

TRAILS

DEERFIELD, NH



Deerfield Conservation Commission
2000



LANDOWNERS OF GREAT BROOK
CONSERVATION LANDS
(at time of easement, 1990)

John and Helen Burbank
Frances Curry
Al Jaeger
Leon and Leona Malouin
Lewis Builders
Mary Pendleton

Deerfield Conservation Commission
2000

Erick Berglund
Brenda Eaves
Kate Hartnett
Al Jaeger
Mary Ann Johnson
Frank Mitchell
Joe Sears
Becky Whitmeyer

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS OF
MR FERGUSON'S SIXTH-GRADE CLASS
(1994)

Zachary Bioteau
Matt D'Alessio
Jen Elliott
Shannon Hinton
Ryan Nolan
Megan Wilson

INTRODUCTION TO THE TRAILS OF DEERFIELD

This guide includes information about some of Deerfield's conservation lands, along with property maps and trail descriptions. These include both public and private land protected by conservation easements overseen by the Town of Deerfield. The trails listed are intended only for foot travel. They cover some of the most delightful areas in town, and offer great opportunity for hiking and wildlife observation.

Access to the lands is generally easy, but parking is not always available nearby. Streams and other wet areas may limit trail use at some times of the year, particularly early spring.

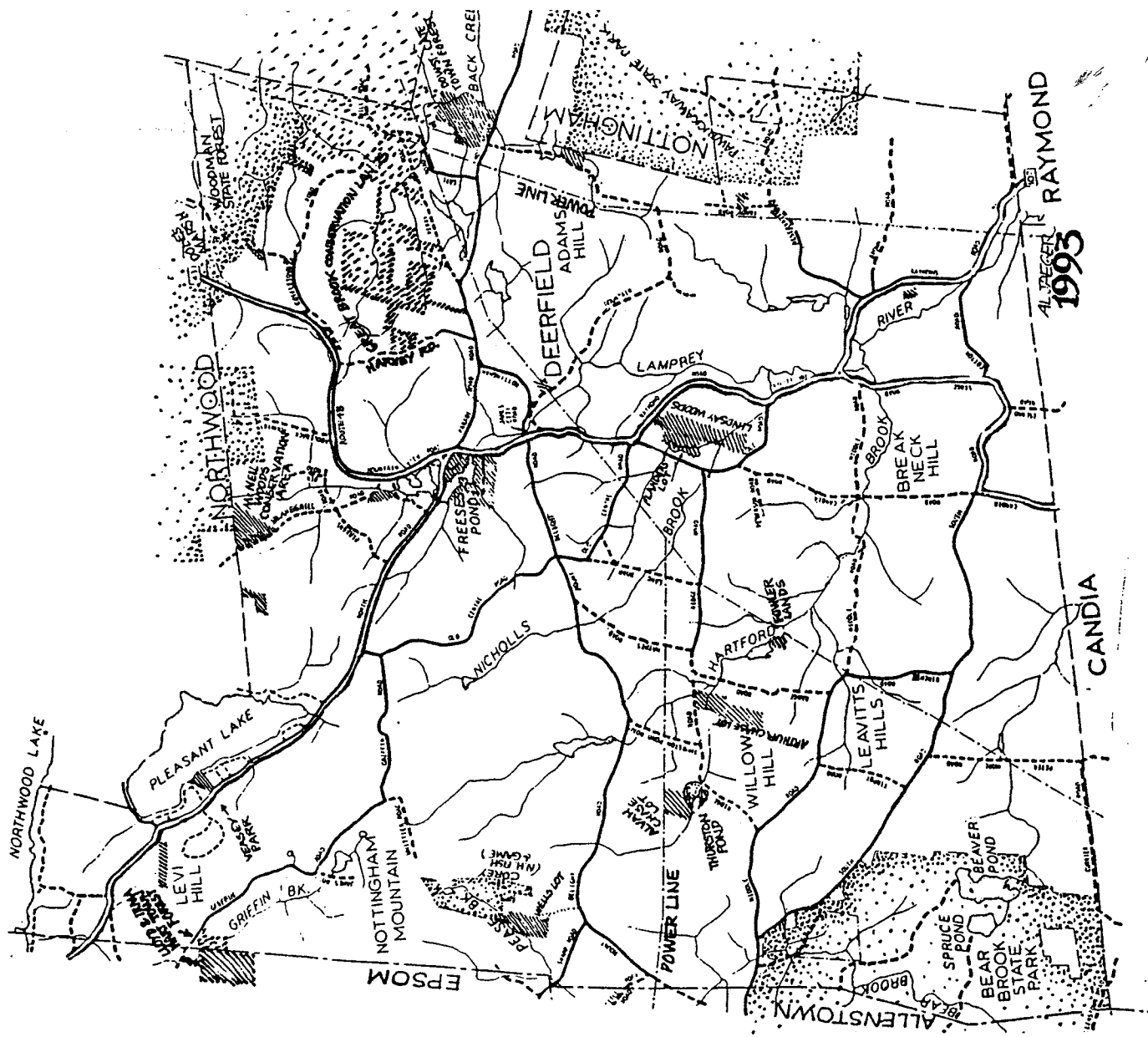
These trails cover land which is unspoiled by litter or signs of overuse. Please help to keep them in this condition.

For more information about these public and private conservation lands, contact the Deerfield Conservation Commission at PO Box 230, Deerfield, NH 03037.




How Conservation Easements Protect Lands

A conservation easement is a way for people to protect their lands while retaining private ownership and management. Each easement is a legal document and is individually customized to fit the owner's needs and the characteristics of the land. Usually easements protect open space, allowing agriculture and forestry, but limiting subdivision, construction, and mining. Industrial and commercial activities are prohibited. Landowners may choose to grant some public access for hiking and skiing, and possibly for fishing and hunting. Conservation easements are granted in perpetuity and apply to the land regardless of who owns it in the future.





DEERFIELD'S MAJOR PROTECTED LANDS

-  State Land
-  Town Land
-  Private Land with Conservation Easement



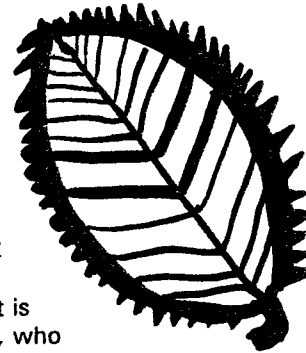
THE TRAILS

Arthur Chase Town Forest Ridge Road

Located on a class VI and rough portion of Ridge Road, this property is accessible by foot from the intersection of Range and Ridge Roads, or from Thurston Pond Road. The land includes swampy and upland habitats, and borders a beaver pond adjacent to Range Road. Two branches of the Hartford Brook flow across the Town Forest, and there is a beaver pond in the woods at the south end of the property. Terrain varies from relatively flat at the northern end to somewhat steep toward the south end.

The south end of the Arthur Chase Town Forest supports a stand of hardwoods that has not been cut in a long time. Among the trees there, old, large-crowned beech provide excellent food ("mast") for many wild animals (beech nuts). A vernal pool in that area is an important amphibian breeding habitat. Because of its uniqueness, this part of the Town Forest has been designated in the management plan for the property as a natural area, to be left undisturbed.

Other trees on this land are red and sugar maple, hemlock, white pine, red oak, black, yellow and white birch, poplar and black cherry.



1. Arthur Chase Town Forest

The footpath through the Arthur Chase Town Forest is the result of a volunteer effort led by Casey Cronyn, who laid out and cleared the trail in 1992, as an Eagle Scout project. It is marked with blue-gray paint marks on trees, and is approximately a 1 mile loop.

The trail begins on the west side of the major stream (a branch of Hartford Brook) crossing on the rough dirt (class VI) part of Ridge Road (see map), a few hundred feet from the intersection of Ridge and Range Roads. After heading away from the road, the trail crosses a second branch of Hartford Brook, then soon diverges to form a loop that goes to the back of the property. Going either left or right, the trail passes generally uphill through a mixture of hemlock and hardwoods. Some parts of the trail are moderately steep.

Toward the rear of the Town Forest property, hardwoods predominate. Some of the trees in this area are believed to be over 150 years old.

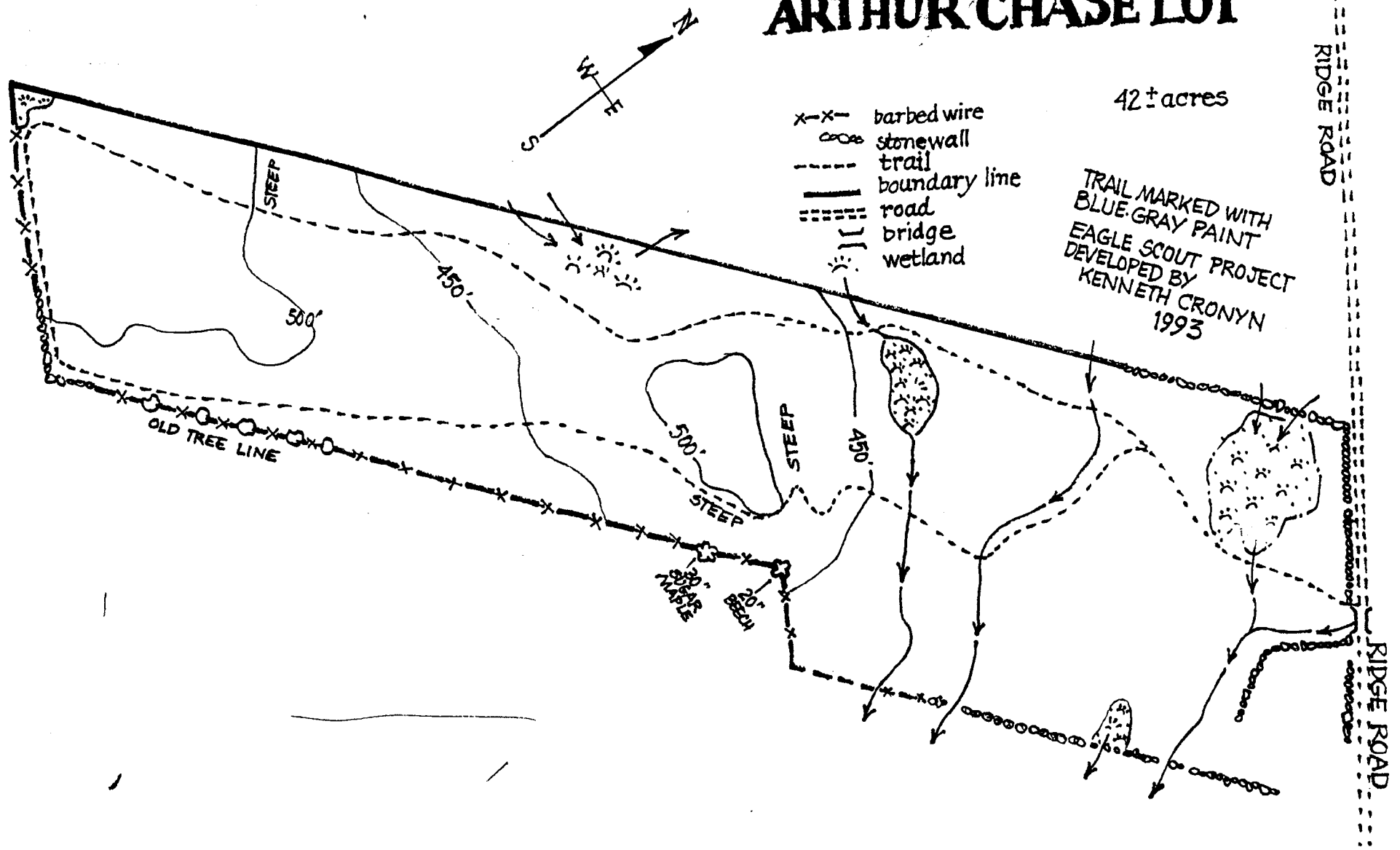
Follow the trail around the loop to return to the stream crossing and trailhead.

ARTHUR CHASE LOT

42 ± acres

TRAIL MARKED WITH
BLUE GRAY PAINT
DEVELOPED BY
EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT
KENNETH CRONYN
1993

- x-x- barbed wire
- o-o-o stonewall
- - - trail
- boundary line
- road
- ||| bridge
- ☀ wetland



Dowst - Cate Town Forest Trail Nottingham Road

A foot path approximately 1 3/4 miles long winds through the Dowst - Cate Town Forest, passing through a rich mixture of habitats. It was created in 1991 by volunteers, including a UNH student from Deerfield who worked on the trail as part of a practicum project and about a dozen other local residents of all ages.

The trail, marked with blue rectangles on trees begins at the small parking area inside the stone wall at the town forest sign. It follows an old section of former town road if you go right, and a woods road to the left after leaving the small clearing near the road. Both branches meet to form a loop around the property.

There are a few steep sections, but most of it is gently rolling terrain. Numerous "skid trails" from a 1990 wood harvest connect with the foot path, generally reaching dead ends. Be sure to follow the blue-gray markers to stay on the trail.



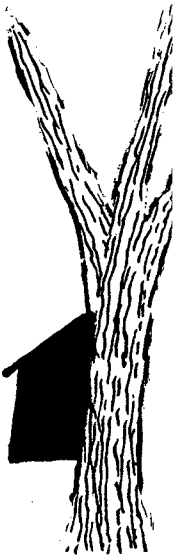
2. Dowst - Cate Town Forest

The Dowst - Cate Town Forest was offered to the town in 1983 by Gilbert Knowles, for use as a "town forest and park". He wrote to town officials "I have always had a warm place in my heart for Deerfield (and) I would be happy to do something for Deerfield. The Town accepted the offer, and subsequently designated the property as a town forest, to be managed by the Conservation Commission and the Forestry Committee.

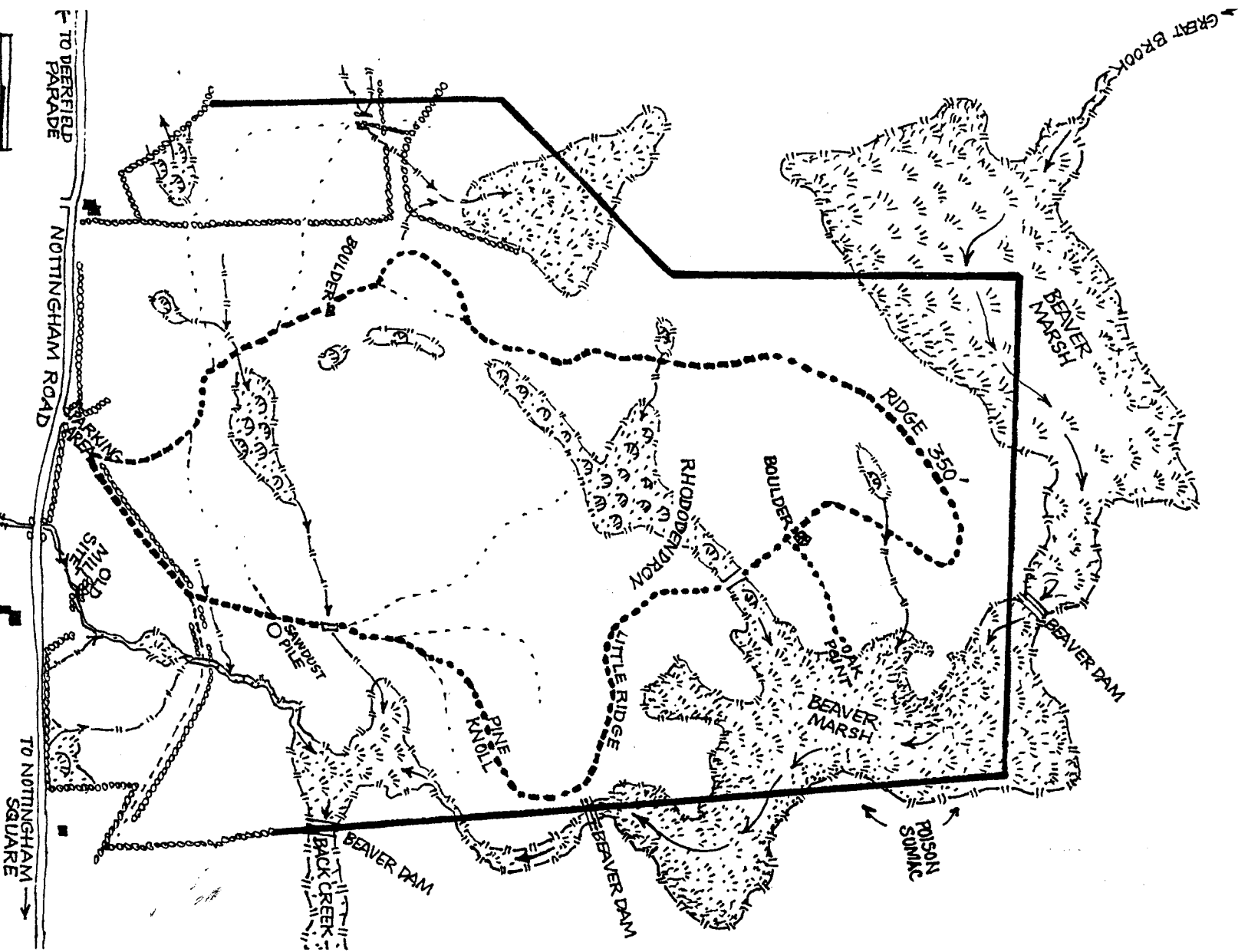
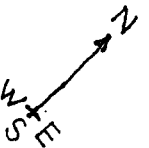
The land is 110 acres of diverse soils, tree communities and wildlife habitat. It is surrounded by a wetland complex associated with Great Brook (Back Creek), and contains a large swamp. Rocky uplands occur among the extensive swampy sections. A rare colony of native rhododendron grows in one of the swampy areas.

Historic ruins are found along the stream running through the Dowst - Cate Town Forest. The site of a former mill dam stands about 200 feet east of Nottingham Road, and 300 to 400 feet downstream is the site of a former bridge over the stream where the town road used to cross. These sites hint at the activity that took place on this land in other times.

The Dowst - Cate Town Forest abuts one end of the Great Brook Conservation Lands, private lands protected by conservation easements.



- 1 inch = 330 feet
- Stone wall
- building
- main trail
- Woods road
- W Wooded wetland
- W Open wetland



BACK CREEK
DOWSY-CATE
TOWN FOREST
 DEERFIELD, N.H.

1993

Freese's Pond Town Land Trail off North Road

This trail, once a road laid out for a residential subdivision that never occurred, begins at the southwest corner of the upper ball field at the Deerfield Community School. It is approximately 1/2 mile long, one way.

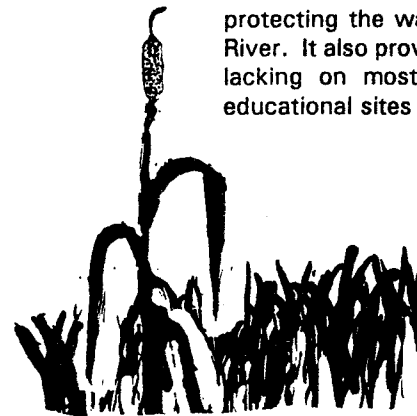
From the top of the ridge behind the field, the first section goes steeply downhill, crossing a brook that begins on Meetinghouse Hill and flows to Freese's Pond. The trail continues, turning toward the north shortly after the brook, and continues to a lean-to shelter built by students at Deerfield Community School. At this point, the pond is on both sides of the trail, as the land forms a peninsula which partially separates the pond into two main sections.

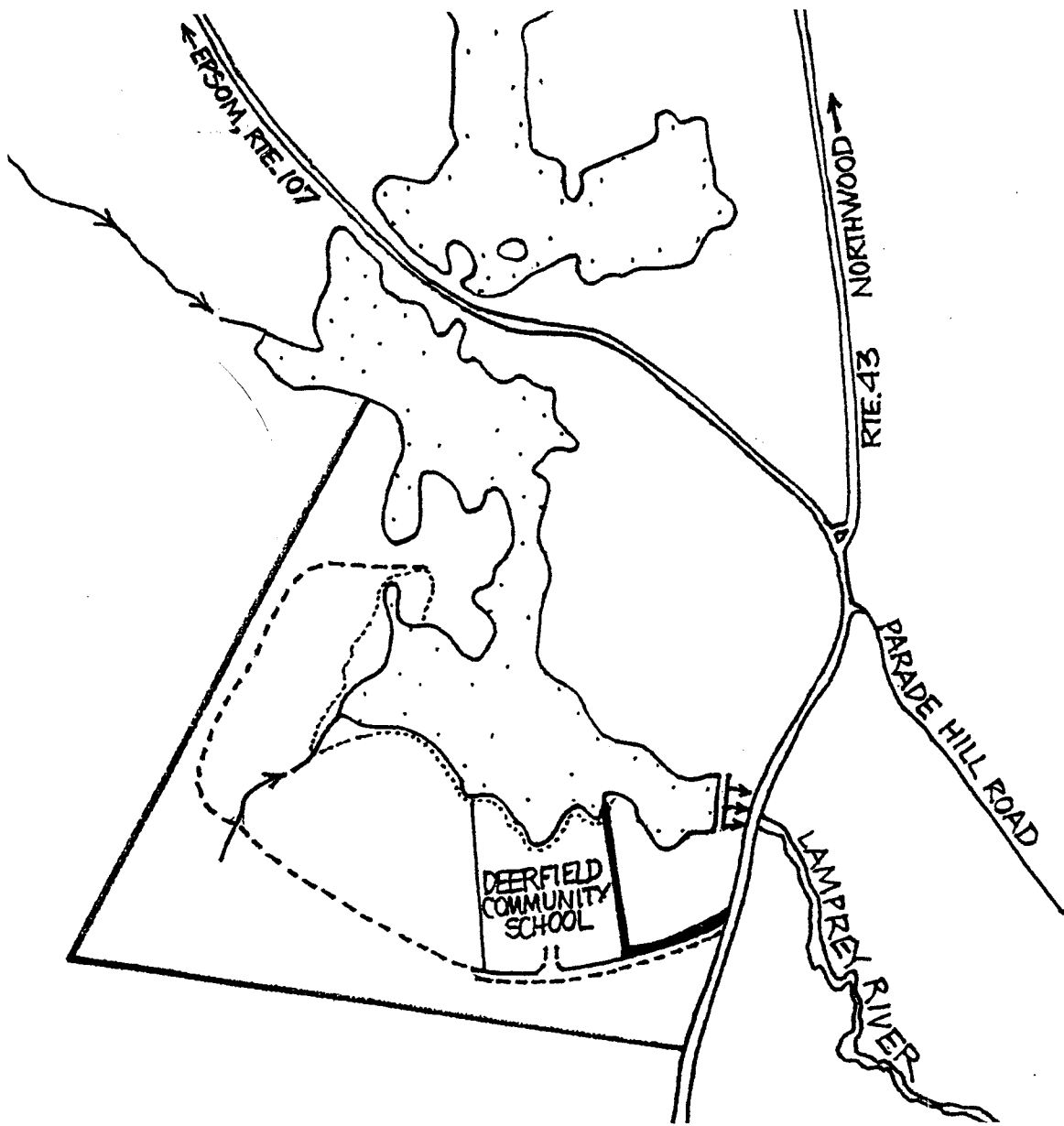


3. Freese's Pond Town Land off North Road


The location of this property on Freese's Pond makes it an important one for the town. The land is gently rolling, with some swampy sections. Tree species on the land include hemlock, red maple, beech and pine, as well as others. Animals such as deer, fox, fisher, otter and moose have been known to live in the area, and other wildlife associated with the pond include various ducks, geese, great blue herons and an occasional osprey. Beaver have also used the pond, and it is home to various reptiles (turtles) and amphibians (frogs and salamanders).





The natural condition of this land is an important factor in protecting the water quality of Freese's Pond and the Lamprey River. It also provides waterside recreation opportunities that are lacking on most other town land in Deerfield, and outdoor educational sites for the school.

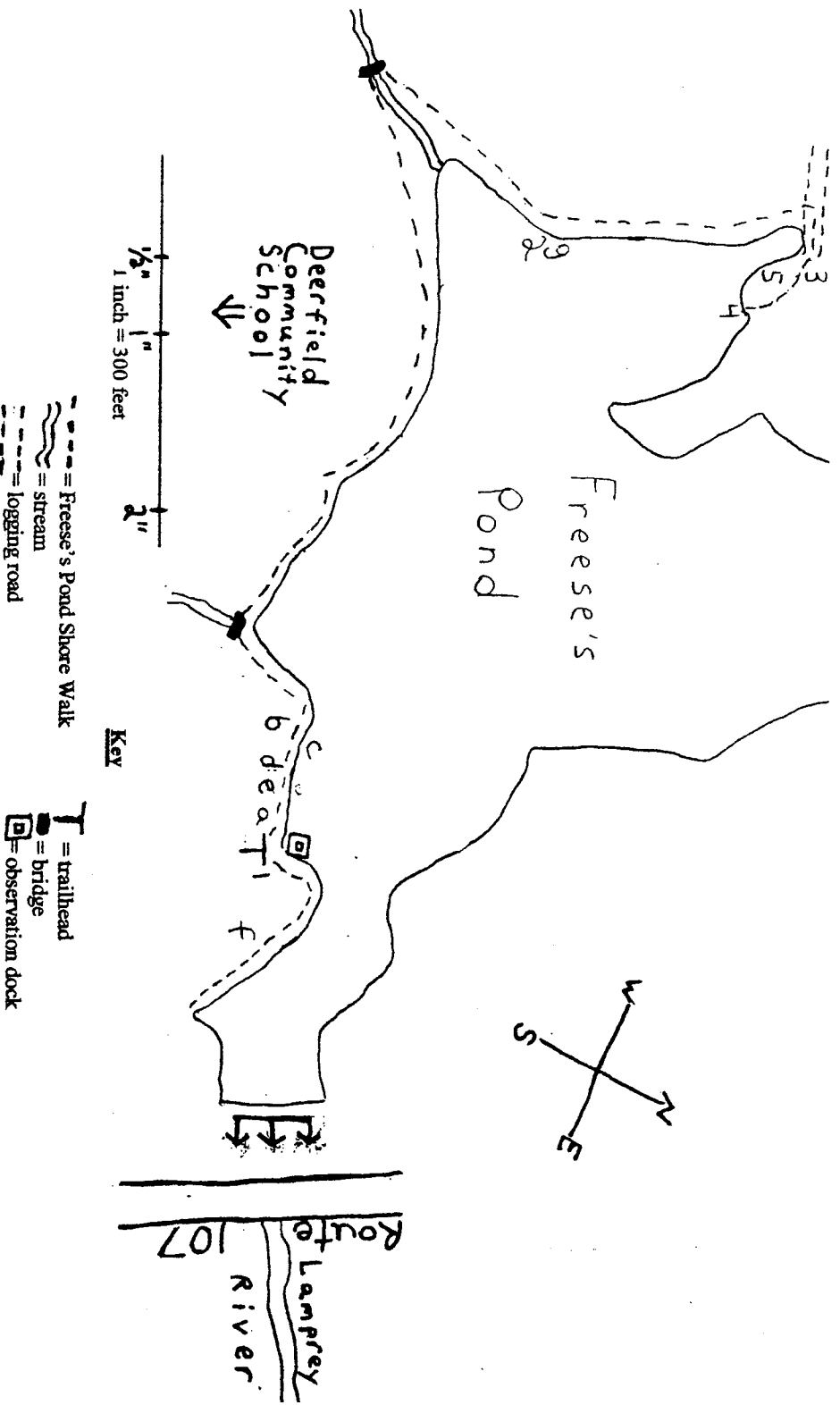




FREESES POND

1" = 500' 

-  PAVED ROAD
-  DIRT ROAD
-  TRAIL
-  WATER



Trail Description:

The trail goes in two directions: northwest for .5 miles that ends at the former lean-to site and .1 of a mile northeast, toward a view of the Freese's Pond dam. The section that goes northwest passes through a hemlock grove while staying close to the water, then moves inland to cross over two bridges (the first bridge that you come to is the one that I had rebuilt). As you walk by, look out over Freese's Pond, move quietly, and you might see a blue heron, a beaver, or a few turtles sunning themselves. A short distance after you cross the second bridge, the trail takes a sharp 90° turn northeast onto an old logging road that ends in the lean-to clearing. The northeast section of the trail stays close to the water the whole way, and ends up on a small peninsula that looks out over Freese's Pond toward the dam.

Points of Interest:

1. Picnic Tables: a great spot to have lunch, enjoy the wildlife, or just sit and relax.
2. Scenic Lookout with log bench: another great spot to view the wildlife or read a book.
3. Fire Ring and Original Lean-to site: this clearing is where the lean-to used to be.
4. Canoe Landing: located at the end of Freese's Pond Shore Walk; a great place to land canoes.
5. Beaver-chewed Trees: here are a few trees and stumps that have been cut down courtesy of the local beaver construction company. Evidence of their work is also visible on other parts of Freese's Pond Shore Walk, if you look carefully.

Plants and Wildlife: (A few of the many, depending on the time of year.)

- a. Picnic tables by the water: this is a good place to look in the water and possibly see pond creatures like mosquito larva, whirligig beetle, water boatman, frogs, and dragonfly nymph.
- b. Hemlock grove: there are a lot of Hemlock trees on the trail, since the trail winds through the moist, cool woods where Hemlocks are often found. They are evergreen trees that have long, drooping branches with green needles. Typical height of the Hemlock tree is 60-70', with a diameter of 2-3'. The needles are flat, flexible, rounded at the tip, $\frac{3}{8}$ " long, and spread in two rows from very short leaf stalks.
- c. Sheep Laurel: an evergreen shrub with small saucer-shaped pink flowers that cluster in dense clumps around the stem. The flowers are $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide with five petals. The leaves are in whorls of three, and are $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ " long.
- d. Teaberry: low creeping stem with upright branches with small red berries and white bell shaped flowers in groups of one, two, or three. The dark green leaves are 1-2" long and are slightly toothed with an oval shape.

Plants and Wildlife Continued:

- e. Partridgeberries: a trailing evergreen herb with pairs of white tubular flowers. Flowers are $1/2-2/3$ " long and the leaves are $1/2-2/4$ " long and a roundish shape that is shiny green in color and grow opposite from each other on the stem. They often form red berries.
- f. Mayflower: have a short stem that is often zigzagged with a small, dense group of very fragrant star-shaped flowers that are about $1/8$ " long and leaves that are 1-3" long. The Mayflower produces green berries that turn dull red in the late summer, and red in the fall. The height of the Mayflower is 2-6".
- g. Pond Life Lookout: stop here to look out over the pond and you may see a few painted or snapping turtles sunning themselves on a log or rock, a great blue heron standing very still in shallow water, or a beaver swimming around.

Freese's Pond Shore Walk History:

Jim Eaves' 1991-1992 seventh grade Happy Trails Magnet built the original lean-to. In 1992-1993, the lean-to roof was completed by Jim Eaves' Magnet, and with the help of Deerfield carpenter Steve Crutskank. In the summer of 1993 Volunteers for Peace cleared away brush on the path that local surveyor Joe Sears had laid out. The Volunteers for Peace also built brush piles to serve as shelter to small animals and critters. By the fall of 1995, the trail was in need of repair, and Aaron Major took on this job for his Eagle Project. In addition to clearing the trail that was there, Aaron also expanded it to reach the lean-to. He put up a sign, painted trail markers, and built the bridge over the first river. Aaron completed his project in April of 1996.

By this time, the lean-to had been around for a few years and was in need of repair. As part of a thank-you to the Appalachian Mountain Club for a free trip to the base of Mt. Washington, Matt Ferguson's sixth grade class, which I happened to be in, fixed the lean-to and cleared up the site around it in the spring of 1995. We also got to name the trail and, after some discussion, finally settled on Freese's Pond Shore Walk, based on how the trail wraps around the shore of Freese's Pond.

Since the trail was built, it has been used as an educational tool by several classes for journal writing, seeing what wildlife is lurking in Freese's Pond, and once it was even used as part of a Lewis and Clark expedition simulation. Unfortunately, the lean-to suffered from vandalism, and Jim Eaves' eighth grade Wood/Wright Magnet disassembled it and floated the pieces across Freese's Pond in 1997. The lean-to was rebuilt in the woods by the playground, where it would be closer to the school. But sadly, it was soon deliberately damaged beyond repair.

Three years later I, Aaron Marquis, came along in the late fall of 1999 to fix up the trail for my Eagle Project. At this point the trail was in need of a thorough clearing of the trees and brush that Mother Nature had deposited. There were many branches to be hauled away, and several trees that had fallen across the trail. The first bridge was in need of repair. A second bridge had been built by that time, but it needed no improvements. The trail markers needed repainting, and the trail could use a new sign. I added a mailbox where people can leave comments about the trail, and where copies of this map and guide could be stored. We particularly concentrated on the "pond side" of the trail, which meant clearing away brush between Freese's Pond and the trail that had not been cleared before, in order to make views of the Freese's Pond possible. With several workdays on the trail with the Scouts and their families, the work was done and the trail became what it is today.

Please:

- * Carry out what you carry in; it helps keep the area nice for other people to enjoy.
- * Respect any wildlife that you see.
- * Most importantly have fun, because that's what the trail is there for in the first place.

Acknowledgments:

I would like to thank the following people for helping me fix-up Freese's Pond Shore Walk and for making it possible to improve the trail. They are as follows:

Jonathan Barry	David Davidson	Frank Foisy	Jenny Lamontagne
Ryan Berger	Marshall Davidson	Ted Foisy	Jonathan Lamontagne
Barbara Cook	John Dubiansky	Gerry Gill, Jr.	Josh Lamontagne
Chris Cook	Alex Elliott	Robbie Gill	Mark Lamontagne
Matt Cook	Dan Ferguson	Mark Goumas	Craig Shillaber
Paul Cook	Jeff Ferguson	Nick Goumas	Jim Tomilson

A special thanks to my parents Amy and Roger Marquis, my sister Kara, and my grandparents Milton and Rose Borden for all of their help on the trail. I'd also like to thank Connie Clement, Matt Ferguson, and Joe Sears for helping me with the information that I needed to make this map and guide. Thanks to Home Depot for donating lumber for the bridge and the mailbox for comments, and Deerfield True Value for donating paint for repainting the trail markers.

Great Brook Conservation Lands Trail Harvey Road to Coffeetown Road

The Great Brook Conservation Lands Trail stretches approximately three miles from Harvey Road, following Great Brook, to a large wetland complex on Coffeetown Road. It is entirely on private lands on which the town holds conservation easements acquired in 1990 through the New Hampshire Land Conservation Investment program. The trail crosses the brook twice on bridges and twice by fords, difficult in times of high water. It is marked with purple colored paint on trees.

Parking on both ends of the trail is very limited. The Harvey Road end begins at a Land Conservation Investment sign midway between Nottingham Road and Route 43 (Mountain View Road) approximately 0.6 mile from both. The other end is a forest access road 0.3 mile north of Bean Hill Road, just north of where Coffeetown Road crosses the stream from the wetland. At this end of the trail, some parking space can be found at a former log landing.

The trail offers scenic hiking, with views of wetlands, Saddleback Mountain, beautiful sections of Great Brook and rocky ledges. Terrain is steep in places, but mostly follows the moderate grade of the brook.

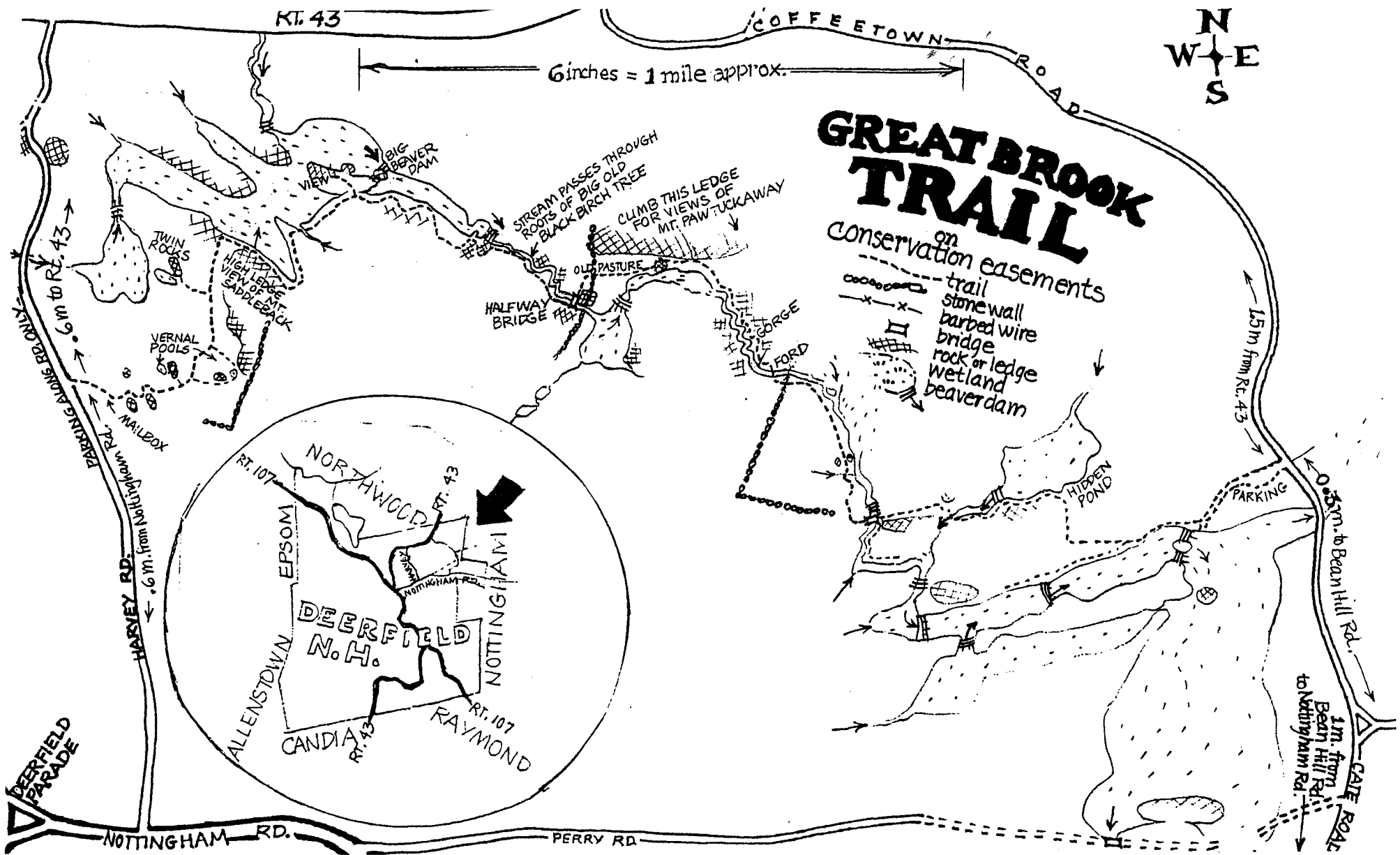
4. Great Brook Conservation Lands Harvey Road to Coffeetown Road

In 1990, the Deerfield Conservation Commission completed a land conservation effort that resulted in the permanent protection of approximately 750 acres of private land through conservation easements (see section on land conservation). Nine parcels and seven landowners were involved in the transaction, the most significant land conservation project in the town's history.

The Conservation Lands have a striking diversity of terrain and habitats. A series of wetlands of different types (forested, shrub and marsh) are associated with Great Brook as it flows through the area, and various other wetlands occur in the woods away from the brook. Most of the land is managed forest, the result of long term planning and action by the families who own the properties. Rocky outcrops create dramatic contrast to the flatter areas, and a complete array of native tree and other plant species can be found. Part of the Conservation Lands to the east of Coffeetown Road includes an unusual black gum (tupelo) swamp, rare this far north.

As part of the agreement between landowners and the town specified in the conservation easements, public access for foot travel is made available by the landowners. Some lands, though, may prohibit hunting, and recreational motor vehicle use is prohibited. These properties continue to provide property tax to the town, as well as public recreational benefits.





Rt. 43

COFFEETOWN ROAD

6 inches = 1 mile approx.



GREAT BROOK TRAIL

on Conservation easements

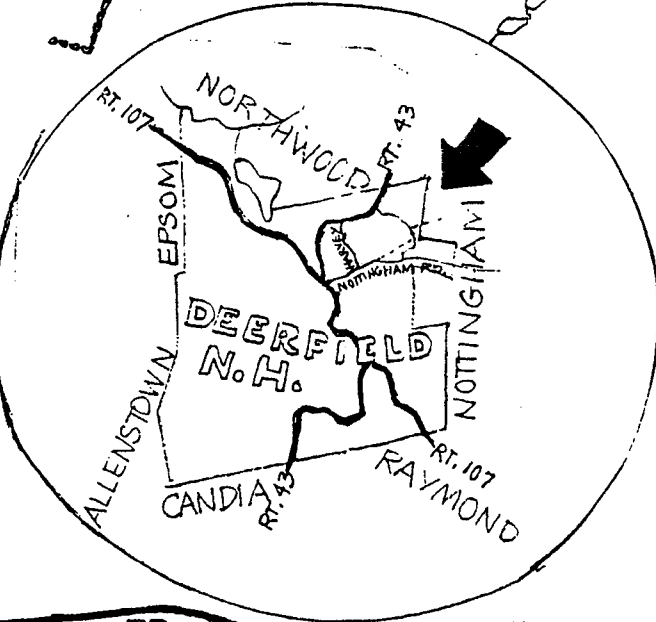
- trail
- - - stone wall
- x x x barbed wire
- ▭ bridge
- ▨ rock or ledge
- ▧ wetland
- ▩ beaverdam

1.5 m from Rt. 43

0.5 m. to Bean Hill Rd.

1 m. from Bean Hill Rd. to Nottingham Rd.

CAFE ROAD



NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
EPSOM
DEERFIELD N.H.
ALLENSTOWN
CANDIA
RAYMOND

RT. 107

RT. 43

NOTTINGHAM RD.

RT. 107

BEERFIELD PARADE

NOTTINGHAM RD.

PERRY RD.

ZARATE AINS BROTHERS
6 m. to Rt. 43
MALDOX
6 m. from Nottingham Rd.
HARVEY RD.
6 m. from Rt. 43

VIEW
TWIN ROCKS
VERNAL POOLS
HIGH VIEW OF GREAT BROOK

BIG BEAVER DAM

HALFWAY BRIDGE

OLD PASTURE

GORGE

FORD

HIDDEN POND

PARKING

STREAM PASSES THROUGH ROOTS OF BIG OLD BLACK BIRCH TREE
CLIMB THIS LEDGE FOR VIEWS OF MT. PAWTUCKAWAY

5. Lindsay - Flanders Conservation Area off North Road

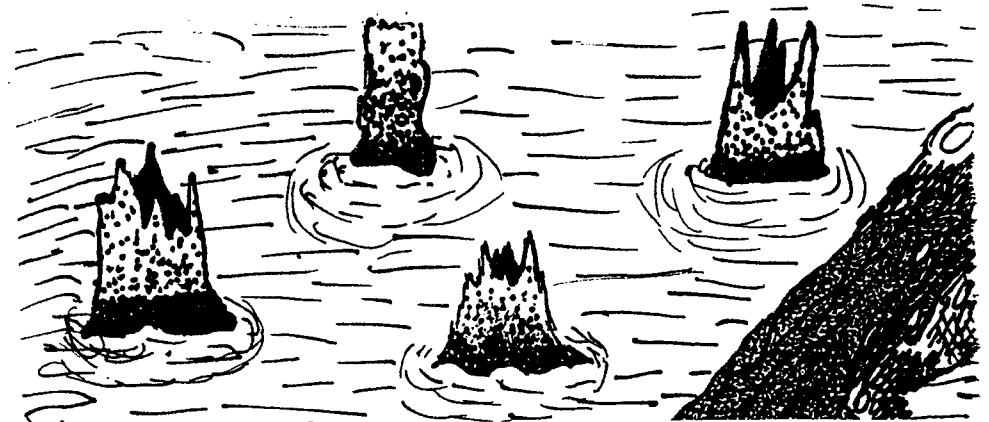
Lindsay - Flanders Conservation Area Trail off North Road

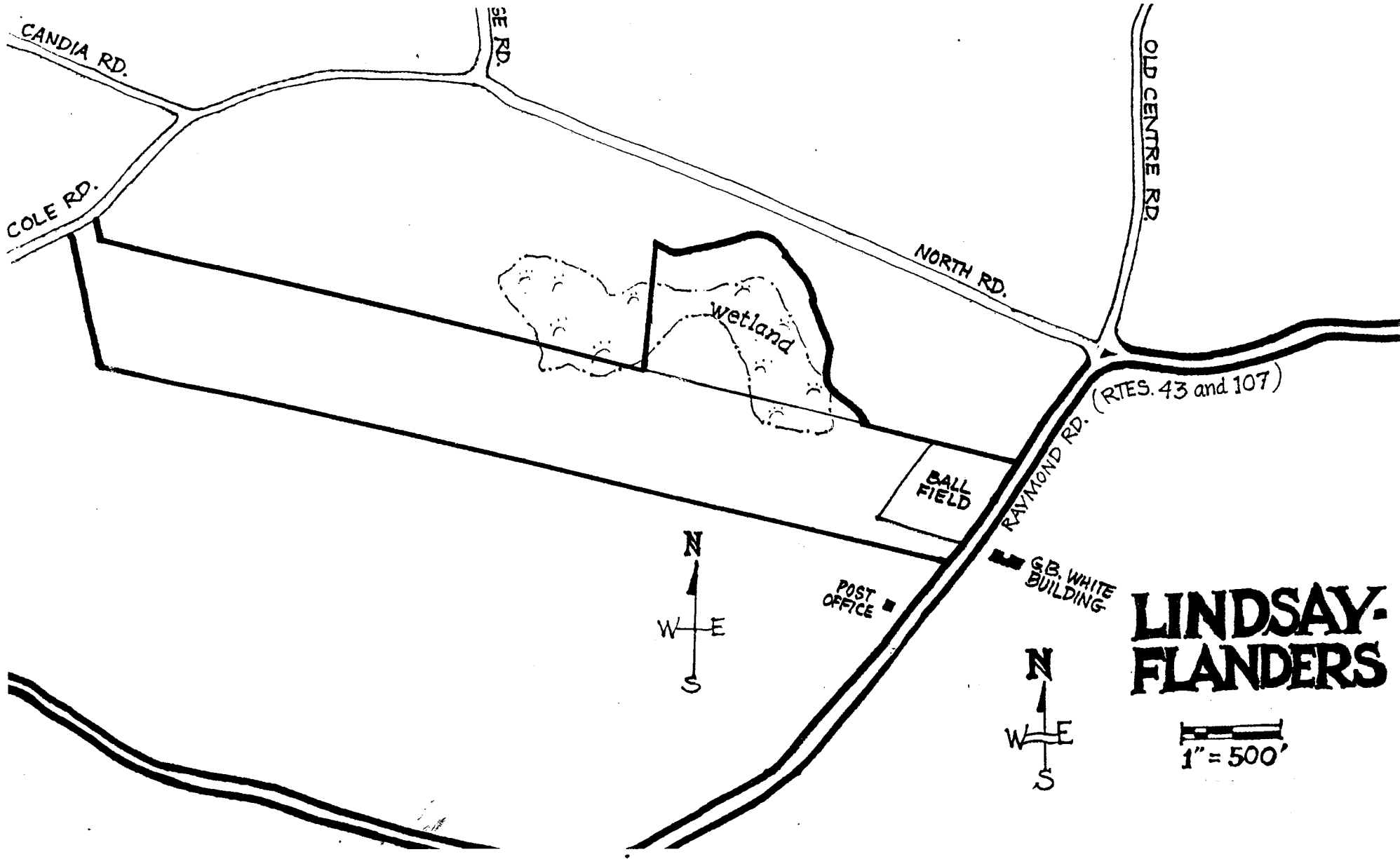
This footpath begins behind the backstop at the Bicentennial Field (between the George B. White Building and the Post Office). The trail is approximately 1/2 mile long and is unmarked but obvious. It heads through a small swamp, then branches to the right (another trail goes to the left onto private land) and goes steeply uphill. At the top of the pine covered hill, the trail turns left, and goes down the other side of the hill, where it skirts the edge of a beaver pond. The trail ends at Nicholl's Brook, just below where the brook leaves the beaver pond.

This town property is easily accessible, being located next to the Bicentennial Field. The Conservation Area is the result of donations of land to the town for conservation purposes - one in 1974 by Madeline Lindsay and another in the 1980s by Lois Flanders. The "Lindsay Woods" was given for public recreation and as an outdoor site for use by students at the former George B. White School. The Flanders property abuts the Lindsay piece, and includes most of a beaver pond through which Nicholl's Brook flows.

White pine is the predominant tree on the forested portions of the conservation area. Various sized pines are found over most of the property, with some larger ones in the area of the Beaver Pond and the brook. Other trees found here are red pine, hemlock, spruce, sugar maple, red maple, poplar, black cherry, white, yellow, and gray birch, beech and white oak.

The terrain in the Lindsay - Flanders Conservation Area is steep in places, including part of the trail. In other areas, it is low and swampy. Originally used extensively by the school students before the Deerfield Community School was built, the area now provides a natural area within walking distance of the town center.





CANDIA RD.

COLE RD.

SE RD.

NORTH RD.

OLD CENTRE RD.

Wetland

BALL FIELD

RAYMOND RD. (RTES. 43 and 107)

POST OFFICE

GB. WHITE BUILDING

LINDSAY-FLANDERS

1" = 500'