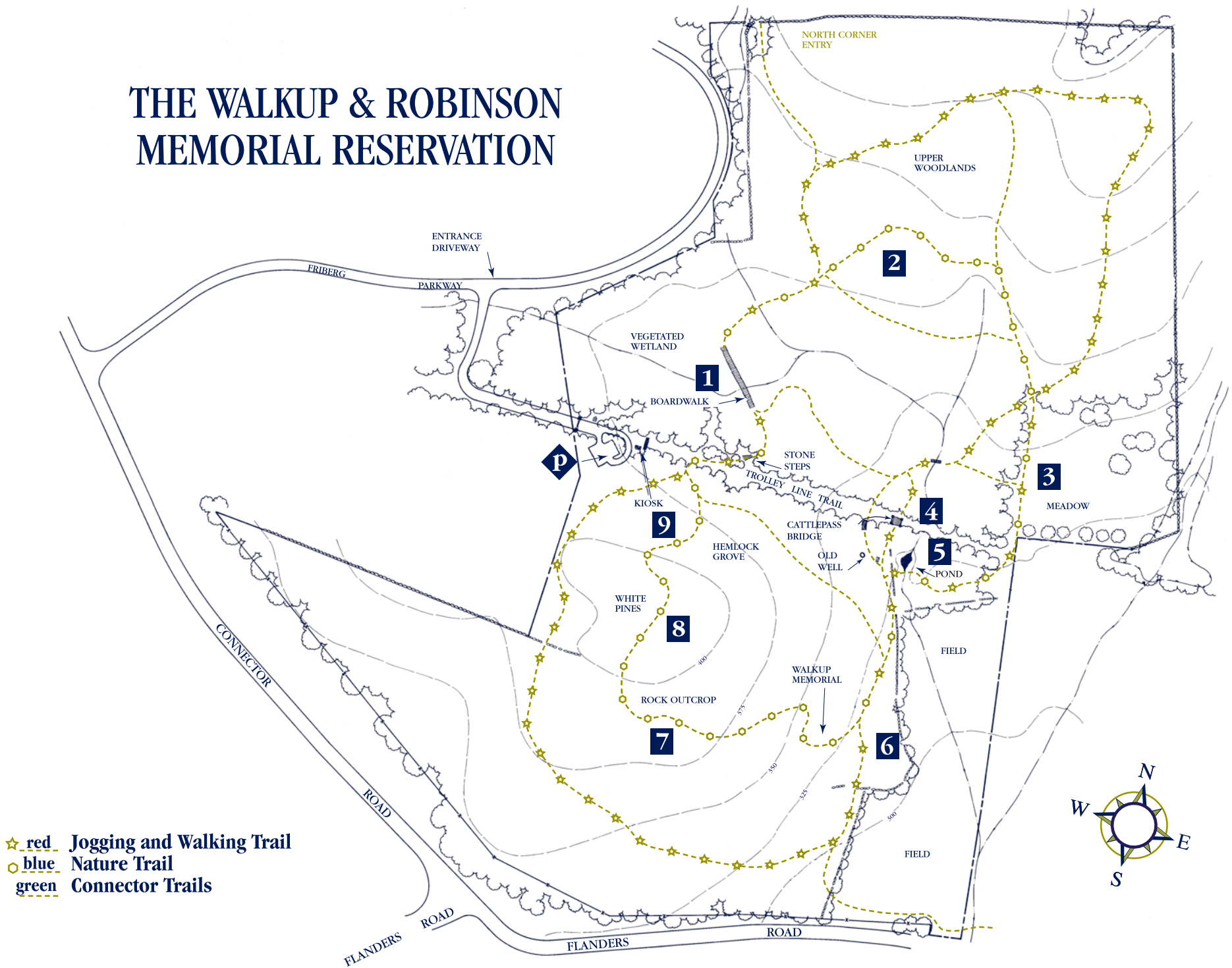


THE WALKUP & ROBINSON MEMORIAL RESERVATION



- ☆ red Jogging and Walking Trail
- blue Nature Trail
- green Connector Trails

WOODED WETLAND

Station 1

Red maples, named for their early spring flowers and their brilliant fall foliage, flourish in this wetland area. There are also a variety of other plants such as shadbush, forget-me-not, ferns, and mosses. In early spring, skunk cabbage is abundant.



UPLAND

Station 2

White and red oaks and an occasional white pine are found throughout this area.

Hickories can also be noted, with the remains of their large fruits scattered beneath them by gray and red squirrels. Indian pipes are numerous in July.

Notice the small evergreen plant called spotted wintergreen amongst the leaves and pine needles of the forest floor. It has variegated leaves and small, fragrant white-pinkish flowers June through August.

MEADOW

Station 3

This area provides an example of plant succession. Fields originally cleared for pasture may be, over time, reclaimed by the oaks and pines on the meadow's edge. Seedlings from these trees as well as hickory, gray birch, and black cherry are invading the field. If they are not cut, they will take over. At the moment, however, perennial grasses and other plants such as goldenrod, ragweed, raspberry, juniper, and pokeweed are prominent. Such an area, having open field, shrub, and forestland in proximity and a variety of plants, supports a greater variety of animals than is usually found in a single habitat type.

You may be fortunate enough to see any one of a number of birds here, such as tree swallow, mockingbird, pheasant, or ruffed grouse.

Bluebirds have nested in boxes here and in the field (Station 6) for a number of years. Deer, woodchuck, and red

fox also use this meadow's edge from time to time and coyotes have been sighted.



CATTLE PASS

Station 4

At this point on the dirt road (the old trolley right-of-way) you will see a new footbridge, built by SVT in 1986 when the trail system was installed. It crosses a gap left in the trolley line embankment (presumably at the insistence of Mr. Walkup's father) to allow cattle to pass freely between pastures under the trolley line. While people could not recognize it then, it was a concession to the diminishing farming industry by the nascent technological revolution, which has had such a profound impact on the natural countryside in the past century.



POND

Station 5

Tadpoles and other small water creatures come to the surface of this pool fed by the intermittent brook, springs, and the high water table. Bullfrogs and green frogs are common; occasionally leopard frogs can also be seen. If you look closely, small aquatic insects such as whirligig beetles and water striders can be seen skimming over the water's surface.

This pond is an attraction to many kinds of birds and other animals that can reach the water to drink and bathe while still within the protective cover of the bushes lining its edge.

FIELD

Station 6

The old stone wall that borders the field is a monument to the enormous job of clearing land with only oxen and human labor. Such open fields were originally cleared for farming. Level and treeless, they now fall easy prey to development pressures for new homes and office buildings, as can be seen beyond our boundary. A red fox has been seen hunting mice in this field and red-tailed hawks often soar overhead or perch quietly in a tree nearby.

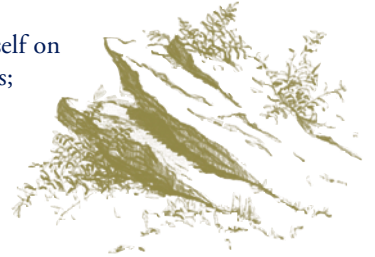


GRANITE LEDGE

Station 7

The rock outcrops here and elsewhere on the reservation were likely to have been exposed after the glacial period. At that time New England was covered with ice thousands of feet thick. The enormous weight and force of this glacial ice as it ground its way very slowly across the countryside scoured the soil off the hills and exposed the granite bedrock. It reshaped hills and valleys; it also caught up large stones and boulders, moving them long distances before depositing them as the ice slowly melted and receded.

Plant life is establishing itself on these exposed rock surfaces; there are tiny lichens and mosses. Polypody ferns are visible as well.



WHITE PINES

Station 8

Large white pines are scattered throughout the reservation. They can be identified by their five-needle clusters. When New England was first settled, the tall, straight-trunked white pines, often 200 feet high, were prized by shipbuilders for masts.

Older trees and limbs that have fallen during storms have been piled at intervals along the trails and serve as important shelter and nesting areas for chipmunks, mice, and other animals.

HEMLOCK FOREST

Station 9

Hemlocks are distinguished by their flat needles rounded at the tip with two narrow white lines on the underside. The forest floor here is open, in marked contrast to that under white pines. The combination of shade, high acidity, and the surface feeding roots of the hemlock make it difficult for many species to survive here. The hemlock itself can reproduce from seed in the shade. Note how the ground seems padded, the result of the accumulation of many generations of hemlock needles.

We ask that you stay on the trail at the numbered stations.