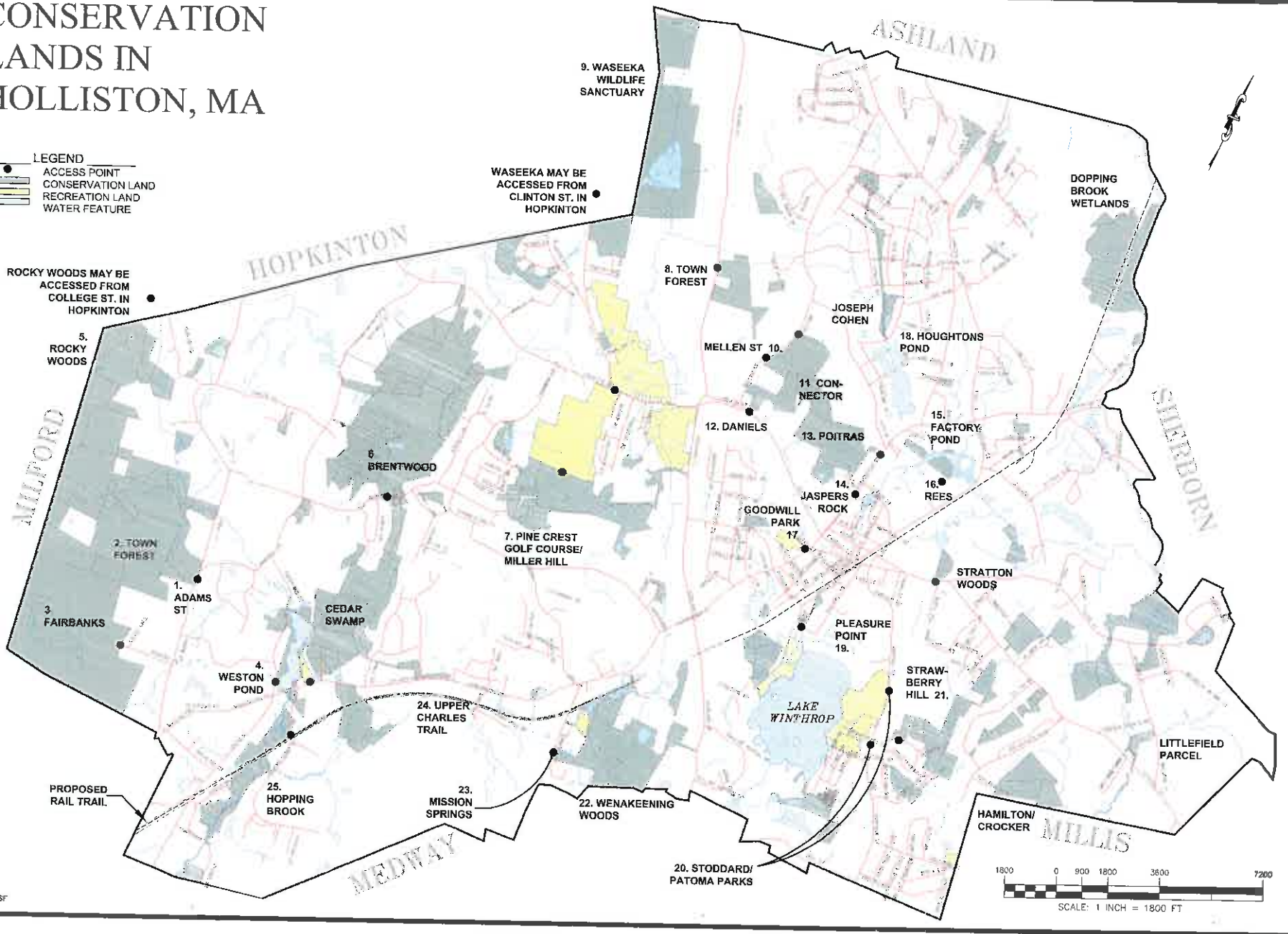


CONSERVATION LANDS IN HOLLISTON, MA

- LEGEND**
- ACCESS POINT
 - ▨ CONSERVATION LAND
 - ▨ RECREATION LAND
 - ▨ WATER FEATURE



David Reed Fairbanks Conservation Land (1)

In 2002, Fairbanks was the first parcel to be purchased with monies from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as well as donations from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Trustees of Reservations. This property serves as an important link to neighboring conservation areas and with its wetlands and woods provides habitat to many state listed species.

Rocky Woods (2)

This parcel may be accessed through the Adams Street Conservation Area or from the College Rock area in Hopkinton. The 162-acre site includes Rocky Woods and the former Bowker Property and it abuts the corner where the towns of Holliston, Hopkinton, and Milford meet. A major trail circles the land's periphery. It is very wild and mostly dry, whereas most of our other Conservation Land contains wetlands. Some of the outstanding features are large, picturesque granite boulders.

Town Forests (3 & 14)

Controlled by the Town Forest Committee, one parcel is located on the west edge of town, off Adams Street. The other is located off Highland Street. The Highland Street Town Forest was donated by William Henrich, a long time Forest Committee member and caretaker of the parcel. This parcel is part of an extensive wildlife corridor with Waseeka Wildlife Sanctuary and Warren Woods.

Adams Street Conservation Area (4)

This area is part of a three-town project to preserve the land between Adams Street in Holliston, Route 495 in Milford, and Route 85 in Milford and Hopkinton. Encompassing almost 2,500 acres, it is considered to be the largest remaining piece of open space between Metrowest and Boston. Holliston had made significant progress in protecting this land over the years through purchases for Town Forest and Conservation Land. The Open Space Committee was able to add the Fairbanks Property (210 acres) in 2002 and the N-Star Property (87 acres) in 2008. This property has it all: boulder strewn uplands, vernal pools, wetlands, mammals, birds, quiet streams, and plenty of trails to explore. Parking is at the end of Dunster Road and in a lot off Adams Street near Marshall Street.

Weston Pond (5)

To the west of town, this 73-acre site is on Washington Street near Courtland Street. There is a large parking area with access to the pond and soccer field. An island with benches is accessible by a bridge. The benches, bridge and trail system were built as part of an Eagle Scout project. Deer, otter, geese, and great blue heron are commonly seen. The pond also provides a significant waterfowl nesting area. The Boy Scouts added wood duck nesting boxes. On the east side of the pond is a recreation area with soccer fields and walking paths. The recreation area was developed jointly by various Town Boards using local and federal funding.

Upper Charles River (6)

Locally known as the Rail Trail, the Upper' Charles Trail is a proposed multi-purpose accessible trail of 6.7 miles in the Town of Holliston. A two mile section is currently improved with stone dust. Other sections of the Trail are currently maintained as an unimproved rail bed with the rails removed. The Trail connects with the completed 6.7 mile paved trail in the Town of Milford. The Trail is intended to become a 20-mile loop through surrounding towns, connecting various conservation lands and the Bay Circuit Trail

Hopping Brook (7)

The Hopping Brook area, together with the nearby Cedar Swamp, Beaver Brook, and the Charles River in Milford, is considered to be a rich, biodiverse environment, home to many species of turtles and salamanders. The Hopping Brook area is adjacent to the Upper Charles Trail.

Brentwood Conservation Land (8)

This area is approximately 400 acres in size and was assembled over many years from a number of separate parcels. The majority of the parcels are federally owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The entrance is off Garwin Drive near Karen Circle. The main entrance passes through an abandoned gravel pit and then follows a long wooded path to two small ponds, originally excavated by the National Guard for winter skating. The ponds contain numerous small fish and frog species and some active beavers who chose to build their lodge on the path. Circling to the left of the ponds, evidence of beaver activity such as fallen logs and tooth marks can be seen. In 2009, Brentwood contained a fine example of a rare Atlantic White Cedar swamp; however, due to the flooding by beavers, the landscape has been drastically altered, and most of the mature cedars have died. Winter- with water frozen - is a good time to continue to the Frank A. Rees Memorial Trail, named in honor of a founding member of the Conservation Commission instrumental in acquiring much of the Brentwood land. Just past this point numerous side trails branch off. Some of the features include a birch woods, a pine forest, and a unique, mature beech forest. Fisher, beaver, mink, coyotes, fox, deer, owls, and hawks have been sighted. Trails are well marked and are easy to follow, unless flooded.

Miller Hill Conservation Land (10)

The Miller Hill area is made up of 200+ acres commonly referred to as "behind Pinecrest Golf Course". This large, mostly untouched area has an old quarry and related ruins, ponds, large rock formations, and some very hilly terrain. The best part about this area is that there are over 5 miles of trails made up of 100 + year old cart paths that wind their way through a wonderful, wooded setting.

Waseeka Wildlife Refuge (11)

This land is owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and is located in Holliston, Ashland, and Hopkinton. It contains a large pond and several loop trails. This parcel was donated by Elizabeth Powers who is commemorated by a plaque found on a rock near the southern corner of the pond. To access Waseeka, follow Mill Street into Hopkinton, where Mill Street changes to Clinton Street. There is a parking lot in the woods. Ospreys have nested here for several years.

Warren Woods II (12)

Warren Woods II consists of 24 acres and was purchased in 2015. Combined with the land in the neighboring town of Ashland, Warren Woods conserves a total of approximately 144 acres of old farmland and woodland. Contiguous with Ashland State Park, Holliston Town Forest, Waseeka Wildlife Sanctuary, and other conservation and agricultural restricted parcels, Warren Woods is part of a wildlife corridor covering over 1000 acres. Warren Woods is the former homestead of Henry Warren and his wife Edith. Henry Warren (1872-1957) was best known for inventing the electric clock. Trails through this property may be accessed from the entrance on Chestnut Street in Ashland. More information regarding Warren Woods may be obtained from the Ashland Open Space and Recreation Committee.

Wenekeening Woods (13)

This 100-acre property was gifted to the Upper Charles Conservation, Inc. by the Avery-Dennison Corp. Parking is available in a small lot located on the east side of Summer Street, just south of the Fatima Shrine. Pedestrian access is also available from Highland Street, between the two entrances to the "Preserve" residential subdivision. An extensive network of foot trails and cart paths traverse the land and join with abutting properties. The majority of the site is attractive woodlands with large rock outcroppings on the high ground.

Mellen Street Conservation Land (15)

The Mellen Street Property was purchased from the Finn family in 2007 through a combination of CPA and Mass Audubon funding. The land abuts the Daniels property and was a strategic purchase in creating a wildlife corridor from Washington Street through the Poitras Conservation Land all the way to Hopkinton across both publicly and privately owned protected land.

Daniels' Property (16)

This 20-acre parcel was donated by the Daniels' family. It was formerly a home site with a variety of gardens and fruit trees. Evidence still remains of the house and garage that were torn down a number of years ago. A former cranberry bog exists beneath the large vernal pool located on the property where the Holliston Conservation Associates hold their annual Vernal Pool walk in the spring.

The Connector (17)

The Connector was donated by a developer to link the Poitras and Daniels properties. Hikers are asked to please stay on the marked trail when passing the abutting residences.

Poitras Memorial Land (18)

The Poitras family donated this 44-acre parcel to the town in 1986 in memory of their parents. Access is off Washington Street by the Historical Society. This is a long, narrow parcel that leads to the top of a hill with good views in winter.

Jasper's Rock (21)

This is our smallest parcel at only 0.1 acres and is found at the top of Fairlane Way. Of primarily historical significance, the parcel encompasses a medium sized granite boulder that is reputed to have been used by Jasper Adams. In 1660, Henry Adams of Medfield sent his sons to Holliston to pasture his sheep. Jasper built a fire on the rock to let his father know that all was well.

Joseph Cohen Conservation Land (22)

This land was named for a past Chairman and longtime member of the Conservation Commission and the Associates. It is in the Queens area, on Westfield Drive near Travis Road. It encompasses a small stream as it meanders through swampland, connecting back with Westfield Drive and the edge of Houghton Pond. Although there are no walking trails on this parcel, it has been preserved as an example of urban wetlands in the midst of a built-up area.

Strawberry Hill (24)

Strawberry Hill encompasses approximately 30 acres. The walking trails of Strawberry Hill were developed by the neighbors of the Shaw Farm Road area and finished by an Eagle Scout. It is possible to see deer, fox, rabbit, turkey, and owls along the trails.

Houghton Pond (25)

This 33-acre pond extends between Washington Street and Westfield Drive. Access may be gained from the rear of the parking lot at 441 Washington Street or from the concrete head wall on Westfield Drive. Homeowners' property lines are very close to the edge of the property. Town residents can often be seen fishing from the culvert. It has been reported that three pound bass have been taken here. The pond contains many turtles and frogs. Waterfowl use it as a nesting site. Although it is quite shallow, some people canoe on it.

Frank and Dorothy Rees Outdoor Classroom (26)

This one-acre site is on Woodland Street, behind the elementary/middle school complex. It is named in honor of Frank Rees and his wife Dorothy, who felt strongly that children should be taught about nature. There is a long, circular, self-guiding trail around the site. The land is used by the schools for nature instruction, although it is open to everyone. Trail guides are available from the Conservation Associates.

Factory Pond (27)

This 11-acre pond is off Woodland Street and across the street from the 8-Arch Bridge. It is very picturesque and is often used by fishermen. The Cutler brothers owned a variety of industries that were located in this area. In the mid-1880's they operated a cooper and wheelwright shop, a grist mill, a tannery and a thread mill near the dam.

Serocki Property (28)

Currently known as the Serocki property, this amazing piece of land at the east end of Holliston was recently acquired by the Open Space Committee. At the October 2014 Town Meeting, the people of Holliston voted unanimously to purchase the land. It encompasses 33 acres of diverse landscape that will be preserved as part of the Town's open spaces forever. Approximately half of the land is farm land. There is a house and a barn, along with fields that are ready for plowing. The other half encompasses many different land types. There are open fields and meadows that contain wild blueberries along with a variety of natural plants. There are wetlands, and wooded areas with tall pine trees and towering oaks. There are paths throughout the woods, but many are hidden and waiting to be discovered.