



In the fall of 1990, Fred and Millie Turenne purchased an 18-acre parcel of woodland and meadow adjacent to their home in order to protect it from development. Several weeks later they generously gifted this land to the Sudbury Valley Trustees. An engraved stone at the parking area off Walnut Drive identifies the property as a memorial to Mr. Turenne, who died soon after presenting this gift. Mrs. Turenne continued to support SVT's conservation stewardship work until she passed away in 2005.

The Turenne Habitat lies on the northwestern slopes of Oak Hill, one of a series of steep hills that lie along Southborough's boundaries with Hopkinton and Ashland. Pasture-land fills old photos of Oak Hill from the late 1800's and early 1900's. Today, frequent multi-trunked oaks, some 80-100 years old, support the idea that portions of the property also served as a wood lot.

The area is underlain with a relatively old and very resistant granite, whose outcrops are visible almost everywhere along the trails. The rocks are weathered and covered by so many lichens and liverworts that little sign of their true color and texture can be seen. Along the western trail, not far from the Bay Path, one protected exposure east of the trail shows a pink granite with abundant feldspar and quartz. This part of Massachusetts is noted for its granite, and the famous Milford granites, quarried for two centuries, lie only a few miles to the south.

Most of the forest area is a relatively young, dry oak-hickory forest. A sloped area on the west side of the property contains a much richer mixed hardwood forest due to moister soil conditions. American chestnut saplings are scattered throughout the woods. These are sprouts from old root systems; these trees succumb to the chestnut blight before they can reach full maturity. Other trees include Black, gray and white birches and white pine. Small trees and shrubs include witch hazel, red osier dogwood, sassafras, and high bush blueberry.



Included in the acquisition of the Turenne Habitat was an old tennis court which, stripped of nets and asphalt, had been allowed to grow wild. Oriental bittersweet, strangling the surrounding vegetation, had turned this quarter-acre into an eyesore. Beginning in 1995, the site was transformed into a Bird Garden through the efforts of neighbors, volunteers, the local gardening club and SVT staff. The garden was planted with native wildflowers and shrubs that attract birds and butterflies. After many years of invasive plant control, the bird garden was expanded in 2007-08 (see separate brochure on Creating Wildlife Habitat in Your Backyard).

We have transitioned the former Bird Garden to a Wildlife Planting Area. This native plant area provides a variety of food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds, butterflies, and other pollinators. The different plantings provide multi-level tiers for perching and singing. A banquet of seeds and berries provide food throughout the seasons, and two hand-carved rocks collect drinking and bathing water. Untamed thickets offer shelter from predators; leaf litter (natural mulch) conserves soil moisture and suppresses undesirable plant growth. This area demonstrates how to naturalize a space while providing self-sufficient, long-term, and year-round wildlife support.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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



SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES

Wilfred J. Turenne Wildlife Habitat



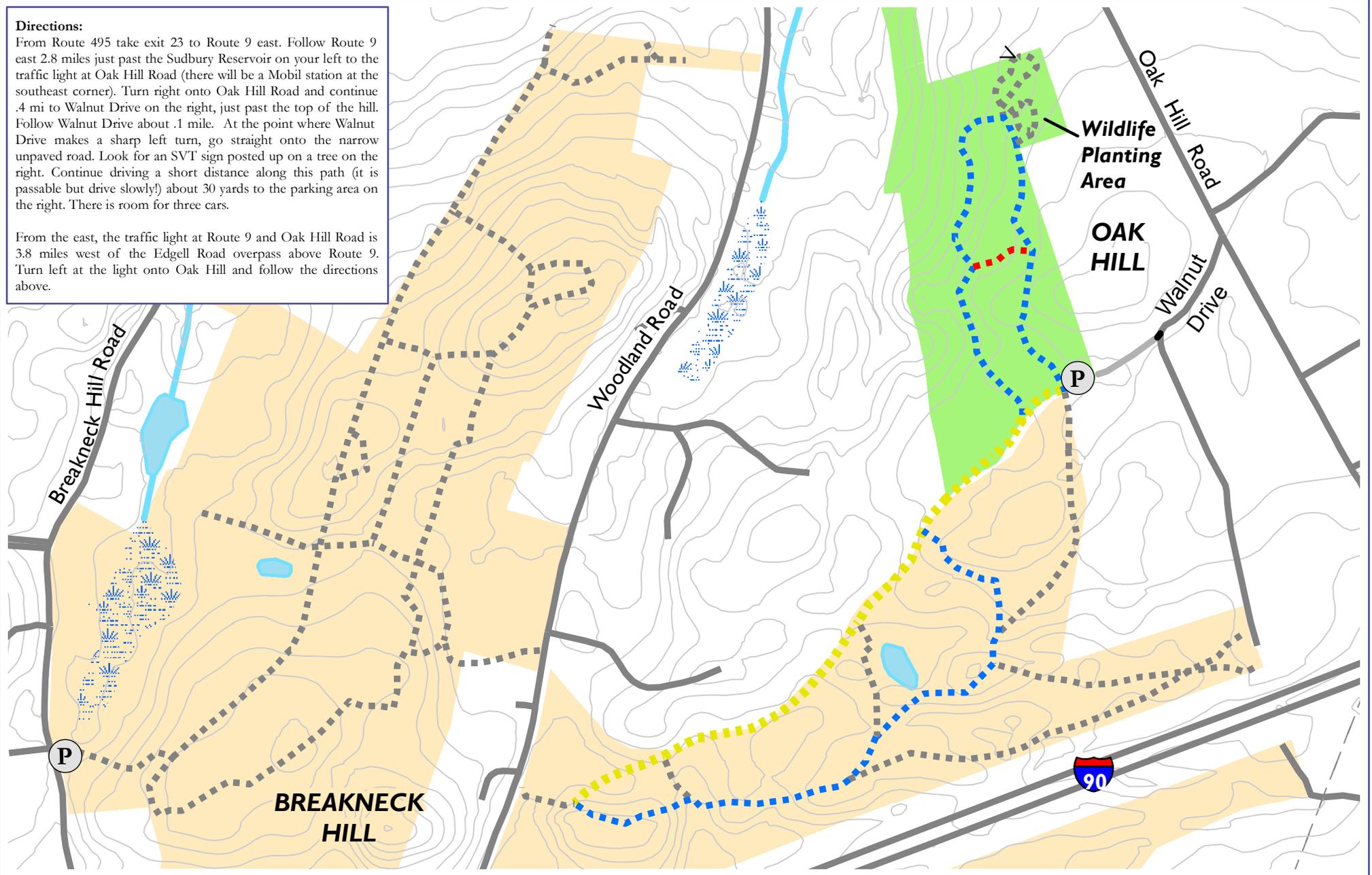
Sudbury Valley Trustees

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Directions:

From Route 495 take exit 23 to Route 9 east. Follow Route 9 east 2.8 miles just past the Sudbury Reservoir on your left to the traffic light at Oak Hill Road (there will be a Mobil station at the southeast corner). Turn right onto Oak Hill Road and continue .4 mi to Walnut Drive on the right, just past the top of the hill. Follow Walnut Drive about .1 mile. At the point where Walnut Drive makes a sharp left turn, go straight onto the narrow unpaved road. Look for an SVT sign posted up on a tree on the right. Continue driving a short distance along this path (it is passable but drive slowly!) about 30 yards to the parking area on the right. There is room for three cars.

From the east, the traffic light at Route 9 and Oak Hill Road is 3.8 miles west of the Edgell Road overpass above Route 9. Turn left at the light onto Oak Hill and follow the directions above.



- Road
- Stream
- SVT Turenne
- - - Trail
- ▭ Pond
- ▭ Town of Southborough
- Ⓟ Parking
- ▭ Wetland
- ▭ View

Turenne Wildlife Habitat Southborough, MA

0 500 1,000 Feet

