

map 12 dated Feb. 2008

## Map 12 -- Easton, West Bridgewater, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater -- BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL ROUTE

**Easton:** (not blazed)

**A** 42°00'47" 71°05'52"

0.0 From Prospect St, go east onto power line trail thru **Hockomock Swamp** to Rte 138 (about 1.9 mile)

**West Bridgewater:** North to south (actually west to east here); distances are approximate. BCT logos at trailheads and major intersections; trails blazed with white rectangular markings. The "Bridge-waters" are well named - the 6.6-mile West Bridgewater segment of the BCT, when complete, will cross once over the Hockomock River and three times over the Town River. The trail passes through woodlands, farmlands, and historic sites, often within sight of water. The combined walking distance of the two sections of the currently dedicated West Bridgewater Bay Circuit Trail is about 3.9 miles. The finished 6.6 miles will include about a one-mile detour under Rte 24, a privately owned section presently under negotiation, and the length of Forest St. Temporary BCT includes a 2.5 miles walk along South Elm St.

**B** 41°59'52" 71°04'04"

0.0 At the jct of Rte 138 and the utility pole line .8 mi. 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 through the **Hockomock Swamp Wildlife Management Area**

0.6 Trail crosses into West Bridgewater and continues on the pole line

1.3 Turn left onto power line access road, with the Hockomock River on the left

1.4 After crossing the river over a stone bridge, turn left under the pole line onto Old Maple Street (unpaved). Leaving **Hockomock Swamp WMA**, continue straight past an orange gate and a small parking area on the left **C** 42°00'12" 71°02'08"

1.8 Blazed BCT ends (temporarily) at Pleasant Street and resumes at River and Forest Streets.

*Temporary Bay Circuit Trail, not blazed:* From Maple St turn left onto Pleasant St, go 0.43 mi., turn right onto South Elm St, and bear left after the Rte 24 overpass. Follow South Elm 1.2 mi., passing Scotland St on the right,

Lincoln St on the left, and the West Bridgewater Transfer Station on the right. In 0.25 mi. turn right onto River St. Continue to jct with Forest St

**E** 42°00'49" 71°00'59"

Jct of Forest and River Streets. *Good photo op of the Town River with its double-arched stone bridge. Across River St is the 1662 Rev. James Keith House maintained as a museum by the Old Bridgewater Historical Society. Either proceed east and south on BCT or pick up the Forest St stretch of BCT route by walking south on Forest St, which goes 1.1 mi to Clinton Rd, (D 42°00'04" 71°01'09") just past the Town River. Walk back the same way before continuing east*

**E** 0.0 From Forest St turn right onto River St, continue past Howard St on the left and past South St on the right, with view of the old **Canoe Club** of big band fame

**F** 42°00'54" 71°00'47"

0.4 Just beyond the beginning of Arch St is the entrance to **West Bridgewater War Memorial Park**. After visiting the park, return to Arch St and continue over the bridge (closed to vehicles), with dam and fish ladder upstream on right

0.5 Turn left onto Bryant St and continue thru a residential area

0.9 Trail crosses Rte 28 (restaurant on each western corner). Continue onto Ash St, an ancient way, part gravel, that passes houses with wooded backland

1.2 Trail passes the short path to **Reynolds Landing** on the left. Continue on Ash St

2.0 Turn left onto Rte 28 South

**G** 2.1 BCT crosses into Bridgewater at the town line sign

**Bridgewater: Not blazed**

**G** 42°00'15" 70°59'31"

0.0 Continue on Rte 28 south to High St

0.6 Left on High St (traffic light) to **Bridgewater Ironworks Park at Stanley**

**H** 42°00'10" 70°58'59" 0.8

*For now hikers should proceed along roads to point K. No blazes. From Ironworks Park go east on High St to Rte 18. North on Rte 18 to Spring St. Go left. Park on shoulder of Spring St at point K, where former RR line crossed rd.*

**East Bridgewater:**

*Trail is blazed with occasional white rectangular markers, high on trees or utility poles. Double blazes offset indicate*

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*a turn in the direction of the upper blaze.*

**K** 42°01'40" 70°57'54"

0.0 P=3 or 4 cars. Go northeast on Spring St toward jct with Rte 18

0.6 At traffic light bear left slightly to safe crossing of Rte 18. Use pedestrian walk button. Cross to island and small park with bench and sundial. (Or from traffic light go right onto Rte 18, past a Cumberland Farms, to a cross walk. Cross Rte 18, then left along Rte 18 to the same traffic light)

Go southeast on Central St sidewalk

1.0 At town common bear right onto Plymouth St

**L** 42°01'16" 70°57'02"

1.5 Immediately after Plymouth St crosses the Satucket River turn left onto Bennett Lane (P=4)

1.6 Tr enters **Satucket River Conservation Area** beside the parking area. BCT more or less follows the river for 0.5 mile. There are many other trails in this area, including the "express route" (an old cart path, probably the original Plymouth St), which leaves Bennett Lane parking area right of the BCT. Benches at intervals offer views of the river

2.2 BCT goes left to brook crossing. Tr to right shortly before brook crossing is the other end of the "express route"

Immediately after brook crossing see sign for **Phillips Wildlife Area** (oldest town conservation property acquired as a gift). Go straight about 1/8 mile.

Bear left in pine grove (detour right for good view of an active cranberry bog).

Shortly bear right onto a smaller tr (look for blaze).

Go thru opening in a chain link fence to a right turn toward Susan Place. Go uphill to exit east, at the guard rail.

2.7 Exit **Satucket River Conservation Area** onto Susan Place. There are no blazes, but a kiosk is planned.

Walk along Susan Place to jct with Rolling Hills Dr

2.8 Right onto Rolling Hills Dr. This road is a loop; where Rolling Hills Dr goes left, continue straight to Bridge St

**M** 42°01'10" 70°55'55"

3.1 Left onto Bridge St

3.7 Right onto Crescent St

(continued on map 13)

## Map 12 - Easton, West Bridgewater, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater - 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. Home to several endangered species and vital water resource for wildlife. W. Bridgewater access from Maple St (dirt rd); state-maintained canoe ramp on Rte 106 near W. Bridgewater/Easton border

**Easton:**

**Little Cedar Swamp**

**Bridgewater** (the six properties below are parts of the Municipal Park System, owned by the town; management plans are facilitated by the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater):

**Bridgewater Iron Works Park at Stanley** (Municipal Park System; 12 acres) - historic site and riverside park with walking trails, fish ladder, canoe launch site on Town River. Jct High and Wall Sts. Entrance is located inside the Highway Dept Headquarters, behind the parking lot across from the private club named 49ers. Parking in DPW lot

**Stiles & Hart Conservation Area** (Municipal Park System; 70 acres) - From Bridgewater Center, go north on Route 18 less than a mile, passing the McDonald's and Decelle's on the right. A small parking area is available just past the bridge over the Town River

**Tuckerwood Conservation Area** (Municipal Park System; 3 acres) – Vernal pools, pristine woodlands and wetlands. From Bridgewater Center, go north on Route 18 for 1 mile. Turn right onto High Street. Continue through the Haywood Street intersection, for a total of 1.2 miles. Right-of-way is on the right, posted with a sign

**Wyman Meadow Conservation Area** (Municipal Park System; 35 acres) – Mixed wetlands and upland forests along the Taunton River. Part of the Taunton Heritage River Park system. From Bridgewater Center, go north on Route 18 for 1 mile. Turn right onto High Street. Continue to end and stop sign (2.5 miles). At the stop sign, continue across Route 104 onto Plymouth Street. The total mileage from Route 18 is 3.2 miles. The field is on the right, a large open meadow with a trail through its center (east of map)

**Carver's Pond** (Municipal Park System; 35 acres) – Outdoor classroom for local schools and Bridgewater State College. Municipal water supply. From Bridgewater Center, follow School Street (to the right of Town Hall) past the Fire Department to the stop sign at the bottom of the hill. Turn right onto Summer Street. Continue 0.7 mile. Parking lot and park signs are on the right.

**Titicut Conservation Area** (south of map) (Municipal Park System; 32 acres) - Access from Beech St

**Lake Nippenicket** (MA DEM) - a "great pond"; public access ramp off route 104

**West Bridgewater:**

**Old Bridgewater Historical Society** (OBHS) and **1662 Rev. James Keith House** - hours vary but arrangements can often be made for group visits to the OBHS Museum at 162 Howard St and/or the Keith House on River St. Call OBHS at 508-559-1510, where the message machine is checked regularly, or the Keith House at 508-559-1511 (no answering machine)

**War Memorial Park** (6 acres) - recently created town park contains the preserved remains of seventeenth-century industrial activity that gave birth to the original Town of Bridgewater. Historic Triple Stone Arch Bridge; fish ladder. Information available at OBHS; at West Bridgewater Department of Forests and Parks, 508-894-1217 (M-F); or at W.Bridgewater Public Library 508-894-1255

**Reynolds Landing** (canoe launch site and trails) (Conservation Com; 1 acre) on the Town River. On BCT route along Ash St. River view and birding opportunities. Graveled parking area off Ash St

**Crescent St/Mill Pond Area** (Con.Com; 10 acres) - Hiking, hunting, canoeing, fishing. Access from Crescent St; no defined parking area

**North Elm St Area** (Con.Com; 11 acres) - hiking. No defined parking area

**Forest St Fish and Game Area** (Con.Com; 9 acres and MA Fisheries and Wildlife; 291 acres) - hiking. Many features of Hockomock Swamp. Solitude Stone historic

marker near entrance. Access from Forest St; roadside parking

**West Bridgewater State Forest** (MA DEM; 826 acres. Con.Com; 12 acres. MA Fisheries & Wildlife; 222 acres) - hiking, x-country skiing. Includes West Meadow Pond (128 acres) with canoe access from parking lot at end of Spring St (unpaved)

**East Bridgewater:**

**Satucket River Conservation Area** (52 acres) – Riverside woodlands, including the town's first wildlife management area gifts, the Phillips Wildlife Area. "Express" trail and a meandering riverside trail that the BCT follows. Access from Bennett Lane off Plymouth St and from Susan Dr off Rolling Hills Dr

**Minister's Rock Area** (9.7 acres) – Path encircles a small hill, featuring the stone upon which Elmwood village pastor Timothy Otis Paine chiseled a poem during the Civil War. Access from Bedford St

**Beaver Brook Conservation Area** (136 acres) – Woodlands and fields. Wildflowers and rabbits abound. Access from Belmont St and Summer St

**Sachem Rock Farm** (Cons.Com; 31.5 acres) – Foot trails along high banks of Satucket River. Historic marker about 60' behind the now vacant Victorian house. At this rock prominence, Myles Standish and others signed a deed with Massasoit in 1649 gaining hunting and fishing rights "to them and their heirs forever." Submerged fishing weir nearby. Area near the rock has been replanted by East Bridgewater Garden Club. Access from Plymouth St, opposite #336. Trail map available from Friends of Sachem Rock Farm, c/o E.Bridgewater town offices, 175 Central St, 02333

**East Bridgewater Town Common** –Third Parish Church at its center. In 1721 the earliest meeting house reserved space under the stairways for "Indians" to attend religious services.

**Map 12 -- Easton, West Bridgewater, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater -- FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*maps and trailguides:*

Relevant USGS **topo maps** are 7.5 x 15 Brockton and Taunton; 7.5 x 7.5 Whitman and Bridgewater

**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)

**Bridgewater Municipal Park System** overall map; road directions to 6 parks. online [www.nrtb.org](http://www.nrtb.org)

*trail and land/water protection groups:*

**Natural Resources Trust of Easton** - local land trust that now manages several reservations; also runs a summer camp. Started in the 1960s, NRT welcomes new members; membership form on website [www.nrtfeaston.org](http://www.nrtfeaston.org) 307 Main St, N. Easton 02356 (POBox 188) 508-238-6049

**Easton Conservation Commission** - manages almost 3000 acres. 136 Elm St, North Easton 508-230-3349

**Old Bridgewater Historical Society (OBHS)** 162 Howard St, West Bridgewater 508-559-1510

**West Bridgewater Department of Forests and Parks**, 508-894-1217 (M-F)

**West Bridgewater Conservation/Open Space** 508-894-4073 (M-F)

**Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB)** - non-profit citizens' group seeking to promote land conservation in Bridgewater and adjoining communities, to maintain rural character and charm, to protect the river corridor, to preserve open space and wildlife habitat, to provide passive recreation areas. Facilitates stewards' training program for the town park system. Newsletter. POBox 15, Bridgewater 02324. 508-697-7317.

**East Bridgewater Conservation Commission** 175 Central St. 508-378-1623

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

**Taunton River Watershed Alliance** – river and stream protection and activities. Membership info online. [www.savethetaunton.org](http://www.savethetaunton.org) POBox 146, Bridgewater 02342

**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 <[baycircuit@juno.com](mailto:baycircuit@juno.com)> [www.baycircuit.org](http://www.baycircuit.org)