

ABOUT THE TOWN FOREST

Because thickly-wooded uplands, which serve as habitat for both birds and mammals, are rare in Swampscott, the Harold A. King Forest ("Town Forest") is a critical habitat. The Town Forest has been dedicated for conservation use only and is under the care and administration of the Conservation Commission. The forest extends over 47 acres of wild and rugged area located in the northwest corner of Swampscott. From its highest point, the land slopes down to an extensive swamp with typical wetland plant life. The area's outstanding feature is a terminal moraine. These glacial erratics, coupled with a diverse growth of deciduous trees and shrubs, makes an ideal area for nature study.

Primary access to the forest is from a small paved parking area at the end of Nichols Street. The condition of the forest is very good, with little litter or other signs of human impact. Invasive species of plants are minimally evident at this time, except bordering the parking area where Japanese knotweed and Norway maple abound.

A paint-blazed loop trail, maintained by volunteers like the Boy Scouts, starts at the parking area and winds its way through the forest. The Town Forest is a great space for hiking, nature study, bird watching, dog walking and general outdoor exploring particularly for children.

PLANT & WILDLIFE SPECIES

If you're interested in learning more about the species that live in the forest, please visit our citizen science research project on iNaturalist.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/swampscott-biodiversity>

PUBLIC PARKING

Parking is available on the small parking area at the end of Nichols Street by the park entrance.

PERMITTED USES

Passive outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, on-leash dog walking, and wildlife observation is permitted, along with educational and nature study.

PROHIBITED USES

The following are prohibited uses and actions:

- Possession/consumption of alcohol
- Fires
- Camping
- Hunting
- Trapping
- Motorized or motor-assisted vehicles and other powered equipment or motorized wheelchairs
- Littering or placement of refuse or waste of any kind (including yard waste)
- Damaging or removing vegetation or public-posted signs

PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS

Users of the park should acquaint themselves with preventive measures to protect against potential harm regarding the following:

- Ticks (with the accompanying risk of contracting Lyme Disease)
- Mosquitoes (may carry infectious disease)
- Poison ivy
- Brambles and vegetation that can cause injury and unpleasantness

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Swampscott's open spaces and recreation facilities as well as our management and maintenance plans for these spaces, please visit the "Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee" webpage on the Town website.

<http://www.town.swampscott.ma.us>

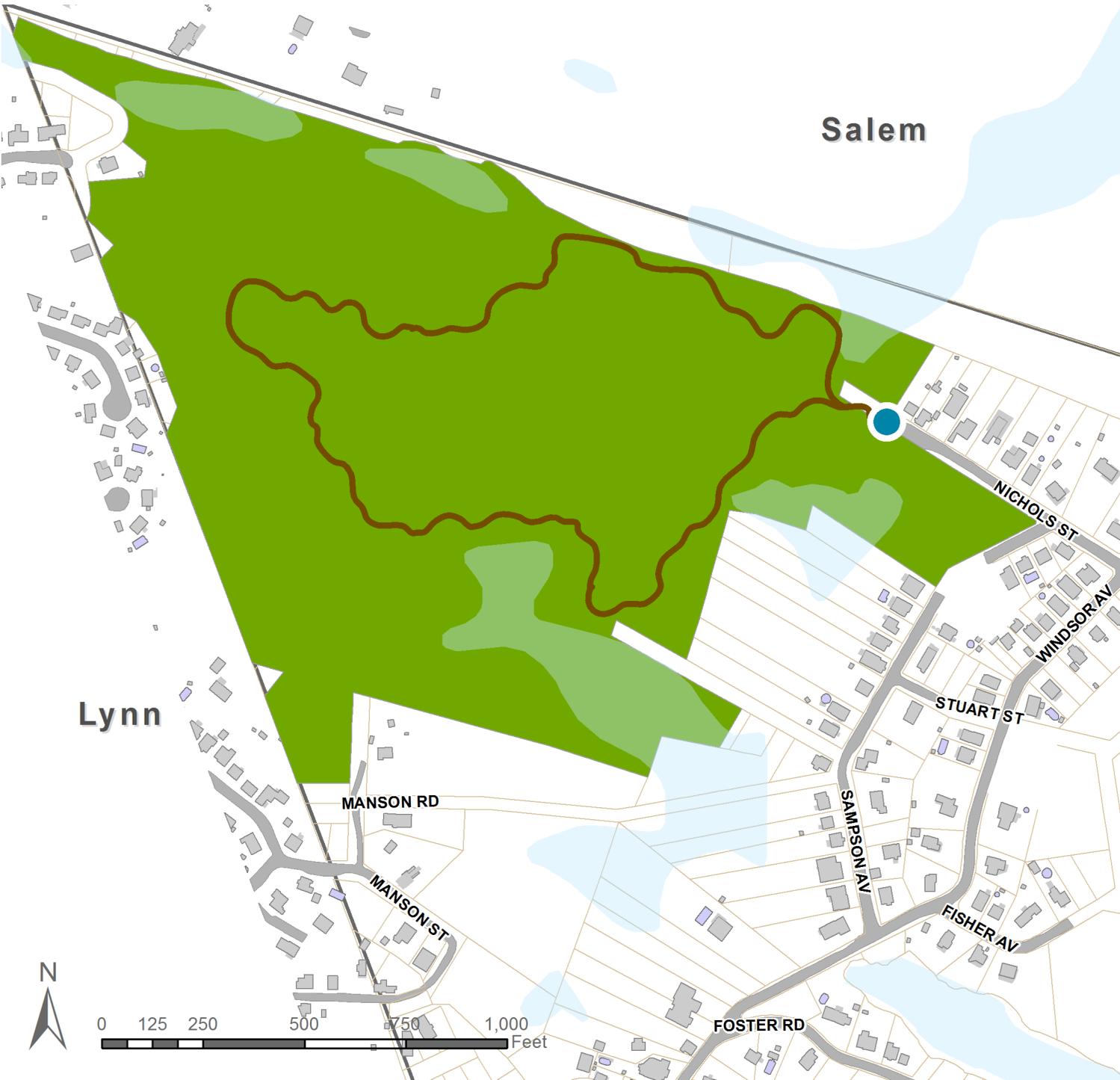
HAROLD A. KING TOWN FOREST

TRAIL MAP & PARK INFORMATION



TOWN OF
SWAMPSCOTT

HAROLD A. KING TOWN FOREST



LEGEND

-  Park Land
-  Water Bodies
-  Park Entrance
-  Park Trail



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

DATA SOURCE
Swampscott GIS & MassGIS