

## Map 11 – Sharon, Easton, - BAY CIRCUIT

### TRAIL route

#### **BCT north to southeast**

(as shown on map 11 dated March 2011)

(text updated March 2011)

**Sharon:** (continued from map 10) Trail marking: white rectangular blazes. At turns 2

offset blazes are used; turn in direction of upper blaze.

Sharon mileage shown is cumulative from the Walpole-Sharon town line, and Map 10's point L is the same as Map 11's point A.

#### **A** N42 05.803 W71 10.200

8.5 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.

#### **B** N42 05.296 W71 10.242

9.1 Left onto Gorwin Dr, and at the end of road, enter left trail to Borderland State Park.

Turn right onto Morse Loop Trail, right onto Ridge Trail, and left onto Northwest Trail.

12.0 Turn right onto the French Trail, left onto the West Side Trail, and turn right onto the Pond Walk and follow to the Visitors Center.

12.5 Borderland State Park Visitors Center (restrooms and visitor center. Free park trail map. Parking small fee).

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

The BCT in Easton travels from the northwest corner of the town to the southeast corner; is 10.9 miles long; and is 68% off-road. The trail passes through State owned

properties, several properties managed and controlled by the Town of Easton Conservation Commission, a piece of property owned by the Natural Resources Trust of Easton, private property, portions of two National Historic Districts, two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and a portion of the Hockomock Swamp.

#### **C** N42 03.753 W71 09.872

0.0 From the **Borderland State Park** Visitor Center at the Sharon town line (which has restrooms and parking for a small fee) proceed southerly to the **Pond Walk**. Follow the Pond Walk, an unpaved carriage road, across the Poquanticut Brook to the **Rockland Street Trail**.

0.6 Turn right onto **Rockland Street Trail** and continue

on a woodland trail to Rockland Street.

During wet conditions, the Rockland Street Trail may become impassible because of flooding. If flooded, return to Borderland's main entrance, turn left on Massapoag Ave for 0.9 mi, turn left on Rockland St for 0.5 mi, and rejoin BCT after going under the power line.

#### **D** N42 03.030 W71 09.119

1.5 Turn left (east) and walk along Rockland Street a short distance.

1.6 Turn right off Rockland Street and proceed into the woods (southerly) on newly cut wooded trail which ends at the power line maintenance road. (Note: if hiking south to north, the turn from power line maintenance road to the "newly cut wooded trail" may be difficult to see. The turn is about 10 yards west of power line pole # 328)

1.8 Turn left (east) and continue along power line; cross Poquanticut Avenue.

Continue a short distance further (to the 2nd steel utility tower #249) where trail exits the power line to the right (southerly) into **Fox Mountain Lot**.

2.6 The **Fox Mountain** trail, a wooded trail that contains a number of stands of beech trees, leads into the abutting **Beaver Brook Woods** (owned by the Natural Resources Trust of Easton) and after crossing two wooden bridges over the Beaver Brook, exits into a grassy parking lot between two residential dwellings at Poquanticut Avenue.

3.5 Turn left (south) out of the parking lot and walk along Poquanticut Avenue, passing Beaver Dam Road on the left, to Roundtable Road (on the right).

3.9 Turn right and continue a short distance on Roundtable Road

4.0 Turn left (south) into a wooded trail on the **Old Pond** property. A short distance after entering this wooded trail an overgrown earthen berm is visible to the right. This berm was constructed long ago as a final barrier to cannon balls test fired from the south end of this property by the foundry which abuts this property to the south. The trail winds through woodlands, through a small marshy area, along old stone walls, through a pine grove along the western shore of **Old Pond**, and ends at the dam/parking lot at the south end of the **Old Pond**.

#### **E** N42 01.463 W71 07.945

4.6 Leaving the **Old Pond Dam** parking lot (P=20), turn left (east) and hike along Foundry Street (Rte. 106) to South Street. This area is the heart of the Furnace Village Historic District.

4.8 Turn right (south) at South Street, crossing the

Mulberry and Beaver Brooks to Highland Street.

- 5.2 Turn left and walk westerly along Highland Street, crossing Mulberry Brook, to Bay Road
- 5.4 Turn right and walk southerly along Bay Road to the **Wheaton Farm** access road on the right onto the **Samuel Wright** property.

**F** N42 01.007 W71 07.245

- 5.6 Turn right onto **Wheaton Farm** access road. This road is covered with crushed shells. Continue down the shell roadway heading westerly to parking area (P=5), crossing the **Mulberry Brook** and proceed along the northern side of the open field to an old farm gate at the Northwest corner. Proceed through gate for a short distance and connect with the north/south "**100 year old cart path**".
- 6.0 Turn left and follow this cart path south. This trail meanders through a mixed woodland, passing a small kettle hole pond on the right, past a number of old stone walls and finally through a pitch pine grove where it intersects an east west trail coming from the main Wheaton Farm parking area. This trail intersection has a pole marker showing a turn to the left. Follow this intersecting trail through another trail intersection and cross the **Ward's Pond/Fuller Hammond Reservoir** dike and enter into the parking lot (P=20) at the end on the left. (The original farm home, known as the Daniel B. Wheaton homestead, is privately owned and is in front of the parking lot.) Then follow driveway to Bay Road (The **Wheaton Farm** Barn will be diagonally across on the west side of Bay Road).
- 7.1 Turn left (north) and hike along Bay Road to Prospect Street on the right.

**G** N42 00.397 W71 07.211

- 7.3 Turn right onto Prospect Street and continue easterly through a residential area to power line.

**H** N42 00.797 W71 05.841

- 8.6 Turn right onto power line maintenance road (P=5). Hike southeasterly to intersecting abandoned railroad bed.
- 9.6 Cross abandoned railroad bed, and continue to hike southeasterly to Rte. 138.

**J** N41 59.878 W71 04.047

- 10.6 At the junction of Rte 138 and the utility pole line 0.8 mile south of Rte 106 in Easton, cars may be parked off road under the pole line, heading south and not obstructing the utility access road. BCT goes east from the opposite side of the road and follows the pole line thru the **Hockomock Swamp**

### **Wildlife Management Area.**

- 11.1 Cross town line into West Bridgewater. Trail continues on the power line.  
(continued on map 12)

## **Map 11 – Sharon, Easton—THE JEWELS**

**Hockomock Swamp** (16,900 acres, of which 1,268 acres are protected by MA Dept Fish & Game) - the largest swamp in New England, a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern and a self-perpetuating 7.5 billion-gallon water storage and flood control area. Home to several endangered species and vital water resource for wildlife.

Many stories are associated with the swamp from the time of King Philip's War. When archaeologists excavated the site many years later they located a burial ground. As the gravesites were opened, red ochre within the graves bubbled and dissolved, and photographs taken of the event could not be developed.

State-maintained canoe ramp on Rte 106 near W. Bridgewater/Easton border

### **Sharon and Easton:**

**Borderland State Park** (Mass. DCR; over 1,700 acres in Sharon & Easton) - trail network for hiking, x-country skiing, horses. Tours of historic Ames Mansion monthly, check website or phone. 508-238-6566. Parking (small fee) in lot off Massapoag Avenue and informal lot off Bay Road at Lincoln St. in Easton. Maps at visitor center.

### **Easton:**

#### **Little Cedar Swamp**

**Fox Mountain Lot** (Cons.Com; 32.3 acres) – woodland area with large amount of beech trees. The last bear in Easton was shot here.

**Beaver Brook Woods** – (Natural Resources Trust of Easton; 66.1 acres). Three separate purchases (1979, 1980 & 1984) make this property, which is contiguous to Fox Mountain Lot. Parking and access off Poquanticut Avenue.

**Old Pond** (Con.Com; 22.9 acres) – wooded trail that heads south and then runs along the edge of the west bank of Old Pond to exit along the top of the dam and then into a parking lot. Built in 1752, this is the first of two ponds created for use by the many foundries in the area. A test range with a Y-shaped earthen embankment (which is still visible) was set up to the north of Old Pond. Warning: poison ivy. Canoe launching areas at

both ponds.

**Furnace Village Historic District (A National Register District, dedicated in 1984)** - In this area were several very early forges and furnaces that produced cannons for the colonial cause during the Revolutionary War. Power came from Old Pond built in 1752 and New Pond built in 1810. There was also a tannery dating from the 1770's, a cider mill, a sawmill, and a thread mill from the 1830's. Largest concentration of colonial and early national period homes in Easton: 555 Foundry Street – (Lincoln Drake House) a hipped roof Federal house built in 1812 with original iron fence; 531 Foundry Street - a Greek Revival built in 1804; 541 Foundry – a 2.5 story home built in 1830; 545 Foundry Street – an 1840 Greek Revival; 549 Foundry Street – a hipped roof colonial built in 1760, altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; 559 Foundry Street (Foundry Office) – a two story brick Federal building built in 1800; and 29 Highland Street (Josiah Keith House c. 1730, the third oldest house in Easton). Until its closure in 2007, Belcher Malleable remained the oldest malleable iron company in the United States still operating from its original site.

**Bay Road Historic District (Dedicated May 5, 1972)** - Bay Road (also known as the Post Road, the King's Highway, the road from Taunton to Boston) predates the European settlement of America. It connected the Taunton fish weirs and Narragansett Bay to stone quarries in the Blue Hills. Contains a short stretch of BCT. One of the two milestones (placed in the 1770's) is located just to the south of the access road along the Samuel Wright field and marks the site of the Matthew-Hayward Tavern.

**Wheaton Farm Management Area**, east and west side of Bay Road - (Easton Con. Com; 1,200 + acres). Town of Easton made the first purchase in 1967 of 278 acres for conservation and educational uses. The Daniel Wheaton house and two acres were sold separately, now privately owned.

**North Easton Historic District (accepted November 3, 1972)** - comprises 500 acres and about 160 noteworthy and supportive buildings and six notable landscaped areas. Both vernacular and sophisticated examples of architectural styles, from late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century are represented. Among the above are the five Richardson buildings noted below.

**H.H. Richardson Historic District of North Easton (National Historic Landmark 12/23/1987; National**

**Register District 12/23/1987)** - all located in the North Easton Historic District. Features a shingled gardener's cottage (c. 1884) at 149 Elm Street; The Gate Lodge (1880-1881), across from the Town Offices with the west side used as a residence and the east side of the arch for the storage of plants in the winter; the former North Easton Railroad Station (1881-1884) currently housing the Easton Historical Society at 80 Mechanic St.; Oakes Ames Memorial Hall (1879-1881) at 3 Barrows Street with landscaping designed by Frederick Law Olmstead; and the Ames Free Library (1877-1883) at 51 Main Street.

**The Rockery** (North Easton, 1881-1884) - designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. Envisioned as a "Public Square," a Civil War Memorial, and a promenade with vistas of North Easton.

**Canoe River Aquifer Area of Critical Environmental Concern** - approximately 17,190 acres with 3,660 acres in the Town of Easton. The Easton portion is bounded by Massapoag Avenue, Poquanticut Street, South Street, Highland Street and Bay Road west to the town border.

**Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (authorized by M.G.L. c. 21A, § 2(7))** - consisting of approximately 16,800 acres with 5,300 acres in the Town of Easton. The Easton portion of the Hockomock Swamp ACEC is bounded by Bay Road, Depot Street and Purchase Street east to the Town border.

## **Map 11 – Sharon, Easton-- FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*maps and trailguides:*

**Hockomock Swamp maps** at South Eastern District office of Mass Dept of Fish and Game (195 Bournedale Rd, Buzzards Bay) and online [www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/southeast\\_maps.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/southeast_maps.htm)

**Easton:** maps of Sheep Pasture and town conservation land in Easton online at [www.nrtfeaston.org](http://www.nrtfeaston.org)

**Borderland State Park:** maps at visitor center and online [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/borderland](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/borderland)

*trail and land/water protection groups:*

**Natural Resources Trust of Easton** - a member-

supported, non-profit organization whose mission is to educate about significant natural and cultural resources and to acquire and preserve land of special character for the benefit of the public. Currently owns 257.4 acres and hold seven Conservation Restrictions protecting an additional 74.3. Incorporated in 1967. Maps and brochures online: [www.nrtofeaston.org](http://www.nrtofeaston.org)

**Easton Conservation Commission** - maintains over 2,000 acres of open space. 136 Elm Street, North Easton, MA (508-230-0630)

**Friends of Borderland** - non-profit organization formed in 1972, dedicated to preserving and maintaining the Borderland property, the Ames mansion, and the heritage of the Ames family that created the Borderland Estate [www.friendsofborderland.org](http://www.friendsofborderland.org)

**Friends of Wheaton Farm** – non-profit organization formed in 1996 by interested abutters to oversee the care, management and control of the Wheaton Farm Wildlife Area. This group is currently in the process of merging into the Natural Resources Trust of Easton.

**Mass. Dept of Fish and Game** - oversees Hockomock Swamp WMA. [www.mass.gov/dfwele/](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/) 508-759-3406

**Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee** - 15 member committee representing 5 towns, created in 1987 by state legislation to educate the public about protecting the Canoe River Aquifer. Advises municipal officials and residents on development impacts, water quality concerns, conservation practices, protective zoning bylaws and other issues. Sponsors educational conferences and meetings.

**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](http://www.crw.org)

**Bay Circuit Alliance** headquarters is located in the Moor and Mountain store at 3 Railroad St., Andover, across the tracks from the converted old RR station. 978-470-1982 [www.baycircuit.org](http://www.baycircuit.org)