

TOWN OF HUDSON CONSERVATION LAND



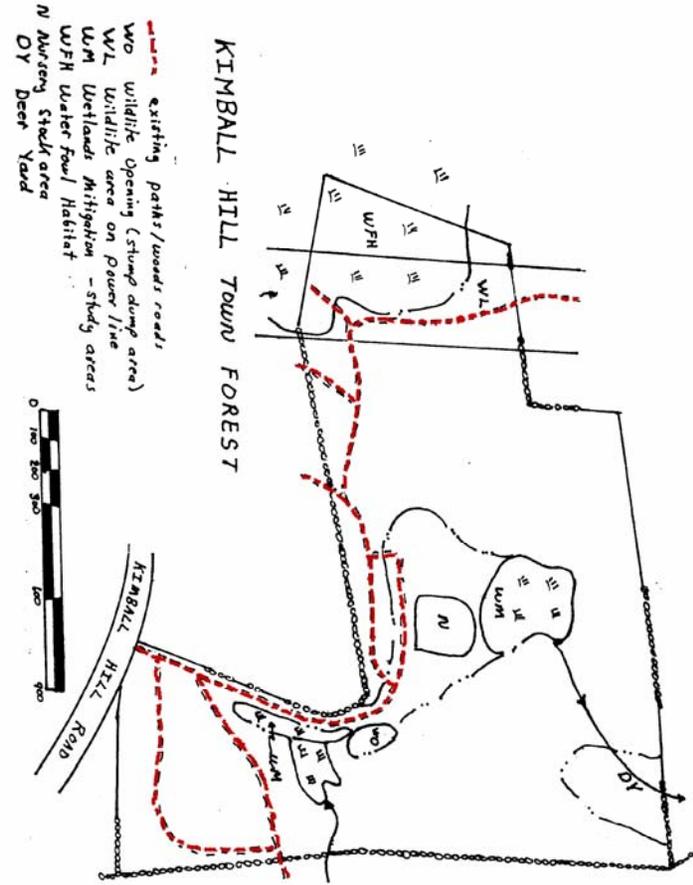
Compiled by Dana Jutras of Senior Troop
1002 for her Girl Scout Gold Award in 2006.

The Town of Hudson owns more than 50 parcels of land in the town. Although many are small, land-locked, or otherwise unusable, there are quite a few which have something to offer. The parcels described in this brochure are open to public use and offer educational and outdoor opportunities to all those who visit them.



Musquash Conservation Land

Town Forest Map



Town Forest

Size: 52.265 acres

Location: off of Kimball Hill Rd. near the Pelham town line. There is limited parking in front of the entrance gate.

Recreational Activities: cross country skiing, walking

History and Description: The property has both forest and wetland habitats. Trees include white pine, red, black, and white oak, red maple, hemlock, and northern and mixed hardwoods. Many unmarked paths extend across the land making it easy to get temporarily lost. The town maintains this land as a working forest with its own master plan.



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Leave No Trace

There are a few things to remember when visiting one of these sites so that others can enjoy them as well.

- Use existing trails don't make your own.
- Pack it in, pack it out. If you brought it with you, you should take it back home with you. Don't leave trash or food.
- Preserve the past. Observe but don't alter historical sites such as old home foundations or wells.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural elements as you find them. Take a picture instead of bringing things home.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Observe wildlife from a distance.
- Never feed animals.
- Control your own pets (pick up after them) or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, and winter.
- Respect other visitors and be courteous when sharing the trail.

For more information, contact the Conservation Commission through the Community Development department at (603)-886-6005.

If you notice any problems or misuses of the land, please contact the code enforcement officer at (603)-886-6005.

Robinson Pond

Size: 88 acres

Location: both swimming area and boat launch are accessible from Robinson Rd. There are areas for parking both at the swimming area and boat launch.

Recreational Activities: boating, fishing, geocaching, picnicking, swimming

History and Description: Robinson Pond is thought to have been formed as a kettle hole from the melting of a large ice chunk broken off as the last glacier receded. Now it serves to drain a small 1100-acre watershed and provide a home for beaver, Canadian geese, ducks, turtles, and fish, namely bass and pickerel. The sandy beach and swimming area are thanks to the Hudson Junior Women's Club's efforts in 1971.

This piece of land may have been inhabited by nomadic hunter-gatherers as many as 10,000 years ago. Later European settlers lived here; a fact evidenced by stonewalls, apple trees, and a cellar hole found in the surrounding forests to this property. Trees knocked down by the 1938 hurricane were preserved by storing them in Robinson Pond. Two years later, two steam-powered sawmills were placed on what is now known as sawdust island, and most of the five million board feet of lumber was used to make ammunition boxes during World War II.



Parker Wildlife Sanctuary

Size: 41 acres

Location: The entrance is on the cul-de-sac of Woodcrest, which is off of Hazelwood. Parking is limited around the center of the cul-de-sac beside the street.

Recreational Activities: bird watching, photography, walking

History and Description: Parker Wildlife Sanctuary was formerly a blueberry swamp, which explains the presence of wild blueberry bushes. The land is a part of the original farm which Peter Robinson purchased in 1763. The land stayed in the same family lineage until it was donated to the town for conservation purposes. The current descendent, Ruth Parker, resides in Hudson.

Parker Wildlife Sanctuary contains woods and wetlands that are home to over fifty species of birds and many land and water mammals including beaver, muskrat, mink, woodchuck, raccoon, rabbit, and skunk. The few cleared trails on the property are nice walks and offer some nice views of Robinson Pond. The family hopes the land will continue to preserve nature for many years and generations to come.



Alvirne Tree Farm

Size: 45 acres

Location: off of Derry Rd, across from Alvirne High School. There is plenty of parking in the Alvirne parking lot during non-school hours.

Recreational Activities: cross country running, cross country skiing, hiking

History and Description: There are many trails across this property which are wide and clear enough for running or skiing. In some areas, there is evidence of tree cutting beside the trails since it is an active tree farm used by the high school.



Ingersoll Tri-Town Tree Farm

Size: 292 acres

Location: covers area in Hudson, Londonderry, and Windham; it can be entered by several spots along Mill Rd and Bockes Rd. in the towns of Londonderry and Windham respectively.



Parking is along the road next to the entrances.

Recreational Activities: walking

History and Description: This piece of land is a working forest which had been previously owned by the Ingersoll family since 1936. The land protects three public water supplies, diverse animal habitats, and some cultural heritage. It is home for animals such as moose, deer, mink, beaver, otter, ruffed grouse, and snowshoe hare. Besides animals, the land is also protecting cultural heritage sites, such as a prehistoric archeological site, stone walls, cellar holes, old wells, and remains of a mill pond dam. Some of the old carriage trails still exist and now serve as walking trails.

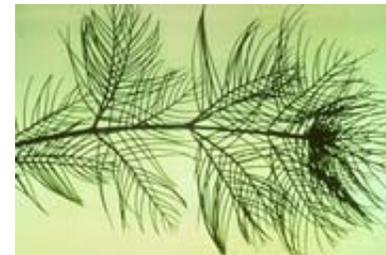


Preventing Exotic Aquatic Plant Spread

Exotic aquatic plants are not native to this region, and therefore have no predators. As a result they take over the water bodies they live in, harming native aquatic plants and making recreational activities difficult or unappealing. To help prevent them from spreading there are several things that can be done.

- Before entering and leaving a body of water, inspect your boat and trailer for plant fragments, removing and disposing of fragments away from water.
- Avoid boating in areas with dense plant growth.
- Pay attention to signs at boating launches warning of exotic plants in the area.

Water bodies in Hudson with exotic aquatic plants:
Ottarnic Pond, Robinson Pond



Eurasian watermilfoil



Fanwort

Ottarnic Pond

Size: 45 acres

Location: boat launch is accessible from Claveau's landing off Highland St.

Recreational Activities: bird watching, boating, fishing, photography

History and

Description: Access to the lake is a short dirt road leading to the boat launch. There is a small area for parking cars before the dirt gradually slopes into the water.

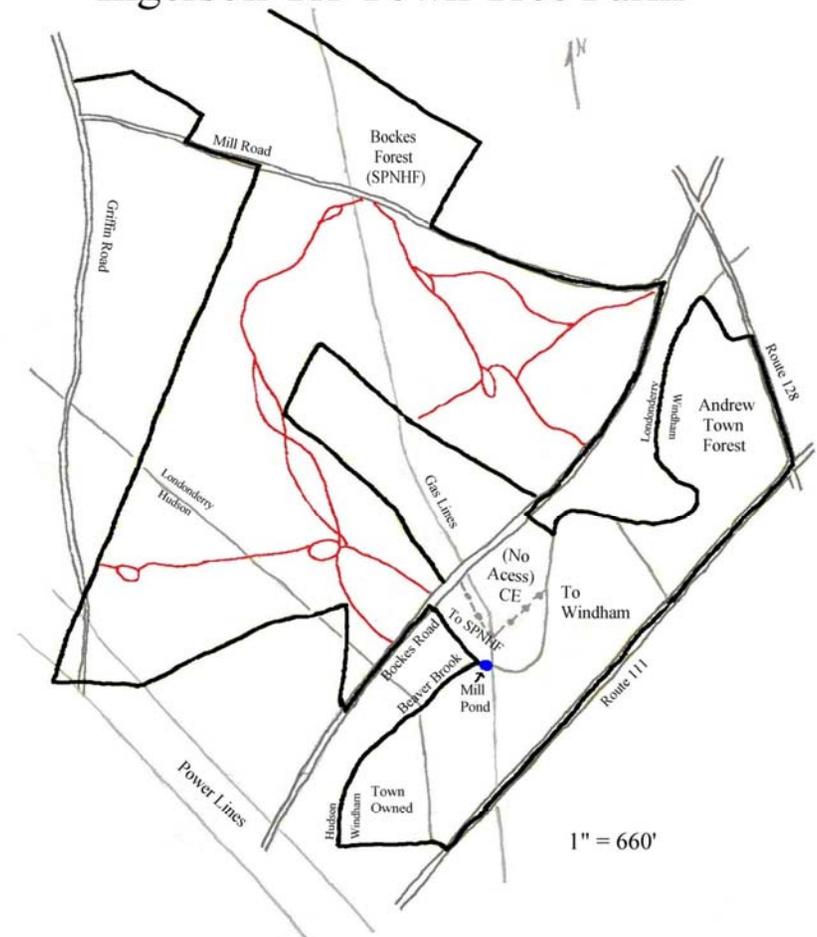
Before refrigerators were used, this lake used to be the main source providing the town with ice. Now, it is home to many animals including beavers, muskrats, turtles, geese, ducks, and a blue heron nesting ground. In the lake, large mouth bass, blue gills, sunfish, and pickerel can all be found.

In 2005, Ottarnic Pond was treated for Milfoil through DES. Now they participate in the Lake Host Program to continue monitoring the lake.



Ingersoll Tree Farm Map

Ingersoll Tri-Town Tree Farm



Merrifield

Size: 5.77 acres

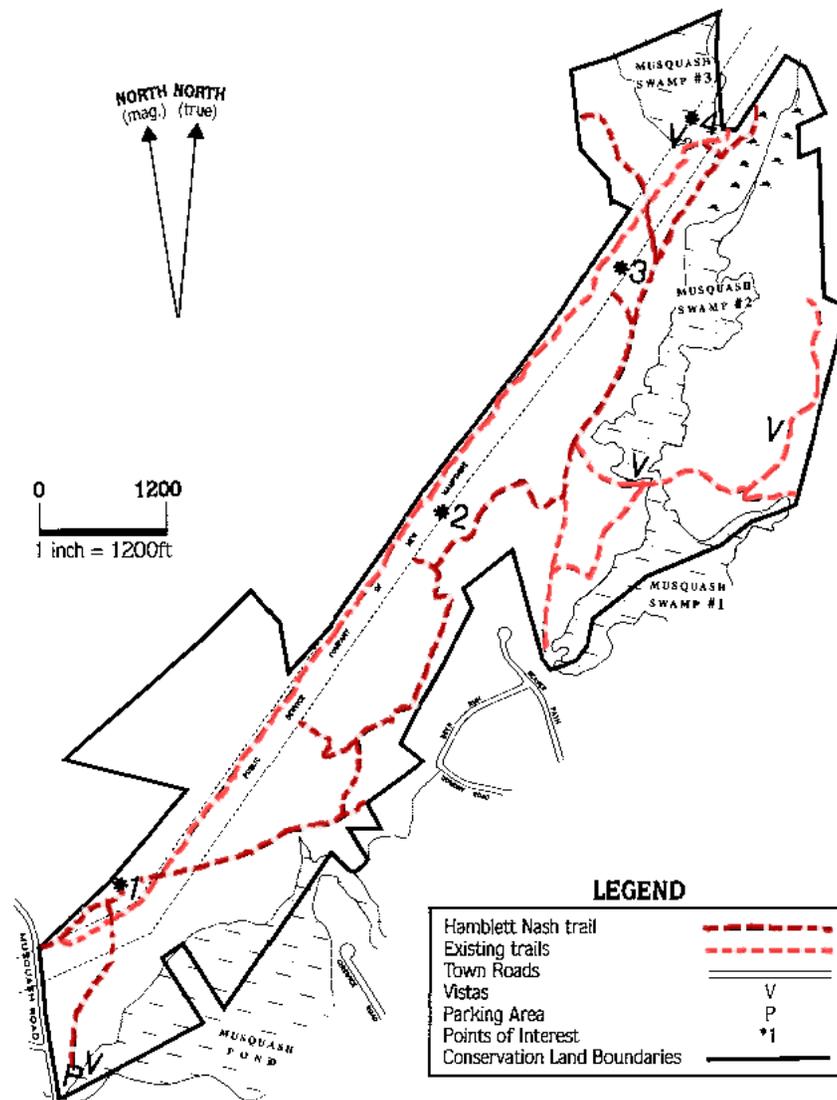
Location: off of Ferry St. (visible from the road), about .5 mi from the intersection with Rt. 111.

Recreational Activities: beach volleyball, geocaching, picnicking, playground

History and Description: This small park is close to and visible from the road. It is a great place to take the family as there is a playground and beach volleyball. Also, there are several picnic tables and grills which were installed by the Junior Woman's Club.



Musquash Conservation Land Map



Musquash Conservation Land

Established: 1991

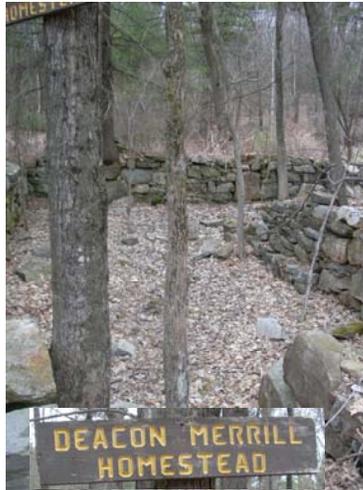
Size: 416.5 acres

Location: off of Musquash Rd. just north of where the outlet from the pond crosses under the road. There is an area for parking at the entrance.

Recreational Activities: bird watching, canoeing, cross country skiing, walking, kayaking, photography

History and Description: The Musquash Conservation Land has many trails that are perfect for walking. At the entrance, near parking, there is a decent place in which to launch canoes and similar boats. There are also many historical sites to see which are numbered on the map.

1. Deacon Merrill Homestead – the remains of the house, well, barn, and corral, built in the early 1700s, can be seen here. It belonged to one of Hudson's first settlers, the Merrill family.
2. Merrill Hill Habitat – with its dry land and sunny slope, this area is home to some of New Hampshire's threatened plants and animals including slender bush-clover, rue anemone, smooth forked chickweed, and the eastern box turtle.
3. Upper Foundation – the foundations of a house and a barn thought to be built around 1830's because of the recent discovery of a dime at the site.
4. Third Swamp – a unique area because of its hydrologic position. It drains into both Musquash Brook and into Second Brook.



Merrill Park

Size: 9.3 acres

Location: turn onto Maple Ave from Central St and follow to the end where the road heads into the park. Parking is at the entrance, and there is enough for a few cars.

Recreational Activities: bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, photography, picnicking

History and Description: The park is in a pretty secluded area which was purchased and developed with a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It hosts a few picnic benches and contains a path which leads down to the side of the Merrimack River. Although cars are not allowed into the park, a canoe or kayak could be carried down the path to the river.



Hudson Conservation Lands Map

