

Map 10 - Medfield, Walpole, Sharon - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route northwest to southeast

Medfield: (continued from map 9) Trail marking: white rectangular blazes. At turns 2 offset blazes are used; turn in direction of upper blaze.

Medfield mileage shown is cumulative from the Sherborn-Medfield town line, and Map 9 point L is the same as Map 10 point A.

BCT exits Noon Hill Reservation (parking) onto Noon Hill Rd; right to South St. Right briefly on South St

A 42°7'34" 71°18'3"

7.4 From Noon Hill Rd and South St, follow South St south and turn left (east) onto Rocky Lane

8.0 Left onto Granite St

8.5 Right onto Forest St

B 42°9'54" 71°17'8"

8.8 Right onto Rte 27 (High St). Cross Rte 27 immediately; proceed about 0.1 mile. Just before Boston Edison utility lines overhead, turn left onto marked tr. Tr goes parallel to utility lines for a short stretch and then turns left into woods (look for blazes)

Follow blazed tr thru woods until reaching paved access road that leads to town water wells.

Right on paved access rd, cross RR tracks, then quick left onto another paved access rd. Proceed on this access rd for a short time, then right off the rd (should be marked at post) to reach the edge of the soccer fields

At soccer fields, turn left and walk along edge of fields toward Wheelock School

At end of fields (near a wooden shed) take narrow paved access rd to Elm St

10.1 Right onto Elm St to Walpole town line, about 0.4 miles (Elm St becomes High St in Walpole). (CAUTION: Elm St is narrow and winding as well as scenic)

10.8 Walpole town line

Walpole: Trail marking: white rectangular blazes. At turns 2 offset blazes are used; turn in direction of upper blaze

C 42°10'35" 71°16'26"

0.0 Enter Walpole at Medfield/Walpole town line at High St. Proceed briefly on High Street and turn right onto path at the Edison power line

Follow path uphill and downhill, then left onto a wooded trail that soon connects with the "old Indian trail." This long winding trail follows a high esker and parallels Mine Brook, which is sometimes visible from the trail

At trail's end leave the woods; turn left onto wide dirt rd past water treatment plant

2.1 Turn right onto Leonard Rd and follow to the end; then enter the woods on path. Trail bears right, then left, to head south toward Robbins Rd

D 42°9'5" 71°15'15" Right on Robbins Rd; pass the Eleanor Johnson Middle School (parking)

3.4 Left on Elm Street (Rte 27); go one block left on East St, then right on Glenwood Ave (just after Dunlop Tire) for one block to Main St

3.5 Cross Main Street (Rte 1A) in downtown Walpole at the lights. Road becomes Stone St (restaurants, parking on Main St; police and fire stations on Stone St) Continue straight on Stone St for one block, then left on School St briefly past the Carolyn Woodward Memorial Playground (parking & soda and juice machines) and Joe Morgan ballfield

4.0 Opposite Town Hall (restrooms during business hours), turn right onto trail beside **Memorial Pond** (parking, picnic tables). Trail skirts south side of pond

4.4 Turn right on Diamond St. Go one block

4.5 Turn left on Stone St; continue past Massachusetts Ave to **Clark Pond Conservation Area** (picnic tables)

4.8 Turn right onto trail along west side of Clark Pond (P= 20)

Go straight (southwest) on Lake St briefly

E 42°8'9" 71°14'46"

5.1 Cross Common St. Enter Walpole High School parking lot. Follow markers to the back of the school and into **Walpole Town Forest**. Follow the "river trail" parallel to Neponset River. Pass the old dam and waterfall (views). Follow blazes to 4-way tr jct

5.5 (BCTscenic spur trail to **Duffy Point** goes right, crosses White Bridge, and continues south on west side of river about .25 mile. Trail left from this 4-way jct in 200 yds offers view of the "old cemetery")

Main BCT goes straight. It is a wide trail thru Town Forest and is well blazed.

Glimpses of the Neponset River can be seen on the right thru the forest. Exit the woods (pass a red brick building on left; Walpole Water Works and parking)

Turn right past the small pond; go thru the grey pipe gate; follow paved driveway past a small pond on left

Turn left onto wooded trail that leads to paved driveway at Dept. of Public Works

Left onto driveway and thru the green gate

6.4 Cross Washington Street to wooded path (directly across from a fire hydrant) into **Town Forest**

Trail continues southerly in Town Forest, meandering thru wetland area. After crossing a seasonal brook, trail goes south/southwest. Turn left thru area of small scrub pines

Shortly, trail connects to an old gravel cart path. Turn left onto the cart path. At the fork, go either left or right; both trails intersect farther down the path. Cart path eventually veers left at jct with another path. Continue south/southeast. Pass a large path on left and continue into a hemlock grove. Almost immediately, trail reaches the intersection of the original loop

Turn sharp right and head south. At high tension lines, leave the cart path, turn left and follow path under the wires to Rte 1

7.5 At Rte 1, turn right and walk along the grass strip to traffic light at Pine St

F 42°6'40" 71°14'40"

7.9 Cross Rte 1 at the lights and follow Pine St east approximately 0.3 mile to Walpole/Sharon town line

8.2 Sharon town line

Sharon section continued on next page

Sharon: *BCT is marked from Walpole to So. Main St. Trail marking: white rectangular blazes. At turns 2 offset blazes are used; turn in direction of upper blaze. BCT coincides with Warner Trail from just west of Rte I-95 to Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary visitors center. Look for triangular Warner Trail markers. Moose Hill trails are marked by trail signs; trail map available at visitors center. Non-members of Mass. Audubon should pay trail use fee.*

- 0.0 Pine St becomes So. Walpole St in Sharon (So. Walpole St crosses Rte I-95 via underpass and overpass). After crossing Rte I-95, turn left onto Pine St in Sharon. After crossing under power line, turn right into a private driveway (permission has been given by owners). See novel underground ecology house designed by John Barnard and built in the mid-70's to left.
At end of driveway, continue straight ahead, entering the woods; left on old woods rd 0.3 miles; right on trail to ascend Pierce Hill (limited views).
Descend Pierce Hill to northeast.

G 42°6'48" 71°13'23"

- 1.5 Walpole St (no parking is strictly enforced here). (Jct with Rte 1 is about 0.8 mile west). Go left about 50 ft; cross Walpole St and enter **Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary**, ascending gradually then steeply to Bluff Head (views) on Bluff Head Loop trail. BCT and Warner Trail coincide.
. Continue on Bluff Head Loop trail, descending from Bluff Head
. Join Cistern Trail and follow for 0.2 miles
. Turn left onto Old Pasture Trail
. At trail jct, BCT continues on Summit Trail, climbing steeply to summit of Moose Hill (fire tower), then descending steeply (still on Summit Trail). Turn left on Billings Loop trail to visitors center across Moose Hill St. (Hikers wishing to avoid the steep climb may turn right onto Moose Hill Loop trail, then right again where it joins the Summit Trail).
3.5 Visitors Center and parking

H 42°7'25" 71°12'29"

- 3.5 Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary visitors center: parking, restrooms, gift shop.
Hikers should pay trail fee here (free for Mass Audubon members; about \$5 for non-members).
From visitors center, cross Moose Hill Parkway and take Kettle Trail south from overflow parking lot briefly, then left on Trillium Trail toward Hobbs Hill.
Turn left on Kettle Trail for about 100 yds, then right on Hobbs Hill Loop trail.
After crossing extensive boardwalk, take right branch of trail up Hobbs Hill
4.8 At the most easterly point of the Hobbs Hill Loop trail, continue toward paved road (Moose Hill Parkway). Visitors center and parking lot are about 0.9 mile to left on this road. BCT goes right onto Moose Hill Parkway, leaving **Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary**. Parking is prohibited along this street and enforced by towing.
5.0 Immediately after Moose Hill Parkway crosses wetlands, take tr into woods. Tr crosses Beaver Brook, then turns right and follows tr between brook and RR tracks. *CAUTION: This is an active railroad with high-speed trains. Stay clear of tracks.* Trail crosses Water Dept driveway, parallels it for a short distance, and end on driveway. Turn right, thru gate, and straight onto Farnham Rd.
Follow Farnham Rd a short distance to jct with West St, continue short distance to So.

Main St.

- 6.2 Left on So. Main St to cross over RR tracks, then turn right and enter ball field area of **Deborah Sampson Park** on south side of So. Main St (parking).

K 42°6'44" 71°11'21" (slight change in route from that on map)

- 6.3 Cross the park easterly, cross E. Foxboro St, and head toward large buildings (former Catholic school). Take trail between tennis courts and old Sacred Heart School buildings thru woodlands toward Beach St.
6.9 Left on Beach St. Look for metal gate in fence for entrance to **Massapoag Lake** town beach (restrooms open in summer) and walk along front of beach.
7.2 Exit town beach and turn right at the rotary onto Massapoag Ave. Use sidewalk on east side of Massapoag Ave; walk parallel to lakeshore south about 1 mile

L 42°5'48" 71°10'12"

- 8.2 At jct of Massapoag Ave and Capen Hill Rd, road to right under arch leads to the Community Center (parking). BCT continues south on Massapoag Ave toward jct with Gorwin Dr.

(continued on map 11)

Map 10 - Medfield, Walpole, Sharon - THE JEWELS

Warner Trail runs from Canton/Sharon line in MA to Diamond Hill in Cumberland, Rhode Island; intersects BCT at Moose Hill. Trail description in *AMC Massachusetts and Rhode Island Trail Guide*.

Medfield:

Medfield Rhododendron Reservation (The Trustees of Reservations; 196 acres) - in early July enjoy 50 acres of rhododendron in bloom. Accessible only thru wetlands (West of map)

Noon Hill (TTOR and Medfield Cons. Com; 590 acres) - Several miles of trails through woodlands, fields, wetlands, and around Holt Pond. Good views from top of Noon Hill. Contiguous to Corps of Engineers land along the Charles River and Stop River. Small parking lots on Noon Hill Rd

Rocky Woods Reservation (TTOR; 490 acres) - 12 miles of trail. Equestrians allowed. Fishing at Chickering Lake. Fee for use, either daily fee or annual membership. Contact TTOR. (North of this map; access from Hartford St)

Walpole:

Town Forest - mixed forest, ledge outcroppings, wetland areas and an extensive trail network for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking (except in wet season) and x-country skiing. Scenic route along banks of Neponset River (fishing). Breathtaking views from "White Bridge" and a circa 1650 old dam and waterfall. "Duffy's Point" located on spur trail 0.25 miles from "White Bridge" is a peninsula extending into the river with special views. Cemetery with headstones dating to early 18th century, on trail opposite "White Bridge" about 200 yards. Parking at the HS on Common St and on South St east of Washington St

Adams Farm (town; 300 acres) - expansive fields, mixed forest, rock outcroppings, stone walls, vernal pools, wetland areas provide excellent wildlife habitat. Trails for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking (except in wet season) and x-country skiing. Adjoins Hill Top Farm trails. Parking on North St near Brook St jct (North of this map)

Hill Top Farm - on North St. near Rte 109 behind the white post & board fence near Walpole town line. Expansive fields (views to Blue Hill's Reservation in Milton and Boston skyline), mixed forest, ledge

map 10 dated Feb. 2008

outcroppings, wetlands, and a babbling brook. Norfolk County Agricultural School students use property for farming, forestry, and environmental workshops. Trails are adjacent to Adams Farm trails and are accessed via Adams Farm trails only. No parking available (North of this map)

Norfolk County Agricultural School - Established 1916, surrounded by nearly 300 acres of open fields and mixed woodland, 4-year regional HS provides vocational education to 28 neighboring towns. Campus on Main St at jct of Fisher St. Agricultural fairs, horse shows and plant exhibits and sales are held periodically throughout the year. Access to trails via North St. No public parking available

Bird Park (privately owned trust land open to the public) - mostly open, partly wooded. Paved pathways are handicapped accessible, offer pleasant 1-mile walk or jog past manicured lawns and wild flowers. Tennis courts, playground, bandstand. Parking on Polley Lane, Gate Way and Washington St

Great Cedar Swamp - swampland and hemlock groves offer habitat for a wide variety of wildlife; historically significant as economic resource to 18th and 19th century shipbuilders and carpenters. Recent additional 60 acres donation. Limited trails for the adventurous. Plans to develop a trail system are underway. Access from Production Rd at RR crossing

The Old Indian Trail (town) including a recent 80 acre donation by Anna Bird, this trail is purported to have been a main thoroughfare used by the Indians before 1700. Long winding trail atop glacial esker provides glimpses of Mine Brook and kettle holes. Mixed forest and stands of white pines; blue herons. On BCT. Access via Leonard Rd at Water Treatment Plant. Park on road

The Pinnacle (Cons.Com; 17.5 acres) - along south bank of Neponset River. Beautiful natural area includes 200' high precipice ("the pinnacle") overlooking 1100' of river-front. Huge hemlocks and beech trees, springs, glacial kettle holes and streams. Once the site of an ancient Indian fishing and camping ground, it is said that the great Massachusetts Indian Sachem, Chicatabut, maintained his wigwam atop "the pinnacle" in 1685. Trailhead east of Plimpton St. about 0.7 miles from Main St. and 0.1 mile from East St. Look for trailhead sign and timber steps going up old New Haven RR grade north of Plimpton & Hemlock St jct

Clark Pond Conservation Area (Cons.Com) - picnic area, pond, fishing. Abutting forestland includes part of BCT. Parking on Stone St near Massachusetts Ave

Turner Pond (Cons.Com) - donated by the Turner family, consists mostly of pond and small picnic area. Limited trails accessed via Millbrook Rd near the gate. Ice-skating, fishing. Parking on Elm St

Allen Dam Pond (Cons.Com) extensive pond bounded by steep grade (children should be accompanied by adults), surrounded by open fields and mixed forestland. Limited parking on Washington St near jct Stone St

Sharon: Town-owned conservation land info is on town's open space map, can be seen at town offices

Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts Audubon; 1984 acres) - Extensive trail network thru fields (good bird- and butterfly-watching), woodlands, hills and wetlands. Warner Trail and BCT coincide for some distance here. Horses, dogs, bicycles prohibited. Visitor center, restrooms, program facilities, and parking lot in center of sanctuary; access via Moose Hill St and Moose Hill Parkway. No parking signs at outer edges of sanctuary are enforced by towing. Trail fee for non-members of Mass. Audubon; trail maps near visitor center. 781-784-5691

Moose Hill Farm (TTOR; 347 acres) - 2 mile long trail thru varied terrain. Property includes mature American chestnut trees, cellar holes, stone walls, summit fields. Acquired by gift in 2005. Access from Moore Hill St. Dogs allowed on leash and only with TTOR permit

Massapoag Trail -approximately 3-mile-long trail from the boat ramp on Lake Massapoag to No.Main St thru early industrial area. Mill ruins and dams. Southern half begins at traffic circle between Pond St and Quincy St. Colored circles serve as trail markers. Trail from Billings St to N. Main St passes intriguing Devil's Rock. Parking at HS (Pond St) and at Mann's Hill Pond on Billings St

Borderland State Park (DCR; over 1700 acres) - trail network for hiking, x-country skiing, mtn biking, horses. Tours of historic Ames Mansion monthly; call for hours. 508-238-6566. Parking (small fee) in lot off Massapoag Ave and informal lot off Bay Rd in Easton

August 2009

Map 10 - Medfield, Walpole, Sharon - FOR MORE INFORMATION

maps and trailguides:

- Relevant USGS topo maps are 7.5 x 15 Medfield, Norwood, and Brockton
- An informal 6-page booklet with **Medfield's** Bay Circuit trail description and maps showing the BCT route is usually available (free) at Medfield Library.
- **Walpole** BCT route description and maps available in brochures at Conservation Commission, Town Hall, and at public library. Info online www.walpole.ma.us/BayCircuitTrail.htm
- **Sharon Trails** is an Eagle Scout project. 35 page book includes maps, trail difficulty ratings, and special features of trails. Copy available to photocopy in Reference Dept at Sharon Library. None for sale
- **Moose Hill** trail maps are available at the visitor center in the center of the reservation, near parking lot. Also online: www.massaudubon.org Trail use is free for Massachusetts Audubon Society members; small fee for non-members.
- The **Warner Trail**, which runs from Canton/Sharon line in MA to Diamond Hill in Cumberland, Rhode Island, intersects BCT at Moose Hill in Sharon. Trail description is included in *AMC Massachusetts and Rhode Island Trail Guide*.
- **The Trustees of Reservations** has maps of most of their properties online. www.thetrustees.org
- **Borderland SP map** at visitor center and online www.mass.gov/dcr Click on Trails *Explorer's Guide to the Neponset River Watershed* www.neponset.org

trail and land/water protection organizations:

Medfield Open Space Committee - town-appointed group working to protect more land in Medfield. Call Town Hall for more information.

Medfield Forest and Trails Assn - a non-profit group that organizes trail projects and does trail maintenance.

Walpole Trails Committee - formed in 1998, committee's objectives are to oversee the maintenance of conservation land and trails, work with the Conservation Commission on the creation of trail easements, coordinate and supervise maintenance and marking of trails on town land, coordinate linkage with trails supervised by the Town Forest Committee, act as intermediary with trail committees from adjacent towns and other trail-related organizations, coordinate and supervise mapping and map production for all town trails. Contact Conservation Commission for more information

Sharon Conservation Commission - 90 S. Main St. 781-784-1511

Sharon Friends of Conservation - Citizens group sponsors hikes in Sharon once a month, has potlucks and interesting programs several times in the fall and winter, publishes a quarterly newsletter. New members welcome

Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation- operates Borderland State Park. Historic Ames Mansion, visitor center and parking lot off Massapoag Ave, Sharon 508-238-6566 www.mass.gov/dcr Click on Trails

Massachusetts Audubon - the largest conservation organization in New England, works to preserve the natural world through conservation, education, and environmental advocacy. It protects over 33,000 acres of land in MA and maintains 45 wildlife sanctuaries that are open to the public. Members receive a beautiful bi-monthly magazine and reduced fees for programs. Frequent programs for individuals and families at Moose Hill in Sharon, as well as at other sanctuaries. Moose Hill phone 781-784-5691. To become a member call 1-800-283-8266 or visit the web site: www.massaudubon.org

The Trustees of Reservations - the country's oldest member-supported land protection organization, seeking to preserve properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value, owns 99 properties and protects over 56,000 acres in Massachusetts. They offer PDF file maps of many of their properties online. Membership information online or contact headquarters at 572 Essex St., Beverly MA 01915. 978-524-1858 www.thetrustees.org Office at Moose Hill Farm, 396 Moose Hill St., Sharon 781-784-0567.

Neponset River Watershed Assn - member-supported river advocacy group. They publish a canoeing guide. Members received newsletter listing guided events (walks and canoe trips) and opportunities to volunteer in river-protection activities. 781-575-0354 www.neponset.org

Members of the Boston chapter and the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter of the **Appalachian Mountain Club** lead guided walks in this area frequently, open to the public. For details look in "Events" column of local newspapers or join the AMC to receive a monthly magazine, listing walks and events throughout New England, NY, NJ, and PA. Contact AMC, 5 Joy St., Boston MA 02108 617-523-0655 x303 web site: www.outdoors.org

Charles River Wheelmen - very active group of bicyclists that lead rides of varying lengths throughout Bay Circuit area. Excellent website lists rides, other information, and membership info. www.crw.org

Bay Circuit Alliance - headquarters located in the Moor and Mountain store at 3 Railroad St., Andover, across the tracks from the converted old RR station. 978-470-1982 <baycircuit@juno.com> www.baycircuit.org