

map 2 dated Jan. 2009

## Map 2 - Rowley, Ipswich, Hamilton, Topsfield, Georgetown, Boxford - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route

(North to South) **PROSPECT HILL in ROWLEY to MIDDLETON RD in BOXFORD**

**A** 42°42.53 70°53.48

0.0 **Prospect Hill** trailhead is on south side of Rte 133, 0.5 m west of jct Rte 1A. P=5 Proceed on dirt rd thru gate, past rd on right that ascends to summit. Follow white blazes

0.2 Right at field, ascend to Prospect Hill summit.

0.3 Left at trail jct (water tower on summit can be seen thru trees); start descent.

0.6 Halfway down turn right up hill again; follow blazes to old rd. Right; then quick left

1.0 Cross Dow Brook on bridge, then cross under power line; turn right.

Continue on trail to Con Com land, cross 3 new equestrian/foot bridges, and follow trail thru fields to Linebrook Rd.

**B** (P=8) Tr jcts in this eastern part of **Willowdale State Forest** are numbered.

**0.0** Enter **Willowdale State Forest** thru forest gate, parallel field to words and BC trail marks. Turn right and at #23 follow trail sign and turn left.

Trail is well marked with white blazes to #4.

Continue to #5 and major junction at #6

**C** 42°39.95 70°54.32

1.8 #6 Right at this major intersection. (See next page for description of the alternative east-west route to this major intersection) Note: white blazed connector trail with Discover Hamilton Trail comes in from left (this connector trail leads 0.5 mi to Topsfield Rd.; parking available on Topsfield Rd. at trail crossing) Many side trails enter the next stretch; follow blazes (straight at 48, 47, 7, 8, 9).

2.5 #10 Left at jct

2.8 #11 Right off woods rd and proceed across swampy area

3.0 #12 Right to extended footbridge across Howlett Brook (Note: as of Dec. 2008 this section was flooded by beaver activity. Remedies will be tried. If this is flooded or footbridge is impassable, use the following route: #12 turn left. At #29 go right to reach East St. Go right on East/West St; follow to Rte 1)

**D** 42°40.13 70°55.58

3.8 West St to Rte. 1 crossing (P=4) (*caution: heavy traffic; although tr continues directly across the highway it is safer to proceed left to top of hill and cross there, then return along other side of Rte 1*)

Enter the **Hood Pond section of Willowdale State Forest**

**E** 42°40.08 70°56.10

4.4 Cross Old Right Rd, then right onto side tr and down steep hill

5.1 Cross footbridge; in 0.2 mi right onto Rowley Rd, then before reaching Linebrook Rd (Ipswich) turn left into woods

**F** 42°40.32 70°57.03

5.3 Cross second foot bridge; in 0.2 mi cross Linebrook Rd in Ipswich, follow esker, right onto another esker, then down toward Boxford Rd in Rowley. Now in **Georgetown-Rowley State Forest**. Right onto Boxford Rd briefly; cross and go left uphill into woods

6.8 **CAUTION:** *as of spring 2008, the foot/horse bridge in this section is in hazardous condition because of beaver activity and subsequent flooding. Use with great caution at your*

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*own risk, or bypass this section for now by using temporary route: At trail intersection #82, turn left, descend esker, cross wetland on bog bridge to #90. Turn right to #89, then left for a short distance, and follow trail to right which leads to the intersection of Rowley Rd and Rte. 97. Turn right onto Rte. 97, cross I-95 bridge, continue 0.5 miles to Kelsey Rd, and turn left to resume following BCT.*

Go right, descend esker to cross foot/horse bridge, and follow trail to intersections #28, #26, #27 and #22. At #22, turn left and follow the woods road to bridge crossing Rte. 95.

**G** 42°42.17 70°57.97

8.3 Cross bridge over Rte 95 (Pingree Farm Cart Rd). Bear left at fork in woods rd

9.5 Immediate sharp left after passing metal gate, continue on woods rd, then right at T jct

10.9 (Leaving **Georgetown-Rowley State Forest**) Follow blazes carefully for next half mile as this section of trail is being rerouted.

**H** 42°41.22 70°58.97

11.6 Cross Rte. 97 onto Kelsey Rd.

11.9 Left onto RR bed; after going around metal gate continue straight, turn right across ditch and up embankment onto BCT bearing right on blazed tr thru woods and parallel to Kelsey Rd

12.1 Left onto Hemlock Rd; 0.3 mi right onto Ipswich Rd, then left onto Round Top Rd passing #18 by 100 ft; then left to stay on (unmarked) Round Top Rd., then right onto Campground Rd, left onto Chapman Way. Reenter woods at end of paved section of Chapman Way. Cross footbridge over Lowe's Pond inlet (*Caution: as of spring 2005, this part was flooded by beavers*)

13.0 Right onto Boren Lane and left at #49 across lawn to reenter woods at trailhead entrance of **Chapman Way** to Boxford Center. Follow antique woods rd, passing cemetery on left, down driveway to the end where it meets street

16.9 Left onto Georgetown Rd (becomes Elm St); past Depot Rd (Middleton Rd) to **Boxford Center**

**K** 42°39.80 70°59.88

13.9 BC map & Boxford Community Store on right (food, restroom, phone available)

14.0 Left onto Topsfield Rd (BCT sign). In 0.5 mi right onto Cahoon Rd (BCT sign); then right into **Boy Scout Park** (P=many). Pass to left of playground, enter woods south side of parking lot. Left at field with flagpole. Follow blazes to exit between 2 houses onto Dana Rd. (Note: if Boy Scouts are using park, bypass the park via Dana Rd)

**L** 42°38.40 70°59.35

14.9 Right onto Dana Rd, then go thru the cul de sac and bear left onto the Dana Rd extension to enter **Lockwood Forest**

15.2 At break in stone wall, go right onto path, proceed to Fish Brook, then bear left. With Fish Brook on right, in 0.2 mi enter field, proceed along right edge; re-enter woods directly across field from where you entered the field. Shortly, cross a stone retaining wall, bear right, pass old mill site on the right (note: horses not allowed along Fish Brook dam site trail)

15.6 Right onto Lockwood Lane, cross 2 bridges. Resume tr on left (south) side of the street. Walk around the gate and follow the tr along the west bank of Fish Brook. Continue straight at 4 way woods rd jct, bear right at fork, to stay on marked main trail up a hill, thru a wet spot, up a small hill past a kiosk, to Middleton Rd (BCT map)

**M** 42°38.40 70°59.43

16.3 Cross Middleton Rd. Enter **Bald Hill Reservation** at steel gate, where map of reservation is posted. (*Continued on Map 3*)

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**(East to West ) APPLETON FARMS and APPLETON FARMS GRASS RIDES,  
HAMILTON; to WILLOWDALE STATE FOREST TRAIL JUNCTION, IPSWICH**

**N** 42°38.97 70°52.17

0.0 P=15 off Highland Rd 100 yds E of Cutler Rd (Nancy's Corner). No parking on Cutler.  
(Note: BCT is may be unmarked here) Walk SE on the lane from parking area to forest; turn right to

enter the **Appleton Farms Grass Rides**. Turn left and proceed straight ahead passing trails on left and right, pass a 4-way jct and a tr right. At next 4-way jct, go right. Pass a 4-way jct, over small stone bridge, pass tr and open field on left, to granite monument.

0.8 Six trails converge at the monument. Leave by the tr opposite from where you entered. Go 0.5 mi., past one tr on right to Cutler Rd

**P** 42°37.98 70°51.92

1.3 Cross Cutler to tr entrance in the **Harvard Forest**. From here on, the BCT has standard white blazes. Go 0.1 mi. to tr bridge over Black Brook. Enter Essex County Greenbelt's **Pingree Res**. Cross bridge, bear left up onto esker then right down to 4-way tr jct. Right at tr jct. Left up hill. Right at horse fence. Follow tr down hill and parallel to horse track. Keep left. When tr

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comes to driveway, follow drive to Highland Rd (new BCT route will probably turn right at open field before driveway, go west of Pingree School pond, then left along marsh to School Drive almost directly opposite tr entrance to Bradley Palmer SP)

**R** 42°38.35 70°53.15

2.9 Right on Highland Rd

3.1 Enter **Bradley Palmer State Park** on tr left. Intersection numbers are on DCR posts. Bear left at 68, straight through 75, 71, 72 to park rd

4.0 Straight across rd to tr. At major jct of six trails with town boundary marker go right. Straight through 55, 56, 40 to steeplechase course and open field.

4.4 Take left on trail going uphill into the woods at 39. Bear right at 38, then straight through 35 to Moon Hill field.

4.8 Go right and follow edge of field. Pass trails at 28, 27. Right at 26. At bottom go straight across open area and continue straight down tr to Ipswich River. Cross bridge to Topsfield Rd  
**S** 42°39.62 70°54.17

5.5 Cross Topsfield Rd and go 0.4 mi. straight on past several trails to well-marked jct  
**C** 42°39.95 70°54.32

5.9 Bay Circuit 3-way jct in **Willowdale State Forest** eastern section (*see C above*)

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## Map 2 - Rowley, Ipswich, Hamilton, Topsfield, Georgetown and Boxford - FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Trail marking:** BCT is marked with dollar-bill sized white blazes everywhere except in Appleton Farm Grass Rides.

**Trail uses:** BCT and other trails are generally open to all non-motorized uses and closed to all motorized uses with a few exceptions. Horses are not permitted in Appleton Farms Grass Rides nor on some trails in Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary at certain times. Dogs prohibited in Ipswich River Sanctuary. ORV use is permitted only on certain trails in Georgetown-Rowley SF. Snowmobiles permitted on certain trails in Bradley Palmer SP and Georgetown-Rowley SF. See DEM maps for details. Most trails are suitable for cross-country skiing. Most are open to mountain bikes, but the glacial eskers are fragile. Bike with care with the land in mind. Equestrians are frequent on most, and mountain bikers in particular need to be careful not to frighten the horses.

### Maps and trail guides:

- Relevant *USGS topo map* is 7.5 x 15 Ipswich
- **BTA/BOLT Guide to the Bay Circuit and to other Walks in Boxford** (BTA/BOLT-2005) includes an excellent detailed guide to the BCT from Willowdale S.F. to North Andover. [www.btabolt.org](http://www.btabolt.org) for current sources and prices.
- **The Bay Circuit Guide to Walks in and around Ipswich**, (Ipswich BCT Committee) includes a detailed guide to the BCT from Prospect Hill, Rowley to Rowley Rd in Boxford between Willowdale S.F. and Georgetown-Rowley S.F. Available at many locations including town clerk's office, library, stores
- **Discover Hamilton Trail** map and trail description (Ham.Cons.Com). Free at Hamilton Town Hall on Rt. 1A (577 Bay Rd)
- Trail maps of **Appleton Farms and Grass Rides** and of **Crane Beach & Wildlife Refuge** on TTOR website: [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org)
- Ipswich River **canoeing map** (IRWA) 978-356-8939

- Essex County Greenbelt "Passport" for members, with detailed **maps** and descriptions of many of their properties, and a series of **maps** based on USGS topos, showing open space in Essex County. 978-768-7241
- Bradley Palmer, Willowdale, Georgetown-Rowley, Cleaveland Farm, Boxford SF, Prospect Hill (DCR) **Maps** available free at headquarters; some also online [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) Click on "Trails". Also online at Essex County Trails Assn [www.ectaonline.org](http://www.ectaonline.org)
- **Massachusetts Audubon** maps online [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) Maps online.
- **Pingree Res.** Map online at Essex County Greenbelt Assn. [www.ecga.org](http://www.ecga.org)
- Trustees of Reservations property **maps** for sale; order on-line. Also online: [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org)

### Local trail and land/water protection organizations

**Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)** administers Bradley Palmer SP, Willowdale, Georgetown-Rowley, Cleaveland Farm and Boxford SF, and Prospect Hill. Headquarters are in the northern part of Bradley Palmer SP, off Asbury St 978-887-5931 [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) Click on "Trails"

**The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR)**, the country's oldest land trust with about 91 outstanding reservations in Mass., including 6 thru which BCT passes; own Appleton Farms Grass Rides and the Crane properties in Ipswich. Quarterly newsletter to members. 978-524-1858 [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org)

**Essex County Greenbelt Assn** own or hold conservation restrictions on many properties, particularly wetlands. BCT passes through Pingree Reservation. Monthly hikes. Quarterly newsletter. 978-768-7241

**Boxford Trails Assn/Boxford Open Land Trust (BTA/BOLT)** has been a prime mover and steward of the BCT and other trails in Boxford and surrounding towns. The group owns or holds conservation restrictions on several open spaces. Weekly hikes, 9:15 Tuesdays, annual equestrian events, quarterly newsletter. Office on second floor above Boxford Community Store [www.btabolt.org](http://www.btabolt.org)

**Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee** has been instrumental in establishing BCT from Rowley thru Willowdale SF, now working to extend Hamilton branch of BCT to

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Crane Beach. New members welcome. Meet 2nd Tuesday at Town Hall in Historical Commission office at 7:30

**Rowley Bay Circuit Committee** was created in 1986 to encourage inclusion of Rowley's open space in the BC greenway. They are now working on closing BCT gap between Newbury and Rowley.

**Hamilton Conservation Commission** developed "Discover Hamilton Trail," part of which coincides with BCT

**Horticultural Society of Boxford**, working to protect and improve the Harlan P. Kelsey Arboretum. POBox 142, Boxford 01921

**Massachusetts Audubon** protects the Ipswich River Sanctuary and 44 other properties. They offer classes and walks for adults and children. Beautiful bi-monthly magazine and reduced admission fees for members 1-800-AUDUBON [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) Maps online.

**Ipswich River Watershed Assn (IRWA)** works to protect water quality and enhance recreational use of the Ipswich River and tributaries. Organize occasional canoe trips and events. Quarterly newsletter. 978-356-8939

**Essex County Trail Assn (ECTA)** - mostly equestrians, but also hikers and mountain bikers. Maintain trails including Bradley Palmer SP and Pingree Reservation. Conduct rides and occasional hikes. Quarterly newsletter 978-526-4849

**New England Mountain Bike Assn (NEMBA)** sponsors many rides, including some in this area; help maintain trails in Boxford SF Monthly newsletter 800-576-3622

**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)

**North Shore Bikeways Coalition** promotes road and mountain biking, as well as development of bikeways, including proposed Border to Boston Bikeway, which might follow the abandoned rail line in Boxford and Topsfield. Quarterly newsletter 617-253-9204 [tieger@bates.mit.edu](mailto:tieger@bates.mit.edu)

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Greater Newbury's **Friends Of Our Trails** (FOOT) leads local hikes and other events, does trail work, advocates for trails in the greater Newbury/ Newburyport area.  
[www.thecompass.org/foot](http://www.thecompass.org/foot) 978-463-8843

Informal **hiking group** meets Wed. 9:30 am fall to spring, weather permitting, at Ipswich Town Wharf. For info phone 978-356-5823

The **Bay Circuit Alliance** headquarters is 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)

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## Map 2 - Rowley, Ipswich, Hamilton, Topsfield, Georgetown, Boxford - THE JEWELS

**Prospect Hill** (DCR; 90 acres) - This parcel, including the summit of Prospect Hill, was acquired by the state in 1995 with the help of the BCA and others. It is a glacial drumlin rising 267' above sea level, providing a limited view from Cape Ann to the Isles of Shoals in NH and Mt. Agamenticus in Maine. BCT passes over the summit.

**Ipswich Town and Water Dept. Lands** - Forested lands behind Dow Brook and Bull Brook Reservoirs make a very pleasant area for walking. Good view down Bull Brook Reservoir where the BCT crosses one end of it.

**Willowdale State Forest--Pine Swamp Section** (DCR; 2400 acres) - beautiful forest, eskers and wetlands, criss-crossed by numerous old carriage roads and trails. Getting lost is easy, but trjct's have recently been marked with numbers. Map in 1999 edition of *BC Guide to Walks in and around Ipswich* shows numbers. Map online [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) Click on "trails". BCT thru Willowdale is described in BTA/BOLT and in Ipswich guides. The BCT 3-way junction where the Hamilton branch and the Rowley/Newburyport branch meet is in the center of the Pine Swamp section and is labeled with trail signs. A favorite area of equestrians. Bicyclists should use caution.

**Willowdale State Forest--Hood Pond Section** (DCR; 2400 acres) - Some of the most spectacular glacial eskers on the BCT, as well as numerous kettle holes and vernal pools. From Linebrook Rd at Hood Pond to Rowley Rd the BCT runs mostly on top of an esker, very steep at points

**Cleveland Farm State Forest** (DCR) - Acquired in 1997 with help from the former owners (the Haynes family), BTA/BOLT, Boxford Conservation Fund, and Essex Country Greenbelt. Contains many eskers and wetlands and helps protect a fragile environment. BCT runs along the northern edge for a short distance. Trail map is included in the new edition of the Boxford Bay Circuit guidebook. Also on DCR Willowdale map.

**Georgetown-Rowley State Forest** (DCR; 1,112 acres) - Split by I-95, but a footbridge connects the two sides and carries the BCT over the highway. Certain trails are open to ORV's and snowmobiles, including part of the BCT. Impressive eskers near the eastern edge. Map available at BPSF hq and online [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) Click on "trails" and in BTA/BOLT guidebook to Boxford trails

**Harlan P. Kelsey Arboretum** (Horticultural Society of Boxford; 4.2 acres) - protected remnant of a 500 acre nursery with many plants brought from No.Carolina. Paths thru former show garden. Visitor center and parking to be developed. P along Hemlock Rd (on BCT)

**Chapman Lane** - Beautiful views; enjoy this old cart lane to the center of Boxford. Part of the Lane has been permanently protected by a BTA/BOLT land purchase

**Boxford Historic District** - BCT passes thru; many fine old buildings, described in BTA/BOLT guidebook to Boxford trails

**Lockwood Forest** - BCT goes thru the Lockwood/Moore estate conservation land and over private land protected by a conservation restriction. Views of the pond on Fish Brook, rhododendrons and azaleas. Respect owners' privacy by keeping to south side of field near pond. Historic forge and mill sites

**Appleton Farms Grass Rides and Appleton Farms, Ipswich** (TTOR; 917 acres) - wide vistas and many broad formal trails, originally intended for equestrians and horse-drawn carriages (horses and dogs banned from various areas. Check TTOR website for rules and more info). Detour off the BCT up the hill to the north edge of the property and an extensive view over Appleton Farms, in continuous cultivation since the 1600's. It will be continued as a working farm. A master use plan is being drawn. It is easy to get lost in the Grass Rides. Follow the red TTOR disks that mark the BCT/Discover Hamilton Trail here, or obtain the detailed map for sale by TTOR. When you get to the monument (the setting will surprise you), note on which trail you entered the clearing. The BCT continues on the trail directly opposite. Popular for cross-country skiing, but the small parking area is often full on weekends; cars parked along Cutler Rd will be towed. Try parking at Bradley Palmer S.F. and skiing or walking BCT to Grass Rides and back

**Harvard Forest** in Hamilton - Harvard University owns a tract on both sides of the MBTA rail line; contains some unusual tree species. For more details see the *Discover Hamilton* trail guide available from the Hamilton Conservation Commission. The BCT passes through a small corner of this forest

**Pingree Reservation** (Essex County Greenbelt) - acquired recently as a gift from the Pingree family. It is an important part of the protection of Black Brook and provides a trail link to Bradley Palmer State Forest. Several trails, some on

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eskers, but no complete trail map yet

**Bradley Palmer State Park** (DCR; 721 acres)- high hills, a wading pool, a steeplechase course and the Ipswich River flowing along one side. BCT/Discover Hamilton Trail winds through it. Map available free at park hq and online: [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) Click on "trails". Trails are also shown on *Discover Hamilton* trail map and *BC Guide to Walks in Ipswich*. 978-887-5931

**Ipswich River** - wonderful flat-water canoeing. The IRWA publishes an excellent canoeing map and occasionally leads canoe trips. Canoes can be rented at Audubon's Ipswich Sanctuary and from Foote Brothers on Topsfield Rd

**Willowdale Mill** (Essex County Greenbelt) - at the north-east corner of Bradley Palmer on Winthrop St; can be reached from BCT by a lovely trail along the Ipswich River downstream from the footbridge where the BCT crosses

**Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary** (Massachusetts Audubon; 2,267 acres) - 10 miles of trails, including esker trail overlooking Wenham Swamp and an incredible rock garden. Canoes for rent in summer; limited camping on islands by prior arrangement. Courses and birding walks offered for adults and children. Trail map available for loan or purchase. Small admission fee for non-members. Closed Mondays. Horses, dogs, bicycling prohibited. Access from Perkins Row, off Rte 97 south of Rte 1 jct 978-887-9264 <[www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)>

**Julia Bird Reservation** (Essex County Greenbelt) - A little-known but beautiful reservation on the Ipswich River downstream from Bradley Palmer. Steep banks overlook the river. Limited parking off Waldingfield Rd west of the RR bridge