

Frye Field

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

History ~

Seven generations ago, the Frye Family arrived in Wilton to take possession of land granted them by the King of England. The farm they built still exists today. As the family retired from farming, High Mowing School, founded on land that was also originally part of the Frye's, became interested in conserving the hay field that abuts school land.

Key Features ~

Issac Frye Highway runs parallel to the southern border of the property, and, unmaintained in the winter, becomes Corridor 13, a major snowmobile trail in southern New Hampshire that provides access to other trails stretching all the way to Canada. Corridor 13 South turns into Frye Field and runs across the top of the field.

To the south of Isaac Frye Highway lies a mixed hardwood lot edged by pine. This land underwent thinning at the same time as the forest on the north side of the road. It is also under conservation easement and open to public recreation, although the trails are not currently developed.



Flora/Fauna ~

At first glance, an open field may seem devoid of a diverse habitat. However, upon closer examination the explorer will find a diverse habitat that extends from below ground level to the top of the grass and into the air. Nematodes are a phylum of worms, and a handful of soil will contain thousands of these microscopic worms. They are useful in the control Japanese Beetles. Below ground in the spring we find a host of insect eggs waiting to hatch into larvae. Japanese Beetle grubs, for example, live underground before undergoing metamorphosis into adults. We also find moles, voles, and mice that eat grubs and other insects. Moles tend to spend most of their lives below ground, while mice and voles will often hunt aboveground. Bees and wasps also nest in the ground and the hiker should be on the lookout for them. The field also plays host to burrowing groundhogs, and in the early morning and in the late afternoon you may spot fox, coyote and deer visiting the field.

Several Federal and private organizations collaborated with Wilton Conservation Commission to buy the easements on the field and other school land, thus conserving the field.

Description ~

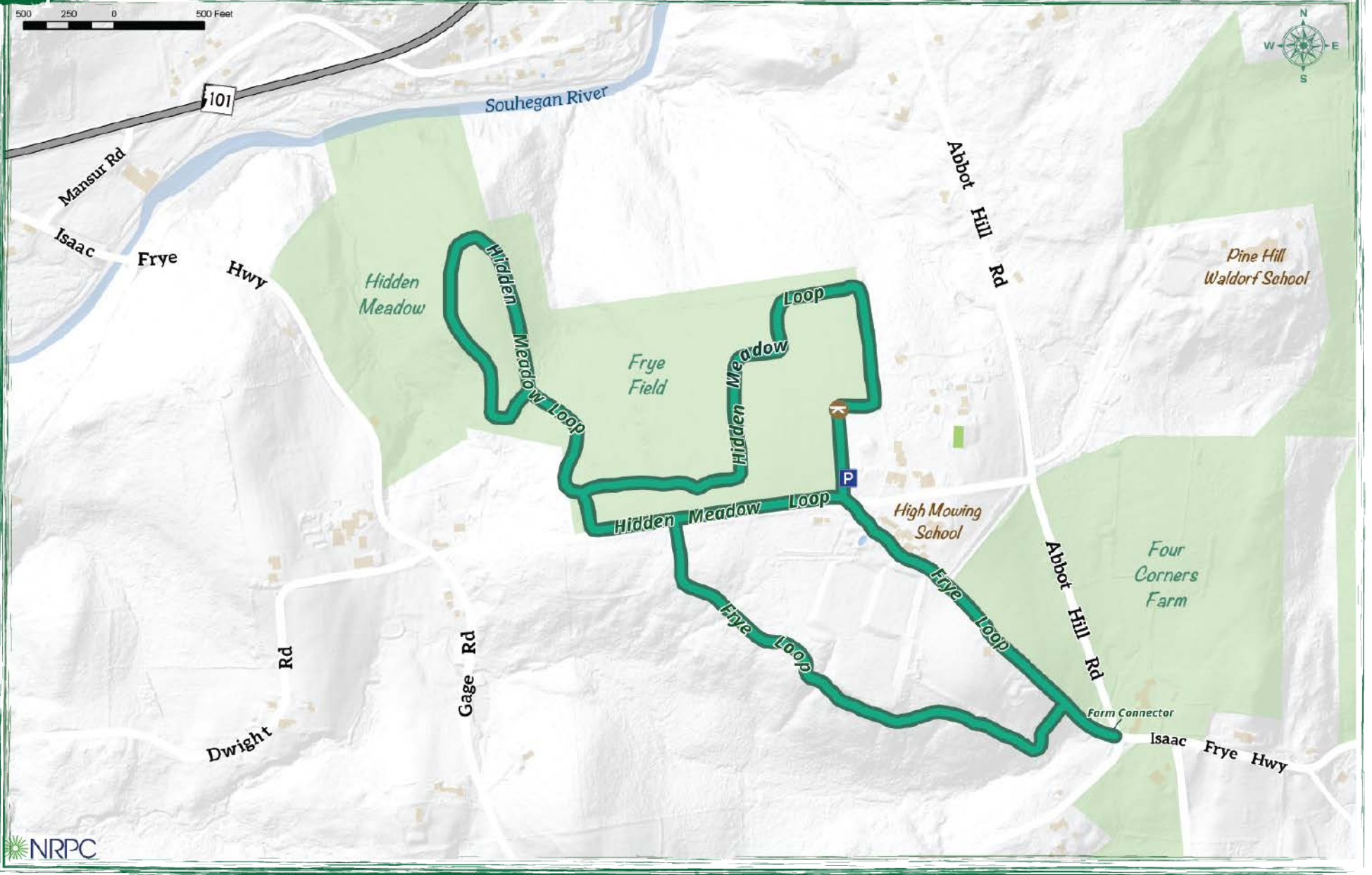
Glaciers created Frye Field during the last ice age as they bulldozed their way across the landscape. The field lies on the south side of the Souhegan River valley and has limited access to the river. At the top of Frye Field, the hiker finds panoramic views that stretch from Lyndeborough in the north to Temple Mountain and Pack Monadnock in the West. In addition to main field, the property includes a recently thinned mixed hardwood forest to the west. The Hidden Meadow, a second field to the west, was once a peach orchard and is now a hay field.

Information & Trail Map

Created by the WCC with cooperation from the NRPC



Map



Key

	Trail		Conservation Land
	Bench		Open Water
	Parking Area		Wetland
			Stream

Restrictions ~



Open Dawn to Dusk



Clean Up & Remove Pet Waste



Carry In Carry Out



No Motor Vehicles



No Fires or Open Flame