



SIMON HILL & BOWKER STREET CONSERVATION AND WATER DEPARTMENTS TRAIL GUIDE

Simon Hill is a 27 + acre Conservation Area managed by the Conservation Commission and Water Departments for Water Protection and Passive Recreation Uses. It was originally targeted for development. Parking is along the cul-de-sac at the end of Simon Hill Road. The neighborhood connection trail leads up to the Bowker Hill Water Department Trail and was created by cleaning up the perc test track created by earlier development attempts.

Bowker Street Conservation Area is a 173+ Acre cluster of lands abutting Simon Hill that is also managed by the Water Department and Conservation Commission. The land is used for reserve water wells and groundwater protection as well as passive recreation. The Area contains the Burnt Plain Swamp. Access is from the entry gate on Bowker St. opposite 190 Bowker St.

Legend

- vernal pool
- Elevation contour
- WETLANDS
- Conservation managed land
- Water Department managed land

SIMON HILL

“Shoemaker Trail”

In the early days of South Scituate a Mr. George W. H. Litchfield owned a shoe shop on Norwell Avenue. When this closed the shoe makers from that area would hike their way from Bryant’s corner by way of Bowker Street over Simon’s Hill and on to Prospect Street. They hung their lanterns on a post in front of the Henry Main House on Prospect Street. They then would walk to Assinippi to catch the trolley to Rockland where they worked in a shoe factory located there.

At night they would reverse the morning trek. It is said that all one could see were the lighted lanterns coming and going over the hill.

It is also written that the “Shoemaker Trail” was considered a town road until Bowker Lane became a town road in 1870. At that time the road was extended from Main Street to Grove Street. The Shoemaker trail still exists today from the base of the hill on Bowker Street to Prospect Street. Simon Hill has many other trails on it, all of these created as trails by the

Native Americans and then widened by early settlers.

*Taken from “Foot Trails” contained in the Norwell Atlas by Professor William Gould Vinal.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission wrote that on and about Simon's Hill were evidences of Late Woodland, First Period, and Colonial Period Native occupation. In fact, it says, "vestiges of native population," occupied the site as late as the latter half of the 18th century

* Reconnaissance Report in the Town Survey between 1979 and 1987)

Photo of trail map



SIMON HILL & BOWKER WATER PROTECTION & CONSERVATION AREA TRAIL GUIDE



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