



**(1)** The Sassafras tree, like the one on your left, is a slender tree with thin branches and an orange/brown colored bark. The Sassafras leaves smell lemony and the yellow flowers bloom in the spring. In the summer the tree produces a dark blue fruit that looks like an egg. The Sassafras tree has three different types of leaves: some leaves have three lobes, some are mitten shaped, and some are oval shaped. The roots smell like root beer and can be used to make it as well. Also, the Sassafras aroma is said to repel insects.

**(2)** A wetland is a transition between a watery environment like a stream or pond and a dry environment like a hilltop. Swamps, marshes, and bogs are all types of wetlands. Wetlands are important because they support a wide and unique variety of life. They also help prevent flooding and filter pollutants. Here in Brues Woods, the wetlands have lots of skunk cabbage in them. Can you notice the difference in plant species as you approach Bridge Brook, the stream just down the hill from here?

**(3)** Hemlocks like the one in front of you are coniferous trees, which mean that they have cones and needles. Hemlocks grow mostly in the eastern parts of the United States and Canada. They are found in western Canada, California, and eastern Asia. Hemlocks are often used for construction lumber. The Woolly Adelgid is an insect that sucks sap from Hemlock needles. The loss of sap causes the Hemlock to lose many needles, which may eventually kill the tree. The Woolly Adelgid was introduced to the United States from Asia in 1924. You can look for signs of the Woolly Adelgid on these trees. Small white cottony spots on the back of the needles indicate their presence.



**(4)** In general, there are two types of trees in New England: deciduous and coniferous. One way to tell the difference between the trees is by looking at their leaves. Deciduous trees, like the larger tree on the far right, usually have long, wide leaves that tend to be fragile. Deciduous trees, such as the maple and oak, shed their leaves in the fall. Coniferous (Evergreen) trees have needle-like leaves that do not drop off in the fall; instead the tree will lose only the oldest of its leaves. Some examples of coniferous trees native to Massachusetts are pines, like the smaller tree on the near right, and hemlocks.

**(5)** Although most pine trees look very similar, there are three different kinds in Massachusetts. White pine is the most common in Brues Woods, followed by Red pine. Both trees are typically 80-100 feet tall. White pine needles grow in clusters of five whereas Red pine needles grow in clusters of two. To remember this, just think: “White” has five letters, and White pines have five needles in a group. Check the small trees in front of you: they’re White pines!

**(6)** Twin trees, like the one on your right, occur occasionally in white pine groves. This could result from a number of possible causes: pine cones or seeds being cached by squirrels; multiple seeds falling on the same ideal patch of soil; or from the presence of multiple embryos in an ovule. Often the weaker embryo won’t succeed, but when it does it results in the growth of two main stems like the one here. If generated from multiple embryos, the twin trees are connected at the bottom. It is also common to see multiple trunks higher up; this is often caused by damage from an insect known as the White Pine Weevil.



Illustration by Christa Collins

## SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES’ Brues Woods Reservation

### Interpretive Trail



SUDBURY  
VALLEY  
TRUSTEES

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[www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org](http://www.sudburyvalleytrustees.org)

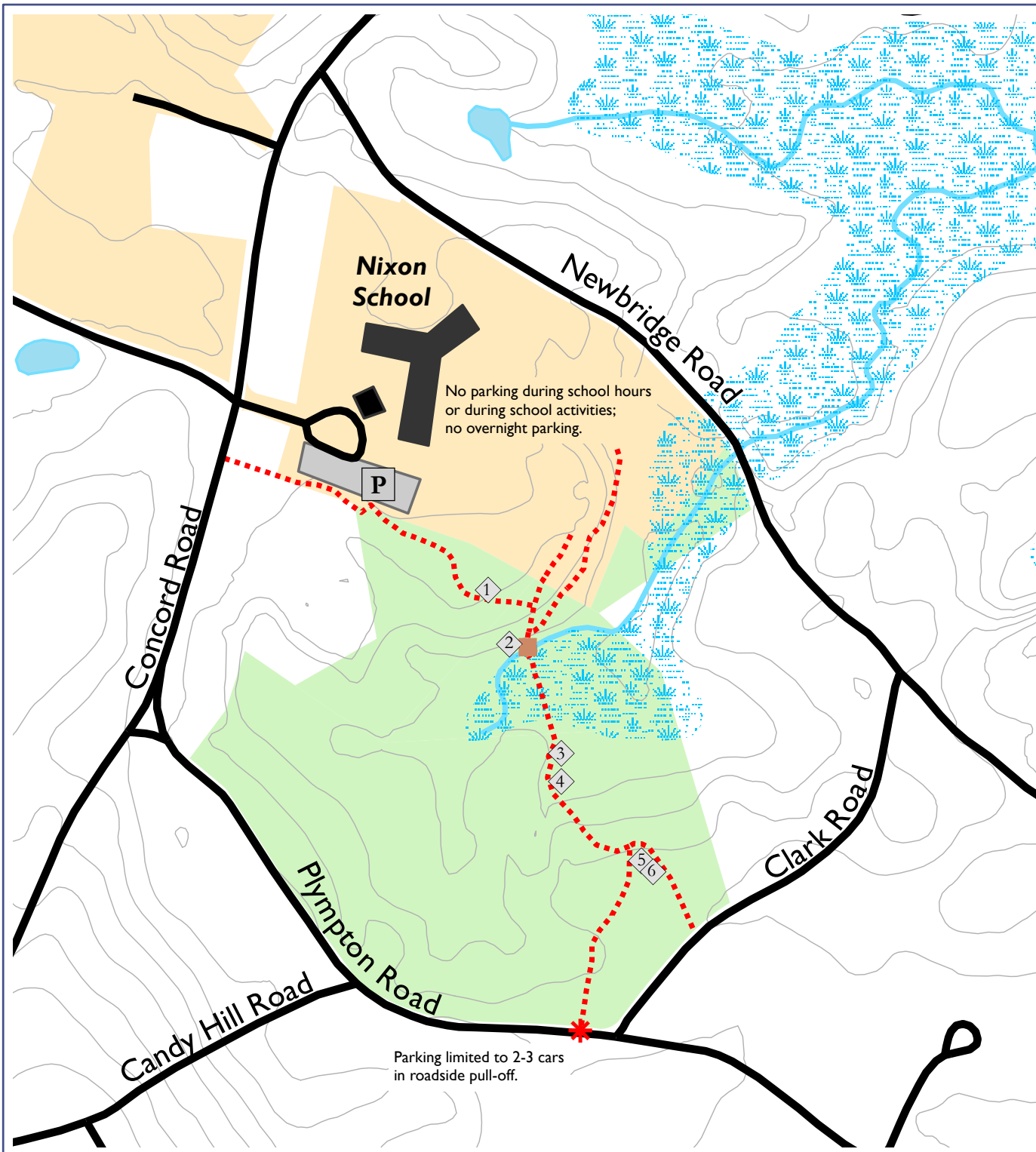
# Brues Woods Sudbury, MA

Brues Woods consists of approximately 35 acres of primarily woodland habitat located in Sudbury. The property was acquired by Sudbury Valley Trustees in several pieces beginning in 1981. In 2006, as part of his Eagle Scout Project, Tim Dingman of Sudbury Troop 63 created an interpretive brochure and posted markers along the trail that correspond with the points in his writings and on this map.

## Directions

From Sudbury Center (intersection of Route 27, or Old Sudbury Road, and Concord Road), go north on Concord Road. There are two options:

- When the Nixon School is not in session, parking is available there. Go north on Concord Road 0.6 miles. Turn right into the Nixon School. SVT signs are to the right and back of the lot.
- Alternatively, go north on Concord Road 0.2 miles. Turn right on Candy Hill Road. Follow it 0.2 miles to the end and bear right on Plympton Road. SVT signs are on the left; there is parking for a few cars parallel to the road.



No parking during school hours or during school activities; no overnight parking.

Parking limited to 2-3 cars in roadside pull-off.

Trails	Ponds
Parking Lot	Wetlands
Interpretive Marker	Streams
Roadside Parking	SVT Brues Woods
Bridge	Town of Sudbury

