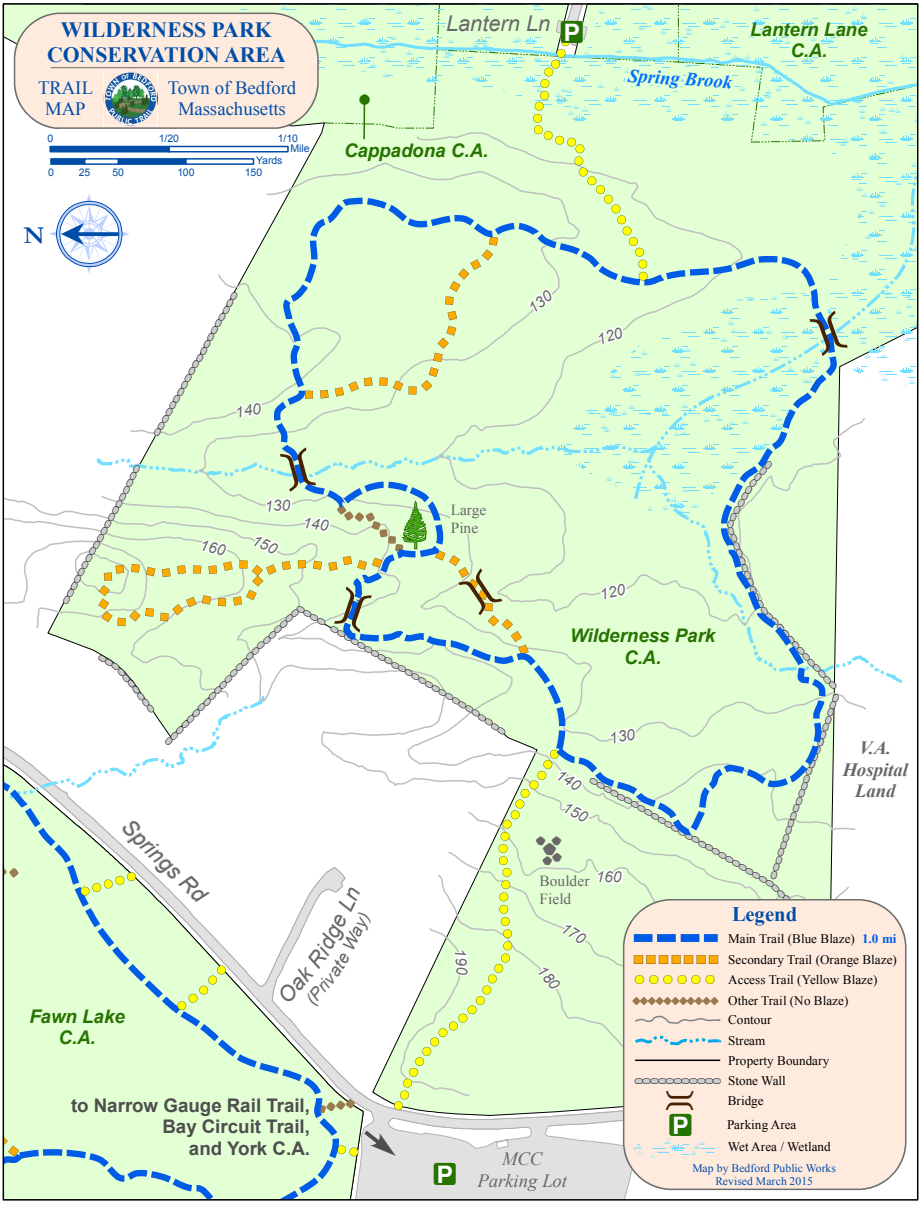
Wilderness Park Conservation Area

The Wilderness Park Conservation Area is a large woodland and wetland area that supports various wildlife habitats and species, including woodpeckers, deer, barred owl, and fisher cat. The Town acquired the property from the federal government in 1959 and 1976 as two parcels of land comprising over 73 acres. Deed restrictions limit its use to conservation and recreation.

From the trailhead at Springs Road, the yellow access trail descends past a large field of boulders and leads to the mile-long blue trail that circles the property. Two features along the trail to the north are the large white pine and the highest elevation point, accessed by an orange loop trail. Heading east and south on the blue trail, the land is primarily upland with a variety of tree species. Continuing south, the blue trail descends toward a wetland area, passing a yellow trail leading east to Spring Brook and Lantern Lane. While passing over the bridges and streams, frogs, turtles, and other wildlife can be observed in their wetland habitats. Heading west, the trail parallels an old stone wall before ascending into a forest of various maple, oak, and pine trees, which provide a colorful tree canopy depending on the season. The trail then turns north to join the yellow trail leading back to Springs Road.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn right on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 0.2 miles. Turn left on Springs Road and continue 1.3 miles to the trailhead on the right side of the road. Parking is available across the street at the Middlesex Community College parking lot, south of Fawn Lake. Additional access is from the end of Lantern Lane.


WILDERNESS PARK
CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
0
25
50
100
150
Yards
N
Lantern Ln
Lantern Lane C.A.
Spring Brook
Cappadona C.A.
130
120
140
130
140
150
160
Large Pine
120
Wilderness Park C.A.
130
V.A. Hospital Land
140
150
Boulder Field
160
170
180
190
Springs Rd
Oak Ridge Ln
(Private Way)
Fawn Lake C.A.
to Narrow Gauge Rail Trail,
Bay Circuit Trail,
and York C.A.
MCC
Parking Lot
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 1.0 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Contour
Stream
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Bridge
Parking Area
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised March 2015

York Conservation Area

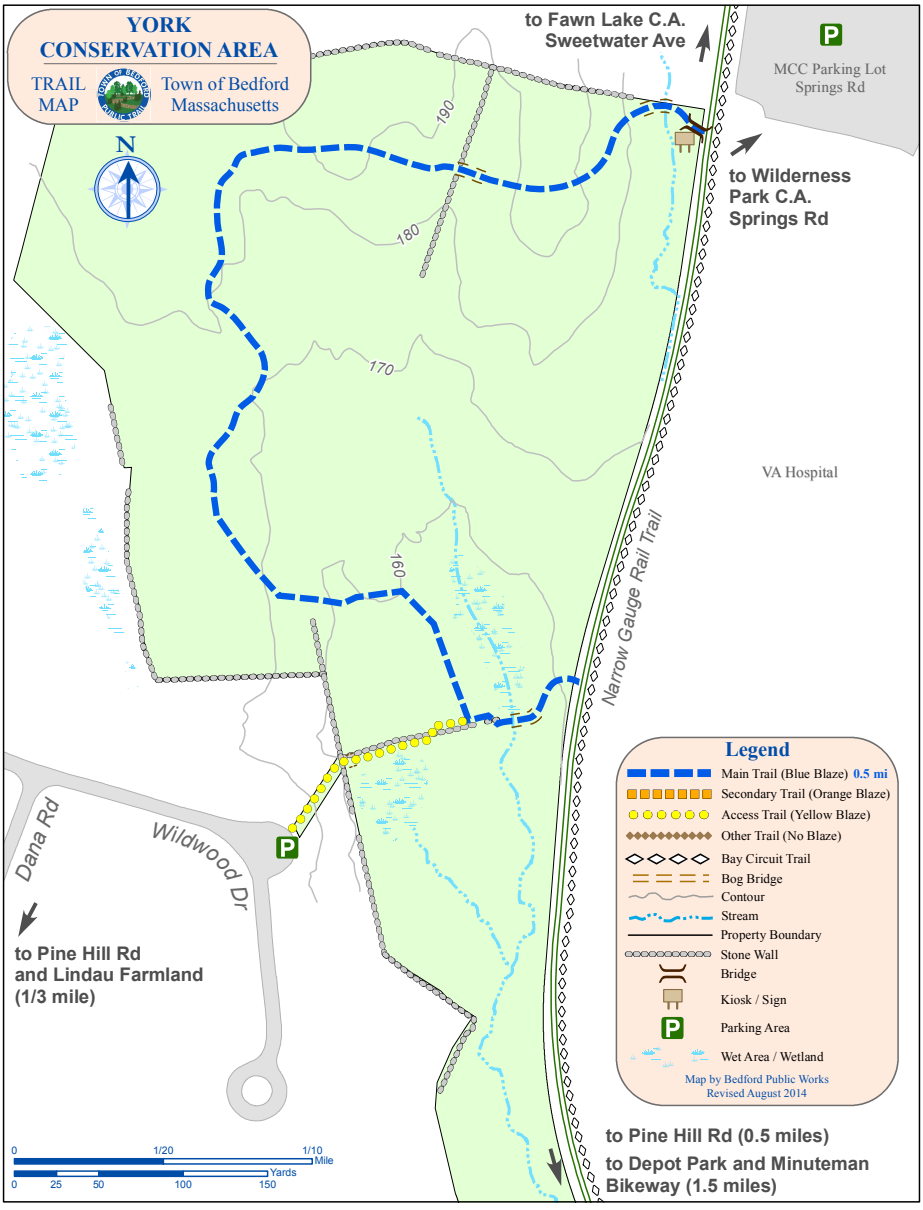
Purchased from the federal government in 1963 as surplus land, the Murray York Conservation Area is named after a founding member of the Bedford Conservation Commission.

This delightful, half-mile trail loop begins and ends at the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail, wandering over bog bridges and through woodlands made up predominantly of tall maple and oak trees. A rich shrub understory includes highbush blueberry, swamp winterberry, maple-leaved viburnum and swamp sweetbells. The changes in elevation throughout the conservation area provide visual interest and foster diverse plant communities.

The blue trail through York begins near the conservation area sign at the northern intersection with the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail, just south of the Middlesex Community College parking lot. Bog bridges provide access over an intermittent stream and the trail continues through a stone wall into upland woods. The trail descends gradually to the south into a lower wetland area by a stone wall. At the stone wall, the yellow trail leads west to Wildwood Drive; the blue trail continues east over bog bridges and back to the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail, approximately 0.5 miles south of the trail entrance.

Directions

From Mudge Way, turn right on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62) and continue 0.2 miles. Turn left on Springs Road and continue 1.4 miles. Parking is available at the Middlesex Community College parking lot south of Fawn Lake. Enter the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail at the rear of the parking lot, turn left and walk south to the trail entrance.


YORK
CONSERVATION AREA
TRAIL MAP
Town of Bedford
Massachusetts
N
to Fawn Lake C.A.
Sweetwater Ave
MCC Parking Lot
Springs Rd
to Wilderness
Park C.A.
Springs Rd
190
180
170
160
VA Hospital
Narrow Gauge Rail Trail
Dana Rd
Wildwood Dr
to Pine Hill Rd
and Lindau Farmland
(1/3 mile)
Legend
Main Trail (Blue Blaze) 0.5 mi
Secondary Trail (Orange Blaze)
Access Trail (Yellow Blaze)
Other Trail (No Blaze)
Bay Circuit Trail
Bog Bridge
Contour
Stream
Property Boundary
Stone Wall
Bridge
Kiosk / Sign
Parking Area
Wet Area / Wetland
Map by Bedford Public Works
Revised August 2014
0
1/20
1/10
Mile
Yards
0
25
50
100
150
to Pine Hill Rd (0.5 miles)
to Depot Park and Minuteman
Bikeway (1.5 miles)

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Bedford Trail Guide: Peter Desjardins, Kristin Marcus, Ralph Hammond, Clem Larson, Mary Mady, Bruce Wisentaner, the Trails Committee, the Conservation Administrator and Conservation Commission, and the Department of Public Works – Engineering / GIS Division.

The Bedford Trail Guide is an excellent resource for all trail users and the Trails Committee hopes to see more friendly faces exploring the Town's open spaces!

Trails Committee Members (2015)

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Dan Hurwitz

Mark Levine

Paul Marcus

Hal Ward

Jim Weissman

(Vacant at time of publishing)

Please note that the Trail Guide is a working document, intended to be updated periodically to accurately reflect the Town's trail system and be used by many for years to come..

TOWN OF BEDFORD
PUBLIC TRAIL