

In 1996, the Knox Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America was created as a result of consolidation of two local councils: Norumbega and Algonquin. The Knox Trail Council, led by a volunteer board of prominent community leaders, now administers the Scout program in the 21-town Greater Metrowest region and owns two large camping properties devoted towards the outdoor education of students as well as religious and community youth groups. Located in Bolton around Little Pond, the E. Paul Robsham Jr. Scout Reservation contains over 325 acres of land for hiking, fishing, and other recreational activities. The second location, the Nobscot Scout Reservation, is a 452 acre property in Framingham and Sudbury. The Norumbega Council began acquiring portions of the land in 1928, piecing together the ownership shown on the map today. While the Scouts own the entire property, the Town of Sudbury and the Sudbury Valley Trustees made a critical step towards preserving the land for continuing youth education by purchasing a 303 acre Conservation Restriction (CR) on much of the Sudbury portion of the land. The completion of the CR was crucial in slowing the relentless wave of development that is currently changing the character and land use of the Metrowest region. By acquiring the development rights from the Scouts, not only did the town and SVT support the youth organization, but they also permanently protected a large expanse of valuable habitat in a highly developed area. The Framingham portion of the land is still considered unprotected.

Habitat and Site Description

During the late 1800's when farming was the dominant industry in Massachusetts, most of the Nobscot Scout Reservation was cleared for pasture. Evidence of that can be seen by the various rock walls that traverse the property. A forest fire burned over much of the restricted premises in 1930; as a result, little of the property had been spared from logging or fire when the Norumbega began acquiring the land. Despite its past, the reservation is returning steadily to its pre-agricultural state due to the proper stewardship and care of the Scouts.

The CR is defined by two distinct management zones. The Open Space Zone (160 acres), through which much of the Bay Circuit Trail runs, hosts fewer scouting activities and is used primarily for its walking and hiking trails. It contains

very high quality forest with excellent structure, having a diverse and abundant ground cover, shrub cover and canopy species with virtually no invasive plants. The Program Zone (143 acres) includes all but one of the structures on the property and bears the most intense Scout usage. This zone has surprisingly good structural development of vegetation in most areas, even though there is much activity. Invasive plants are scattered in the Program Zone, especially near the main buildings and entrances where human disturbances likely spurred growth. Nupsee Pond, a vernal pool certified by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), provides a nice change in wildlife ecology from the forest land. Wood frogs and spotted salamanders can be found in and around the edges of the pond, which is lush with aquatic herbaceous plants.

Overall, the reservation is dominated by white pines, mixed oaks, and hickories although red maples thrive in the stream corridors and forested wetlands. Nobscot still contains nice stands of hemlock yet to be infected by the woolly adelgid, a non-native bug that feeds on evergreen sap, eventually leading to the death of the tree. The tall stands of pines in the uplands of the reservation provide good nesting habitat for owls, so keep an eye out for the birds during dusk and dawn hikes. The forested areas also contain scattered rock outcrops, a relatively unique habitat in eastern Massachusetts that attracts fishers and porcupines. At one of these rock outcrops is Nobscot Hill where you will find magnificent views of the Metrowest region and even the Boston skyline on a clear day. Tippling Rock also provides great views of the surrounding area as well as Mount Wachusett and Mount Monadnock.

Nobscot Scout Reservation, the Town of Sudbury's Weisblatt and Nobscot Conservation Lands along with the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Callahan State Park help create a large complex of recreational and open space land around the Framingham and Sudbury town line, totaling approximately 700 acres.

The Bay Circuit Trail

First conceived in 1929, the BCT serves as a green corridor of recreational trails in the Greater Boston area. From Newburyport all the way around to Kingston, the publicly and privately owned trail meanders through 34 eastern

Massachusetts towns, including Framingham and Sudbury. One can see the distinctive white trail markers from the Town of Sudbury's Nobscot Conservation Area up through the northern border of the Nobscot Scout Reservation. To learn more, visit www.baycircuit.org

Management

With the division of the CR into two different management zones, the Nobscot Scout Reservation provides a unique learning opportunity for visitors and scouts. Designated primarily for passive wildlife viewing and hiking, the Open Space Zone is protected from potential overuse which could lead to significant vegetation loss, erosion of soils, and water pollution. Within the Program Zone, there are several different management practices such as maintaining field habitat for grassland species and using forestry principles for firewood cutting. The two certified vernal pools protected in this zone serve as examples of prime wildlife habitat that provide a balance to the active programmatic uses. The wildlands approach applied in the Open Space Zone coupled with the integrated management of the Program Zone make the reservation a great place to learn about the various ways in which land can be protected and managed. While the Program Zone sees a significant amount of use, Leave No Trace Principles are taught to reservation visitors, showing the Knox Trail Council's dedication to raising human impact awareness. The Knox Trail Council, SVT and the Town of Sudbury are committed to managing the reservation for the benefit of both nature and community members for generations to come.

Land Protection Needs

While the Nobscot Scout Reservation and the publicly owned land near the Sudbury and Framingham town border combine for hundreds of acres of protected land, there are still large parcels in the area that are at risk of development. The amount of open space with its recreational opportunities attracts both conservation organizations like SVT and developers. As a result, the remaining undeveloped and unprotected pieces of land in the Metrowest region are highly valued by both parties. Several of the larger undeveloped parcels near the Framingham and Sudbury border could support large

residential developments, which would greatly impact the local ecological and aesthetic character as well as put more stress on the roads and other infrastructure in the community.

The surrounding unprotected land contains valuable wetlands. These wetlands are important because they serve as natural filters for our community's drinking water by removing toxins and pollutants. They also act as natural "sponges" by soaking up water during storms to minimize flooding and serve as habitat for many wildlife species. SVT has been protecting the region's wetlands for decades and will continue to do so with the help of our friends and neighbors.

DIRECTIONS

Nobscot Scout Reservation

From Route 20 in Sudbury, turn south onto Nobscot Road. Follow Nobscot Road for 1.1 miles. The entrance and parking area will be on your right.

Town of Sudbury's

Weisblatt Conservation Land

Parking and trail head is located on the southern side of Route 20 in Sudbury between Nokomis Road and Horse Pond Road.

Town of Sudbury's

Nobscot Conservation Land

From Route 20 in Sudbury, turn south onto Brimstone Lane. Follow Brimstone Lane for 0.8 miles and the parking area will be on your left.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Knox Trail Council welcomes you to enjoy the trails for hiking, walking, nature observation, snowshoeing, cross-country-skiing, and other quiet activities. Please carry out everything you carry in.

- All persons who enter do so at their own risk and are required to sign-in.
- Public access is only during daylight hours and the public is to keep away from buildings, facilities, and campsites.
- Hiking/walking is permitted only on designated trails and only during daylight hours.
- All pets must be leashed at all times and no pets can be left unattended.
- The specific rules and regulations applicable from time to time are those posted on the property.

In order to protect this natural area, the following are prohibited on the Nobscot Scout Reservation:

- Motorized Vehicles
- Public use of buildings, shelters or other structures
- Swimming or wading
- Horseback riding or bicycling
- Fires
- Public picnicking
- Disorderly conduct, obscene or indecent language
- Firearms, fireworks, illegal substances or alcohol

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

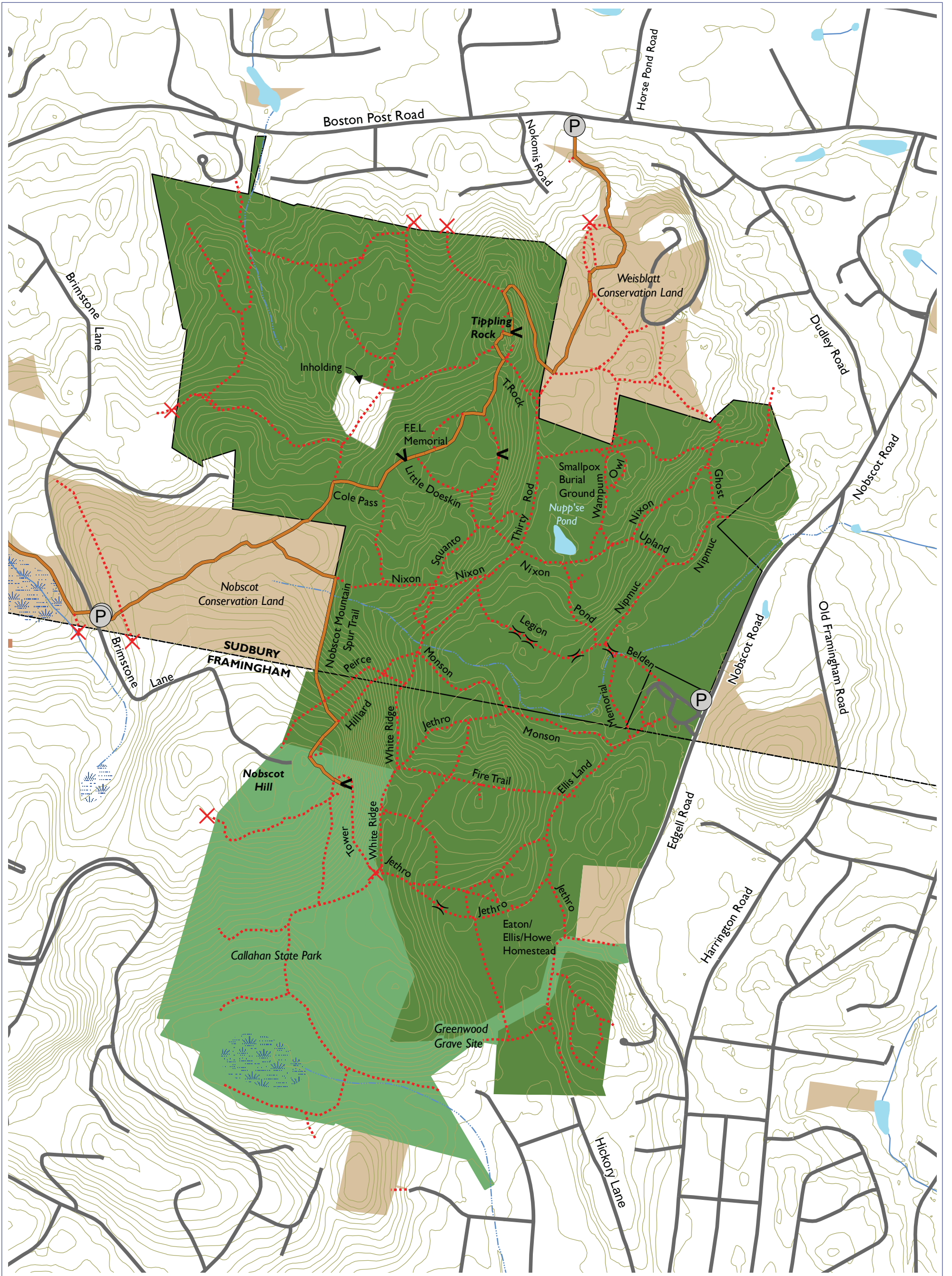


THE KNOX TRAIL COUNCIL'S NOBSCOT SCOUT RESERVATION



SUDBURY
VALLEY
TRUSTEES

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	Parking Lot		Perennial Stream
	Bridge		Intermittent Stream
	View		Pond, Lake, Ocean
	Private		Wetland
	Road		Municipal Conservation Land
	Trail		Callahan State Park
	Bay Circuit Trail		Nobscot Scout Reservation CR
			Nobscot Scout Reservation

Nobscot Scout Reservation



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

