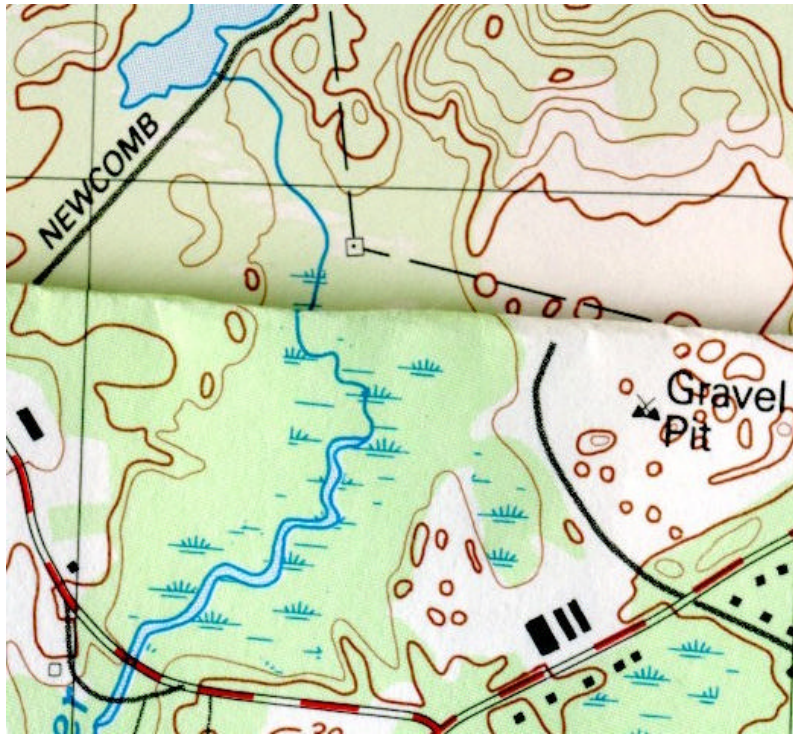


Wildlife Habitat Evaluation of the Canoe River in Norton MA 2006-2008

2. South of Red Mill Rd to Newland Street

Two streams leave the former millpond off Red Mill Rd and join just downstream to form a long sinuous portion of mixed coniferous and deciduous forested swamp (Alluvial red maple swamp). Approximately halfway between Red Mill Rd and Newland St the Canoe River becomes shrub-scrub swamp surrounded by the red maple swamp forest. The eastern edge of the forested swamp of the river contains Alluvial Atlantic white cedar swamps and an inland Atlantic white cedar swamp. One portion also may contain a Seep natural community but this was not verified.



Freshwater mussel beds were found throughout the gravelly-cobbly northernmost portion of this reach just south of Red Mill Rd. This riffle/pool area is habitat to dragonflies and damselflies including Sparkling jewelwing, Ebony jewelwing, Orange bluet and Dragonhunter.

Just north of Newland Street is a small island containing Marsh skullcap, Maddog skullcap, Monkeyflower, Marsh bellflower, and Cardinal flower. Eastern elliptio is found within the sandy/silty substrate.

On May 31, 2006 Jennifer Carlino and Shea Clark observed

Green frog, Black-capped chickadees and a brown striped caterpillar cocoon during a site walk of existing trails out of Red Mill Road. At this time, Swamp fetterbush was the only white-flowering plant.

On September 10, 2006 Dave Small and Earl Baldwin of the Athol bird and nature club continued their walk from the north side of Red Mill Rd. with the Open Space Committee and Jenn Carlino. The area is shrub-scrub, and contains Red osier dogwood, Climbing boneset, Purple loosestrife, Smartweed, Red maple, Atlantic white cedar, Common ragwort, Tussock sedge, Wild celery, Potamogeton, Fanwort, Arrowhead, Willow, Grapes, Speckled alder, chewed Arrow arum, Winterberry, Swamp azalea, High-bush blueberry, Virginia creeper, Muskrat midden, Shiners, Elliptio complanata, Monarch butterfly, a turtle scute in the sandbar, Great blue heron, and Sawfly caterpillars (Macremphytus).

On May 25, 2006 Steve Hurley conducted the electroshocking of the river with Conservation Agent Jennifer Carlino and Wheaton Fellows Shea Clark. South of Red Mill Rd. within the main stream channel they found Rainbow trout, Fallfish, Creek chub sucker, Blue gill, Red fin pickerel, Tessilated darter, Pumpkinseed, Swamp darter, American eels and a salamander.

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On May 31, 2006 Jennifer Carlino and Shea Clark investigated the two areas (observation points 3 and 4) containing Atlantic white cedar stands. The observation forms list the primary species within the stands and document the size of Atlantic white cedar (live and dead trees) at diameter at breast height (dbh).

The Open Space Committee sponsored a public canoe trip on June 2, 2007 from Newland Street north to Red Mill Rd. They did not gather any new data but the trip was attended by several residents that were given a general overview of the habitat as well as some specific observations of wildlife.

Jenn Carlino and Jim Hendrickson investigated the Water Department property at Newland Street on August 23, 2007. The area is a White pine/oak forest with the canopy containing about 50% Eastern white pine followed by good representations of White, Black and Scarlet oaks. Saplings were also dominated by Eastern white pine but also contains Beech and Red maple. Also noted are, *Vaccinium palladin*, *Vaccinium angustifolium*, High-bush blueberry, *Lycopodium tristachyum*, Spotted wintergreen, *Lycopodium flabelliforme*, grass, Pink lady slipper, Dillon's tick-trefoil, *Desmodium glabellum*, Cow wheat, Eastern star flower, Indian pipe, Canada mayflower, and ferns. The area contained a few small standing snags and one large broken tree. Wildlife observed were a Spider, White masked tussock moth, a Caterpillar, raccoon scat, fox scat, and Gray squirrel.

A potential vernal pool is located on private property at the Easton/Norton town line about 300 feet south of Red Mill Rd. A certified vernal pool is found on conservation property just north of Newland St. within the forested wetland.

The Conservation Commission, Water Department and Land Preservation Society of Norton permanently protect a stunning 100% of the river reach.














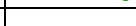

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation of the Canoe River in Norton MA 2006-2008



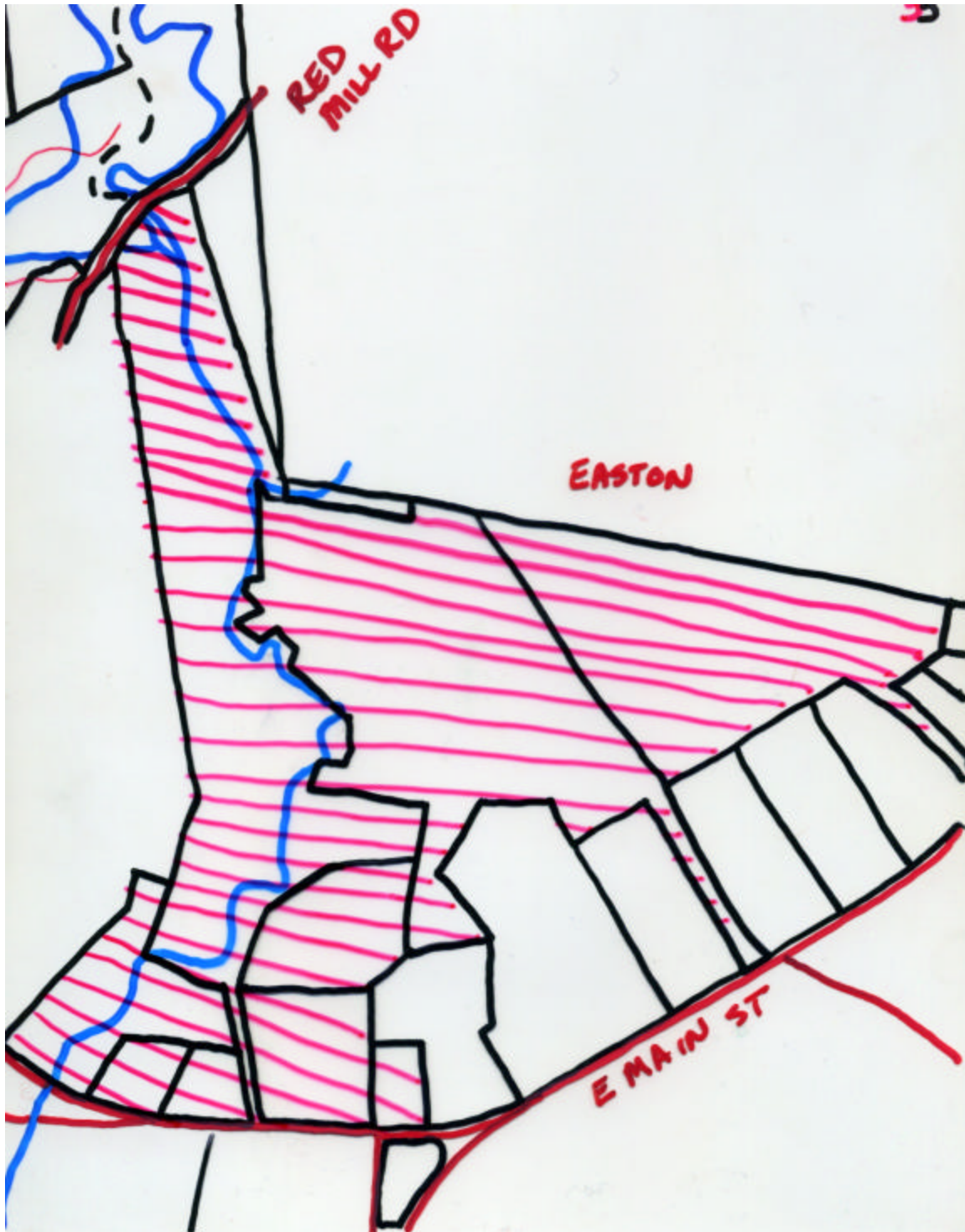
This is the parcel map was taken from the Town of Norton Assessor Maps. The parcels are outlined in black. The Canoe River is outlined in blue. Red Mill Road and East Main Street are shown in red. North is at the top of the page and the scale is roughly 1"=200', but obviously reduced on this page.

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, Water Department and the Recreation Commission; and Land Preservation Society of Norton.

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
	Reptile				