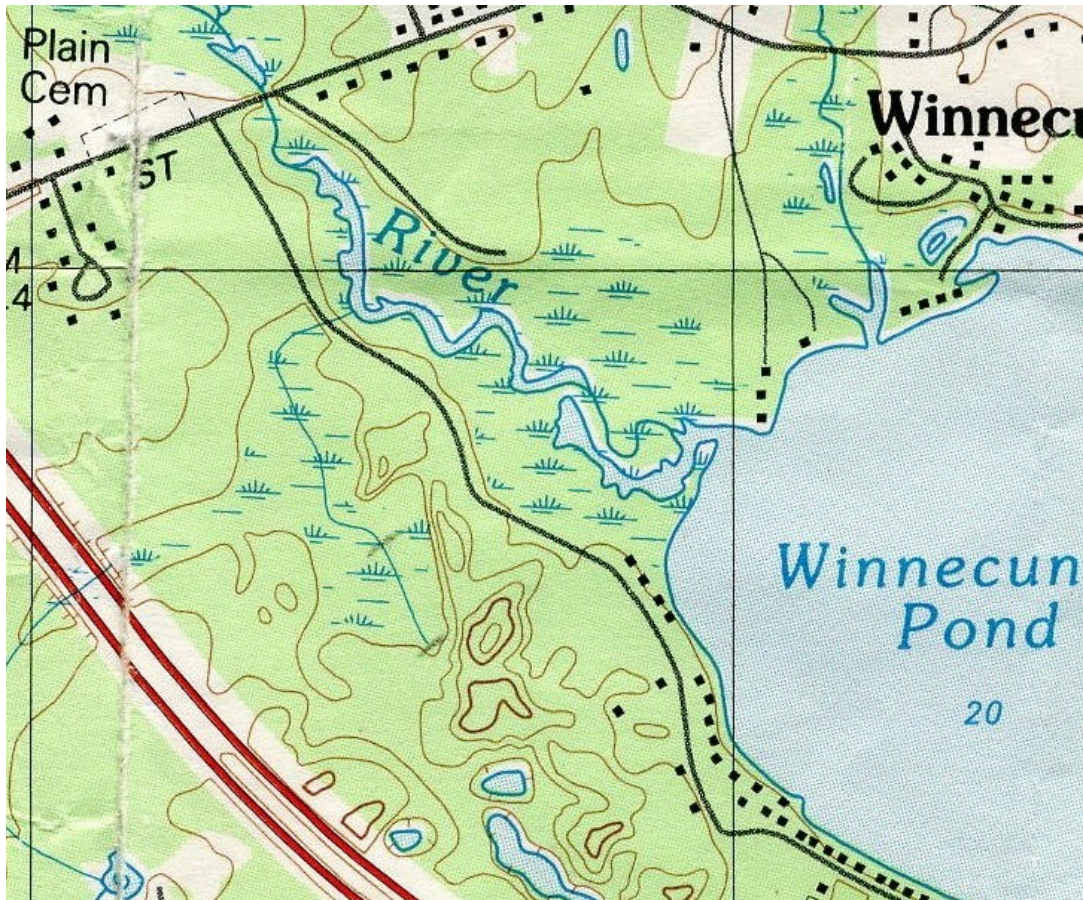


## Wildlife Habitat Evaluation of the Canoe River in Norton MA 2006-2008

### 10. South of Plain Street to the mouth of Winnecunnet Pond

Nearly all of the river is bordered by shrub-scrub swamp in this reach except for an area at the mouth of Winnecunnet Pond that is dominated by marsh. The majority of the marsh is purple loosestrife and bittersweet nightshade, both invasive plants. A large forested swamp is a tributary to the southwest close to Route 495. This wetland is habitat for spotted turtle and 2 potential vernal pools. Two other potential vernal pools can be found along the dirt road between Plain Street and King Philip Road within the wetlands. Another forested deciduous swamp exists along the northeastern portion of the shrub-scrub swamp near the conservation restricted area of Winnecunnet Shores. The adjacent Lincoln Woods contains four certified vernal pools and one potential vernal pool as well as spotted turtle habitat. Two rare plants can be found in this reach.



Muskrat occupy this area. Painted turtles are commonly found on small floating logs basking in the sun. Orange bluets, Skimming bluets, and Eastern amberwings can be found on the aquatic vegetation.

On July 19, 2006 Jennifer Carlino investigated the different kinds of dragonflies and damselflies of Winnecunnet Pond with Shea Clark, Wheaton College Fellows. They documented the presence of Widow skimmer, Skimming bluet, Variable dancer, Slaty skimmer, Blue dasher, Ruby meadowhawk, Twelve spotted skimmer, and an unidentified orange damselfly.

On August 19, 2006 A canoe trip was led by Jennifer Carlino accompanied by several citizens and members of the OSC: Observations along the river included White and Yellow water lilies,

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Fanwort, Potamogeton, Watershield aquatics; Buttonbush, Swamp rose, Red osier dogwood, Northern arrowwood, Sweet gale shrubs, Purple loosestrife, Climbing boneset, Tussock sedge, Pickerelweed, Wild celery, Arrow arum, Arrowhead, White and pink smartweed, and Joe-pye weed. Many birds were observed in their habitat including a Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Green heron, and Canada geese, Several dragon and damselflies were seen flying about; the Variable dancer, Ebony jewelwing, Eastern Pondhawk, Common green darner, Blue dasher, Eastern amberwing, Dragonhunter and Eastern forktail,.Also observed were skimmers, cicadas, a muskrat midden, a possible mink/otter den, a beautiful monarch butterfly and painted turtles.



From August 8 through 22, 2007 Jennifer found a number of dragonflies and damselflies on the Bay Road side of Winnecunnet Pond. They included Blue dasher, Eastern amberwing, Eastern forktail, Meadowhawks, Banded meadowhawk, Skimming bluet, Fragile forktail, Variable dancer, Elegant spreadwing, Slaty skimmer, Common green darner, Eastern pondhawk, Orange bluet and two Spreadwings.

On September 5, 2007 Two members of the OSC, Jim Hendrickson and Joan Guerrero, looked at the water dept property on the east side of the Canoe River on south side of Plain Street. They found the canopy to consist primarily of red maple trees with equal mixture of white oak black oak and Scarlet oak. A smaller amount of Eastern white pine was found. The saplings consisted of mostly Eastern white pine with small amounts of American beech, Red maple, Scarlet oak, Black Oak and White Oak. The shrub layer consisted of about 50 percent Sweet pepper bush, 30 per cent Highbush blue berry and small amounts of Early and Late low bush blue berry. The herbaceous layer was found to consist of Princess pine, Nodding pagonia, Hayscented fern, Wintergreen, Pink lady slipper and Marsh Fern.

The September 15, 2007 bug and butterfly walk of the Town Forest on Plain Street was virtually rained out. One resident did attend in the pouring rain so Jennifer and Jim lead a nature walk and showed the resident the natural community types.

Approximately half of the river system is permanently protected in this section. Winnecunnet Pond is protected as conservation property.


















## Wildlife Habitat Evaluation of the Canoe River in Norton MA 2006-2008



This is the parcel map was taken from the Town of Norton Assessor Maps. The parcels are outlined in black. The Canoe River is outlined in blue. Plain Street is shown in red. Rt 495 is shown on the western portion of this map. North is at the top of the page and the scale is roughly 1"=200', but obviously reduced on this page.

# Wildlife Habitat Evaluation of the Canoe River in Norton MA 2006-2008



Natural Community Type			
Solid		Striped	
	Alluvial Red Maple Swamp		White Pine-Oak Forest
	Red Maple Swamp		Successional White Pine Forest
	Alluvial Atlantic White Cedar Swamp		Mixed Oak Forest
	Atlantic White Cedar Swamp		Cultural Grassland
	Shrub-Scrub Swamp		Coastal Plain Pond
	Deep Marsh		
	Shallow Emergent Marsh	Hatched	
	Open Water		Pitch Pine-Oak Forest
	Woodland Vernal Pool		

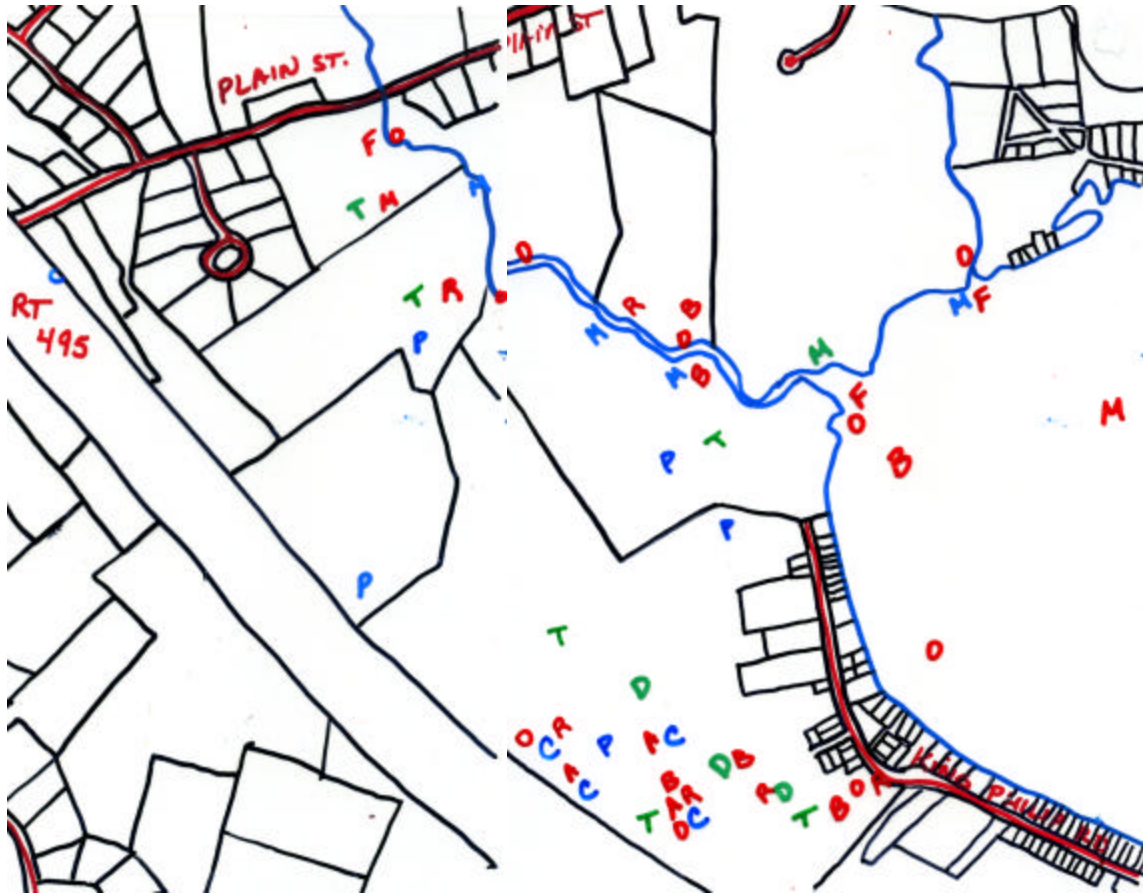
# Wildlife Habitat Evaluation of the Canoe River in Norton MA 2006-2008



Permanently protected land includes land owned by the Norton departments of the Conservation Commission and the Water.



# Wildlife Habitat Evaluation of the Canoe River in Norton MA 2006-2008



Observed Wildlife		Wildlife Sign		Significant Feature	
A	Amphibian	B	Browse (deer/muskrat)	C	Certified Vernal Pool
B	Bird	D	Deer track, scat, sign	M	Mussel bed
F	Fish	M	Midden (muskrat, otter, mink)	P	Potential Vernal Pool
M	Mammal	T	Track, scat, sign (other)	R	Riffle/pool
O	Odonate			T	Turtle nest site
R	Reptile				