

The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society

The Rural Society in Duxbury was founded in 1883 by a group of citizens who were determined to form a village improvement society to maintain the town's rural character.

The Society was first set up to place kerosene lamp street lights along Washington Street and plant trees along main streets. At that time, there were few trees along the village roads. It wasn't

long before the Society was acquiring open space in town. In the 1890s, the Society began to

buy plots bordering Round Pond, and later, the pond itself. The Rural Society was interested in preserving a country setting that would offer a pleasant destination for carriage rides, and a picnic spot. The Rural Society's purchases in the Round Pond area grew until they totalled about 50 acres.

The Rural Society became the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society in 1916, and continued its interest and involvement in the rural aspects of its work. In the 1980s, the Reverend Canon Robert E. Merry, as head of the Society's lands committee, worked with the town and Massachusetts Audubon Society officials to develop and complete a working trail system on the conservation land at both Round Pond and North Hill Marsh. Two Round Pond trails were opened in January of 1986.

In 2011, the Town of Duxbury dedicated an area of land adjacent to Round Pond as the "David S. Cutler Forest." David, a Duxbury newspaper publisher and advocate for conservation land, was often quoted as saying: "Buy land, they don't make it anymore."



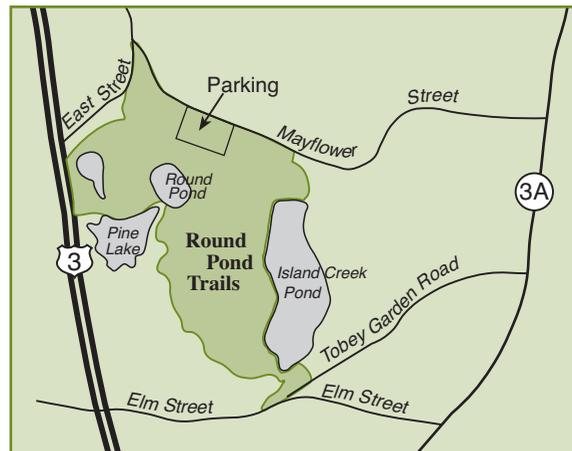
Cranberry Bogs

Our town is blessed with the ingredients to make an ideal cranberry growing environment: swamps and an abundance of fresh water, replenished by rainfall in excess of 48 inches/year, and acidic peat soil.

The application of readily-available sand keeps root systems from binding together, and cool, dry temperatures during the growing season keep fruit from scalding.

Wild cranberries, in the same family as blueberries, wintergreen, rhododendron, and bearberry, are mainly evergreen shrubs with drooping, pink flowers that love acidic soil. These plants are typical vegetation of open moors, damp, low-lying areas. The American cranberry is one of only three fruits native to North America; the others are blueberry and Concord grape.

Our bogs bring us other benefits. Bog ponds are stocked with fish. Both ponds and bogs attract a variety of wildlife and help maintain the water table essential to Duxbury's domestic water supply. Duxbury bogs also provide excellent walking areas!



Welcome to Round Pond



Welcome!

Since the 1890s, when first purchased by the Rural Society (now Duxbury Rural and Historical Society), Round Pond has been a favorite recreation spot for Duxbury residents.

Today, you are likely to see neighbors walking the paths in the 170 acres of conservation land between Round Pond, Pine Lake, and Island Creek Pond. The land includes extensive woodlands as well as 40 acres comprising the Loring Cranberry Bogs north of Round Pond, a parcel purchased with Community Preservation Act funds in 2006. The bogs are still in production and are leased out by the town for active management.

A Gift from the Ice Age

Round Pond is a large kettle hole left by a melting glacier around 10,000 BC. Ice continued to play a part in the pond's history as late as the 1940s.

When known as Cole's Pond in the 1880s, the pond was the site of the Merry family's ice house, and an abundant source of ice for summer residents. Through the winter, Merry crews, using long saws, cut pond ice into large blocks, laboriously pulled the blocks onto sleds, and hauled the heavily-loaded sleds across the ice to wooden storage buildings. Inside, ice blocks were covered with sawdust, piled high, then covered with more sawdust. The sawdust insulated the ice blocks sufficiently to allow delivery of ice until summer to area homes and summer cottages. By the 1940s, however, most home and cottage owners had installed refrigerators, causing the ice business to melt away, much as the glaciers that had made it possible.

Natural History

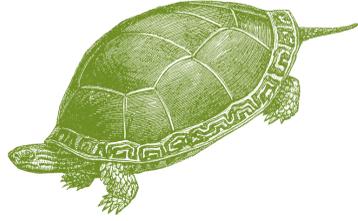
Round Pond is one of the more diverse of the conservation lands in Duxbury. This area ranges from forest cover to open cranberry bog.

The tree cover along the upland portions of the trail is dominated mostly by a white pine-red oak mixture adapted to these soils.

The understory is low bush, and dry land blueberries, ferns, sweetferns (in sandy openings), teaberry, and ladyslippers.

Where the trail dips into wetlands and along reservoirs, the vegetation changes to red maple with alder, sagebush, highbush blueberry, summersweet, and native azalea.

These climax forests attract a good deal of northern temperate forest wildlife, ranging from waterfowl to larger animals like white-tailed deer, raccoons, opossums, and fox. It also makes great habitat for our feathered friends, such as osprey, red-tailed hawks, bluebirds, egrets, great blue heron, and many types of interior forest birds such as chickadees, tufted titmice, cardinals and cedar waxwings. Keep your eye out for these birds. The quieter you are, the more likely you will be to see them. Happy trails!



Rules and Regulations

- Open sunrise to sunset
- To protect wildlife:
 - Hunting and trapping are prohibited
 - Dogs must be under your control at all times
 - Please clean up after your dogs, so others may enjoy this site

Round Pond Trails



- To protect the land:
 - Camping, fires, dumping, littering are prohibited
 - Motorized vehicles are prohibited
 - Cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited
 - New trail or other construction is prohibited
- Please contact the Duxbury Conservation Commission for full regulations and stewardship information.

Questions? Call the Duxbury Conservation Commission at 781-934-1100 ext 134