



The familiar red buildings and landscaped entrance of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

## SECTION 6. F. GILBERT HILLS STATE FOREST

### 6.1. INTRODUCTION

F. Gilbert Hills State Forest (F. G. Hills) is located in the towns of Foxborough and Wrentham, near the intersection of Interstates 95 and 495. (Figure 6.1.1) It lies nearly equidistant between Boston (19 miles north) and Providence (17 miles south).

In 1914 the Massachusetts legislature established the State Forest Commission. Among the Commission’s powers was the ability to “acquire for the Commonwealth by purchase or otherwise, and to hold, woodland or land suitable for timber cultivation” (Chapter 720 of the Acts of 1914). This established the state forest system in the Commonwealth, and directed the State Forester to “re-forest and develop such lands.” With few exceptions (i.e., Myles Standish, Shawme, and Harold Parker state forests) early acquisitions were located west of Worcester.

In 1926, The Department of Conservation established Foxborough State Forest with an initial acquisition of 381 acres. Within a decade, it had expanded to over 800 acres. In 1969, the forest was renamed in honor of F. Gilbert Hills, a forester, surveyor, and cartographer who spent nearly 45

years in service to the Commonwealth and its forests.

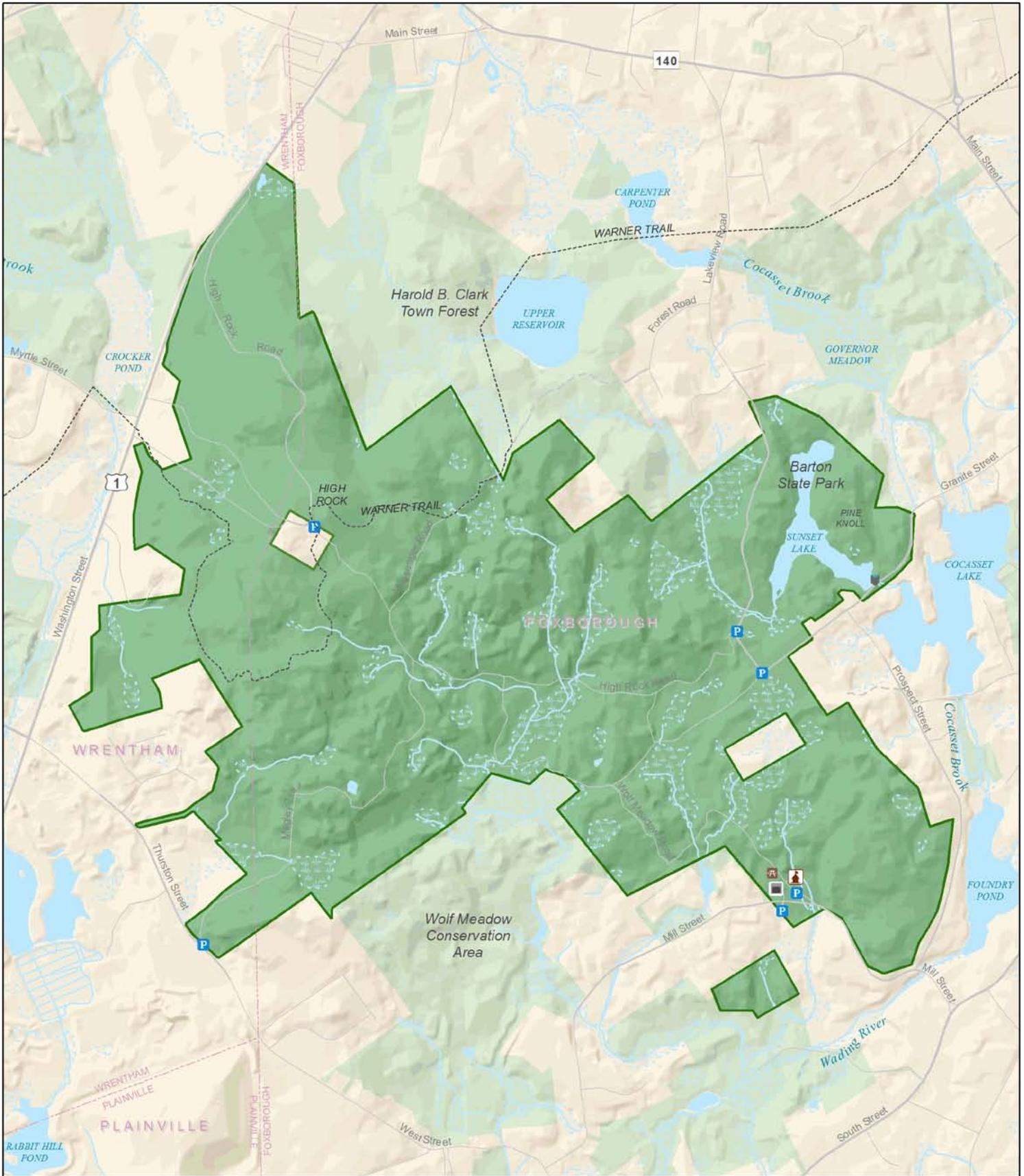
Today, F. G. Hills is best known for trail-based recreation including hiking, mountain biking, and the authorized use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs). The park’s physical, political, and regulatory attributes are summarized in Table 6.1.1.

**Table 6.1.1. Physical, political, and regulatory settings of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Setting	Name or Metric
<b>Location:</b>	Foxborough, Wrentham
<b>Area (acres)<sup>a</sup>:</b>	1,036.64
<b>Perimeter (miles)<sup>a</sup>:</b>	10.79
<b>Landscape Designation(s)<sup>b</sup>:</b>	Woodland
<b>Legislative Districts:</b>	
House	1 <sup>st</sup> Bristol 9 <sup>th</sup> Norfolk
Senate	Bristol and Norfolk Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex
<b>Regulatory Designations:</b>	Outstanding Resource Waters - Wading River

a. Calculated using a Geographic Information System (GIS).

b. For a summary of DCR’s landscape designations, see <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/ld/ld-factsheet-final.pdf>.



- F. Gilbert Hills State Forest
- Blue Hills Complex Land
- Other DCR Land
- Other Protected Open Space
- DCR Legal Interest
- P Public Parking
- Work Garage
- Dam
- Headquarters

**F. Gilbert Hills State Forest**  
 Figure 6.1.1

1,000  
 Feet



Geographic information provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS. 2016

**Associated Properties.** One associated property is included in this section, it is:

- **Barton State Park.** This park within a park is located in the Foxborough portion of F. G. Hills. This land was acquired from the Barton family in 1985 and 1987, with the agreement that this addition to F. G. Hills be formally known as Barton State Park. It is situated north of Granite Street and east of Lakeview Road, and includes Sunset Lake (i.e., Parcel 2 of the Barton property). However, during the preparation of this RMP it could not be determined if Barton State Park refers to all, or just a portion of, this parcel. Its boundaries are not indicated on Forest maps or on the ground. This property is significant for its cultural resources. (See *Section 6.3. Cultural Resources*)

The Forest and Park Supervisor from F. G. Hills manages, as time and resources permit, several DCR properties, including F. Gilbert Hills State Forest, Bristol Blake State Reservation (Section 7), Franklin State Forest (Section 8), Wrentham State Forest (Section 9), Rehoboth State Forest (Section 10), West Bridgewater State Forest (Section 11), and Bridgewater State Forest (Section 12. They also oversee DCR’s interests in Angle Tree Monument Reservation (Section 1).

**6.2. NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Physical Features**

The forest’s topography varies between towns, but is generally hilly. The highest elevation in the park, High Rock (416 feet), is located near the Foxborough-Wrentham border. From here, elevation drops quickly to the west, reaching approximately 215 feet at Route 1 in Wrentham. The topography to the east, in Foxborough, is more complicated. Although there is a general trend of decreasing elevation from west to east, it is not continuous. A series of north-south oriented hills are present in the center of the forest; a series of smaller, isolated hills occur to their east. The forest’s lowest elevation, approximately 196 feet, is realized in the parking area opposite the forest headquarters. An isolated parcel located along the Cocasset River has a similar elevation. Elevations at Barton State Park range between approximately 255 and 295 feet, with small hills on each side of the lake.

**Water Resources**

The forest has numerous wetlands and streams. These and other water resources are summarized in Table 6.2.1.

**Table 6.2.1. Water resources of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

<b>Water Resource</b>	<b>Name or Metric</b>
<b>Watershed:</b>	Taunton
<b>Aquifer:</b>	
Medium Yield (acres)	0.00
High Yield (acres)	0.00
<b>Rivers and Streams (miles)</b>	2.58
<b>Vernal Pools</b>	
Certified (#)	1
Potential (#)	9
<b>Wetlands (acres)</b>	79.32
<b>Lakes and Ponds (acres)</b>	15.37

Some of the forest’s wetlands are isolated, but many are hydrologically connected via a network of streams. This network is located in Foxborough, and its waters flow into the Cocasset River after having passed through either the Wolf Meadow Conservation Area or Sunset Lake. A few of the Forest’s wetlands are hydrologically connected to the Harold B. Clark Town Forest to the north. Wetlands in Wrentham are either isolated, or connect via an intermittent stream to wetlands on the west side of Route 1.

The forest’s one water body, Sunset Lake, was artificially created. Bathymetry and sediment depths were identified in Jason M. Cortell and Associates, Inc. (1985). The lake’s waters are acidic, with little or no buffering capacity (Jason M. Cortell and Associates, Inc. 1985, Jobin 1990). There was insufficient information on water quality for the DEP to identify appropriate uses (DEP 2013). There is no Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory.



View of Sunset Lake, looking southward toward dam. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

Only a small portion of the forest is susceptible to flooding. (Table 6.2.2) The shores of Sunset Lake, including the Barton House’s entire back yard, are predicted to be impacted by a 100-year flood. The Sunset Lake Dam is located within this flood zone. Two wetland areas are predicted to be impacted by 500-year floods. The first is south of Lake View Terrace, and the second is southeast of the intersection of High Rock and Wolf Meadow Roads. Although there is no critical infrastructure within the first wetland’s flood zone, approximately 760 feet of forest road and 850 feet of trails are within the second wetland’s flood zone.

**Table 6.2.2. Potential impacts of flooding to F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Type of Impact	Acres	%
<b>Flooding:</b>		
100-year Storm	16.92	1.63
500-year Storm <sup>a</sup>	38.15	3.68

a. Cumulative value; includes 100-year storm impacts.



Predicted flooding in the High Rock Road, Wolf Meadow Road, and Rockwood Trail area. A 970-foot-long segment of the Healthy Heart Trail is located within the 500-year flood zone, which is represented in orange. Trails are shown in red, and the Forest’s boundary in yellow. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

### Rare Species

#### State-listed Species

Only one state-listed species, the wood turtle, is known from F. G. Hills. (Table 6.2.3) It is associated with slow moving mid-sized streams with sandy bottoms and heavily vegetated banks, deciduous forests, fields, and riparian wetlands (NHESP 2015).

**Table 6.2.3. State-listed species of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest, as identified by the NHESP.**

Species <sup>a, b</sup>	Type <sup>c</sup>	MESA <sup>d</sup>
Wood turtle	R	SC

a. Presented alphabetically, by common name.

b. Fact sheets are available at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/mesa-list/list-of-rare-species-in-massachusetts.html>.

c. Types of state-listed species include: A = Amphibian; B = Bird; I = Insect; P = Plant; and R = Reptile.

d. Status of species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA): E = Endangered, SC = Special Concern; and T = Threatened.

**Priority Habitat**

There is functionally no Priority Habitat in the forest, but there is some mapped. The eastern boundary of Priority Habitat polygon PH 265 extends across Route 1 and minimally overlaps the forest. This overlap is likely a function of the mapping process, and not an indicator of the ecological significance of this 0.35 acre portion of the Forest.

**Vegetation**

There has been no floristic inventory; information on its plants comes from ongoing forest monitoring efforts. (See *Forests*, below.) Preliminary information on the aquatic plants of Sunset Lake was presented in Jason M. Cortell and Associates, Inc. (1985).

**Invasive Species**

There are six known invasive plants as categorized by MIPAG (2005), but knowledge of the Forest’s invasive plants is incomplete. (Table 6.2.5) One additional invasive, common reed, is common along the shoulder of Route 1 and may be present within the forest.

**Table 6.2.4. Known invasive plants of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Species <sup>a</sup>	Status <sup>b</sup>	Source <sup>c</sup>
Black swallowwort	I	1
European buckthorn	I	2
Japanese knotweed	I	3
Oriental bittersweet	I	2
Variable water-milfoil	I	4
Winged Euonymus	I	2

- a. Presented alphabetically, by common name.
- b. Plants are classified as being either Invasive (I), Likely Invasive (L), or Potentially Invasive (P) according to MIPAG (2005).
- c. Information contained in this table was obtained from the following sources:
  1. State Forests Advisory Council (2012)
  2. Observed by RMP planner.
  3. Ashton (2015)
  4. Jason M. Cortell and Associates, Inc. (1985)

Forestry records from 1931 indicate that several non-native trees, including one now considered invasive, were planted in the forest. They were:

- Austrian pine
- Black locust (Invasive)
- Norway spruce

- Red pine
- Red spruce
- Scotch pine
- White spruce

The current abundance and distribution of black locust is unknown.

**Natural Communities**

Five natural communities have been identified. (Table 6.2.6) Mass DEP has also identified a bog in the forest, but its community type has not been assessed. Similarly, CFI data suggest the presence of the Oak-Hickory community type, but this too has not been assessed. Pine plantations, which occur in the forest, are not considered natural communities. Areas identified as White Pine-Oak forests may contain both white pine and red pine, due to previous forest management.

**Table 6.2.5. Known natural communities of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Community Type <sup>a</sup>	System <sup>b</sup>	State Rank <sup>c</sup>	Source <sup>d</sup>
Deep Emergent Marsh	P	S4	1
Mixed Oak Forest	T	S5	2
Red Maple Swamp	P	S5	1
Shrub Swamp	P	S3	1
White Pine-Oak Forest	T	S5	2

- a. Classified according to Swain and Kearsley (2011).
- b. E = Estuarine, P = Palustrine, T = Terrestrial.
- c. The NHESP ranks communities from most rare (S1) to the most common (S5).
- d. Information contained in this table was obtained from the following sources:
  1. DEP Wetlands (1:12,000) data layer.
  2. CFI data.

**Forests**

Most of F. G. Hills (931.52 acres, 89.86%) is covered in upland forest. The overstory includes a variety of forest types, including mixed oaks, mixed hardwoods, white pine-oak, and white pine hardwoods (DEM 1989). CFI plots are only located in areas identified as either Mixed Oak or White Pine-Oak. Mixed Oak areas have a variable mixture of black, and northern red oaks, with black birch and white pine present in lower numbers. White-Pine Oak areas include white and red pines, with black,

white, and northern red oak in the canopy. Variable amounts of red maple and some hickories may also occur in the canopy. Also present in the forest are red and white pine plantations. Forested wetlands are dominated by red maple. Non-forested areas include open water, marshes, and cultural grasslands.

Understory species identified in CFI plots include low bush blueberries, black huckleberry, witchhazel, mapleleaf viburnum, partridgeberry, nannyberry, American hazelnut, sassafras, unidentified buckthorn, brambles, graminoids, red maple, blackgum, and regenerating canopy species.

In June 2016, MassWildlife assessed the extent of deer browse on portions of the Forest. They described the vegetation as “Moderately Impacted” by deer browse, which they noted was patchily distributed on the landscape (Stainbrook 2016a).

### **Wildlife**

Few formal surveys have been conducted. The forest is identified as a birding hotspot by e-Bird and as of July 2016, 46 species have been recorded (eBird 2012). Most are common birds of thickets and small forest patches. Some, such as the ovenbird and veery, are more strongly associated with forest interior.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife conducted a fish survey in Sunset Lake in 1989; yellow perch, bluegill, largemouth bass, chain pickerel, and pumpkinseed were detected (Jackson 1989).

From the late 1960s through the mid-1980s, MassWildlife annually stocked 10–15 snowshoe hare in the forest. It is unknown if a self-sustaining population was established.

## **6.3. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

This section describes the known and potential cultural resource areas, including pre-Contact and post-Contact archaeological resources, and historic landscapes, buildings, structures, and objects. An overview of significant events in the history of F. G. Hills is presented in Table 6.3.1. Cultural Resources are identified in Table 6.3.2.

Two archaeological resources are listed by the MHC. Because the MHC does not make information on archaeological resources available to the general

public, these resources are not included in Table 6.3.2.

Among the Forest’s best known features are a variety of stone features, some refer to as “dolmens,” of unknown origin and association. For the purposes of clarification, those sites have been inventoried and marked as archaeological sites of an “unknown” type; as opposed to pre-Contact, post-Contact, or historic types. Further research may eventually reveal a cultural significance to these sites. For now, they are to be protected under DCR’s Cultural Resources Policy (See Appendix G). These stone features are not included in Table 6.3, nor are they discussed elsewhere in this section.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

#### **Pre-Contact Resources**

As part of a MHC survey and planning project completed in 1984, prehistoric land-use zones along the Taunton River Basin were studied and published; F. G. Hills was included in this survey. No archaeological testing was conducted at that time, and to date, no pre-Contact sites have been recorded. F. G. Hills has a high potential for pre-Contact sites. Any proposed below ground impacts must be reviewed by the DCR Archaeologist.

#### **Post-Contact Resources**

There are two historic period archaeological sites within the limits of F. G. Hills that are listed on the MHC’s MACRIS inventory. The first site is listed as an unspecified industrial mill dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The second site is the W. E. Barton Wigwam Site, which is part of the Pine Knoll-Barton State Forest landscape. Multiple quarries, including two granite quarries at High Rock and one at Goat Rock, are located in the Forest and were most likely used by the CCC for raw material. These quarries are not listed in MACRIS.

Many more historic period archaeological sites are located in close proximity to the Forest. The Foxborough Furnace Site, South Branch Site, and Lakeview Site are located just outside the limits of the Forest. Many more mill sites exist within a mile for the Forest.

**Table 6.3.1. Significant events in the history of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Year(s)	Events
1926	Foxborough State Forest is created with the purchase of 381.4 acres of land; an additional 280.9 acres are added the following year
1927	The planting of thousands of trees per year begins; species include red pine, white pine, red cedar, hemlock, and spruce. This practice continues through the early 1940s.
1932–1935	Crews of 25 to 50 men perform forest management activities. Forest expands with the acquisition of an additional 147.5 acres.
1934	Fire observation tower constructed at High Rock; it is removed from the site in the 1950s.
1935	Six picnic areas, with 20 tables and 15 fireplaces, created. On October 20, nearly 1,000 people used these picnic areas. Additional picnic areas were created the following year. Quail and Pheasant stocked by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game; “all house cats hunted out.”
1937–38	CCC active in Foxboro State Forest.
1938	Hurricane damages forest; over 280,000 board feet of pine and 400 cords of hardwood are salvaged and sold in 1938–39.
1940	Foxborough Game Association, Inc. given permission to purchase and release game birds in the forest.
1942	Cut-A-Cord program begins.
1953	An F3 tornado passes directly through F. Gilbert Hills State Forest damaging trees. ( <a href="http://www.digplanet.com/wiki/1953_Worcester_tornado">www.digplanet.com/wiki/1953_Worcester_tornado</a> )
1964	Department of Natural Resources trades 90,000 square feet (2.07 acres) in Foxborough State Forest to AT&T in exchange for five parcels, totaling 390 acres, in Great Barrington. (Book 4251, Page 703)
1966	Department of Natural Resources trades 168,750 square feet (3.87 acres) of Foxborough State Forest to AT&T in exchange for “certain land located in Great Barrington.” (Book 4355, Page 83)
1969	Forest renamed in honor of F. Gilbert Hills; a State Forester who served the Commonwealth between 1925 and 1969.
1970	CCC buildings removed and new Forest Headquarters and Operations Garage constructed.
1985	172 acre Pine Knoll area along Sunset Lake is acquired. In 1988 it is dedicated as Barton State Park.
1987	Foxboro-Wrentham-Franklin State Forests Advisory Council formed to solicit input on GOALS Plan. It continues to this day.
1989	GOALS Plan released for F. Gilbert Hills and associated properties.

**Table 6.3.2. Cultural resources of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Location and Resource	Type <sup>a</sup>	Date <sup>b</sup>	Condition <sup>c</sup>	Integrity <sup>d</sup>	In Use <sup>e</sup>	Utilities <sup>f</sup>	MHC # <sup>g</sup>	Guidance <sup>h</sup>
<b>High Rock Area</b>								
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - High Rock Area	LA	1934–1935	-	M	-	-	FOX.F	1, 2
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC stone steps	ST	1934–1935	5	M	-	-	FOX.918	2
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC stone wall <sup>1</sup>	ST	1934–1935	5	L	-	-	FOX.919	2
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC fire pits	ST	1934–1935	5	L	-	-	FOX.920	2
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC water hole #17 <sup>1</sup>	ST	1934–1935	3	M	-	-	FOX.921	3
<b>Former Radar Site</b>								
Concrete slabs (2)	AR	ca. 1952	-	L	-	-	-	4
<b>Granite quarries (2)</b>								
	AR	ca. 1934–1935	-	M	-	-	-	4
<b>Goat Rock Quarry</b>								
	AR	ca. 1934–1935	-	M	-	-	-	4
<b>CCC Camp Site</b>								
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC camp site	LA	1934–1935	-	L	-	-	FOX.G	1, 2
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC chimney	ST	1934–1935	6	M	-	-	FOX.922	2
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC concrete slab	AR	1934–1935	-	L	-	-	FOX.923	4
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC stone wall	ST	1934–1935	4	M	-	-	FOX.924	2
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC powder magazine	ST	1934–1935	6	L	-	-	FOX.925	2
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - CCC foundation	AR	1934–1935	-	L	-	-	FOX.926	2
<b>CCC Water Holes (17)<sup>k</sup></b>								
	ST	1934–1935	3	M	-	-	-	3
<b>Pine Knoll – Barton State Forest</b>								
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest - Pine Knoll	LA	1896–1935	-	H	-	-	FOX.D	1, 2
William Eleazer Barton House grounds	LA	1895	-	M	-	-	FOX.901	1
William Eleazer Barton octagonal tea house	BU	ca. 1901–1930	5	M	Y	-	FOX.221	5
William Eleazer Barton summer house	BU	ca. 1901	3	H	Y	E, S, W	FOX.222	5
William Eleazer Barton carriage barn - garage	BU	ca. 1901	3	H	Y	E	FOX.261	5
William Eleazer Barton shed - chicken coop	BU	ca. 1901–1935	2	L	Y	-	FOX.262	5
William Eleazer Barton House - entrance gates	ST	ca. 1901–1930	3	H	-	-	FOX.902	5
William Eleazer Barton culvert	ST	-	3	H	-	-	FOX.911	2
William Eleazer Barton earth dam (Sunset Lake Dam; MA03113)	ST	ca. 1840	4	M	-	-	FOX.912	2
William Eleazer Barton wigwam ruins	AR	1896, 1926	-	L	-	-	FOX.913	4
W. E. Burton (sic) “Wigwam Site”	AR	1896	-	-	-	-	-	4
<b>State Forest Site 1</b>								
	AR	18 <sup>th</sup> –19 <sup>th</sup> c	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Additional Resources<sup>1</sup></b>								
Colonial road (3)	ST	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Federal Period road (3)	ST	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Federal/Early Modern road	ST	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Comee Sawmill Site	AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Former Mill Site	AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	4

- Resource types include the following: AR = Archaeological; BU = Building; CM = Cemetery; LA = Landscape; LHD = Local Historic District; NRHD = National Register Historic District; OB = Object; and ST = Structure.
- Date of construction provided, when known.
- Preliminary condition assessment using the building system and equipment condition codes as used in the Massachusetts Capital Asset management Information System (CAMIS). The following codes are used: 1 = Excellent-easily restorable to like new condition; 2 = Good-routine maintenance required; 3 = Adequate-some corrective and preventative maintenance required; 4 = Fair-excessive corrective maintenance and repair required; 5 = Poor-renovation needed; and 6 = Fail.
- Integrity is a relative assessment of the condition of a resource’s retention of its historic character-defining features; H = High; L = Low; M = Medium; and U = Unknown.
- Use categories include N = No, building is not in use; S = Building is used on a seasonal basis; and Y = Yes, building is in use year-round.
- The following codes are used to identify utilities associated with buildings: E = Electric, H = Heat; I = Internet; S = Septic system; T = Telephone; W = Water; and W(S) = Water is available on a seasonal basis. This information is included for all buildings.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory number; does not include Historic Archaeological numbers.

Location and Resource	Type <sup>a</sup>	Date <sup>b</sup>	Condition <sup>c</sup>	Integrity <sup>d</sup>	In Use <sup>e</sup>	Utilities <sup>f</sup>	MHC # <sup>g</sup>	Guidance <sup>h</sup>
h.	The following guidance is offered for the ongoing maintenance of these cultural resources:							
	1. Refer to Vegetation in Historic Landscapes BMP (DCR n.d.e).							
	2. Refer to Historic Landscapes - Built Features BMP (DCR n.d.d).							
	3. Refer to Water holes BMP (DCR n.d.j)							
	4. Refer to Archaeological Features BMP (DCR n.d.g).							
	5. Under Historic Curatorship Program, refer to current lease.							
j.	Not located on DCR property.							
k.	Water hole #17, which is part of the High Rock Area landscape, is also one of 17 water holes throughout the forest.							
l.	Documented through the 1984/1985 Cultural Resources Evaluation Project but not yet field verified or confirmed.							

## HISTORIC RESOURCES

### Historic Landscapes

**High Rock Area.** The CCC's initial efforts at Foxborough (i.e., F. G. Hills) State Forest focused on road repair and construction, forestry, and fire hazard reduction (Berg 1998). Later efforts focused on the High Rock area, the highest point in the forest. The CCC constructed a fire tower and water hole at High Rock to help detect and fight fires. Near the tower they created recreation facilities, including a trail with stone steps, and a picnic area with multiple fire pits. The fire tower was taken down in the 1950s; pieces of its footings remain. In the mid-1960s approximately 6.94 acres of land near the summit were traded to AT&T. The company constructed a 20,800 square-foot reinforced concrete building and erected a communications antenna; both continue to dominate the landscape. In October of 2000, this facility was sold to American Tower Management, Inc.; the current owner. All that remains of the CCC's work is; the summit road (heavily modified over time), stone steps, a picnic area with fire pits, water hole #17, and some trails. A segment of stone wall constructed by the CCC is on American Tower Management, Inc.'s property. Considering how widely developed this area was for recreation, forestry, and fire management, and what little is left from that development; this area retains little of its historic integrity.



These CCC constructed stone steps at High Rock remain in use today as part of the Warner Trail. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

**Semi Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) Radar Site.** The SAGE Air Defense System was an initiative of the Department of Defense in response to the Soviet threat during the Cold War. It was designed to identify approaching enemy aircraft anywhere in the country, and organize a counter attack. One component of this system was located in the High Rock area. This facility housed a AN/CPN-18 Gap Filler Radar, which was a part of the Cape Cod Radar System developed by MIT's Lincoln Labs. The site was taken offline in the 1960s and much of the equipment was left in place. Two concrete pads are all that remain.

**CCC Camp S-75.** This camp was located in the Forest Headquarters area and was similar in design and layout to other CCC camps. It consisted of a collection of buildings clustered around a circular drive. Each building served a distinct purpose, and the Camp's function was to provide housing and act as the center of all maintenance needs for the Corps' endeavors. Camp S-75 was directed to establish

infrastructure to provide access for forest management, fire prevention, and recreation. Its buildings supported these goals. There was a Powder Magazine to store the dynamite needed to create roadways; a Maintenance Garage to provide upkeep for tools and equipment; and other buildings to house, feed, and provide recreation for the men. CCC structures were removed in 1970, when the current headquarters building and garage were constructed. All that remain are a few foundations, foot prints of past buildings, and a stone wall.



The staff of Camp S-75; October 13, 1934. Note the Camp buildings in the photo. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

Although the camp is gone, the work of the CCC remains evident throughout the forest. Many of the Forest's roads were created or improved by the CCC, and 17 water holes remain throughout the forest. These water holes are depressions, typically about 15 feet in diameter, often stone-lined, that provided water for emergency firefighting (Berg 1998). In addition, the CCC constructed all of the resources within the High Rock Area landscape.

**Pine Knoll.** This two acre plot of land along the eastern shore of Sunset Lake was the summer home of Dr. William T. Barton and his family. Dr. Barton was a respected clergyman who began his career in the south but moved to Boston, and eventually Chicago, as his fame grew. He bought the property with the main house and two-story barn already upon it, and would add his "Wigwam" and octagonal teahouse during his tenure there. Dr. Barton's "Wigwam" was his private outbuilding that he used as a library and study. The original building was a modest one, with cedar plank siding and a large chimney. After his retirement, Dr. Barton remodeled the Wigwam, and spent most of his time there

researching and publishing essays on Abraham Lincoln. Today the property is managed and maintained through the Historic Curatorship Program; it is currently under lease. The property retains most of its historic integrity, with only the Wigwam having been lost to vandalism and neglect. The rest of the buildings remain in use as a part of the residential property.

Immediately adjacent to Pine Knoll is the Sunset Lake Dam (MA03113). This dam is classified as an Intermediate sized dam, with a Significant Hazard Potential, in Poor condition. The most recent Phase 1 inspection and evaluation of the dam identified six deficiencies (Fuss & O'Neill 2011). Among these were voids in the downstream embankment, trees growing from the embankment, and the lack of an Operations and Maintenance Manual.

### Buildings

There are no historic buildings that are not associated with historic landscapes.

### Structures

Most of the roads surrounding the forest, and some within the forest, date to the Federal Period or earlier (i.e., 1775–1830; DEM 1989). West Street and at least one unpaved route through the Forest have been located on Colonial Period maps (DEM 1989). The fire road extending westward into the Forest from Granite Street may have been part of the Meeting House Road, which ran between Foxborough and Wrentham (DEM 1989). In addition, many of the Forest's roads were created or modified by the CCC.

## 6.4. RECREATION RESOURCES

Recreation is primarily trails based. There are few recreation resources that are not associated with the forest's trails. The following recreation activities take place in F. G. Hills:

- Bicycling, mountain
- Boating, non-motorized
- Canoes/Kayaks
- Dog walking, on leash
- Fishing
- Geocaching (14 caches as of July 2016)
- Hiking

- Horseback riding
- Hunting
- Nature study/Photography
- OHV use, dirt bikes only
- Orienteering
- Picnicking (Headquarters area)
- Running/Jogging
- Skiing, cross-country

A small picnic area is located uphill of the Operations Garage. Access from the headquarters area is up a sloping, gravel road or via a wood chip covered path. There are six grills and eight tables; none are accessible. The area was improved in 2015, as part of an Eagle Scout project.



Picnic area at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

F. G. Hills is one of eight DCR parks where OHVs use is authorized; it is one of only four in eastern Massachusetts.

The following recreation activities take place under special permits: group motorcycle OHV events; New England Mountain Bike Association annual post-Thanksgiving “Turkey Burner Ride,” New England Orienteering Club (NEOC) events; and camping (e.g., Boy Scout overnights).

## 6.5. INFRASTRUCTURE

### Property Boundary

F. G. Hills sits amid a landscape of commercial and industrial development, residential neighborhoods, and protected open space. The forest’s western boundary is bordered by commercial and industrial development along Route 1. Its northern boundary

borders municipal conservation lands (i.e., Harold B. Clark Town Forest, Cocasset Brook Greenbelt) and four residential lots. The eastern boundary largely abuts residential development. To the south, the forest borders municipal recreation land (i.e., Cocasset River Recreation Area), protected open space (i.e., Wolf Meadow Conservation Area, Daniels Tree Farm), residential development, and undeveloped and unprotected parcels. Encroachment has historically been an issue along the forest’s western boundary.

An isolated 9.8 acre parcel is located south of Mill Street. It is bounded on the north by the Cocasset River Recreation Area, Town of Foxborough Water Department Land to the south, and undeveloped private land to the east. This parcel has been proposed for an off-leash dog area (Ashton 2016).

Two easements that provide access to F. G. Hills, were identified during the preparation of this RMP. A 12-foot-wide pedestrian access easement extends across 4 Laurel Tree Drive, Foxborough, from that road to the state forest (Book 15972, Page 161; see also Book 30673, Page 93). A 33 by 983 foot easement extends from the cul-de-sac at the end of Forest Road, Foxborough, through the former Erickson parcel, to the state forest (Land Court Plan No. 37849). This easement, which allows for “recreational purposes, emergency use of vehicles, animals and foot travel,” passes through a portion of Harold B. Clark Town Forest.

### Buildings and Structures

There are five non-historic buildings (Table 6.5.1). Most are located at the forest’s headquarters area. The Headquarters building and Operations Garage are approximately 45 years old and in need of repairs and updates. The Operations Garage’s siding is rotted near gutters and along the foundation. Bathroom windows and doors were replaced in 2016. Neither the Operations Garage nor the Headquarters’ bathrooms meet current accessibility standards. The forest’s only septic system is located between the Operations Garage and Mill Street; its leach pit is located beneath the Mill Street parking lot (Gannett Fleming, Inc. 1999a). This septic system has an estimated flow of 1,300 gallons per day (GPD) and a maximum flow of 2,000 GPD (Correia 1970). It was most recently pumped in 2016, two years after its last pumping. Water is municipally sourced; there are no wells that provide

potable water. Structural repairs were made to the Pole Barn in 2016 to replace supporting beams that broke due to snow load in the winter of 2014/2015.



The Operations Garage; the smaller section on the right houses public restrooms. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

Although the Forest Headquarters is mostly accessible, its front entrance is not. Angled granite curbs separate the building’s entrance paths from the parking lot and driveway. Restrooms at the Operations Garage have some barriers to access. Although the Women’s bathroom may be reached via a paved ramp, the path to the Men’s bathroom is separated from the parking area by an angled granite

curb. Both buildings’ bathrooms have some universally accessible features (e.g., grab bars in stalls) and some features that do not meet current accessibility standards (e.g., small, disc-like faucet handles).



Access to the Forest’s public bathrooms is hindered by the presence of curbing. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

**Table 6.5.1. Non-historic buildings and structures of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

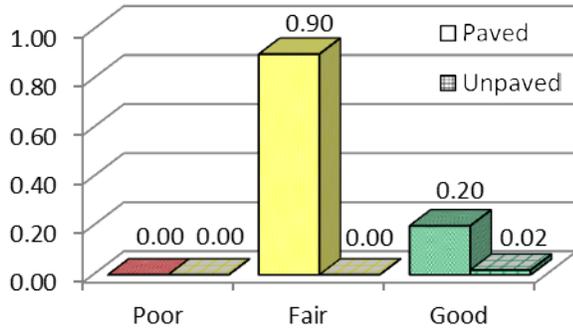
Location and Infrastructure	Date <sup>a</sup>	Condition <sup>b</sup>	In Use <sup>c</sup>	Utilities <sup>d</sup>
<b>High Rock Area</b>				
Warner Trail shelter <sup>e</sup>	-	-	Y	-
<b>Forest Headquarters – 45 Mill Street, Foxboro</b>				
Forest Headquarters	1971	3	Y	E, I, H, S, T, W
Operations Garage/Restrooms	1971	3	Y	E, H, S, T, W
Pole Barn	ca. 1990	4	Y	E, W(S)
Hazardous materials storage shed	-	3	Y	-

- a. Date of construction provided, when known.
- b. Preliminary condition assessment using the building system and equipment condition codes as used in the Massachusetts Capital Asset Management Information System (CAMIS). The following codes are used: 1 = Excellent-easily restorable to like new condition; 2 = Good-routine maintenance required; 3 = Adequate-some corrective and preventative maintenance required; 4 = Fair-excessive corrective maintenance and repair required; 5 = Poor-renovation needed; and 6 = Fail.
- c. Use categories include N = No, building is not in use; S = Building is used on a seasonal basis; and Y = Yes, building is in use year-round.
- d. The following codes are used to identify utilities associated with buildings: E = Electric; H = Heat; I = Internet; S = Septic system; T = Telephone; W = Water; and W(S) = Water is available on a seasonal basis. This information is included for all buildings.
- e. Infrastructure located on DCR property, but not owned or controlled by the DCR. Its condition is not assessed.

### Roads

There are few publicly accessible or administrative roads in the Forest. The length and condition of these roads are identified in Figure 6.5.1. Forest roads that function primarily as trails are not included in these metrics.

**Figure 6.5.1. Condition and length of roads at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**



The Forest’s only paved road are associated with two areas; the entrance to the Forest Headquarters, and between Route 1 and the High Rock area. Historic maps indicate that the paved road commonly known as High Rock Road does not follow the road bed of what was formerly known as High Rock Road.

### Parking

Most parking is located at, or opposite, the Forest Headquarters area (Table 6.5.2). Additional parking is provided at High Rock, and at small roadside pull offs on the forest’s south and east sides. There is no accessible parking.

**Table 6.5.2. Number of public parking spaces, by location and type, at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Location	HP	Restricted	Other	Total
<b>High Rock Area</b>				
Trailhead parking <sup>a</sup>	0	0	8	8
Warner Trail crossing <sup>a</sup>	0	0	2	2
Unnamed trail crossing <sup>a</sup>	0	0	2	2
Bennett Road intersection <sup>a</sup>	0	0	2	2
Unnamed trail crossing <sup>a</sup>	0	0	2	2
<b>Thurston Street at Megley Trail<sup>b</sup></b>	0	0	8	8
<b>Forest Headquarters</b>				
Front <sup>a</sup>	0	0	8	8
Back <sup>a</sup>	0	0	8	8
Operations Garage – East side <sup>c</sup>	0	0	6	6
<b>Mill Street – south side<sup>a</sup></b>	0	0	20	20
<b>Lakeview Road<sup>b</sup></b>	0	0	6	6
<b>Lakeview Road and Granite Street<sup>b</sup></b>	0	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>

- a. Based on the number of potential 9-foot-wide spaces.
- b. Based on the number of vehicles that can fit between trees.
- c. Based on pavement markings.

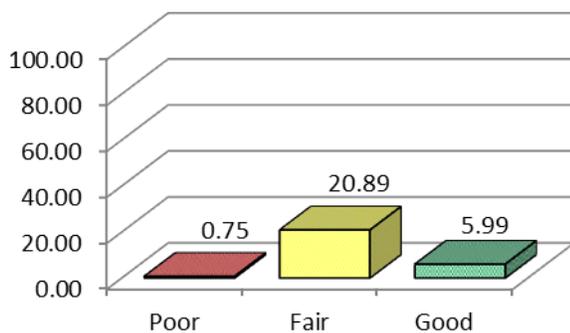
Hikers and mountain bikers access the forest’s trails from all parking areas. Motorcyclists park at the High Rock lot, the nearest parking to OHV trails. They also park along the shoulder of High Rock Road. Equestrians park their vehicles and trailers behind the Headquarters Building. When parking is unavailable at the Forest Headquarters or Mill Street lots, some visitors park at the Cocasset River Recreation Area. This town-owned recreation area is approximately 500 feet west of the Mill Street lot, and has a parking lot that can accommodate approximately 90 vehicles. The use of this area by forest visitors is neither encouraged nor discouraged. Parking along Mill Street is actively discouraged due to safety concerns along this winding, narrow road.

The Forest Headquarters’ lots are opened upon the arrival of staff in the morning and closed at 4 P.M. The Mill Street lot and off-road parking areas, including those at High Rock, are open during normal park hours (i.e., sunrise to sunset).

## Trails

There are 27.63 miles of official trails. (Figure 6.5.2) Most are designated multi-use and open to non-motorized recreation. Approximately 6.6 miles of multi-use trails are open to motorized use (i.e., motorcycles). Some segments of the Forest’s trails are restricted to pedestrians. In addition to the official trails, an additional 0.94 miles of unauthorized user-created trails are known from the forest.

**Figure 6.5.2. Condition and length of official trails at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**



The trails system is largely based on a network of unpaved forest roads (e.g., High Rock Road, Wolf Meadow Road, Megley Trail). Many of these roads predate creation of the state forest; some segments have been widened, rerouted, or closed over the years. These forest roads allow for park operations and emergency access.

Multi-use trails open to motorized use loop around the western half of the Forest. Access is from the parking area at High Rock. With the exception of the connector between the parking area and the loop trail, travel is unidirectional. All trail markings face one direction, indicating the direction of travel. Other users (e.g., hikers, mountain bikes) are allowed on this loop, and are expected to follow the direction of travel.

A 1.5 mile long portion of the park’s trails is a designated Healthy Heart Trail. Its use is restricted to pedestrians. This trail is located immediately north of the Forest’s headquarters; it is not ADA accessible.

A portion of the Warner Trail passes through the Forest. It enters from Harold B. Clark Town Forest, passes approximately 1.8 miles over forest trails, and

exits the park at Route 1, just south of its intersection with Myrtle Street, Wrentham.

An initial assessment of the forest’s trails (DCR 2015) identified the following six management issues:

- Poor separation and distinction between trails open to motorized use and those closed to motorized use.
- The Warner Trail is routed on several sections of OHV trail.
- Lack of clear signage and markings to distinguish trails open to motorized use from those closed to motorized use.
- A confusing and inaccurate trails map.
- Most trails are classified as being in “Fair” condition.
- Trail density is greater than recommended for an area designated as Parkland (6–9 km/km<sup>2</sup>).

## Kiosks and Signs

The park’s Main Identification Sign is located at the entrance to the Headquarters Area on Mill Street. A Smokey Bear fire danger indicator sign is located nearby. A Site/Facility Identification Sign is located at the entrance to the High Rock Area. The Forest’s only kiosk is located at the trail head in the Headquarters Area. Map boards are located throughout the Forest at major intersections. Routed wooden intersection markers are located at all major intersections of fire roads.



Example of marker installed at major fire road intersections. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

## Iron Ranger

There is one iron ranger; it is located at the trailhead in the Forest Headquarters area.

## Memorials and Markers

A memorial “in memory of all wildland fire fighters past, present, and future and the people who support them” is located adjacent to the Operations Garage, near the entrance to the Women’s bathroom. A metal plaque, bearing the inscription “In recognition of Mead Bradner – Friends of the Warner Trail – 1996” is attached to High Rock, along the Warner Trail. A metal marker is attached to the western gatepost at the entrance to the Barton House. It identifies the former Barton property as Barton State Park, named in honor of the Reverend William E., and Esther T. Barton. A marker on the eastern gatepost indicates that the Barton House is part of the Historic Curatorship Program.



Wildland fire fighter memorial. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

## 6.6. Interpretation

There is no regular interpretive programming. Occasional programming is offered. It is led by either Forest staff or the Visitor Services Supervisor from Borderland State Park (Section 13). The following interpretive panel is located at the trailhead in the Headquarters area:

- Civilian Conservation Corps (1933–1941)

## 6.7. MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

### Staffing

#### DCR Personnel

F. G. Hills is managed by Mass Parks employees; there is one year-round, and two seasonal, personnel. (Table 6.7.1) These personnel are also responsible for Bristol Blake Reservation, Franklin State Forest, Wrentham State Forest, Rehoboth State Forest, and Angle Tree Monument.

**Table 6.7.1. Mass Parks personnel assigned to F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Number of Positions 2016</b>
<i>Year-round Personnel</i>	
Forest and Park Supervisor II	1
<i>Seasonal Personnel</i>	
Forest and Park Supervisor I (Long-term)	1
Recreation Facilities Repairer (Long-term)	1

Seven Fire District 4 employees are also headquartered at F. G. Hills. Personnel include a year-round Fire Warden, a long-term seasonal State Firefighter I, and five long-term seasonal Laborer Fire 1 positions; they may work anywhere within Fire District 4.

#### Partnerships and Volunteers

The Foxborough-Wrentham-Franklin State Forests Advisory Council was formed during the preparation of the GOALS Plan (DEM 1989). It remains active, and provides advice and assistance on a variety of topics and projects. The King Philip Trail Riders is a motorcycle club that promotes off-road riding and works to ensure the continued availability of off-road recreational opportunities. Club members individually and collectively ride at F. G. Hills, and help maintain its trails. Volunteers from the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) assist with trail maintenance projects. The Friends of the Warner Trail perform stewardship activities on that trail, with local landowners (e.g., DCR) often stewarding the portion of trail on their property.

#### Safety

Local municipal fire departments provide fire response and emergency services. Support is provided by Fire District 4 personnel, who are based

at the Forest. Municipal police departments, the Massachusetts State Police (Station H-3, Foxborough Barracks), and the Massachusetts Environmental Police (Region C-7) provide law enforcement.

## Funding

### Conservation Trust Fund

Financial contributions placed into the forest's iron ranger are added to the Conservation Trust Fund and used at F. G. Hills. As of spring, 2016, there was approximately \$2,200 in the fund.

### Retained Revenue

The park does not generate or retain revenue.

### Other Revenues

There are no other revenues.

## 6.8. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Management of DCR properties is guided by a variety of regulations, policies, BMPs (e.g., Table 6.3.2), legal agreements, and institutional knowledge. This section describes those practices unique to the management of F. G. Hills. Legal agreements unique to the reservation are listed in Table 6.8.1.

**Table 6.8.1. Key legal agreements for F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

<b>Party and Subject of Agreement</b>	<b>Type<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Expiration Date<sup>b</sup></b>
<b>AT&amp;T Corp.</b> Permit for use of forest roads to access AT&T facility. <i>Renewable at request of permittee; not assignable.</i>	S	2000
<b>King Philip Trail Riders</b> Use of off-road vehicles in F. Gilbert Hills, Franklin, and Wrentham State Forests.	A	2003
<b>Jeffrey and Alice Booker</b> Historic Curatorship of Barton House and barn. <i>Option to extend for five additional years.</i>	L	2021

a. Agreement types include: A = Memorandum of Agreement; C = Conservation Easement; E = Easement; L = Lease; P = Permit; S = Special Use Permit; U=Memorandum of Understanding.

b. Year that agreement expires.

An informal agreement with the Lewicke Family allows DCR to cross their property on Granite Street, Foxborough, in order to access the state forest. It also allows the Lewicke family to use a small portion of the forest for overflow parking for their Christmas Tree Farm. In the past, annual permits were issued by the Regional Supervisor for these activities. Both the Lewicke Family and Forest and Park Supervisor would like to re-establish a formal agreement.

Key planning documents are identified in Table 6.8.2. Not included in this list are annual follow-up inspection reports for the Sunset Lake Dam.

**Table 6.8.2. Key management and guidance documents for F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

<b>Author and Document</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Department of Environmental Management</b> F. Gilbert Hills State Forest: Guidelines for Operations and Land Stewardship.	1989
<b>Department of Environmental Management</b> DEM owned dam inspection/evaluation report: Dam name: Sunset Lake.	1999
<b>Gannett Fleming, Inc.</b> Environmental Audit Report: F. Gilbert Hills State Forest, Foxboro, Massachusetts.	1999a
<b>Fuss &amp; O'Neill, Inc.</b> Sunset Lake Dam: Phase I inspection/ evaluation report. Date of Inspection: June 23, 2011	2011

## Annual Maintenance

Ongoing management practices typically follow a regular schedule. Common activities, and the desired frequency with which they occur, are identified in Table 6.8.3.

**Table 6.8.3. Annual cycle of management activities at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Activity	Spring <sup>a</sup>	Summer <sup>a</sup>	Fall <sup>a</sup>	Winter <sup>a</sup>
Cleaning - Bathrooms	D	D	D	D
Cleaning - Walkways	AN	AN	AN	N/A
Litter removal -Recreation areas	AN	D	D	N/A
Litter removal - Trails	AN	AN	AN	AN
Maintenance - Picnic sites, fences, etc.	AN	D	AN	N/A
Mowing and trimming	AN	E7	AN	N/A
Mulching and fertilizing	N/A	AN	N/A	N/A
Pruning - Trees and shrubs	AN	AN	AN	N/A
Trash - Empty - Barrels	AN	E7	AN	N/A
Trash – Empty - Bathrooms	D	D	D	D
Weed flower beds	AN	AN	AN	N/A

a. Frequency codes are: A = Annually; AN = As needed; D = Daily, # times; E = Every # days; N/A = Not applicable.

## Natural Resources

### Water Resources

The only water management activities unique to the Forest are associated with Sunset Lake Dam. See *Buildings and Structures*, below.

### Rare Species

There are no rare species monitoring or management activities.

### Invasive Species

There is no monitoring or management of invasive plants.

### Vegetation

Field staff mows the Headquarters Area’s lawns, removes downed trees from trails, and removes hazard trees in publically accessible areas. They also cut trees to block use of unauthorized trails. Old fields adjacent to Lakeview and Granite streets are cut twice per year; in early summer and early fall. Park staff and Fire District 4 personnel maintain the Forest’s main fire roads through ongoing trimming of branches and other vegetation extending into the roadway.

There are seven CFI plots; they were last monitored in 2010.

Timber harvesting is used to manage the forest. Between 1976 and 2000, nine timber harvests conducted over 176 acres produced 142,000 board feet and 535 cords of wood. In 2015 a home fuelwood forest management project took place along High Rock Road, to the northwest of the summit. It had the following four goals (Gregory 2015a):

- Provide local forest products to local residents (i.e., wood for stoves and fireplaces).
- Protect public safety through the proactive removal of dead, declining, and hazardous trees.
- Increase growth and vigor of large, legacy trees.
- Reduce the import of non-native insects by providing locally grown wood.

Participants cut 13.3 cords of wood from 6.7 acres of the forest.

MassWildlife personnel surveyed deer browse in the High Rock and Headquarters areas in 2016 (Stainbrook 2016a). It is unknown if and when this survey will be repeated.

A utility corridor extends from Route 1 to the American Tower Management, Inc. facility atop High Rock. It is believed that the successor to the Worcester Suburban Electric Company is responsible for maintaining the vegetation along this corridor.

### Wildlife

There is no stocking of fish or game species. Deer hunting takes place in accordance with applicable regulations. There is no deer check station in the forest; the nearest station is located at Bass Pro Shops in Foxborough.

### **Cultural Resources**

The William Eleazer Barton House and associated outbuildings are managed by its curator, under the terms of the lease for that property.

### **Recreation Resources**

Forest employees, with the assistance of volunteers, maintain trails trail markings on an as needed basis.

## Infrastructure

### Boundary

The Regional Forester and forest employees maintain boundaries.

### Buildings and Structures

Maintenance of the Barton House, associated outbuildings, and grounds are to be performed in accordance with the terms of the Historic Curatorship lease.

The deeds for parcels transferred to AT&T in 1964 and 1966 include the following condition:

*In the event of abandonment of its use the grantee shall reconvey the granted premises to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a nominal consideration. (Book 4251, page 703 and Book 4355, Page 83)*

In 2000, AT&T sold its parcels to American Tower Management, Inc. The associated deeds no longer include a statement about reconveying the property to the Commonwealth.

Consultants perform follow-up inspections of Sunset Lake Dam on at least an annual basis. Although there is no formal O&M Manual for the dam, the Forest and Park Supervisor performs minor maintenance, including clearing obstructions from the spillway and adjusting stop logs as necessary to maintain the impoundment.

### Roads

The Forest and Park Supervisor grades gravel roads as needed. Park staff and Fire District 4 personnel construct and maintain water bars and other water control devices on the Forest's fire roads. There are no other ongoing road maintenance activities.

When AT&T acquired two parcels atop High Rock in 1964 and 1966, the deeds provided them with "a right of way for access to the above described land over existing state forest roads on adjacent land of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." (Book 4251, page 703 and Book 4355, Page 83)

When AT&T sold its parcels at High Rock to American Tower Management, Inc., it transferred "that certain easement created pursuant to the certain Special Use Permit dated January 26, 1996... a five (5) year renewable Special Use permit for the purpose of access to and from the property" (Book 14483, Page 230) This access extended "from U.S. Route 1 to Permittee's microwave station at High Rock Hill in Foxboro" (sic). However, under the terms of the Special Use Permit, the use of the Forest's roads was not assignable. No Special Use Permits for American Tower Management, Inc. were identified during the preparation of this RMP.

American Tower Management, Inc. plows the road between Route 1 and its building at High Rock Hill. This is done only to allow services vehicles to their facility atop High Rock. The road is not maintained for winter travel by the public, and is posted "Pass at own Risk."

### Parking Areas

The Forest and Park Supervisor grades the surface of the Mill Street lot, as needed. They also plow snow at that lot and the parking at Headquarters.

### Trails

Trails, including the Warner Trail, are maintained by forest employees, with support from volunteers, such as the King Philip Trail Riders. Motorcyclists are restricted to an approximately eight-mile-long designated OHV trail. Their riding season extends from May 1 through the last Sunday in November. Mountain bikes are allowed on trails designated for their use, as well as OHV trails, on a year-round basis. Pedestrians are allowed on all trails year-round. Use of OHV trails is unidirectional for all user groups; trail markings indicate the direction of travel.

### Kiosks and Signs

Forest employees are responsible for updating the content of the kiosks and map board.

## 6.9. RECOMMENDATIONS

### Introduction

This section provides recommendations for the near- and long-term management of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest. Applied Land Stewardship Zoning recommendations provide general guidance for managing these properties. Future activities and projects should be checked against the zoning map (Figure 6.9.1) for consistency. Management recommendations are all high-priority, and should be addressed as soon as resources become available.

### Applied Land Stewardship Zoning (Figure 6.9.1)

The following Land Stewardship Zoning is recommended.

#### Zone 1

- No sections of F. G. Hills have been designated Zone 1.

#### Zone 2

- All areas not specifically designated as Zone 3.

#### Zone 3

The following portions of F. G. Hills are currently developed, appropriate for potential future development, or intensively used for recreation. They have been designated Zone 3.

- Forest Headquarters area, including the adjacent operations yard and picnic area (GOALS 1989)
- Former RADAR site

- DCR-owned portion of the High Rock Area
- The Pine Knoll-Barton State Forest historic curatorship lease area and Sunset Lake Dam

### Significant Feature Overlay

An OHV trail management significant feature overlay was developed for the forest. This overlay follows the centerline of trails currently open to OHVs, and extends outward to the limits of the pre-existing road bed or trail (i.e., it does not include areas expanded by OHV use.) Special trail management activities are associated with the trails in this overlay.

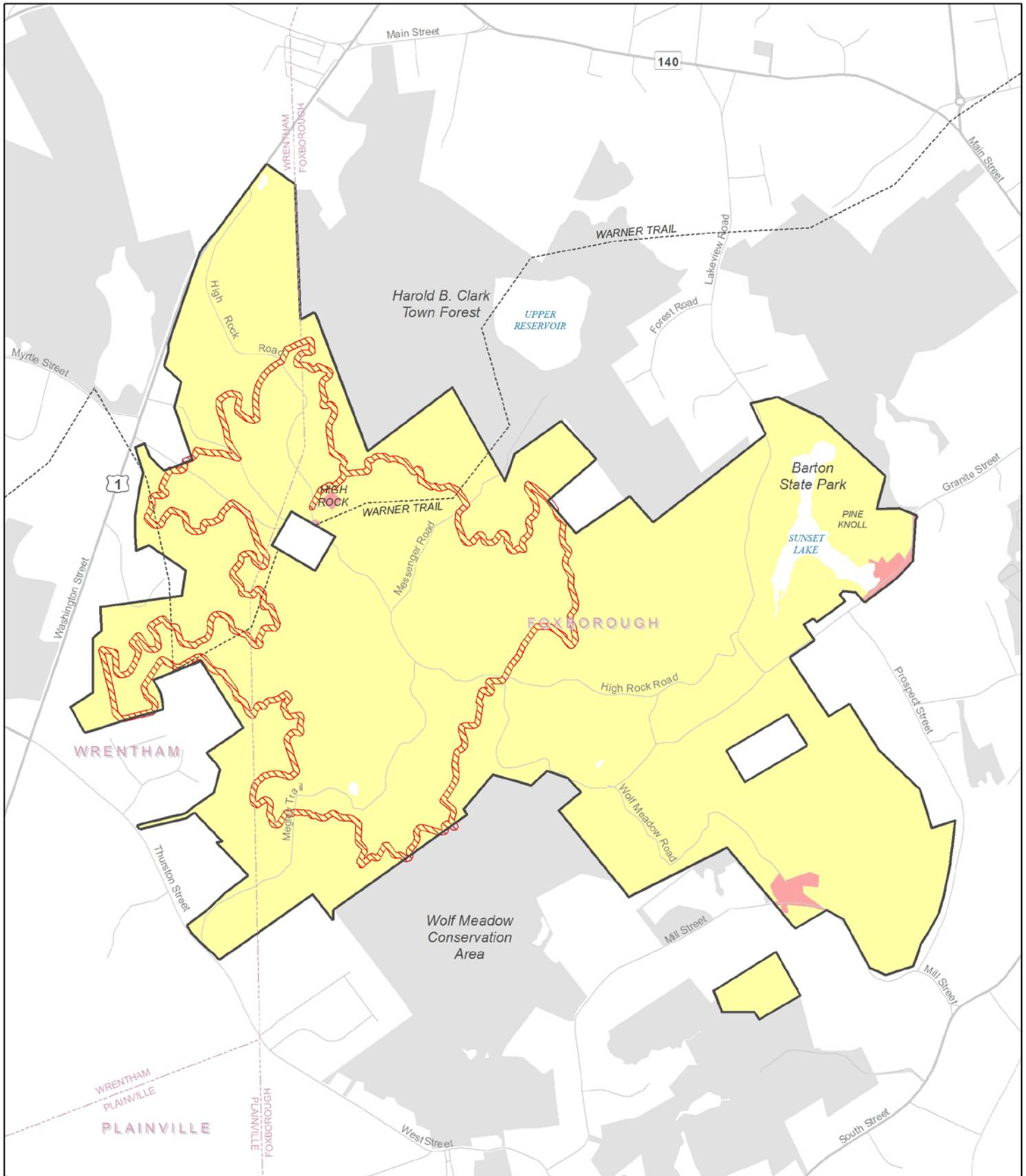
### Management Recommendations

Seven priority management recommendations were developed for F. Gilbert Hills State Forest. (Table 6.9.1) For a recommendation to be considered priority it must address one or more of the following criteria:

- Regulatory compliance or compliance with legal agreements.
- Threats to the health and safety of park visitors and employees.
- The imminent loss of a natural, cultural, or recreation resource.

Additional maintenance and management needs observed during the preparation of this RMP, but not meeting one or more of the above criteria, are not included in this plan.

All recommendations are of equal priority.



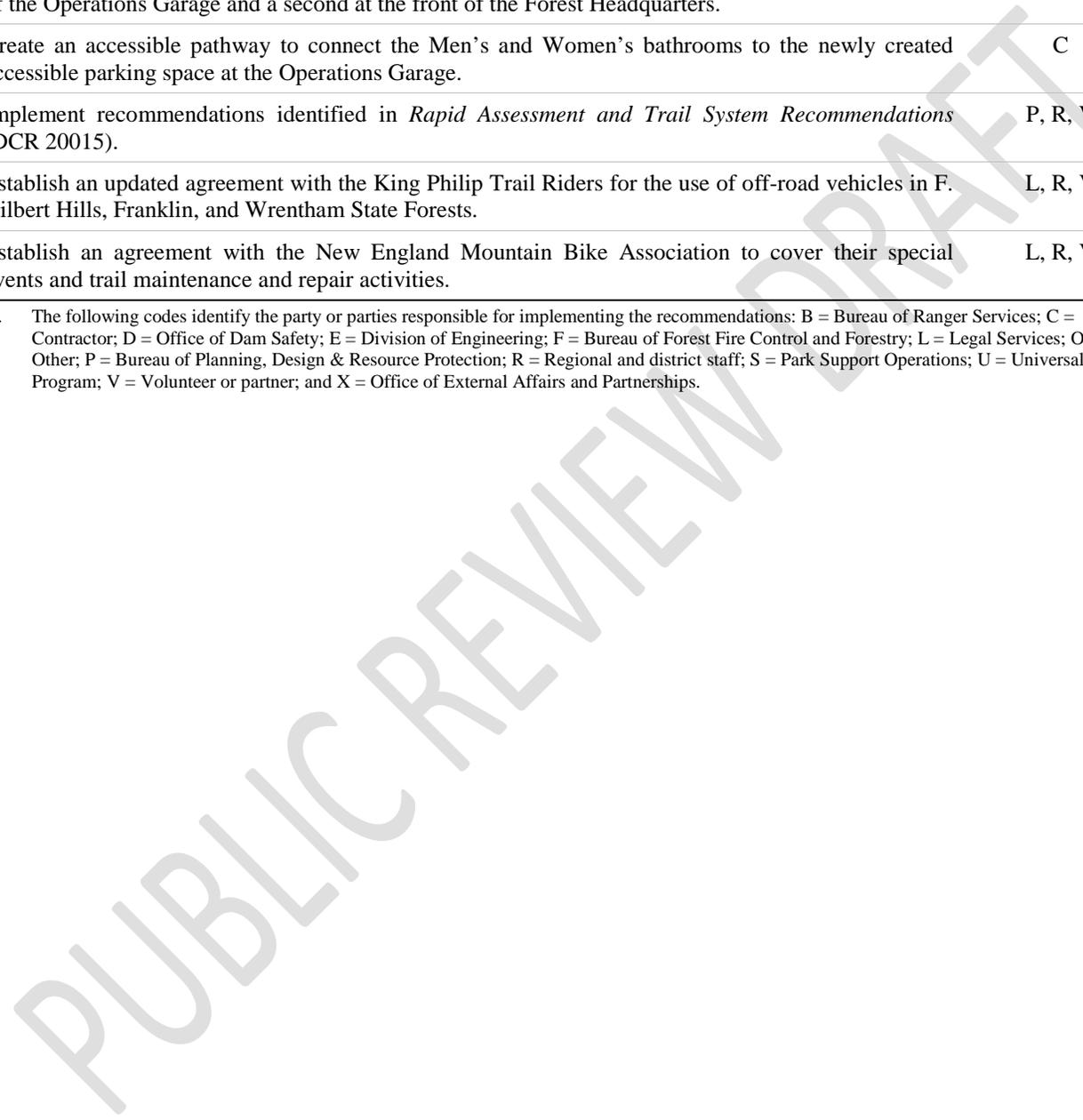
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> F. Gilbert Hills State Forest</li> <li> Other Legal Interest - DCR</li> <li> Other Protected Open Space</li> </ul>	<p><b>Land Stewardship Zoning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Zone 1</li> <li> Zone 2</li> <li> Zone 3</li> <li> OHV Significance Overlay</li> </ul>	<p><b>F. Gilbert Hills State Forest</b></p> <p>Figure 6.9.1</p> <p><b>Recommended Land Stewardship Zoning</b></p> <p><small>Geographic information provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS, 2016</small></p>	 	
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1,000 Feet

**Table 6.9.1. Priority recommendations for F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.**

Recommendation	Implementation <sup>a</sup>
Address deficiencies to the Sunset Lake Dam as identified in Fuss & O’Neill (2011).	C, D, R
Update bathrooms to meet current accessibility standards.	E, S
Create one accessible parking space, with proper markings, signs, aisles, and curb cuts at the east side of the Operations Garage and a second at the front of the Forest Headquarters.	C
Create an accessible pathway to connect the Men’s and Women’s bathrooms to the newly created accessible parking space at the Operations Garage.	C
Implement recommendations identified in <i>Rapid Assessment and Trail System Recommendations</i> (DCR 20015).	P, R, V
Establish an updated agreement with the King Philip Trail Riders for the use of off-road vehicles in F. Gilbert Hills, Franklin, and Wrentham State Forests.	L, R, V
Establish an agreement with the New England Mountain Bike Association to cover their special events and trail maintenance and repair activities.	L, R, V

a. The following codes identify the party or parties responsible for implementing the recommendations: B = Bureau of Ranger Services; C = Contractor; D = Office of Dam Safety; E = Division of Engineering; F = Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry; L = Legal Services; O = Other; P = Bureau of Planning, Design & Resource Protection; R = Regional and district staff; S = Park Support Operations; U = Universal Access Program; V = Volunteer or partner; and X = Office of External Affairs and Partnerships.



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