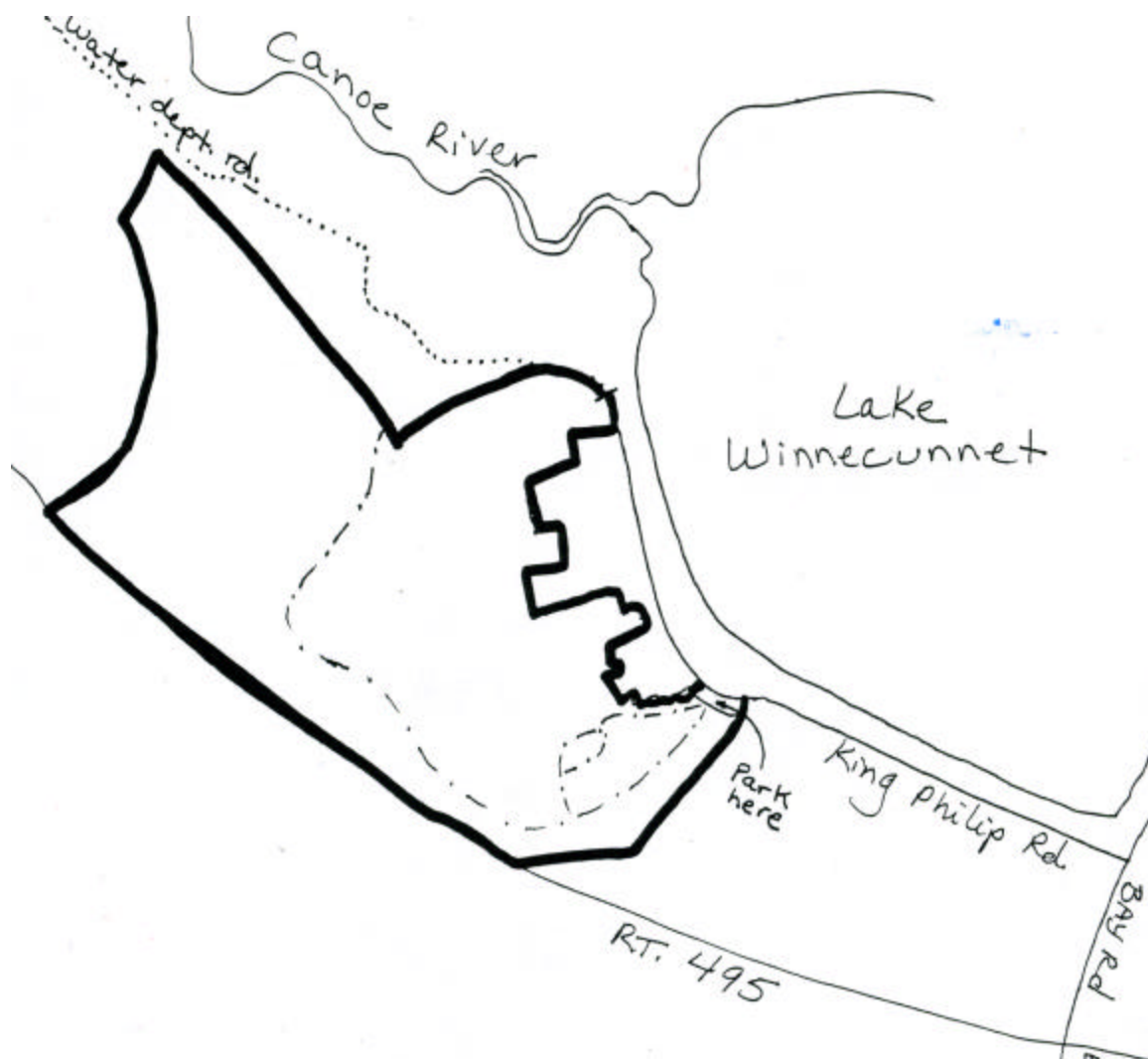


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11. Lincoln Woods

The Lincoln Woods located on King Phillip Street had been in the Lincoln family for over 300 years. In order to preserve this portion of Norton's history, the Conservation Commission applied for grant funding to purchase the 70 acres of land within the Canoe River aquifer. Grants were received through the Self-Help Grant, Sweet Water Trust and the Fields Pond Foundation. The property contains trails and excellent wildlife habitat. There is a small area suitable for parking on King Phillip Street. The property contains cultural grassland, mixed oak forest, pitch-pine oak forest, white pine forest, red maple swamp, coastal plain ponds and four certified vernal pools.



In 2006, the Conservation Agent conducted a turtle trapping program with Wheaton Fellows Shea Clarke. During the investigation, we also discovered Painted turtle, Snapping turtle, Giant water bug, Ribbon snake, Northern water snake, Calico pennant, Amber-winged spreadwing, Four-spotted skimmer, and Red admiral (butterfly). The following three paragraphs have been taken directly from the 2006 Collection Permit Report. Trapping began on April 24, 2006 and ended on July 24, 2006. All traps were set with at least two inches of net extending out of the water. Traps were typically set on Mondays, checked daily through Thursday, and removed

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Thursday afternoons. Bait was changed every three days. Individuals were identified using obvious distinguishing characteristics on the plastron or carapace. I did not mark any of the captured turtles. CVP 1 had 28 trap nights, 0 turtles were captured on 12 of those nights. A total of 40 painted turtles and 2 snapping turtles were captured. The number of captured turtles is different than the number of individuals captured. Six (6) males and nineteen females (19) were documented in CVP 1 for a total of 25 individual painted turtles. The 2 captured snapping turtles may have been the same individual but I did not get a clear picture of either one. The second captured snapping turtle was so entangled in the hoop trap that I had to cut the mesh to get the turtle out. When this happened I removed the trap from CVP 2 for use in CVP 1. Also, fluctuating water levels required the trap be relocated once within the pool to ensure that the trap was not completely inundated.



CVP 2 had 23 trap nights, 0 turtles were caught on 15 of those nights. A total of 17 painted turtles and 1 snapping turtle were caught. CVP 2 had four (4) males and eight (8) females documented for a total of 12 individual turtles captured. One (1) snapping turtle was caught in this pool and clearly a different individual than the snapping turtles captured in CVP 1 judging by the size. There were less trap nights for CVP 2 due to the relocation of the trap once I cut the trap in CVP 1. Since there were significantly fewer turtles trapped in CVP 2, the trap

was relocated to CVP 1 until I could repair the second trap. I lost four trap nights to repair the net and lost one trap night because the water was too high to walk out to set the trap. Once the trap was repaired, I resumed trapping in CVP 2. Fluctuating water levels required the trap be relocated three times within the pool.

Conclusions:

A total of 38 painted turtles and 2 snapping turtles utilized CVP1 and CVP 2 during the study period. Of the painted turtles captured, a total of 8 were male, 29 were female and 1 was not identified. Chpi020 could not be identified as male or female because it was completely within the shell and wouldn't come out. Nine were recaptured within the vernal pools, 2 female and 7 male. Two male painted turtles (Chpi007, Chpi017) utilized both pools. One female painted turtle (Chpi022) was found within the sandy, gravel pit area (potential nesting area) of the property. A second female painted turtle (Chpi038) was observed at the edge of the path between the gravel pit and CVP 1. Eight (8) of the painted turtles had missing limbs (Chpi011, Chpi014), fungus (Chpi007, Chpi017, Chpi025) or damaged/deformed shells (Chpi015, Chpi024, Chpi034). At least three painted turtles and one spotted turtle juvenile were crushed and found on King Philip Rd. Photos of all painted turtles are attached. I do not expect that the entire

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population consists of 38 turtles. By the graph of cumulative captures, it seems as though CVP 1 would provide habitat for additional individuals as well as other species. Additional trapping in CVP 1 earlier in the year might yield additional species when the food sources (egg masses) are readily available. Also, the trapping project ended due to an illness and not due to the vernal pools drying up as originally intended. Other individuals and other species may have been captured if the program had continued into fall.



In March of 2001, Brian Reid of the Wildlands Trust performed a rapid resource evaluation of the property. He found several unique features to the property. The Kettlehole Wet Meadow is a high priority natural community with 2 rare plants. Mr. Reid thought this is the best example of its kind in southeastern Massachusetts. The vernal pool complex is an extremely productive wildlife area. He also found that the property is forested on upland Kame formations with Mixed oak and Pitch/pine oak forests, uncommon outside of Plymouth county. He also noted the seepage wetlands on the property's western border.

On May 20, 2006 Wheaton College Professor John Kricher led the bird walk with 14



participants. The walk yielded a list of 26 observed bird species including Great blue heron, Yellowthroat, Blue jay, Pine warbler, Brown creeper, Yellow wabler, Canada goose, Black-capped chickadee, American goldfinch, Warbling vireo, White breasted nuthatch, Chipping sparrow, European starling, Ruby throated hummingbird, Gray catbird, Baltimore oriole, Robin, House wren, Great crested flycatcher, Ovenbird, Eastern towhee, Scarlet tanager, Tufted titmouse, Grackle, Brown headed cowbird and Red tailed hawk. Participants were excited to use

brief tape recordings to attract the birds for a better look. Ken Sejkora provided additional observations and expertise in bird identification.

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On July 8, 2006 Land Protection Specialist with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species



Program, Lynn Harper led a dragonfly walk. Participants were able to use insect nets to capture and identify dragonfly and damselfly species found within the gravel area and the kettlehole wet meadow. Species observed included Prince baskettail, Common whitetail, Emerald spreadwing, Dot-tailed white face, Blue dasher, Fragile forktail, Twelve-spotted skimmer, Slaty skimmer, Eastern amberwing, Green darner, Slender bluet, other bluet, Meadowhawk and possibly included Carolina saddlebags and Lyre-tipped

spreadwing.

Natural community inspections were done at the property in the fall of 2007. On August 15, 2007 Jim Hendrickson and Jenn Carlino identified species within the cultural field (old gravel pit area). Only a few shrubs were found (Sweet fern and Scrub oak). The majority of the plants were herbaceous and included Buttonweed, Partridge pea, Orange grass, Nodding smartweed, Blue curls, Horsetweed, Peppergrass, Round headed bushclover, Carpetweed, Spotted knapweed, Goldenrod, Blue toad flax, Daisy fleabane, Rabbit's foot clover, Plantain, Black raspberry and Blue stem grasses. Raccoon scat, Deer tracks, and winged meadowhawk, American toad, Grasshoppers, Wasps, Bees and Butterflies were observed. A few Cherry trees provided some fruit.

The mixed oak area at the southern edge of the property was investigated on September 25, 2007



by Jim Hendrickson and Jenn Carlino. The mixed oak forest was primarily Black and Northern red oaks with smaller amounts of Scarlet and White oaks. Eastern white pine dominates the sapling layer and the shrubs are dominated by Dwarf huckleberry (*G. dumosa*). Early lowbush blueberry (*C. vacillans*) and Black cherry are also present, all providing fruit for wildlife. Small amounts of Lowbush blueberry, Grasses, Indian pipes and Pokeweed can be seen in the trails. Deer scat and lots of recent dead oaks were scattered throughout. Gray tree frogs could be heard

calling.