**Map 3** - Boxford, North Andover, Andover

**BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route**
(as shown on map 3 dated February 2020)
(text updated February 2020)

The BCT often follows pre-existing local trails; BCT-specific blazing is a work in progress and may be sparse in segments. We encourage you to review and carry corresponding local maps on your BCT walk.

**Trail Notices** regarding trail problems and closures are posted on the website at www.baycircuit.org under the Explore tab. Please review them for updates to the trail guide and maps.

**Trail marking:** The BCT is marked with white dollar bill-sized blazes, oriented vertically, painted or nailed on trees or poles. Offset blazes indicate a turn in the direction of the upper blaze. In Bald Hill and Boxford SF, use numbered jcts for location. On some AVIS properties other trails are also marked with white blazes; look for the BCT logo at jet.

**Parking** along the street is possible at some trailheads. No parking allowed along Rte 114, Gray Rd., Rte 125, Main St., or Central St. in Andover.

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**Boxford Center to Sharpner's Pond Rd**

A  N42 39.754 W70 59.864
0.0 **Boxford Center.** Boxford Bay Circuit Trail map & Boxford Community Store on right (food, restroom, parking (P=25+) available).

0.1 Left onto Topsfield Rd. In 0.4 mi turn right onto Cahoon Rd for 0.15 mi; then right into **Boy Scout Park** (P=25+). Pass to left of playground, enter woods southwest corner of parking lot by following service drive. Turn sharp left at field with pavilion and pass through campfire circle. Follow blazes to exit between 2 houses onto Dana Rd.

(Note: if Boy Scouts are using park, bypass the park via Dana Rd.)

1.1 Right onto Dana Rd, then go thru the cul-de-sac and bear left onto the Dana Rd extension.

1.2 At break in stone wall, right onto path to enter **Lockwood Forest**, 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).

1.8 Right onto Lockwood Lane for 400 ft crossing 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 (with BCT map) to

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**Middleton Rd.**

B  N42 38.408 W70 59.447
2.5 Cross Middleton Rd. Enter **Bald Hill Reservation** at steel gate (P=8), where map of reservation is posted. **Bald Hill Reservation** consists of 5 parcels: JC Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, Fish & Wildlife; Boxford State Forest, DCR; inholding wood lots, ECGB; Wunnegen, Town of Boxford; and Cudhea Woods, New England Forestry Foundation. The trail has both BCT and numbered markers in this section. Follow woods road to trail junction and follow to the left. Follow the trail around the wetland, and up to the top of the hill. At the top, follow the trail to the left, cross over a small bog bridge, and back up to the top of hill. At the junction at the top of the hill, stay left and follow trail until marker 11W. At marker 11W, follow the trail to the left. The trail passes named vernal pools and meets up with a woods road at marker 10W. Follow the woods road to the right for about 1/4th of a mile to marker 8W, then turn following the trail on the right. At marker #12, go left on to woods road. Stay straight past #11, stay straight at marker #10, and continue straight past marker 9. (For Bald Hill with partial view in winter, go right at #10 and #27 to summit.) and continue past marker 8A 0.2 mile west of #8A, jog left to cross bridge below beaver dam, continue straight past marker 8.

4.6 Continue straight at #8A (number not on DCR map but sign on tree) along the main woods road.

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**Disclaimer and Cautions:** The Bay Circuit Alliance, as the advocate and promoter of the Bay Circuit Trail, expressly disclaims responsibility for injuries or damages that may arise from using the trail. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of maps or completeness of warnings about hazards that may exist. Portions of the trail are along roads or train tracks and involve crossing them. Users should pay attention to traffic and walk on the shoulder of roads facing traffic, not on the pavement, cross only at designated locations and use extreme care. Children and pets need to be closely monitored and under control.

*February 2020 - January 2019*

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*Map 3  January 2019  1*
5.6 After DCR marker #8, turn left at marker 
#7A and, continue through Boxford State 
Forest and onto Greenbelt’s Wilmot property. 
Just after passing the border between North 
Andover and Middleton (large tree), turn 
right at the next trail intersection. You will now 
be on private property, please stay on 
the trail. After noticing stone walls to your 
right, you will be entering DCR Lost 50 
property. Continue stra 
ight at the next trail 
intersection, and bear slightly left at the next 
trail intersections to stay on the main trail 
until you exit the forest and arrive at an un- 
signed un-paved road (North Liberty Street).

(5 Note: To get the Sharpner’s Pond Road 
parking area, do not turn left at marker 7A, 
but continue straight, turn right at marker #7, 
left at marker # 6, left at # 2, when you enter a 
more graveled road. Follow this a short 
distance to a metal gate and the parking lot.)

C N42 38.01 W71 01.48

6.6 Turn right on to North Liberty Street.
After 0.2 miles and at the 3-way intersection, 
turn left onto Watkins Way. After 0.3 miles, 
turn right to stay on Watkins Way (despite the 
confusing street signs). Continue to bear 
right at all other street intersections to stay on 
Watkins Way until it ends at Sharpner’s Pond Road.

7.4 Cross Sharpner’s Pond Road and turn left.
7.5 After < 0.1 miles (and before reaching the 
intersection of Essex and Salem Streets), re- 
enter the woods on the right. It is sometimes 
hard to find the entrance; look for the BCT 
markers in the woods not on the street.

7.6 Cross Salem St to enter state forest land.
7.7 Cross under power lines to the left.
7.8 Right at woods road fork.
8.2 Turn right at a trail intersection.
8.3 Cross a boardwalk with a rope railing and 
follow the trail through the woods for about 
0.5 miles.
8.8 Turn left at a trail intersection.
9.0 Follow the trail through the woods for about 
0.15 miles.
9.15 Turn right at end of the trail and follow a dirt 
road to the Berry St parking area. Cross the 
parking area, diagonally to the left, and re-enter 
the woods for just a few yards, exiting on Berry 
St; turn left towards Rte 114.
9.2 Cross Route 114.

Jet Rte 114/Harold Parker Rd (No. Andover) to 
Shawsheen River (Andover) 
Harold Parker State Forest, Mass. DCR

D N42 37.765 W71 03.903
0.0 Walk down Harold Parker Road for about 
250 feet, and re-enter the woods on the 
right. You are now in Harold Parker SF. \ Cross over the boardwalk and continue 
until marker # NA 29.

Caution: There are many intersecting 
trails in Harold Parker SF. The BCT has 
many turns as it winds around water areas 
and traverses’ rocky ledges in this area. 
Watch carefully for the BCT markers, 
especially for turns, to insure staying on the 
BCT.

0.28 Turn right at the T-junction, marker # NA 
29.
0.76 Turn right at trail junction, marker # NA 27.

1.34 Bear left at marker # NA 26.
1.41 Left to climb up a rocky ridge; many turns 
through this rocky section. Bear left at 
marker #25.
1.80 Bear left at marker # NA 24 and over a foot 
bridge.

E N42 37.239 W71 05.014
2.65 At marker # NA 23 cross Middleton 
Road. (Parking and picnic pavilion just 
visible to the right, about 500 yards.) 
Directly opposite and at marker # NA 22 
re-enter Harold Parker SF on a 
woods road.

2.95 At marker # A 5 (sign for Stone Dust Trail 
on tree), cross Berry Pond Road (paved but 
seasonally open to traffic; Berry Pond beach 
and its facilities are re-opened in 2016.)

3.16 Right; pass thru two 19th century granite 
quarries. Cross small woods rd then 
downhill to footbridge. Continue to Jenkins 
Rd.

F N42 37.112 W71 05.603
3.57 Cross Jenkins Rd. Parking available at pull-
out (P=2-3) on east side of Jenkins Rd about 
75 yds south of trail crossing. Follow new tr 
around north side of pit, circling back south 
to large glacial erratic.

3.78 Right at erratic.
3.93 Right (don’t cross bridge on left). Pass old 
 mill site.
4.16 Left onto Skug Reservation Trail.
4.59 Left onto old rd.
4.67 Right; cross long boardwalk.

G N42 37.469 W71 06.012
4.79 Salem St (parking lot, P=6)
Hammond Reservation, AVIS; and Mary French Reservation, Cons.Com

4.79 Cross Salem St from Skug parking lot into Hammond Reservation, go 0.11 mi to rock wall/trail intersection. Continue straight ahead up slight incline, bear left 0.08 mi. to trail intersection. Turn right to start of stone and earthen former dike (not suitable for bicycles), cross small bridge, and take left onto trail leading to long bog bridge/boardwalk.

This Mary French Reservation area offers dramatic views of wildlife. Boardwalk crosses Skug River twice and offers dramatic views of swamp and birds.

Note: This area is sometimes flooded because of beaver activity. If this section is temporarily closed, signs will be posted to guide people around the flooding and back to the trail.

At end of boardwalk follow trail to Korinthian Way (parking on street).
5.23 Left on Korinthian Way to Grey Rd.
5.40 Right on Grey Rd.
5.45 Left onto narrow trail thru Conservation Commission woodlands.
5.90 Left on Tucker Rd for short distance.

Chas. Ward Reservation, The Trustees of Reservations
5.94 Right off Tucker Rd.; bear immediate left at edge of field after crossing stone wall; sharp left after crossing field, then right on to old woods road. Follow blazes to small map kiosk, turning right and emerging from woods into large open field.
6.03 Right onto grassy rd in woods.

6.25 Proceed along lower edge of field; right into woods.
6.32 Trail ascends through field.
6.38 Tricky trail jet. Private residence to left (west). Take level wide woods rd. coincides with Yellow Tr.
6.56 Stay on path thru field to top of Holt Hill (elevation 423 ft).
6.63 Solstice stones; view of Boston to South. Sharp left to BCT sign at edge of field. Descend thru woods.
6.76 Left onto paved access road, closed to traffic.

J
N42 38.671 W71 07.933
8.75 Right onto Main St a short distance to crosswalk. Cross to other side and continue on Main St to Phillips St.
9.01 Left onto Phillips St. (on-street parking) BCT blazes are on utility poles. Use sidewalks on whichever side of street is safer.
9.61 Cross Central St; enter Purdon Reservation, AVIS. Follow BCT blazes on main trail with one left turn.
9.81 Left onto Lupine Rd. (exit Purdon Res, P=3 on rough narrow shoulder).
10.00 Right onto Central St. Cross Shawsheen River, and go under RR bridge. (CAUTION: long narrow roadway under RR bridge).

K
N42 38.856 W71 09.078
10.10 Junction of Central St, Reservation Rd., Andover St, and Red Sprin Rd (P=3 north of RR bridge on Red Sprin Rd shoulder) (Andover BCT continues on map 4)

Map 3 - Boxford, No. Andover, Andover - THE JEWELS

Boy Scout Park - South of the Boxford Historic District lies this mostly forested property which includes a large parking lot, a ballpark, a skating pond and a children's playground. It is used as a training ground for the Boy Scouts of America. When the Boy Scouts are using the park, it should be should be by-passed by following Dana Rd.

Wildcat Conservation Area - (Boxford; 319
acres) - Trails make a human & wildlife corridor from Four Mile Pond at the Alpers Property, across bridges thru wetlands, to a Stiles Pond access road. Pitcher plants in bogs, lovely hemlock forest, and remains of a wolf pit visible.

**Bald Hill Reservation** - 1624 contiguous acres, apportioned among the Boxford State Forest, the Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary, and Essex County Greenbelt, in the towns of Boxford, North Andover and Middleton. Motorized vehicles NOT allowed. Several historic landmarks, unique geology, 4 ponds, rare wildflowers and other wildlife. Details of these as well as detailed descriptions of the BCT and the many side trails are in the **Boxford Bay Circuit Guidebook.**

* Map 3, near Weir Hill

**Harold Parker State Forest** (Mass. Dept of Conservation & Recreation; 3100 acres) - Good hiking, ski touring, horseback riding, mountain bikes; fishing and hunting in limited areas with license. See map at headquarters for seasonal hunting areas. Headquarters are on Salem St., .25 mile south of Harold Parker Rd. Tr maps available. Call for current information about campground and public beach openings. Campground is on Jenkins Rd. Parking: Numerous off-road sites for 1 or 2 cars at trail access points. Several parking lots. Map online: http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/trails/harold.pdf

**Weir Hill Reservation** (The Trustees of Reservations; 192 acres) - Twin drumlins rise 300 feet above shores of Lake Cochichewick and Stevens Pond. 4 miles of trails. Parking on Stevens St. Map available at Stevens-Coolidge Place or online at: http://www.thetrustees.org/assets/documents/places-to-visit/trailmaps/Ward-Reservation-Trail-Map.pdf

**Stevens-Coolidge Place** (The Trustees of Reservations; 91 acres) - Historic house and gardens open to the public. House: Sun. 1-5 and Wed. 2-4 spring to fall; gardens open daily year round. Parking lot across Andover St, near Town Common.

**Town Farm/Town Forest** (No.And.Cons.Com; 180 acres) - fields, woodlands, wetlands, and ballfields. Access from Dale St and from Carriage Chase Rd off Castlemere.

**Mazurenko Farm & Rea's Pond Cons. areas** (No.And.Cons.Com; 120 acres) - Abundant wildlife enjoy diverse habitats. Blazed trail from parking lot on Bradford St (north of map 3).

**Osgood Hill** (No.And.Cons.Com; 165 acres) - Two blazed trails let walkers and skiers (not mountain bikers) enjoy this former estate and its woodlands, including a stretch along Lake Cochichewick. No wheeled vehicles. Map available at town hall. Parking on Osgood St between Prescott St and Chickering Rd. (north of map 3, near Weir Hill)

**Den Rock Park** (Lawrence; 80 acres) - Well-known rock-climbing site; numerous trails, some illegally used and damaged by ORVs: Small parking lot off Rte 114 in N. Andover

**Skug River Reservation** (Andover Village Improvement Society) - Over 200 years ago, the Skug River was dammed to power a profitable sawmill and grist mill. The massive stone walls of the millrace can still be seen. Also site of a soapstone quarry. Parking lot on Salem St; parking for 2 cars on Jenkins Rd.

**Hammond Reservation** (AVIS) - The stone and earthen causeway in Hammond Reservation was originally a dam, creating an ice pond and livestock watering hole. Parking in Skug Reservation lot on Salem St

**Mary French Reservation** (And. Cons. Com) - Dramatic wetlands abutting the Skug River. Good birding. Easiest access to viewpoint is along wide boardwalk from Korinthian Way. Handicapped accessible. Parking on street

**Charles W. Ward Reservation** (The Trustees of Reservations; 700 acres) - Granite solstice stones crown Holt Hill, marking north, east, south and west. The smaller rectangular stones mark the sunrise and sunset directions on the longest and shortest days of the year. Great views. Near the main parking area on Prospect Rd. is Pine Hole Bog, a quaking bog, home to many rare plants including wild calla, horsetails, pitcher plants, and sundews. Ten miles of trails open to hikers, skiers, and mountain bikers. Parking lot off Prospect Rd.

**Phillips Academy** (450 acres) - PA is a co-ed day and boarding school for about 1100 students from throughout the United States and over 50 foreign countries. Descriptions of walking tours of the Academy and nearby School Street are available from the Andover Historical Society. Cherry and apple trees bloom in May. Cochran Wildlife
Sanctuary blooms with mountain laurel and rhododendron in late June (access from the end of Chapel Ave. off Rte. 28). Wide smooth trails are suitable for walkers with limited vision or people with sports wheelchairs. Also open to the public: PA's Addison Gallery, specializing in American art, and Peabody Museum of Archeology with interesting displays of the local Pennacook tribes.

**Purdon Reservation** (AVIS; 9 acres) - In 1843, Purdon Reservation’s natural amphitheater was the site of a speech by Daniel Webster to an audience of thousands. Parking on Lupine Rd

**Lupine Reservation** (AVIS; 2 acres) - Look for a plaque near the remaining piers of the Andover Canoe Club, circa 1910. Walkers enjoy a view of the Shawsheen River as it passes under the old stone railroad arch. Good fishing. Parking for several cars on Lupine Rd.

**Taft Reservation** (AVIS; 60 acres) - Woodlands and wetlands offer scenic walking along narrow trails. Parking on Vine St and Sagamore Dr.

**Goldsmith Reservation** (AVIS; 142 acres) - Excellent cross-country skiing on varied wooded terrain. Limited parking at corner of Rte 125 and Gould Rd, across Rte 125 from entrance

**Peggy Keck Reservation** (AVIS; 40 acres) - Loop trail and ancient granite cliffs. Parking corner of Gould Rd and Rte. 125 (across from police barracks)

**Robert A. Pustell Reservation** (And. Cons. Com; 84 acres) - Vernal pools and sassafras trees, granite cliffs and logging rds. Parking: Regency Ridge Rd, Arcadia Rd, Carter Ln

**Pomp's Pond** (Andover's Recreation Park) - Walking trails, tennis, swimming (with sticker or fee). Parking off Abbot Rd.

**Map 3 - Boxford, North Andover, Andover - FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Trail markings:** BCT is marked with rectangular white blazes, painted or nailed to trees or poles. In AVIS reservations, other trails may also be marked with these blazes; look for Bay Circuit logo markers at trail junctions. Trail thru Phillips Academy campus is sparsely marked; use whatever route you find parallel to Salem St to get from Holt Rd to Main St.

**Trail uses:** All trails are open to the public for hiking and walking. Most are suitable for cross-country skiing (not West Parish Cemetery). AVIS discourages mountain bikes on its properties. Dogs and bicycles not permitted in West Parish Cemetery. Most Harold Parker SF trails are suitable for horses; some other properties have not been cleared to accommodate horses. No motorized vehicles allowed on any trails. Boy Scout camp in Boxford is closed to the public when in use by Boy Scouts.

**Public transport:** MBTA trains from North Station to Andover; also bus service from Boston

**Maps and trail guides:**
- Relevant USGS topo maps 7.5 x 15 are Ipswich, Lawrence, and Reading
- Free maps of Harold Parker State Forest are available at the park headquarters, Salem St about .25 miles south of Harold Parker Rd. on the Rte 114 side of the forest. Map online www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/trails/harold.pdf
- Free maps of Boxford State Forest are available at Bradley Palmer SP headquarters, off Asbury St. 978-887-5931  Map online: http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/parks/trails/boxford.pdf
- TTOR map of Weir Hill available at Stevens Coolidge Place near Old No. Andover Center
- Maps of North Andover properties are available for photocopying in the maps file at the reference desk of Stevens Memorial Library.
- The AVIS map of Andover is available for at Moor and Mountain and the Andover Bookstore. It is free to new members of AVIS (see below).
- Walking tour maps of several historic neighborhoods in Andover are available at Andover Historical Society, 93 Main St, for a small fee.
- Andover Trail Guide has been updated, will be sold at the Andover Bookstore (93 Main St) and

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Map 3     January 2019     5
possibly online thru AVIS. This book includes maps and descriptions of over 40 properties, with history and natural features as well as suggested trail routes. Some maps also online: www.avisandover.org

**Local trail and land/water protection organizations**

**Merrimack River Watershed Council** works for protection of the watershed in Massachusetts and NH. Supervise volunteer stream monitors. Also lead canoe trips. www.merrimack.org

**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. They publish *The Bay Circuit Guide to Walks in and around Boxford*. The groups own or hold conservation restrictions on several properties thru which the BCT passes. www.btabolt.org

**The Friends of North Andover Trails** is a citizens’ group interested in protecting open space, improving public access and trails, and offering public walks. www.fonat.org

**Andover Trails Committee** publishes *Andover Trail Guide* with AVIS. Citizens’ group supports Bay Circuit projects, improves and maintains existing trails on conservation land, and works on the Shawsheen River Greenway initiative. The public is invited to attend meetings and to volunteer for trails projects. Call BCA headquarters in Andover for meeting schedule: 978-470-1982 www.andovertrails.org

**Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS)** owns over 1100 acres on 27 reservations that are open to the public for walking, skiing, and enjoyment of nature. Membership information, events, and maps online. www.avisandover.org

**The Trustees of Reservations** manages Charles Ward Res. in Andover and North Andover, Weir Hill in North Andover (Stevens St.), and the Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover (near the Common). TTOR is the oldest land trust in the country, and has 111 properties and protects more than 45,000 acres in Massachusetts. Membership is open to the public. Quarterly newsletter. www.thetrustees.org

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

The **North Shore Bikeways Coalition** promotes both road and mountain biking, as well as development of bikeways in the area. They are working particularly on the proposed Border to Boston Bikeway, which might follow the abandoned rail line in Boxford and Topsfield. Quarterly newsletter. www.massbike.org

**Charles River Wheelmen** - very active group of bicyclists that lead rides of varying lengths throughout BC area. Excellent website lists rides, membership & other info www.crw.org

**BAY CIRCUIT ALLIANCE, INC**

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