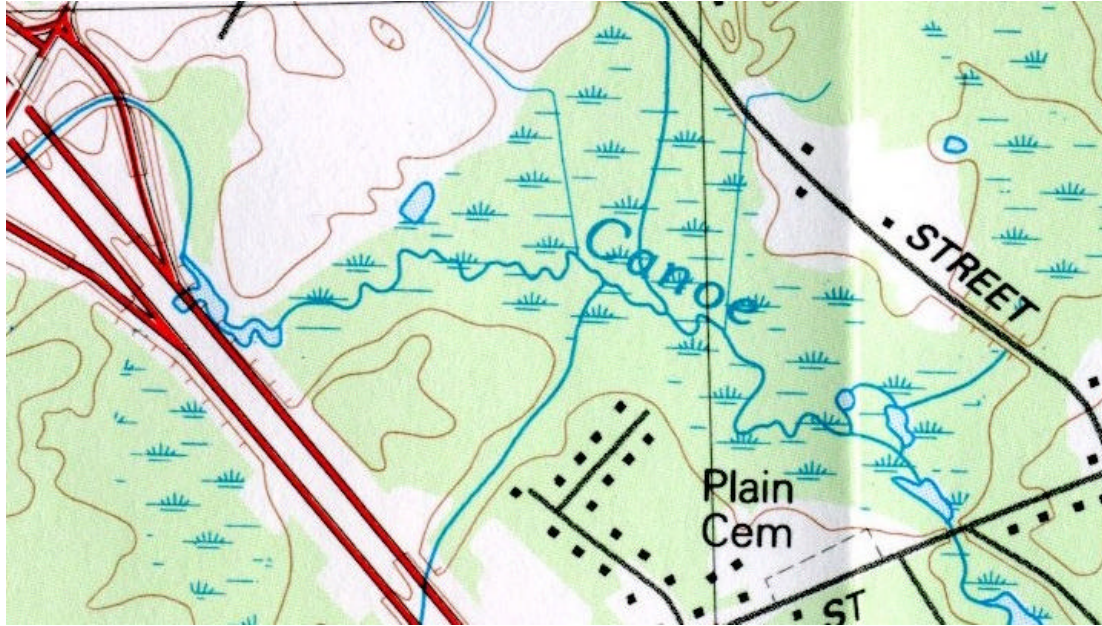


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9. South of Route 495 to Plain Street

Nearly 80% of this reach is comprised of shrub-scrub swamp and approximately 20% is marsh, both of which are surrounded by a thin border of red maple swamp. Near Leonard Street there is a portion of the swamp that is more impacted by floodplain than other portions and has been illustrated as an alluvial red maple swamp. We have observed that portions of the river closest to Route 495 experience poor water quality and an orangy film on the surface.



Muskrat and otter are found in this area. Weasel have been observed on Leonard Street. Painted turtle and possibly Spotted turtle utilize the adjacent sandy pine forest for nesting activity. Spotted turtle utilize the wetlands near the town well dirt road. Ebony jewelwing and Variable dancer are common at the culvert on Plain St. Dragonfly and Damselfly exuviae were not found on any of the walls of the bridges for Rt. 495. Black racers have been observed basking on the concrete headwall of the culvert. It is a local fishing spot.

Although this trip is undated it would have been a week or two prior to the April 29 trip listed below. It is standard practice, prior to 'public events' for Jenn Carlino and some helpers to clear the river's path of overhanging brush and fallen trees such that canoes can pass. In this case in attendance were Jenn Carlino and Jim Hendrickson. The particular section that was covered this day, the DPW area, is a deep emergent marsh/shrub-scrub swamp. The canopy, reasonably distant from the river itself consists of Red maple and Atlantic white cedar. The areas immediately around the river bank are dominated by Buttonbush and Red osier dogwood and there is also a good representation of Swamp rose. Purple loosestrife and Cattail are abundant. There are also a number of vines in this area including Climbing boneset, small areas of Smartweed, and Water celery. We also found Lily pads. There are a number of standing snags although they were not counted as they were too far into the marsh and could not be reached by canoe. This area has a number of different birds; today those species observed were Red-winged blackbird, Geese, Ducks, and Red-tailed hawk. Other wildlife observed was two Redfin pickerel (deceased in this case), Pickerel, Painted turtle, Morning cloak, Caddisflies, and Isopods. Also there was a possible Muskrat mound. Finally there were perches over the water and rocks, logs

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and hummocks under the water. The banks of the river are undercut in places and the area contains shrub thickets and wetland/aquatic food.

On April 29, 2006, we held a canoe trip with several members of the Open Space Committee (OSC), including Jim Hendrickson, Joan Guerrero, Pat MacLeod as well as Jenn Carlino and a highly knowledgeable bird observer in Ken Sjkora. The wildlife observed or heard on this trip were Tufted titmouse, Canada geese, Great blue heron, Wood duck, Mallard, Snowy egret, Red-tailed hawk, Tree swallow, Red-winged blackbird, Cooper's hawk, Falcon, Yellow warbler, Mourning dove, Black capped chickadee, Song sparrow, Brown headed cowbird, Barn swallow, Chimney swift, Goldfinch, Rough winged swallow, Isopods, Amphipod, Caddisflies, Leeches, Mayfly, Chironomid midge larvae, Damselfly nymph, Water strider, and Muskrat. Within the category of plant life Red osier dogwood dominated. There were fruit and berry bearing plants, shrub thickets, and wetland/aquatic food. Also in this area were a modest number of perches over the water, two standing snags, and a Muskrat midden (right).



On April 29, 2006, we did a water quality survey. The site was where Plain Street crosses the canoe river. The stream depth averaged something over 4 feet and the flow rate was normal. In determining the water quality rating, which turned out to be excellent there were two macroinvertebrate's in the sensitive category, three in the somewhat sensitive and two in tolerant. The surface water was clear but tea colored. The stream bed was silt and sand, and there was no odor.

Also on April 29, 2006 the OSC filled out an Invasive Exotic Species Observation Form for Purple loosestrife. Within the reach of the river investigated Purple loosestrife was found throughout the stream path choking native vegetation and narrowing the river's width. A discussion of the habitat is included 3 paragraphs back under sub-heading 'undated canoe trip'.

Two potential vernal pools are located along the northern fringe of the swamp adjacent to the farmland. Only 20% of this area is permanently protected by the conservation commission.
















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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. Leonard and Plain Streets are 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.

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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		

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

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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				