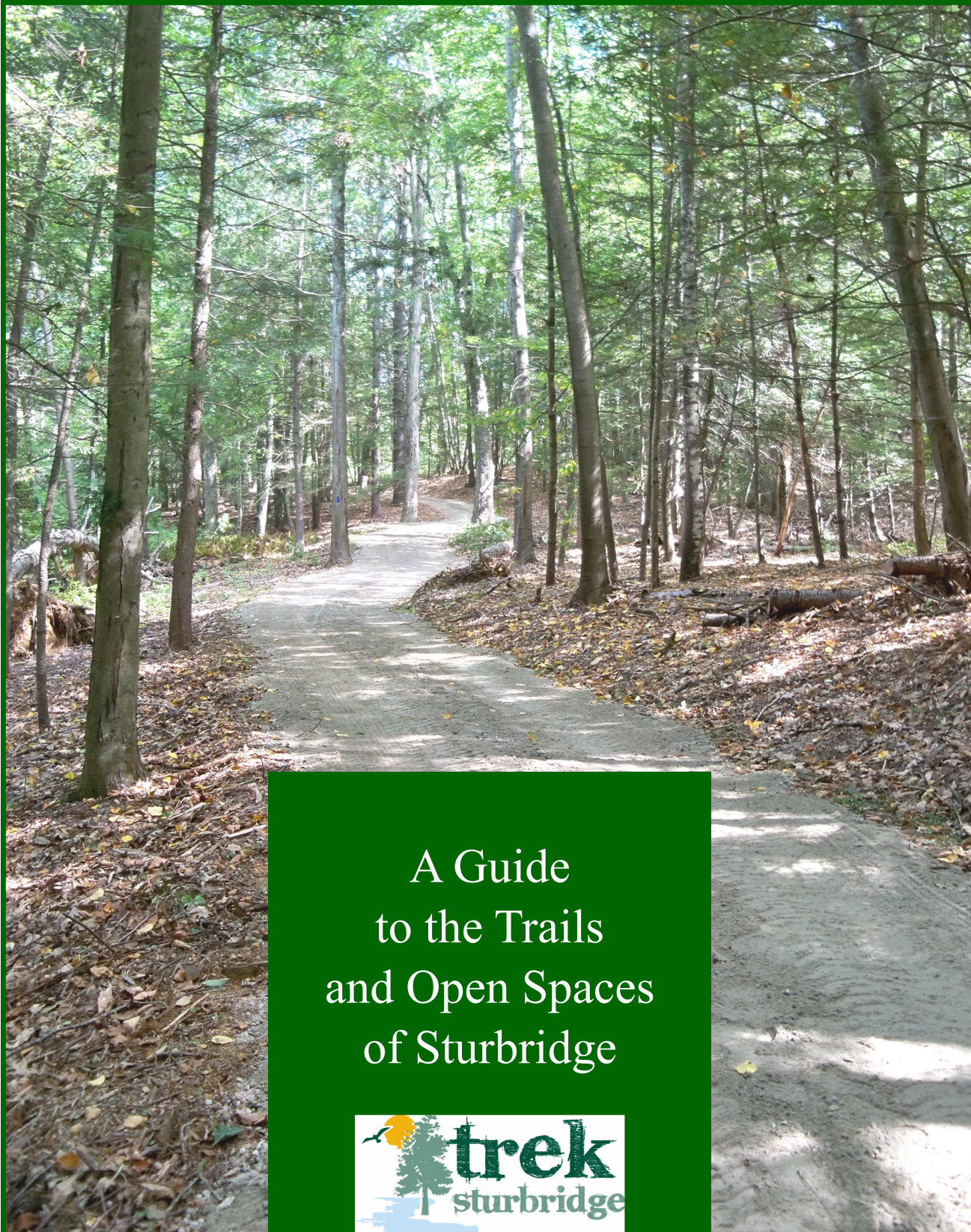




A Guide to the Trails and Open Spaces of Sturbridge



A Guide to the Trails and Open Spaces of Sturbridge





Town of Sturbridge

Office of the Town Administrator

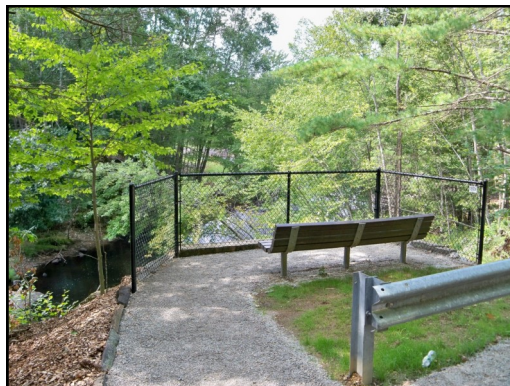
We would like to welcome you to the Town of Sturbridge, a community with deep ties to its colonial roots and modern amenities that will make every minute of your time here an enjoyable one. In a Town with a rich offering of entertainment, one of our most precious assets is our trails system. With miles of picturesque New England countryside, it is an experience that will last a lifetime.

Sturbridge has a historic connection in the Commonwealth and by exploring our trails you will feel that history. After a day of hiking you can spend the rest of your time here exploring our Town. Visit a re-creation of colonial Massachusetts at Old Sturbridge Village. You can also explore the dozens of merchant shops who sell everything from antiques to model trains and everything in between. Our Town hosts dozens of restaurants featuring cuisine from around the world prepared by award-winning chefs, as well as more relaxed family friendly options. After all of this you can stay in one of our over eight-hundred hotel rooms and then keep exploring our wonderful community.

With all these possibilities, we invite you to shop, eat, stay and play in Sturbridge. Over nine thousand of us have chosen to live and raise our families here in Sturbridge; we invite you to come see why.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bridges
Town Administrator



Bench overlooking Quinebaug River along the Grand Trunk Trail.



Welcome to the Trails of Sturbridge

Sturbridge is a town of natural diversity, ranging from the meandering Quinebaug River Valley to the top of Leadmine Mountain. To our natural lakes of Big Alum and Leadmine to those constructed during the industrial revolution, from our lush river bottom forests, open fields, oak-hickory woodlands, and wind-swept rocky crags. We are fortunate to have such interesting areas within our boundaries. And now, those who wish to can explore these natural treasures with the help of this guide.

Sturbridge's natural historical setting—along old Indian paths and early transportation routes midway between Boston & New York—has impacted its history, development, and future. It brings beauty and opportunity for enjoyment to those who visit the area. Over the past 10 years Sturbridge has acquired over 1,500 acres of open space parcels.

The Sturbridge Trails Committee is pleased to provide you with this guide to Sturbridge's open spaces. Developed over a period of years, the guide has been a major undertaking of the committee, made possible with assistance from the Sturbridge Conservation and Planning Board offices and the Sturbridge Tourist Association.

The Town of Sturbridge encompasses almost 30,000 acres, making it one of the largest towns in Massachusetts in terms of land area. Approximately 20% or about 6,000 acres are dedicated open space, consisting of land owned by the town, state, federal, and conservation organizations, as well as lands protected by conservation easements or the purchase of development rights. Acquisition of many of the town-owned properties was made possible by the Community Preservation Act.

While there are popular open space areas throughout the Town—Wells State Park, Westville Lake Recreation Area and the Leadmine Mountain Conservation lands—there are also less familiar spots. For example, Heins Farm with its wonderful views and walks through fields and deciduous forest, or Opacum Woods, with its beaver ponds and interesting plant life, to The Trustees' Tantiusques Reservation, the site of the first mining operation in New England. Now you can locate and enjoy these properties with the directions and trail maps provided in this guide.

This guide is designed so that you, along with family and friends, will take some leisure time to enjoy the beautiful open spaces in Sturbridge.

Each site featured in this guide includes directions, information about parking, and a general statement about the terrain, followed by general comments and descriptions of trails. Total acreage and ownership information is also provided when appropriate. All information is as up to date as possible; be aware that information may have changed since sites were field-checked. On page 25 of this guide are web site QR codes and addresses to obtain the most current information.

Enjoy our trails!

Sturbridge Trails Committee







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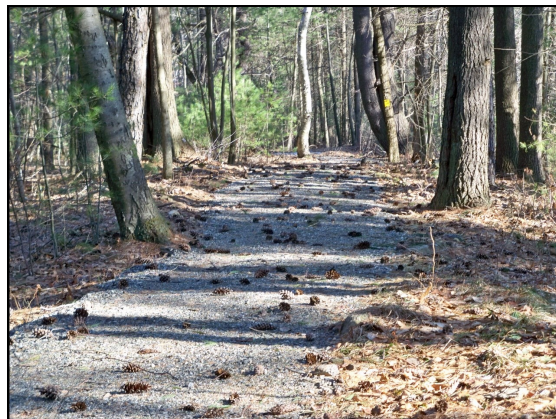
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Pond Loop Trail, Heins Farm



Leadmine Mountain

The 880 acre Leadmine Mountain Conservation Area, is open to the public for passive recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horse back riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. The trail markings, signs and map are all color coded for ease of use. There are some 11+ miles of trails are in various stages of completion, and some wetland crossings are not completed. Please use caution, and remember you are in an outdoor environment with various risks. Absolutely no motorized vehicles are allowed on Sturbridge Conservation Property.

PARKING: Three Parking lots serve this Leadmine Mountain property:

- **197 Leadmine Road** allows access to both Leadmine Mountain Trails and the Heins Farm Conservation Land Trails (see following pages). The parking area allows for 12 cars.
- **10 Shattuck Road**, parking for 8 cars, plus grass area for trailers.
- **10 OSV Access Road**, parking area for 28 cars & horse trailer

Trail Descriptions

Leadmine Mt. Trail: 1.9 mi, TT. Trail color is orange: This is a two mile trek trail traveling north / south through the Leadmine Mt. property, linking several trails on this property and the Heins Farm trails, via the Pine Lands trail. From the extreme northern end of the trail, the path leads south through oak and pine forests with an understory of mountain laurel. At .4 mi the north leg of the Pineland Tr. enters on the right. Continuing southward, the trail passes through oak and hemlock forest with little change in elevation. At .9 mi the south leg of the Pineland Trail enters on the right. At 1.0 miles the Cow Stile Trail enters on the left. The trail crosses an unnamed brook. The trail then climbs gently to the intersection with the Link at 1.5 miles. The trail crosses a small brook and begins to rise moderately to the gas pipeline ROW. Crossing the pipeline the trail continues to climb at a moderate grade passing over the northern peak of Leadmine Mountain, then dropping to the intersection with the 7 Ridges Trail at 1.9 miles.

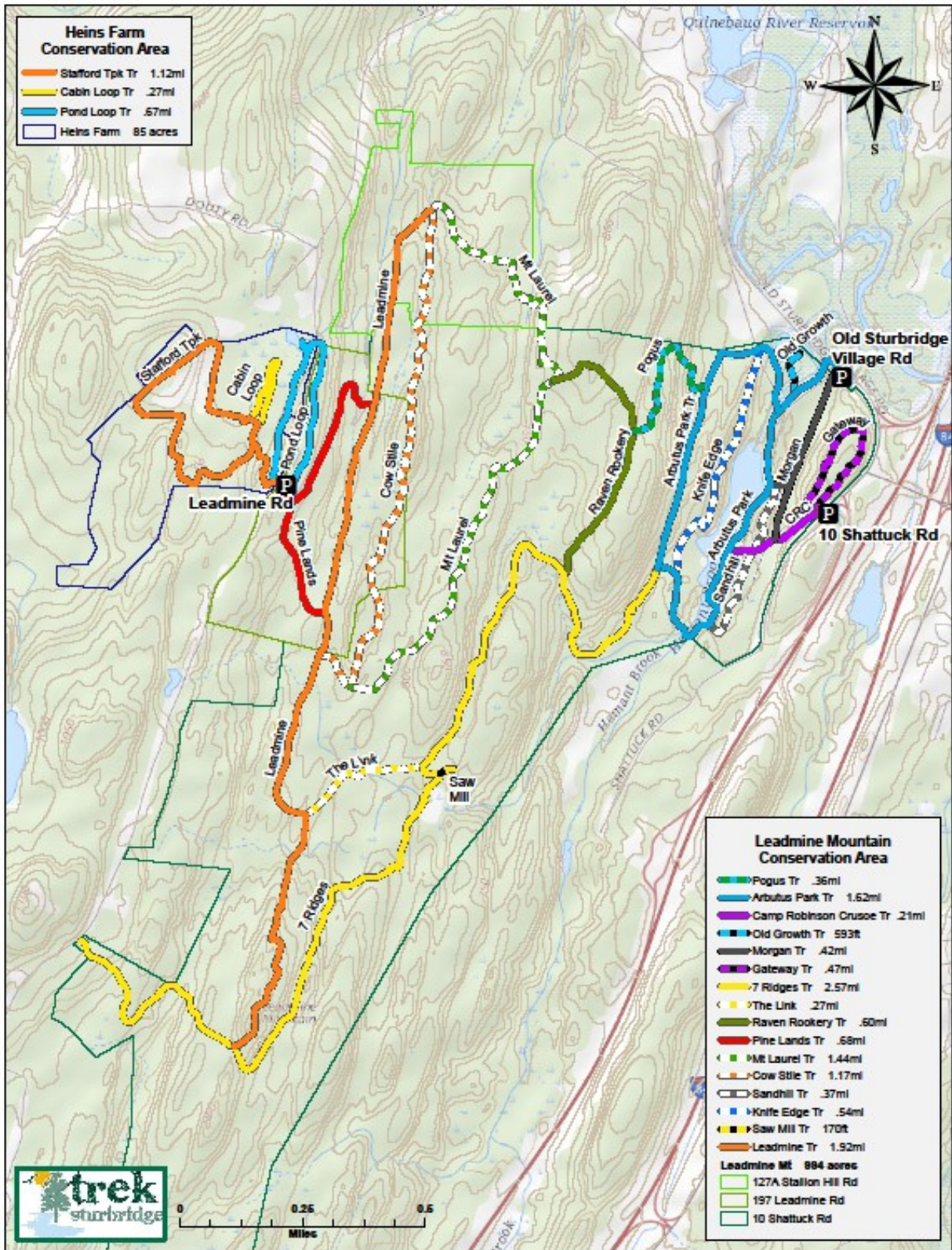
Cow Stile Trail: 1.2 mi, ST-2. Trail color is orange & white. This moderately difficult and more rustic 1.2 mile, single track trail makes a nice loop off of the Leadmine Mt trail. View old stone walls from days when the land was pasture. Look for the unique stone gate structures and ledgy terrain as you traverse this hilly route.

Pinelands Trail: North leg 0.35 mi, South leg 0.31 mi, TT. Trail color is red. This “Y” shaped .7 mile trek trail provides connection access from Heins Farm /197 Leadmine Rd parking area into the Leadmine Mt. Trail system. Both arms of the trail descend gently to the Leadmine trail and the interior of the conservation area.

The Link Trail: 0.3 mi, ST-3. Trail color is yellow and white. This .3 mile trail links the Leadmine Mt trail and Seven Ridges trail and can be used to make a loop hike or to cross from east to west through the interior of the forest. The trails drops gently from the Leadmine trail, crossing a small stream then joins the 7-Ridges Trail.

Raven Rookery Trail: 0.6 mi, ST-1. Trail color is green, .6 mile, trail traveling in a north/south direction connecting the Mt. Laurel Trail to the Seven Ridges Trail and Pogus Trail. This old cart road leaves the 7-Ridges Trail and climbs moderately for the first .2 miles, then continues level for .2 miles before climbing steeply, then dropping to the intersection of the Mt. Laurel Trail.







Saw Mill Trail: 75 yards, ST-1. Trail color yellow w/black dots, is a short 75 yard single track trail off the Seven Ridges Trail to an old saw mill site once owned by the Johnson family in the 1800s.

Morgan Track Trail: 0.4 mi. GT Trail color grey, a .4 mile, accessible trail running level from 10 OSV Rd. trailhead to the Camp Robinson Crusoe Trail. Named after Mr. Philip Morgan, an esteemed trustee of OSV, who in 1970 was honored by OSV in this land purchase.

Arbutus Park: 1.6 mi, GT. Trail color blue. 1.6 mile mostly accessible trail starts at the 10 OSV trail head. The east side is relatively level and flat, the west side more hilly but an easy walk, an original trail when area was known as Arbutus Park in the 1800s. Following the trail clockwise from the OSV Road parking area, the trail runs almost level along the eastern side of Hamant Brook. At the southern end of the loop, the trail crosses Hamant Brook by bridge, and then passes an old gravel bank which shows beautifully layered veins of sand and gravel left behind by the glacier. At .9 miles the 7-Ridges Trail leaves on the left for the interior of Leadmine Mountain. The trail swings north and climbs a short, steep section until it levels off, passing through a mature oak, hemlock, and pine forest with an understory of mountain laurel. The trail then drops gently, passing the Old Pogus Village Trail on the right, then takes a sharp left turn, leading to a small field. The trail swings north along the field edge, crossing over Hamant Brook and back to the parking lot.

Old Growth Trail: 200 yards, ST-1, ADA compliant. Trail color blue w/black dot. is a short, 200 yard, accessible loop trail off of the Arbutus Park Trail, 200 feet from the 10 OSV trail head. This is an ADA accessible trail, on an island created by Hamant Brook, that has not been logged for over 150 years. The landscape reflects the tornado damage of 2011 as well as an old growth forest from the 1700s. The trail is suitable for wheelchairs. Some of the large pines in this area were toppled by the 2011 tornado that passed just to the north.

Camp Robinson Crusoe Trail: 0.2 mi. GT. Trail color purple, trail starting at 10 Shattuck Rd. It is the main road into what was Camp Robinson Crusoe from the 1930 to 1970. Trail color purple. This trail leaves the Shattuck Road trailhead and follows the old camp road downhill to the Morgan Trail and the Arbutus Park Trail. You will note foundations, stone walls, and other evidence of the camp that stood here.

Gateway Trail: 0.5 mi, ST-2. Trail color purple & black is a single track trail designed to provide Mt. bike riders a first ride experience on a more rustic type of trail or a quick walk or jog. It provides some pleasant ups and downs as it circles a wooded knoll.

Seven Ridges Trail: TT. Trail color yellow. This Trek trail from the Arbutus Park Trail intersecting with the Raven Rookery, The Link, & Leadmine Mt. Trails. It is the most hilly trail on the property. This is one of the longest trails on Leadmine Mountain. Combined with The Link, Leadmine Trail, the Mountain Laurel Trail, and the Raven Rookery Trail, this trail can be used to make long loop hikes through the center of the parcel. The trail has many ups and downs and passes over many small brooks and wet areas and is still under construction. Bring a map, water and energy snacks for this long hike.

Mt. Laurel Trail: ST-3. Trail Color is green & white. This single track, connecting the Cow Stile Trail to the Raven Rookery Trail and back to the Cow Stile Trail. It climbs by gentle grades to the high ridge of land that runs north/south through the conservation area.

Pogus Village Trail: 0.3 mi, ST-2. Trail color is green & blue. This moderately difficult single track trail connects the Arbutus Park trail to the Raven Rookery trail, passing by a primitive camping area of the old Camp Robinson Crusoe, identified on their maps a "Pogus Village".

Sand Hill Trail: 0.37 mi, ST-3. Trail color is gray & white, this moderate trail flows up and over the remaining sand hills along the west side of the Morgan trail.

Knife Edge trail: .54 mi., ST-3. Trail color is blue & white, this is a highly technical trail with narrow trail on rock ledge outcrop with steep sides. Thus its name, Knife edge. Caution is advised for first time trail users.





Views of Heins Farm Conservation Lands



Heins Farm Conservation Lands

197 Leadmine Rd

The 84-acre Heins Conservation Land was originally part of the neighboring Heins Family Farm (private property), which operated as a family farm. The open fields have been recovered from invasive species like Oriental Bittersweet, and Honeysuckle, and left alone, would have filled with White Pine and other woody shrubs. However, the Town sought funds to clear invasive species like Bittersweet, and Honeysuckle, and recreate “Early Successional Habitat”, which is grassland and shrub land habitat, a habitat endangered in Massachusetts, as are many of the species that utilize them. Hunting is not permitted on this property. With just over 2 miles of trail, this property is great for that quick hike or bike ride.

PARKING: Heins Farm trails begin and end at the parking lot at 197 Leadmine Road, which allows for 12 cars, including A designated handicapped spot.

The Stafford Turnpike Loop is named for a remnant of a 19th century Worcester-Stafford Turnpike on this trail. Opened in 1810, the Turnpike was one of a number of toll roads built by private investors. Used primarily for commercial travel, passengers along the turnpike were charged 25 cents per coach and 4 cents for each man and horse at tollhouses built approximately 10 miles apart where horses would have to be changed during the 12-hour ride from Worcester to Hartford. One such tollhouse, the Publick House, still stands and continues to serve the public daily. This trail bears bearing a historic marker documenting this important town landmark.

Trails Descriptions:

Pond View Loop: 0.7 mi, TT. This trail starts in the back corner of the parking lot and travels north. You will cross Leadmine Road and enjoy the rest area with a view of the pond and Heins Farm in the distance. The trail continues and returns to the parking lot re-crossing Leadmine Road. The trail features views of the glacial effects on our landscape, glacial erratic boulders, wetlands, streams, and farm views.

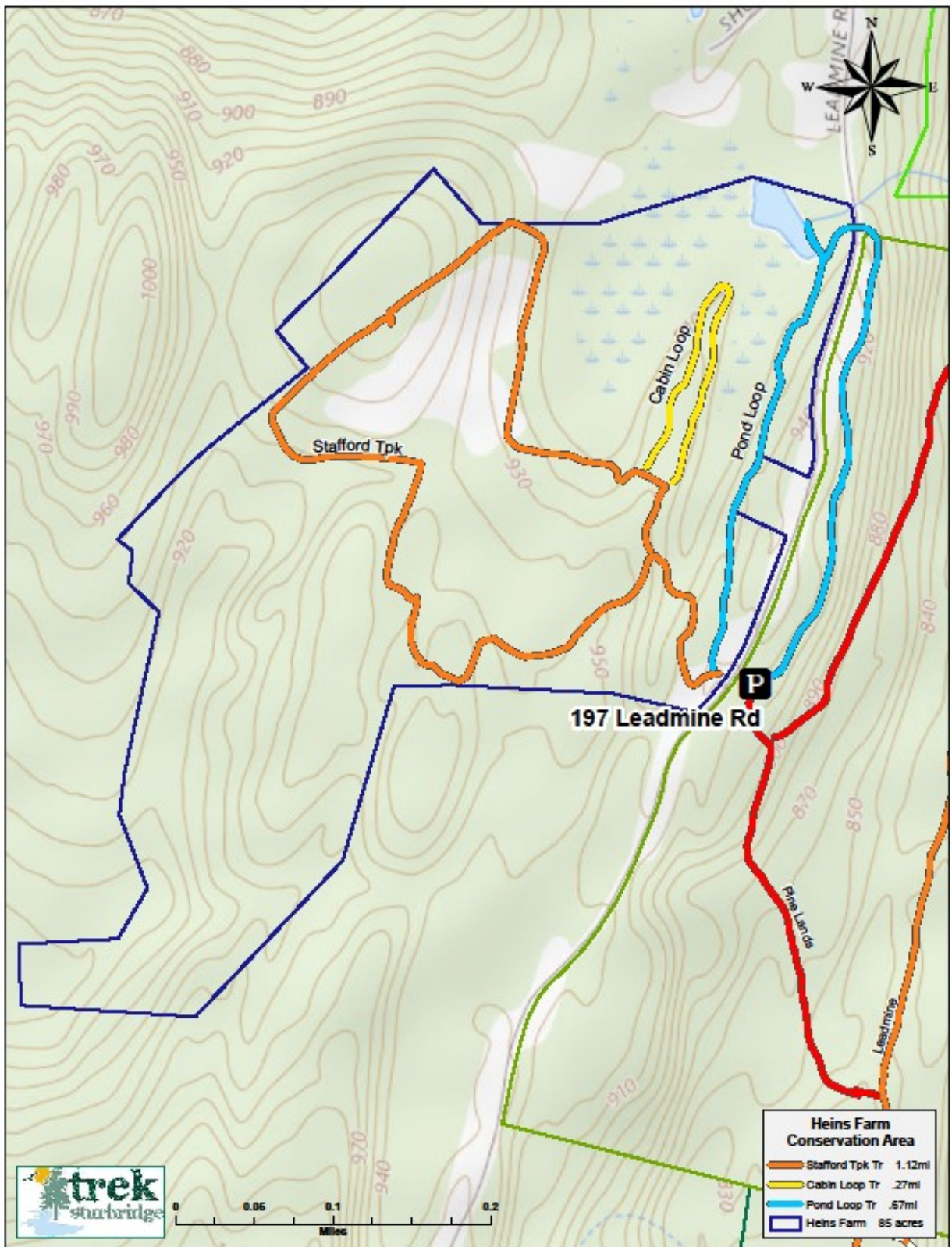
Cabin Loop: 0.5 mi, ST-1. The trail begins by crossing Leadmine Road from the parking lot. Follow the trail and turn left at the first junction. Continue down across the valley floor, cross the bridge, and up onto the next ridge, and turn right. Cabin Loop offers wetland views, an expansive view of Heins Farm, and passes by the old family play cabin.

Stafford Turnpike Loop: 1.2 mi, TT. The trail begins by crossing Leadmine Road from the parking lot. Follow the trail and turn left at the first junction. Continue down across the valley floor, cross the bridge, and up onto the next ridge, and turn left. Stafford Turnpike Loop offers extensive views of the farm fields and from the high point on the old Stafford Turnpike you can see an expansive view of the town of Sturbridge.

SCENIC VIEW LOCATIONS:

- **Wet Meadow:** Observe wet meadow species like low bush blueberry, sensitive fern and soft rush. This area is an early successional habitat, which is ideal for birding and wildlife observation.
- **Stafford Turnpike Look-Off:** Observe the historic and scenic Heins Farm and the surrounding hay fields. This is an ideal location for observing hawk migration as well as other types of birds.
- **Pond View Loop:** This handicapped-accessible trail has a unique resting area which has views of a headwater perennial pond, surrounding wetlands and Heins Farm. Observe cattails, marsh St. Johnswort, and marsh marigold. Also, aquatic species such as spotted turtles, ducks, and heron.
- **On Stafford Loop:** Before the hill on Stafford Turnpike you will be walking through an area that is undergoing restoration to an early successional upland habitat.







River Lands: 52 Stallion Hill Rd

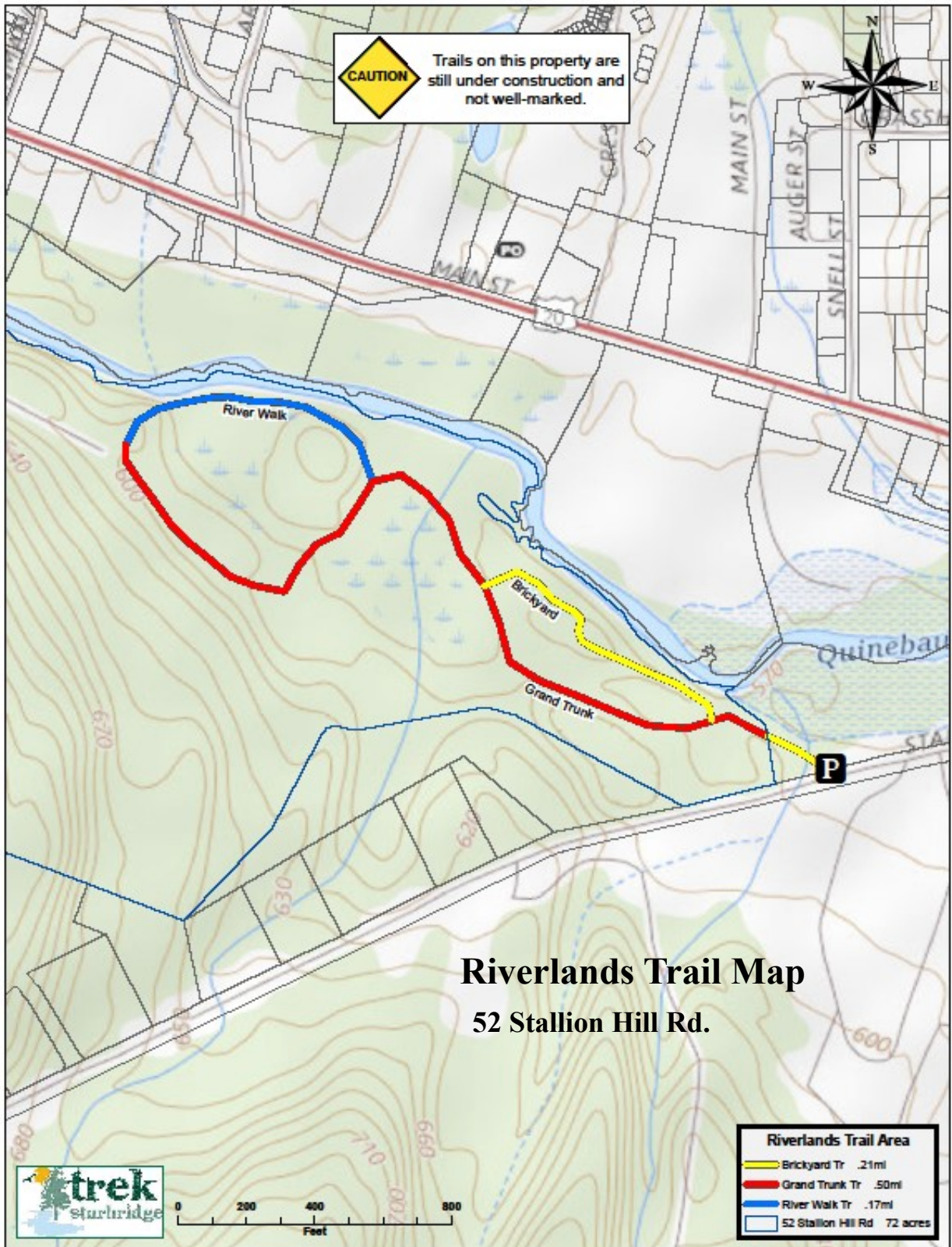
This acquisition of open space lands is a combined three parcel purchase named the River Lands. These three adjacent parcels form a continuous piece of land from Stallion Hill Road, across from the entrance to OSV, to Holland Road, just south of the bridge over the Quinebaug River. Except for two small pieces of land, the town now owns the complete river front shoreline along this southerly edge of the Quinebaug River, thus the name, River Lands.

The old Grand Trunk (GT) rail bed traverses this property, making this parcel a key piece for the town in completing the 6 mile distance thru town for this “rail trail”. Back in the 1970’s a Sturbridge resident, Craig Lyman, completed his master’s degree by proposing a “river walk” reclaiming the GT Trail bed for a trail through town. Unfortunately at that time, many did not see the need for such a trail, but for a few residents, that idea never died.

One of the more interesting historical aspects is the “crater hole” up on the hill overlooking the Fiskdale section of Town. This crater hole was actually a hand dug water supply, for fire suppression water for the Fiskdale Mills. The “crater” still exists today. These along with other vestiges of the past use of this property abound along the edges of the old Grand Trunk rail bed.

In 2016, this property was permanently preserved through a Conservation Restriction, and proposed trail plans were approved.







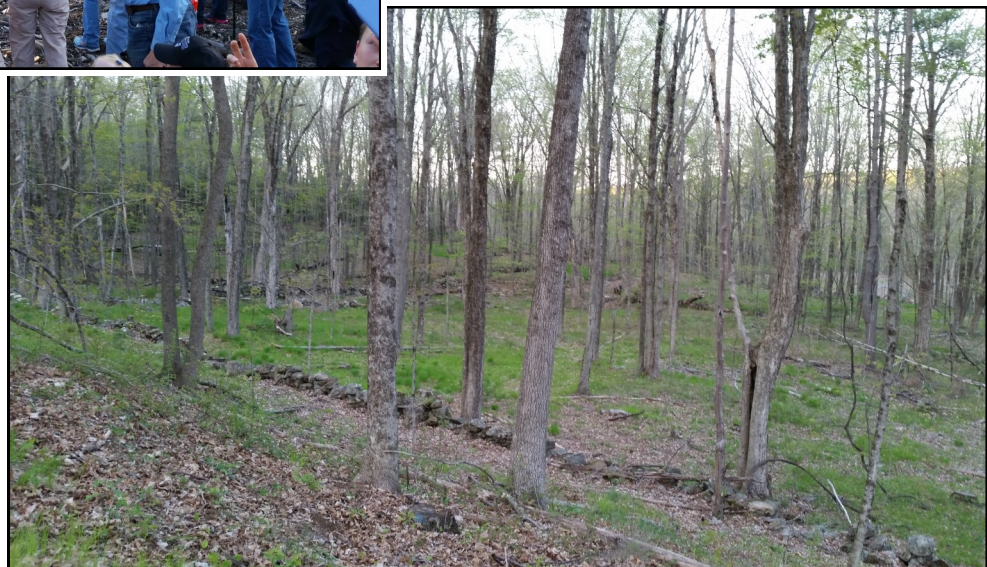
Plimpton Community Forest

277 New Boston Road, Sturbridge

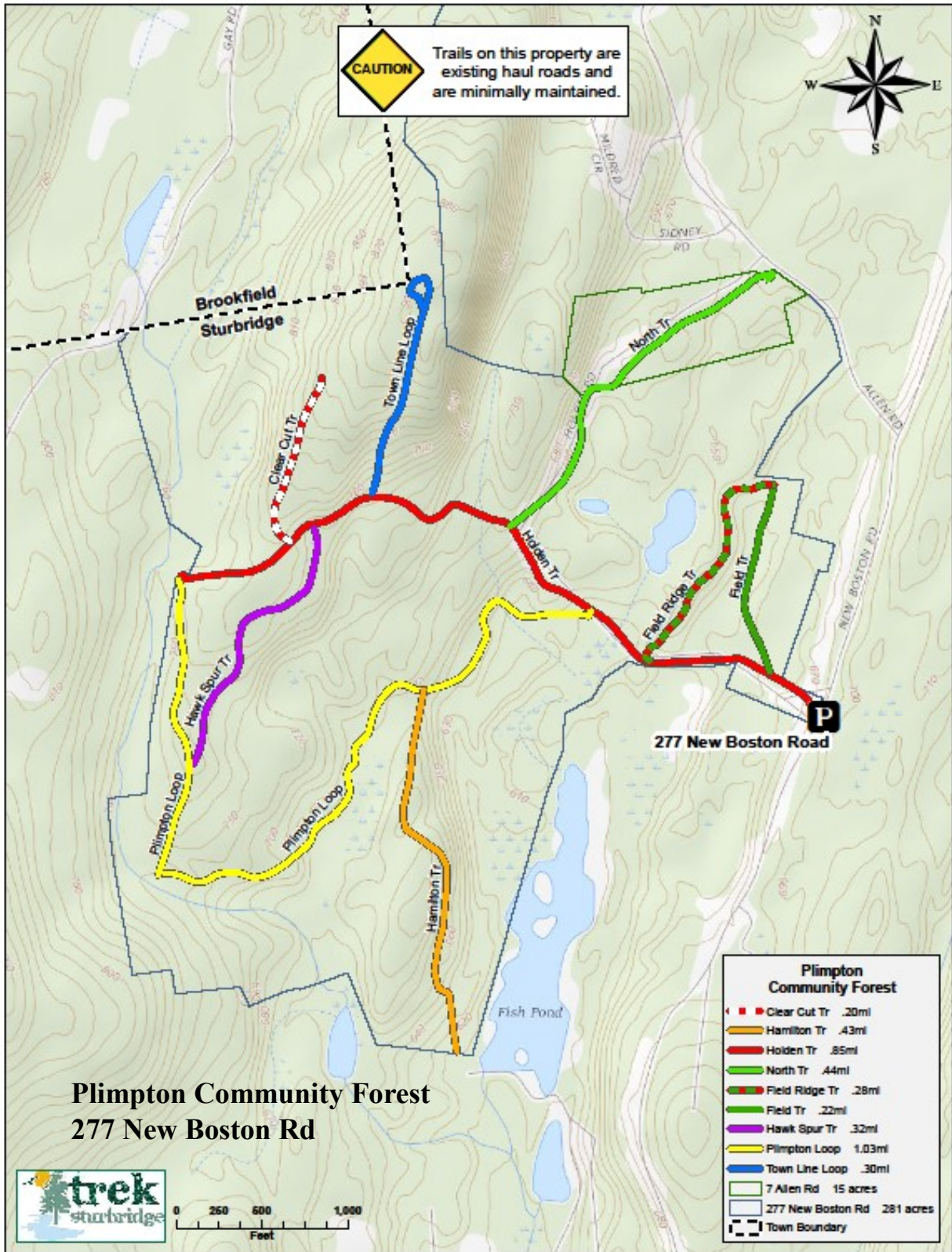
The Plimpton Community Forest was purchased in 2015. This 281-acre parcel can be accessed from 277 New Boston Road. The forest is a mix of oak, sugar maple, pine, and a variety of other species. The property was recently logged, and will continue to be used as a working forest managed for sustainable forestry. An old cellar hole, well, and other remnants of the mid-1800's homestead are clearly visible along the abandoned road that runs through the middle of the property. The recent logging operation opened up the view, revealing stone walls that mark the open fields that were present around the time of the Civil War.



The Sturbridge Conservation Department partnered with Opacum Land Trust to lead a walk on the newly acquired Plimpton property in May 2016. More than 40 residents attended and walked the logging roads to get a feel for the land. A more formal trail system has been approved and is being implemented. In the meantime, the property is open for exploring.



Photos courtesy of Opacum Land Trust.



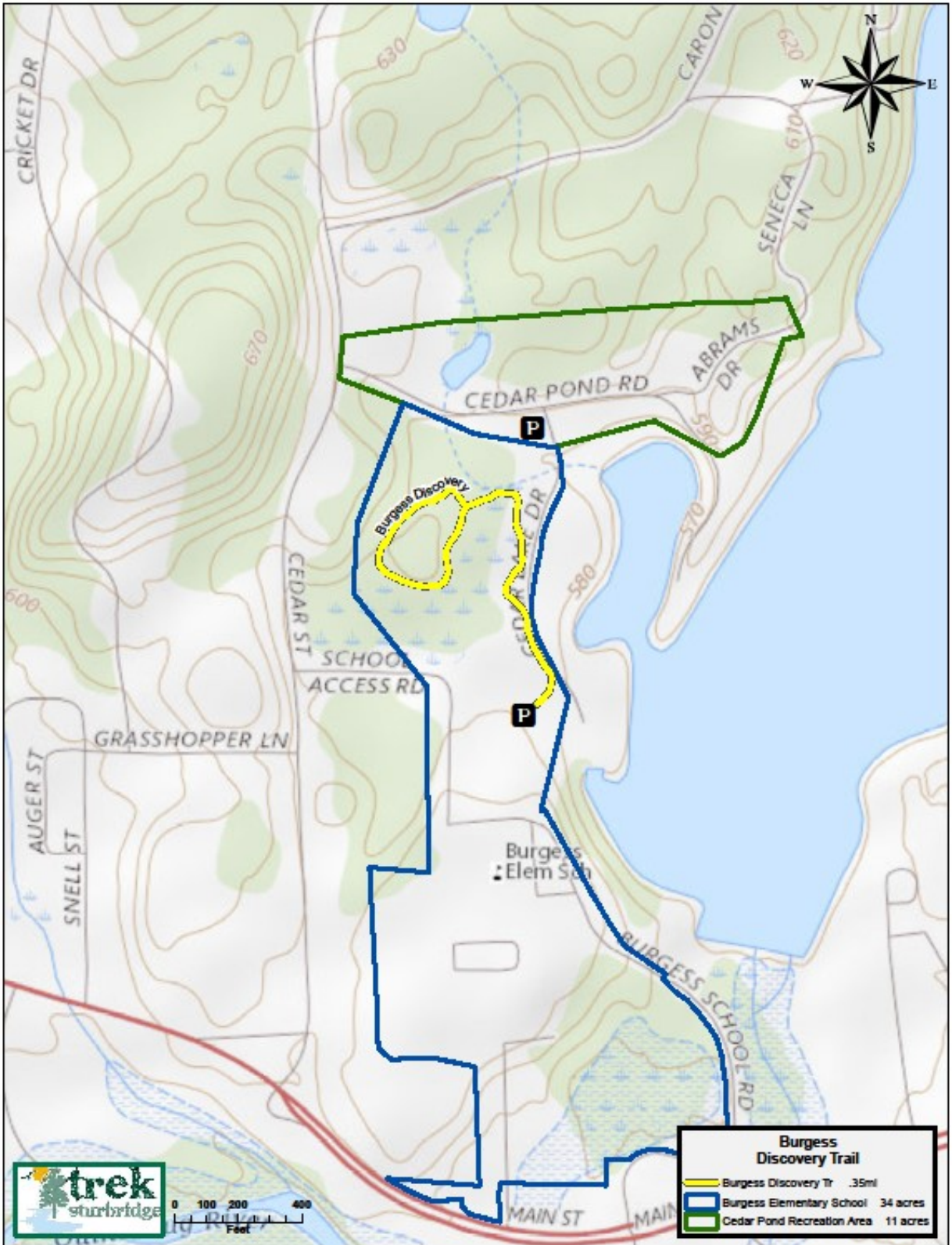


Burgess Discovery Trail

The Burgess Discovery Trail: .4 mi, TT Trek trail design, is a fully handicapped accessible (Federal ABA compliant) trail starting and ending at the lower Burgess school parking lot(10 Burgess School access rd). The trail passes along the ball field into a upland and wetland forest cover environment traveling over some 150' of wetland (bog bridge), pass by several large glacial boulders and around a gravel drumlin upland area. Trail Access Information is posted on the trail sign.

The Burgess Discovery trail was built for the students and community to enjoy an easy walking trail that is small child family friendly. Funded by the Burgess PTO, it was initially envisioned as a “nature trail” the route provides numerous opportunities to interact with nature, while also providing a great walking or jogging experience. As this is school property, all school property access rules apply. Contact the school office at 508-347-7041 with any questions.







Opacum Woods

9 Old Brook Circle

Opacum Woods is a 266 acre conservation area owned and stewarded by the Opacum Land Trust, and containing about four miles of hiking trails. Donated in June 2003 by Robert Moss & Brendon Properties, Opacum Woods offers woodland ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, historic and prehistoric sites, and habitat for both rare and common species.

The Blue Trail skirts the edge of Opacum Pond. While on this trail, you will experience cool, dark hemlock woods where you can listen for the ethereal notes of the wood thrush in summer or look for the tracks of resident wildlife in the winter snow. Watch for an ancient rock shelter, used by Native Americans, near the southern loop of the Blue Trail. ST-1.

Along the eastern border of Opacum Woods, the Blue, Yellow, and Red Trails follow the route of Old Walker Road, which once connected what is now Wells State Park with the center of Sturbridge. The Massachusetts Turnpike now bisects this historic road. TT.

Part of the Yellow Trail follows the watercourse draining Opacum Pond. While walking, look for chewed trees and other signs of beaver. You may catch a glimpse of ducks or even the great blue heron that frequents this area. ST-2.

The Green Trail will take you to Perry's Point, a peninsula reaching out into Opacum Pond. Dragonflies, damselflies, wood ducks, heron, deer and beaver are just some of the wildlife you have an opportunity see here. ST-2.

Trail Head Directions: Take New Boston Road from Rt. 20 in Sturbridge, just east of the Rt.131 intersection. Take your fourth right into The Preserve subdivision, and then your second left onto Old Brook Circle to the end of the cul-de-sac.

About Opacum Land Trust

Opacum Land Trust is a thirteen town land conservation organization founded by volunteers in 2000 to conserve land of high ecological and historical interest in South Central Massachusetts. We focus on preserving priority habitat and ecosystems, working woodlands and agricultural land, historic and pre-colonial archaeological remains, and scenic land for outdoor recreational activities.

Serving the towns of Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, East Brookfield, Holland, Monson, North Brookfield, Palmer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Wales, Warren, West Brookfield, our aim is to protect the New England charm and rural character of our communities, promote proactive conservation and the creation of greenways and wildlife corridors. Opacum Land Trust is able to permanently protect open space through donation or purchase of land, bargain sales, or by holding a Conservation Restriction. For further information, go to www.OpacumLT.org.

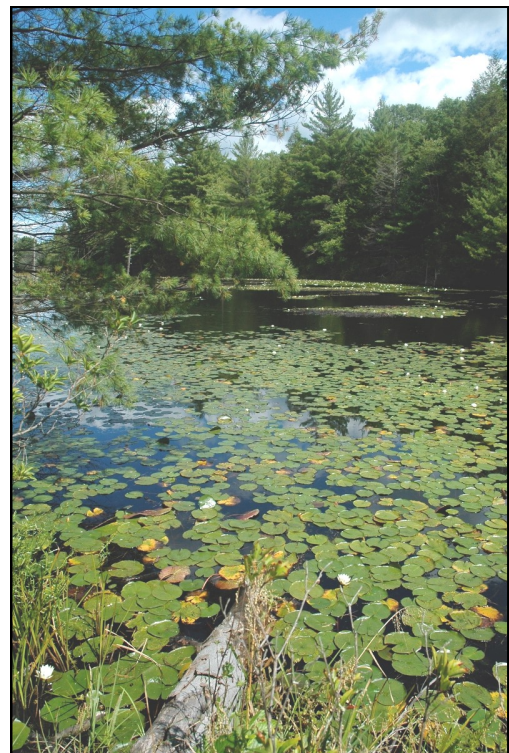
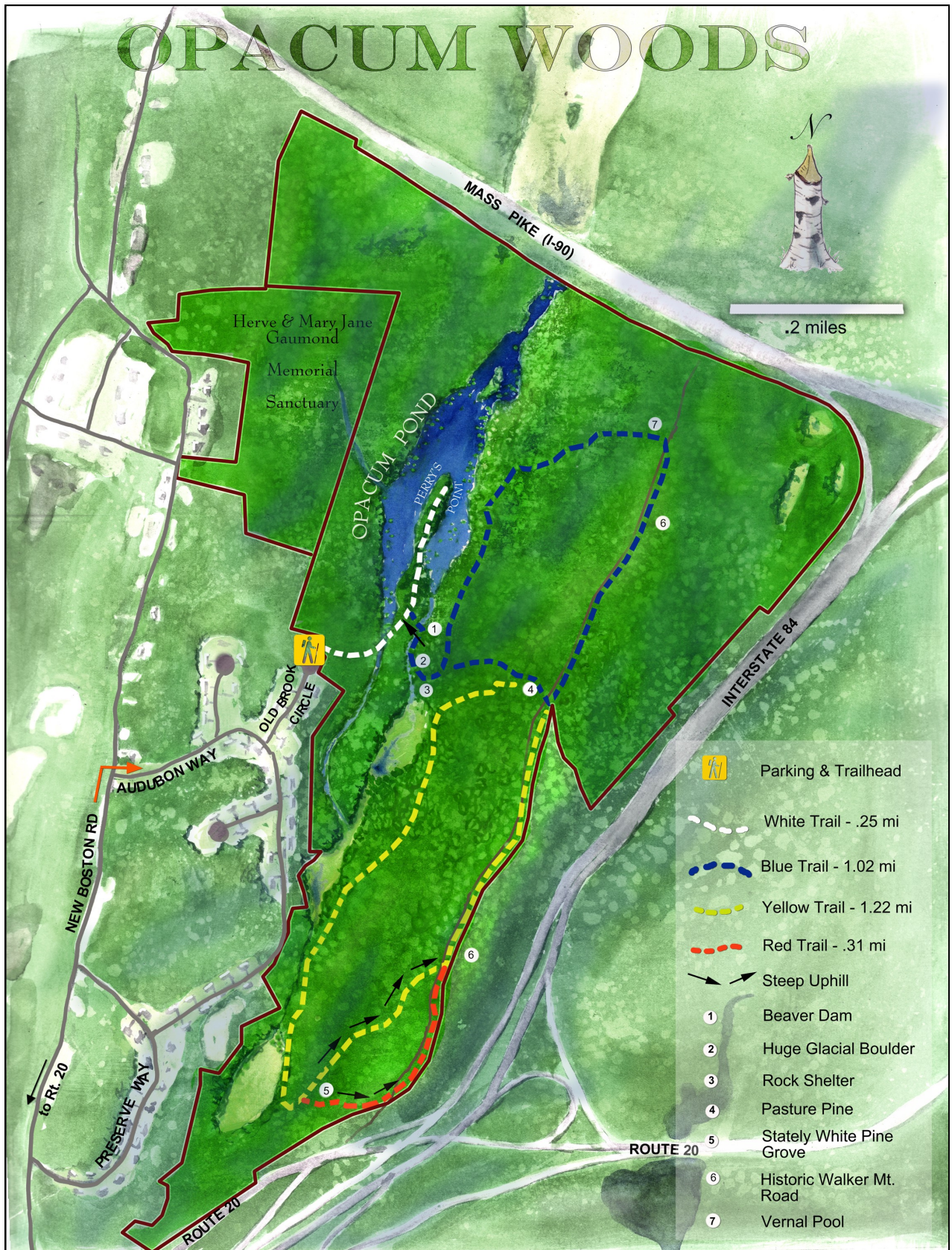


Photo courtesy of Opacum Land Trust.





Westville Lake Recreation Area

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

125 Wallace Road, Sturbridge
(Off of Route 131 heading towards Southbridge)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns and manages 578 acres of land at Westville Lake. The Quinebaug River, once harnessed for mills and factories at several locations within the park, now meanders uninhibited through forests and wetlands for several miles on its way to Westville Lake. The river and its tributaries serve as the center of activity for many species of animals.

Westville Lake offers two large picnic shelters, which are able to be reserved for a small fee. Westville Lake also features a canoe/kayak launch into the Quinebaug River, fishing opportunities, plenty of charcoal grills and picnic tables for everyone to enjoy, and a trail network perfect for hiking for all ages. In the winter, there is an ice skating pond in the park and perfect sledding hills!

Trails

There are more than three miles of trails at Westville Lake. Terrain varies from the flat rail bed of the Grand Trunk to rolling hills of the Community Trail. No motorized vehicles are allowed. Open to cross-country skiers and snow shoes in winter and open year round. Photographers, hikers, and bird watchers relish the undeveloped land at Westville Lake. The old Grand Trunk Railroad parallels the Quinebaug River and is a popular walking trail. There are also several ST-2 side trails located within the park.

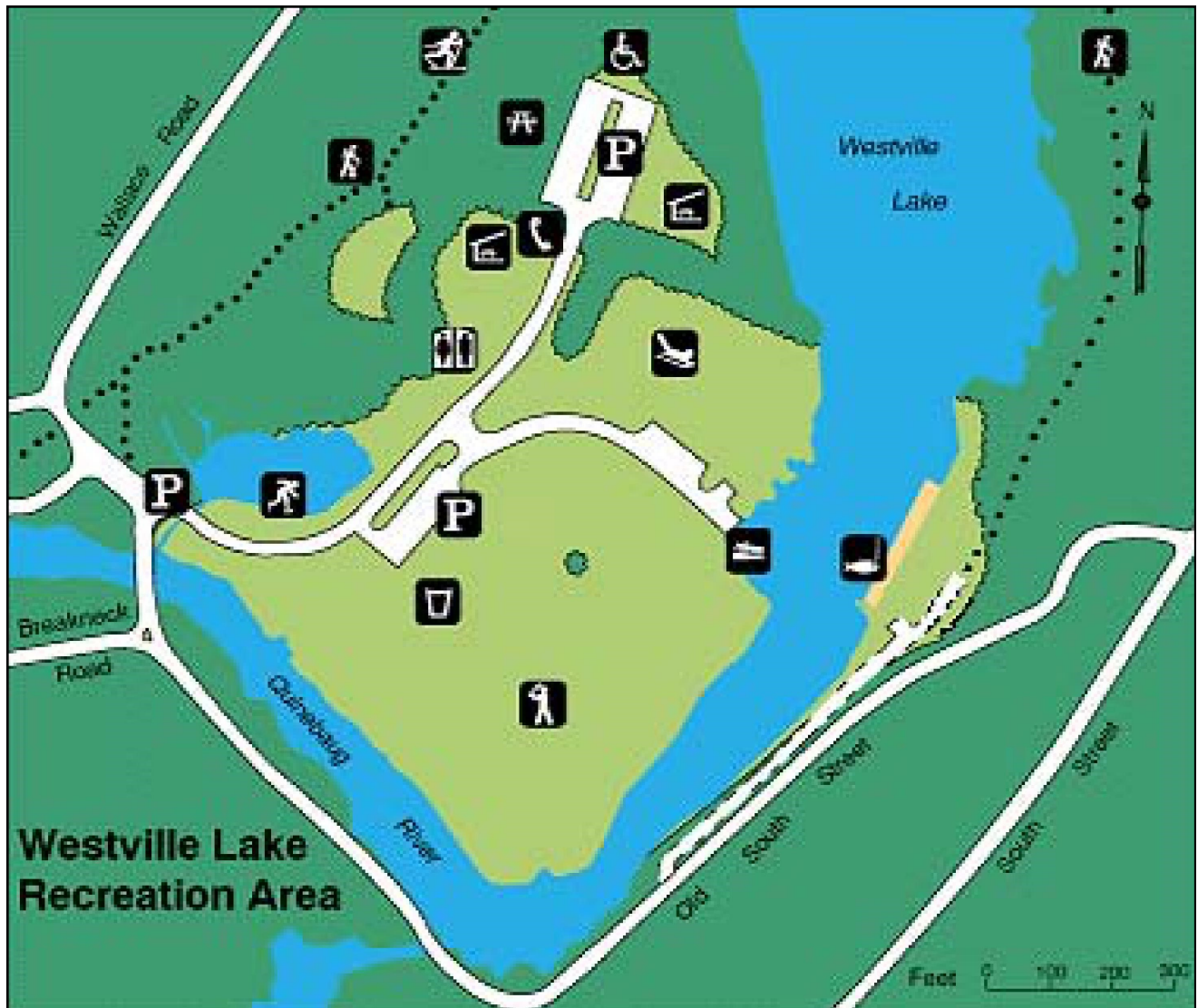
Grand Trunk Trail— This 4-mile Westville section of the trail runs from West Street in Southbridge to Route 15 in Sturbridge following the rail bed of the Grand Trunk Railroad, which halted construction in the early 1920s. GT.

Westville Lake Trail—This trail loops for 1.8 miles around the 23 acre Westville Lake Area. Two-thirds of the trail is on abandoned railroad bed and project service roads, the remainder is called the Heritage Trail and is a cross country terrain trail. TT.

Informational kiosks are located at the trailhead parking lot on Wallace Road, and at the Westville Dam parking area. There are eight benches along the trail for you to rest and enjoy the scenery. The trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset, year-round.

Westville Dam

Standing tall at 78 feet, Westville Dam has saved downstream towns millions of dollars in flood damage costs. This facility is a part of a network of dams that relieves the effects of flooding along the major rivers of the Thames River Basin. The dam is designed to hold back 3.61 billion gallons of water while maintaining a safe level of downstream flow.





Wells State Park

159 Walker Pond Road, Sturbridge
(Off of Route 49 heading towards Spencer)

This beautiful State Park is part of the Massachusetts state park system and is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Wells State Park offers over 1,470 acres of parkland primarily used for camping, biking, hiking and dog-walking. More than 10 miles of trails cross the property. A popular route leads to the scenic vista at Carpenter Rocks from which the eastern section and pristine Walker Pond can be viewed. During the summer, Wells has an interpretive program available which provides guided walks, hikes, recreational activities and evening campfire programs.

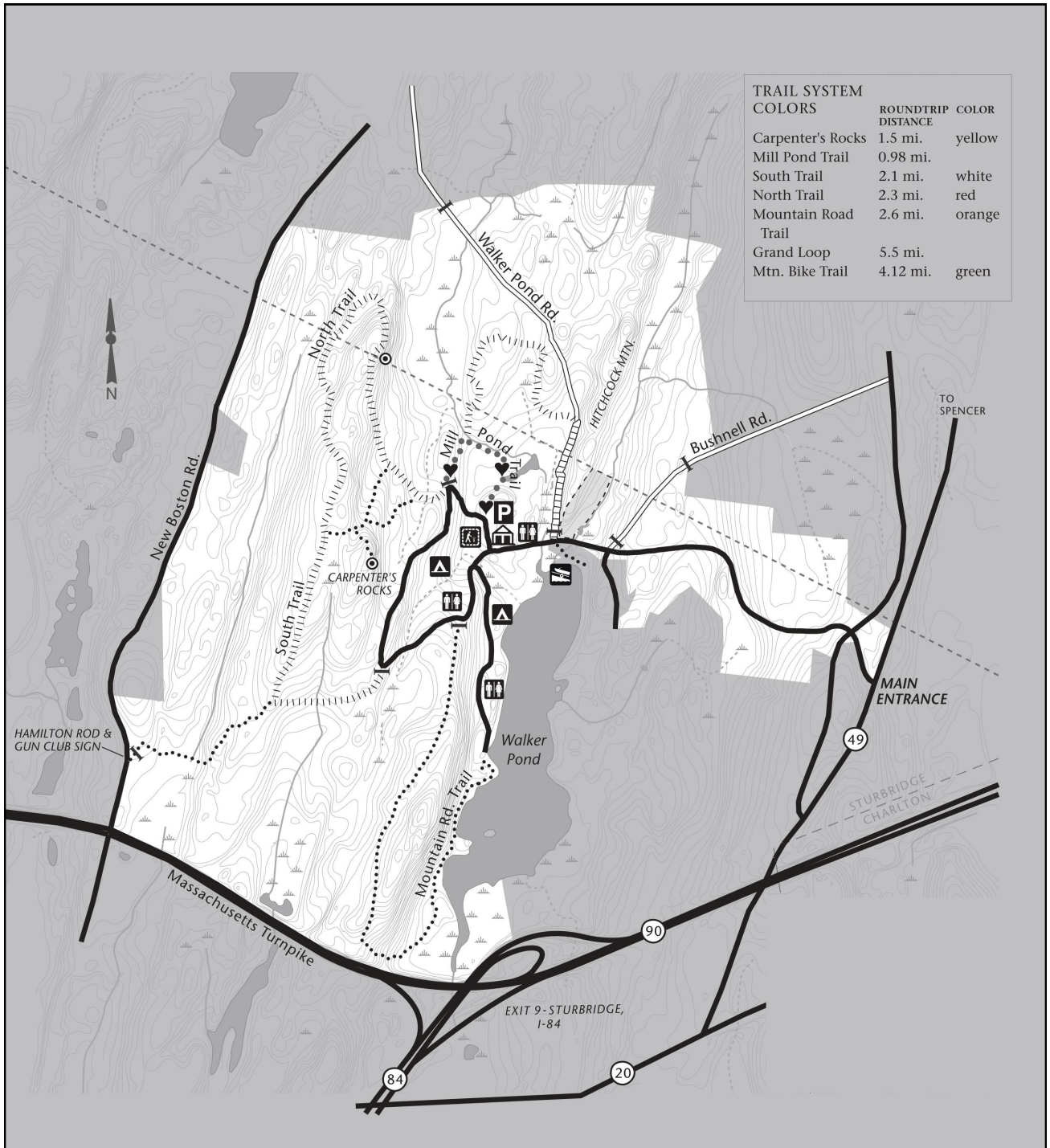
The Mill Pond Trail, just under one mile long, is a loop trail close to the parking lot, and has been labelled a “Healthy Heart Trail” by Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation. ST-1 and TT. Designated by a heart symbol, Healthy Heart Trails are pathways or trails used for hiking or walking that are easy to moderate in activity level and intended for routine use to help build a healthy heart. DCR has designated more than 70 trails statewide, and encourages frequent use of these trails.



Vista from Carpenter Rocks



Photos courtesy Massachusetts D.C.R.



See page 25 for link to webpage and downloadable trail maps. Most trails are of a Trek Trail or ST-1 design. Trails to Carpenter Rocks are ST-2 trails.





Grand Trunk Trail

The Grand Trunk Trail winds along the Quinebaug River, and using the connecting Heritage trail, the two paths link the towns of Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Brimfield Massachusetts. The Grand Trunk is a defunct railroad, the brainchild of Charles Hayes, who went down with the Titanic. Only the railbed was completed, hence, the name “Titanic Railroad”.

Work began on the Grand Trunk Trail in 2000, on Earth Day. A Trailhead is located at Westville Lake Recreational Park, where one can travel upstream to the Ed Calcutt Bridge or downstream to Westville Dam and the Heritage Trail. The Heritage Trail is in Southbridge, and runs along the opposite bank of the Quinebaug River to West Street School. Brimfield is accessible off of 5 Bridge rd and US rt 20.

The Grand Trunk Trail is a National Recreational Trail. This designation, from the National Park Service, puts the Grand Trunk Trail into the rank of only 12 in the Bay State that hold the NRT designation. An AmeriCorp crew built a spur trail at Old South Road in 2002. Now, one can walk through the woods beside the Quinebaug River and Westville Lake, over the new footbridge to Army Corp headquarters on Marjorie Lane in Southbridge, and onward to get a different view of the Westville Dam.

The Grand Trunk Trail is a partnership between The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Opacum Land Trust, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, The Last Green Valley, National Park Service, Friends of the Titanic Rail Trail, the Towns of Southbridge and Sturbridge, and numerous trail volunteers.

Parking lot access:

There are 5 Trail Head parking lots in Sturbridge:

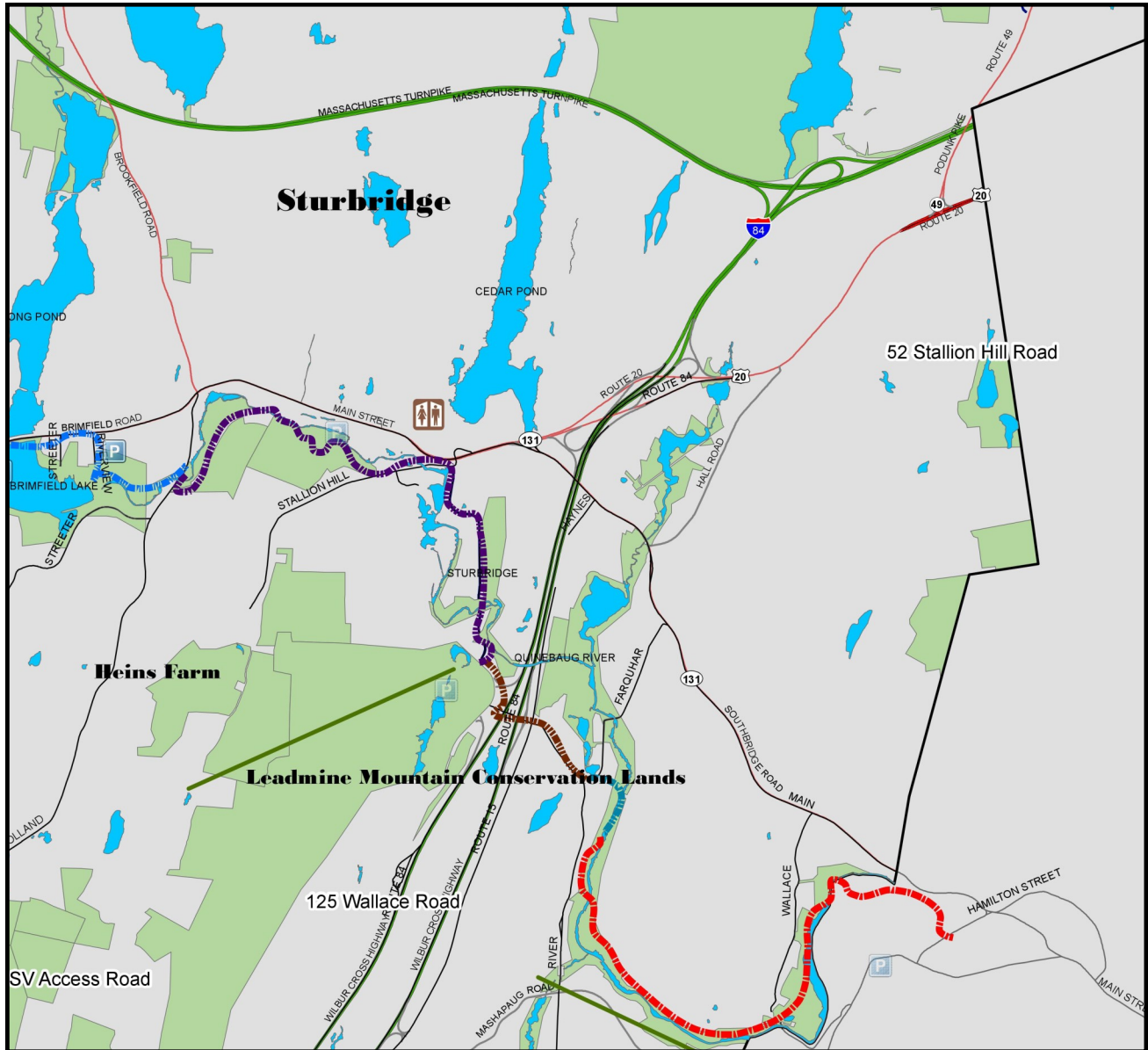
- 125 Wallace Road
- 10 OSV Access Road
- 52 Stallion Hill Road
- 46 Holland Road
- 24 Riverview Ave

See page 25 for link to webpage and downloadable trail maps.



The Grand Trunk Trail system is a gentle, wide “rail trail” 10-12 feet wide with a fine gravel hard-packed smooth surface with ADA appropriate grades. A very family or elderly friendly trail, an “easy” trail. Mt Bike and Stroller friendly.





See page 26 for link to webpage and downloadable trail maps.



CAUTION:
Trails on this property are still under construction and not well-marked. Please refer to the website for the most current trail map.





Tantiusques

500 Leadmine Road, Sturbridge

Tantiusques Reservation is a 57-acre open space historic site registered with the National Register of Historic Places. The reservation is owned and managed by The Trustees of Reservations; it is notable for its historic, defunct graphite mines. This is a rural area with much of the adjacent and surrounding area undeveloped and forested. The reservation is entirely forested with oak-hickory forest and red maple in the wet areas and mountain laurel abundant throughout the understory.

What make Tantiusques a special place? - Tantiusques (“tan-te-us-quays”) – a Nipmuc word meaning “to a black deposit between two hills” – was the center of one of New England's first mining operations.

A trail head is located at 500 Leadmine Road, with a gravel parking lot for 6 cars. Follow a short loop trail (1.5-mile, TT) through quiet woodlands; then visit the site of a former lead mine used by Native Americans and, later, European settlers. An ST-2 spur trail passes through the Leadmine Wildlife Management Area and ends at the Robert Crowd Site. Visitors can view the foundations of the house and barn of the African-American and Native American man who worked at the mine in the 1850s. Moderate hiking, strenuous in places. Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. Allow a minimum of 1 hour.

The Nipmuc originally mined here for graphite to make ceremonial paints. In 1644, John Winthrop, Jr., son of the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, purchased the mine with hopes of extracting lead and iron. In the early 19th century, Captain Joseph Dixon and his son worked here before founding the J. D. Crucible Company of New Jersey, famous manufacturers of pencils.

For more historical information, go to www.thetrustees.org. See QR code on page 28. Photos courtesy of The Trustees.



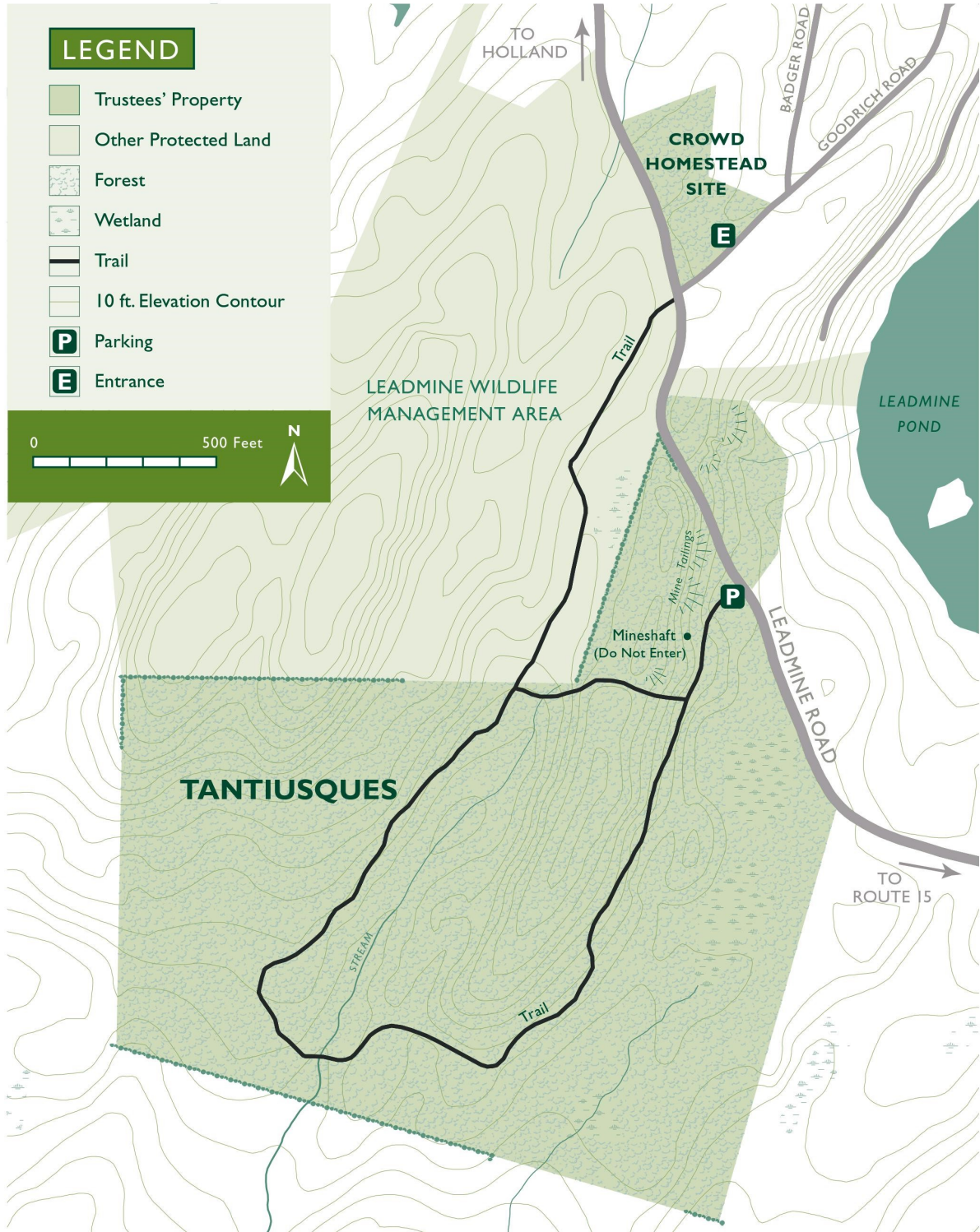


TANTIUSQUES (57 ACRES)

Leadmine Road ▪ Sturbridge, Massachusetts
 413.532.1631 ▪ central@ttor.org ▪ www.thetrustees.org

LEGEND

-  Trustees' Property
-  Other Protected Land
-  Forest
-  Wetland
-  Trail
-  10 ft. Elevation Contour
-  Parking
-  Entrance





Rules of the Trail

Each land managing agency has its own unique rules. Please visit their websites for more information (found on the QR code pages)

Please use the following general guidelines when enjoying these open space lands:

- ◆ No motorized vehicles allowed.
- ◆ Fires are not permitted.
- ◆ Hunting and trapping as posted and allowed under State law.
- ◆ Swimming is allowed only in officially noted recreational areas.
- ◆ Please keep your pets under control and on a 6ft leash at all times.
- ◆ Obey all signs, especially **No Trespassing & Private Property**.
- ◆ Sites included in this guide are open from dawn to dusk.
- ◆ Please leave all plants, flowers, wildlife, rocks, for the next hiker to enjoy
- ◆ Please respect peace and quiet on the trail.
- ◆ Please “carry in, carry out” your trash and pet waste.
- ◆ Pick up any litter you find on the trail.
- ◆ **Be Prepared!** Carry adequate equipment and supplies, watch the weather.
- ◆ Enjoy!





A Word about Trail Types

The various agencies participating in this trail guide have been building trails for years, with each using slightly different names or types of construction. To provide the trail user with some indication of the trail experience we have used the following keys where ever possible, to identify the type of trail you would experience.

Trail Type Name: GT, Grand Trunk Trail is a gentle, wide “rail trail” 10 - 12ft wide with a fine gravel hard packed smooth surface with grades usually < 5%. A very family or elderly friendly trail, an “easy trail”, Mt Bike and stroller friendly.

Trail Type Name: TT, Trek Trails are also relatively gentle and wide - 36 - 72in (with sufficient clearance for mobility devices of a maximum of 36in wide). Surface will vary from fine hard-packed gravel to a more natural firm material. Surface, roots and rocks may be slightly exposed, with grades usually no more than 15%. These are generally easy trails with occasional moderate sections. Mt Bike friendly, larger tire strollers.

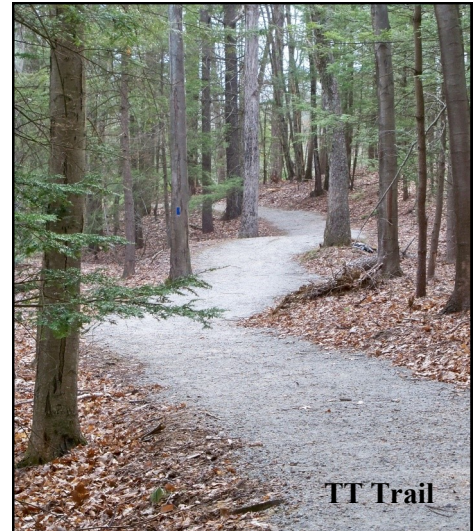
Trail Type Name: ST-1, Single track type 1 is a more natural but well-built trail, 36”- 48” wide, with a natural surface; great for hiking or easy to moderate experienced Mt Bikers or large wheel strollers. Most Roots and rocks have been removed or covered, but some may be exposed. Grades can approach 15%. Water crossings are formal (bridge), but one may encounter an occasional puddle.

Trail Type Name: ST-2, Natural Surface Single Track. A more moderate level of difficulty trail, 24-36in wide. Trail surface is uneven, with regular rock and root protrusions within trail tread. Maximum grades of up to 20% for short distances. Trail Tread Materials are natural surface with some low bridges or rock armoring for water crossings.

Trail Type Name: ST-3, Natural Surface Single Track. These trails are the most difficult trails, with a narrow trail tread width of 18-24in. “Back country”; very rough and uneven; a natural surface, native soils, and sometimes loose with protruding rocks and roots; trails with sustained grades > 20% with steep side slopes. Water crossings can be low narrow bog bridge 12- 24in wide, or hardened, at-grade stone crossings, which may be muddy.



GT Trail



TT Trail



ST-2 Trail



Trail Guide Web Sites and QR codes:



Leadmine Property, 10 Old Sturbridge Village Rd., Town of Sturbridge
www.sturbridgetrails.org/leadmine-mountain.html



Heins Farm Property, 197 Leadmine Rd., Town of Sturbridge
www.sturbridgetrails.org/heins-farm.html



Riverlands, 52 Stallion Hill Rd., Town of Sturbridge
www.sturbridgetrails.org/riverlands.html



Plimpton Community Forest, 277 New Boston Rd., Town of Sturbridge
www.sturbridgetrails.org/plimpton-trail.html



Burgess Discovery Trail, Burgess Elementary School, Town of Sturbridge
www.sturbridgetrails.org/burgess-discovery-trail.html



Opacum Woods, parking and trail head at cul-de-sac near 7 Old Brook Circle;
Opacum Land Trust; www.opacumlt.org/opacum_woods.html



Trail Guide Web Sites and QR codes (cont.):



Westville Lake Recreation Area, 125 Wallace Rd.,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Recreation/WVL/WVLRecBrochure.pdf



Wells State Park, 159 Walker Pond Rd, Commonwealth of Mass, DCR
www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/trails/wells.pdf



Grand Trunk/Titanic Rail Trail, Town of Sturbridge
www.sturbridgetrails.org/grand-trunk-trail.html



Sturbridge Tourist Association, Area information, Town of Sturbridge website
for visitors
<https://www.town.sturbridge.ma.us/for-visitors>



Tantiusques property; 500 Leadmine Rd, The Trustees of Reservations;
www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/central-ma/tantiusques.html



Sturbridge Trails webpage: www.sturbridgetrails.org



We hope you have enjoyed your visit.

If you have any comments or questions regarding your trail experience, please call the Conservation Office at 508-347-2506 or email conservation@town.sturbridge.ma.us.

The Sturbridge Trails Committee relies on volunteers to help maintain our trails. We meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month and hold volunteer work days the 3rd Saturday of the month from April thru November.

Much of our support comes from our local trail non profit: The Friends of Sturbridge Trails.

“FrOST” hosts trail events, and supports the Town’s efforts in providing great trail experiences. Find them on Facebook for upcoming events.

www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Sturbridge-Trails

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please call the Conservation Office. Special programs, maps and more information on our open space lands can be found on the Trail Committee website: www.SturbridgeTrails.org



Heins Farm Pond Loop Trail.



Created by the Sturbridge Trails Committee
treksturbridge@gmail.com

Find us on : **Friends of Sturbridge Trails**

Town of Sturbridge
Center Office Building
301 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566

Conservation Department 508-347-2506
conservation@town.sturbridge.ma.us

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