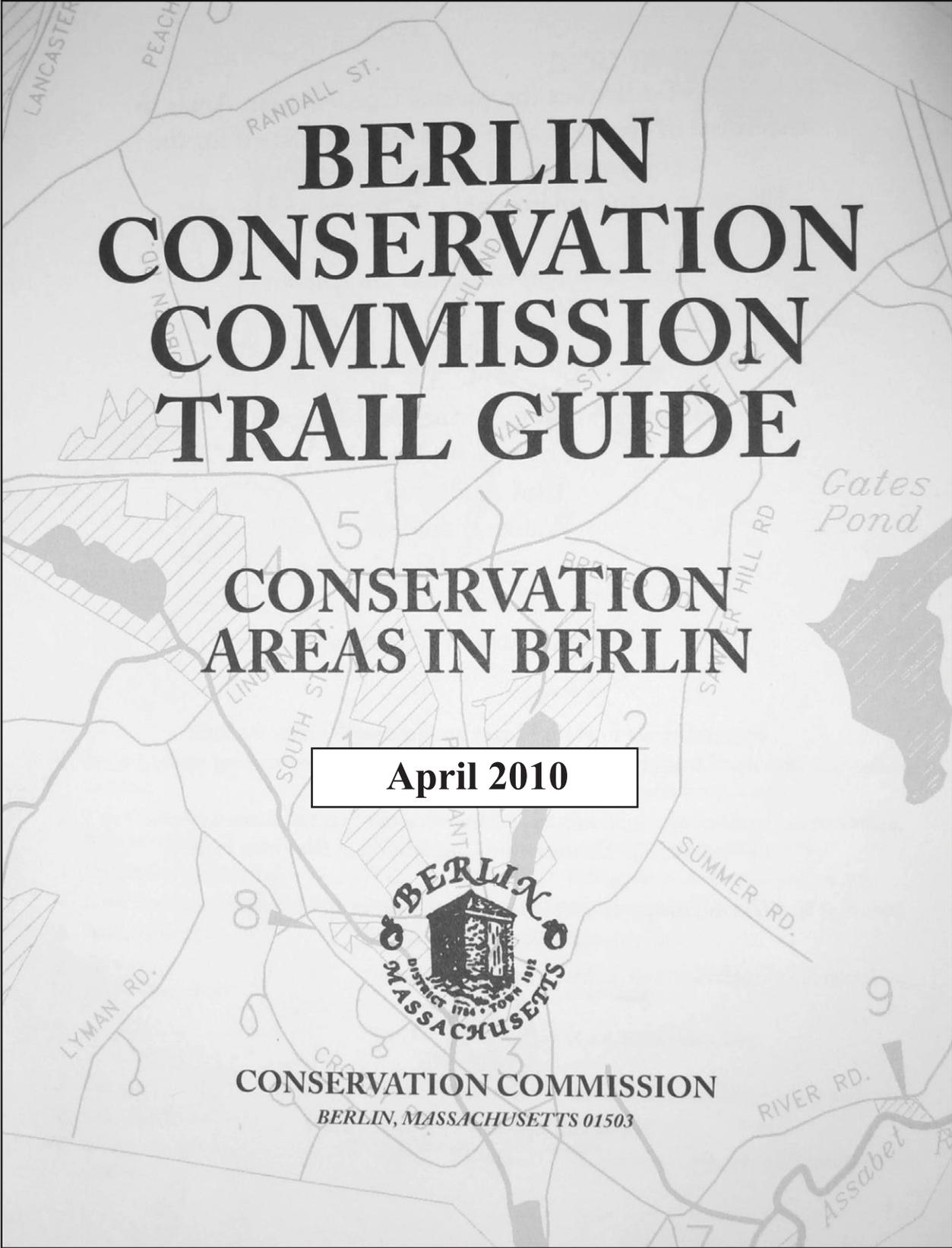


Conservation Commission
Berlin Trail Maps



**BERLIN
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
TRAIL GUIDE**

**CONSERVATION
AREAS IN BERLIN**

April 2010



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BERLIN, MASSACHUSETTS 01503

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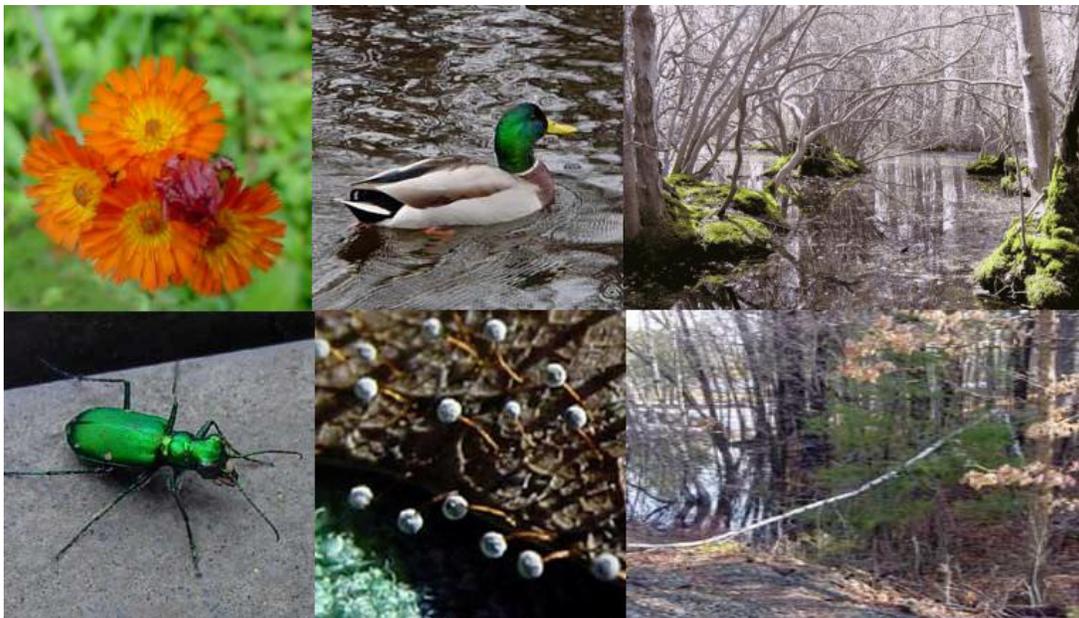
This booklet describes the hiking trails on Berlin Conservation Areas. These trails are maintained for the enjoyment of Berlin citizens. There is a wide diversity of furbearers, birds, upland game; and fields, wooded upland, many species of trees and wild flowers; perennial streams, vernal pools, wetlands and rocky formations.

Please treat the environment with care and respect.

“Leave only footprints, Take only pictures.”

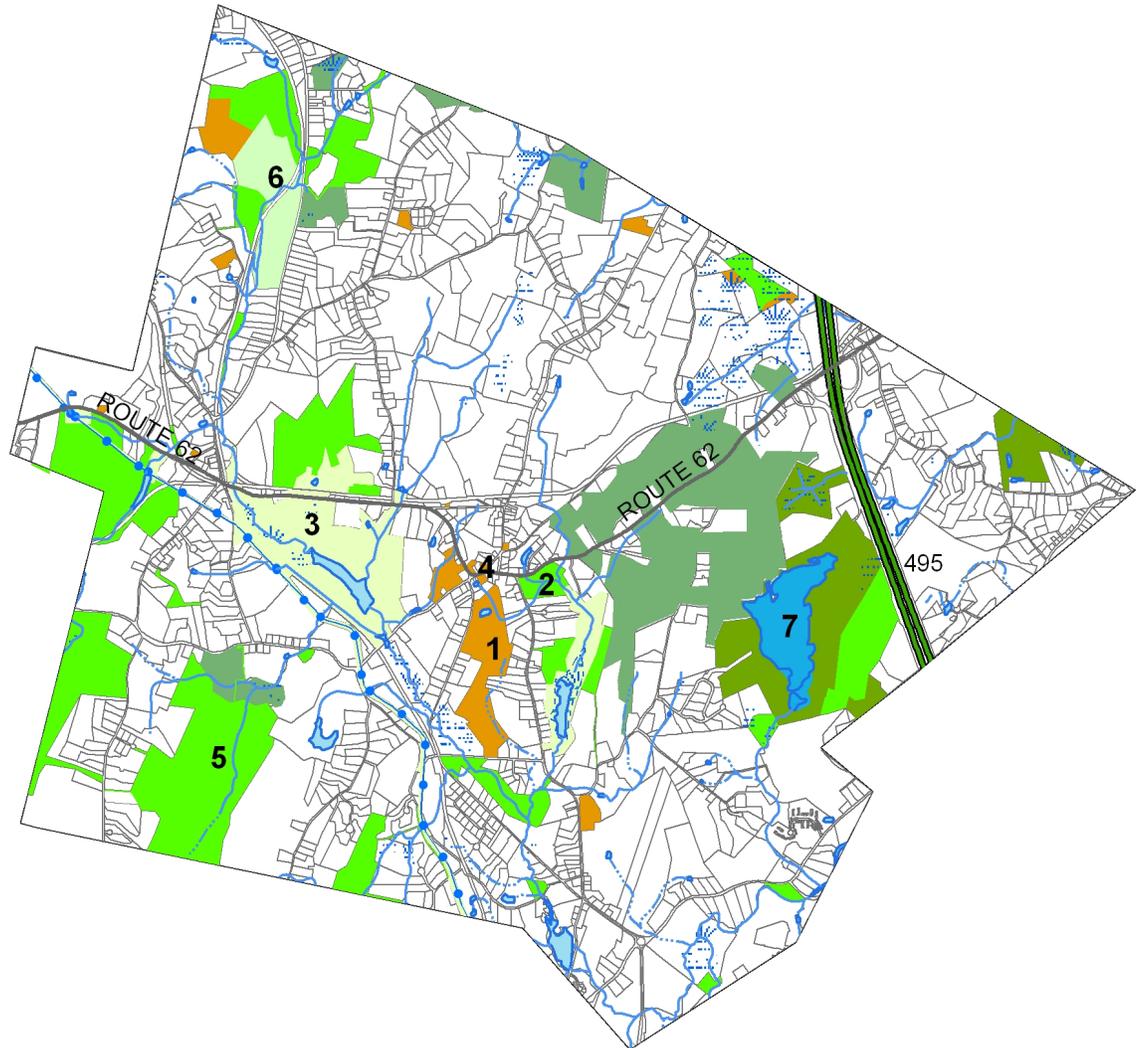
Conservation Commission Members

Steve Beard
Walter Bickford
Jerry Freed
Louise Janda
Karen Scheffer
Lee Tabor
Skip Duggan, Chairman



Berlin Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission Berlin Trail Maps



	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>OWNERSHIP</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
1 Berlin South Commons	37.9	Town	Tennis, softball, baseball, basketball, fishing, equestrian events, skating, hiking, nature observation/study and bird watching
2 Berlin Meadows, Tyler Conservation Area and Brewer Brook	86	Town & Private	Hiking, nature observation/study and bird watching, fishing, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing
3 Lester Ross Suasco Project and Clark Conservation Area	273	State & Town	Hiking, nature observation/study and bird watching, fishing, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, skating,
4 Powderhouse	1	Town	Historical site
5 Mt. Pisgah Conservation Area	205	Town & Private	Hiking, nature observation/study and bird watching, horseback riding, cross county skiing, snowshoeing
6 Forty Caves, Musche Woods and Garfield Woods	99	Town & SVT	Hiking, nature observation/study and bird watching, cave study, geologic study, cross county skiing, snowshoeing
7 Gates Pond Reservoir, Hudson Town Forest and Berlin Conservation Land	311.4	Hudson & Town	Hiking, nature observation/study and bird watching, cross county skiing, snowshoeing

#1 South Commons

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Fishing pond for the annual kids Lester Ross trout derby, recreational fields, tennis courts; and a certified vernal pool, a bluebird path, and National Wildlife Federation recognized wildlife habitat.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

The Berlin Memorial school students and teachers registered the vernal pool on the east side of the school parking lot with the State of Massachusetts. The vernal pool is included in the environmental curriculum and a sign designates the vernal pool area.

The Berlin Memorial School teachers and students worked to get federal certification for the National Wildlife Federation recognized wildlife habitat. There is a bluebird path along the east woods line.

TRAILS OR PATHWAYS:

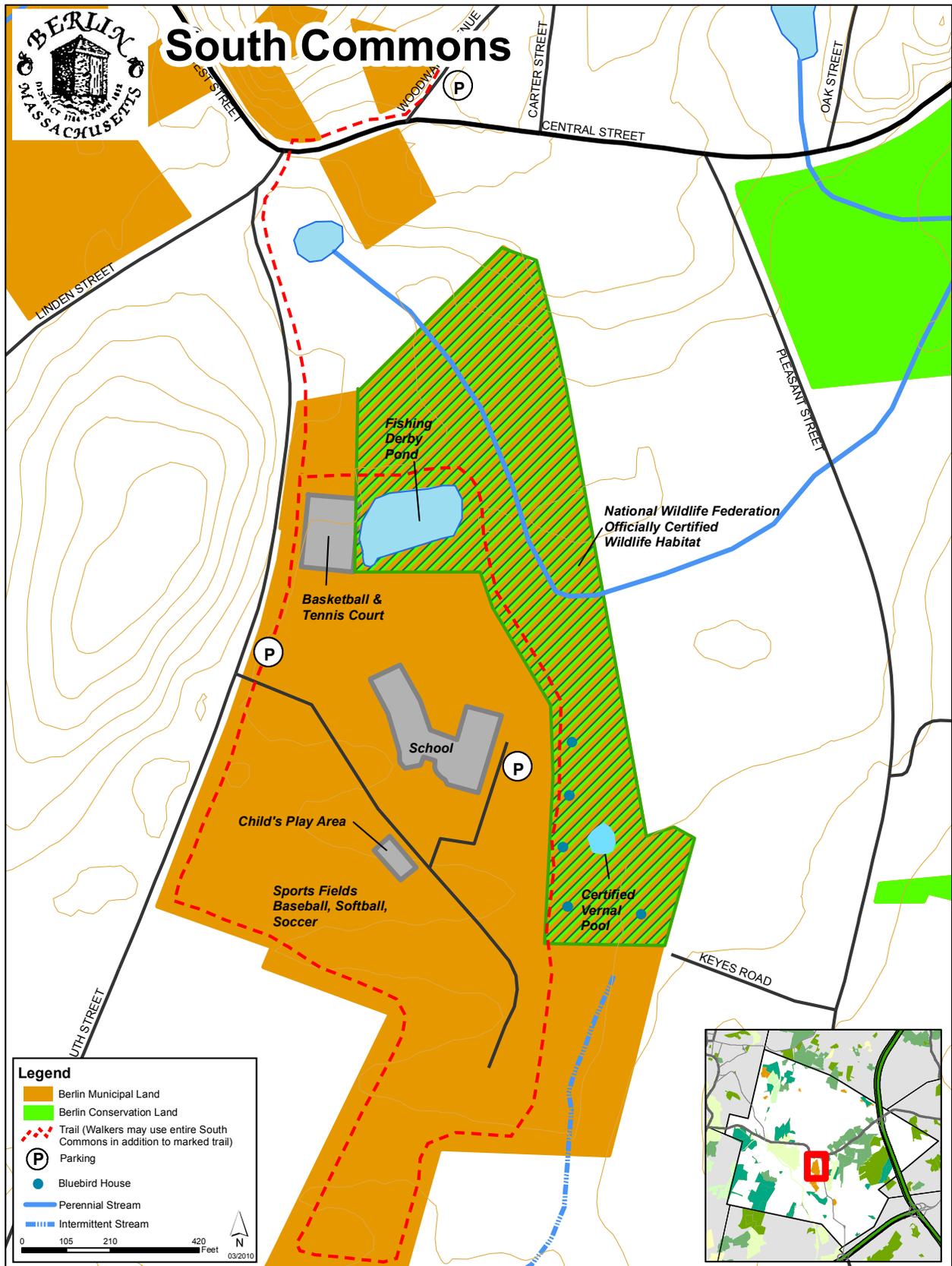
Pathways run around the perimeter of the property, and it's an easy walk to the South Commons from the center of Berlin by heading west on Route 62, and then turning left at the light to head south on South St.

ENTRANCE:

Parking exists at the Berlin Memorial School off of South Street.



Conservation Commission Berlin Trail Maps



#2 Berlin Meadows, Tyler Conservation Area & Brewer Brook

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Tyler Conservation Area and Brewer Brook are narrow valley lowland with a flood control area, general lowland and a flood control pond, significant wetland, surrounded by woodlands.

Berlin Meadows is primarily open field surrounded by early successional growth.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

The Tyler Conservation Area and Brewer Brook is a large wetland and pond with migratory bird population. The west side of the Tyler Conservation Area toward Pleasant St is primarily a stand of black locust, and the east side is primarily an oak forest. There is a wonderful stand of white of pine at North end of Brewer Brook flood control site.

The Berlin Meadows is 16 acres purchased in January 2003 and located at the corner of Pleasant and Route 62, There is a blue bird trail circling the meadow. Frequent visitors are turkeys, coyote, deer and birds of prey.

TRAILS OR PATHWAYS:

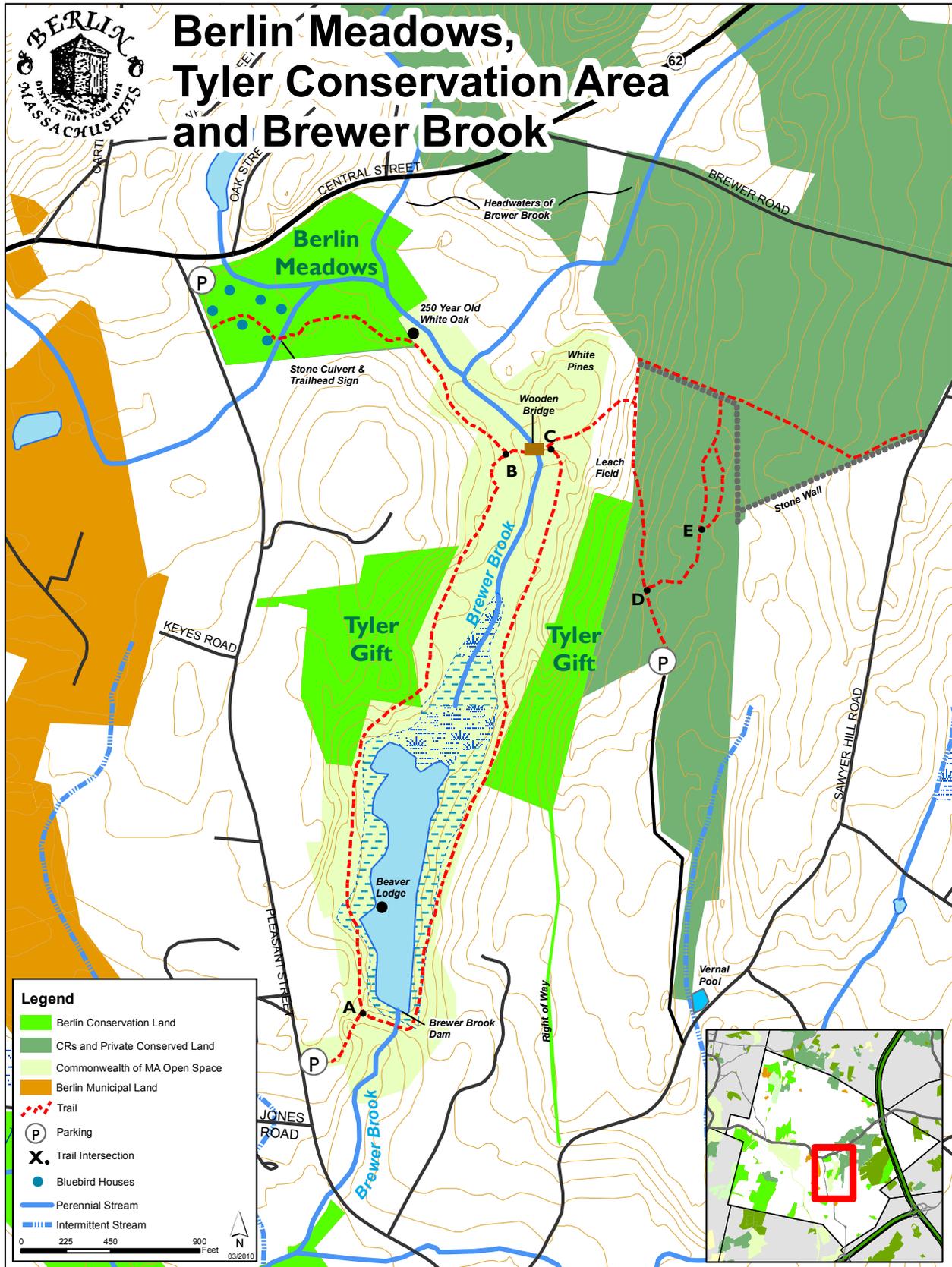
The Tyler Conservation Area and Brewer Brook trails and pathways primarily surround the pond and wetlands. The trail from Berlin Meadows is at the east end of the meadow and connects to the Tyler Conservation Area and Brewer Brook after turning south.

ENTRANCE:

- 1) Parking for Tyler Conservation Area and Brewer Brook is on the east side of Pleasant Street, diagonally across from Jones Road at the green metal gates.
- 2) Parking for Berlin Meadows is at the grassy triangle at the junction of Pleasant St. and Hwy 62.



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#3 Lester Ross Suasco Project and Clark Conservation Area

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Flood control area with dam, mixed lowland and upland, rocky outcroppings, North Brook and a flood control pond.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

Heron nesting area (1) at north end of pond, (2) beaver dam at the middle of the pond, and (3) a turtle nesting area in the sandy soils just north of the woodland adjacent to the pond. Bass, perch and pickerel exist in the pond, trout in stream. There is a significant population of migratory birds such as Canada geese, mallards, wood ducks and occasionally hooded mergansers. Vernal pool and large erratic boulder supported on 3 points on the property north of Route 62.

TRAILS OR PATHWAYS:

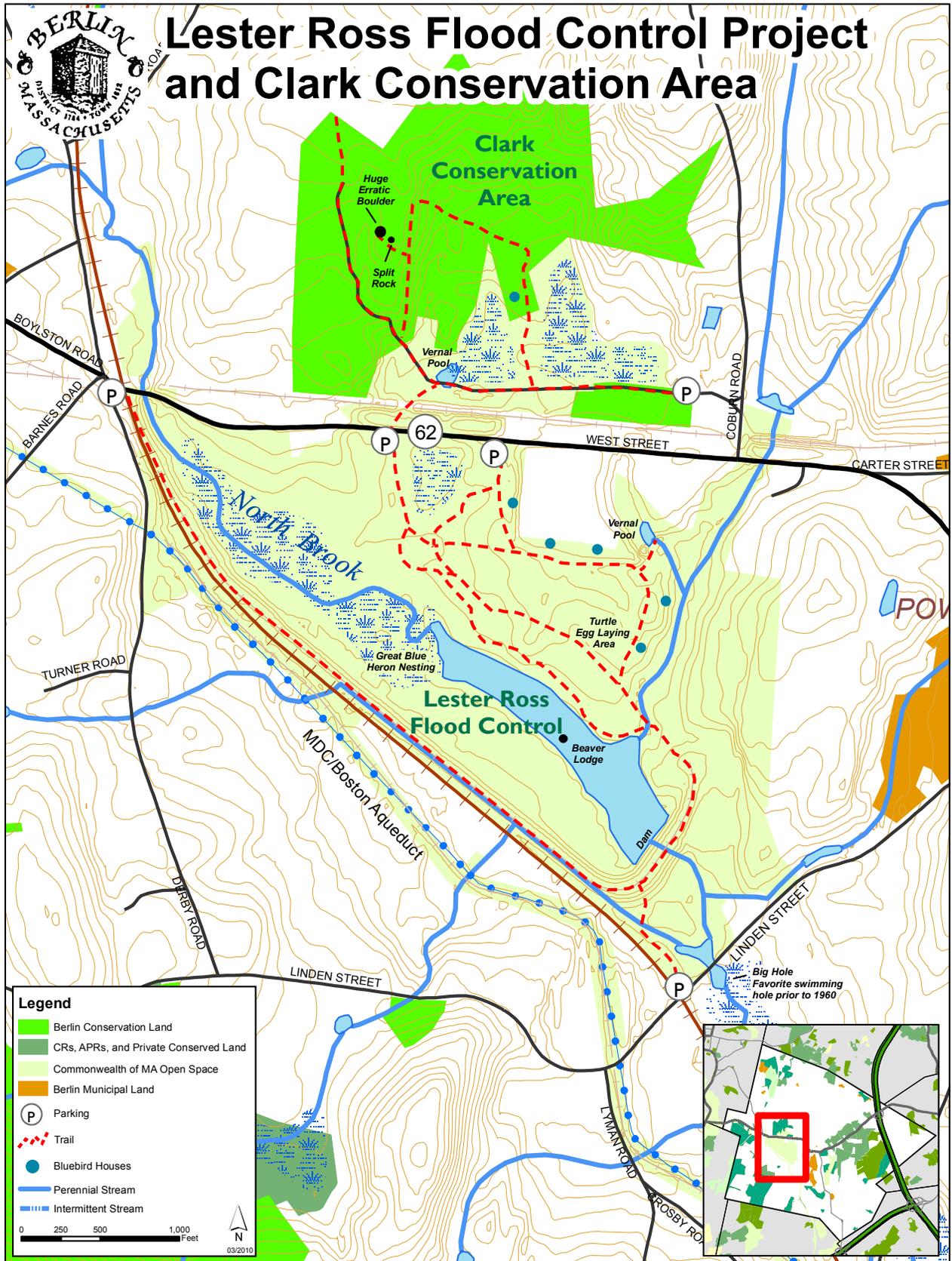
The trails are shown along the top of the dam and in the large field between the pond and Route 62.

ENTRANCE:

Parking exists in multiple locations at the green steel gates along Route 62 and at the small brick building on Linden St at the train tracks crossing.



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#4 Powderhouse Hill

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Powderhouse was constructed in 1814 on a hill on the ledge outcropping overlooking the town and is on the town seal.

TRAILS OR PATHWAYS:

Head east on Route 62 from the center of town. A stairway to Powderhouse Hill exists from the end of the sidewalk on the north side of Route 62.

ENTRANCE:

Parking exists on Woodward Street across from the 1870 Old Town Hall.



Conservation Commission Berlin Trail Maps



#5 Forty Caves and Musche Woods and Garfield Woods

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Variable topography, mostly wooded upland, traversed by North Brook, interesting glacial features.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

An active railroad track bisects property, Forty Caves area includes numerous rocky outcroppings, glacial boulders and quartz deposits; small wetland in narrow tributary feeding North Brook, glacial boulders and quartz deposits. The remaining stone walls remind us that Garfield Woods in particular was not always wooded upland.

TRAILS OR PATHWAYS:

The trails are distributed throughout the area, crossing creeks and hilly areas with rocky outcroppings and forests of white pine and hemlock.

ENTRANCE:

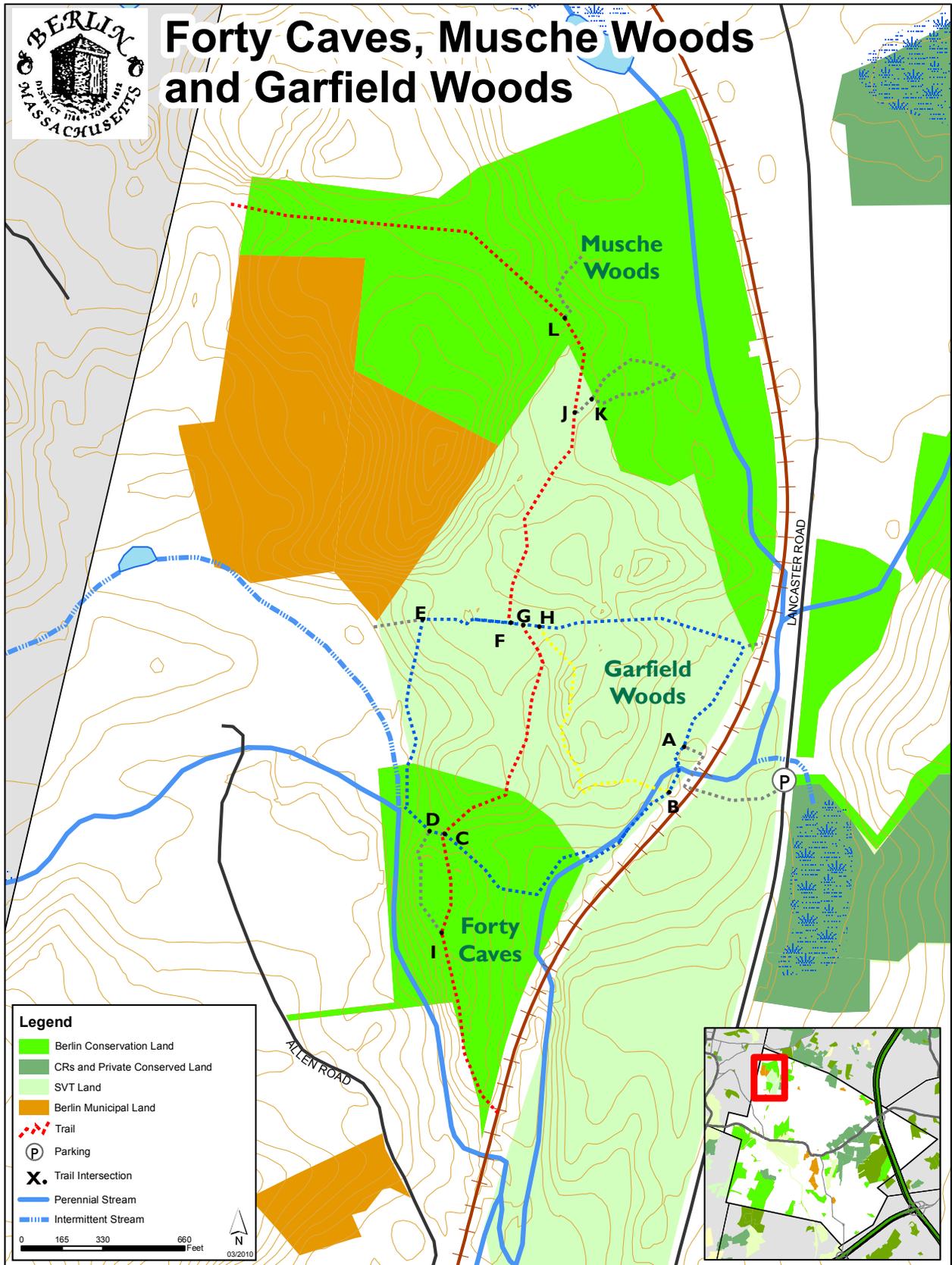
Parking exists in two locations on the west side of Lancaster road at the pull off areas.



LANCASTER ROAD

P

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Parking Lot is accessed through break in stone wall.

#6 Mt. Pisgah Conservation Area

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Mount Pisgah is mostly upland with isolated wetlands and streams, generally wooded with variable topography. The parking area from Linden St provides access to 48.4 acres purchased from the Devine family in 2006 and also includes a conservation restriction on the remainder of the original farmland. The north end of this property is meadows and fields, becoming uplands of pine and oak as you head upland/south past the Mt Pisgah Trailhead sign.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

This is the highest elevation in Berlin approaching 640 feet in some places, upland is mostly deciduous trees and shrubs with dramatic rock ledges and a glacial swale. There is an upland azalea wetland and a spring fed brook that feed intermittent streams that often parallel the trails. A spring at the top of Mt. Pisgah was once considered as adequate for a municipal water supply for the town of Berlin.

Be sure to check the map for the lookout at trails end on a rocky ledge that provides a view of the Boston skyline on a clear day.

TRAILS OR PATHWAYS:

The trail starts at the parking area off Linden St and proceeds south along a 20' wide easement on private property along the rock wall on the east side of the field. The trail crosses the stream at the bottom of the hill and continues due south uphill to the Mt Pisgah Trailhead sign to connect to a well maintained trail system that connects to the Northboro trail system on Mt Pisgah.

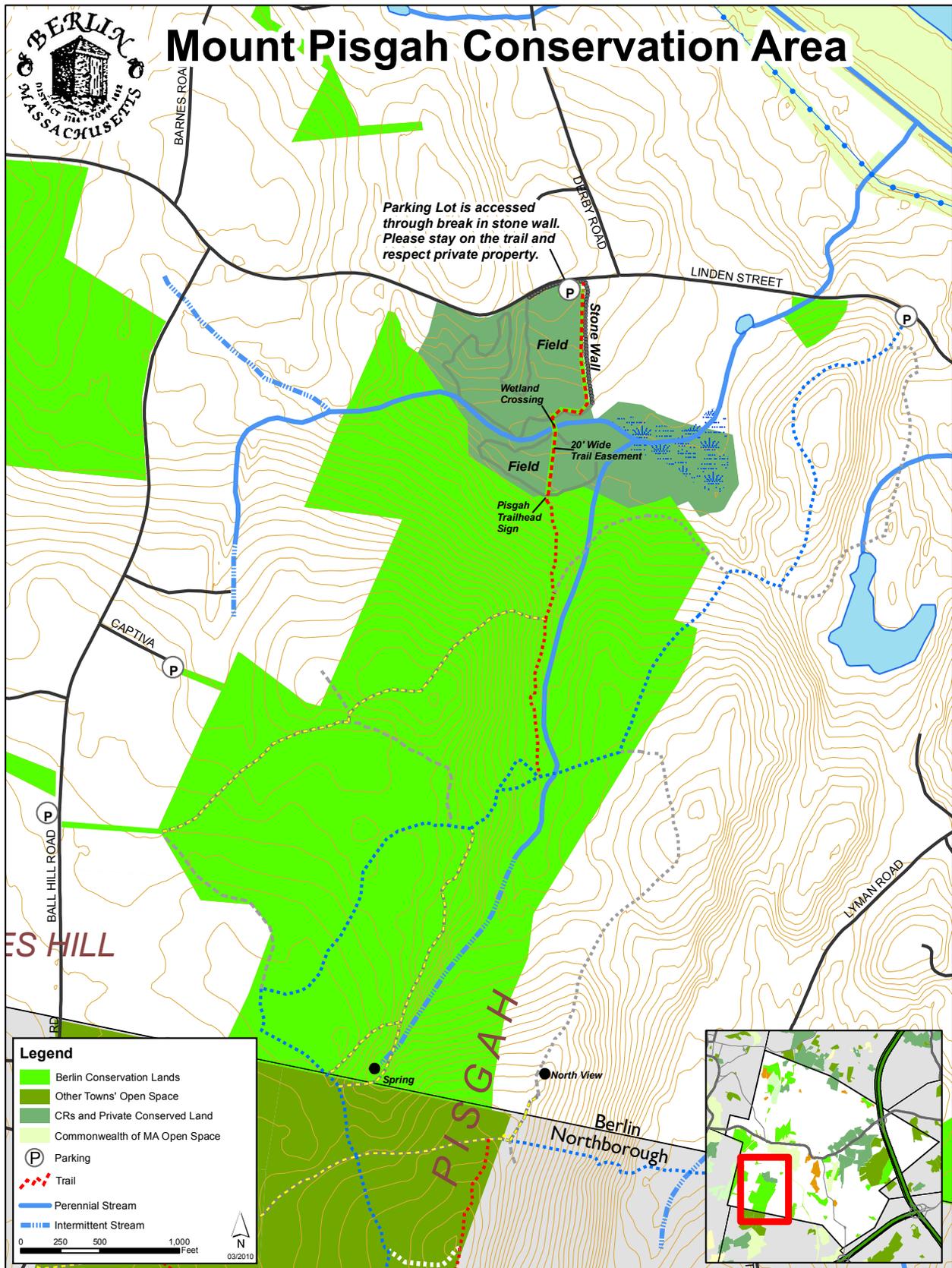
There are also 2 access points on Ball Hill Rd: from the east end of the cul-de-sac on Captiva Rd, and via an access along a stone wall that marks private property (brown barn and horse corrals).

ENTRANCE:

Parking area exists at the sign in the field off Linden Street just west of Derby Road, access the parking area via the break in the rock wall. Access to Berlin's Mt Pisgah trails is also possible from the parking lot on Smith Rd in Northboro via the Northboro trail system.



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#7 Gates Pond Reservoir, Hudson Town Forest and Berlin Conservation Lands

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The trails system is located on the Gates Pond reservoir watershed owned by the town of Hudson, Hudson Town Forest, Berlin conservation land, and land formerly known as CHEDCO Farms that is protected by a conservation restriction. While hiking these trails one could observe virtually any species of mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, insect and wildflower native to eastern Massachusetts. See how many you can find.

HISTORIC FEATURES:

Once a summer vacation spot with cottages, a hotel and a dance hall around the pond, Grace Tyler wrote in her diary in 1891 of going by horse and buggy to a dance there. A terrible 1890s cholera epidemic hit Hudson, and the MA legislature gave Hudson eminent domain to take Gates Pond for a clean public water supply. Hudson raised all buildings but now relies on wells for public water supply. Gates Pond is an auxiliary supply -- and a wonderful, protected natural area. Another fascinating historic spot is King Philip Rock, a huge, erratic boulder 14' high and 25' long. Danford Tyler, a Princeton archeology graduate, called the rock ke-kaus-a-ganset (place by the Big Rock) and it was a landmark meeting place for Native Americans where he claimed in 1674 King Philip rallied his warriors there between attacks on Marlborough and then Lancaster.

TRAILS OR PATHWAYS:

The main trail is a gated, partially paved road beginning at the parking lot at the end of Taylor Road, heading southerly and closely following the perimeter of the pond in a two mile loop. A yellow dot trail leaves the pond loop trail to the left and heads southeasterly, parallel to route I495 onto Berlin conservation land, then turns southwesterly and meets the pond loop road at junction "D" just east of the dam at the south end of the pond.

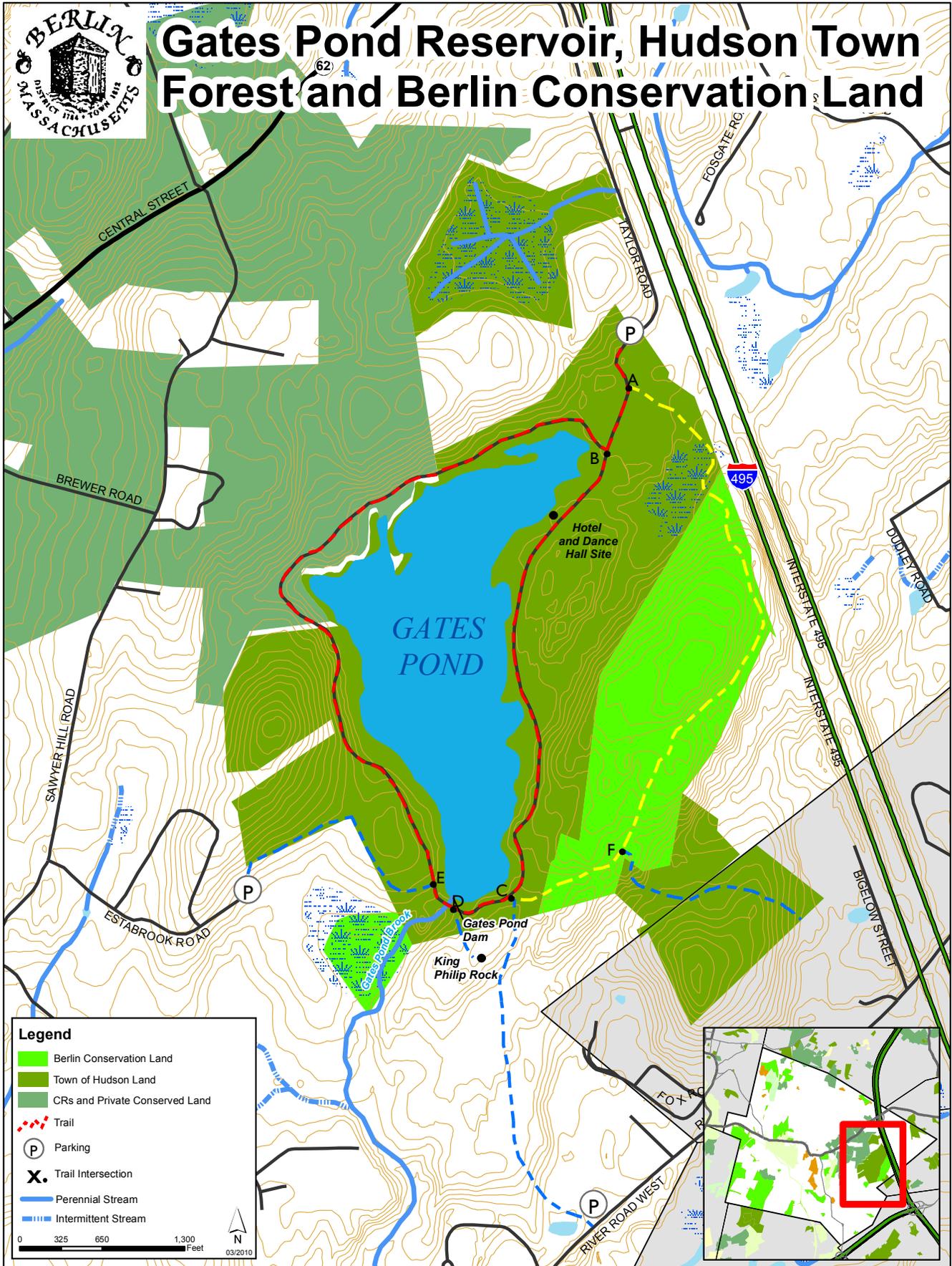
Shorter trails marked with blue dots connect to the main pond loop trail: one connects a cul-de-sac at the end of Estabrook Lane to the pond loop road at junction "F"; another connects a parking area on River Road West just east of Meadow Brook development to the loop road at junction "D" (this is private land owned by Indian Head Farms, access permission from Willard Wheeler -- please respect his property, leave only footprints, DON'T block the gated entrance when parking as trucks use it daily, park off pavement on River Rd); a dead-end blue dot trail leaves the yellow dot trail at junction "H" heading east across the Hudson Town Forest; two trails lead to historic sites, one connects junction "C" on the loop road to junction "G" on the yellow dot trail passing by the former hotel/dance hall site, and another short trail connects the loop trail at the east end of the dam at junction "E" to historic King Philip Rock.

ENTRANCE:

Parking is at the end of Taylor Road (runs south from Route 62 just west of I495). There is also access and parking at the cul-de-sac at the end of Estabrook Lane and on River Rd.



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Berlin Trail Maps



**Conservation Commission
Berlin Trail Maps**

These maps are available
on the web at
www.townofberlin.com.

Click on the Conservation Commission link
on the home page on the left.

Conservation Commission Berlin Trail Maps

The sign below is found at trailheads on Berlin Conservation Lands.

Berlin Conservation Lands

Enjoy these lands responsibly

<u>Prohibited</u>	<u>Permitted</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No motorized vehicles (no motorcycles, 4-wheelers, cars, trucks, or snowmobiles – police take notice and the vehicles will be towed)- No parking 10PM to 5AM (police take notice and the vehicles will be towed)- No littering- No fires- No cutting of trees or brush- No harassment of wildlife- No overnight camping without written permission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hiking- Cross country skiing- Snowshoeing- Bird watching- Picnicking- Mountain biking- Dog walking- Dog training- Fishing and Hunting (during regular seasons in accordance with the latest Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife regulations)

Please help patrol this property-- report violations to the Berlin Police (978-838-7356)
Thank you! Berlin Conservation Commission

Note: Motorized recreational vehicles have recently caused damage of over \$40,000 at the Lester Ross/Suasco site as well as to other conservation lands and private property abutting conservation lands. Your help is needed to help police the property and report violations to the police department.



Berlin Conservation Commission