

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.



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.

Information & Trail Map

Created by the WCC with cooperation from the NRPC

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.

Key Features ~

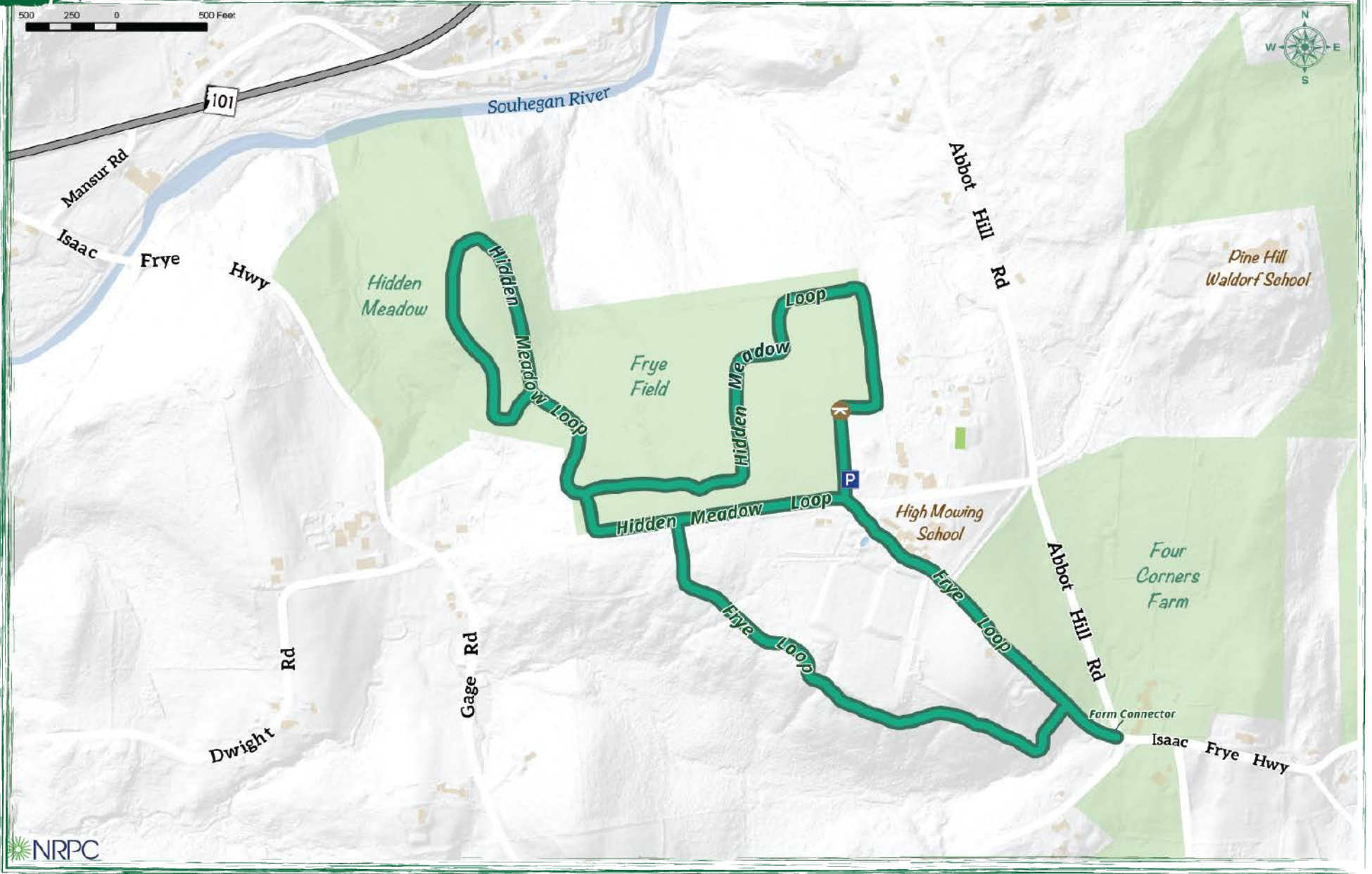
Issac Frye Highway runs parallel to the southern border of the property, and, unmaintained in the winter, becomes Corridor 13, a major snowmobile trail in southern New Hampshire that provides access to other trails stretching all the way to Canada. Corridor 13 South turns into Frye Field and runs across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

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

Frog Pond

History ~

The Frog Pond property was farmed for many years by the former Whiting Dairy. The dam was built in the early 1900s to make a farm pond, also used for skating during the winter carnivals of the 1920s and '30s.

Key Features ~

After crossing the bridge from Whiting Hill parking area, the hiker encounters a short steep hill that leads to an open area. To the left is a short trail that runs along a gravel ridge. Geologists have identified this ridge as an Esker. Eskers were formed by glaciers during the last ice age. Glaciers acted as bulldozers grinding and pushing gravel ahead of the them. The esker is the gravel mound left behind when they melted.

The next feature the hiker encounters if they turn right and follow the remains of the Esker is an earthen dam. The dam has a concrete spillway that allows water to flow out during high water events. During low water a circle of stones can be seen underwater near the southwest end of the pond that are the remains of a well. Beyond the dam is a large hay field with views to the south and east.

Flora/Fauna ~

The area surrounding the pond to the west, north and east is comprised of mixed hard and soft wood. The hiker will notice a large number of large White Pine (*Pinus strobus*). Mixed in with the pines are Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*). Along the Esker, you will find a stand of Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Along the edges of the pond, you will find various alders and native grape vines. The northeast end of the pond is slowly filling in with mosses. A large number of bird species use the pond. Some nest around it and some use it as a stop on their migrations, including Canada geese.

A flock of turkeys can often be seen grazing on the south field, especially on the hill to the East, below the woods. Red-wing Blackbirds nest on the fields in summer, and there is evidence of Deer year 'round.

Description ~

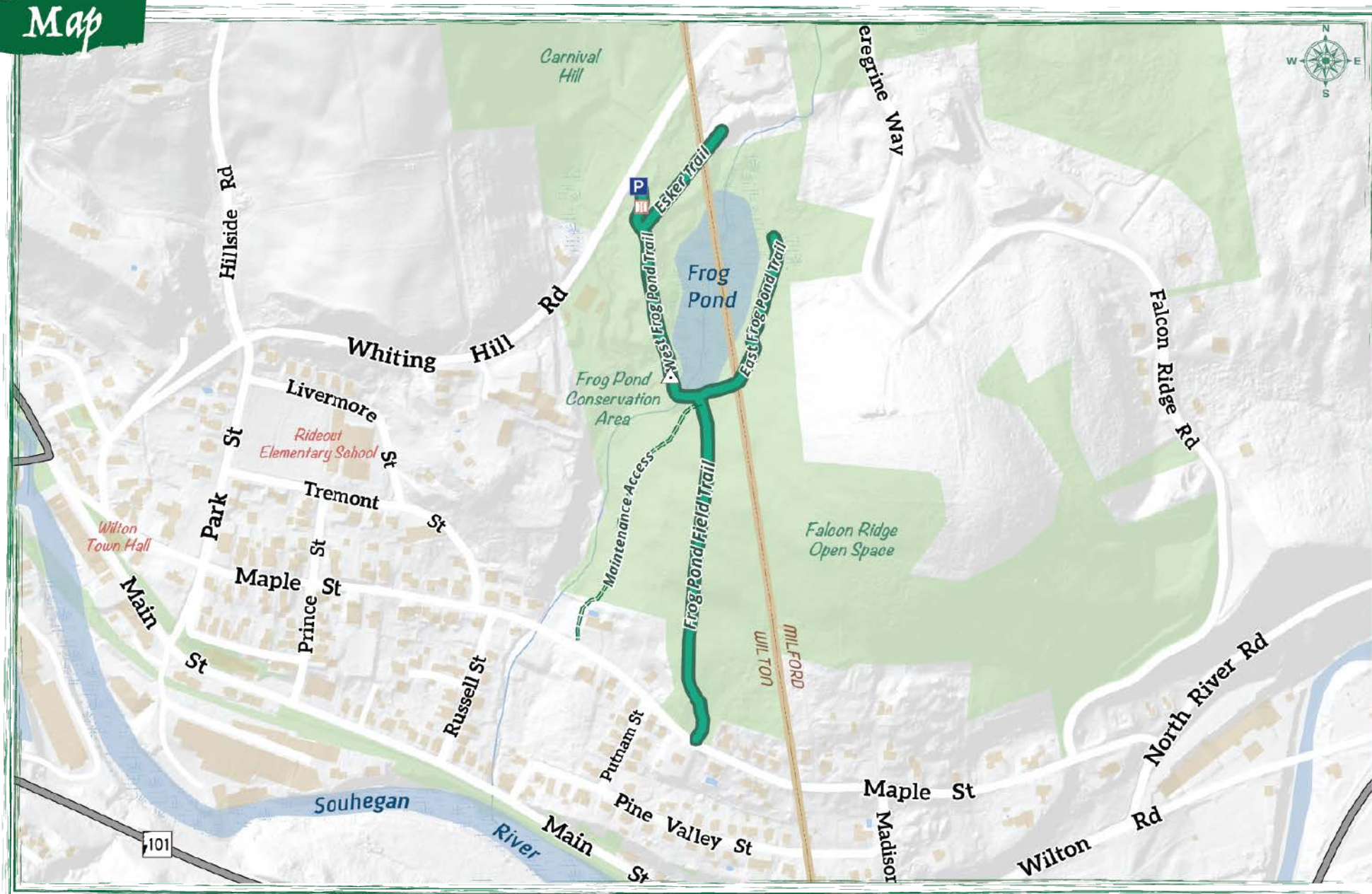
Frog Pond is a manmade pond constructed nearly a hundred years ago to provide a source of water for a number of endeavors. A walking loop from downtown via access by Maple St. and Whiting Hill Rd. is about 2 miles around. Whiting Hill Rd. provides the best access, with a small parking area. Frog Pond provides an ideal place to hike, bird watch, walk a dog, identify trees and shrubs, and in the winter, ice skate, cross ski or snowshoe. Note water levels vary due to season and weather conditions. The property straddles the town line 50/50 between Wilton and Milford, the Wilton portion being purchased for the town's citizens in 2005.

Information & Trail Map

Created by the WCC with cooperation from the NRPC



Map



Key

	Trail		Conservation Land
	Maintenance Access		Open Water
	Parking Area		Wetland
	Dam		Stream
	Bridge		

Restrictions ~



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