



Historically known as "the Desert" due to the prevalence of well-drained sandy soils, the properties mapped here offer unfragmented forest, wetlands and waterways to support a variety of birds and mammals. Scarlet Tanagers, Hermit Thrushes, and Ovenbirds prefer the deep woods. Ruffed Grouse are plentiful; they roost in conifers but need water nearby, just the combination found here. Great Blue Herons nest along both brooks.

Deer, coyote, muskrat, raccoon, and a variety of small mammals are common. Fisher have been seen and beaver colonies have left their mark in the form of rich beaver meadows. The size of the parcel, and consequently its value for wildlife, is significantly enhanced by its proximity to the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge.

The sandy soils, originally deposited on the bottom of ancient Lake Sudbury as the glacier retreated north, now support a Pitch pine and Scrub oak forest unusual in this region. These areas may look harsh and dry to us, but provide abundant food for wildlife. Gray squirrels prefer the acorns, Red squirrels the pinecones, and the Blue Jays aren't fussy. Elsewhere, wildlife, and perhaps humans, too, can enjoy an understory of Lowbush blueberry and huckleberry.

Wetlands include floodplain marshes and dense Red maple swamps, shrub swamps, and vernal pools. Two cold-water streams – Trout and Cranberry Brooks – flow into Hop Brook. The shallow Duck Pond at Hop Brook Marsh was created by the land's former owners, the Sudbury Rod and Gun Club, to attract waterfowl. The Central Massachusetts Railroad, completed in 1881, and the Tenneco pipeline, installed in 1967, both cut through the conservation land, seriously impacting the property's streams and wetlands.



Henry Ford purchased much of the land along Sudbury's western boundary in the 1930s. He sold this forest to the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts in 1950, when he abandoned his plans for the area. In the 1970s and 1980s the area became a dumping ground for debris and stolen cars. Off-road vehicles damaged the land and illegal hunting and shooting deterred use of the land for quiet recreation. Sudbury Valley Trustees entered into a three-year management agreement with the General Federation in 1996 and, after working with the other landowners to clean up the land and discourage further abuse, acquired the Memorial Forest in 1999.

SVT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please respect posted regulations while on other lands shown.

In order to protect this natural area, the following are prohibited:

- Motorized vehicles
- Hunting or trapping*
- Camping**
- Bicycling***
- Fires
- Disposing of trash or yard waste
- Cutting or removing plants

*Hunting allowed on City of Marlborough land and by permit on Town of Sudbury land

**Camping allowed by permit on Town of Sudbury land

***Bicycling allowed on Town of Sudbury land

DIRECTIONS

From Sudbury Center (the intersection of Concord Road and Route 27), take Hudson Road west (staying left on Hudson rather than following Route 27 north) for 2.0 mi to Dutton Road on the left. Take Dutton Road 1.8 mi, staying on Dutton Road by bearing right at intersection with Garrison, to an unpaved access on the right into a parking area under pine trees. There is an SVT sign at the entrance to the parking area.




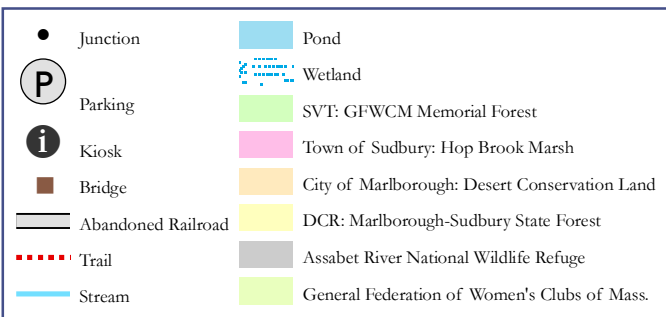
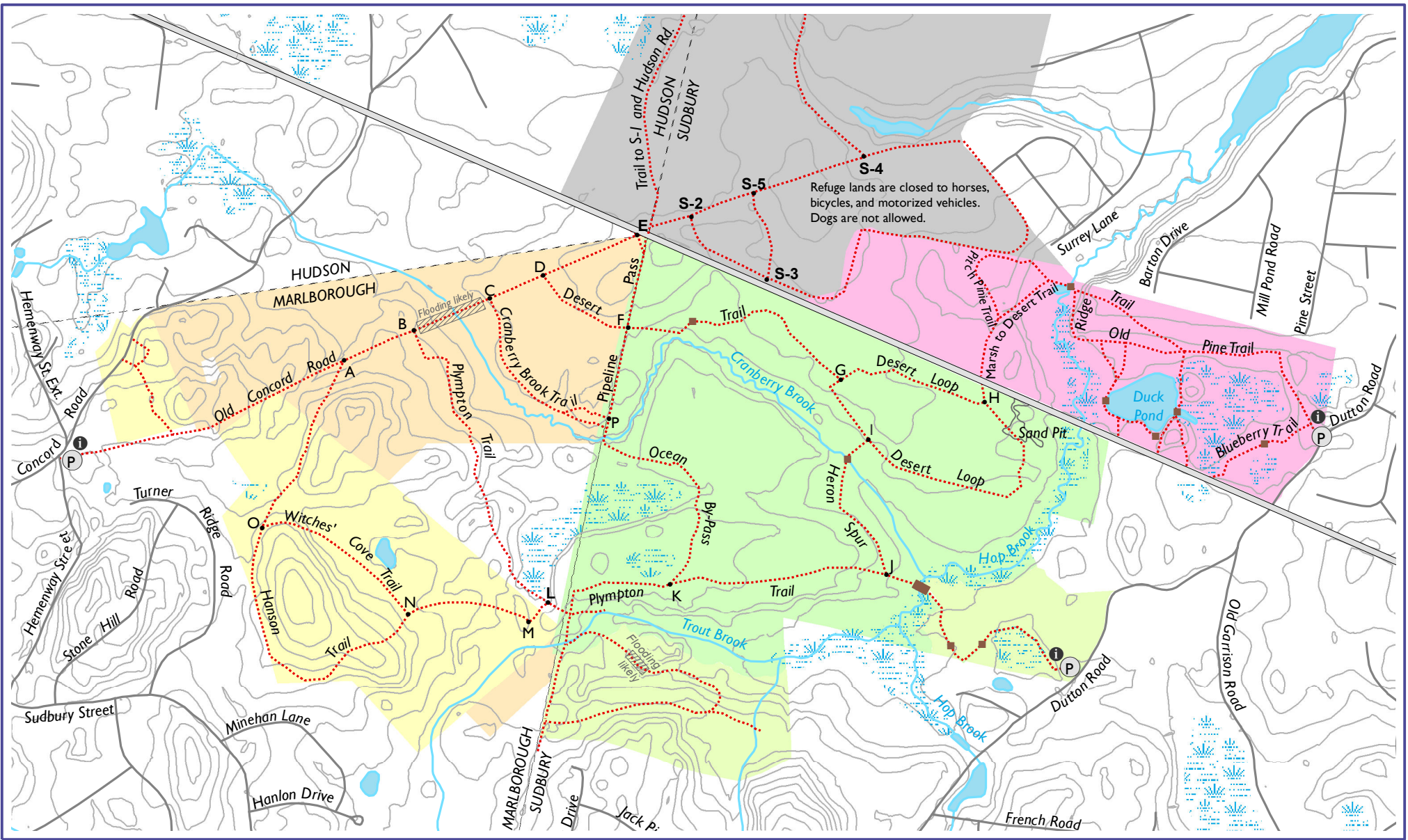
Illustration by Joyce Dwyer

SUDBURY VALLEY TRUSTEES General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts Memorial Forest



**SUDBURY
VALLEY
TRUSTEES**

18 Wolbach Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-443-5588
www.svtweb.org



Memorial Forest Sudbury, MA

