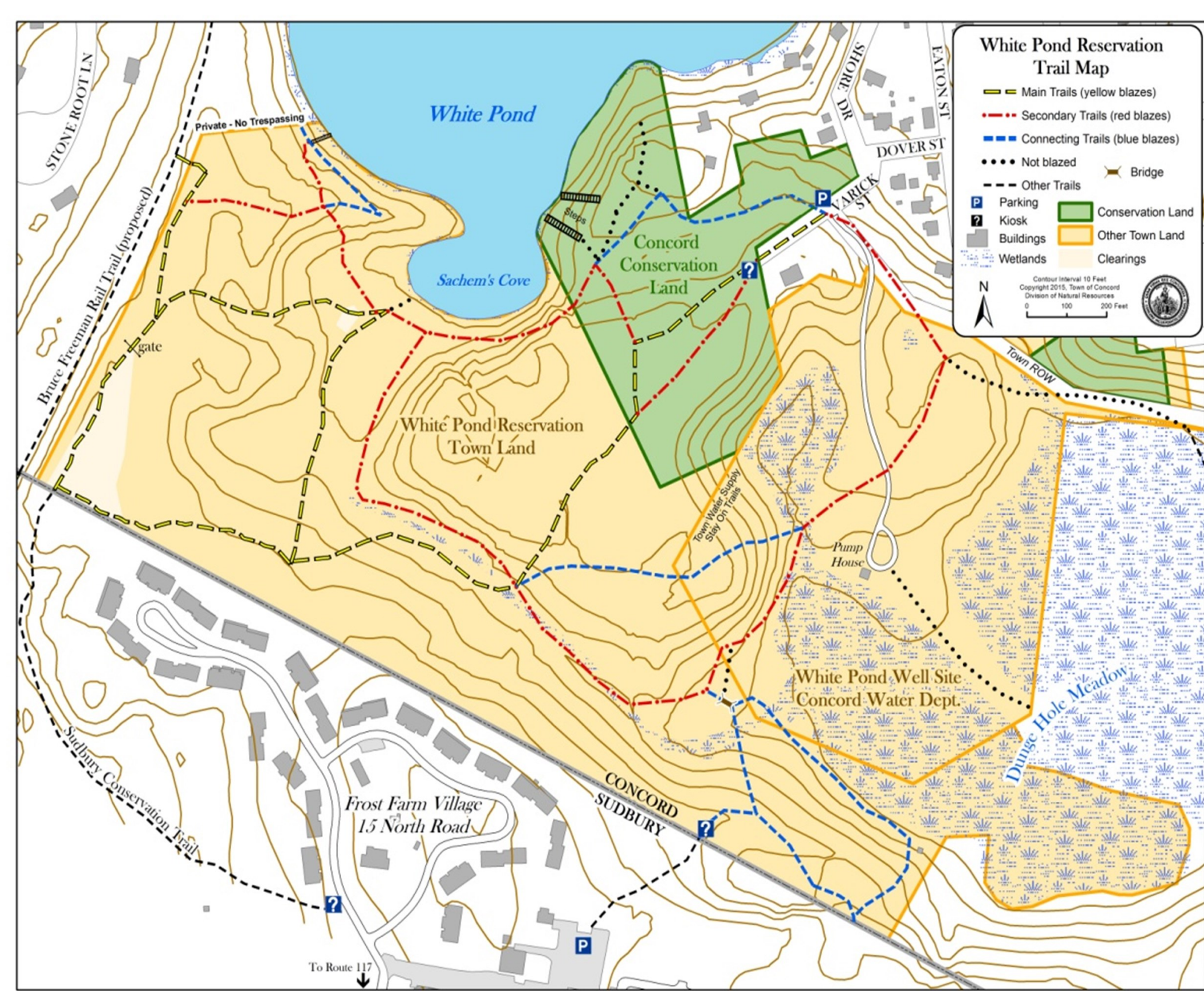


White Pond

Although Walden Pond had been made famous by the writings of Henry David Thoreau, White Pond was another of his favorite places to visit. Thoreau described the pond in several of his works including Walden.

"... Perhaps the most attractive, if not the most beautiful of all our lakes, the gem of the woods is White Pond"

- Henry David Thoreau

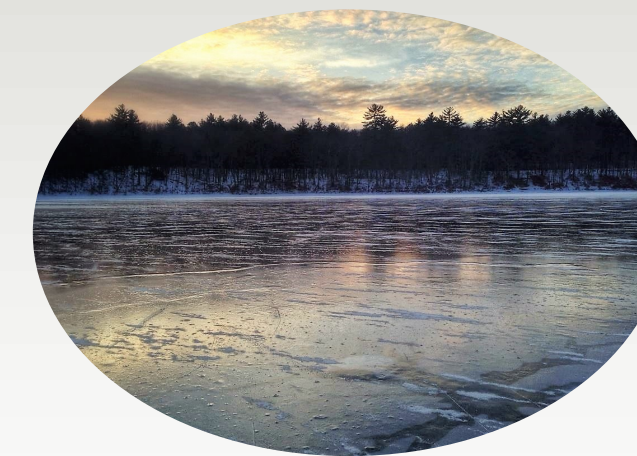
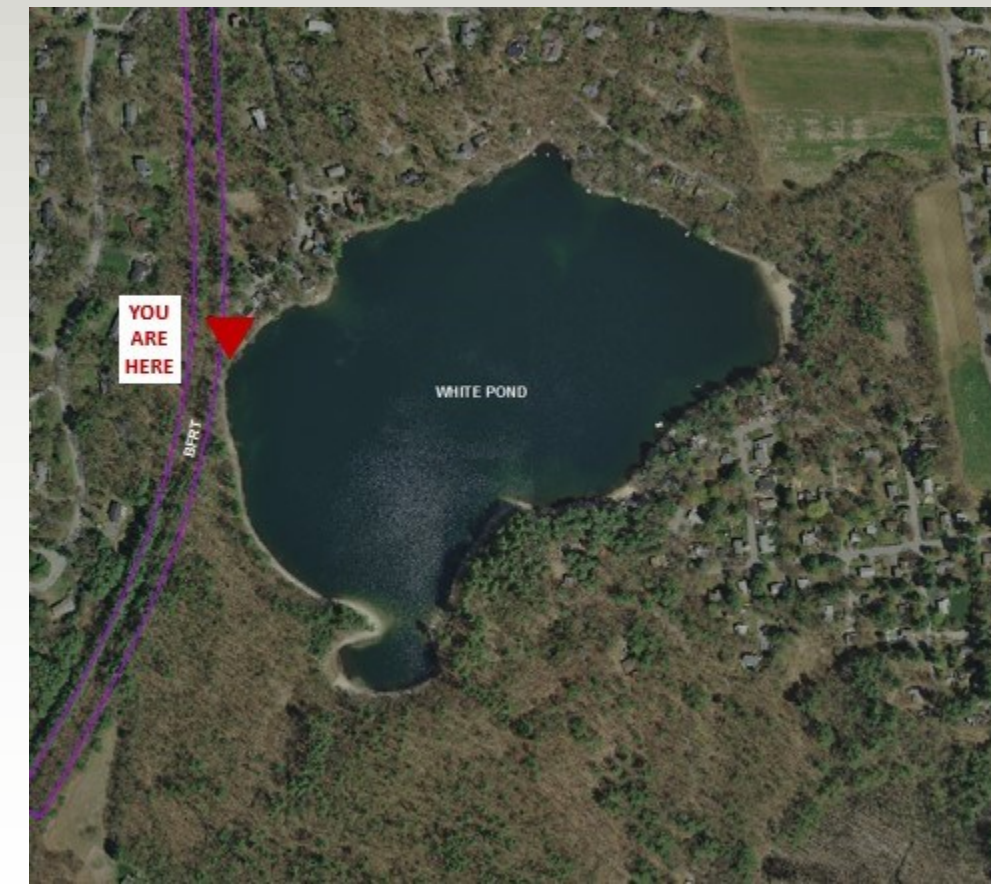


White Pond Reservation Trail System

You are now entering the White Pond portion of the Concord trails system. More than two miles of trails, across nearly 70 acres of Town land, thread through the woodlands and open marsh surrounding White Pond. Trails on Town land adjacent to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail are open to the public for passive recreational purposes such as walking and nature study. **BIKES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON WHITE POND RESERVATION TRAILS!**

One of the most popular and scenic destinations within the White Pond Reservation Trail system is the remote southeast area of the pond known as Sachem's Cove. The cove was described by Ralph Waldo Emerson as a place "where one could almost see the Sachem in his canoe in a shadowy cove". Evidence of a Native American Presence in the White Pond area is confirmed by artifacts found in the higher grounds southeast of the pond. It is believed they had arrived there by at least 1000 BC, the most recent tribes the Nipmuc branch of the Algonquin family.

Trails on Town land adjacent to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail are open to the public for passive recreational purposes such as walking and nature study. Trails in the Town of Concord follow a "leave no trace" policy. Thank you for packing out all trash, including dog waste, so that this area may be enjoyed for generations to come.



Winter ice on White Pond



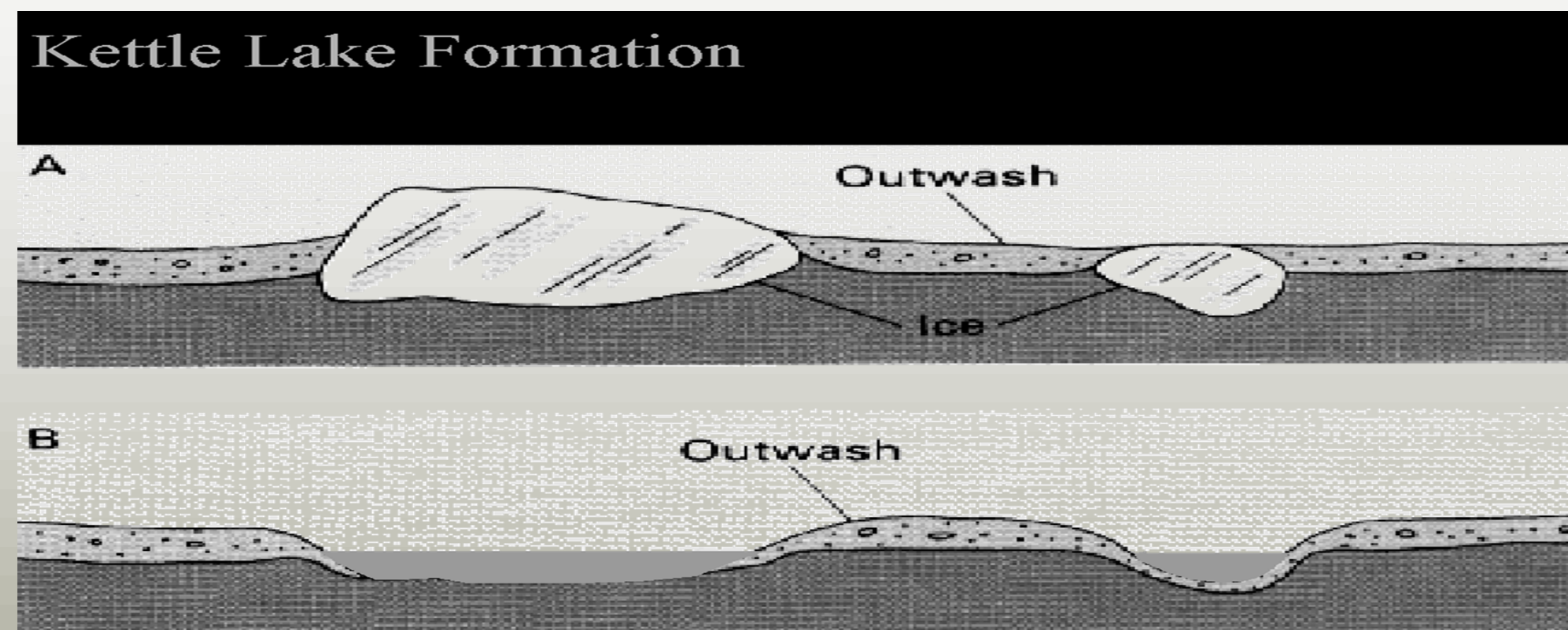
Sachem's Cove



Heron on White Pond edge

History

White Pond is a natural kettle pond, with no perennial surface inlets and outlets. During the Wisconsin Glacial Episode that ended approximately 12,000 years ago, large blocks of ice occasionally became isolated from retreating glaciers. This, coupled with surrounding sediment influxes and partial burial of ice blocks, led to regional kame and kettle topography. As the ice melted, kettle ponds such as White Pond formed, while the sands and gravels became ridges around the pond.



Humans are thought to have arrived in the Concord area between 8,000 and 12,500 years ago. Artifacts found in the higher ground to the southeast of the pond give evidence of indigenous people's presence. Areas to the east and southeast of White Pond would have been used by Middle Archaic to Middle Woodland People (1,000 to 8,000 years ago) as hunting camps. It is believed that the Nipmuc branch of the Algonquin family inhabited the area at least 3,000 years ago. Following European colonization in the 17th and 18th centuries, at least some of the land near White Pond was converted to pasture, orchards, and farm fields. By 1830, the presence of Powder Mill and Plainfield Roads indicate greater volume of commerce in the White Pond area. The New Haven Railroad Lowell-Framingham line came through near the pond in 1870, after Thoreau died; so in his lifetime, White Pond and environs were quite undeveloped. Abandoned in the 1970s, the railroad bed is being converted into the multi-use recreational Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, which will travel 25 miles through the communities of Lowell, Chelmsford, Westford, Carlisle, Acton, Concord, Sudbury, and Framingham.

Wildlife

An abundance of wildlife inhabits the White Pond Reservation. Mammals include deer, coyote, fox, raccoon, red and grey squirrel, chipmunk, and skunk. Among amphibians and reptiles are painted turtles, frogs, salamanders, tree frogs, and water snakes. In addition to woodland birds, aquatic birds frequent the pond for food. Commonly herons, mallards, cormorants, and kingfishers are sighted; less often, wood duck, osprey, mergansers, other duck species, and the occasional bald eagle. Within the pond itself are indigenous population of sunfish, golden shiner, largemouth and smallmouth bass. White Pond is biannually stocked by the state with brown and rainbow trout and periodically with salmon.



Pictured; osprey, eastern coyote, fisher, kingfisher, bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, white-tailed deer, great blue heron, red fox, grey squirrel

Please Respect this Sensitive Watershed by keeping off the fragile banks of White Pond and hiking on marked trails only.

During rainstorms, soil particles can wash into the pond, carrying with them nutrients which can adversely affect the ponds water quality. Vegetation provides protection from the erosion in two ways: it slows down surface water runoff, and plant roots hold soil particles in place.



Increases in off-trail foot traffic can speed up this erosion process and create new areas of erosion where this process would otherwise not occur naturally. By staying on marked trails, you are helping to protect the health of the forest and water quality of the pond, all while limiting disturbance to the wildlife which inhabit the White Pond Reservation.

White Pond is a Great Pond

Under the Colonial Ordinances of 1641-1647, any pond or lake that contains more than ten acres in its natural state is considered a "Great Pond". Ponds or lakes that were once ten or more acres in size but are now smaller are also considered Great Ponds. There are three Great Ponds in the Town of Concord: Bateman's Pond, Walden Pond, and White Pond. Under Commonwealth of Massachusetts law, this designation preserves pedestrian access to the water's edge for fishing, fowling, and navigation and is regulated by the state to ensure public access to the waterway is maintained.

