

The Lyons-Cutler Reservation is located along Allowance Brook and Hop Brook adjacent to Sudbury Water District and Town of Sudbury lands. The contiguous open space totals more than 340 acres, and is just upstream from the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

ECOLOGY



Much of the 73 acres of the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) reservation is wetlands; however there is also a large central upland area. This land was cleared and used as farmland until 1921, when it was sold and allowed to return to a forested state. Today, SVT manages a three mile trail system here that is open to the public.

The upland area is roughly divided into red maple forest on the east and mixed oak forest on the west, with a large stand of white pine in the center of the northern portion. Old ditches, possibly used as property boundaries, border some edges of the reservation and also run through the middle of the upland region. A number of very large trees including red maple, white oak, and white pine grow on either side of the ditch. The upland forest descends gently to a red maple swamp to the south and east, and shrub swamp along the banks of the Allowance and Hop Brooks on the west and north. The understory throughout the reservation is largely highbush blueberry and buckthorn; cinnamon fern dominates large portions of the herbaceous layer.

One of the scenic highlights of the reservation is an active great blue heron nest colony located on the northern edge of the reservation along Allowance Brook. In 2005 a pair of great horned owls successfully fledged two chicks from a trailside nest originally built by the herons. In 2007 as many as 21 great blue herons were seen occupying 9 nests. White-tailed deer are also a common sight along the trails.

CONSERVATION HISTORY

Sudbury Valley Trustees acquired ownership of the land through a series of transfers beginning in 1961 with a



three acre gift from Mary Goodnow Cutler. Another eight acres came in 1967 with two gifts, one from Kenneth and Joseph Cutler and one from Roland Cutler. In the following year SVT purchased the core piece of the reservation, a 59 acre parcel from Edward Lyons. The most recent addition came in the form of a three acre gift from Forrest Bradshaw in 1985.

SVT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please respect posted regulations while on other lands shown.

We welcome you to enjoy the trails for walking, skiing, snowshoeing, nature study, photography, and other quiet activities. Please carry out everything you carry in.

In order to protect this natural area, the following are prohibited:

- Motorized vehicles
- Hunting or trapping
- Camping
- Bicycling
- Fires
- Disposing of trash or yard waste
- Cutting or removing plants

DIRECTIONS

If school is not in session parking is allowed at Israel Loring School. From the intersection of Route 20 and Landham Road take Landham Road south about one mile before turning right onto Woodside Road. The school is on the right after passing Cutler Farm Road. Park and walk back to Cutler Farm Road, following that road past Read Road. Facing the home at 42 Cutler Farm Road, look to the left edge of the yard; to the right of a small wetland, and less than 100 yards from the sidewalk there is a post and a trail marker. Follow the easement along the edge of the private lawn to the trail opening in the forest.



Illustration by Joyce Dwyer

SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES

Lyons-Cutler Reservation



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