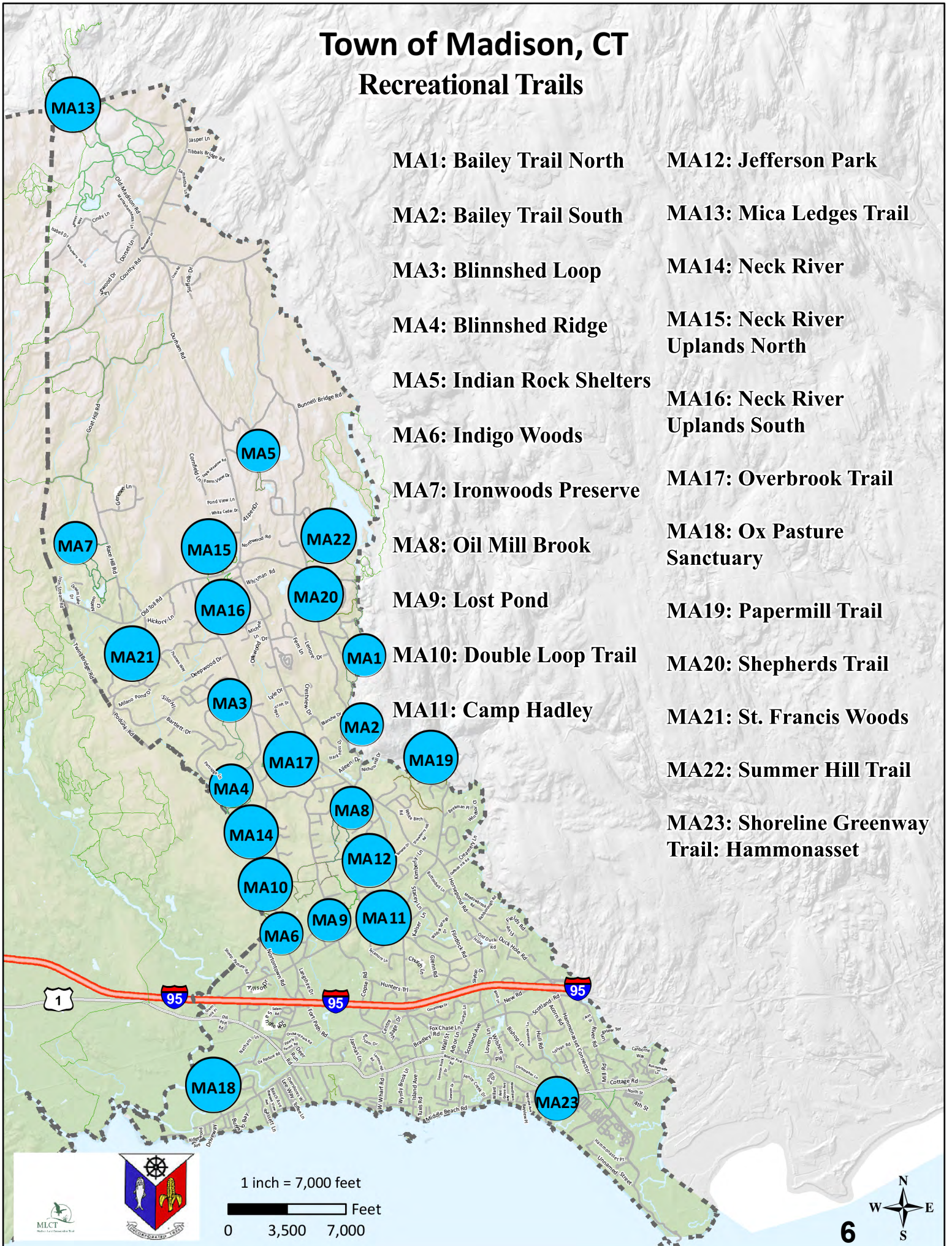


Town of Madison, CT Recreational Trails



MA1: Bailey Trail North

MA12: Jefferson Park

MA2: Bailey Trail South

MA13: Mica Ledges Trail

MA3: Blinshed Loop

MA14: Neck River

MA4: Blinshed Ridge

MA15: Neck River Uplands North

MA5: Indian Rock Shelters

MA16: Neck River Uplands South

MA6: Indigo Woods

MA17: Overbrook Trail

MA7: Ironwoods Preserve

MA18: Ox Pasture Sanctuary

MA8: Oil Mill Brook

MA19: Papermill Trail

MA9: Lost Pond

MA20: Shepherds Trail

MA10: Double Loop Trail

MA21: St. Francis Woods

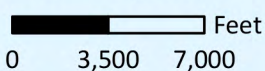
MA11: Camp Hadley

MA22: Summer Hill Trail

MA23: Shoreline Greenway Trail: Hammonasset



1 inch = 7,000 feet



Bailey Trail North

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.

What to look for on the Bailey Trail North

At Trailhead 1 follow the trail south, first along a small stream which soon joins the river. Where the stream and river join are the stonework remnants of a mill (see Historical Feature below). At the point where the trail and river meet, a glance upstream reveals the bridge over Rt. 80, and the dam for the Hammonasset Reservoir. The river slows as it enters large pools bordered by ridges and ledges on both sides.

South of the pool the river narrows and drops over a short run of rapids into a large, flat pool and then broadens. The trail here rises over an outcrop and then drops once more to pass close to the river's edge. The mossy cliff-faces to the east rise sharply here, as the trail nears another beautiful broad, flat pool below the rapids where kingfishers are often seen. The trail passes good examples of rock fractured and moved by nature.

The deep, cool, moist ravines favor northern tree species. Hemlock, yellow birch, beech and some sugar maple, as well as the oaks, black birch, red maple and ash are common. Here, as in many other areas along the trail, hemlocks have been seriously affected by the introduced hemlock wooly adelgid insect.

In the shallows along the pool's west bank, and further along, on the east bank also, red osier dogwood and other wet site shrubs have established a dense thicket. The trail passes over glacier-smoothed boulders and continues south along the river, where soon, it enters a broad flood plain. Exposed roots, sand, and drifts of detritus attest to the high water table and to the frequent flooding here. A cascading stream enters the river from the east.

Junction at Shepards and Bailey Trail North

At the northern junction, ascend the steep slope, following several switchbacks to mid-slope. The trail passes through an area where death of many hemlocks has created an opening allowing young birches, beech, sassafras and other species to develop.

Follow the blue trail markers to the ridge top to the Shepards-Buck Hill overlook. There are great views here of Long Island Sound. To return to your car, retrace your steps and descend to the East to the Junction of Bailey Trail North and head North to Route 80 or descend West to Shepards Trail Trailhead Road.

Historical Feature

The entrance to the upper Bailey Trail off of Route 80 at the bridge over Hammonasset River, accesses the area where water once tumbled over Ninevah Falls, providing power for early industries. On both sides of the river, remnants of old mills can be seen. These are probably the remains of a saw mill under the ownership of Mr. Stone and Mr. Munger. Downstream, on the Killingworth side of the river, the foundations of a tannery are clearly visible.



Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

The Bailey Trail system: (Hammonasset River Trail and Cider Mill Spur Trail) follows the west bank of the Hammonasset River from Rt. 80 to lower Summer Hill Road just north of Chestnut Hill Road. Because of its length, the trail is described in two separate sections: Bailey Trail North (Rt. 80 south and back); and Bailey Trail South (Georgetown Circle south to lower Summer Hill Road, including the Cider Mill Spur Trail).

Bailey Trail North: This section includes a gentle 0.6 mile walk south along the Hammonasset River from Rt 80 with views of the river's deep gorge and floodplain, providing a remarkable contrast to the ridge on either side.

GPS Directions: 790 Old Toll Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Easy river walk with an optional more challenging ridge loop.

Start: Trailhead 1 on Rt. 80, just west of the Hammonasset River Bridge.

Distance: About 0.6 miles, one-way to Georgetown Circle; including the Buck Hill Loop adds 0.5 miles.

Approximate Time: About 2 hours if the loop is included, round trip.

Parking: Turn-outs on north side of Rt. 80, just west of bridge.



For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org





MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

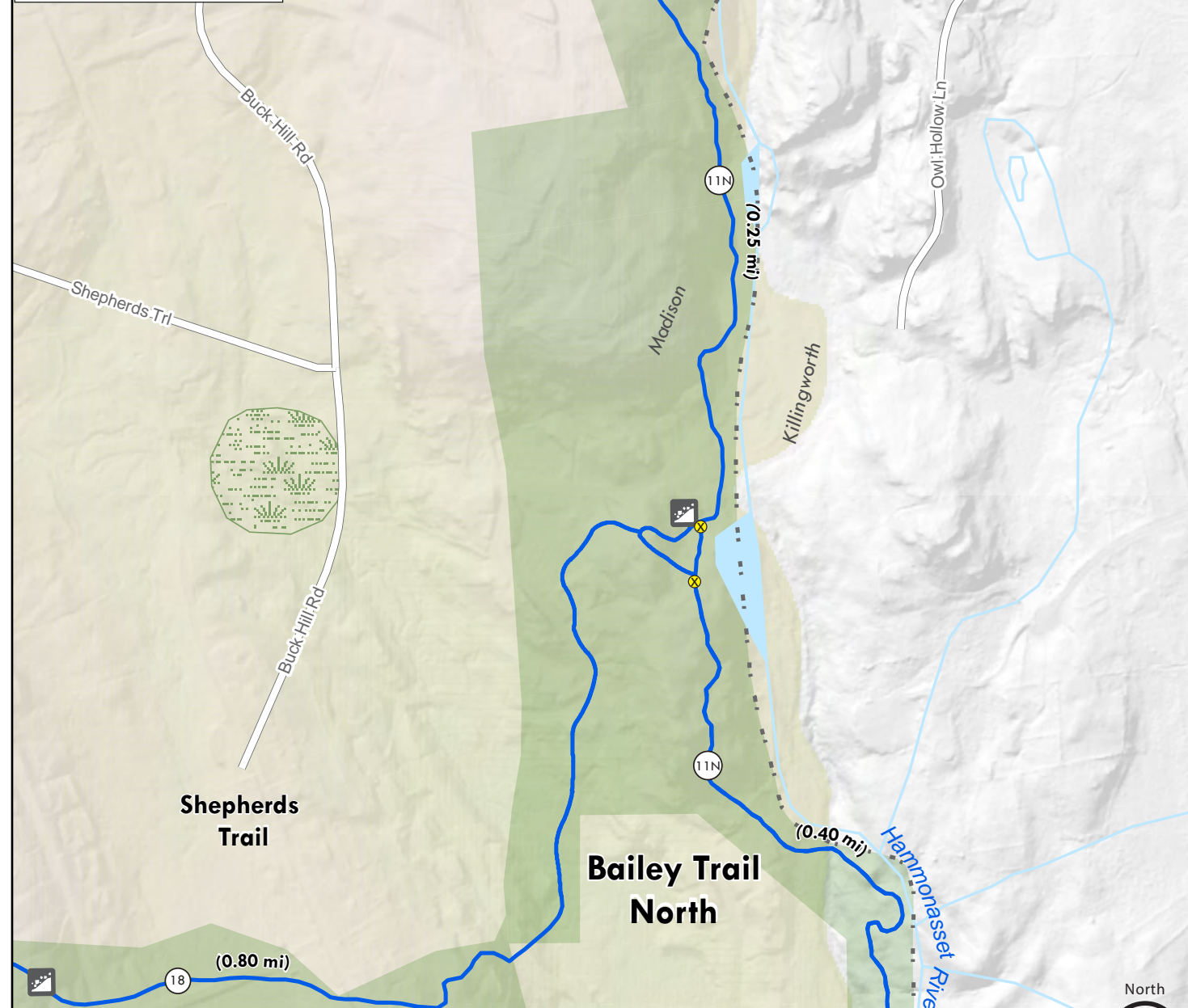
RWA Property
Permit Required

Lake
Hammonasset

Bailey Trail North

Old Toll Rd

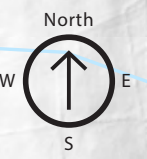
State Hwy 80



Legend

Parking	Scenic Viewpoint
Trailhead	Bridge
Rock Ledge	Wetlands
Bailey Trail North	Land Trust Property
Bailey Trail South	RWA Property
Shepherds Trail	Trail Junction
Hammonasset Trail	Stone Wall

Due to beaver activity and flooding the boardwalk to the trailhead and Bailey Trail South connection is only accessible during dry periods such as the winter season



Map Produced January 2016

MA1

Bailey Trail South

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.

What to look for on the Bailey Trail South

Beginning at the Georgetown Circle Trailhead, take the short spur to the river and turn south (right). Here the river is slow moving, with broad pools bordered by hemlocks, red maple, beech, birch, oak, and a good understory of laurel. Very soon, the river is divided by long, narrow Ivy Island into two beautiful streams. Here the river drops over a long stretch of rocks and ledge. Several log crossings allow access to the island. Below the island the trail passes through hemlock glens, now under stress from hemlock wooly adelgid attack. The east bank, which is often higher, affords good views of moss-covered rock outcrops and of flowing streams and seeps that add color and contrast, especially in winter.

Downriver, several small islands create more divisions in the river. Indeed, at one point the trail crosses a series of bouldered washes that at high water times create a series of temporary islands.

Eventually, the trail ascends a slight rise and passes through and then along a fine stone wall. Along this stretch and elsewhere, the bark of the beech trees appears cracked. A close look will reveal white, wax-covered colonies of the introduced beech scale. The fissures on the beech tree are the result of past feeding by heavy populations of this tiny sucking insect.

Where the wall ends temporarily, look for the large hemlock and the magnificent chestnut oak with its deeply fissured bark. Soon the trail crosses Cider Mill Brook on a footbridge. Just south of the bridge is the junction of the Cider Mill Brook Spur Trail (described below) that leads west and then north to Trailhead 3 on Concord Drive.

Continue south, through a stretch of hardwoods with an understory primarily of beech and laurel. Just south of another stone wall crossing, the river narrows and drops over a series of beautiful rapids. A few yards further are the foundation remains of a dam with its stone opening to a mill's flume; see "Historical Features" below). Cross the head of the flume and follow its wall 160' to the mill site itself .

Below the mill, the river continues to flow rapidly, with alternating pools and cascades. Large hemlock, beech, red maple, black birch, oak and occasional tulip poplar, sycamore, and yellow birch line the river banks. Stone walls reveal old field borders and property lines.

Just below where a small stream drains a valley to the west—and where the river makes a sharp bend—the trail crosses another bouldery wash which, in flood times, becomes a flowing stream creating a temporary island similar to those described earlier. The Trail crosses the outlet to the wash (shown as the southernmost stream crossing on the map). Just below this point, the trail enters private land and then soon after leaves the river along a stone wall to Trailhead 4 on Summer Hill Road.

Cider Mill Spur Trail

From Trailhead 3, follow along the trail bordering a wet drainage through a forest of beech, red maple, ash, tulip-poplar and black and yellow birch. The wet swale soon meets the Cider Mill Brook flowing south. The trail essentially follows—at a distance—the west bank of the brook. Note the high ledges to the west. Eventually, where the trail passes through stone walls (the second of which opens into a crossroads of woods roads), turn sharply left, closer to the brook, and follow it to its junction with the main river trail.

Historic Feature

Approximately 1.2 miles south of Trailhead 2, the remains of a mill exist on the west bank of the river. The site is approximately 0.8 miles north of Chestnut Hill Road and is easily reached from Trailhead 4. These foundations and structures may date from December 16, 1720, when five men were granted permission to erect a saw mill on the river between Hog Pond Brook and Ivy Island. Later maps also show a saw mill at this site.

The hiking trail runs between this mill and the river. Steps descend and rise on either side of the channel where water exited the mill. A walled area approximately 9' deep may have been the area for the saw. Above the mill a flume, or raceway, runs approximately 160' north to remnants of a dam. This structure diverted water to power the mill. The "outer" walls of the flume, those closest to the river, are approximately 6' high and 5' thick.

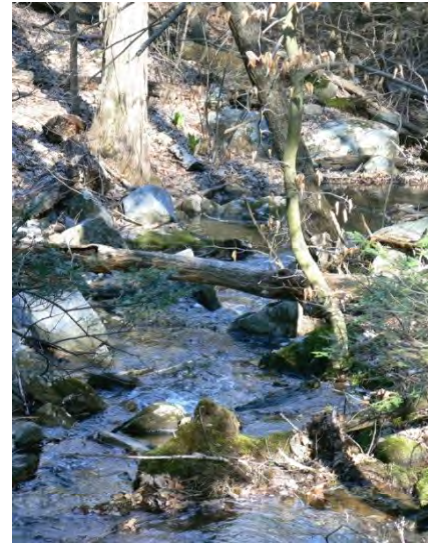


Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

The Bailey Trail system: (Hammonasset River Trail and Cider Mill Spur Trail) follows the west bank of the Hammonasset River from Rt. 80 to lower Summer Hill Road just north of Chestnut Hill Road. Because of its length, the trail is described in two separate sections: Bailey Trail North (Rt. 80 south and back); and Bailey Trail South (Georgetown Circle south to lower Summer Hill Road, including the Cider Mill Spur Trail).

Bailey Trail South: This section follows the Hammonasset River south to Trailhead 4 on Summer Hill Road, 0.3 mile north of Chestnut Hill Road. The Cider Mill Spur Trail runs from Concord Drive (Trailhead 3) to the River Trail. Beautiful stretches of river, with large quiet pools and long series of rapids, and an historic lumber mill site with remains of its dam and flume are features. This is an easy walk with a few boggy spots.

GPS Directions: 790 Old Toll Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Easy river walk.

Start: Trailhead 2 at the Georgetown Circle cul-de-sac, or Trailhead 3 on Concord Drive (Cider Mill Spur Trail).

Distance: About 1.5 miles from Trailhead 2 to Trailhead 4; Cider Mill Spur Trail is about 0.4 mile, one-way.

Approximate Time: One-way, about 1.5 hours from Trailhead 2 to Trailhead 4; 1 hour from Trailhead 3.

Parking: Trailhead 2 - Georgetown Circle cul-de-sac; Trailhead 3 - along Concord Drive near the Trailhead sign; Trailhead 4 - along east side of Summer Hill Road near Trailhead sign.

Historical Feature: Old mill foundations

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org



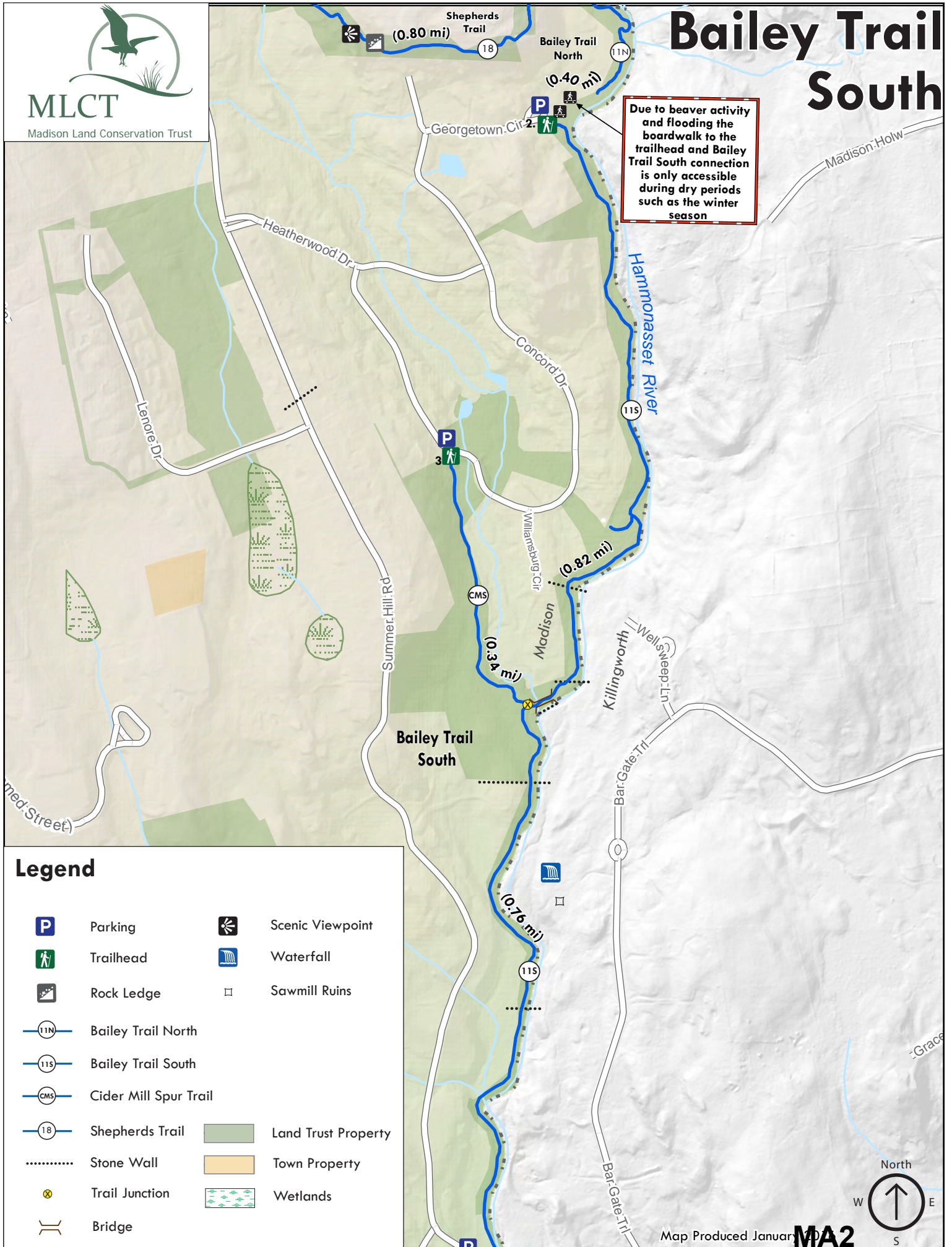


MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Bailey Trail South

Due to beaver activity and flooding the boardwalk to the trailhead and Bailey Trail South connection is only accessible during dry periods such as the winter season



Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Parking | Scenic Viewpoint |
| Trailhead | Waterfall |
| Rock Ledge | Sawmill Ruins |
| Bailey Trail North | Land Trust Property |
| Bailey Trail South | Town Property |
| Cider Mill Spur Trail | Wetlands |
| Shepherds Trail | Stone Wall |
| Stone Wall | Trail Junction |
| Trail Junction | Bridge |



Blinnshed Loop

What to look for on the Blinnshed Loop

From the trailhead, follow the trail north along the well-defined woods road. On the left, at the bottom of the dip near the State Forest gate, is the junction of the Blinnshed Ridge Trail. (On that trail, almost immediately, is an old, stone-lined firepond that once provided a source of water for firefighting.)

Where the road enters a white pine plantation the Blinnshed Loop soon crosses a small, intermittent stream. This flows into the eastern end of an extensive wetland. Early spring brings lush groundcovers of skunk cabbage and false hellebore and a bit later, a yellow haze of spicebush flowers. After a short rise, the old road drops and crosses a larger stream that year-round feeds the wetland. Cross on stepstones on the north (right) side of the trail and continue up hill to a large opening where several logging roads intersect. To the left, the trail makes a short loop (described later) and returns to the intersection. The main trail turns north (right), and soon splits. This point is the base of the "loop." Continue straight ahead (right side of loop). To the east is the bed of the stream crossed earlier. As is true of much of Cockaponsett State Forest, this area is under active forest management. The logging roads, stumps of trees, and young saplings testify to a history of harvest and regeneration cuts. The forest here is characteristic of second growth forests in our region. There is an abundant array of species, including several oaks, maples, birches and many others. Their mosaic-like pattern is determined, in part, by variations in topography and available moisture.

Just beyond where the trail passes through a stone wall, and before reaching the next one, is a small, dense plantation of Norway spruce. This group of conifers provides thermal cover for deer. In the winter, deer shelter here in this "warm" spot - one of several in this forest block.

Just past the plantation, to the northwest (left) but not readily visible from the trail, are several beautiful large vernal pools that are breeding habitat for many species of frogs and salamanders.

Ascend a small rise and pass through a stone wall. The latter continues along the right side of the path and is graced by very large, tall, tulip-poplar trees. The wall marks the State Forest boundary. Soon the trail becomes less defined before it turns west (left), descends, and crosses two wet swales.

Continue west and then south along the State Forest boundary before descending past a large rock to an extensive and lovely wet swale. Stepstones of log sections make this crossing less formidable than it first appears. However, the next crossing of this wetland is more difficult, especially in times of high water. A decked walkway helps ford the deepest sections.

Continue south to where the trail follows, once again, old logging roads back to the base of the loop and then to the large intersection opening. Before returning to the trailhead, consider exploring the short loop to the south, mentioned earlier. This loop circles another Norway spruce "deer yard," and affords excellent views of the extensive swamp wetland below. The wetland eventually drains to the west and into the Neck River, flowing south through the western side of this important swampland.

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

The Blinnshed Loop Trail offers an excellent and easy walk through a variety of second growth forest settings. There are a few boggy areas - and waterproof footwear is recommended. The undulating topography and associated diverse wet lands, is a special feature of this walk. Especially impressive is the extensive wetland near the beginning of the trail. This trail has a junction with the Blinnshed Ridge Trail.

GPS Directions: 30 Blinnshed Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Short walk, several streams and wet swales.

Start: Trailhead, northwest corner of intersection of Blinnshed and Opening Hill Roads

Distance: About 1.5 miles

Approximate Time: About 1-1.5 hours

Parking: Near trailhead and at The Country School

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964

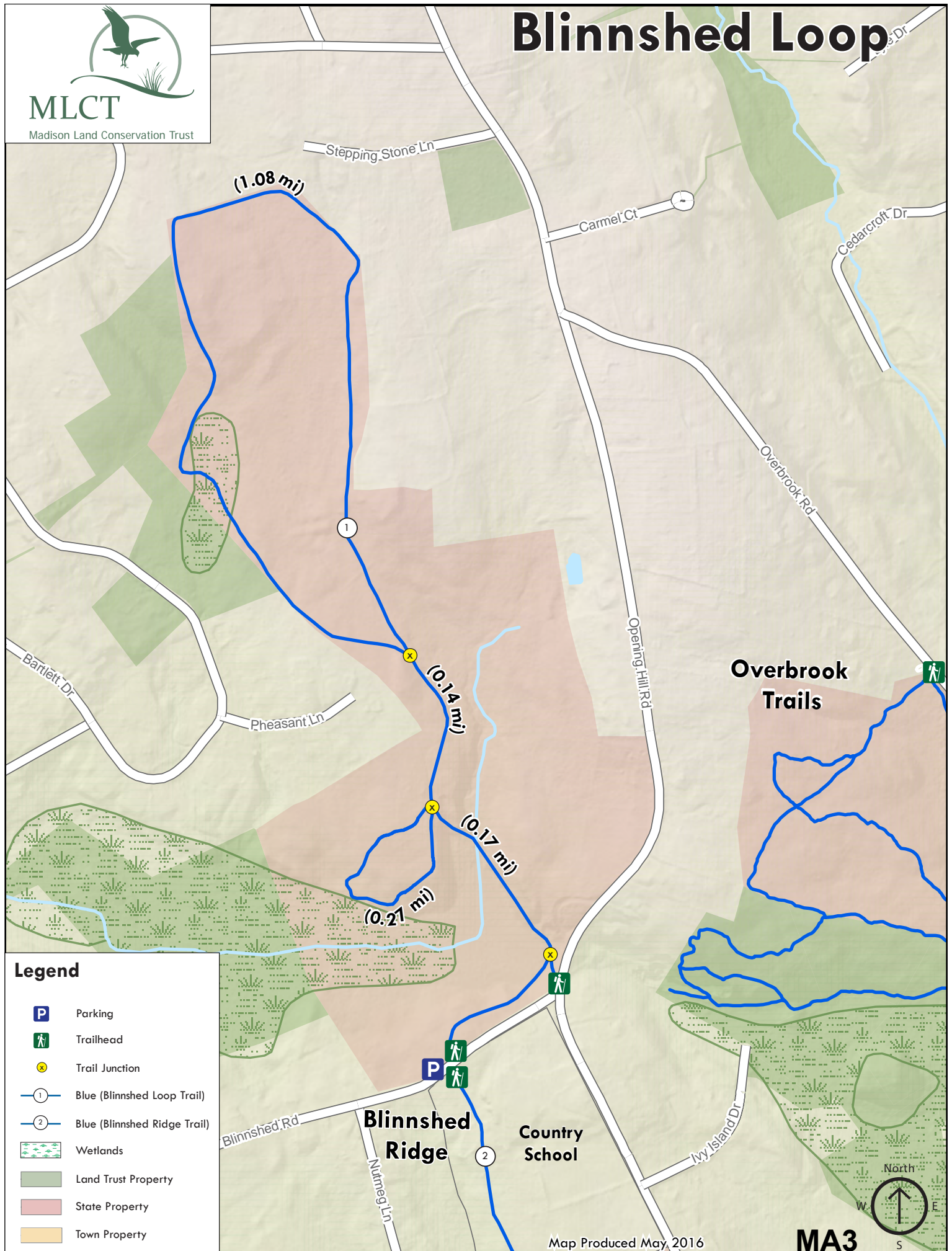













MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Blinnshed Loop



Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Trail Junction
-  Blue (Blinnshed Loop Trail)
-  Blue (Blinnshed Ridge Trail)
-  Wetlands
-  Land Trust Property
-  State Property
-  Town Property

Map Produced May, 2016

MA3



Blinnshed Ridge

What to look for on the Blinnshed Ridge

The trail entrance offers two options. There is a short extension north of Blinnshed Road which passes an old, stone-lined firepond. This section soon joins the Blinnshed Loop.

The main trail proceeds south behind the Country Day School, along the west shoulder of a ridge that slopes to a wetland. Here, the forest contains large oaks, beech and tulip-poplar trees. Soon the trail enters State Forest where the presence of tree stumps indicates that this forest is under active management. At the rocky end of a ridge, descend a series of "plateaus" to near the wetland. Skunk cabbage, false hellebore and spicebush clearly delineate the wetland in early spring, and marsh marigolds occur on the banks of moving riverlets. Cross first one small stream, and then another a few yards beyond, on cedar log bridges. Soon, a crossing path (not blazed) leads southward past several excellent vernal pools (100 feet).

The blazed trail soon ascends the edge of a large glacier-smoothed outcrop. This is a fine place to observe birds and other wildlife. Descend the rock to another wet swale with a fine cedar log crossing. In marked contrast to the oak-hickory woods on the drier ridges, yellow birch and red maple dominate the narrow, cooler wetland swales.

Climb once more over a series of low, rocky ridges and then, close by the State Forest boundary, look for the Neck River as it enters from the west below. Descend the last ridge and into the opening created by a powerline right-of-way. This opening is crossed by the beautiful little Neck River. Deer can often be seen here, especially in the early evening.

Blue blazes on rocks and the nearby power pole point the way across and out of the opening. Near the pole, the trail splits—turning either south into the woods and along the river, or east into the woods and along a woods road trail to eventually join the Neck River Trail. This point where the trail divides is the base of a loop.

The trail south follows the meandering river, each turn bringing to view a new, lovely scene. Eventually, near a quiet pool, swing sharply east away from the river, and then north across a rocky swale and to the junction with a logging road. This is the junction with the Neck River Trail which leads to the east (right). To the west, Trail #2 leads back to the loop base near the river and powerline opening.

Permitted Activities:

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Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

The Blinnshed Ridge Trail passes through forest communities typical of our region. Special features include several ridges alternating with narrow valley wetlands, a massive rock outcrop, and a beautiful section along the Neck River. There is an opportunity to extend the hike by joining either Blinnshed Loop or the Neck River Trail.

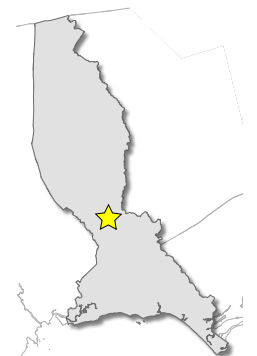
GPS Directions: 31 Blinnshed Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: An easy trail over several low ridges, rock outcrops and along a beautiful stretch of the Neck River

Start: At the trailhead on Blinnshed Road

Distance: From trailhead south, around the end loop and return: 2.0 miles; to the junction with the Neck River Trail: 1.1 mile

Approximate Time: About 1-1.5 hours





MLCT

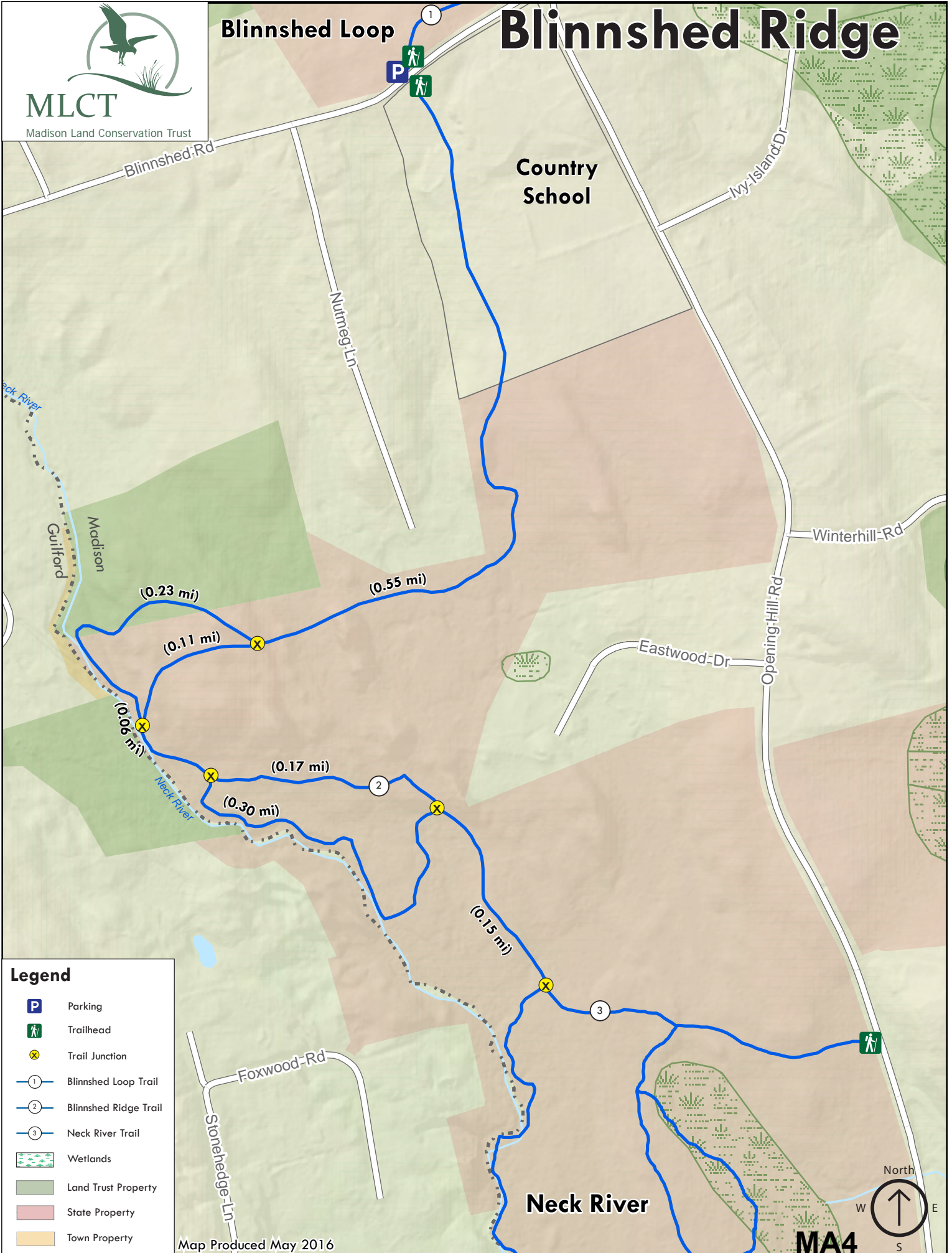
Madison Land Conservation Trust

Blinnshed Loop











Blinnshed Ridge

Country School

Neck River



Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Trail Junction
-  Blinnshed Loop Trail
-  Blinnshed Ridge Trail
-  Neck River Trail
-  Wetlands
-  Land Trust Property
-  State Property
-  Town Property

Map Produced May 2016



MA4

Indian Rock Shelters

What to look for on the Indian Rock Shelters Trail

The trail is a loop and is described as if walking in a counter-clockwise direction. From the trailhead, descend a short distance to the bottom of the slope and turn right (north) past a large beech tree with an unusual grafted branch. By looking to the left as you walk along you can see excellent views (especially in late fall, winter or early spring) of a rock ledge that runs more or less parallel with the trail and is on the other side of a low wet area. The forest composition in this narrow valley is quite diverse with beech, red and sugar maples, red, black, white and chestnut oaks, black and yellow birches, white ash and hickory.

The trail passes over broken rocks of ancient granite, and just to the right of a large rock outcrop. Note the imbedded vein of white quartz. To the left, the valley floor now slopes noticeably downward and to the north. The trail eventually passes just to the left of and along a stone wall—the western boundary of Southern Regional Water Authority land. From this point, follow the trail as it leads gradually to the west and onto the ridge of a hogback and then descends, crossing a small stream (0.4 mile from the trailhead). This stream, flowing north into the Hammonasset River watershed, originates in a wetland perched above and behind the ledge face to the southwest.

The trail now doubles sharply back southward (left) along the stream and close by the rock faces seen earlier. Soon it passes close to a magnificent Indian rock shelter (A). As a winter home for an Indian family, this shelter was probably ideal as it faces away from winter storms and is close by a good source of water. The trail soon crosses the stream near where it enters the valley. A series of small waterfalls often occurs where the stream tumbles down over rocks, and in the winter sometimes creates a beautiful cascade of ice falls and icicles.

On this side of the valley, the forest floor is densely covered by ferns, while fallen tree trunks and rocks are blanketed by mosses. The trail here is quite rough as it passes over and around rocks that have fallen from the ledge faces. The trail soon enters a dense laurel thicket and then, close to a shear rock wall, an area rich in hemlock. Once a cool shaded glen, this area is now being opened up as many hemlocks are being damaged and killed by the hemlock woolly adelgid, a foreign insect that reached Connecticut's southern shores in the mid-1980s.

There are several good examples on the cliff face where trees have become established in cracks in the rock. As tree roots grow they will cause rocks to split away and fall. The many large rocks at the cliff base suggest that this process has been underway for a long time.

Within the low wetland are what appear to be several large vernal pools, important habitat for several species of salamanders and frogs. The watershed now drains to the south and soon becomes more defined as the headwaters of the Neck River. A bit further along the trail passes close to another probable Indian rock shelter (B) part way up the cliff face. The distinctive floor of light-colored, hard granite formed a plane of weakness with the softer rock above, and helps explain why this cave formed here.

Just past the cave, where the death of hemlock has created a large opening, the trail turns sharply east (left) and crosses the Neck River. The crossing can be difficult in times of high water. At the top of a small rise, the trail cuts back north (left) along another small hogback where fine veins of the rock face can be seen. The trail then cuts to the east-southeast (right), then bearing right at a trail junction, ascends a spur trail to an overlook (C) of Bartlett Pond (now called Sunset Lake). This is an excellent spot to rest and enjoy the reflections. Return along the spur trail; at the junction, travel north through some magnificent beeches and oaks, cross the Neck River flowing from Bartlett Pond, and return to the trailhead. Part of this last section passes over a narrow right-of-way, so please stay on the path.

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Photo by Madison Land Conservation Trust

The Indian Rock Shelters trail offers an unusual opportunity to visit the natural rock shelter home sites of early native Americans. The trail encompasses a complex watershed system—which toward the north flows north into the Hammonasset River basin, and to the south, the headwaters of the Neck River. There are good views of cliff faces, rock shelters, and of Bartlett Pond.

GPS Directions: 76 Lake Dr, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Short walk - rocky, wet spots in rainy weather

Start: Trailhead 1 at the cul-de-sac on Lake Drive

Distance: About 1.2 miles

Approximate Time: About 1 hour

Parking: At the cul-de-sac

Historical Features: Indian Rock Shelter "Caves"

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964



For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust

www.madisonlandtrust.org

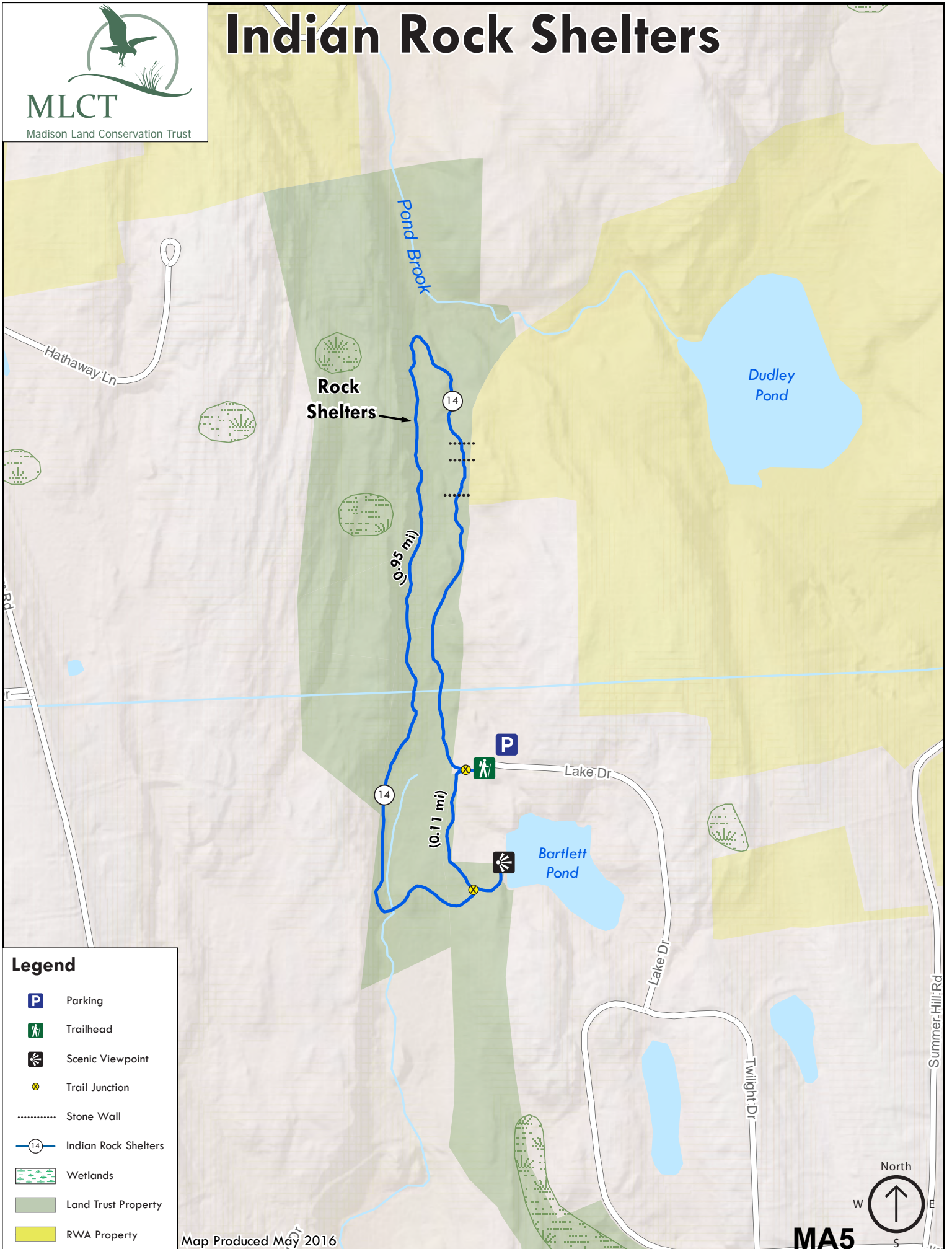




MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

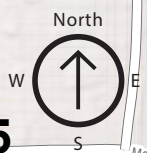
Indian Rock Shelters



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Trail Junction
- Stone Wall
- Indian Rock Shelters
- Wetlands
- Land Trust Property
- RWA Property

Map Produced May 2016



MA5

Indigo Woods

What to look for on the Indigo Woods Trail

Please follow the blazes carefully as this trail is entirely within a Conservation Easement on private lands.

Throughout this walk, note the often very large trees, especially the oaks, tulip-poplar and beech that are growing within the easement. Moisture is obviously not a factor limiting growth here! Some trees will be toppled by winds, exposing their shallow root systems, especially where the water table is close to the surface. Understories are very lush with dense stands of spice bush, wild azalea, sweet pepperbush, dogwoods, and, of course, skunk cabbage and false helebore in the wet swales.

Enter at the Trailhead. Almost immediately, turn right, and cross the river on a gravel bar. Once across, the trail splits; one branch, a spur trail, leads away from the river along a wire fence (the east boundary of Indigo Woods) to an opening in the fence where the trail turns sharply right (east) onto private land. From this point on the trail, which is blazed but not mapped, continues along paths and old roads to either the Double Loop Trail to the north, or near the Camp Hadley Trail to the east.

The other branch, the main trail, leads west along the north bank of the river. Follow for several hundred feet and then cross the river once more to an old road. Here, where the trail splits, is the base of a loop. The trail straight ahead, upslope, will return to this point via the right branch. Continue straight to where the trail eventually passes through a stone wall and into an old meadow. Continue to where the trail comes to the river, close to the site of an old mill dam.

Before crossing the river, look west to where the dam begins. Note the pile of stones. These stones were initialled and dated by Madison and Guilford selectmen as they periodically reconfirmed the location of their towns' common boundaries.

Cross the stream on stepstones and onto the northern side of the stone/earth dam. Observe where the sluiceway that leads from the dam directed the water to the mill site itself. Follow the trail atop the sluice wall to the mill foundation, and then cross the river once more. From this point on, the trail traces the southern bank of the river within its floodplain to the base of the loop. Cross the river once more and return to the trailhead or take the spur trail north to where it joins an old woods road and then passes through a stonewall and wire fence. The wall marks the end of the Indigo Trail and the beginning of the aforementioned unmapped trail on other private lands. Following it will lead to a branch north that joins the Double Loop Trail; straight ahead the trail passes east and then sharply north and over a high promontory before eventually ending on Warpas Rd. a few hundred feet west of its junction with Copse Rd., near the entrance to the Camp Hadley Trail.

The Mill

Active in the early and mid-1800s, this mill was used for sawing ship timber and other timber for Eber Hotchkiss, Hiram Wilcox and other local boatbuilders. Although the extensive ruins of the dam, sluiceway and mill are still very evident, little documentation of its construction and ownership is available.



Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

The Indigo Woods Trail is an easy loop contained entirely on private lands within a Conservation Easement along the Neck River. It affords fine views of the River, especially in winter and spring in times of high water. It passes near and along the sluiceway wall of an historic sawmill dam site. An extended hike is possible via a short spur trail that leads to trails on other private land which, in turn, connect to other MLCT trails.

GPS Directions: 99 Riverside Ter, Madison, CT 06443

Category: An easy loop trail with several stepstone river crossings - these crossings may be difficult in times of high water

Start: Trailhead at the cul-de-sac on Riverside Terrace

Distance: About .75 miles

Approximate Time: Less than 1 hour

Parking: At the Riverside Terrace cul-de-sac near the trailhead

Historical Features: Ruins of the dam, sluiceway and

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

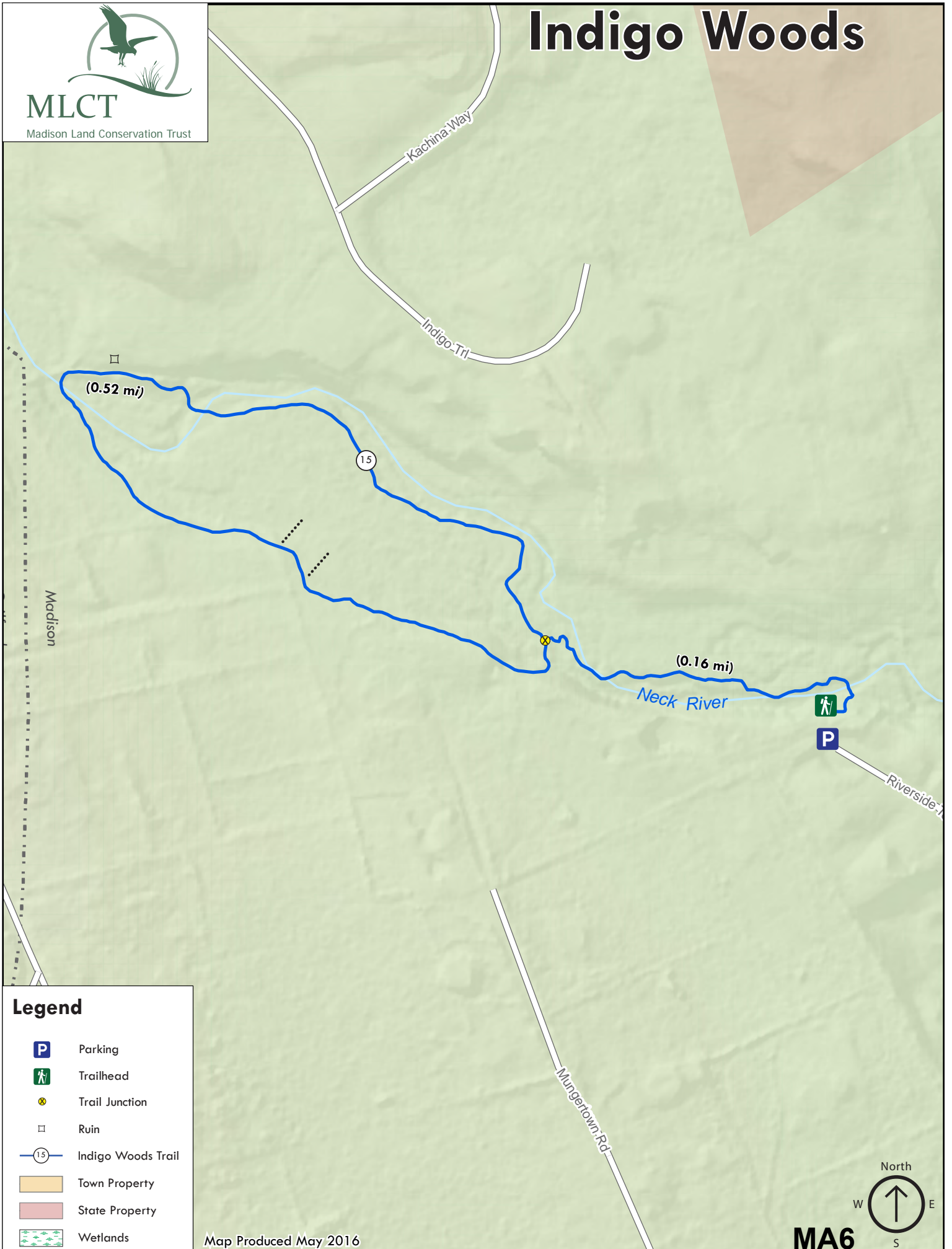












MLCT

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Indigo Woods



Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Trail Junction
-  Ruin
-  Indigo Woods Trail
-  Town Property
-  State Property
-  Wetlands

Map Produced May 2016



MA6

Ironwoods Preserve

What to look for on the Ironwoods Preserve Trail

From the parking area proceed about 600 feet along the path parallel to the stone wall on the left and the fence on the right. At the southwest corner of the field, enter the woods and follow the blue blazes. The second-growth forest encountered throughout the hike is typical of the oak-hickory forest type. Common species are the oaks (white, red, black and chestnut), beech and sugar maple on slopes and dry ridges, and red maple, yellow and black birches in the lower, moist, cooler areas.

The trail descends and crosses through a wet, and sometimes muddy, red maple swamp. Cross the small stream and ascend a hogback. On the very top, where exposed ledges testify to the shallowness of the soil and dry conditions, slow-growing chestnut oaks abound and eastern red-cedar occur. The latter, members of the Juniper family, require abundant sunlight. Their presence here indicates that the forest canopy on the ridge top has been quite open for a long time. This fact is also revealed by the dense understory of blueberries, huckleberries and grasses.

The trail descends, gradually at first and then steeply, past exposed ledges to cross the stream that drains the watershed on the western side of the ridge.

Just beyond the stream (0.3 mile from the trailhead) the trail splits. This description is written as if you are turning right (north). Pass several probable vernal pools (in spring), and ascend to higher ground. Rock outcrops are common—their smooth rounded tops the result of glacial “grinding” which occurred over 10,000 years ago. Climb and descend several small ridges—hogbacks. Be careful to follow the blue blazes as several other trails and old logging roads intersect and cross our trail. Descend from the highest ridge (where a house is visible on the left), to a junction where the loop cuts back to the left. This can be followed back to the junction mentioned earlier—or you can proceed north to the Old Iron Works.

Following the path north, the trail crosses a stream (which soon joins the Iron Stream). There is a fine step-stone crossing here. This section of trail passes through a managed private forest that recently was harvested. Further on, the trail passes along the Iron Stream, then over two rocky outcrops before it descends to the old iron smelter works. The trail ends here, at the dam site (0.8 mile from the trailhead). A monument describing the site was placed here in 1989 by the MLCT and the Madison Historical Society.

Return along the trail to the junction and, for variation, take the fork (straight ahead to the south). Ascend and descend the ridge (by several homes), pass along a wetland to the east, and through a laurel thicket. Just before an old fence line marking private land, the trail turns sharply left (east), crosses the stream that drains the wetland, and soon rejoins the trail leading back to the trailhead.

The North Madison Iron Works

In the late 1700s, Henry Hill, Joseph Pyncheon and Redad Stone acquired a four-acre mill site on Joshua Blatchley’s farm. After 2 to 3 years as a sawmill it was converted to an iron works, which operated successfully until about 1820, by which time readily available bog iron ore and wood for charcoal had been quite depleted.

The iron works was small, the forge hearth being about 3 feet square and 1.5 to 2 feet deep with an open top. An air pipe entered one side about half way up. Next to the 16’ x 30’ forge building was a charcoal house about 14’ x 22’. The nearby mill was probably powered by an overshot wheel about 10’ x 4’ wide. The mill contained a large bellows and a heavy trip hammer and anvil.

In operation, the charcoal-fired forge reached high temperature aided by a continuous blast of cold air from the waterwheel-powered bellows. After being washed, pieces of bog iron ore the size of ping-pong balls were fed directly into the fire. At a temperature of 2600 to 2700 degrees fahrenheit, the silicon-based impurities melted and formed a liquid slag about the irregular agglomeration of iron. The molten slag was raked or drawn off. Tons of that slag still litter the site. (Con’t)

After about 6 hours of this, the small lumps of ore became a spongy lump of malleable iron weighing about 30 to 40 pounds.

To further reduce the slag inclusions and to refine them, the hot iron was repeatedly drawn out into bar shapes under the weight of the drop hammer. Any remaining impurities ran lengthwise within the bar and provided great toughness and rust resistance.

Bog iron ore is a deposit of ferric hydroxide or limonite in the bottoms of ponds, swamps or bogs. These deposits result from the action of iron “fixing” bacteria that decay the swamp vegetation. Deposits range from the size of peas and cotton balls to solid layers, most often colored reddish or dark brown, and contained from 20 to 50% useable iron. Interestingly, the ore can regenerate in 5 to 25 years depending on the amount of decaying vegetation, the amount of iron in the water and on the condition for bacterial activity.

Permitted Activities:

The trail areas in the MLCT properties are for **hiking only**. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

The Ironwoods Preserve Trail leads through an interesting variety of ecological settings including open meadows, dry, rocky ridges and low, wet, valley bottom lands and streams. The trail leads to the foundation of an excellent example of a bog iron works dating from the late 18th or early 19th Century.

GPS Directions: 227 Race Hill Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Short walk with several moderate climbs and descents

Start: Trailhead on Race Hill Road, North Madison

Distance: Round trip, including the loop, about 1.7 miles

Approximate time: About 1.5 to 2 hours

Parking: On the west side of Race Hill Rd; parking area is not plowed in winter

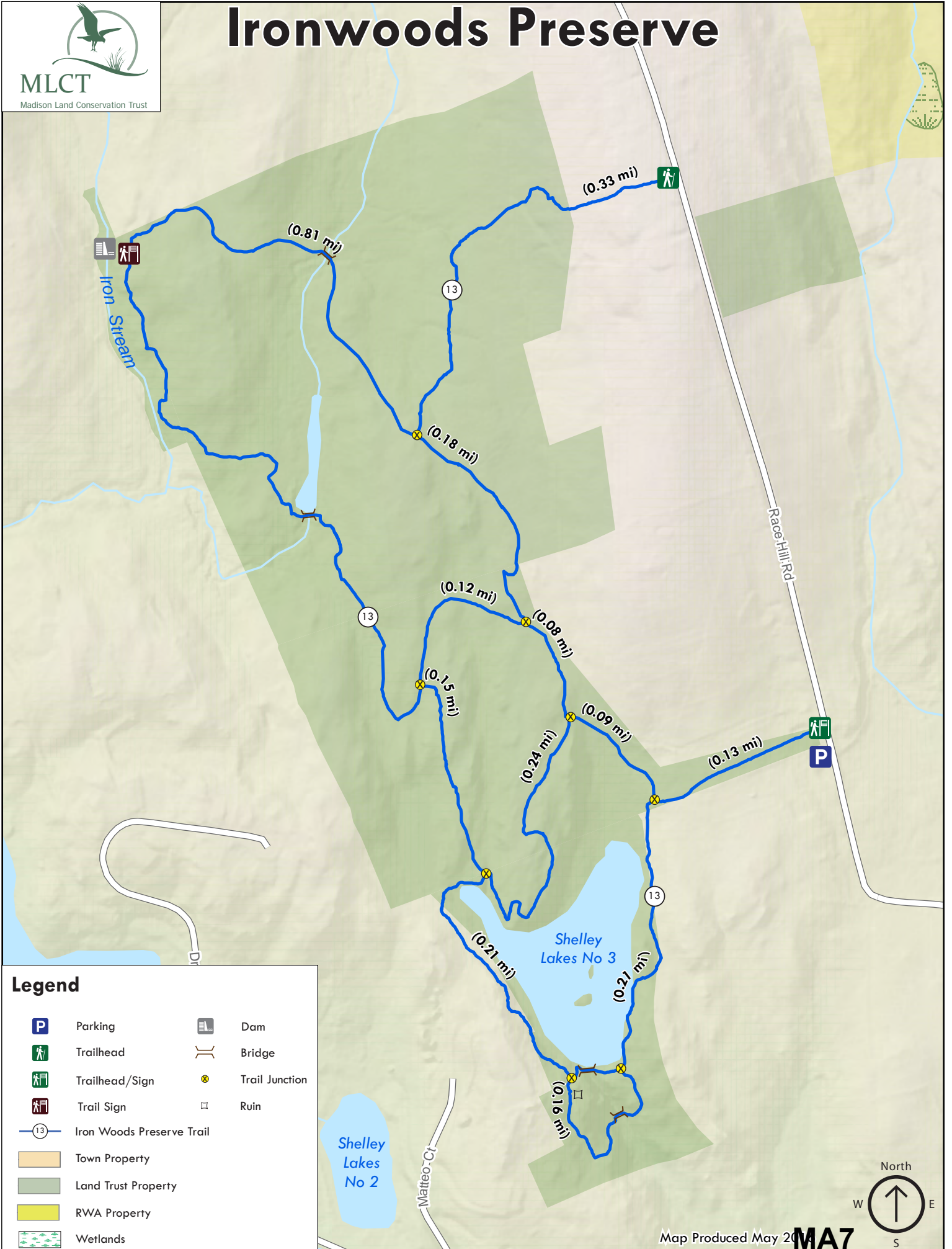
Historical Feature: Remnants of an early bog iron works

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

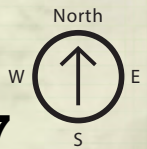


Ironwoods Preserve



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| | Parking | | Dam |
| | Trailhead | | Bridge |
| | Trailhead/Sign | | Trail Junction |
| | Trail Sign | | Ruin |
| | Iron Woods Preserve Trail | | |
| | Town Property | | |
| | Land Trust Property | | |
| | RWA Property | | |
| | Wetlands | | |



Oil Mill Brook

What to look for on the Oil Mill Brook Trail

From the trailhead, go east on Land Trust land across a small wetland and then pass through a forest of beech, oaks and red maple with mixtures of yellow and black birch and hickories. The trail skirts a wetland to the south and then enters State Forest. Follow the blue blazes carefully as many other paths cross the trail.

Soon the trail divides at the base of the first of two loops. The south (right) branch passes through a sapling thicket of young black birch, beech, oaks, and red maples that have developed in areas opened during earlier timber harvests. This block of state forest is under active management, and was thinned to stimulate tree regeneration. The left (north) branch is passed up and will be taken on return.

The two sides of the loop rejoin by an old hemlock snag. Continue east, through a stone wall, and ascend and cross a low knoll dominated by large tulip-poplar and oaks. Cross Oil Mill Brook (sometimes dry in mid-summer), which here flows northward out of a small pond lined with skunk cabbage, sedges and grasses, and ferns. A few yards to the east, the trail divides once again at the base of the second loop. Take the south branch (sharp right) through another stone wall, and over a gentle knoll. Once across the knoll, turn north (left) along an old woods road; the loop trail joins the woods road in a few yards. Continue along the road, cross Oil Mill Brook (this time flowing south). Some white pines in the understory here add diversity and winter cover for birds.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964



Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Photo by Prairie Moon Nursery

The Oil Mill Brook Trail is an easy trail through Land Trust land and State Forest and is a cross-over between Jefferson Park Road and Rt. 79. The trail crosses Oil Mill Brook twice, skirts a wetland and passes through a fine example of oak-hickory forest under management. Because the trail joins the northern trailhead of the Jefferson Park Trail, an extended hike is possible.

Category: An easy, relatively short trail with two small loops

Start: At trailhead 1 on Jefferson Park Road

Distance: About 0.6 miles, one way

Approximate Time: 1 hour from trailheads 1 to 2 and return

Parking: At the cul-de-sac on Jefferson Park Road

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

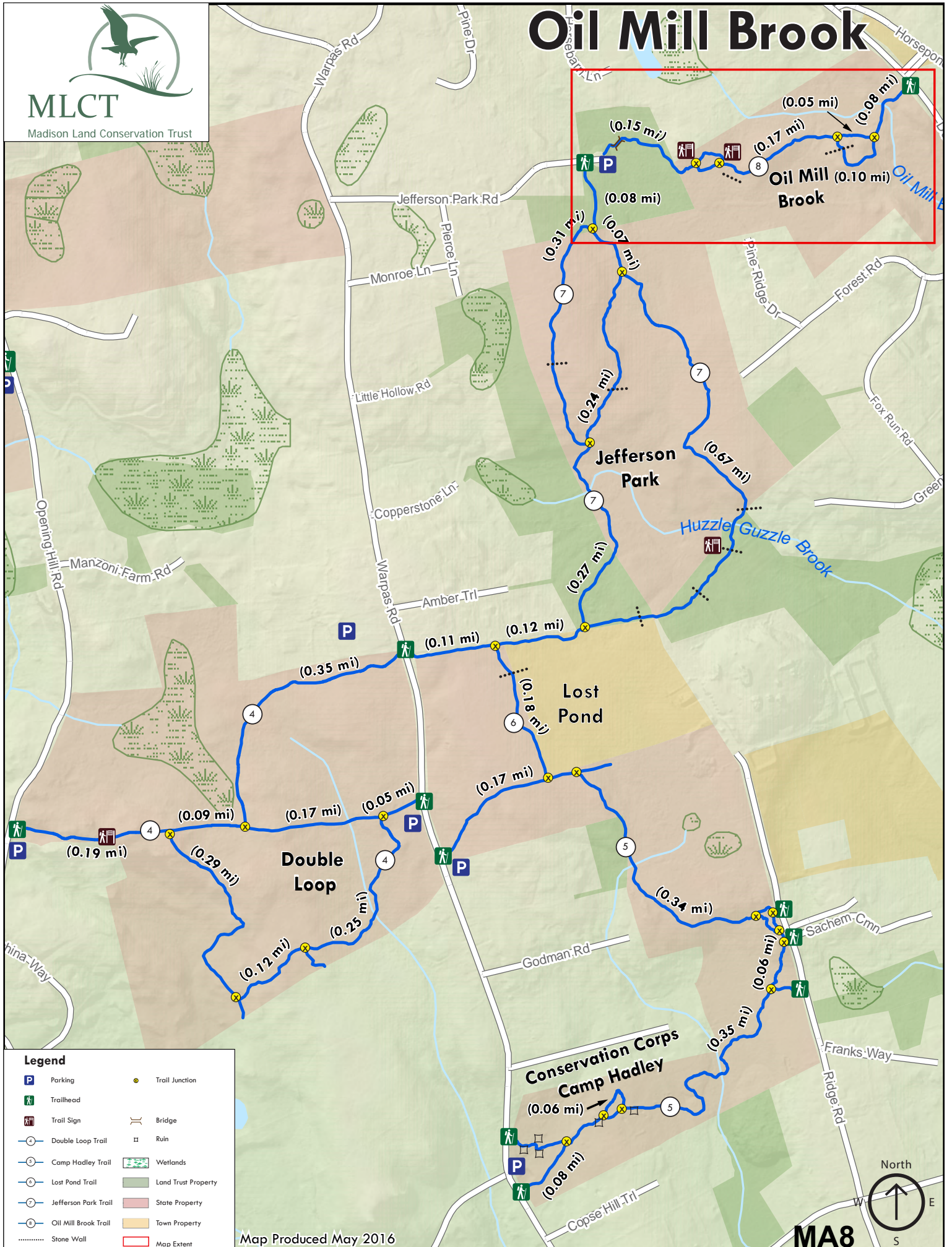




MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

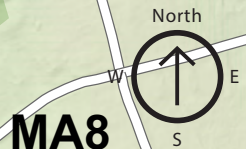
Oil Mill Brook



Legend

Parking	Trail Junction
Trailhead	Bridge
Trail Sign	Ruin
Double Loop Trail	Wetlands
Camp Hadley Trail	Land Trust Property
Lost Pond Trail	State Property
Jefferson Park Trail	Town Property
Oil Mill Brook Trail	Map Extent
Stone Wall	

Map Produced May 2016



Lost Pond

What to look for on the Lost Pond Trail

The trail is described as a loop, beginning at Trailhead 2 and then returning, either along Warpas Road, or back along the trail just traveled.

From Trailhead 2, the trail soon joins a woods road, ascends a slight rise, and then leaves the main woods road and bears left on a lesser-used road that approaches and eventually runs along the remnants of an old stone wall. Follow the blue blazes carefully as many old logging roads cross the path. Over the rise, the trail splits, with one branch turning sharply north, again along a stone wall. The branch straight ahead (east) continues for about 200 feet to where the Camp Hadley Trail joins from the south, and then to where, in another 200 feet, it terminates at a small pool (in spring) near the State Forest border. This is Lost Pond (!!) bordered on two sides by stone walls. Lost Pond, a small vernal pool, often contains many spotted salamander egg masses in spring.

Return to where the trail splits north (right) and follow the stone wall along state forest boundary. Logging in this area has created the open character of the stand. Note the abundant regeneration of birch and especially of beech sprouts. The trail soon joins with the Jefferson Park Trail and turns left (west) along "Old Ridge Road" (bounded on both sides by stone walls) to trailhead #1 near the Church of Latter Day Saints. Return to Trailhead 2 along Warpas Road, or by backtracking on the trail just traveled.

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Photo by Prairie Moon Nursery



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

The Lost Pond Trail is an easy, short trail through a managed block of State Forest, with a visit to Lost Pond, a small, beautiful vernal pool (spring only).

Category: An easy walk through state forest

Start: At either of the trailheads on Warpas Road

Distance: About 0.5 mile between trailheads; add another 0.2 mile to complete the loop along Warpas Road

Approximate Time: Less than 1 hour

Parking: On Warpas Road near the trailheads

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

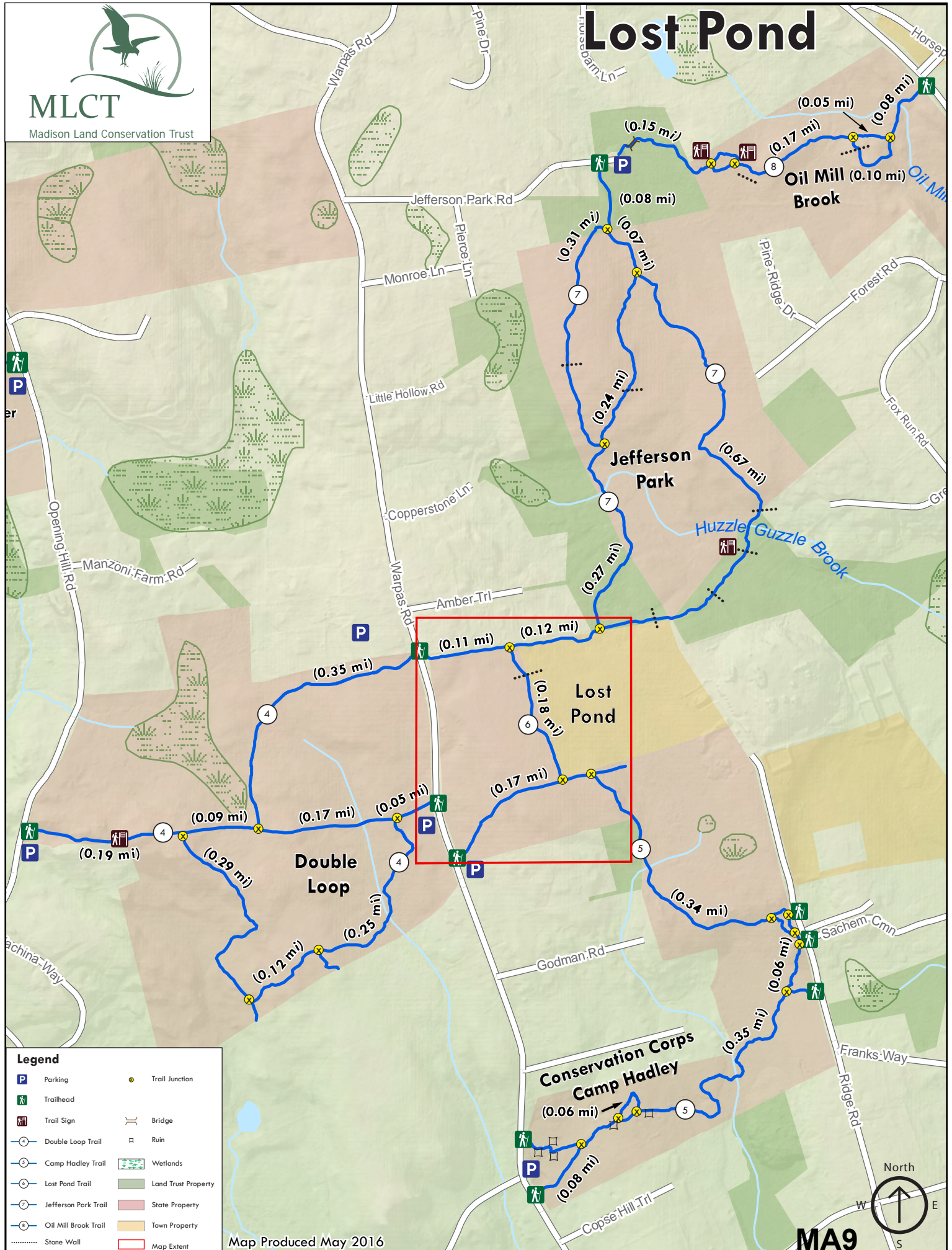




MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Lost Pond



Legend

Parking	Trail Junction
Trailhead	Bridge
Trail Sign	Ruin
Double Loop Trail	Wetlands
Camp Hadley Trail	Land Trust Property
Lost Pond Trail	State Property
Jefferson Park Trail	Town Property
Oil Mill Brook Trail	Stone Wall
Map Extent	

Map Produced May 2016

MA9



Double Loop Trail

What to look for on the Double Loop Trail

Begin at Trailhead 1, parallel to the churchyard and along an old stonewall. The State Forest here is under active management and, at intervals, is selectively harvested. Old stumps attest to earlier logging throughout the forest, and the path follows old logging roads in most places. Oaks, hickories and tulip-poplar trees dominate this section. Some areas, wet after heavy rains, are easily skirted. In such moister areas, yellow birch, black birch, American beech and red maples are common. Understories are rich in spicebush, blue beech and ironwood.

The many stone walls which are followed and crossed indicate that this area, as most of southern Connecticut, was once heavily agricultural. These walls once bordered fields and pastures. In about 0.4 mile the trail, now heading south, joins the "east-west" logging road trail. To the east (left) the trail leads to Trailhead #2 (0.2 mile) and forms the "north loop." Turning to the right (west), the trail leads to the junction of the "south loop" trail. At this junction, a spur trail continues west (straight) 0.2 mile to Trailhead #3 on Opening Hill Road.

The main trail turns sharply south (left) along the "south loop". This section proceeds along a ridge that drops off to either side, especially to the west (right). Where stone walls mark the junction of what were once four fields, turn right and descend to an area rich in black birch, red maple and beech (and large boulders left by the last glacier). Shortly, the trail again swings southward (left). At a point about 100 feet before the State Forest boundary, marked by another stone wall, turn sharply left (northeast) even though the more heavily used path continues straight ahead (south).

(Note: The well-used south path through private land, while not mapped, is blue-blazed and open to public hiking. Eventually, it splits to go either west or east. Turning west, it joins the Indigo Woods Trail, Trail 15 (within a Conservation Easement on private land); to the east it passes first east, then north over a high promontory and then down to Warpas Road, a few hundred yards from Trailhead 1 of the CCC Camp Hadley Trail).

The main trail, turning left (northeast), is less used, so look carefully for the blue blazes as it veers away and then again nears the State Forest border. Shortly after crossing a small stream flowing south, the trail swings northward, passing once more through stone walls, before joining the "east-west" logging road. Trailhead 2 is about 300 feet to the east (right). To the west, the logging road trail crosses a boggy area and small stream and then, at about 900 feet, joins the trails travelled earlier and then back to either Trailhead 1 or 3.



Tulip-Poplar Blossom

Photo by the Morton Arboretum

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964



Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Photo by Christopher Jennings Penders

The Double Loop Trail trail offers an easy walk through second-growth forests typical of our region. It provides an excellent example of a forest that has reclaimed former farmland. Many stonewalls reveal an extensive former field system. This is a good trail for a family outing. It has access to Lost Pond Trail.

Category: An easy walk with a few, easily-negotiated wet spots

Start: Trailhead 1 or 2 on Warpas Rd, south of the Church of Latter Day Saints, or Trailhead 3 on Opening Hill Rd

Distance: From Trailhead 1, counterclockwise around the southern loop to Trailhead 2: 1.2 miles; another 1/8 mile back to Trailhead 1 by Warpas Road

Approximate Time: About 1.5 to 2 hours

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

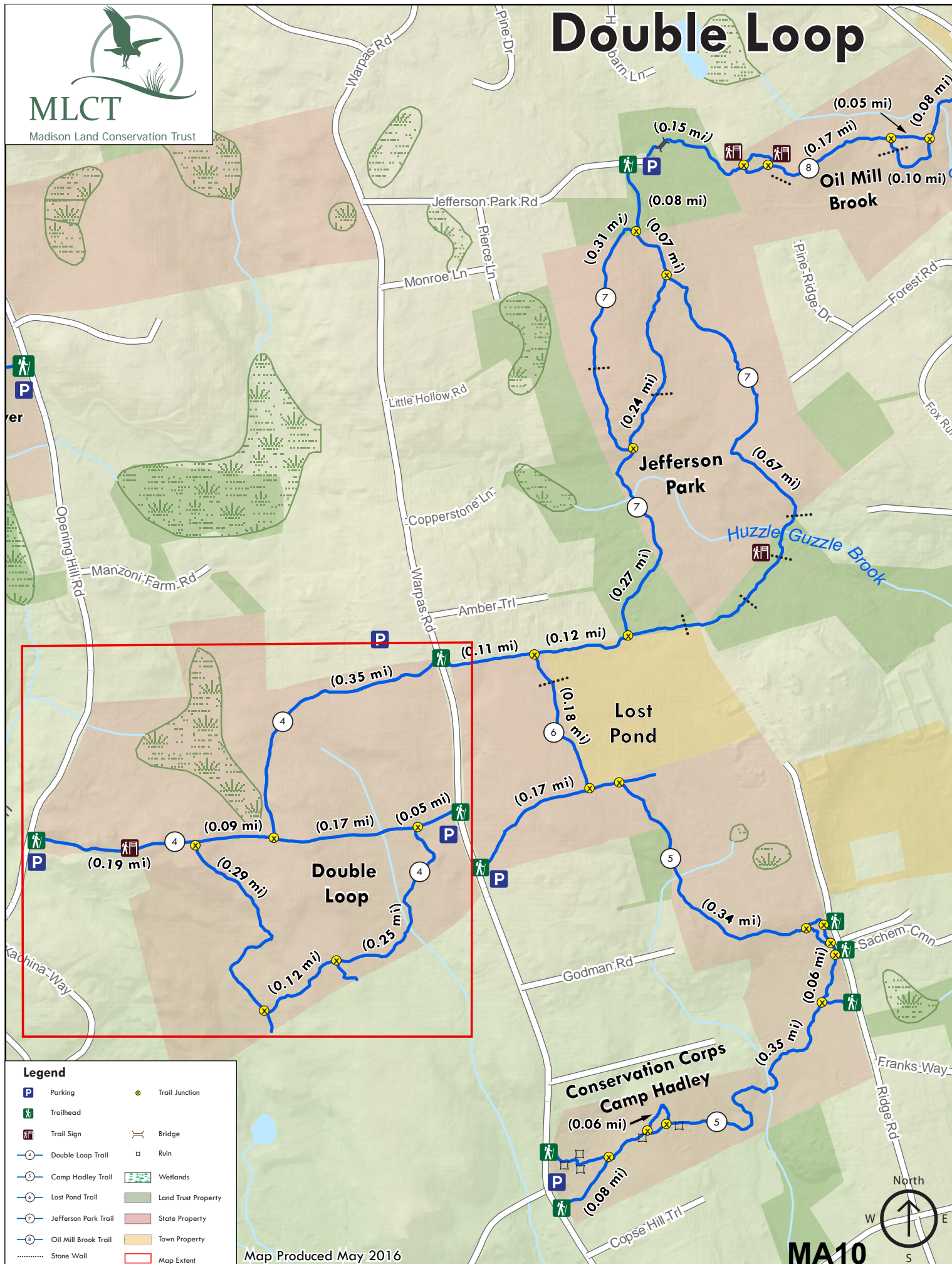




MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Double Loop



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Trail Sign
- Double Loop Trail
- Camp Hadley Trail
- Lost Pond Trail
- Jefferson Park Trail
- Oil Mill Brook Trail
- Stone Wall
- Trail Junction
- Bridge
- Ruin
- Wetlands
- Land Trust Property
- State Property
- Town Property
- Map Extent

Map Produced May 2016

MA10



Camp Hadley

What to look for on the Camp Hadley Trail

Just east (in the woods) of the parking turnout, and accessed by an old roadway, are the foundations of two Camp Hadley buildings: an apparent water pumping station on the north, and a vehicle maintenance shop to the south. A few feet behind these, in a wetland drainage area, is a raised slab of a probable well or spring house. Note the stone-lined and culverted stream beds, "landscaped" with arborvitae trees, that circumscribe the well house slab, and then lead to a firepond. The spur trail can be accessed here just north of the firepond, then follow the old roadbed trail 200 feet to where it joins the main trail from Trailhead 1.

From Trailhead 1 by the Camp Hadley sign, follow the blazes along the old hardtopped access road for 460 feet to where the road splits. The left fork (unblazed) leads to the first of two road loops that circle back to the main road and trail. (To the left of the road split, the spur trail cuts sharply back to the pond and the camp water supply system mentioned earlier.) Follow the right fork into the main encampment area. Almost immediately on the right is the collapsed stone chimney and fireplace of an "administrator's" cabin, one of several scattered to the south. The locations of these cabins, as well as other buildings and walkways are marked by yews and arborvitae that once decorated the camp.

A few feet beyond, and just before another road split, a descending stone stairway on the right leads to the probable location of a barracks building. Stone work and culverting in this lower area to the north reveal that it was once crisscrossed with roads and walkways.

Again, take the right fork and follow the trail, which soon splits, passing either to the left side of most of the camp ruins, or swings right, passing around through the camp before rejoining. Check the sketch map for details of building locations and probable uses—and note once more the landscape arborvitae and yews that guard the entrances and mark corners and walkways.

From the CCC camp, continue east following blue blazes, passing on the left a series of four excavations (whose former purpose is not clear), one with a stone-lined drainage ditch leading to a small pond, which in turn is drained. The trail enters a small clearing near the State Forest boundary and circles north and near the east end of the small pond, crossing the drainage ditch. Shortly thereafter, the trail cuts east to the banks of a wide, slow-moving stream and wetland. Follow the west bank of the stream carefully for about 100 feet to a step-stone crossing (difficult in times of high water). Once across, turn left and follow the trail first north and eventually northeast, where it ascends a few feet, passing near where some very large tulip poplar and oaks were cut in the 1997 harvest operation. Eventually (0.6 mile from Trailhead 1), at the crest of a ridge-knoll, the trail nears Ridge Road and the short spur to Trailhead 2. On the knoll top is a rock outcrop (C) where glimpses can be had of the forest just traveled. The trail parallels Ridge Road for nearly 300 feet to an old logging road. Here it turns either east (right) 175 feet to Trailhead 3 on Ridge Road, or west and then ascends gradually to higher ground by an old field corner marked by stone walls. Continue north to a wide stream crossing near State Forest boundary. This block of state forest was harvested in 1990. Note the young beech and other tree species that are now beginning to grow in the openings created when canopy trees were removed. A few hundred feet beyond, the trail ends where it joins Trail #6. (See the composite map to check the several options). To the right, Trail #6 ends in 200 feet; 200 feet to the left it branches, going either right (north) to join Trail #7 and exiting on Warpas Road near the Church of Latter Day Saints, or straight west back to Trailhead 2 (Trail #6) on Warpas Road. From Trailhead 2 back to the parking area along Warpas Road is 0.4 mile.

Conservation Corps Camp Hadley

Camp Hadley, one of 23 such camps in Connecticut, was built in 1935 by men billeted at an already established camp in Chatfield Hollow. About 200 young men between the ages of 18 and 25, including 18 supervisors and foremen, were assigned here. (Con't)

The CCC was a program of the WPA (Works Project Administration), established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the depression. This program provided employment for young men. Conservation jobs included creation of parks, road construction, etc. Camp Hadley men were of great benefit in cleaning up Madison after the 1938 hurricane.

The Corps ended when World War II began in 1941. The camp buildings, built to Army specifications, included large barracks, a mess hall, recreation hall, water pumping station, vehicle maintenance garage, latrine, cabins for camp superintendent and supervisors, chapel and several others.

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their



CCC Poster Painted by Harry Rossoll

The Camp Hadley Trail begins on Copse Road (Trailhead 1), passes through remnants of an historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp, and after reaching and paralleling Ridge Road (Trailheads 2 and 3), terminates at its junction with the Lost Pond Trail. From this point there are several options for either returning to Trailhead 1 or for continuing along one or more connecting trails.

Category: An easy walk with one muddy stream crossing

Start: Trailhead 1 on Copse/Warpas Roads

Distance: About 1.1 mile one way to junction with Trail #6; 1.5 mile if then return to Trailhead 1 by Trail #6 and Warpas Road

Approximate Time: About 1 hour, more if exploring the CCC camp

Parking: Pullout on east side of Warpas Road, just north of junction with Copse Road

Historical Features: Remains - foundation, excavations, stone walkways, etc. - of CCC Camp Hadley, established in 1935.

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

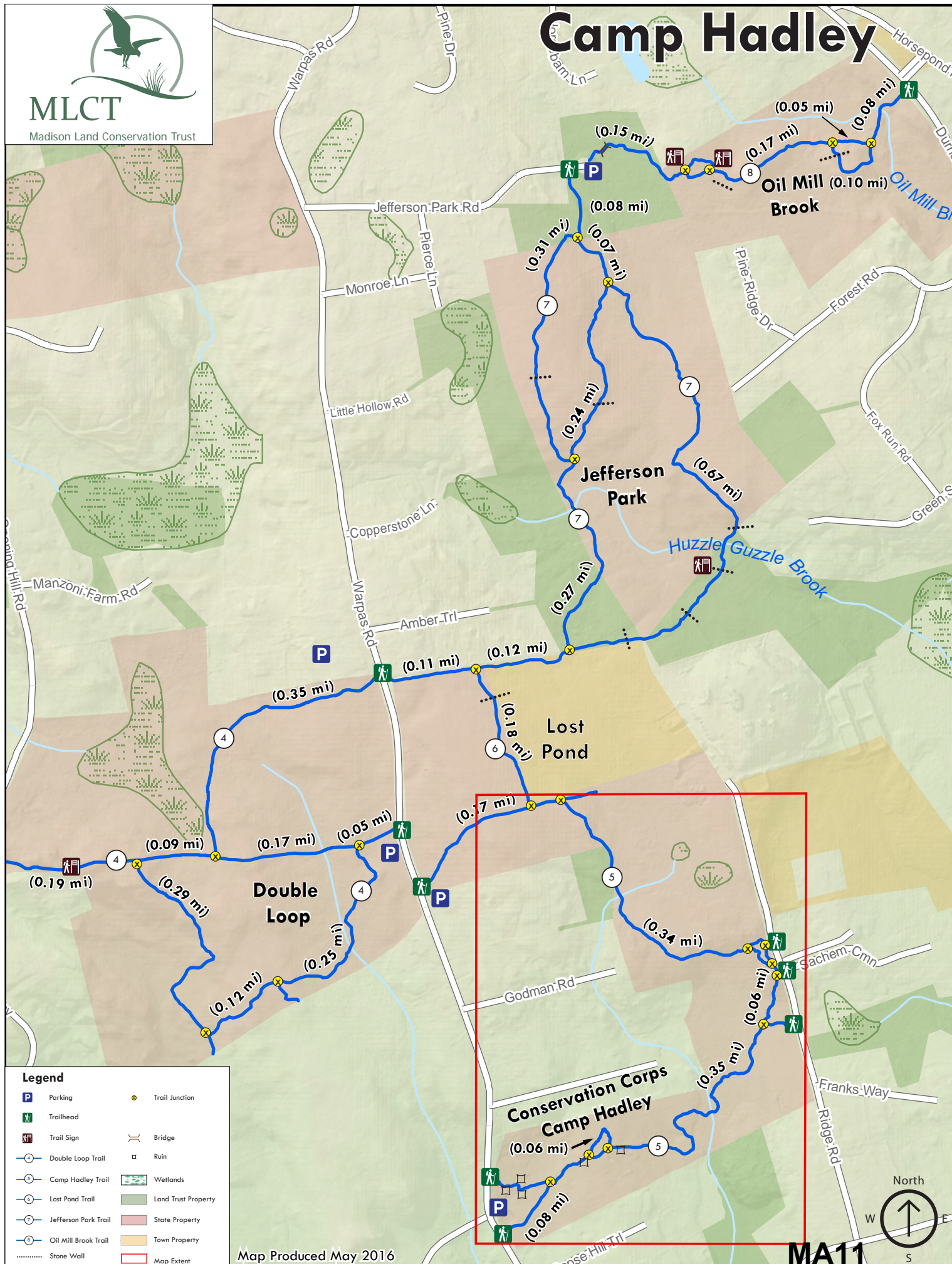




MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Camp Hadley

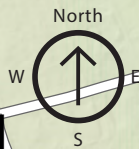


Legend

Parking	Trail Junction
Trailhead	Trail Sign
Ruin	Bridge
Double Loop Trail	Wetlands
Camp Hadley Trail	Land Trust Property
Lost Pond Trail	State Property
Jefferson Park Trail	Town Property
Oil Mill Brook Trail	Stone Wall
Map Extent	

Map Produced May 2016

MA11



Jefferson Park

What to look for on the Jefferson Park Trail

Begin at Trailhead 1, and proceed east along Old Ridge Road along State Forest on the south, and private lands on the north. The old road is bounded by stone walls on both sides. The first 600 feet of the trail is shared with Trail #6 (which then branches south to Lost Pond). Continue on the old road to where, in a spot muddy after heavy rain, the trail turns sharply left (north). Here, in this moister area, an occasional yellow birch occurs along with beech, red maple and tulip-poplar. Black birch and oaks are abundant here also. Pass through dense thickets of small trees and shrubs including witch-hazel, highbush blueberry, viburnums, dogwoods, beech sprouts, and red maple, and then cross a beautiful small intermittent stream and boggy area lined with skunk cabbage and false hellebore.

Pass another boggy spot before heading up a rise, where at about mid-slope, the trail splits to form the base of a large loop. Either branch will lead on to Trailhead 2. Take the right branch which cuts along the east-facing slope of a gentle ridge. Note the stumps of large beech trees along the way, and the dense stand of beech sprouts and saplings in the understory. The trail passes through a stone wall. The land here was cleared and probably pastured as it is too rocky to till. Ironwood is a very common understory tree in some areas. The trail opens onto the power line right-of-way, and with a quiet approach, especially in spring, one can often find deer grazing here. About 200 feet into the woods the trail meets the loop's western branch just by a stone wall. Either circle the loop and return to Trailhead 1, or proceed north on Land Trust land (500 feet) to the Jefferson Park trailhead which connects to the Oil Mill Brook Trail.

Returning to Trailhead 1 along the west branch of the loop, ascend the slope to its crest and follow the trail south to the power line and beyond. Dogwoods bloom along the opening's edges—revealing the importance of sunlight and air movement in drying foliage and preventing infection by the anthracnose fungus that has killed most of this species under forest canopies. Few dogwoods remain in our woods today. Pass through and along a stone wall before turning south once more and through another stone wall (the old field border system was extensive!). Descend the ridge to the base of the loop at mid-slope and return to Trailhead 1.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964



Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Photo by Josh Fecteau

The Jefferson Park Trail is an easy trail, passing through State Forest and Land Trust land. It offers an opportunity to see a number of diverse ecological settings. The forest is more remote than many, and thus provides an opportunity to see birds that require more solitude. Wetlands, streams, and upland forest knolls afford diversity of plant and animal life. The trail has a sizeable loop, the branches of which are quite different in character. An opening created by the power line right-of-way adds habitat preferred by several species of plants, birds and mammals. With a quiet approach, one can sometimes see deer grazing in the opening.

Category: An easy walk

Start: At the trailheads on Warpas Road and Jefferson Park Drive

Distance: 0.9 miles, one way

Approximate Time: 1 to 1.5 hours for round trip

Parking: Near trailheads on Warpas Road and Jefferson Park Drive

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

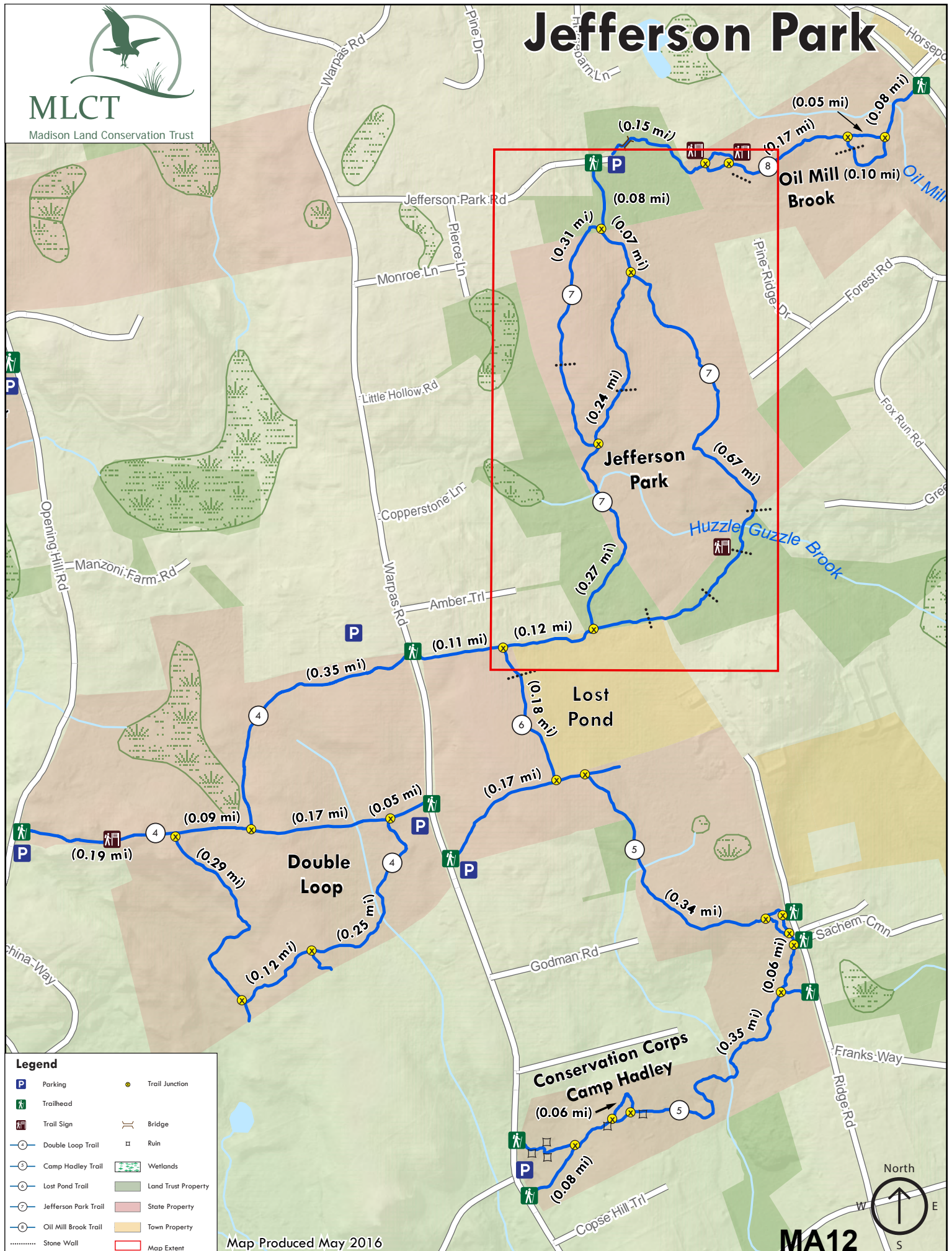




MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Jefferson Park



Legend

Parking	Trail Junction
Trailhead	Bridge
Trail Sign	Ruin
Double Loop Trail	Wetlands
Camp Hadley Trail	Land Trust Property
Lost Pond Trail	State Property
Jefferson Park Trail	Town Property
Oil Mill Brook Trail	Stone Wall
Map Extent	

Map Produced May 2016

MA12



Mica Ledges Trail

What to look for on the Mica Ledges Trail

Follow the dirt road south marked with the blue blazes of the Mattabasset "blue trail" for .1 mile to where it leaves the dirt road and heads west (right). Take care to **follow the blue blazes** as a number of woods roads and old trails cross the path. At the eastern base of a major north-south running ridge, the trail reaches **Pyramid Rock**, a large block of outcrop displaced from the ridge above by glacial forces 10,000 years ago. Here, just past the rock, the Red-blazed interior trail of Mica Ledges Preserve leads south (left). **Continue steeply upward** on the blue-blazed trail. Here hemlocks have been ravaged by the Woolly Adelgid. Many dead and dying trees attest to the debilitating and lethal effects of this insect invader. At the ridge top, **the trail swings southward** and, at times, breaks out into openings on the high granitic ledges that give the Preserve its name. Splendid views to the west of the valley below and the basaltic trap rock ridge beyond can be had from these heights.

About .5 mile from Pyramid Rock, in a sight saddle along the ridge, an red-blazed trail leads to the east (left) and down to Whitney Pond. This is Selectmen's Path referred to later. On the Mattabasset, just beyond this juncture, a cairn of stones marks the spot where the towns of Durham, Madison and Guilford share a common boundary. **A few yards south of the cairn**, the trail descends sharply and crosses a small, beautiful stream, then ascends steeply once more to bare rock and dry oak forest. At times, understory of huckleberry and blueberry give way to dense mountain laurel. Eventually, the trail dips and then rises very steeply through another ravine. Such ravines accumulate organic matter and eroding rock from above and consequently provide better growth conditions than on the thin-soiled exposed ridges sites. Note how much larger and better formed the trees are in such places. Once again, the trail breaks out on west facing ledges and continues south (eventually it crosses over to Bluff Head – the southern end of the trap rock ridge to the west).

Turn east (left) onto a Land Trust trail, marked with orange blazed. The species of pine ground here, pitch pine, is found in such places where moisture is limited and where fires occasionally occur. Heat helps the cones to open and disperse their seeds. This orange-marked trail is the **west end of the Maria Schmidt Memorial Trail**. Follow it east a few hundred feet to where a loop of the trail branches right and eventually rejoins the main trail just a short distance ahead.

The loop trail descends into a protected valley strewn with boulders whose rounded edges attest to their glacial transport and deposit. Follow the trail into Town of Madison open space and then upward onto a flat outcrop where in 1998 a fire burned for several days. Dead trees and a heavy grass cover now bear witness to the event.

Continue to where the loop rejoins the main trail and **proceed north (right)** and northeast through a forest with chestnut and red oaks now taller and of finer quality than on the ridge just traversed. As the trail descends into the sheltered, moist, northeast-facing valley, beech, red maple, and black and yellow birches become more abundant. The Maria Schmidt Memorial Trail ascends once more through laurel thickets on the ridge before ending at the east-west crossover trail that connects with the Mattabasset trail to the west (left), Whitney Pond to the east. **The south end** of the north-south running red trail that leads back to Pyramid Rock. **To the west**, 425 feet toward the Mattabasset, Selectmen's Path passes directly through the remains of an old charcoal mound revealed by a nearly circular area with darkened soil, charcoal fragments and very little vegetation. Just beyond, the trail crosses the bed of another intermittent stream and then gradually rises to join the Mattabasset trail near the western ledges. From the juncture of the Maria Schmidt trail and the crossover trail, hikers can **return to the trailhead** by the north-south red trail, or by continuing east to Whitney Pond and following the road system back north using Selectmen's Path.

The Red-blazed north-south trail

From Pyramid Rock go south, first along and through a great jumble of large rocks fallen from the ridge above, then, where the trail meets a logging road, turn sharply upslope to where a beautiful vernal pool with its backdrop of rocky outcrop and pitch pine presents and oriental and mystical appearance. (Con't)

The blazed trail travels up and to the south and passes, near the eastern drop-off, a series of caves formed by the fractured rock tallus. Beyond, the high dry oak forest with laurel thickets speaks to the thinness of the soil and to the general low water availability on these rocky ridges. The trail continues upward, passes by another vernal pool and then, turning east (left), eventually emerges into an opening where great views can be had to the east of the ancient central Connecticut Highlands Geologic Province. Mount Pisgah can be seen to the northeast. Pitch pines, scrub oaks and dry understory of blueberry, huckleberry, etc. are characteristic of these open, storm-swept sites. Follow the trail southward and then down to the east. Through the trees, especially in the dormant season, good views can be had of Whitney Pond. Follow the trail south the where it joins the east-west trail crossing from Whitney Pond to the Mattabasset Trail to the west at the junction of Maria Schmidt Trail.

Permitted Activities:

The trail areas in the MLCT/MxLT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.

The Mica Ledges trail complex is one of our most challenging and rewarding. Special features include marvelous views from high granite ledges to the east and especially to the west along the Mattabasset Blue Trail, great rock jumbles, several streams, vernal pools and a beautiful pond. Most of the trails are in Durham as only 17 acres of the 100-acre preserve are in Madison. In Madison, a bit south of the Maria Schmidt Memorial Trail, a section dips south into Town of Madison open space. Purchased and maintained jointly by the MLCT and the Middlesex Land Trust, Mica Ledges represents our first major joint venture with a neighboring Trust.

GPS Directions: 59-69 Cream Pot Rd., Durham, CT 06422

Category: A series of trails varying in difficulty from easy woodland to difficult inclines and high rock outcrops with splendid views.

Start: Trailhead at the cul-de-sac parking lot of Cream Pot Road in Durham at trailhead kiosk J1.

Distance: Distances ranging from about 1.2 miles to 2.5 miles depending on choice of trails.

Approximate time: 2-3 hours to cover the main trail system

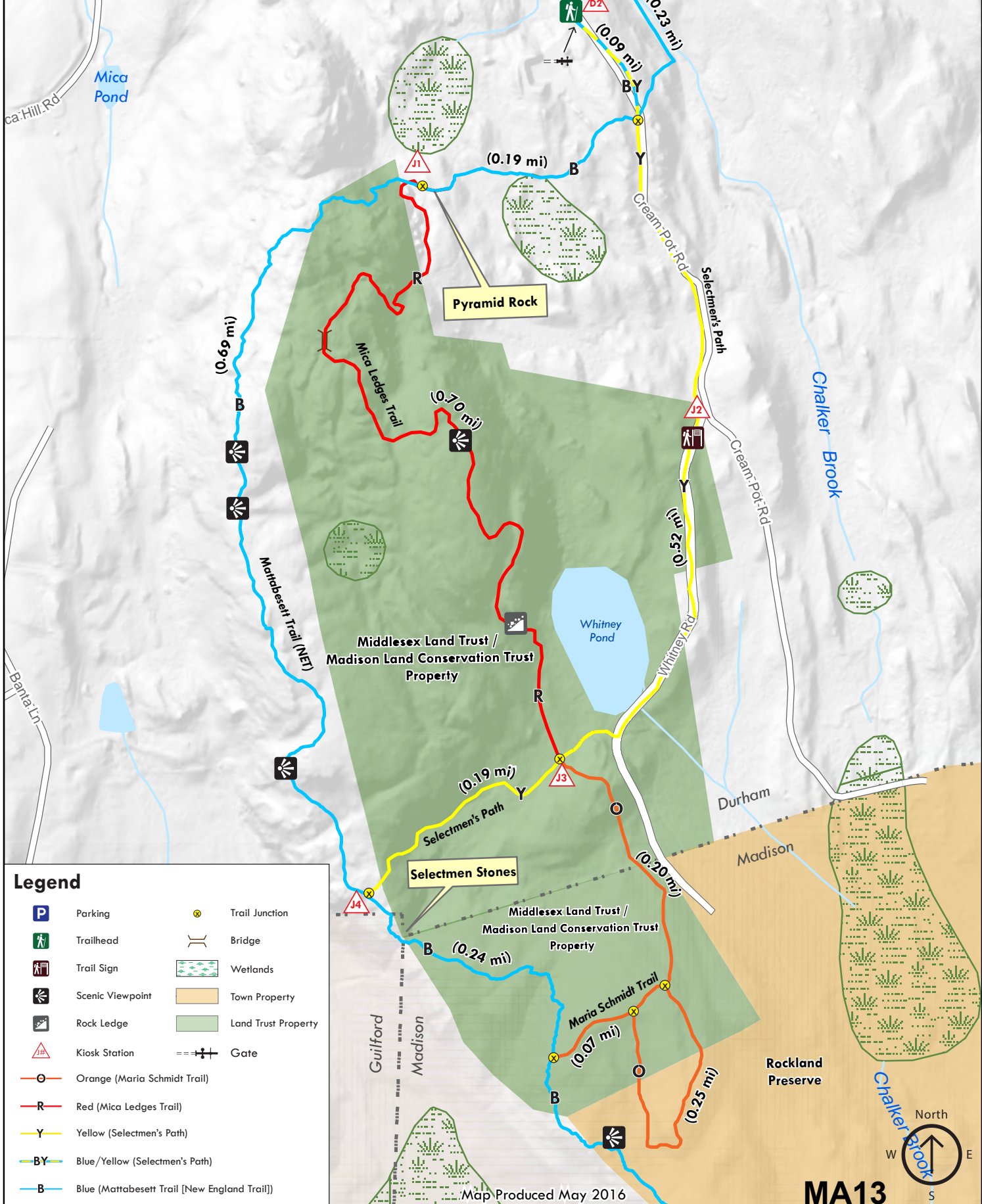
Parking: At the cul-de-sac on Cream Pot Rd

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org or
Middlesex Land Trust
www.middlesexlandtrust.org



Mica Ledges Trails



Legend

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| Parking | Trail Junction |
| Trailhead | Bridge |
| Trail Sign | Wetlands |
| Scenic Viewpoint | Town Property |
| Rock Ledge | Land Trust Property |
| Kiosk Station | Gate |
| Orange (Maria Schmidt Trail) | |
| Red (Mica Ledges Trail) | |
| Yellow (Selectmen's Path) | |
| Blue/Yellow (Selectmen's Path) | |
| Blue (Mattabesett Trail [New England Trail]) | |

Neck River

What to look for on the Neck River trail

Begin by walking west on a State Forest woods road. Almost immediately, the trail passes through the remnants of a red pine plantation. A few trees have survived the intense competition from hardwoods, but their small crowns suggest that their battle will be lost before long. (Indeed, most of these red pines are scheduled for harvest in 1999.) Soon, near a group of large rocks, the trail splits—one branch leads south, the other continues along the woods road. South, the trail forms a loop and rejoins the woods road 500 feet ahead (which then proceeds on to join the Blinshed Ridge Trail).

Follow the loop trail counterclockwise by proceeding straight west along the woods road. Through this section, the forest is primarily oak and hickory with understories dominated by blue beech, ironwood, American beech, dogwood and red maple. At one point, a group of grey birch reveals where a fire occurred sometime in the past. Gradually, the presence of white pines, both large and small, affirms that this area was planted earlier. These conifers impart a unique character to the forest, especially in winter.

In a grove of pines, just before reaching a stream crossing, the loop trail turns left and follows the stream to its junction with the Neck River. Straight ahead, the woods road trail continues west where, in 800 feet, it joins the Blinshed Ridge Trail.

(On the way to the Blinshed Ridge Trail, the woods road crosses the stream, bears right and then left near a large rock outcropping to the north. The broad spreading crowns of the trees by the outcrop reveal that these trees developed in the open without competition. This former “openness” is indicated also by the presence of red-cedar and black cherry trees which grew from seeds deposited in open fields by birds. The end of the outcrop marks the junction with the Blinshed Ridge Trail and its loop).

Take the Neck River Trail loop south (left) along the tributary stream. For some distance the trail will follow wetlands on the right delineated by skunk cabbage, false helebore and spicebush. Marsh marigolds (cowslips) line the margins of the flowing streams.

Near where the small stream meets the Neck River, the trail passes directly through what was an old charcoal pit. Charcoal is still evident in the soil and the remains of several grey birches also indicate that fire occurred here. Several other charcoal pits are scattered through this stand and are unusually well-defined by their raised shape and circumscribing ditch.

The trail passes through thickets of grey dogwood, young black birch and some wild azalea, high bush blueberry and witch-hazel—excellent cover for birds. The continued presence of conifers—white pine and then Norway spruce—indicates that most of this block of forest was planted. Conifers provide roosting and nesting cover for several bird species including blue jays, owls and grouse, and add a diversity unique to this part of Connecticut. A harvest was conducted in 1999 to remove trees that were suppressing growth of the conifers.

The river here is slow-moving—a few bouldery riffles provide cover for aquatic life and delightful water music. Where a large beech tree leans out over the river, the trail swings east (left) along the southern end of the loop near the State Forest border (indicated by yellow blazes, metal tags, and eventually by a barbed-wire fence and stonewall). The trail bears north again where the stonewall ends, then very shortly, splits to form a small loop. The path ahead (left branch) leads to the junction by the big rocks. If you take this “cross-over” branch, note the very large pines. Perhaps these are the parents of some of the understory trees. However, with some imagination, many of the small pines appear to be in rows, indicating that they probably were planted. Look also for a charcoal mound marked by an interpretive sign.

Going to the right around the small loop, pass some very large tulip-poplar and some yellow birch trees, and turn north along a stone wall. Continue by the edge of a wetland to the “cross-over” trail junction. Bear right, past a few red pine trees to the woods road junction near the large rocks, and then by turning right, return to the trailhead.

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

The Neck River Trail offers a remarkable variety of ecological settings including a lovely stretch along the Neck River, a forest rich in conifers including pines and spruce, and sections of oak-hickory forest more typical of our area. This is an excellent family walk, and for those wishing a more extensive hike, the trail joins the Blinshed Ridge Trail to the west.

Category: An easy walk along the Neck River and one of its tributaries

Start: At the trailhead on Opening Hill Road

Distance: From the Opening Hill Rd. trailhead west, around the outer loop trail and return: 1.1 miles. Add another 0.1 mile to the junction with the Blinshed Ridge Trail

Approximate Time: 1 hour

Parking: Parking Lot at the beginning of the trail

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

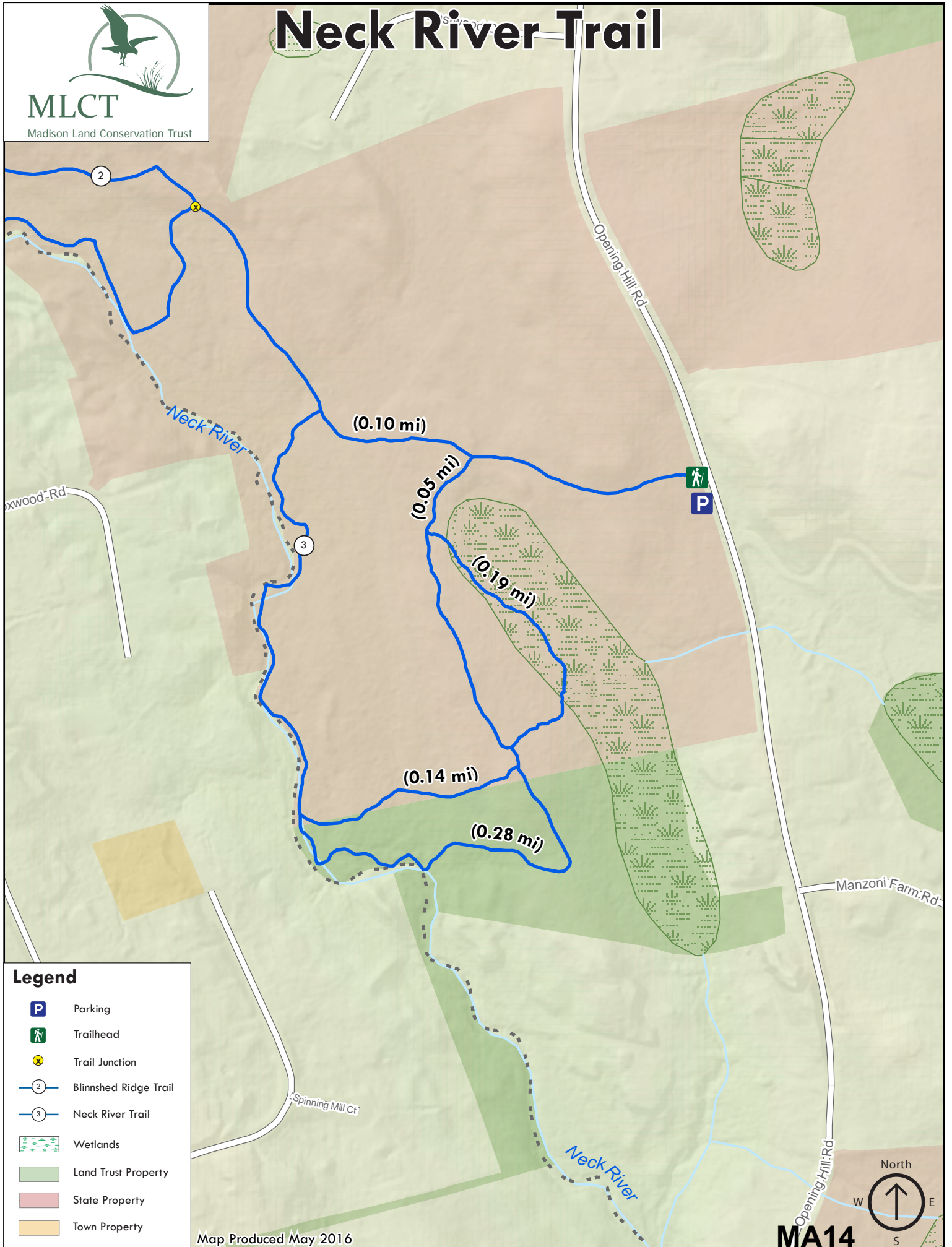




MLCT

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Neck River Trail



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Trail Junction
- Blinshed Ridge Trail
- Neck River Trail
- Wetlands
- Land Trust Property
- State Property
- Town Property

Map Produced May 2016

MA14

Neck River Uplands North

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.

What to look for on the Neck River Uplands Trails

This 115 acre preserve lies in the geographic center of Madison, immediately west of Route 79. It contains two parcels, one lying north of Route 80, the other, south.

The topography of the Uplands is determined by undulating bedrock, which forms very close ridges and plateaus oriented north-south. These features influence the flora and fauna of these areas. The dry plateaus and rocky ridges have thin soil, so rainwater quickly drains downhill, leaving little moisture behind. But slow-growing chestnut and red oaks, along with some beech and red maples, create a lacy canopy overhead. The fruits of these trees offer a high calorie source of fats and carbohydrates that help deer put on weight as colder weather approaches. Turkeys scratch and strut here, and chipmunks whistle as they scurry along old stone walls to store provisions for the winter. Squirrels and white-footed mice live comfortably on the acorns, and hickory and beech nuts, dropped from above. But the web of life in the Uplands allows birds and rodents to fall prey to coyotes and their smaller relatives, the foxes. Numerous rocky overhangs offer ideal den sites for these canines.

Trees on the plateaus do suffer from exposure and the dry conditions. The death of some benefits the many woodpeckers that work on these snags. The cavities they create provide nesting sites for themselves and others, such as chickadees. Fallen trees and logs provide dens for opossums and raccoons. Just below the trees, mountain laurel, witch hazel, and highbush blueberries make the most of any remaining moisture. And of course, the deer love to browse on the blueberries.

From the high areas, slopes divert run-off into streams. In the northern parcel, three beautiful creeks flow into the Neck River. Likewise, three smaller streams also make their way to the river in the southern property. These inclines limit shrub growth and result in more open areas. The cracks and crevices of many rocky outcrops offer shelter for bats and snakes. Increased moisture gives rise to a greater variety of trees. The slopes afford them some protection, so fewer snags develop.

Both parcels contain the remains of historic roads. In the northern parcel, just west of Route 79, the Durham Turnpike makes its way parallel to Route 79. This roadway was in use by 1811, providing a connection between the Madison town green and Durham. In 1825, the Killingworth-Fair Haven Turnpike cut an east-west route across the Durham Turnpike. This runs parallel to Route 80 in the southern parcel.

Both of these areas provide so much to see and appreciate. Hikers, runners, and birdwatchers can enjoy the Uplands, and winter snow makes some of the trails suitable for snow shoeing and cross-country skiing.

These trails explore streams that flow between three plateaus. Upland areas are also traversed. Traveling south from Trailhead 1, hikers become familiar with most of the common features of this trail system. Tall tulip trees are part of the mixed hardwoods along this eastern-most tributary of the Neck River. Ferns cover wet, rocky areas along the stream, while massive rocky outcrops provide shelter and den sites for mammals.



Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

The photo above shows a 30' high section of exposed ledge

GPS Directions: 45 Princess Drive, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Longer walk with a number of step-stone crossings of streams.

Start: Trailhead 1, the recommended access is on the left (Southern) side of Princess Drive.

Distance: About 2.2 miles

Approximate Time: 1-2 hours

Parking: Parking available on Princess Drive.

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org



Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964

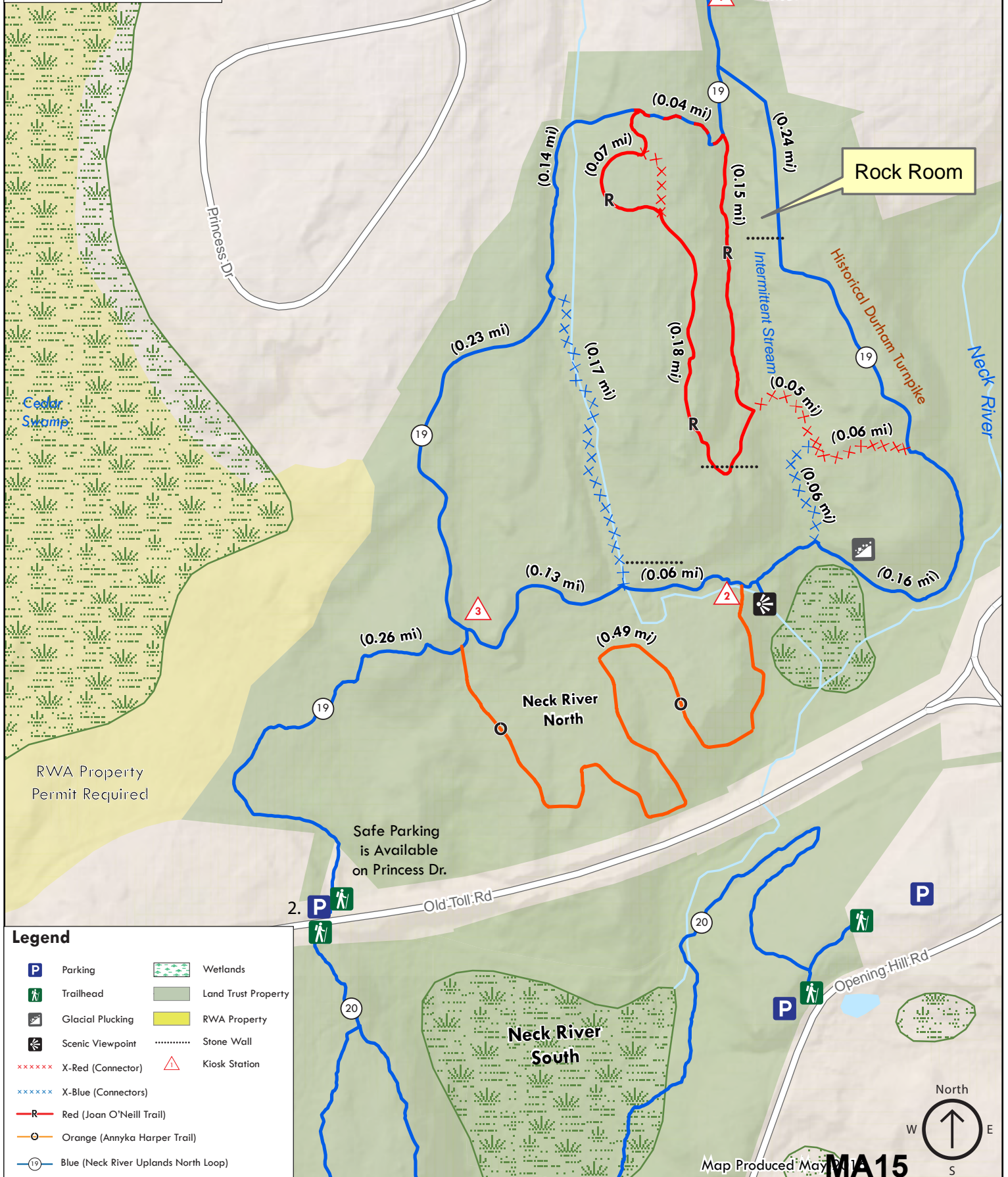




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Neck River Uplands North Trail



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Glacial Plucking
- Scenic Viewpoint
- X-Red (Connector)
- X-Blue (Connectors)
- Red (Joan O'Neill Trail)
- Orange (Annyka Harper Trail)
- Blue (Neck River Uplands North Loop)
- Wetlands
- Land Trust Property
- RWA Property
- Stone Wall
- Kiosk Station



Map Produced May 2015

Neck River Uplands South

What to look for on the Neck River Uplands Trails

This 115 acre preserve lies in the geographic center of Madison, immediately west of Route 79. It contains two parcels, one lying north of Route 80, the other, south.

The topography of the Uplands is determined by undulating bedrock, which forms very close ridges and plateaus oriented north-south. These features influence the flora and fauna of these areas. The dry plateaus and rocky ridges have thin soil, so rainwater quickly drains downhill, leaving little moisture behind. But slow-growing chestnut and red oaks, along with some beech and red maples, create a lacy canopy overhead. The fruits of these trees offer a high calorie source of fats and carbohydrates that help deer put on weight as colder weather approaches. Turkeys scratch and strut here, and chipmunks whistle as they scurry along old stone walls to store provisions for the winter. Squirrels and white-footed mice live comfortably on the acorns, and hickory and beech nuts, dropped from above. But the web of life in the Uplands allows birds and rodents to fall prey to coyotes and their smaller relatives, the foxes. Numerous rocky overhangs offer ideal den sites for these canines.

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From the high areas, slopes divert run-off into streams. In the northern parcel, three beautiful creeks flow into the Neck River. Likewise, three smaller streams also make their way to the river in the southern property. These inclines limit shrub growth and result in more open areas. The cracks and crevices of many rocky outcrops offer shelter for bats and snakes. Increased moisture gives rise to a greater variety of trees. The slopes afford them some protection, so fewer snags develop.

Both parcels contain the remains of historic roads. In the northern parcel, just west of Route 79, the Durham Turnpike makes its way parallel to Route 79. This roadway was in use by 1811, providing a connection between the Madison town green and Durham. In 1825, the Killingworth-Fair Haven Turnpike cut an east-west route across the Durham Turnpike. This runs parallel to Route 80 in the southern parcel.

Both of these areas provide so much to see and appreciate. Hikers, runners, and birdwatchers can enjoy the Uplands, and winter snow makes some of the trails suitable for snow shoeing and cross-country skiing.

These trails explore streams that flow between three plateaus. Upland areas are also traversed. Traveling south from Trailhead 1, hikers become familiar with most of the common features of this trail system. Tall tulip trees are part of the mixed hardwoods along this eastern-most tributary of the Neck River. Ferns cover wet, rocky areas along the stream, while massive rocky outcrops provide shelter and den sites for mammals.



Permitted Activities:

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Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

The photo above shows the Neck River south of Route 80

GPS Directions: 830 Opening Hill Rd., Madison, CT 06443

Category: Moderate walk with some rocky and root covered stretches.

Start: Trailhead 1, the recommended access to this parcel, is on the northern side of Opening Hill just west of Route 79.

Distance: About 1.2 miles

Approximate Time: 1 hour

Parking: Near Trailhead 1 on Opening Hill Road

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

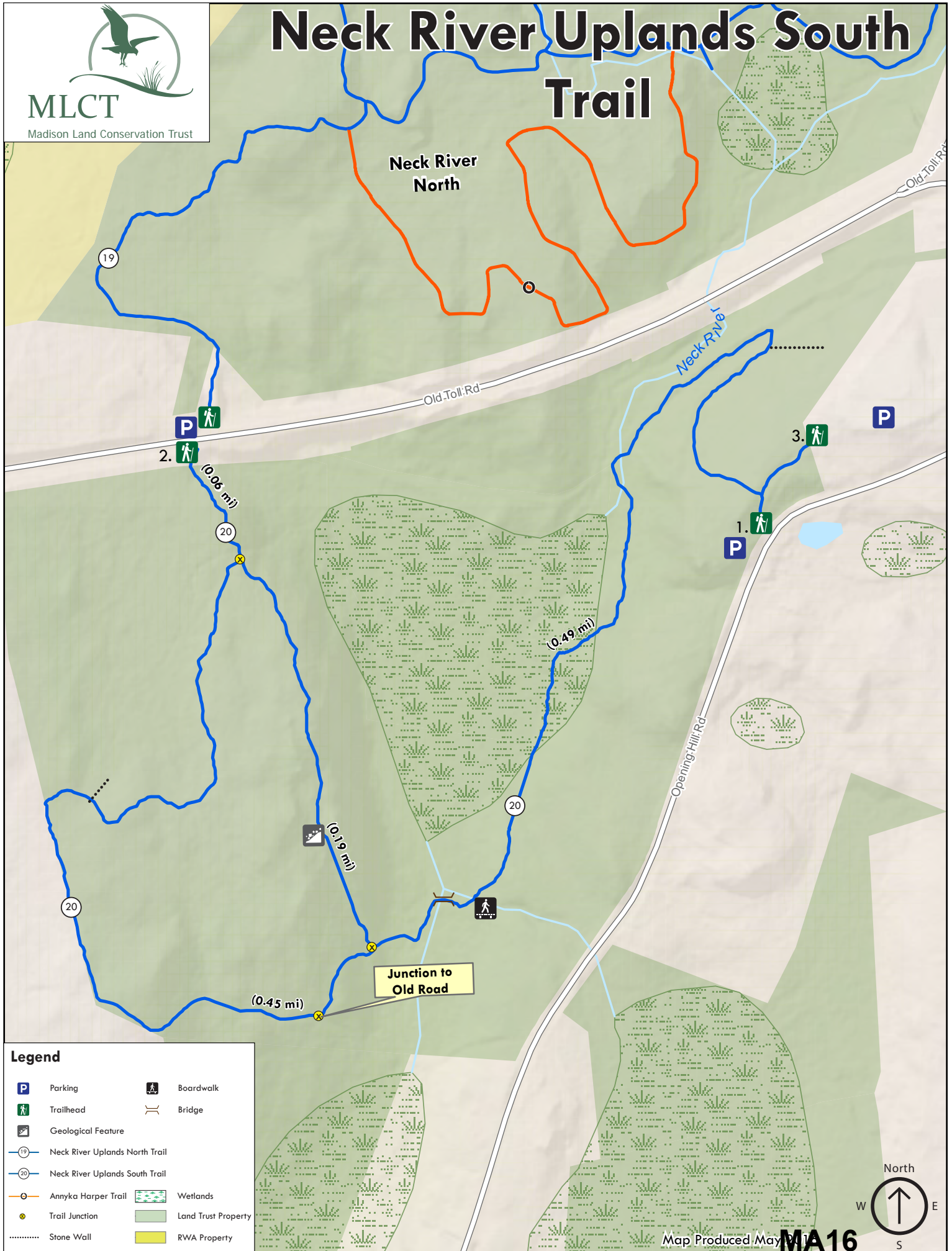




MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Neck River Uplands South Trail



Neck River North

Neck River

Old Toll Rd

Opening Hill Rd

Junction to Old Road

Legend

Parking	Boardwalk
Trailhead	Bridge
Geological Feature	Wetlands
Neck River Uplands North Trail	Land Trust Property
Neck River Uplands South Trail	RWA Property
Annyka Harper Trail	
Trail Junction	
Stone Wall	



Overbrook Trail

What to look for on the Overbrook Trail

This trail is a complex of several loops. Consequently, there are several places where decisions will need to be made about which route, or trail branch, to take. The trail is described as traveling counterclockwise along the peripheral trails. From Trailhead 2 (Overbrook Rd.), enter and turn right. The forest here was once farmland (note the old stone walls on the right). Old fields have reverted to forests whose composition is determined in large part by available soil moisture. Large tulip-poplar trees are common in the moist forest first encountered. Note the thicket created by the viney growths of poison ivy, bittersweet, greenbriar, honeysuckle, multiflora rose and grape. While many of these plants are invasive exotics, the thicket does provide great cover for birds.

Continue west through an area that drains this side of the forest, and then gradually ascend into the forest dominated by birch, oak and hickory. The path splits—the right fork goes west and eventually loops back to join the other. Take the right option. Note the scattering of rocks, reminders that glaciers once moved across our region. At the top of the rise, where the trail bends sharply left, the soil is thinner and drier. Drought-tolerant chestnut oaks, with their deeply fissured bark, are common here.

Follow the trail to where the “cross-over” trail enters on the left.

(The trail straight ahead, to the east, follows an old woods road about 500 feet before turning southward to join the trail along the State Forest/MLCT boundary near the southeast corner of the State Forest.) Turn right and proceed south; note the many dogwoods that are dead or in poor condition. Dogwood anthracnose disease, caused by a fungus believed to have originated in Asia, appeared first in the late 1970s and nearly eliminated understory dogwoods in Connecticut and elsewhere.

Continue to where stone walls mark the corner of four former fields or pastures. Here, the choice is to either turn left, following the State Forest boundary east, or pass through the walls onto MLCT land. The ‘eastern’ trail joins the longer, western loop later. Pass through the stone wall and follow the winding trail over the slight rise and then down to an overlook. Here, choose either to turn sharp left (east) along the overlook, or descend the steep bank to the pond.

Descend to pondside and bear left along the old road. A short walk on the trail permits close views of aquatic life along the south side of this beautiful pond, excellent breeding habitat for salamanders and frogs. It drains into an extensive wetland to the south.

Continue eastward from the pond along the old road bordering the wetland. In spring, a yellow haze of spice bush flowers overtops bright green masses of skunk cabbage; in the fall, witchazel flowers create a similar effect. Where the trail diverges temporarily from the wetland, the “overlook” trail joins from the left. Note the many rocky “stream tracks” leading down from the high ground to the north. Centuries of water-flow have washed away the soil, exposing rocks whose rounded shapes reflect the grinding by glaciers 10 millenia ago. Along the way, near laurel thickets, the path is crossed by several ‘seeps,’ one of which is fed by an active spring nearby.

(Where the trail turns northward (left), the trail along the State Forest boundary heads left, .25 mile back to the “four-fields corner.”)

Continue across a small stream and then sharply north close to the eastern State Forest border, marked by stone walls. The trail bends right and then left, marking the short spur trail to Trailhead 1 on Colonial Rd. Exit here or continue the short distance (about 800 feet) to Trailhead 2. The path between the trailheads passes by a wetland to the west and, once again, through a stand of large tulip poplar.

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964



Permitted Activities:

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Photo by Thomas Bollinger of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Overbrook Trail is a complex trail offering a good opportunity to explore several different forest settings. It passes through both wet-mesic and dry areas, visits a beautiful small pond, and runs by an extensive wetland. A network of stone walls attests to an active agricultural history.

GPS Directions: 81 Overbrook Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: An easy walk with one optional

Start: Trailhead at the cul-de-sac on Riverside Terrace

Distance: Perimeter distance is 1.1 miles

Approximate Time: About 1.5 hours; more if interior trails are explored

Parking: Near the trailheads on Colonial Drive and Overbrook Road

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

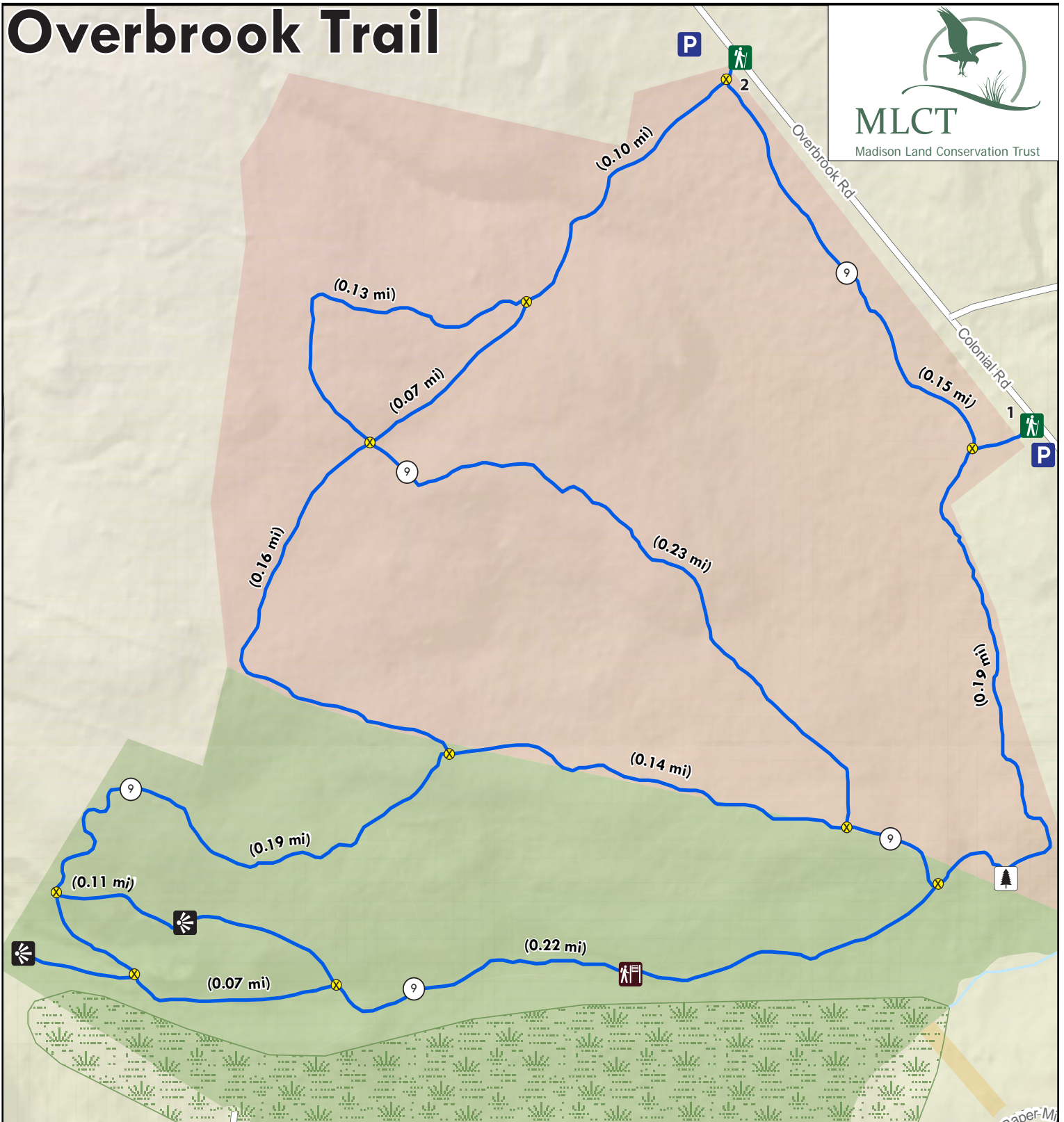


Overbrook Trail



MLCT

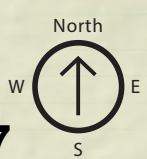
Madison Land Conservation Trust



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------|
| | Parking | | Trail Sign |
| | Trailhead | | Tulip Trees |
| | Scenic viewpoint | | Trail Junction |
| | Overbrook Trail | | |
| | State Property | | |
| | Town Property | | |
| | Land Trust Property | | |
| | Wetlands | | |

Map Produced May 2016



MA17

Ox Pasture Sanctuary

What to look for on the Ox Pasture Sanctuary

The five and one-half acre parcel which the Land Trust has designated the "Ox Pasture" lies in the marsh area near the confluence of the East and Neck Rivers where Bailey Creek joins the Neck River. It is contiguous with other parcels held by the Trust – a total of approximately 90 acres in these marshes. The Ox Pasture Sanctuary itself is elevated dry land, surrounded by marsh with the exception of the access strip from Garnet Park. The observation platform is approached from trailhead to the east. The view from the platform reveals the course of Bailey Creek immediately to the west and north of the structure. Farther to the west, across the marsh, the East River is visible. The house on Grass Island, a classic shoreline landmark, can just be made out where the East River flows into Guilford Harbor. Across the marsh to the northwest lies Cedar Island and the northerly view is generally bounded by the Amtrak/Metro North tracks. The Neck River passes to the south of the platform. Insects, including ticks, are plentiful during warmer months. Efforts are made to control poison ivy along the trail and in the immediate vicinity of the viewing platform. Nevertheless poison ivy is quite common in the area and should be avoided at all times.

History

From colonial times even up to the early twentieth century, oxen were used to mow and haul salt hay in the marshes. The Ox Pasture is so named because it was used as pasture for these animals by early landowners, including members of two prominent Madison families, the Mungers and the Dudleys. This haying activity has a special resonance for Madison residents because of its portrayal in a classic WPA mural located in the Madison post office. Even earlier use of the property is evidenced by the presence of Native American "middens", prehistoric deposits of clamshells and charcoal dating back at least to the 1400s. The first recorded purchase of the land was from the Hammonasset tribe in 1641.

In 1950, the property was acquired by Almon Miner Lippincott, a local house painter and avid aviation enthusiast. His mother, Grace Lippincott, was well known as a published Madison poet. Lippincott was prohibited from using local public airfields because he was deaf and mute. He built a hangar and an airstrip long enough to accommodate his Piper Cub. He used these until he stopped flying in the early seventies. The hangar fell into disrepair. Nevertheless, before its eventual collapse, it remained a prominent landmark for canoeists of the lower Neck River and Bailey Creek. The concrete apron, which supported the hangar, still remains and today serves as the foundation for a wildlife observation platform, which was erected by the Trust. The MLCT acquired the property in 1994. Part of the funding for the property was provided through a grant from the Long Island Sound License Plate Fund.

Features and Ecology

The Ox Pasture is a portion of the marsh complex of the East and Neck Rivers. Geologically, it is of relatively recent origin. Sequential retreats of the glaciers beginning about 22,000 years ago left two rocky deposits or moraines which eventually became Long Island and the Connecticut shoreline. The area between them formed a freshwater lake. About 11,000 years ago a break in the moraine drained the lake and allowed salt water to enter producing Long Island Sound. The evolution of sandy extensions and dunes formed barrier beaches or coastal strands such as the East River Beach that absorb the wave action of Long Island Sound and provide relatively calm environments, where sediments can settle, plants can root and tidal marshes develop. This development of the saltwater marshes including the Ox pasture only took place within the last few thousand years. (Source: Lapin report 1993)

Wildlife in the Ox Pasture is abundant although not always visible. It supports a population of turtles, muskrats, otters, rabbits as well as a variety of resident and migratory birds such as osprey, ducks, geese, herons and rails. Glossy ibis find the area particularly attractive. In the autumn the Ox Pasture acts as a land trap for the movement of migratory birds. It funnels them into a secure area before they begin the journey south. (Con't)

The area has abundant native grasses, which provide cover for small birds in their efforts to evade hawks migrating overhead. (Source: Noble Proctor 2000) The area has been identified as a refuge for at least two state endangered species: the diamond backed terrapin and the least shrew.

Permitted Activities:

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Sunset at the Ox Pasture by Jack Donat

Located near the confluence of the East and Neck Rivers, The Ox Pasture Sanctuary is a 5.5 acre parcel of dry land surrounded by salt marsh. A raised viewing platform has been constructed on the site of the former A. Miner Lippincott private airstrip. The site is habitat to a variety of resident and migratory birds including osprey, northern harrier, glossy ibis, herons, waterfowl and other marsh birds. Mammals include otter, muskrat and the least shrew. Other estuarine marine life including the Diamond Backed Terrapin is present. A viewing platform is a short walk from the parking area along a gravel path. Tick avoidance measures are recommended. Poison ivy may be present.

GPS Directions: 7 Canoe Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: A very short walk along a gravel path

Start: A single trailhead is located on Canoe Road

Distance: About 0.1 miles

Approximate Time: Five minutes from the trailhead to the observation platform

Parking: Parking available at trailhead on Canoe Road

Historical Features: Marsh views. Opportunities for

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

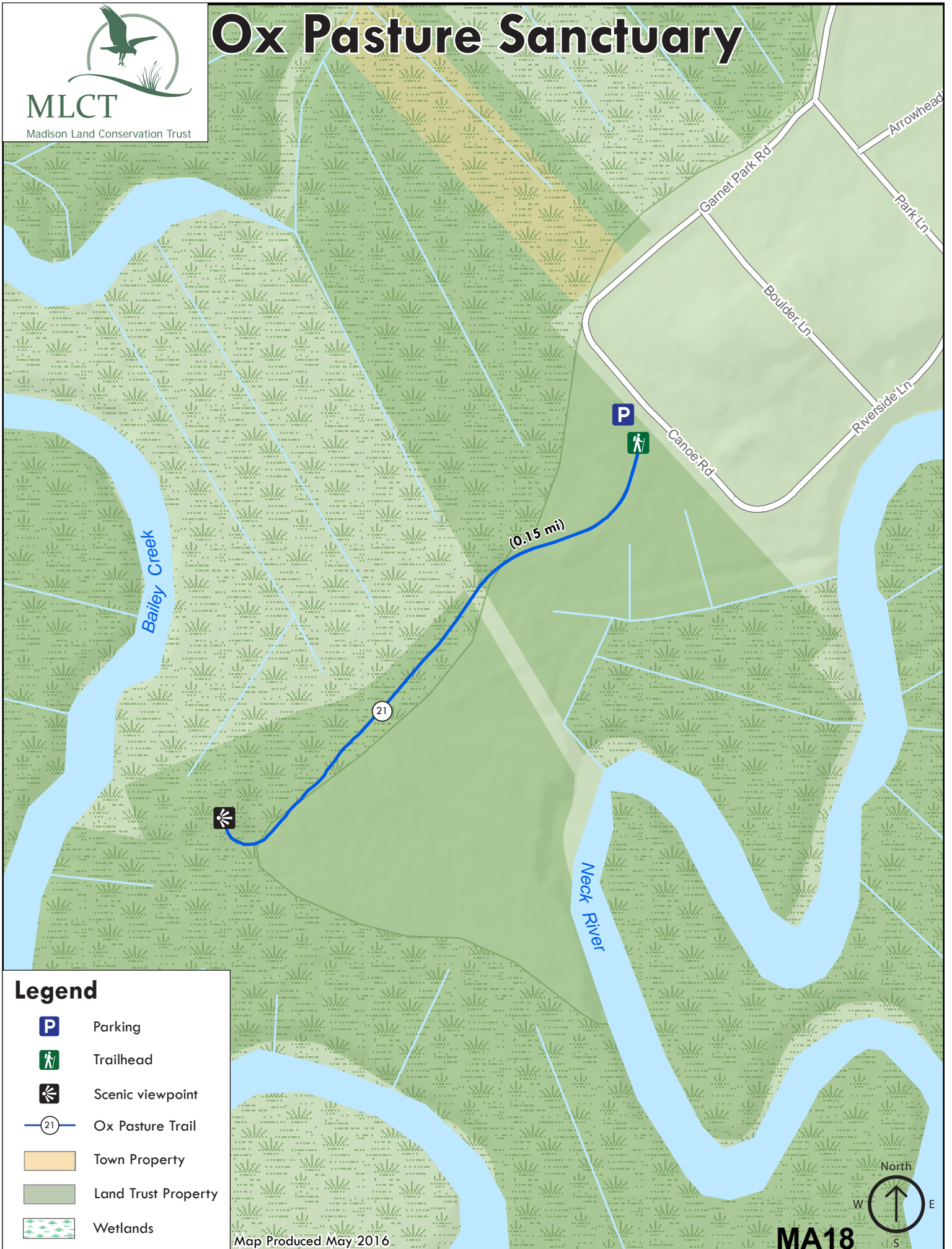




MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Ox Pasture Sanctuary



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Scenic viewpoint
- Ox Pasture Trail
- Town Property
- Land Trust Property
- Wetlands

Map Produced May 2016

MA18

Papermill Trail

What to look for on the Papermill Trail

Follow the dirt road south marked with the blue blazes of the The hike is described as entering at Trailhead 1, continuing north along the river to Trailhead 2. The loop section is described in a counterclockwise direction heading south.

Almost immediately upon entering the trail, the foundation ruins of the historic Hammonasset paper mill and its dam system can be seen on the right next to the river. The mill and its history are described below. Once past the mill site, the trail leads north, close to the west bank of the river through second-growth forests typical of this region. Tree species commonly encountered are oaks (red, black, white and chestnut), beech, black and yellow birches, white ash, and red maple. A few sugar maples and sassafras occur and some large sycamores grow along the river banks. Occasional hemlock snags still stand—reminders of their vulnerability to the effects of the gypsy moth defoliation in the 1970s and '80s.

Close to the river's edge, especially in times of high water, the value of this large flood plain becomes clear. Here, potentially destructive torrents of water are slowed and spread. In a practical sense, the flood plain once stored large quantities of water in a "lake" behind the mill dam downstream. In spring, this area abounds with marsh-marigolds, columbine, and trillium.

Where the trail rises a few feet above river level and continues north it passes a group of chestnut oaks, a species common to dry sites. Several stone walls mark old field borders, indicating that the forest here developed on land formerly tilled or pastured.

The trail follows the river, and at about 0.6 mile, divides; the right branch follows the river, while the left proceeds uphill, and then rejoins the main trail. Continue along the river for more glimpses of the flood plain. Along the cool, moist base of the hill to the west, the trail passes through a stand of yellow birch, hemlock (now dead), beech and red oak.

The trail soon curves to the left, and then swings sharply right where, in about 100 feet, it crosses a stream (0.7 mile from Trailhead 1). At this point, the loop section trail (described below) heads south (left) the main trail continues right for another 0.2 mile to Trailhead 2 at Wickford Place. For a short distance, it follows an old logging road, then goes right along steep slopes, and crosses some temporary stream beds, before climbing upslope and along a narrow right-of-way between private residences to the Wickford Place cul-de-sac and Trailhead 2

The loop trail often allows sightings of red-shouldered hawks and many woodpeckers. Banded owls also nest in this area. This section of trail (1.0 mile round trip) passes south along the small stream and then ascends a knoll past a group of white pines before it descends to the stream and the base of the loop. Take the trail to the right and ascend to mid-slope. At a point about 800 feet from the loop base, a spur trail to the right follows an old road bed up along a narrow right-of-way another 800 feet or so again to Trailhead 3 on Hammonasset Meadows Drive. The loop trail gradually ascends to slope crest and along a stone wall before swinging first east (left) and then sharply north (left). (Here, a short spur trail leads to Trailhead 4 on Greenhill Road over Northeast Utility property.) As the trail starts to descend, note the big oaks with large, low, wide-spreading branches. This "architecture" indicates that these trees developed when this area was open—probably at the back end of a field marked by stone walls. Continue back to the loop and on to the junction with the main trail.

Head back to Trailhead 1, keeping right to the red-cedar knoll. Red-cedars and black cherry trees were seeded here by birds when this was a grassy knob.

From the knoll crest just beyond the red cedars, great views exist of the river and its flood plain below, especially in fall, winter and early spring. Even on dull days, the nearly white upper crown branches of the large sycamores at the river's edge below stand out in striking contrast to the rest of the forest. Descend to the main trail and return to Trailhead 1. Approaching the old dam site from this direction affords a good view of the hills that form both sides of the river, narrow the flood plain, and provide an ideal site for the mill dam.

The Paper Mill

This mill is included in the National Register of Historic Places. It was built around 1865 to produce straw board, a product used for making boxes which was popular during an interim period between the heydays of rag-based and wood pulp-based papers. The mill was successful until its closing in 1890. In later years, the site was occupied by a lumber operation.

The site includes components on both sides of the river. On the east side, in Killingworth, are the remains of a stone dam 20 feet long, six feet wide, and 14 feet high; on the west side, in Madison, the remains of the mill.

The above-ground remains include the fieldstone ruins of the mill complex, stone-lined head and tailraces, the dam and at least two associated structures. Large fieldstone footings imbedded with threaded iron rods, presumably for machinery, are found in three areas. Deep pits in two buildings suggest possible vat locations. There is no wheel pit; the mill was powered by water-driven turbines, the exact locations of which are not apparent.

Permitted Activities:

The trail areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.

The Papermill Trail includes the site of an historic mill, wonderful close and distant views of the Hammonasset River and its broad flood plain, and an upland loop that circumscribes the valley of a lovely tributary stream. Four access points allow walks of varying lengths and sections of the trail.

GPS Directions: 28 Fawn Brook Cir, Madison, CT 06443

Category: An easy walk with several moderate ups and downs

Start: Either of the four trailheads (Fawn Brook Circle, Hammonasset Meadows Drive, Wickford Place, or Green Hill Road)

Distance: From Trailhead 1 to Trailhead 2 and return: 1.9 miles; including the south loop adds another 1.0 mile

Approximate time: About 2 hours allowing a few minutes to explore the mill site ruins (Obs. Pt. A) and a stop to enjoy the river view from Cedar Knoll (Obs. Pt. B)

Parking: Trailhead 1: On Fawn Brook Circle near junction with Green Hill Road; Trailhead 2: at the cul-de-sac of Wickford Place; Trailhead 3: On Hammonasset Meadows Drive near the trailhead

Historical Features: Stone ruins of the Hammonasset Paper Mill, circa 1865-1890

For more information about this walk contact:

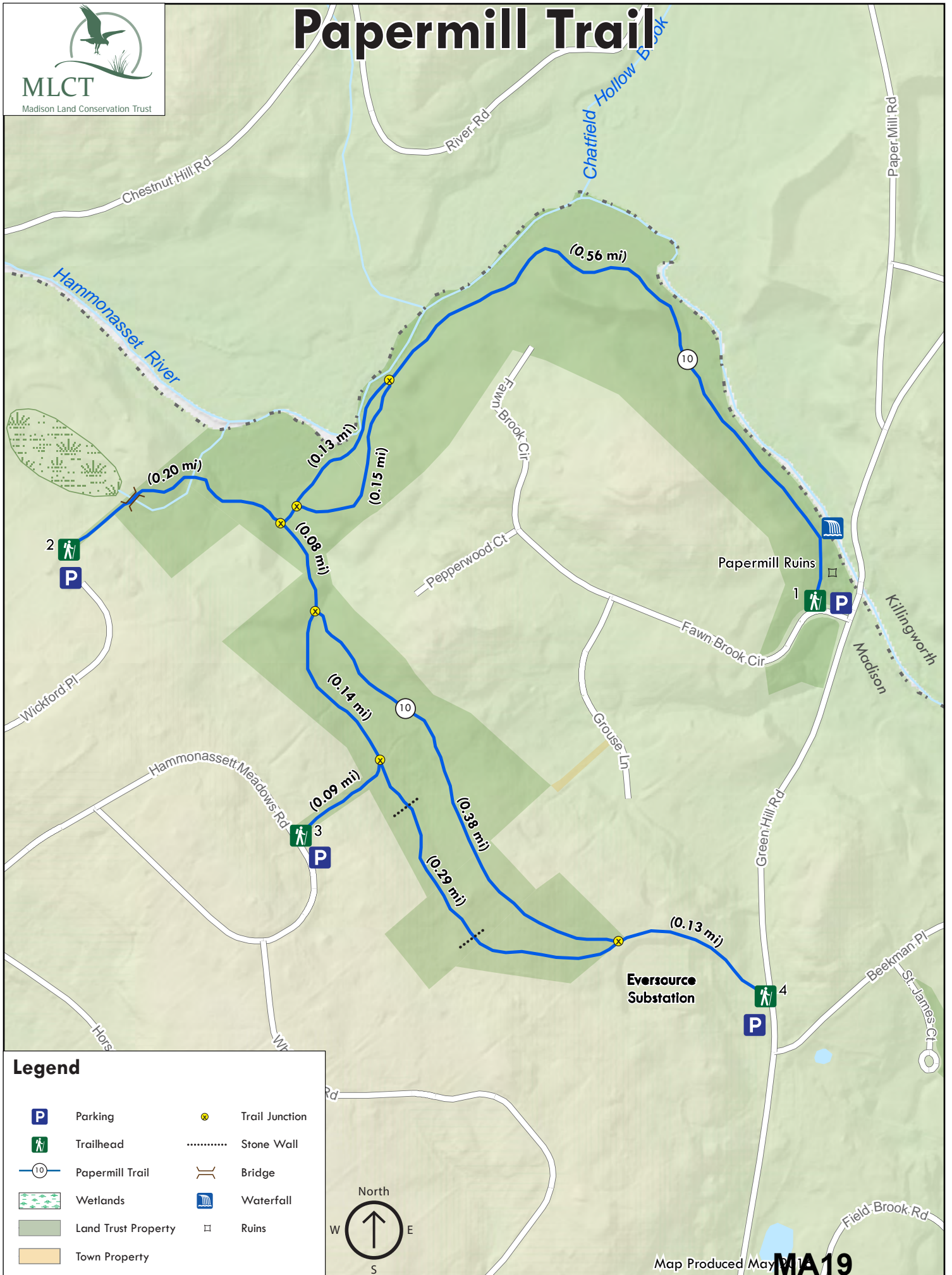
Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org





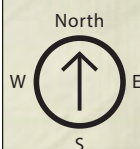
MLCT
Madison Land Conservation Trust

Papermill Trail



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------|
| | Parking | | Trail Junction |
| | Trailhead | | Stone Wall |
| | Papermill Trail | | Bridge |
| | Wetlands | | Waterfall |
| | Land Trust Property | | Ruins |
| | Town Property | | |



Shepherds Trail

What to look for on the Shepherds Trail

From the trailhead, descend the short drop into the forest of red and sugar maples. Scattered among these species are occasional stems of black birch, sassafras, hickories and tulip poplar. Soon, the trail crosses a small stream that drains this lowland forest and the wetland to the east.

Just beyond a small bridge, **swing right to encounter a magnificent curving stone wall**. Why this wall was built, presumably by Rueben Johnson, is now a mystery. Mr. Johnson, who settled here in the mid-1700s, owned land from Summer Hill Rd. east to Buck Hill. Shortly on, the trail turns east across a stream that drains the wetland.

Turn left at the foot of the outcrop and on through a young stand of mixed hardwoods whose composition (sugar maple, hickory, black birch, red and white oaks, and several quite large black gums) indicates that the soil here is deeper and better drained than in the wetter forests just encountered. An understory rich in sugar maple saplings suggests that this shade-tolerant species will dominate this stand in the future.

Soon the trail joins an old woods road and heads uphill, turns right, and angles up to the rock summit. In the winter there are good views of Legend Hill to the west and of the valley below.

Descend to a small saddle and continue along the base of the next outcrop to where year-round seeps create spectacular falls of ice along the cliff face in winter. Just beyond, climb upward and continue east through a passageway created when several trees, perched on the sheer rock, blew over in a storm.

Descend steeply to mid-slope and cross a ravine through which water flows freely in wet times. In winter, ice flows develop here and water can be heard trickling beneath the ice sheets. Ascend steeply passing large old chestnut oaks to near the crest. Follow the trail carefully along the moss-covered rocks that can be slippery when wet or icy. Finally, pass through a young oak stand, whose multi-stemmed character reveals an origin from stumps of larger trees cut a few years ago, and emerge into an opening with excellent views to the south of Long Island Sound.

Upslope and to the east, the trail reaches the highest overlook. Unfortunately due to the large number of dead Hemlock trees, the trail is closed beyond this point. To return to your car, **retrace your steps to return to the trailhead**.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964



Permitted Activities:

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Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

Shepherds Trail This diverse trail includes a variety of ecosystems from lowland wetland swamps, woodlands and small meadows to upland forest and rocky exposed outcrops. The trail is one of our most demanding with several short, steep sections and rocky areas

GPS Directions: 438 Summer Hill Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Fairly difficult due to steep climbs over rocky areas.

Start: Trailhead at the corner of Shepherds Trail and Summer Hill Rd.

Distance: About .5 mile, one way.

Parking: Near the trailhead on Shepherds Trail Rd.

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust

www.madisonlandtrust.org





MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

Shepherds Trail



Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|---------------------|
| | Parking | | Scenic Viewpoint |
| | Trailhead | | Boardwalk |
| | Rock Ledge | | Wetlands |
| | Bailey Trail | | Land Trust Property |
| | Shepherds Trail | | |
| | Trail Junction | | |
| | Stone Wall | | |
| | Bridge | | |



St. Francis Woods

What to look for along the St. Francis Woods Trail

Begin your walk at Trailhead 1 and, bearing right, follow the blue-blazed trail south through a lowland mesic forest of red and white oaks, beech and red maple. Soon, the trail nears and passes alongside a stream and its floodplain, dominated by swamp red maple overstory and an understory shrub layer of spicebush, sweet pepperbush, witch-hazel and wild azalea. Marsh marigolds bloom along the stream in early spring. The trail gradually ascends a rocky slope near the stream bed—here beech, hickories, large chestnut oak and some sugar maple occur. The steep outcrops of the ridge east of the stream can be seen once the trail levels off. This level area comprises a large wetland floodplain which the trail skirts for a few hundred yards before swinging sharply left through a stand of large beech and red maple. It then crosses the stream on a stepstone bridge.

From here the trail turns northward, ascending over moss-carpeted ledges to mid-slope of the ridge sighted earlier. Good views of the stream and its floodplain can be seen—especially in the spring and fall. Mountain laurel thickets arch over the trail and are beautiful in June. Chestnut oak, white oak, and beech are abundant here. The trail ascends across slope below ledges, and then steeply to the crest of the west-facing ridge of ancient granite. From the rock outcrops, excellent views can be had of the deep stream valley, especially in late fall, winter and early spring. This is a good place to stop and rest. Note the chestnut oaks whose short, crooked stems and deeply furrowed bark (a sign of slow growth) attest to the shortage of soil moisture and to the storm winds that affect them on this exposed site. The understory, less diverse than in the stream valley below, is composed of blueberries, huckleberries, grasses, sedges and other dry-site plants.

Proceeding north, the trail soon descends through a saddle area more favorable for growth as revealed by the tall, straight trees, and then follows once more the exposed ridge. Near a house, it cuts sharply back to the southwest and zig-zags down the slope. Follow the blue blazes carefully down the zig-zag to the slope bottom and then through several turns, past a large rock and across a small stream, and enter onto St. Francis Woods Road at Trailhead 2.

If time allows, continue north on St. Francis Woods Road about 800 feet to its cul-de-sac and Trailhead 3 which marks the **path to the Donnelly Memorial**. The path ascends through woods and then quickly emerges into a mowed area. Turn left, along the edge of the field, to the path that cuts left along the west side of the cemetery and leads to the sitting bench. This bench, which provides a quiet place for rest and reflection, was placed in memory of Richard C. Donnelly. Mr. Donnelly was on the faculty of the Yale Law School. Committed to Madison and to the beauty of the community, he was instrumental in the founding of the Land Trust and served as its first vice-president in 1963.

Historical Note

In 1754, land for the West Side Cemetery was granted to the settlement known as North Bristol “near the parting of the paths to Cranberry and Race Hills” for a burying ground. Many old stones bear names still encountered in Madison. The first person buried here was Demetrius Crompton. Forest hikers might learn from his demise—he was killed by a falling tree limb.

Permitted Activities:

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Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

The St. Francis Woods Trail is a loop trail that offers exposure to a variety of natural settings. It provides an excellent experience for a family outing, although it is not suitable for very small children. The trail passes through a lowland mesic forest, abuts a valley flood-plain and beautiful stream, then ascends to and progresses along a rocky ridge before descending once more to lower valley. The walk can be extended to include a visit to the Donnelly Memorial bench near old West Side Cemetery.

GPS Directions: 100 St Francis Woods Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Short walk with one steep climb

Start: Trailhead 1 on St. Francis Woods Road, North Madison

Distance: About 0.7 mile for the woods trail; 1.0 mile if a walk to the Donnelly Memorial is included

Approximate Time: About 1-1 1/2 hours with a visit to the Donnelly Memorial

Parking: Along St. Francis Woods Road and at the cul-de-sac

Historical Feature: Old West Side Cemetery

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org



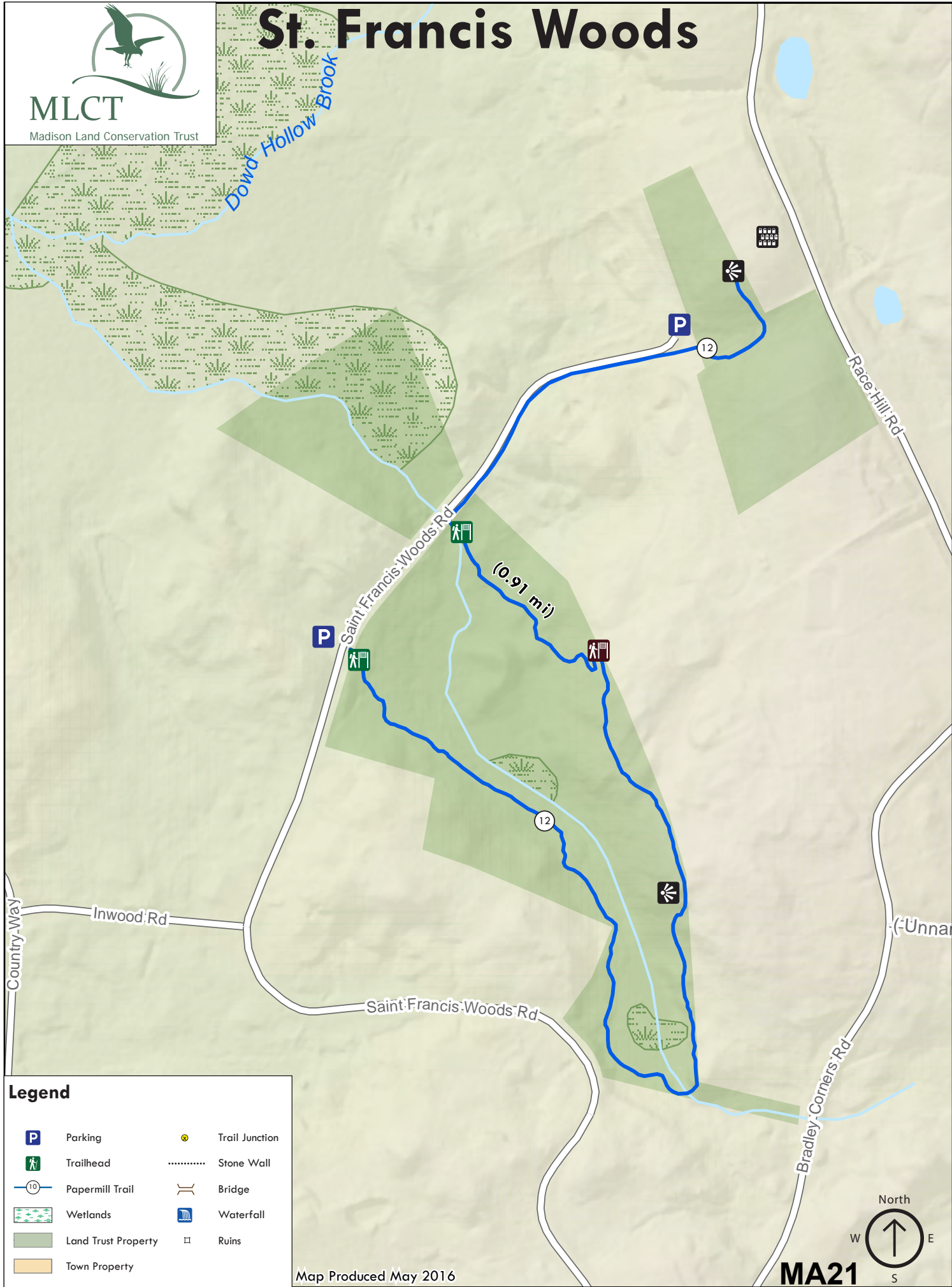


MLCT

Madison Land Conservation Trust

St. Francis Woods

Down Hollow Brook



Legend

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Parking | Trail Junction |
| Trailhead | Stone Wall |
| Papermill Trail | Bridge |
| Wetlands | Waterfall |
| Land Trust Property | Ruins |
| Town Property | |

Map Produced May 2016



MA21

Summer Hill Trail

What to look for on the Summer Hill Trail

Welcome to the Madison Land Conservation Trust's Summer Hill Preserve. Purchased in 2011, these 77 acres are an important large tract of woodland. The Preserve is near the Hammonasset River and large pieces of protected watershed in North Madison and Killingworth. Woodlands like these are important wildlife habitat, providing enough room to support mammals such as fox, rabbits, coyote, fisher, beaver, deer, and even bear.

The Preserve is also home to numerous woodland bird species such as Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks, Barred Owls, Red-eyed Vireos, Pileated, Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Yellow Warblers, Common Yellow-throats, Red-starts, Red Winged Blackbirds and more.

These woods also provide special cover for wintering bird species. Because the Preserve is just 7 miles from Long Island Sound it enjoys milder winter temperatures than forests in northern Connecticut and New England. Blue Jays, Blue Birds and other species flock together to spend the winter in this forest.



Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

Madison Land Conservation Trust

founded 1964



Permitted Activities:

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Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

Please respect private property boundaries. Hiking on adjacent water company property requires a permit.

GPS Directions: 510 Summer Hill Rd, Madison, CT 06443

Category: Easy woodland trail

Start: Trailhead at the parking area on Summer Hill Road

Distance: Distance is about 1 mile depending on choice of trails

Approximate Time: 1 hour

Parking: Parking available in a dirt lot on Summer Hill Road

For more information about this walk contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust

www.madisonlandtrust.org



Summer Hill Trail

Lake
Hammonasset

RWA Property

Beaver
Pond

Beaver Dam

Summer Hill Rd












Old Toll Rd

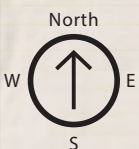
(0.18 mi)

(0.34 mi)

(0.33 mi)

Legend

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Parking |  | Rock Bench |
|  | Trailhead |  | Beaver Dam |
|  | Summer Hill Trail |  | Trail Junction |
|  | Abandoned Road | | |
|  | Hammonasset Trail | | |
|  | Wetlands | | |
|  | Land Trust Property | | |
|  | RWA Property | | |



Shoreline Greenway Trail: Hammonasset

The Hammonasset trailhead of the Shoreline Greenway Trail is the eastern end of a 25-mile cycling and pedestrian trail being developed through five towns from Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison to Lighthouse Point in New Haven. This trail is being pieced together by an all-volunteer organization without an existing right-of-way such as an abandoned rail line. Nearly 6 miles are complete and usable in Branford, East Haven, Madison and soon in Guilford. New sections are added as funding and landowner approvals are obtained.

This section is a mile-long path winding through Hammonasset Beach State Park to Webster Point Rd., traversing an undeveloped peninsula of the park through a coastal upland forest with spectacular views of Long Island Sound and its salt marshes; it's a popular place for bird watching and *en plein air* painting. Eagle Scouts have installed benches in scenic locations for rest and contemplation. Plans call for trailside interpretive signs about salt marshes, shorebirds, stone walls and the rain garden that catches parking-lot runoff to protect the marsh.

Every month in one of the Shoreline Greenway Trail towns, volunteers hold First Saturday walks and occasional bike rides. The walks and rides are free and open to the public. For up-to-date information, visit the trail website.



Photo Provided by Shoreline Greenway Trail

Trail Description:

Easy Walking and Biking

Generally easy and as accessible as the terrain allows, with some small hills. This section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail is packed crushed stone and handicapped accessible

Total trail distance approx. 1.25 miles

Directions and Parking:

From I-95, take exit 62. Turn south onto the Hammonasset Connector and travel approximately .8 mile to the traffic light at Boston Post Road. You will be facing the main entrance to the park. Go left on Boston post Road up a small hill and turn right into the Shoreline Greenway Trail parking lot.

Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

Trail use and parking are free. Walkers, cyclists, skiers, wheelchairs, baby carriages and leashed dogs are welcome. No motorized vehicles. Bikers yield to pedestrians. Owners must clean up after dogs. Walkways will not support horses. Carry in, carry out!



Photo Provided by Shoreline Greenway Trail

Total Trails Length: Approx. 1.25 miles



Shoreline Greenway Future Extent



For more information about this location, contact:

Shoreline Greenway Trail, Inc.
P.O. Box 148
Branford, CT 06405
madison@shorelinegreenwaytrail.org
www.shorelinegreenwaytrail.org



Shoreline Greenway: Hammonasset

