



Forest roads wind through the rocky hills of Wrentham State Forest. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

SECTION 9. WRENTHAM STATE FOREST

9.1. INTRODUCTION

Wrentham State Forest is located in the towns of Wrentham and Plainville, west of the intersection of Route 1 and Interstate 495. (Figure 9.1.1) It is approximately one mile southwest of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.

In 1934, and again in 1936, the Commissioner of Conservation issued orders of taking for lands in the Towns of Wrentham and Plainville, for the purpose of establishing a state forest. These lands, which were “most all cut over before purchase and some burned over at various times” (Hills 1955*b*), became Wrentham State Forest.

The Forest was established at a time when the CCC, which was based at nearby Foxborough State Forest (i.e., F. Gilbert Hills State Forest; Section 6), was actively developing wildlife and recreation projects in the area (e.g., Hills 1955*b*). The same CCC crews also worked at Franklin State Forest (Section 7), which was established at the same time as Wrentham State Forest. The CCC’s efforts were short-lived in the area, with the Camp closing shortly after the forests were created. However, the relationship among these forests, developed during the time of the CCC, continues to this day, with a Foxborough-based staff managing all three properties.

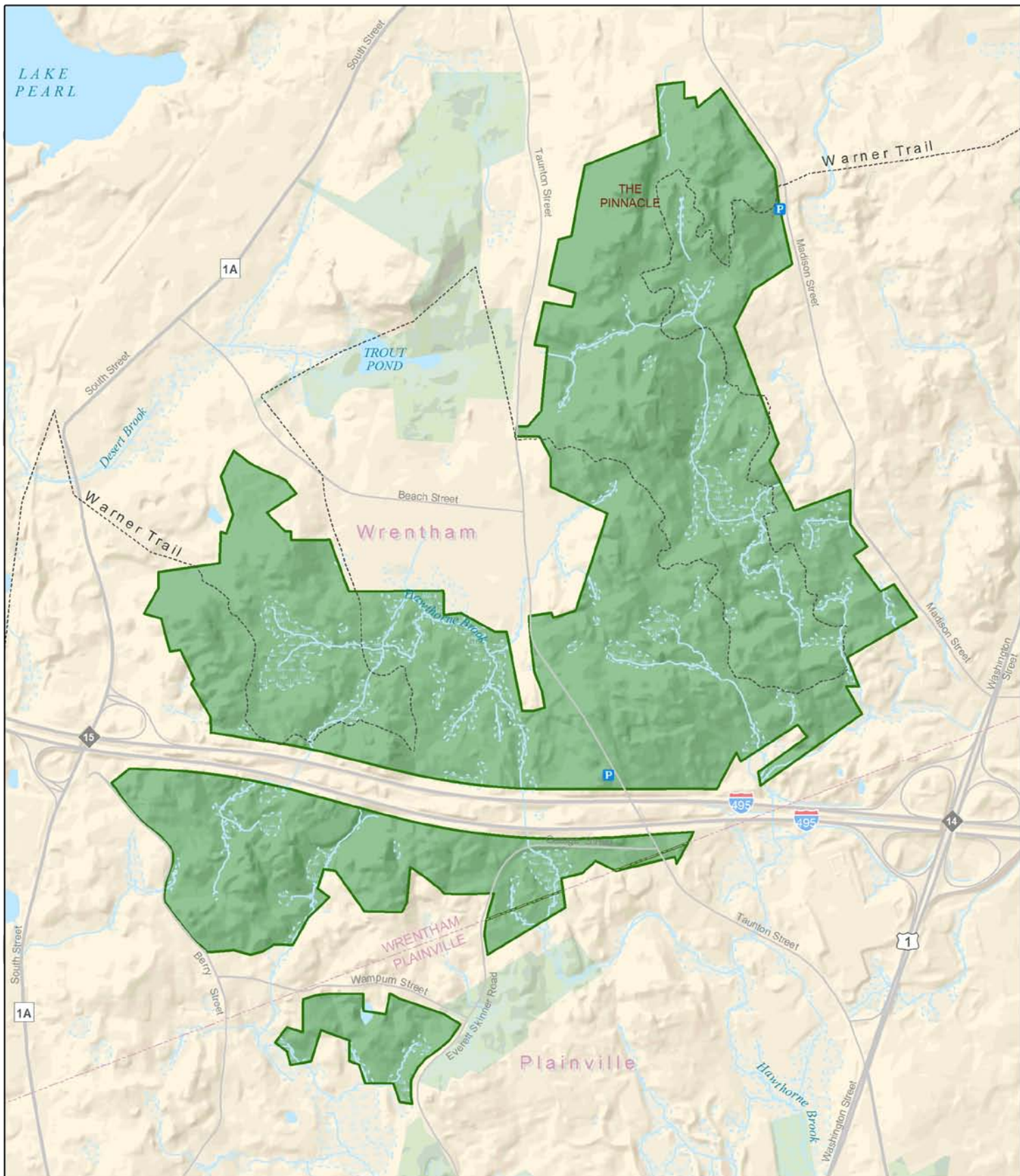
Wrentham State Forest is best known for trail-based recreation including hiking, mountain biking, and the authorized use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs). The Forest’s physical, political, and regulatory attributes are summarized in Table 9.1.1.

Table 9.1.1. Physical, political, and regulatory settings of Wrentham State Forest.

Setting	Name or Metric
Location:	Plainville, Wrentham
Area (acres)^a:	967.67
Perimeter (miles)^a:	13.24
Landscape Designation(s)^b:	Parkland
Legislative Districts:	
House	9 th Norfolk
Senate	Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex
Regulatory Designations:	Priority Habitat 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>.



- Wrentham State Forest
- Blue Hills Complex Land
- Other DCR Land
- Other Protected Open Space
- DCR Legal Interest
- P Public Parking

Wrentham State Forest

Figure 9.1.1

1,000
Feet



Geographic information provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS. 2016

Associated Properties. There are no associated properties.

The Forest and Park Supervisor from F. Gilbert Hills State Forest manages, as time and resources permit, several DCR properties, including F. Gilbert Hills State Forest (Section 6), Bristol Blake State Reservation (Section 7), Franklin State Forest (Section 8), Wrentham State Forest, 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).

9.2. NATURAL RESOURCES

Physical Features

There are three sections to the forest: the section north of I-495; the section immediately south of I-495; and a parcel south of Wampum Street, Plainville. The two sections adjacent to I-495 were once a single large section; they were divided by land takings for the highway’s creation.

The main section of the forest (i.e., north of Route 495) is bisected by Taunton Road. East of Taunton Road the Forest is hilly, with elevation generally increasing from south to north. Elevations are lower along stream channels, and the lowest elevation east of Taunton Road (236 feet above sea level) occurs where a branch of Hawthorne Brook exits the Forest. The highest elevation is at the Pinnacle (approximately 433 feet), which is one of seven peaks east of Taunton Road in excess of 400 feet. On a clear day, the Pinnacle offers views of the Blue Hills Reservation, downtown Boston, and beyond. West of Taunton Road elevations are generally lower, with hills along the western and southern border. Only one hill exceeds 400 feet in elevation. The lowest elevation, approximately 265 feet, occurs where Hawthorne Brook passes under Route 495. South of the highway are a number of small hills; elevation ranges from 344 to 265 feet. Topography is gentler in the Wampum Street parcel; elevations range from approximately 285 to 245 feet.



Scenic view from the Pinnacle; on a clear day Gillette Stadium, the Blue Hills Reservation (Section 2), and downtown Boston are visible from this location. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

Water Resources

Surface waters are widely distributed throughout the Forest, and are concentrated at low elevations. Streams flow southward; most are headwaters of Hawthorne Brook. Unnamed streams along the Forest’s eastern edge drain toward Lake Mirimichi in Plainville. An unnamed stream originates west of Taunton Road and south of Route 495; it flows into Old Mill Brook. Streams in the Wampum Street parcel also flow into Old Mill Brook. The pond in this parcel was historically used for watering cows. All of the Forest’s wetlands and streams are within the Taunton River Watershed. These and other water resources are summarized in Table 9.2.1.

Table 9.2.1. Water resources of Wrentham State Forest.

Water Resource	Name or Metric
Watershed:	Charles Taunton
Aquifer:	
Medium Yield (acres)	0.18
High Yield (acres)	0.00
Rivers and Streams (miles)	1.80
Vernal Pools	
Certified (#)	6
Potential (#)	29
Wetlands (acres)	91.70
Lakes and Ponds (acres)	0.46



One of the Forest's many vernal pools. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

No portion of the forest is susceptible to floods. (Table 9.2.2)

Table 9.2.2. Potential impacts of flooding to Wrentham State Forest.

Type of Impact	Acres	%
Flooding:		
100-year Storm	0.00	0.00
500-year Storm ^a	0.00	0.00

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

Rare Species

State-listed Species

Two state-listed species are known from Wrentham State Forest. (Table 9.2.3) The eastern box turtle is associated with fields, dry and moist woodlands, and a variety of wetlands (NHESP 2015b). Appropriate habitat exists throughout nearly the entire Forest. In contrast, the oak hairstreak is associated with dry, open oak woodlands on rocky uplands (Nelson 2012).

Table 9.2.3. State-listed species of Wrentham State Forest, as identified by the NHESP.

Species ^{a, b}	Type ^c	MESA ^d
Eastern box turtle	R	SC
Oak hairstreak	I	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 are approximately 328.43 acres of Priority Habitat (Polygon PH 312); it is restricted to the portion of the forest east of Taunton Street and north of I-495.

Vegetation

There has been no floristic inventory of this forest; information on its plants comes from ongoing forest monitoring efforts. (See *Forests*, below.)

Invasive Species

Invasive species have not been surveyed. Two species were incidentally observed during the preparation of this plan. (Table 9.2.4)

Table 9.2.4. Known invasive plants of Wrentham State Forest.

Species ^a	Status ^b	Source ^c
Japanese knotweed	I	1
Oriental bittersweet	I	1

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. Incidentally observed by RMP Planner.

Japanese maple has expanded from adjacent residential landscapes into the forest (Collins 2010). This species is not recognized by MIPAG (2005) as either invasive or likely invasive.

Natural Communities

Information on the Forest's natural communities is incomplete. (Table 9.2.5) CFI data identify the upland areas as "Oak-Mixed forest." However, this has not been assessed to determine if it is consistent with the Mixed Oak Forest community type described by Swain and Kearsley (2011). Species composition and vegetative structure in some of the upland areas suggest that the Black Oak-Scarlet Oak Forest/Woodland community type may also be present.

Table 9.2.5. Known natural communities of Wrentham State Forest.

Community Type ^a	System ^b	State Rank ^c	Source ^d
Acidic Rock Cliff Community	T	S4	1
Acidic Rocky Summit/Rock Outcrop	T	S4	1
Deep Emergent Marsh	P	S4	1
Red Maple Swamp	P	S5	2
Shrub Swamp	P	S3	2

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



Example of Acidic Rocky Summit/Rock Outcrop community type atop the Pinnacle. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

Forests

Most of the Forest (870.57 acres, 89.97%) is covered in upland forest. There are five CFI plots; four are located in Mixed Oak stands. All have black and white oaks in the canopy; some also have scarlet and northern red oaks. Other canopy species include white pine, red maple, black birch, aspen, and sugar maple (one plot only). Understory species typically include regenerating canopy species, American hazelnut, black huckleberry, bristly sarsaparilla, low-bush blueberry, maple-leaved viburnum, red maple, sassafras, and witch hazel. Less common understory species include black cherry, false Solomon's seal, hop hornbeam, sweet pepperbush, Virginia creeper, and white pine. The age of mixed oak stands ranged from 65 to 75 years and site index values ranged from 38 to 54. Gypsy moth damage is common in this forest.

The Forest's other CFI plot is located in an Oak-Hardwood stand. Its canopy is a mixture of red maple and black oak, northern red oak, swamp white oak, and black gum. The understory includes regenerating oaks, highbush blueberry, ferns, sweet pepperbush, black gum, and witch hazel. This stand was 72 years old in 2010, and had a site index of 55.

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, with preferred species (i.e., oaks and maples) only lightly browsed and less preferred species not browsed (Stainbrook 2016a).

Wildlife

The wildlife of Wrentham State Forest is undocumented.

9.3. 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 Wrentham State Forest is presented in Table 9.3.1. Cultural Resources are identified in Table 9.3.2. There are no archaeological resources listed by the MHC for this forest.

Table 9.3.1. Significant events in the history of Wrentham State Forest.

Year(s)	Events
1934	Commissioner of Conservation issues an order of taking for approximately 327.26 acres in Wrentham. (Book 2039 Page 543) All parcels are west of Taunton Street and north of Berry Street.
1935	A 38.6 acre parcel is acquired south of Wampum Street in Plainville.
ca. 1935	The CCC based at Foxboro State Forest partly constructs “about six” water holes; by 1950 they have fallen into disrepair (Hills 1955b).
1936	Commissioner of Conservation issues an order of taking for approximately 543 acres in Wrentham and Plainville. (Book 2115, Page 92) All parcels are east of Taunton Street.
1934–1937	The Department of Conservation acquires parcels identified in takings, and establishes Wrentham State Forest.
1950	Recreational day use areas and overnight camp sites considered for the forest; they are not constructed.
1965	The Department of Public Works takes 86.47 acres of the Forest (Parcels 1-1, 1-2, 1-3-T, 2-2-T, and 34) for the construction of Route 495, which opens in 1969.

Table 9.3.2. Cultural resources of Wrentham State Forest.

Location and Resource	Type ^a	Date ^b	Condition ^c	Integrity ^d	In Use ^e	Utilities ^f	MHC # ^g	Guidance ^h
Cow Commons Landscape	LA	1668	-	M	-	-	-	1
Stone walls	ST	1668	-	M	-	-	-	1
Additional Resourcesⁱ								
Colonial Roads (7)	ST	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Early Industry Road	ST	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Blake House Site	AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Possible Former Mill Site	AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rock Outcrop/Quarry	AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rock carving “1801”^j	AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

a. 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.

b. Date of construction provided, when known.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. 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.

f. 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.

g. Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory number; does not include Historic Archaeological numbers.

h. The following guidance is offered for the ongoing maintenance of these cultural resources:

1. Refer to Historic Landscapes - Built Features BMP (DCR n.d.d).
2. Refer to Archaeological Features BMP (DCR n.d.g).

i. Documented through the 1984/1985 Cultural Resources Evaluation Project but not yet field verified.

j. Only known from photos on www.geocaching.com; not field verified.

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; Wrentham State Forest was included in this survey. No archaeological testing was conducted during this study, and to date, no pre-Contact sites have been recorded. Nearby pre-Contact sites date from the Middle Archaic period (8,000–6,000 years B. P.) to the Late Woodland period (1,000–450 years B.P.). The Forest has a high archaeological potential for pre-Contact sites. Any proposed below ground impacts must be reviewed by the DCR Archaeologist.

Post-Contact Resources

There are no recorded post-Contact archaeological resources within Wrentham State Forest. A 1984/1985 Cultural Resources Evaluation Project identified several potential post-Contact resources; these have not been confirmed. (Table 9.3.2) Background research will determine if the Forest is sensitive for locating historic period archaeological sites.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Wrentham State Forest is a thickly wooded area that has historically been heavily traveled, but sporadically developed. It has over a half dozen forest roads and pathways that date back to at least the early colonial times, but retains very little infrastructure. This includes; a quarried area, public livestock corral, mill site, and a separate house site.

Historic Landscapes

Cow Commons. Located in the Wampum Street parcel is an elaborate set of stone walls that create various corrals and pathways for the penning of livestock. This communal compound was one of the first resources created when Wrentham was settled in 1668 (Warner 1890). The stone walls in this historic landscape are remarkably intact, and one can see how they functioned to facilitate the organization and movement of livestock. Much of this resource's defining features are retained.



These stone walls were part of the cow commons, a municipal cattle holding area for use by Wrentham residents. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

Buildings

There are no historic buildings.

Structures

There are no historic structures.

Objects

There are no known historic objects.

9.4. 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:

- Bicycling, mountain
- Dog walking, on leash
- Geocaching (9 as of July 2016)
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Nature study/Photography
- OHV use, dirt bikes only
- Orienteering
- Running/Jogging
- Skiing, cross-country

Wrentham State Forest is one of eight DCR parks where OHVs use is authorized; it is one of only four in eastern Massachusetts. The King Philip Trail Riders, a club that promotes off-road trail riding, conducts group motorcycle events under a one-year special permit. Unauthorized OHV use also takes place in the forest, including on the parcel south of Wampum Street. Illegal OHV use has been a problem for other conservation lands in this area (Town of Plainville 2007).



Motorcycle riders hit the trails on the first day of OHV season, May 1, 2016. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

9.5. INFRASTRUCTURE

Property Boundary

The main section of the Forest straddles Route 495, between Routes 1 and 1A. Taunton Street, a municipal road in Wrentham, divides the forest into east and west sections. The eastern side is largely bounded by Route 495, Taunton Street, and Madison Street. Adjacent land use is primarily residential, with existing and planned commercial and industrial development near the intersection of Routes 1 and 495. The western side is bounded by Taunton Street, Beach Street, Route 1A, Berry Street, and Wampum Street. Adjacent land use is primarily residential, with mixed use municipal land to the north and conservation land to the southeast. Minor

encroachment has been identified along Madison Street.

Although 86.47 acres of land was taken from the Forest in 1965 to construct Route I-495 in 1965, park maps did not reflect this change in ownership until this RMP. The DCR does not own, nor does it hold an easement on, land within the Route I-495 right of way.

During the preparation of this RMP it was observed that Town of Wrentham parcel data indicate that DCR owns land between 62 and 70 Madison Street. A review of deeds for those parcels indicated that the Commonwealth has owned, and may still own, the road bed (i.e., Chapin Road) between these properties. This issue could not be resolved during the preparation of this RMP.

The Wampum Road section of the Forest is located along the south side of that road. Adjacent land uses include residential development borders to the north and west, and protected and unprotected open space to the south and east.

When the Wampum Road parcel was acquired by the Commonwealth in 1935, the sellers (i.e., Harold C. and Florence M. Sargent) reserved “the privilege of access at all times over land hereby conveyed for the purpose of watering cattle at the water hole situated at the southwest corner of the premises” (Book 2070, Page 373). Only the sellers are identified as having this privilege. No additional easements or reserved rights were identified during the preparation of this RMP; however, not all deeds were reviewed. Other reserved rights may exist.

Buildings and Structures

There are no non-historic buildings. The only structures are associated with the trails system; all are located east of Taunton Street. (Table 9.5.1) Bridges range from 3–28 feet in length and boardwalks range from 10–60 feet. All are constructed of wood.

Table 9.5.1. Non-historic buildings and structures of Wrentham State Forest.

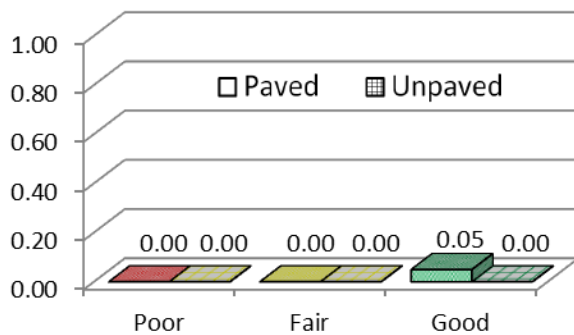
Location and Infrastructure	Date ^a	Condition ^b	In Use ^c	Utilities ^d
Trails System				
Boardwalks (5)	-	3	-	-
Bridges (4)	-	3–4	-	-

- 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.
- 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.

Roads

An 1893 topographic map (<http://docs.unh.edu/MA/frkl93se.jpg>) does not indicate any roads within what is now Wrentham State Forest. By 1940, unpaved roads traversed much of the Forest (<http://docs.unh.edu/MA/wren46sw.jpg>). Some of these roads predate the creation of the Forest, but others were created specifically for Forest purposes. Over time these roads have been converted to use as trails and are no longer in use as roads. There are few public or administrative roads left. The length and condition of these roads are identified in Figure 9.5.1.

Figure 9.5.1. Condition and length of roads (in miles) at Wrentham State Forest.



Parking

There is one formal parking lot and one informal lot in the Forest. (Table 9.5.2) The formal lot is located on Taunton Street, just north of Route 495. The informal parking area is a pull off on the west side of Madison Street, opposite the residence at 251 Madison Street. The former has informational and

regulatory signs, the latter does not. Roadside parking occurs along the shoulders of George Street.

Table 9.5.2. Number of public parking spaces, by location and type, at Wrentham State Forest.^a

Location	HP	Restricted	Other	Total
Taunton Street	0	0	20	20
Madison Street	0	0	3	3
Total	0	0	23	23

- Based on the number of potential 9-foot-wide spaces.



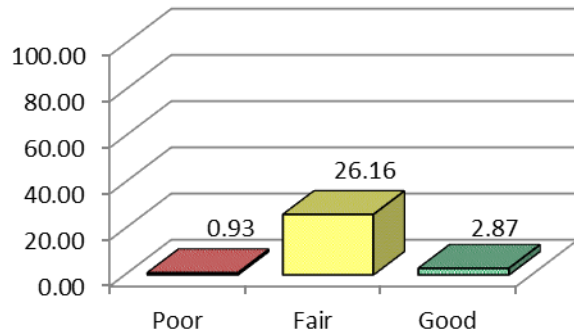
Main parking lot; only the southern half of the lot is visible in this photo. This lot serves cars and vehicles with motorcycle trailers. The Forest's kiosk, benches, and iron ranger are visible on the left side of the photo. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

A three car parking lot for the Town of Plainville's George Street conservation property is located just southeast of the intersection of Wampum Street and Everett Skinner Road (Town of Plainville 2007). This lot also provides parking for the Wampum Street parcel of the state forest.

Trails

There are nearly 30 miles of official trails in the Forest, all are multi-use (Figure 9.5.2). Approximately 11.2 miles of these trails are open to motorized use (i.e., motorcycles). An additional 0.25 miles of unauthorized user-created trails were also present at the time of the survey.

Figure 9.5.2. Condition and length of official trails at Wrentham State Forest.^a



The old forest roads, now trails, are intended to provide vehicle access for fighting fires. However, most are no longer accessible to emergency vehicles. Erosion and vegetative growth have made many of these forest roads impassable.

An initial assessment of the Forest's trails (DCR 2015) identified the following eight management issues:

- Poor separation and distinction between trails open to motorized use and those closed to motorized use.
- Nearly 50 intersections of motorized and non-motorized trails.
- The Warner Trail is routed over several sections of the 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.
- Numerous access points from adjacent properties.
- Most trails are classified as being in "Fair" condition.
- Trail density is greater than recommended for an area designated as Parkland (i.e., 6–9 km/km²).

In addition, there are several locations where official trails exit the Forest, pass over adjacent private lands, and then re-enter the Forest. This includes trail segments open to motorized use as well as segments closed to motorized use. At one location, some motorcyclists are entering the Route 495 corridor and travelling through a storm drain under the highway to cross between sections of the Forest. This use is not permitted by Mass DOT.



Example of the multi-use trail that is open to OHVs; note the rocky soils and steep hills that characterize the Forest. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

The Warner Trail passes through the Forest. Due to its circuitous layout the trail enters and exits the Forest twice, travelling through a variety of private and municipal properties. It is unclear if legal agreements exist for the Warner Trail to pass through private properties that abut the Forest.

Kiosks and Signs

The Forest's Main Identification Sign is located on the east side of Taunton Street, opposite the entrance to the main parking lot. A kiosk is located adjacent to that parking lot.



Kiosk, benches, and iron ranger located at entrance to Taunton Street parking lot. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

Iron Ranger

An iron ranger is located next to the kiosk in the main (i.e., Taunton Street) parking lot.

Memorials and Markers

There are no known memorials and markers. However, the forest has not been inventoried for these markers, so some may be present. Two wooden benches adjacent to the kiosk have inscriptions. The first bench bears the names of three hardware or building supply companies and the second bench bears the name of the person that designed and constructed the benches. Only a portion of these carvings remain legible.

9.6. INTERPRETATION

There is no regular interpretive programming, and there are no interpretive panels.

9.7. MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

Staffing

DCR Personnel

This property is unstaffed. The Forest and Park Supervisor from F. Gilbert Hills is responsible for the operation and maintenance of this forest.

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 Wrentham State Forest and help maintain its trails.

Safety

The Wrentham and Plainville fire departments provide fire response and emergency services. Additional support is provided by DCR Fire District 4 personnel, based at F. Gilbert Hills. Municipal police departments, the Massachusetts State Police (Station H-3, Foxborough), 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 Wrentham State Forest. As of spring, 2016, there was approximately \$1,530 in the fund.

Retained Revenue

The park does not generate or retain revenue. There are no entrance or parking fees.

Other Revenues

There are no other revenues.

9.8. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Management of DCR properties is guided by a variety of regulations, policies, BMPs (e.g., Table 9.3.2), legal agreements, and institutional knowledge. This section describes those practices unique to the management of Wrentham State Forest. Legal agreements specific to the Forest are listed in Table 9.8.1.

Table 9.8.1. Key legal agreements for Wrentham State Forest.

Party and Subject of Agreement	Type^a	Expiration Date^b
King Philip Trail Riders Use of off-road vehicles in F. Gilbert Hills, Franklin, and Wrentham State Forests.	A	2003

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.

In 1991, the DEM attempted to establish a legal agreement for maintenance and public use of a 550-foot-long section of the Warner Trail that passes along Bear Swamp Road, through 200 Beach Street. The landowner chose to enter into a verbal agreement. The property was sold in 1997 and again in 2011. It is unknown if the new owner supports continued trail access.

Key planning documents are identified in Table 9.8.2.

Table 9.8.2. Key management and guidance documents for Wrentham State Forest.

Author and Document	Year
Department of Environmental Management F. Gilbert Hills State Forest: Guidelines for Operations and Land Stewardship.	1989
Gannett Fleming, Inc. Environmental Audit Report: Wrentham State Forest, Wrentham, Massachusetts.	1998 ^c

Annual Maintenance

There are no regular activities; all maintenance is performed on an as needed basis.

Natural Resources

Water Resources

There are no water management activities unique to this property.

Rare Species

There are no rare species monitoring or management activities.

Invasive Species

There is no monitoring or management of invasive plants.

Vegetation

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

Timber harvesting has historically been used for forest management. In 1985 two harvests conducted on a total of 23 acres produced 97 cords of wood. A 1995 home fuelwood sale produced 72 cords from 9.3 acres. The following year, a home fuelwood sale produced 90 cords from 12 acres. The Forest's designation as Parkland prohibits the continued use of commercial timber harvests as a management tool.

In 2016, MassWildlife personnel surveyed deer browse in the area between the main parking lot and Bear Swamp Road (Stainbrook 2016a). It is unknown if and when this survey will be repeated.

Wildlife

Under DCR's Forest and Park Regulations (302 CMR 12.11), fishing and hunting are allowed in the Forest.

Cultural Resources

There are no management practices unique to this forest.

Recreation Resources

The F. Gilbert Hills Forest and Park Supervisor, with the assistance of volunteers, maintains trails and trail markings on an as needed basis.

Infrastructure

Boundary

The Regional Forester and Forest and Park Supervisor from F. Gilbert Hills maintain the boundaries.

Buildings and Structures

There are no buildings to repair or maintain.

Roads

There are no ongoing road maintenance activities.

Parking Areas

The Forest and Park Supervisor from F. Gilbert Hills State Forest maintains the parking lot on Taunton Street.

Trails

The Forest's motorcycle trails are maintained by volunteers from 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

The Forest and Park Supervisor from F. Gilbert Hills maintains the kiosk and signs. Markings along the Warner Trail are usually maintained by the Friends of the Warner Trail; in recent years, DCR field personnel have remarked the trail.

9.9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This section provides recommendations for the near- and long-term management of Wrentham 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 9.9.1) for consistency. Management recommendations are all high-priority, and should be addressed as soon as resources become available.

Applied Land Stewardship Zoning

(Figure 9.9.1)

The following Land Stewardship Zoning is recommended.

Zone 1

- No sections of Wrentham State Forest have been designated Zone 1.

Zone 2

- All areas not specifically designated as Zone 3.

Zone 3

The following portions of Wrentham State Forest have been designated Zone 3.

- Existing parking lot on Taunton Street.
- A 30 by 75 foot section along the western shoulder of Madison Street, near an existing forest road and gate; for the potential creation of small parking area for non-motorized trail users.

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.

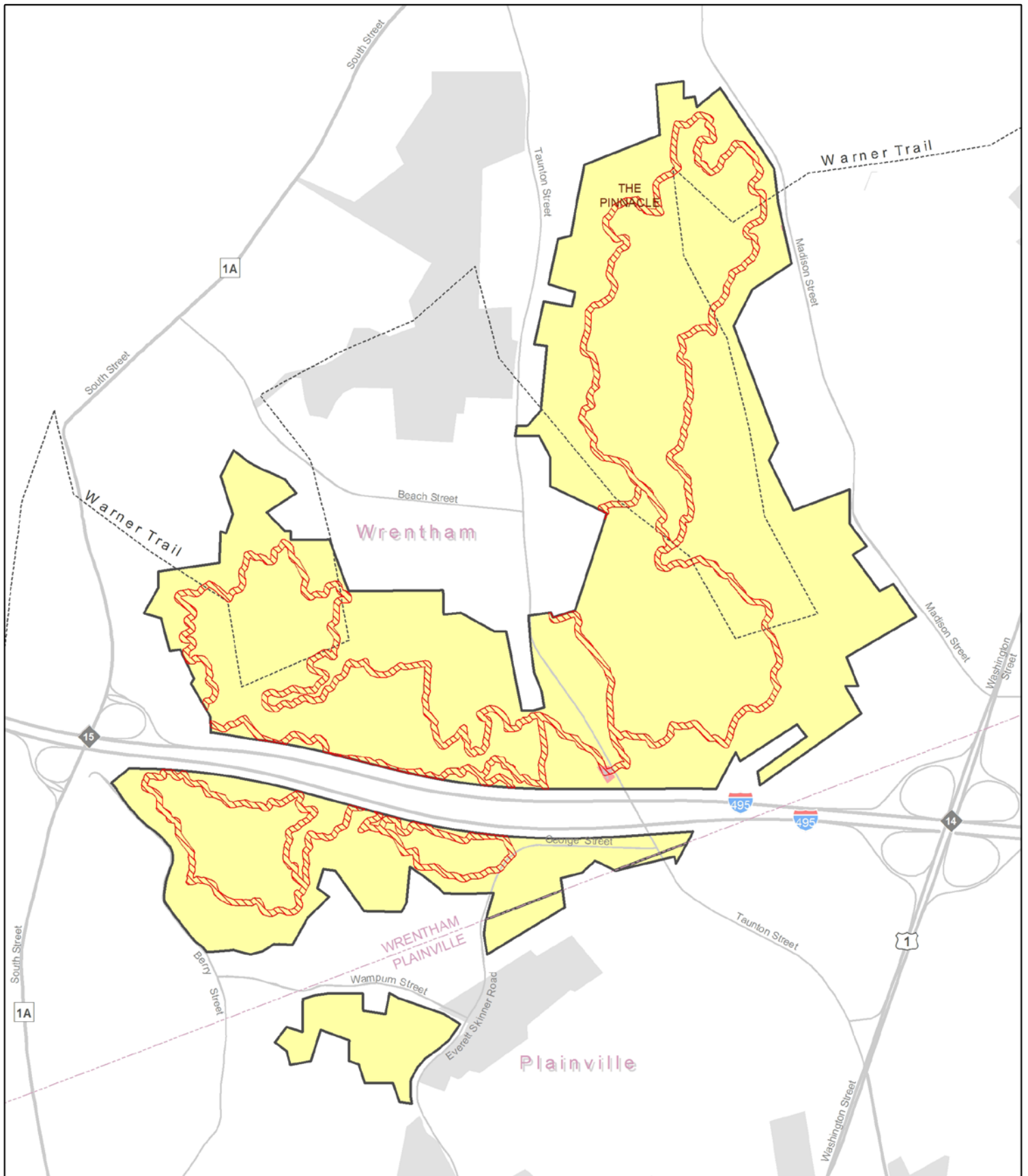
Management Recommendations

Five priority management recommendations were developed for Wrentham State Forest. (Table 9.9.1) 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.



- Wrentham State Forest
- Other Legal Interest - DCR
- Other Protected Open Space

- Land Stewardship Zoning
- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- OHV Significance Overlay

Wrentham State Forest

Figure 9.9.1

Recommended Land Stewardship Zoning

Geographic information provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS, 2016



Table 9.9.1. Priority recommendations for Wrentham State Forest.

Recommendation	Implementation ^a
Implement recommendations identified in <i>Rapid Assessment and Trail System Recommendations</i> (DCR 20015).	P, R, V
Reopen main forest roads/trails to emergency vehicles by clearing brush and repairing heavily eroded areas.	F, R
Request that MassDOT replace fencing along I-495 to prevent recreationists from passing from the Forest into the highway right of way.	R
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
Contact abutter along Beach Street, Wrentham regarding establishing an agreement to ensure continued hiker access along the 550-foot long segment of the Warner Trail that passes through their property.	P, R

- 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; 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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