


The trails at Upper Mill Brook Conservation Area take walkers through a diverse landscape that has seen a variety of uses in years past. With both wooded and open swamp, part of the area almost certainly lies within a large “Common Swamp” shown on early Wayland maps. Portions were flooded for ice cutting or cultivated as cranberry bogs. More recently, in the mid-1990's, beaver moved in, enhancing the swamp but submerging part of the trail system. They have moved on the, trails shown on the map are now usable.

Some of the land was cleared and cultivated; what we see now is second and third growth, primarily mixed pine and oak with some stands of pure pine. Benjamin's Pond was dug into the clay deposits for which Claypit Hill Road is named. The EMMA pond was constructed in 1964 with funding from Carling Brewery as a demonstration of marsh management for flood control, waterfowl habitat, recreation, and mosquito control. In 2001 a portion of the property near Benjamin's Pond was planted with chestnut seedlings, part of the American Chestnut Foundation's program for breeding blight resistant trees.

These uses suggest the variety of sights you'll see along the trails. A spring visit to the property brings the added pleasure of wildflowers, including wood anemone, lady's slipper, fringed polygala, and, along the ponds near Claypit Hill Road, a brilliant show of marsh marigolds, but be warned that footing is rough along that trail, which connects to town-owned Lower Mill Brook Conservation Area across the road.

Upper Mill Brook Conservation Area includes a number of parcels protected by SVT and the town of Wayland through a series of gifts and purchases that began in 1957, with the most recent additions coming to SVT in 2001 and 2002.



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

DIRECTIONS

Peace Lutheran Church at 107 Concord Road (Route 126) allows its parking lot to be used for public parking when it is not being used for church activities; please avoid Sunday morning. There are also footpath entrances from Concord Road, Glezen Lane and Claypit Hill Road. From the intersection of Routes 126 and 27 in Wayland (at the Wayland Public Library, just north of Route 20), go north on Route 126 approximately 1 mile to the Peace Lutheran Church on your right. Park at the back of their parking lot; an informational kiosk is located in the back of their lawn, behind a small fenced in playground. The trail starts from the kiosk.

Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) is a regional land trust dedicated to the protection of the natural resources and wildlife habitat of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord river basin. SVT carries out its work through land acquisition and stewardship, advocacy, and education throughout a 36-town region. SVT protects and cares for over 100 properties of conservation land that include wetlands, sensitive habitats, trails and other open spaces. SVT reservations are open to the public free of charge. Please consider joining SVT as a member. For more information see www.svtweb.org.




Illustration by Joyce Dwyer



SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES'

&

TOWN OF WAYLAND'S
Upper Mill Brook Conservation Area



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