

Welcome to Green's Hill



Introduction

Green's Hill provides a unique perspective on the City of Beverly with its extensive vista across the Bass River to downtown Beverly. The full Bass River loop is roughly two miles, with multiple opportunities for refreshment. There are views from the boardwalk across to the historic site of the mill at the outlet from Shoe pond.

Green's Hill can be traced back to 1677 when John Green became a lessee of the common lands at Ryal Side from the Town of Salem under a grant from the King of England. From this beginning, the Green family acquired 100 acres of land stretching from Salt House Point on the Bass River extending northward to Elliott St. John Green built a family home in a location approximately on Bridge St. opposite Winthrop Street. The Green family subdivided the property to the heirs over the years while continuing to use much of the property for agriculture. If you look hard enough, there are still remnants of stone walls built in colonial times separating fields and property boundaries. The Green family burial plot is still preserved in the back corner of the playground and is adjacent to one of these old stone walls.

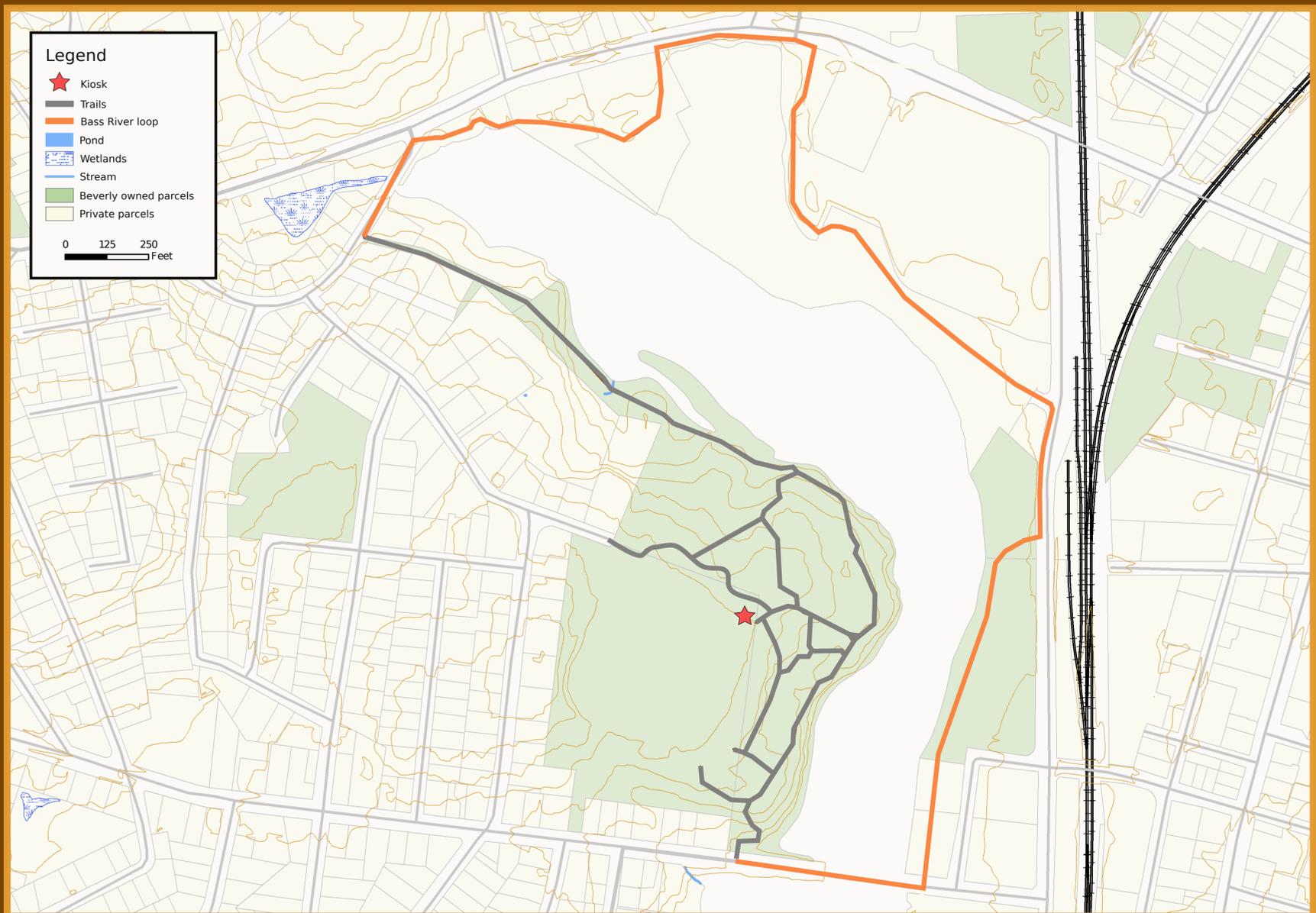
Acknowledgements

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Green's Hill's Natural Features

Wildlife: A wide variety of birds make Green's Hill and surrounding areas their home. Birds migrating north and south along the Eastern Migratory Flyway have an opportunity to rest in Beverly during their annual migrations. Green's Hill has been the rest stop for over 100 different species. Resident birds such as cardinals, chickadees, titmice and downy woodpeckers are easily noted during any walk around the property. You may see five species of seagulls, Great Blue Herons, Black Crowned Night Herons, and Great and Snowy Egrets feeding in the shallows along the Bass River. These, along with cormorants and several species of ducks, can often be observed from Green's Hill. The trees and thickets on and around Green's Hill are home to at least 19 wood warbler species that have been recorded on the property during migration. In addition to the birds, mammals such as squirrels, rabbits, skunks, raccoons, opossums, woodchucks and even a slightly misguided coyote or fox have all been noted on the property. Keep your eyes open for a wide variety of butterflies, moths and dragonflies.

Plants: The general area had been cleared for farmland in colonial time so most of today's vegetation is new growth forest of mostly maples and oak with some birch and hickory. On the north side of the park the maples are particularly dense. The forest floor is covered with Canada Mayflower; several common mosses and lichens can be seen too. As you proceed to the east facing across the Bass River, the soil becomes sandy and the hardwood trees thin out to some degree. Changes in the types of mosses and lichens you find as you walk along the path also reflect soil and light exposure changes. A stand of staghorn sumac, which typically colonizes old fields, grows directly behind the Ayers School field.



Opossum



Starflower



Siberian squill



Wood frog



WARNING

Deer ticks, which can carry Lyme Disease, are found in this preserve. Take precautions to minimize contact: stay on trails and perform a full-body tick check at the end of your walk. Also check your children and pets.