

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF
LAND
UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NORWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The following rules apply except as authorized in writing by the Conservation Commission.

1. Conservation areas are open dusk to dawn, unless otherwise posted.
2. Obey all State, Local, and Federal Laws, especially hunting, fishing, and littering statutes.
3. All dogs must be leashed on Conservation Properties, and on town pathways (Town Bylaws Chapter 45, Section 14).
4. Clean up after your dog. All dog waste must be picked up and removed from the property or disposed of in Dog Waste bins where available.
5. The Town of Norwell assumes no liability for injury or loss of personal property.
6. With permission from Conservation, hunting and trapping are allowed on all Conservation Areas except Fogg Forest, Norwell Wompatuck Entrance, and Jacobs Pond. Hunting at Jacobs is allowed west of trails JP10 and JP13. Hunting on or from Conservation Trails, or the firing or discharging of firearms, or release of arrows over trails are prohibited. Plants and animals, living or dead, may not be removed from Conservation Areas except as authorized by the Conservation Commission.

The following activities are prohibited from Conservation Areas except as authorized in writing by the Conservation Commission or noted below.

- A. The firing or discharging of firearms, use of crossbows, or release of arrows on Conservation Property, with the exception of hunting as stated above (#6).
- B. Overnight camping. (Camping is allowed on Jacobs Island on a first come, first serve basis. Reservation Forms are available in the Conservation Office and on the website)
- C. Open fires. (A burn permit from the Fire Department must be obtained for camping on Jacobs Island).
- D. Motorized vehicles, except for municipal purposes.
- E. Alcoholic beverages.
- F. Depositing or leaving rubbish, litter, demolition or yard debris, garbage, excavated fill or any other waste.
- G. Disturbing, defacing, or removing barriers, natural features, or installed information features including kiosks, signs, posters, or similar.

Violation of the Rules and Regulations may be enforced through fines issued pursuant to the Non-Criminal Disposition statute, Chapter 40, Section 21D. Please report violations to the Norwell Police Department at 781-659-8151. Hunting violations may be reported to the Environmental Police at 800-632-8075.

Photo Credit - Will Saunders and Nancy Hemingsway



Hatch Lots

The Hatch Lots are named after a group of historic wood lots created by a farmer named Samuel Hatch in the 1800s. The uplands are dominated by areas of Beech and Pine, while the swamp historically had been dominated by White Cedar, widely used for construction and roof shingles. The Loring Farm Trust sold 14 acres to the Town in 1977. At that time three other lots that were held under the Town were transferred to Conservation. The conservation land connects the neighborhoods on the corner of Grove and Prospect Streets, to the Edgewood Park neighborhood. Hornstra Farm lies to the west of the property. Several old unmaintained woodland trails lead to the edges of these fields and to the swamp. Burnt Plain Swamp, a large wetland complex spanning over a hundred acres, abuts the site to the east and contains a trail crossing to connect the Hatch Lots trails to the Simon Hill and Bowker St trails. A tributary stream runs through the Hatch Lots and connects to the Burnt Plain Swamp off site.

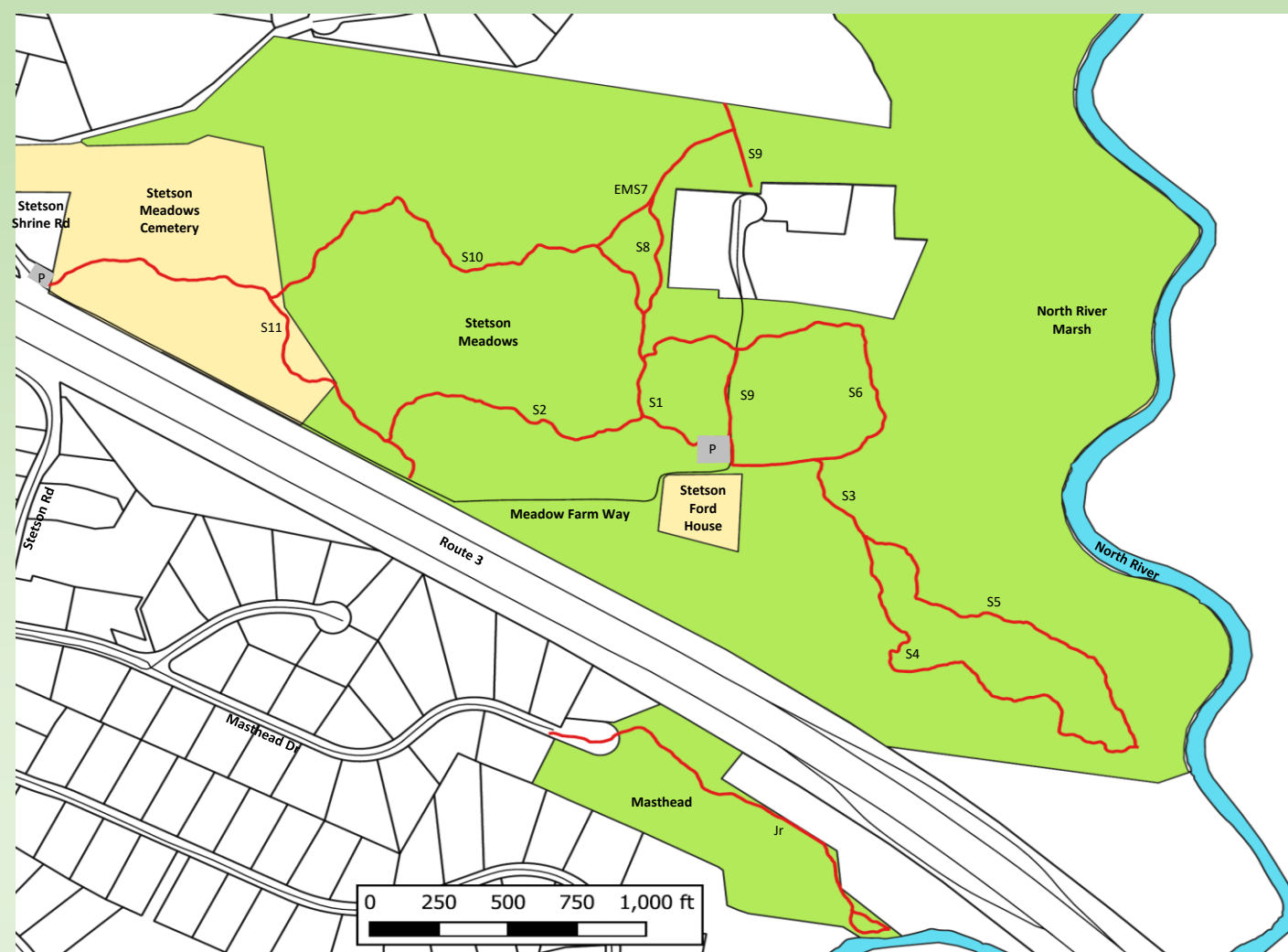
Simon Hill – Bowker

"In the early days of South Scituate a Mr. George W. H. Litchfield owned a shoe shop on Norwell Avenue. When this closed the shoemakers 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).

Trail Distances

H1 - 0.34 miles (Parking)
H2 - 0.30 miles
H3 - 330 feet
H4 - 0.11 miles
H5 - 285 feet
H6 - 0.22 miles
H7 Burnt Plain Swamp Crossing - 0.26 miles
H8 - 0.20 miles

SHB1 - 0.27 miles (Parking)
SHB2 - 0.13 miles
SHB3 - 338 feet
SHB4 - 0.22 miles
SHB5 - 210 feet
SHB6 - 0.22 miles
SHB7 - 470 feet
SHB8 - 0.25 miles
SHB9 - 0.36 miles
SHB10 - 0.14 miles
SHB11 - 0.14 miles



Stetson Meadows and Masthead

The Stetson Meadows Conservation Area, part of the 100 Acre Farm owned by the Cornet Stetson Family was purchased in 1972 by the Town of Norwell to prevent further development of the land along the North River. From the Stetson Meadows Management Plan "The history of the Stetson Ford property issued to Robert Stetson as a land grant in 1634 is intertwined with the history of Norwell. The chain of ownership is part of the history of the 100 year tie to the North River shipbuilding industry. Topography includes a drumlin and moraine landscape with many low wetlands and woody swamps as well as salt marshes. The plant and animal species found here are too numerous to list." Interested visitors are encouraged to contact the Commission for copies of the Stetson Meadows management plan which contains significant more detail.

Trails include the Twin Pines Trail known for giant pines on either side of the trail, which starts in the parking area and turns through the pines back to Meadow Farm Way; the River Loop, with beautiful large Beech trees which run along the salt marsh; Stetson trail, which runs back to the entrance road from the parking area; and the Haskin Trail, which loops around the wetlands, connects to the Stetson Meadows Cemetery, and exits out at the end of Stetson Shrine Rd near the kiosk and parking area.

The Masthead property is located at the end of Masthead Drive. The Trail follows an old road over hills and across wetlands, down to the salt marsh on the North River. There is a picnic table located by the river - a great place to walk or kayak up to and enjoy.

Trail Distances

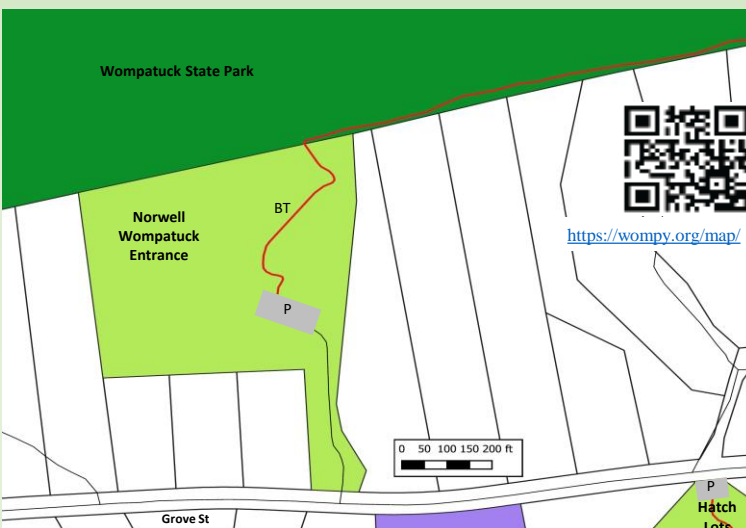
S1 Twin Pine Trail - 0.18 miles (Parking)
S2 Stetson Trail - 0.22 miles
S3 River Loop - 387 feet
S4 River Loop - 0.33 miles
S5 River Loop - 0.30 miles
S6 River Trail - 0.27 miles (Parking)
EMS Trail 7 - 0.13 miles
S8 - 0.18 miles
S9 - 0.15 miles (Private Road in-between, Parking)
S10 Haskins Trail - 0.30 miles
S11 Haskins Trail - 0.36 miles (Parking)

Jr Junior Family Trail - 0.32 miles

Norwell Wompatuck Entrance

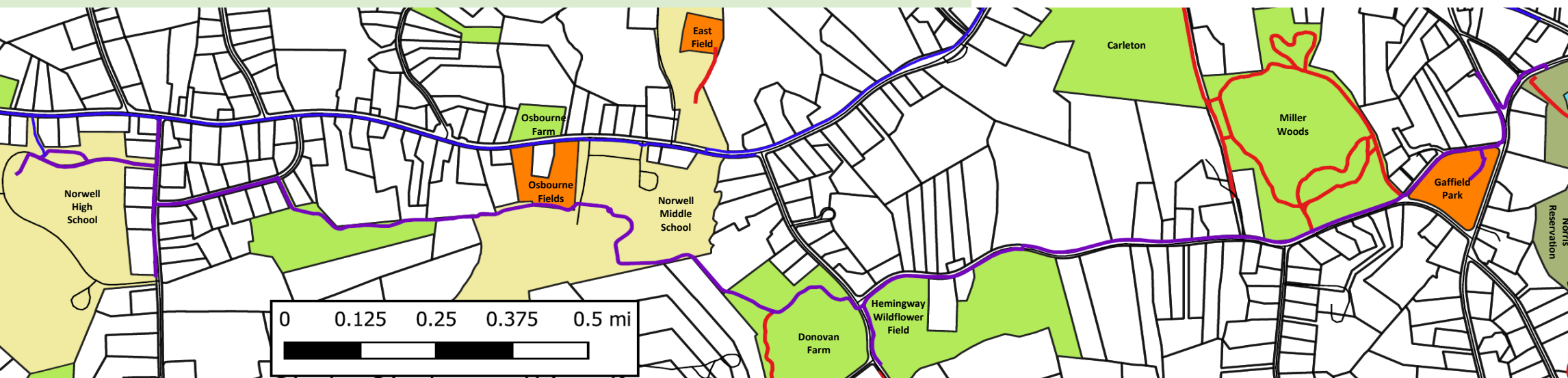
The land off of Grove St was donated to the Conservation Commission in 2015 by Anita Bennett. The Commission worked with the Pathways Committee, Planning Board, Friends of Wompatuck, DCR, and the CPC to create a new accessible entrance, parking area, and trail to access Wompatuck State Park. Wompatuck State Park has miles of trails in Norwell, Hingham, and Cohasset for walking, biking, and horseback riding. Please see the QR code or website below, or stop by the office for a full map of all the trails at Wompatuck State Park. The entrance is located at 407 Grove St in Norwell.

Trail Distance
The Bennett Trail - 500 feet



The Norwell Pathway connects the High School and Woodworth Memorial Park to the Middle School, Donovan Wildcat Trail System, Miller Woods (with connections to the Carleton Property, Fogg Forest, The Gould Property, and Main St Sidewalk), Gaffield Park, and Norris Reservation. Parking can be found at the High School, Middle School, Donovan Wildcat Parking Lot, Miller Woods, Gaffield Park, and Norris Reservation.

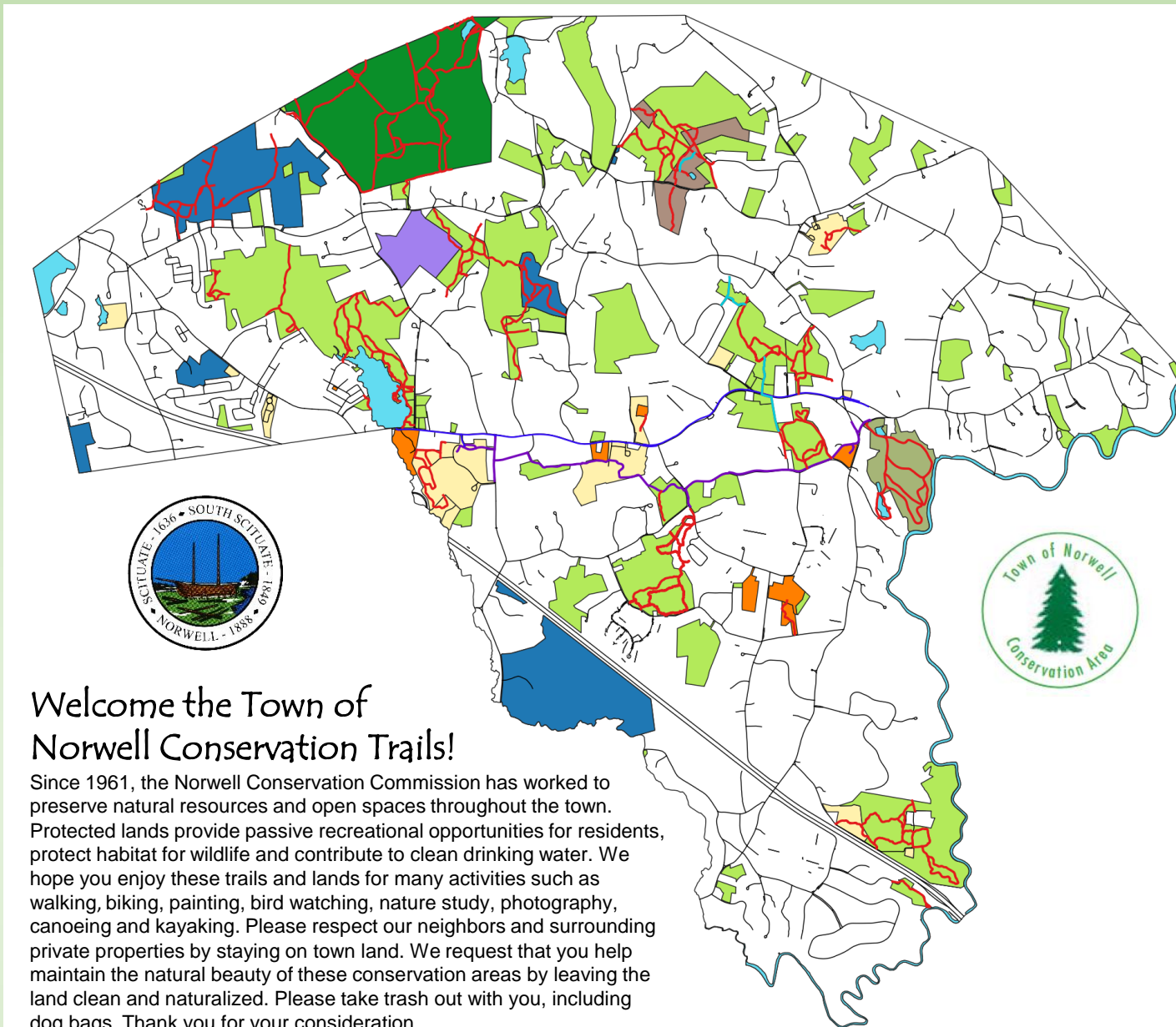
Trail Distance - 3.5 miles



Legend

- Trails
- Sidewalk
- Pathway
- Future Trails
- Conservation Lands
- Water Dept. Land
- Recreation Land
- Municipal
- Wompatuck State Park
- The Nature Conservancy
- Norris Reservation
- Hornstra Farms
- Rivers and Ponds

Norwell Pathway



Welcome the Town of Norwell Conservation Trails!

Since 1961, the Norwell Conservation Commission has worked to preserve natural resources and open spaces throughout the town. Protected lands provide passive recreational opportunities for residents, protect habitat for wildlife and contribute to clean drinking water. We hope you enjoy these trails and lands for many activities such as walking, biking, painting, bird watching, nature study, photography, canoeing and kayaking. Please respect our neighbors and surrounding private properties by staying on town land. We request that you help maintain the natural beauty of these conservation areas by leaving the land clean and naturalized. Please take trash out with you, including dog bags. Thank you for your consideration.



Norwell Conservation Commission Conservation Land Trail Map

The Norwell Conservation Commission
345 Main St, Norwell MA 02061
(781) 659-8022

Funding Provided By
The Community Preservation Act Fund
2023 Edition Trail Map



Jacobs Pond And Valley Swamp

Jacobs Pond is a 60 acre, man-made pond. It was created in 1730 when the Third Herring Brook was dammed at Main Street, Route 123. Originally the pond was called Snappet or Snapper Pond, a colloquial abbreviation for the local Indigenous name Assinippi, which means rocky water. The head waters for Third Herring Brook are located in the southern portion of Valley Swamp. The brook exits the south end of the pond at the dam. Jacobs Pond and Third Herring Brook are part of the North River Watershed. The Pond was renamed after the Jacobs family, who's farmhouse and fields are located at the corner of Main St and Jacobs Lane. The fields are actively farmed by local farmers in conjuncture with The Norwell Conservation Commission, Historic Commission, Select Board, and Historic New England. The Pond has continued to be enjoyed for recreational and agricultural purposes.

Trail Distances

- JP1** - 436 feet (Parking, Dock, Launch)
- JP2 Jacobs Island** - 598 feet
- JP3 Pond Trail** - 0.30 miles
- JP4 Jacobs Trail** - 0.45 miles
- JP5 Wes Osborne Trail** - 0.30 miles
- JP6 Assinippi Trail** - 0.10 miles
- JP7** - 0.28 miles
- JP8** - 0.16 miles
- JP9 Cliff Prentiss Bridge** - 395 feet (Parking)
- JP10 Esker Trail** - 0.30 miles
- JP11** - 0.15 miles
- JP12 Beech Trail** - 0.25 miles
- JP13** - 0.10 miles
- JP14 Prospect Trail** - 0.43 miles
- JP15 Jacobs Homestead Path** - 372 feet

- BW1** - 0.20 miles
- BW2** - 0.14 miles
- BW3** - 490 feet
- BW4** - 0.42 miles
- VS1** - 300 feet
- VS2** - 0.16 miles
- VS3** - 0.28 miles (Loop)
- VS4** - 165 feet



Carleton

In 1707, Joseph Cushing, the son of John Cushing, purchased land in Scituate in the area known then as Henchman's Corner (now the corner of Main and Lincoln Streets in Norwell). There, Joseph Cushing and his wife Mary, established a second Cushing Homestead which eventually became the home of Nathan Cushing. Nathan played an important role for Massachusetts during the Revolutionary War and later went on to become a Justice of the State Supreme Court. The land remained in the Cushing family through the 1990's. The Cushing Homestead Marker can be found on Main Street along the sidewalk, marking the former location of the house.

Elizabeth Cushing lived at the house at 36 Lincoln St., abutting the property. She married Francis Cogswell Carleton, and they had two sons in the 1920's, Hayward and Charles Carleton. Elizabeth later remarried Clark Whiting in the 1950's, and lived at the house through the 1980's. This is now the location of the historic Whiting Fields, which run along Main Street and are still actively farmed by local farmers through Conservation. Clark passed away in 1980, and Elizabeth followed in 1989, leaving the land to her son Charles Carleton. Upon Charles' death in 2004, the land was left to his three children, Deborah, Sarah, and Peter. The Town of Norwell purchased the property from the Carleton siblings in 2019 to preserve the fields, open space, and develop a small affordable housing parcel. Conservation has been charged by the town, since 2020, with protecting and managing 115 acres, including the fields. Conservation is currently working with grants from MassTrails and CPC to improve the existing trails and create new trails with connections to The Gould Property, Main Street sidewalk, and Miller Woods. The new trails are expected to be completed and open by 2024.

Trail Distances

- C1** - 275 feet
- C2** - 393 feet
- C3** - 425 feet
- C4 Cushing Trail** - 0.55 miles
- C5** - 0.20 miles

- F1 Fogg Forest Loop** - 0.20 miles (Parking)
- F2 Fogg Forest Loop** - 0.27 miles (Parking)
- F3 Fogg Dam Trail** - 0.12 miles
- F4 Central Spur** - 0.23 miles
- F5 Fogg Cross Path** - 0.23 miles
- F6** - 320 feet

Proposed and Under Construction Trails

- G1 Trout Brook Trail** - 0.20 miles (Parking)
- G2 Steffens Trail** - 0.15 miles
- C6 Whiting Fields Cow Path** - 0.24 miles
- C7** - 325 feet



The Gould Property

The Gould Property was donated to the Conservation Commission in 1993 by John and Janet Steffens, in honor of Robert J. Gould. Robert was the late husband of Janet, and the Steffens wanted to see the land preserved under Conservation. Black Pond Brook runs through the property, and contains many interesting wetlands and micro-topography. The Brook originates from Black Pond Bog on Mount Blue St, joins with Trout Brook upstream of the property, then flows through the Carleton Property and Fogg Forest, on its way to Second Herring Brook downstream. Conservation is currently working with grants from MassTrails and CPC to create new trails on this property. This involves an accessible parking lot off of Trout Brook Lane, with access to Hemlock Drive and the Carleton Property. The new trails are expected to be completed and open by 2024.

Fogg Forest

Fogg Forest is a 40 acre property located between Main Street and Central Street. The property was donated by Isabella and Helen Fogg in 1972 in memory of their husbands, Horace and Faulkner Fogg. The land was donated as a refuge and sanctuary for wildlife. The main trail forms a loop which connects Main Street with Forest Street. Miller Woods has remained unchanged for more than 150 years. Originally it was part of the historic 1835 house at 580 Main Street. In the 1930s, Lillian and Spencer Miller (a Boston Wool merchant) purchased the property including the stable space they needed for their horses. In 1946, widowed Lillian Miller sold the back wood lot off Forest St to the town. A small picnic area is located just off the parking area. The town Pathway on Forest St connects to Norris Reservation, Donovan Wildcat and the High School.

Miller Woods

Miller's woodland trails are lined by stone walls, red maple swamps, and varied wildlife, including fox and turkey. The scenic woodland, nestled close to downtown, is surrounded by horse farms. The property borders Jordan's Lane, a historic cart path that connects Main Street with Forest Street. Miller Woods has remained unchanged for more than 150 years. Originally it was part of the historic 1835 house at 580 Main Street. In the 1930s, Lillian and Spencer Miller (a Boston Wool merchant) purchased the property including the stable space they needed for their horses. In 1946, widowed Lillian Miller sold the back wood lot off Forest St to the town. A small picnic area is located just off the parking area. The town Pathway on Forest St connects to Norris Reservation, Donovan Wildcat and the High School.



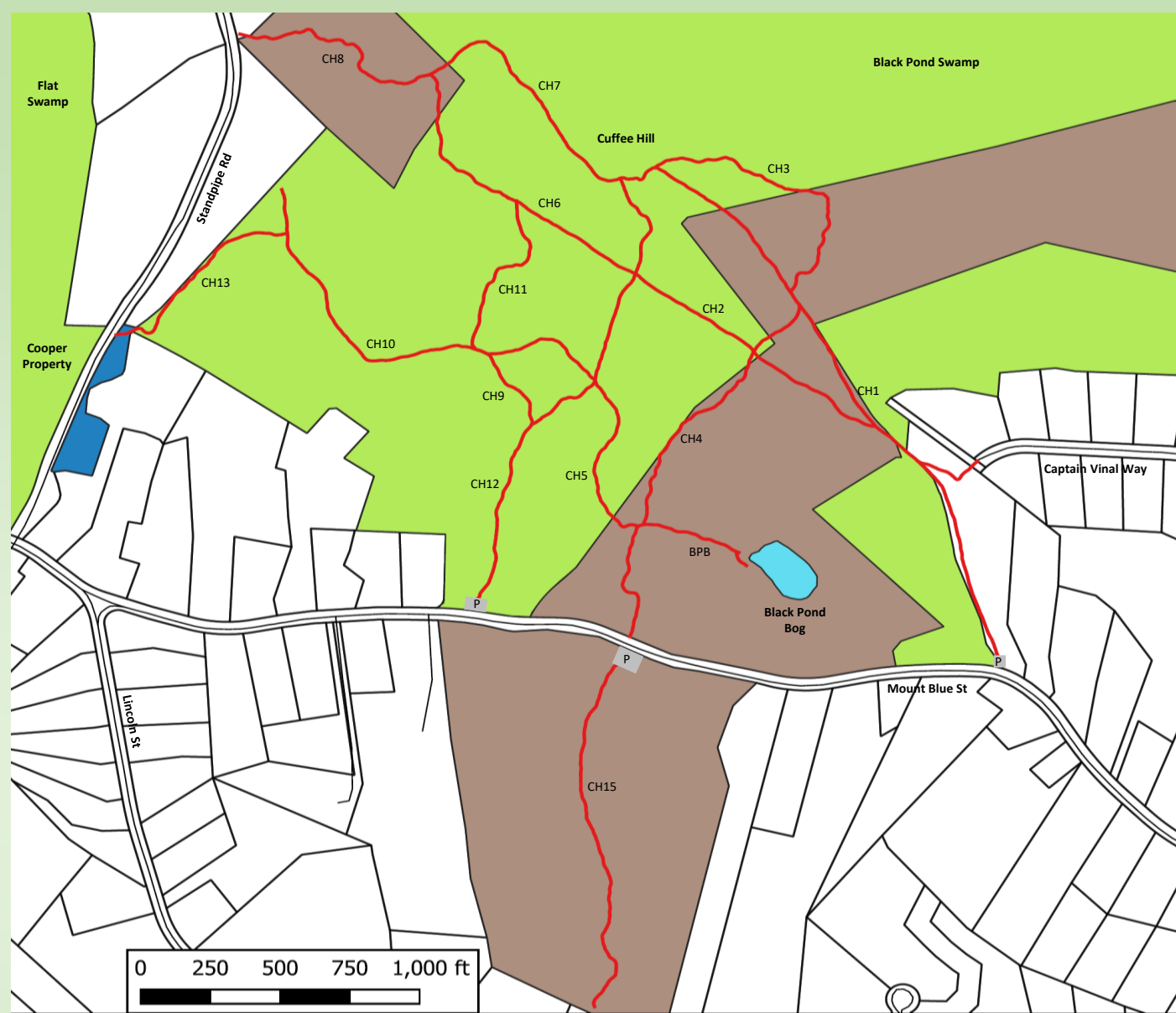
Donovan Wildcat

The Donovan Fields property, through which this trail winds, was part of a large land grant in colonial days, known as White Oak Plains. When acquired by the town in 1997, the two houses and the old orchard field were sold and a cluster- zoned housing development was built, the first in the town. Terms for that development included the construction of part of these trails. As the Donovan trails wind south, it moves onto Wildcat Hill, an area originally settled by freed slaves. The Donovan Farm Field is currently licensed to local farmers for agricultural use. The Donovan Field contains several older structures, the largest being a cold storage shed which has been used at various times for storage of hay, pumpkins, apples and farm equipment. There is an old smoke shed behind the northwest corner of the storage shed, as well as an old stone fire pit across the stream, near the old skating pond, which can be found along Margret's Brook.

The smaller field is now known as the Hemingway Wildflower Field, which was a project to convert the old farm field into a pollinator wildflower meadow. The field is inspired and dedicated to Nancy Hemingway who was the Conservation Agent from 2012-2020, before sadly passing away from breast cancer in Sept. 2020. A memorial breast cancer garden can be found in the field, and a Bike Path, which runs from the High School to the Town Center, winds around the outside edge of the Donovan and Hemingway Fields.

Trail Distances

- D1 Margret's Brook Trail** - 0.20 miles
- D2 Donovan Trail** - 0.21 miles (Parking)
- D3** - 200 feet
- D4 Donovan Trail** - 0.40 miles
- D5** - 0.10 miles
- D6 Wildcat Trail** - 0.34 miles
- W1 Wildcat Trail** - 0.15 miles
- W2 Wildcat Trail** - 0.18 miles (Parking)
- W3** - 0.28 miles
- W4 Hilltop Trail** - 0.30 miles
- W5** - 370 feet
- W6** - 0.10 miles
- W7 Peden Trail** - 0.36 miles



Cuffee Hill and Black Pond Bog (TNC)

The Cuffee Conservation Area is part of a unique sensitive ecosystem that includes Core Habitat and a rare quaking bog, known as Black Pond Bog, an 83-acre preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program classifies Black Pond Bog as a 'Quaking' or 'Level Bog'. There are pockets of white cedar swamp growing out of the thick sphagnum moss mat that encircles the pond. Preserving this area allows the Town and TNC to protect the biodiversity and ecological integrity of this special environment. The property derives its name from an historic stone-wall-lined cart path, which begins on Mt. Blue Street and extends through the property, known as Cuffee's Lane. Cuffee Conservation Area is the largest continuous area of protected and town-owned open space in Norwell, it is also home to some of the Town's most prized, natural and cultural resources.

Trail Distances

- CH1 Cuffee's Lane** - 0.46 miles (Parking)
- CH2** - 0.20 miles
- CH3** - 0.24 miles
- CH4 Merrick Trail** - 0.30 miles (Parking)
- BPB Black Pond Bog Boardwalk** - 450 feet
- CH5** - 0.15 miles
- CH6** - 0.23 miles
- CH7** - 0.20 miles
- CH8** - 0.16 miles
- CH9** - 338 feet
- CH10** - 0.32 miles
- CH11** - 0.13 miles
- CH12 Cuffee Hill Trail** - 0.38 miles (Parking)
- CH13** - 0.16 miles
- CH15** - 0.28 miles (Parking)