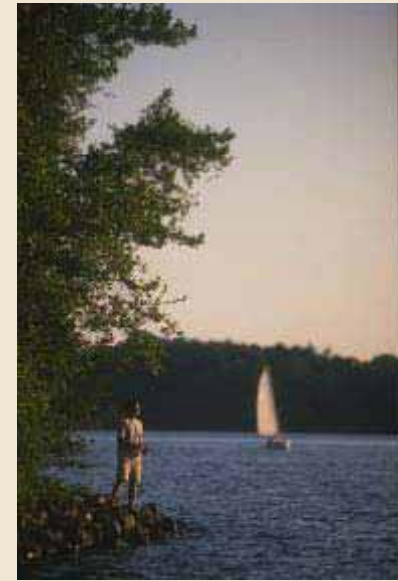


# Middlesex Fells Reservation Draft Trail System Plan



**Stewardship Council Presentation  
Process, Findings and Recommendations  
November 5, 2010**

*Mission: To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources.*

## Middlesex Fells Reservation

- 2,575 acres within and bordering Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham and Winchester
- Diverse landscape of ponds, rocky hills, meadows, woodlands and wetlands
- Water supply lands within park
- Over 122 miles of trails
- Used by walkers, joggers, dog-walkers, mountain bikers and others
- Provides a vital cultural, recreational and natural resource to visitors from the Boston metropolitan region and beyond

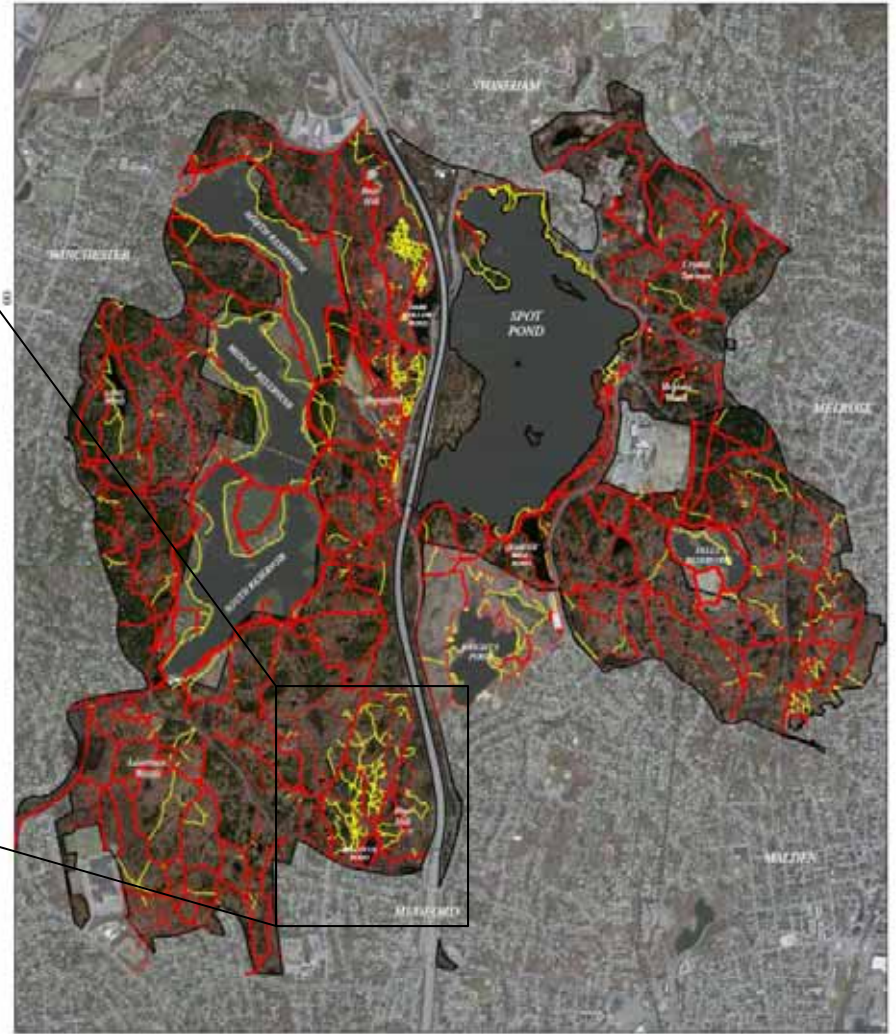
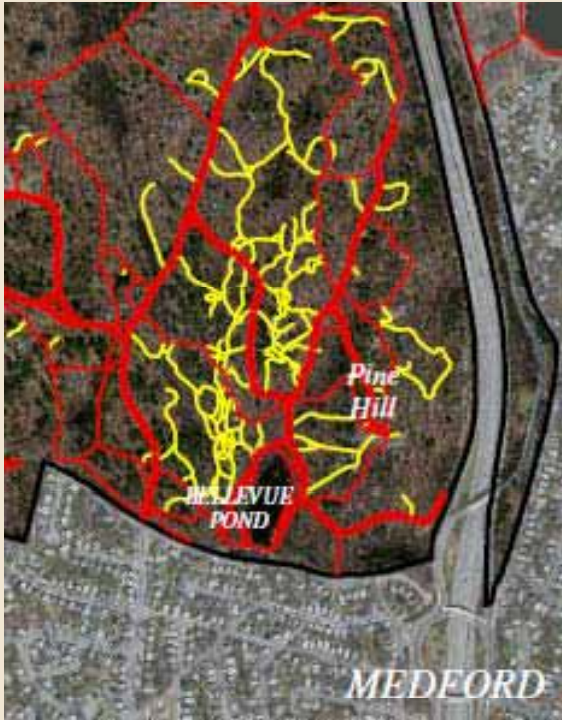


## What is a Trail System Plan?







- A resource-based plan that specifically analyzes and addresses trail system and recreational trail use issues within the context of critical natural and cultural resources.
- Incorporates the same available natural and cultural resource information as a DCR RMP.
- Focuses recommendations on 1) protecting critical resources and 2) enhancing recreational experiences
- Provides for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources, ensuring consistency between recreation and resource protection
- Serves as both a stand along document and a component of a future Resource Management Plan.

## How is a Trail System Plan different from a Resource Management Plan?


- Does not make recommendations along a broader set of management issues such as buildings, parkways, invasive management, etc. (unless related to trail system issues)
- Does not apply Land Stewardship Zoning to the property
- Provides for greater level of analysis of interactions between the trail system, trail uses and trail experiences; and critical environmental and cultural resources.
- Provides for more detailed and specific set of recommendations designed to ensure consistency between recreation, and resource protection with respect to the trail system.




-  Middlesex Fells Reservation
-  Town Boundaries
- Fells Road and Trail Inventory**
- TYPE**
-  Administrative Road
-  Forest Road/Trail
-  Trail
-  "Unoffical" trails


-  Middlesex Fells Reservation
-  Town Boundaries
- Fells Road and Trail Inventory**
- TYPE**
-  Administrative Road
-  Forest Road/Trail
-  Trail
-  "Unoffical" trails

**Middlesex Fells Reservation**  
2008 Orthophotography




This is a report card image of a larger map. Please refer to the full data map for more detailed information.





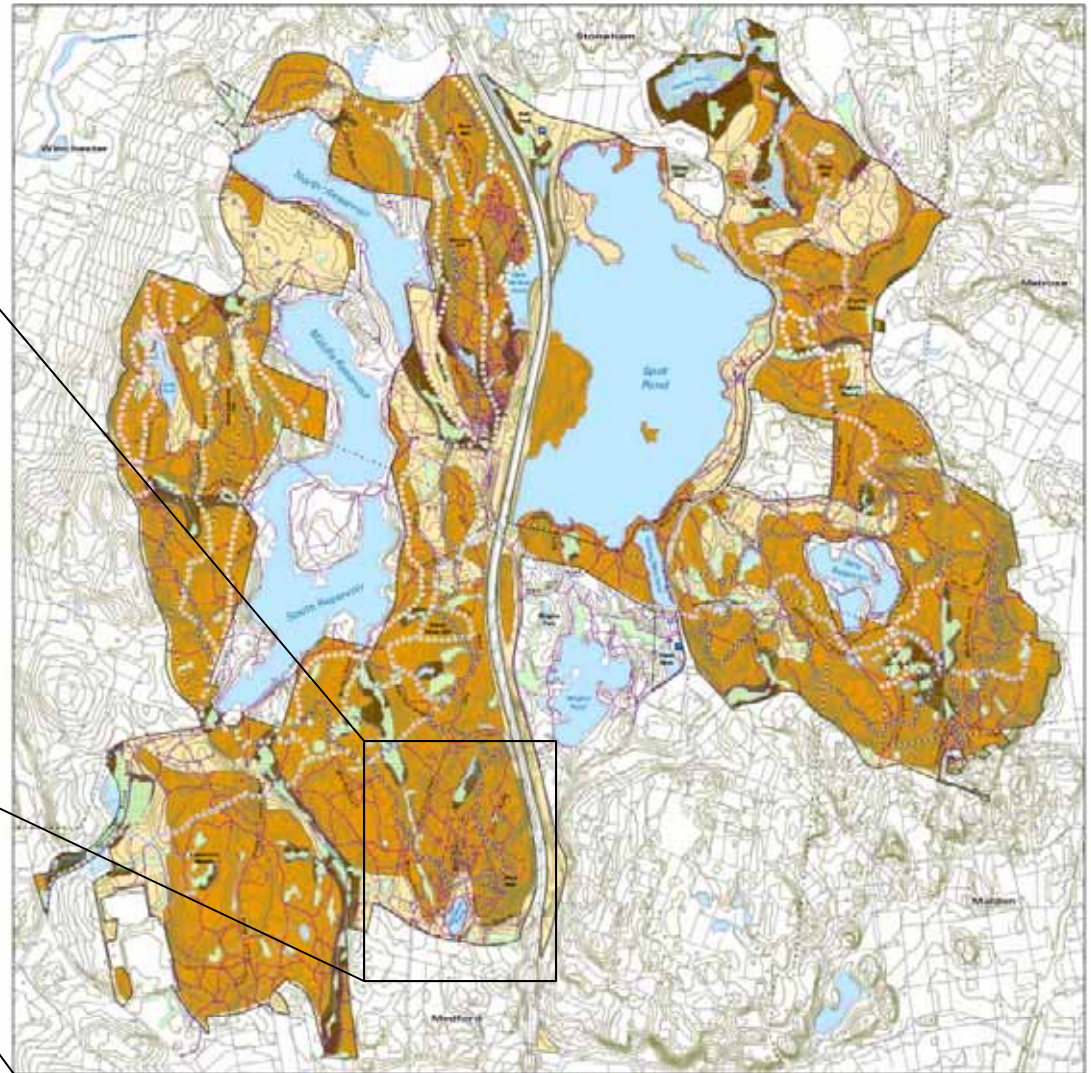
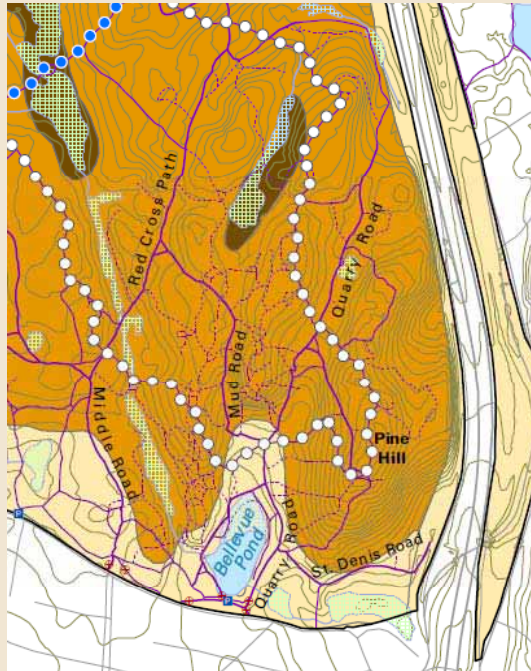
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DCR GIS Map 01

Orthophoto data provided by Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (OG&E) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)





**Soils suitability based on NRCS Soil Survey**

-  Soils Not Suitable for Paths and Trails without special planning and structures
-  Soils Moderately Suited for Paths and Trails Due to Slopes
-  Soils Suitable for Paths and Trails

**Trail Loops**

**West of Route 93**

-  Skyline Trail
-  Reservoir Trail
-  Long Pond Nature Trail
-  Dark Hollow Pond Trail
-  Bear Hill Trail
-  Mountain Blue Loop

**Connecting East & West**

-  Cross Fells Trail

**East of Route 93**

-  Crystal Spring Trail
-  Virginia Wood Trail
-  Spot Pond Brook Historic Trail
-  Rock Circuit Trail
-  Rock Circuit Connector

**Roads and Trails**

-  Road
-  Trail
-  Unofficial Trail

-  Gate
-  Parking Area
-  DCR Skating Rink
-  DCR Swimming Pool
-  Highway
-  State Route
-  Road
-  Hydrologic Connection
-  Shoreline
-  Wetland Limit
-  Open Water/Reservoir
-  Marsh/Bog
-  Wooded marsh
-  An Elevation Contour
-  Reservation Boundary
-  Town Boundaries



## MIDDLESEX FELS RESERVATION

MALDEN, MEDFORD, MELROSE, STORINGHAM, AND WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS


### SOIL SUITABILITY FOR PATHS AND TRAILS

**Trail Loops**



- West of Route 93
  - Skyline Trail
  - Reservoir Trail
  - Long Pond Nature Trail
  - Dark Hollow Pond Trail
  - Bear Hill Trail
  - Mountain Blue Loop
- Connecting East & West
  - Cross Fells Trail
- East of Route 93
  - Crystal Spring Trail
  - Virginia Wood Trail
  - Spot Pond Brook Historic Trail
  - Rock Circuit Trail
  - Rock Circuit Connector

**Other Features**

- Gate
- Parking Area
- DCR Skating Rink
- DCR Swimming Pool
- Highway
- State Route
- Road
- Hydrologic Connection
- Shoreline
- Wetland Limit
- Open Water/Reservoir
- Marsh/Bog
- Wooded marsh
- An Elevation Contour
- Reservation Boundary
- Town Boundaries

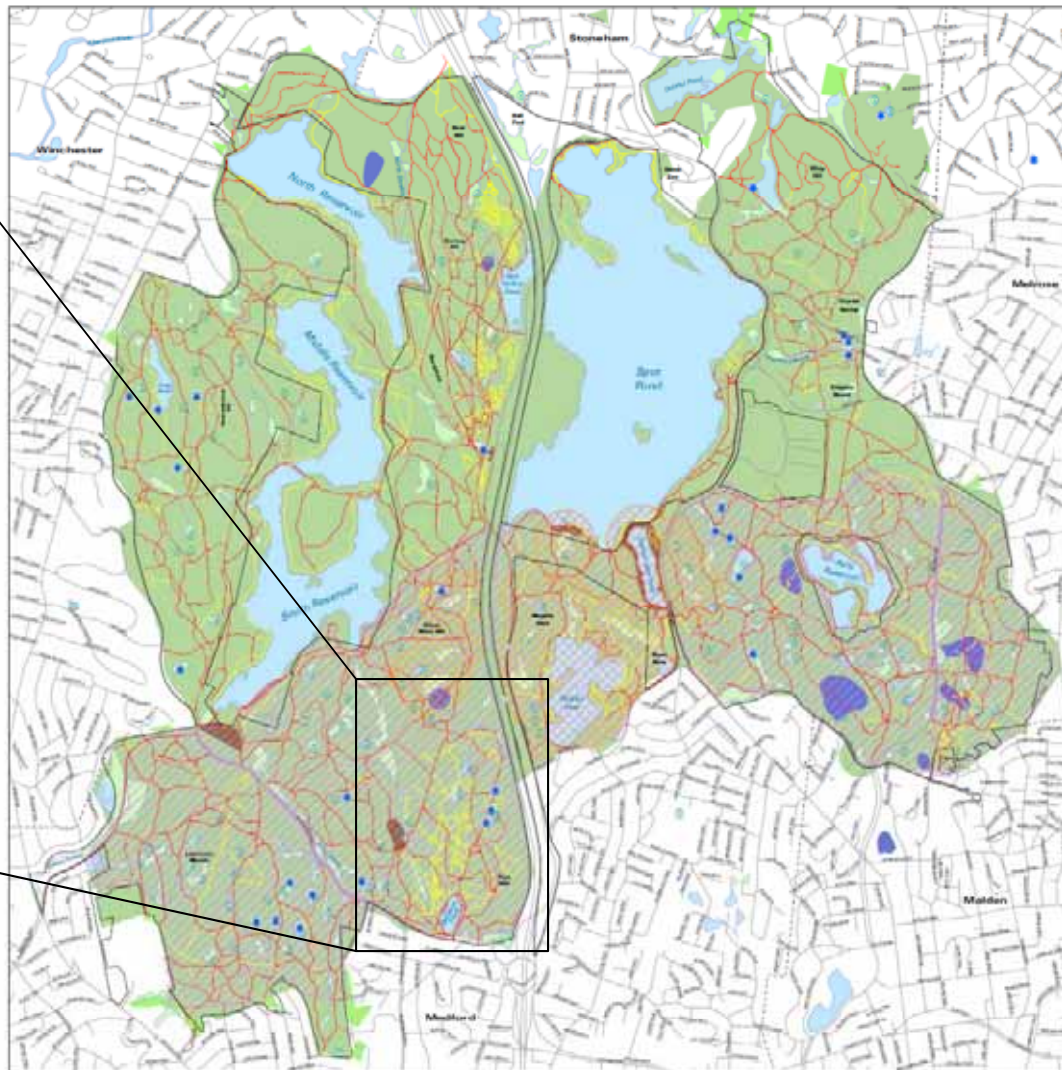
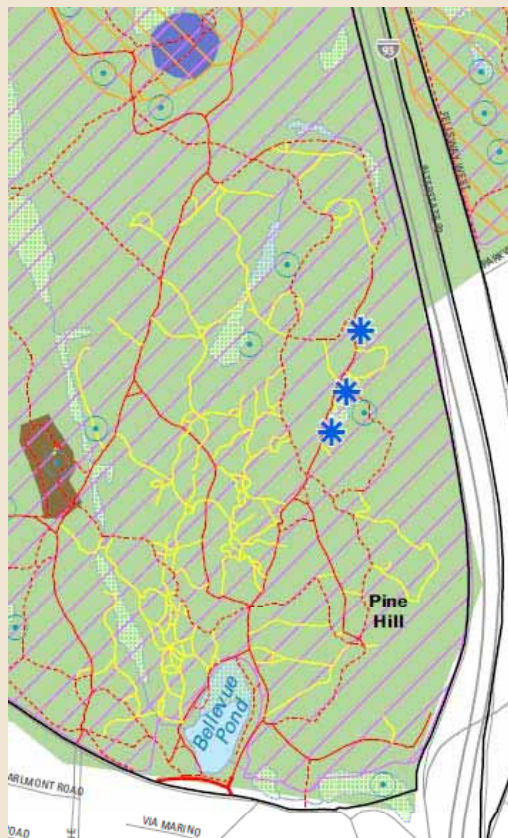


Scale: 0 to 1000 feet

**NOTE:** A Plan Commission of the City of Boston has been made. "West" and "South" Trail designations were made in the map. The map is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for any legal or financial purpose.

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Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program data

- NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
- NHESP Potential Vernal Pools (NOT equivalent to Certified Vernal Pools)
- NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
- NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- NHESP Areas of Habitat Recommendation
- Pine Barrens Natural Community Systems: Ridgetop Pitch Pine Scrub Oak (photo-interpreted)
- NHESP BioMap Core Habitat
- NHESP BioMap Supporting Natural Landscape

Hydrography

- Hydrologic Connection
  - Shoreline
  - Wetland Limit
  - Open Water/Reservoir
  - Marsh/Bog
  - Wooded marsh
- Reservation Roads and Trails
- Public Road
  - Road
  - Trail
  - Unofficial Trail
  - Reservation Boundary
  - Town Boundaries

# MIDDLESEX FELS RESERVATION

MALDEN, MEDFORD, MELBOSI, STONHAM, AND WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

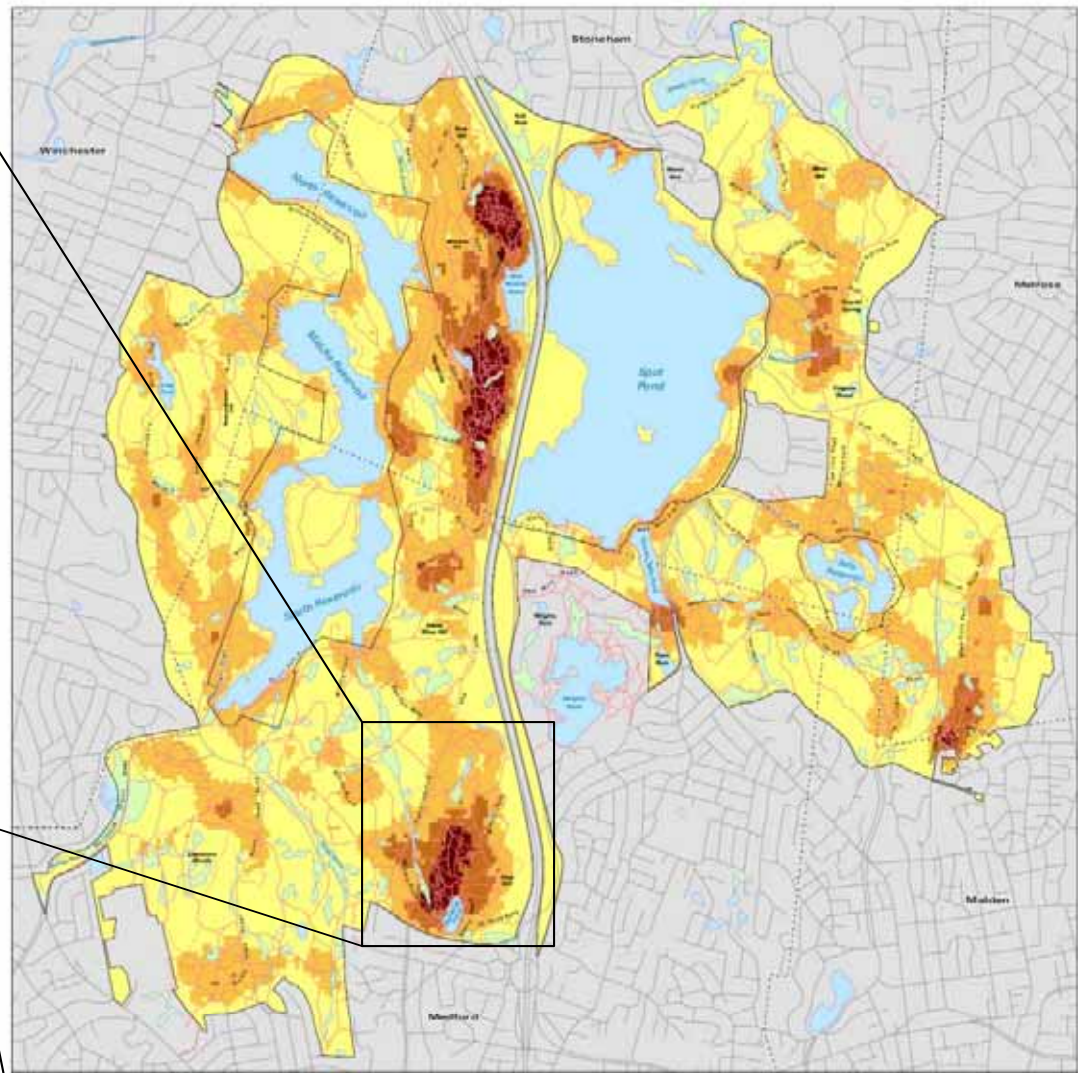
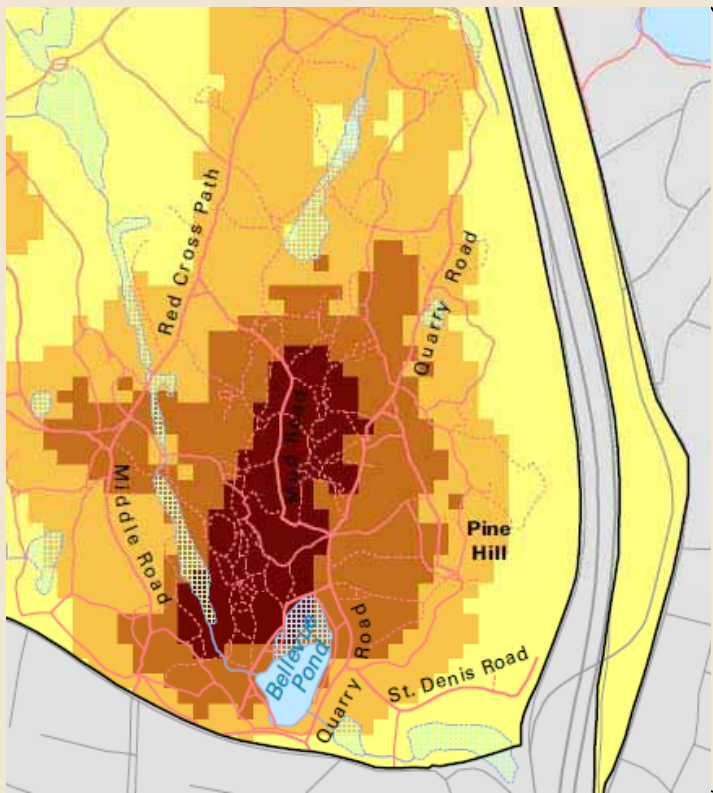
## NATURAL RESOURCES



Scale 1:50,000

© 2015 Middlesex Fells Reservation. All rights reserved. This map is a representation of the current state of the reservation's natural resources. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. For more information, please contact the Middlesex Fells Reservation at (617) 552-3300.

DCR



**Trail Density**

- Moderate Density
- High Density
- Very High Density
- Excessive Density

**Roads and Trails**

- Road
- Trail
- Unofficial Trail
- Highway
- State Route
- Road
- Hydrologic Connection
- Shoreline
- Wetland Limit
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## MIDDLESEX FELS RESERVATION

MALDEN, MEDFORD, MELROSE, STONEHAM, AND WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

### TRAIL DENSITY ANALYSIS

**Map Details**

- Moderate Density
- High Density
- Very High Density
- Excessive Density
- Road
- Trail
- Unofficial Trail
- Highway
- State Route
- Road
- Hydrologic Connection
- Shoreline
- Wetland Limit
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**DATA SOURCE:**

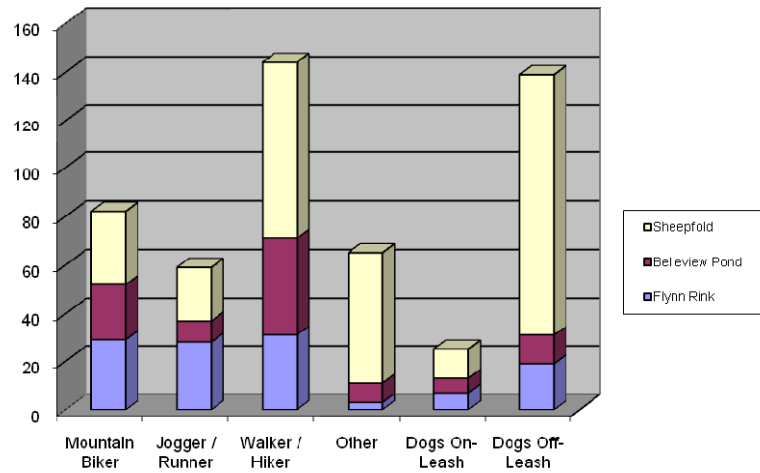
All trail information for this analysis was derived from the Middlesex Fells Reservation's GIS database. The data was processed and analyzed using ArcGIS software. The analysis was performed by the Middlesex Fells Reservation's GIS department. The data was last updated in 2010.

**DISCLAIMER:**

This map is intended for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for legal or regulatory purposes. The Middlesex Fells Reservation is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The Middlesex Fells Reservation is not responsible for any damages or injuries resulting from the use of this map.

Scale: 1:50,000

User Counts, October-November, 2009  
4 One-Hour Slots, Mid-week and Weekend



## Public Process and Timeline

Stakeholder and Legislator Meeting to Introduce Process (Nov, 2009)

Public Input Workshop (200 attendees) (Feb, 2010)

Public Call for input via internet - advertised by press and stakeholders (500 survey responses and comments)

Stakeholder and Legislator Briefings to review Preliminary Recommendations and Solicit Feedback (May 2010)

Public Draft Plan Meeting (160 attendees)

Two site walks (Sept. – Oct.)

Public Comment Period (60 Days ends Nov. 19)

Over 900 people involved in this plan so far

Implement Selected Recommendations with Stakeholders

# Existing Conditions

**Trail System: Extensive and Confusing**

**Trail Conditions:** Relatively Good, but with Many Areas of Trail Damage, and Some Areas of Poor Trail Alignment

**Trail Uses:** Hiking / Walking, Dog Walking, Mountain Biking, Trail Running, and Others

**User Behavior: Strong Sense of Ownership and a Broad Disregard for Many Park Rules**

**User Desires:** Expanded Mt Biking, Limited Mt Biking, Off-Leash Dog Recreation, Better Signage, More User Education and Enforcement

**User Conflicts: Primary Conflict between some Mt Bikers and some Walkers / Hikers, but also with Off-Leash Dogs and 'Cruisers'**

**Section 3: Goals, Features Experiences and Expectations**

**Section 4: Sensitive Natural and Cultural Resources**

**Section 5: Staffing and Stewardship Partners**

# Recommendations

**Reduce the number and miles of trails**

**Maintain/Improve Trails in Partnership**

**Improve Trail Maps and Signage**

**Protect Sensitive Resources**

**Improve Parking and Access**



## Intersection – Trail Name .8”

NEAR DESTINATION .5”	MILEAGE →
FAR DESTINATION	MILEAGE →
← DESTINATION	MILEAGE

## **Recommendations**

**Enhance User Education, Information, and Self-Enforcement**

**Enhance Trail Rules Enforcement**

**Enhance Pedestrian Experiences**

**Enhance Mountain Biking Experience**

**Provide Legal, Positive Experience for Dog-Owners and their Pets**

# Example of Implementation Dark Hollow Area

**Legend**

- Administrative Road
- Forest Road/Trail
- Trail
- Potential Vernal Pool
- Potential Priority Natural Community
- DEP Wetlands

