

Conservation Land



**TOWN OF NORTON
MASSACHUSETTS**

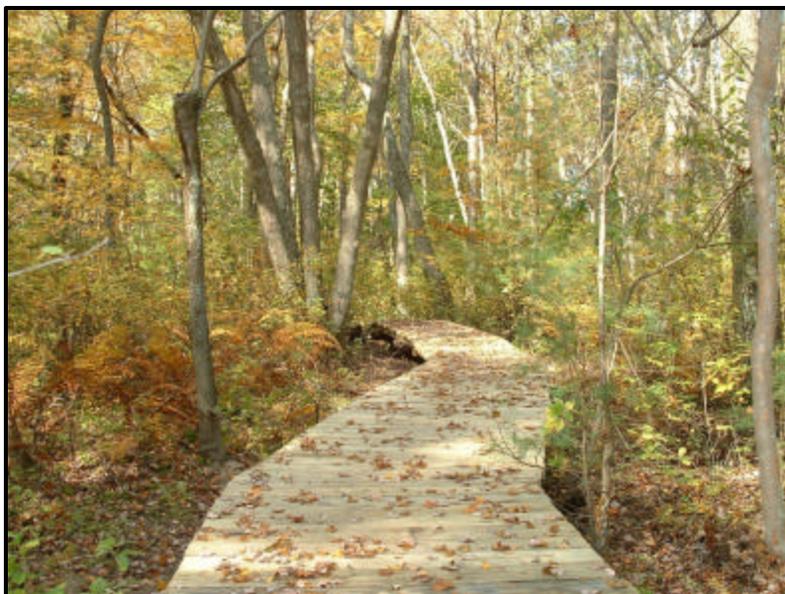
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Norton MA 02766

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The Norton Conservation Commission owns and manages several acres of conservation land. The Conservation Commission Act (Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 8C) describes how that land can be managed. As conservation land, by law, only passive recreation activities are permitted to take place. Passive recreation includes hiking, walking, road biking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking, bird watching, animal tracking, nature study, photography, camping, and picnicking. Motorized activities like ATVs, ORVs, and motorboats are not passive recreation and not compatible with most natural resource protection and wildlife habitat objectives; therefore, they are not permitted on conservation land.

Most land is specifically protected for natural resource protection, wildlife habitat preservation, and passive recreation. We encourage and invite all residents to explore our conservation land. Updated 2011

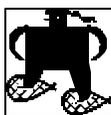
Rules for Use of Conservation Land:

Please show respect for town land and neighbor's property

*Passive Recreation Only.
See Symbols Below:*



Hiking



Snowshoeing



Horseback riding



Mountain biking



Camping



Animal tracking



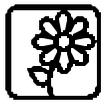
Picnic area



Birdwatching



Canoeing



Nature Study/Photos



Vernal pools

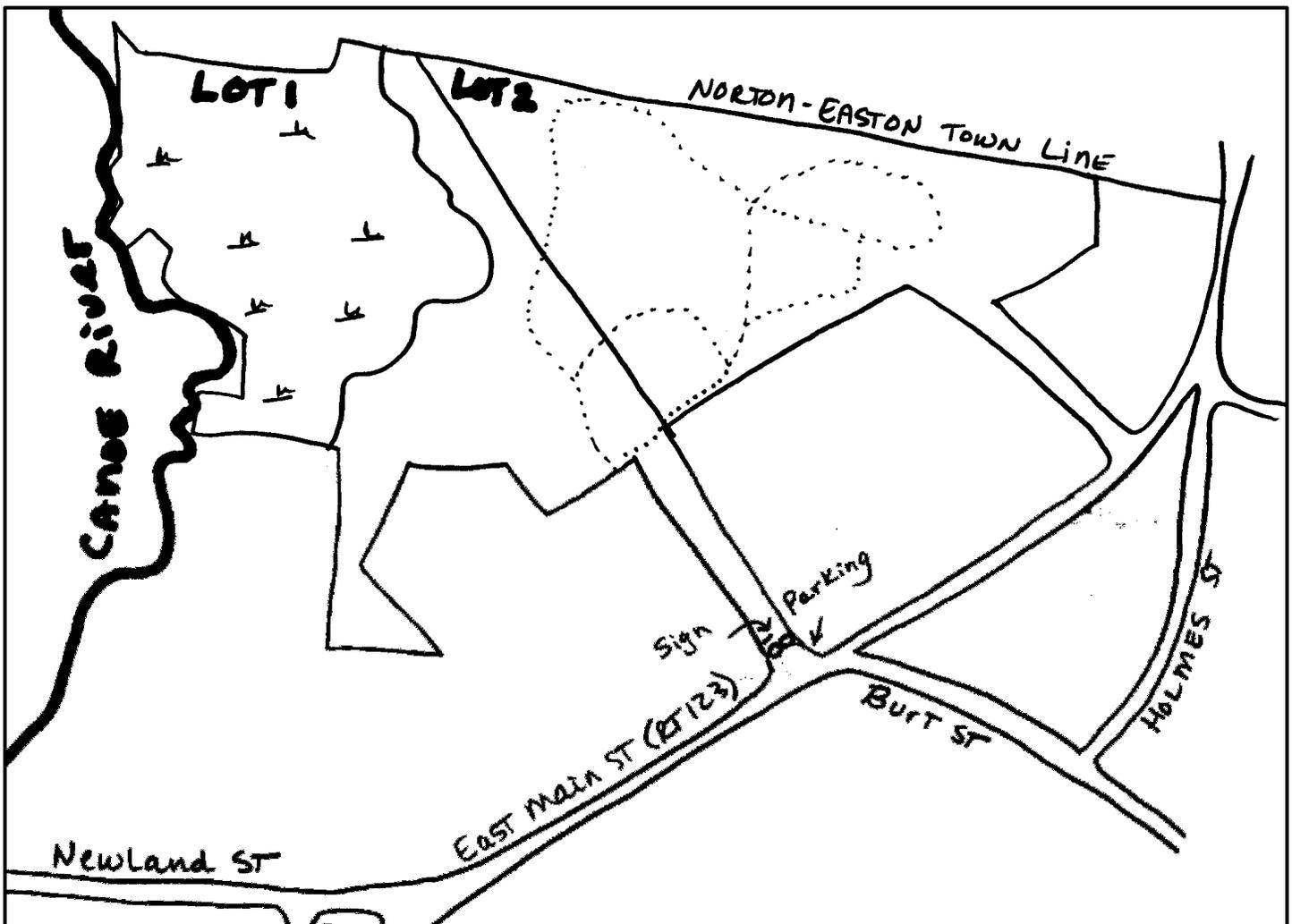
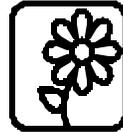
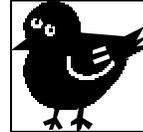
1. Hours of use are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
2. Pets must be leashed in accordance with Norton's Leash Law.
3. Cars, trucks, ATVs, ORVs and other motorized vehicles or tools are NOT permitted except for authorized conservation staff.
4. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are permitted in season with the appropriate license and in accordance with applicable laws, except as posted. Johnson Acres is the only Conservation Commission parcel that does NOT allow hunting or trapping.
5. No person shall cut, break, remove, deface, defile or ill-use any structure, fence, sign or have possession of any part thereof.
6. Trees, bushes, flowers, and plants shall not be cut or removed.
7. New trails shall not be cut or marked without prior approval.
8. Structures such as a lean-to, bridge, tower, or deer stand shall not be constructed without prior approval.
9. No person shall engage in business, sell or expose for sale or give away any goods, wares or circulars.
10. Trash shall not be left by any visitor.
11. Overnight camping may be permitted to organizations having adult leaders present at all times by completing a camping application form and submitting it to the Conservation Office at least three days prior to the camping trip. Notification to the Police and Fire Departments is required.
12. Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints. Enjoy!

Canoe River Greenbelt and Recreation Area

Directions: East Main Street (Rt. 123) across from Burt Street.

Parking: 2 parking spaces on East Main Street in front of the sign

History of Property: The property was formerly owned by George F. Davey of Abington and Terry L. Edwards of Avon. In 1985, all 69 acres were sold to the Subon Company. The property was then divided into seven lots and individual parcels with frontage on East Main Street were sold for industrial/commercial uses. The back land contained approximately 43 acres and was identified by the Land Acquisition Committee (now the Open Space Committee) as an area of environmental significance due to the proximity to the town wells and the Canoe River. The Conservation Agent obtained an Urban Self-Help Grant for the purchase. The new town property was then split into two parcels. One parcel (Lot 1-24 acres), closest to the Canoe River, is managed by the Conservation Commission for wildlife habitat and passive recreation. The other parcel (Lot 2-18 acres), nearly all upland, is managed by the Recreation Commission and will be available for active recreation activities. There are unmarked trails open to the public.

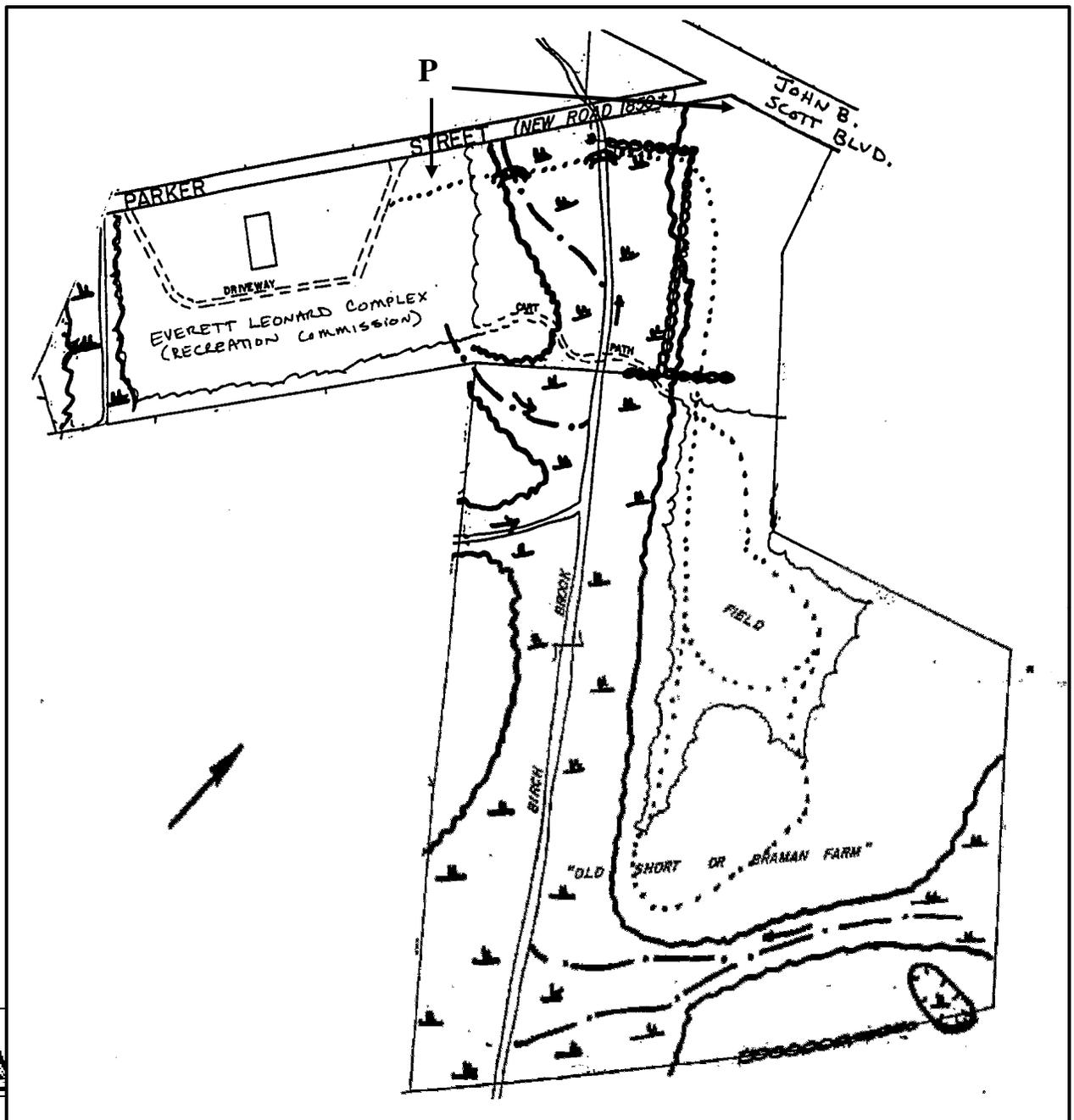
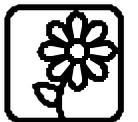
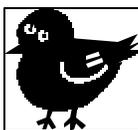
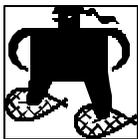


Everett Leonard Conservation Area

Directions: The main entrance trail is on Parker Street close to John Scott Boulevard. The Conservation Area is adjacent to the Everett Leonard Complex (ELC).

Parking: On Parker Street or at the ELC.

History of Property: The ELC (9 acres) and Conservation Area (27 acres) parcels were purchased by the town in 1979 from Texas Instruments through a Land and Water Conservation grant. The swimming pool, pavilion and ballfields were already in existence at the ELC. The trail (dotted line below) runs through woods and a small field. There are two old trails that run through the wetland to the ELC but the boardwalks need to be reconstructed before the trail is re-established. The Recreation Commission has worked very hard to bring the Complex into compliance for Accessibility issues and has recently created a new parking area.

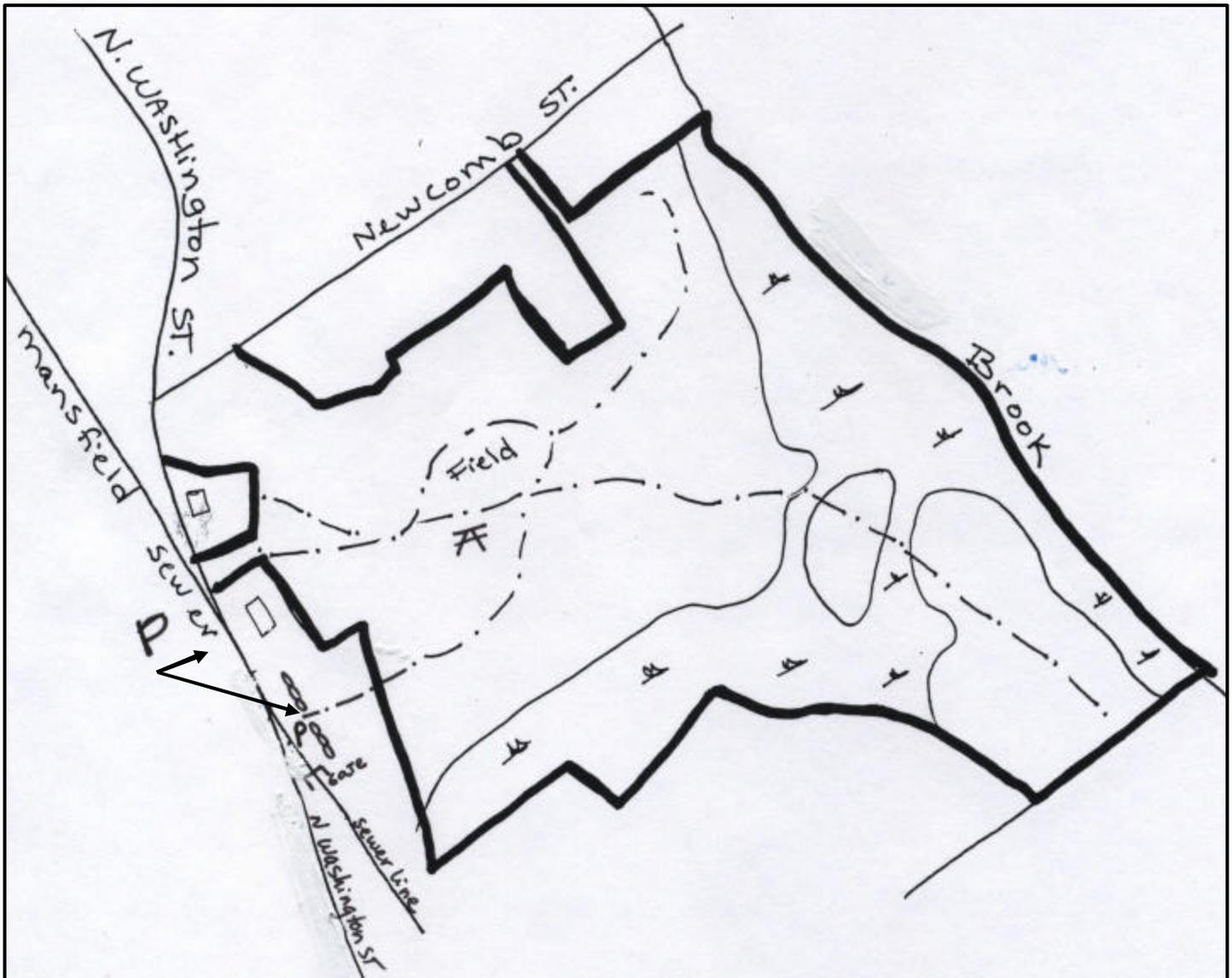


Johnson Acres

Directions: On North Washington Street, directly adjacent to the old Railroad bed, is a small trail in the break in the stone wall to access the property.

Parking: On North Washington Street at the Henrich Woods/Johnson Woods parcel or along the railroad line.

History of Property: This land (50 acres) had traditionally been used as farm land, to raise crops, livestock and poultry. Remnants of old barns and livestock pens can still be seen in some places throughout the property. The land was purchased by the town in 2000 through a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant as part of the Canoe River Greenbelt project. The property was purchased for its wildlife habitat value and local cultural significance. Civil War re-enactments are sometimes held in the field. There is a trail and picnic area for residents to enjoy. Recently, the property has received some letterboxes for those interested in a scavenger hunt!

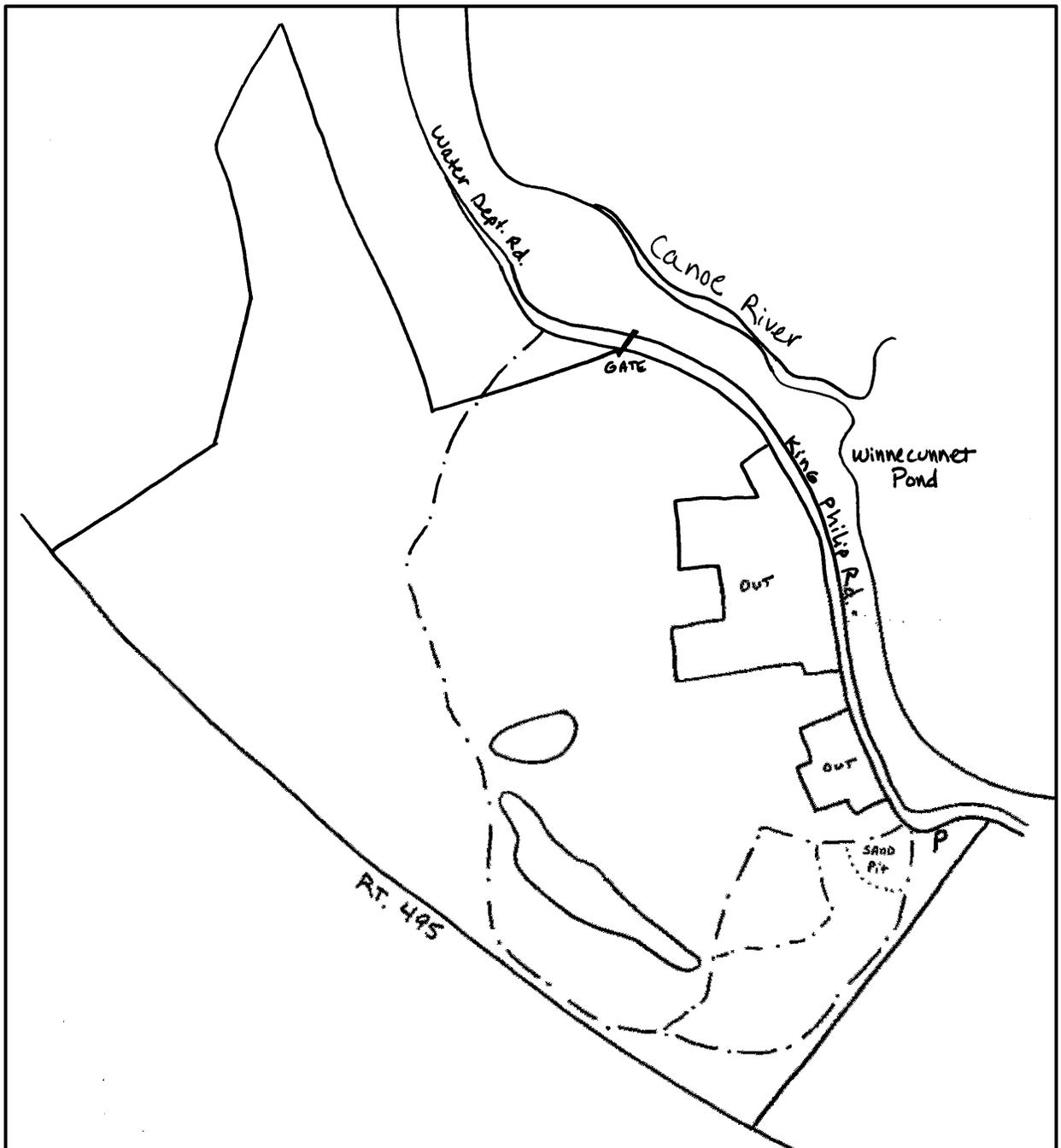
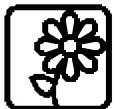
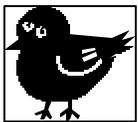
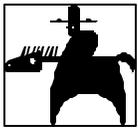


Lincoln Woods Conservation Area

Directions: The main trail to Lincoln Woods is located at the bend on King Philip Road.

Parking: On King Philip Road there are 4 off-road parking spaces.

History of Property: This parcel (70 acres) was under the same ownership for nearly 300 years as farmland and then forestland. The town purchased this land with a Self-Help Grant to preserve the different natural community types. Currently there are four certified vernal pools, mixed oak forest, red maple swamp, pitch pine, white pine forest and an old gravel pit. The oak forests were damaged extensively by winter moths in the past few years. The dead trees were a hazard to passers-by and provide a heavy fuel load with potential for severe fires. Lincoln Woods has become a very successful forestry project undertaken with state grants to create a Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. The skid trails from the forestry project now provide new trails for exploring.



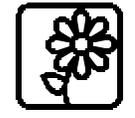
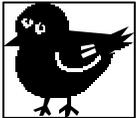
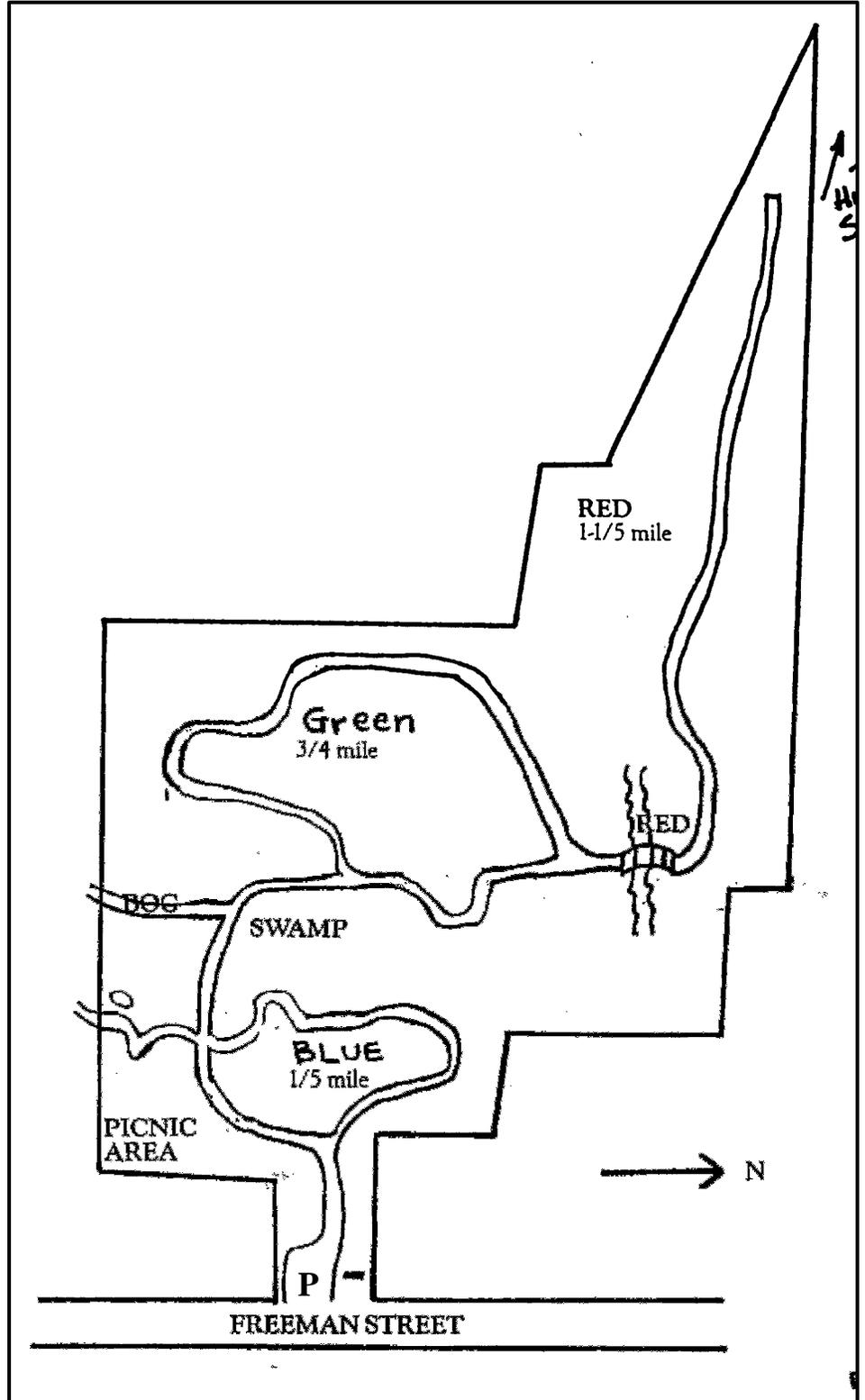
Leo G. Yelle Conservation Area

Directions: On Freeman Street, there is a trail and small parking area between house number 74 and number 76.

Parking: On Freeman Street, there are 2 off-road parking spaces.

History of Property: With a motion at the Special Town Meeting in 1973, the town approved the purchase of over 80 acres of land in the area known as the Great Woods. The parcel was previously owned by the Leonard family and part of the Old Mine Farm. There, bog iron was mined and the trees were felled for charcoal. A marker place by Myles Standish can be found within one of the swamp areas. In 1988 the land was named after Leo G. Yelle for his numerous years of dedication to the natural resources of Norton and his commitment to public service on the Conservation Commission and Norton Historical Society. For his 100th birthday, the Open Space Committee raised funds to complete another 100 feet of the boardwalk near the Great Brook.

There are trails throughout the property and join the trails of the Norton Historical Society lands (another 145+ acres).



Rose Farm Conservation Area

Directions: On North Worcester Street, the trail is located next to house number 33.

Parking: On North Worcester, there is 1 off-road parking space.

History of Property: This parcel (23 acres) and the Solmonese school land were purchased with a Self-Help Grant in 1966. The Conservation Commission granted temporary use of the hayfields for soccer fields in the 1970s but all have reverted back to hayfields, currently leased by local farmers. This area is a favorite spot for Boy Scout camping trips.

