



Round Pond Conservation Area

In the early 1890s the Duxbury Rural Society, Inc. (now DRHS) began purchasing land around Round Pond for picnicking and carriage rides. Round Pond is a kettle hole that was formed by a melting glacier about 18,000 years ago. Ice was harvested from the pond for summer residents into the 1940s. The bogs were purchased using Community Preservation Act Funds. The Round Pond Conservation Area includes the David Cutler Forest, named for conservationist and owner/editor of the Duxbury Clipper, the town's local newspaper.

Property Details: 242 acres. 3 miles of trails: White (Bay Circuit Trail): 1.5 miles, Red: 0.8 miles, Yellow: 0.6 miles

Vegetation: Eastern white pine, red and white oak, wetland grasses and shrubs, cranberry bogs

Features: Pond/reservoir; Network of cranberry ditches and dikes; Undulating terrain and kettle holes

Terrain: Easy-Moderate - Mixed flat and steep grades suitable for hiking, biking, and horseback riding

Parking: Lot with information kiosk is located on the south side of Mayflower Street

North Hill Marsh Conservation Area

This is the town's largest contiguous area of open space and most popular area for passive outdoor recreation. The property is under the jurisdiction of the town of Duxbury and Mass Audubon Society and is managed by the Duxbury Conservation Commission. Mass Audubon owns the 90 acre wildlife sanctuary which has several trails with sweeping water views and areas for observing waterfowl. A 2.7 mile pond loop trail circles the North Hill Marsh and is a brisk one-hour hike. The town owns the remainder of the property, which includes the Knapp Town Forest, Waiting Hill Preserve, North Hill Country Club, and a number of working cranberry bogs. The 1623 Green Harbor Path, traversing an upland section, was a Native American footpath later used by the first settlers of Plymouth Colony.

Property Details: 987 acres. 9.2 miles of marked trails: Blue (Pond Loop): 2.7 miles, Yellow (Knapp Trail): 1.7 miles, White (1623 Green Harbor Trail): 0.5 miles, Green: 1.2 miles

Vegetation: Eastern white pine, red and white oak, red maple, wetland shrubs

Features: North Hill Marsh; Wetlands; Kettle holes; Glacial topography; Cranberry bogs

Terrain: Easy-Difficult - Mix of flat terrain, hills, valleys, cart paths

Parking: Lots with information kiosks are located on the north side of Mayflower Street and behind the First Parish Church on Tremont Street. Roadside parking available at various trailheads on Mayflower Street