



Red Brook

Catch-and-Release Area

Wareham/Plymouth, MA

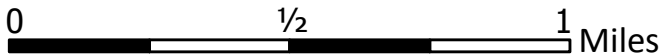
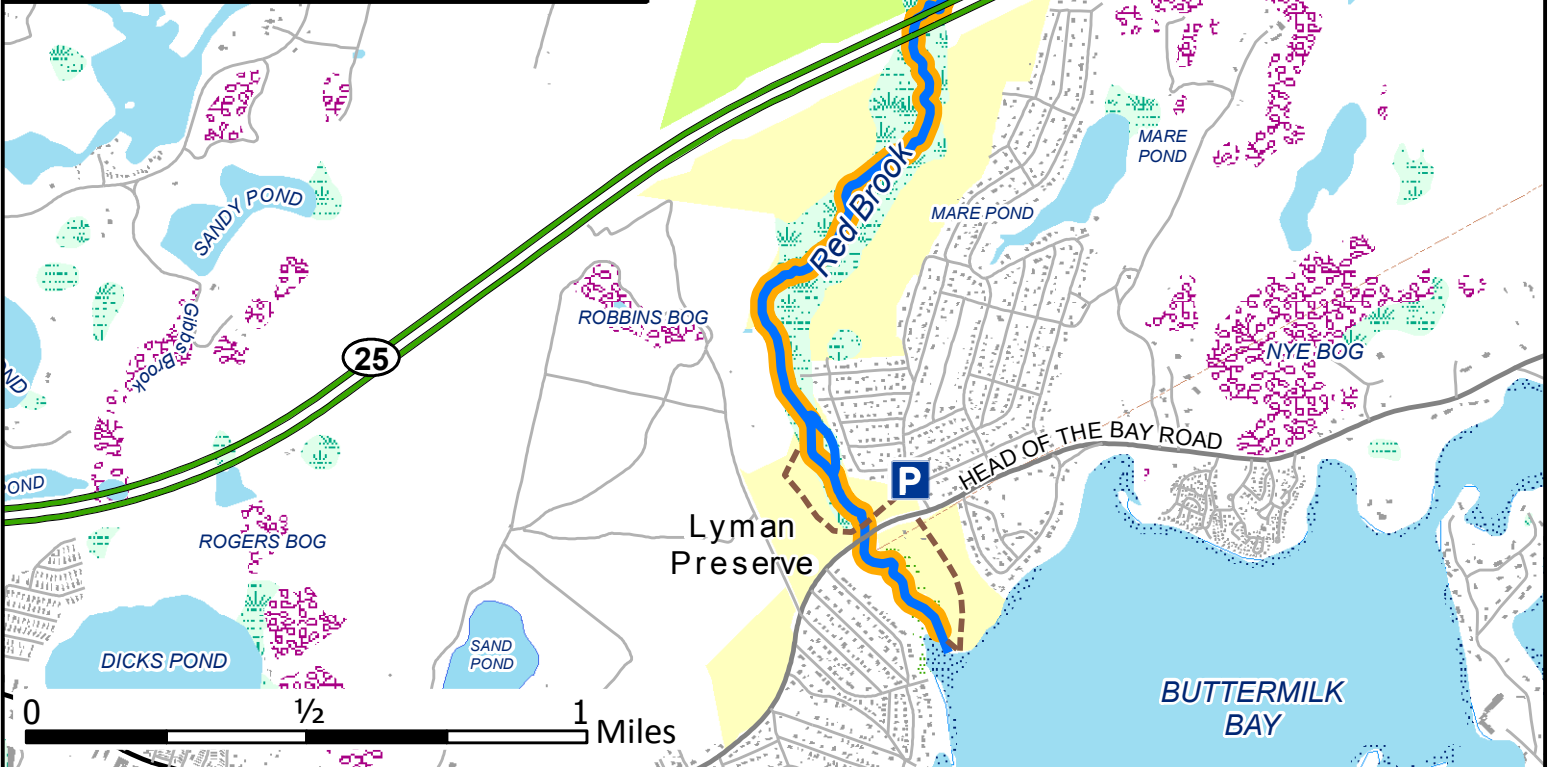
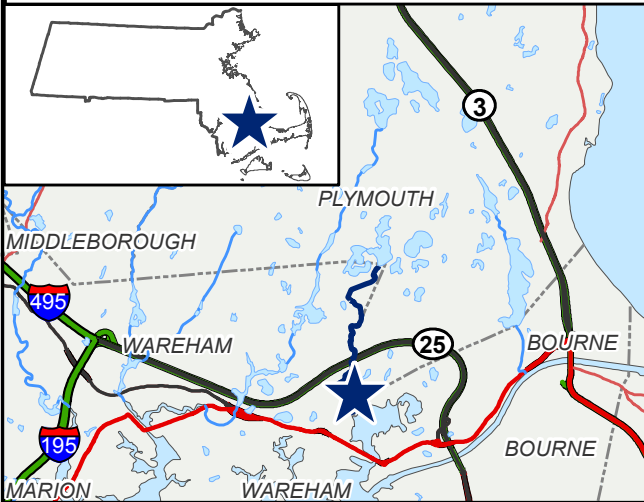
Cape Cod Watershed

USGS Quads: Wareham, Sagamore

MASSWILDLIFE

Legend

- Catch and Release Area
- Stream-Flow Direction
- Access Path
- Major Road
- Road
- Parking
- Pond, Lake
- Wetland
- Cranberry Bog
- Wildlife Management Area
- Other Conservation Land





MASSWILDLIFE

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Red Brook Catch and Release Area Plymouth/Wareham

General Information

Red Brook flows south out of White Island Pond for 4½ miles before emptying into Buttermilk Bay in Wareham. The Catch-and-Release Area begins at the outlet of White Island Pond and runs the length of the river, ending just before the brook enters the bay.

The lower half of Red Brook is protected by Trustees of Reservations and is almost entirely undeveloped. The upper half flows through an abandoned cranberry bog in MassWildlife's Red Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The upper section is narrow and channelized and receives little shade. The lower sections of the brook are wider, deeper, and heavily vegetated with shrubs and trees. Overhanging vegetation, combined with stream channel improvements, provide plenty of cover for fish in this lower section. The stream is dominated by cold groundwater inputs which provide generally stable water level, flow, and temperatures throughout the year.

Red Brook contains resident Brook Trout. The trout that inhabit these southeastern and Cape Cod waters represent a unique life history trait referred to as sea-run, or "salter" Brook Trout because some of the fish in a population will leave the freshwater stream and enter the saltwater environment to live and grow. Red Brook has benefitted from habitat improvements implemented by groups including Trout Unlimited, MassWildlife, Trustees of Reservations, and Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition. If wading Red Brook, and other coldwater streams in the area, during the October-November spawning season, please be mindful not to disturb the spawning Brook Trout.

Fish Populations

Red Brook supports coldwater fishes, including Brook Trout, year round. Red Brook is a critical migratory pathway for anadromous river herring on their way to White Island Pond. Fish surveys conducted by MassWildlife have found Brook Trout, Alewife, Blueback Herring, American Eel, Mummichog, Golden Shiner, and Fourspine and Ninespine Stickleback.

Recreational Access

There is good access to the lower reaches of the Red Brook Catch-and-Release Area from a large dirt parking lot on Head of the Bay Road, at the Trustees of Reservations Lyman Reserve. From here, a path crosses the river at a footbridge, and then turns north along the west side of the river. The middle and upper portion of the Catch-and-Release Area are accessible from the north, off of Barker Road.

Fishing

With seasonal water temperatures ranging from 40 to 60 degrees, Red Brook is an excellent year-round

trout fishery with good opportunities to catch large sea-run Brook Trout (14-16") during certain times of the year. The upper part of the river within the WMA, is shallow, open, and channelized and only supports a few warmwater species, or seasonally, herring migrating to and from White Island Pond. Most of the lower reaches are easily wadeable, but casting can be challenging thanks to overhanging vegetation.