

Disclaimer and Cautions: The Bay Circuit Alliance, as the advocate and promoter of the Bay Circuit Trail, expressly disclaims responsibility for injuries or damages that may arise from using the trail. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of maps or completeness of warnings about hazards that may exist. Portions of the trail are along roads or train tracks and involve crossing them. Users should pay attention to traffic and walk on the shoulder of roads facing traffic, not on the pavement, cross only at designated locations and use extreme care. Children and pets need to be closely monitored and under control



Map 13 – East Bridgewater, Hanson, Pembroke - BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL route
(as shown on map dated March 2013)
(text updated April 2015)

The BCT often follows pre-existing local trails; BCT-specific blazing is a work in progress and may be sparse in segments. We encourage you to review and carry corresponding local maps on your BCT walk.

Trail Notices regarding trail problems and closures are posted on the website at www.baycircuit.org under the Explore tab. Please review them for updates to the trail guide and maps.

North to South (here, actually west to east)

East Bridgewater: Trail is marked with occasional white dollar bill-sized blazes oriented vertically, high on trees or utility poles. Double blazes offset indicate a turn in the direction of the upper blaze.

A N42 01.697 W70 57.855

0.0 Start at power substation driveway on Spring St (P=3-4) Go northeast on Spring St toward jct with Rte 18.

0.4 At traffic light bear left slightly to safe crossing of Rte 18. Use pedestrian walk

button. Cross to island and small park with bench and sundial. (Or from traffic light go right onto Rte 18, past a Cumberland Farms, to a cross walk. Cross Rte 18, then left along Rte 18 to the same traffic light).

Go southeast on Central St sidewalk.

0.7 At town common, with High School on the right, bear right onto Plymouth St. using sidewalk on west side. Cross Plymouth St using crosswalk 0.35 mile from common, just before the Satucket River and jct with Rt 106.

B N42 01.297 W70 57.017

1.3 Immediately after Plymouth St crosses the Satucket River turn left onto Bennett Lane. Trail enters **Satucket River Conservation Area** beside the parking area at end of Bennett Lane. Proceed to the west along the river frontage. (P=4, do not block private driveway at the far right corner). The BCT * Winsor Trail* more or less follows the river for about 0.5 mile. There are many other cross trails in this area. Benches set at intervals offer views of the river. The trail to left shortly before brook crossing is the other end of the “express route.” BCT goes left after the brook crossing.

1.8 The continuing woodland trail emerges at a chain link fence opening adjacent to a (white house) private residence. After passing through follow along the fence to the right and come to a drainage swale where you climb the banking to access the circle at Susan's Place. The “express route” (is an old cart path, or the probably the continuation of

Bennett Lane), which leaves Bennett Lane parking area to the right of the BCT. This cart path can be taken the full distance to Susan Lane following along a fenced area containing cranberry bogs and arriving to the rear of a house facing the circle at Susan's Place. Susan's Place Leads to Rolling Ridge Dr. which leads to Bridge St.

2.2 Exit **Satucket River Conservation Area** onto Susan Place cul-de-sac at #15 Susan Place. There are no blazes, but a kiosk is planned.

Walk along Susan Place to jct with Rolling Hills Dr

2.3 Right onto Rolling Hills Dr. This road is a loop where Rolling Hills Dr goes left; continue straight to Bridge St.

C N42 01.131 W70 55.913

2.7 Left onto Bridge St. Frank Johnson Memorial Park is east of bridge, parking for fishing only.

D N42 01.623 W70 55.913

3.3 Bridge St. and Crescent St. Right on Crescent St., cross Washington St (**CAUTION: busy road**), and continue to the access road for Water Supply Station #2. Access road is on the right, one house after Deer Run Dr.

E N42 01.784 W70 54.619

4.8 Turn right onto Water Supply Station #2 access road (P=6 on left). A water filtration plant is on the right. Bear right on dirt track and soon swing left crossing under power lines. Just past tower, enter woods to the east.

5.2 Follow a graveled wooded trail to an extensive boardwalk crossing **Poor Meadow Brook** and wetlands.

F N42 01.666 W70 54.011

5.4 Trail crosses East Bridgewater/Hanson town line

***Hanson:** BCT through Hanson is marked with standard white dollar bill-sized blazes oriented vertically on trees and poles. The BCT logo is used where the trail crosses a road and as a confidence marker.*

F N42 01.666 W70 54.011

0.0 Trail begins at Hanson and East Bridgewater town line alongside the **Poor Meadow Brook**. Trail goes in a north/northeastern direction with Poor Meadow Brook to the left side. Once at the power transmission line (wooden poles) the trail runs parallel to the transmission line to Elm St.

G N42 01.763 W70 53.382

0.6 Elm Street. Parking (P=5) is allowed on the **Smith Nawazelski** property along the cart path. *Do not block this road, which would prevent emergency access. Also avoid any planted farm crops on either side of cart path.*

Here the trail enters the **Burrage Pond WMA** managed by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The entrance to this section of the trail is directly opposite the entrance of the **Smith Nawazelski** property across Elm St. Parking (P=3) on the asphalt apron before the locked gate. *Do not block vehicle access through the gate for emergency and agricultural vehicles.* Park on the shoulder of

the apron. The BCT runs parallel to the power transmission lines through the preserve property. It skirts working cranberry bogs and passes over the **Indian Crossway** to the proposed Light Control section of the trail. *Here there is a gap in the dedicated trail at this time.* A map of Hanson dated 1870 indicated the “Indian Crossway,” which was higher ground through the swamplands. It was reportedly a place of passage for Native Americans. Today it exists as a remnant of the dike system to control water levels in the growing of cranberries.

H N42 02.253 W70 52.208

2.0 The trail resumes at the Crooker Place Hanson town property on the south side of the active RR line, abutting the LiteControl Property. This town property, formerly a tire and auto parts dump, was cleaned up by the town in early 2007 and is now the Indian Crossway Conservation Area. There are a few parking spots (P=3) at the gate which must not be blocked to allow emergency vehicles to pass. The BCT continues up Crooker Place, turns left onto Main St (Rte 27) then almost immediate right onto Robinson St (parking at playing fields, P=25+), which becomes Pierce Ave as it turns left at the end.

J N42 02.685 W70 52.492

2.9 At the intersection of Pierce Ave and High St, go right on High St heading uphill. You will be passing the Hanson owned **Plymouth County Hospital** property on your right. Plymouth County Extension Service office is at the entrance of this property. At a future date the extensive fields on this property will

host the BCT. Follow the blazes on the utility poles along High St.

4.5 Right onto Liberty St (Rte 58) for 300 ft, turn right on driveway passing to the rear of the Hanson Town Hall overlooking **Wampatuck Pond**. Note the BCT kiosk by the boat ramp. Parking (P=10+) for BCT hikers is available at the Town Hall. Circle behind Town Hall on paved walkway to exit on driveway off east parking lot.

4.8 Cross and turn right onto Liberty St (Rte 58) using sidewalk on the far side, then passes the **Nathaniel Thomas Mill**, heading up the hill and bearing right onto Indian Head St (Rte 58).

K N42 03.721 W70 51.592

5.2 Entrance to **Hanson Town Forest** on Indian Head St, on the right opposite Indian Head school. Parking at south end of ball field parking lot. The BCT loops through this property. At western part of loop, look for right side trail leading to edge of **Wampatuck Pond** (200 ft). The exit from the **Hanson Town Forest** is a short distance from the entrance.

L N42 03.670 W70 51.561

5.9 Limited parking. P=3, rough, undeveloped, on grassy shoulder of road. Exit from **Hanson Town Forest** and take a right onto Indian Head St (Rte 58), cross to the sidewalk and follow the blazes on the utility poles for 0.5 mile. The entrance to **Camp Kiwanee** is on the left.

M N42 03.260 W70 51.439

6.4 Enter **Camp Kiwanee**. Follow the trail

eastward along the tree lined drive for 0.25 mi to kiosk on right before gate house. Parking available past the gate house on left at the Cranberry Cove Beach parking area (P=10+). Please park away from the beach fence and closer to the drive as a courtesy to beachgoers.

N N42 03.338 W70 51.156

6.7 BCT kiosk. Right on trail into woods, and enter **Alton J. Smith Reserve**. This section of trail connecting Hanson and Pembroke is known as the **Mattakeesett Path**. Trail bears left overlooking bogs and continues clockwise around edge of bogs to NE corner, reenter woods, and follow old cart path to BCT kiosk.

7.4 BCT kiosk at Hanson/Pembroke town line.

***Pembroke:** Trail is marked with white rectangular blazes placed high on trees, utility poles, or posts. Offset double blazes indicate a turn in the direction of the upper blaze. The BCT logo is used where the trail crosses a road and as a confidence marker.*

P N42 03.360 W70 50.614

0.0 From BCT kiosk at the Hanson/Pembroke town line, enter **Andruk Bogs**. Go straight to edge of bog canal, then left along edge of canal, sharp right around end of canal, across small wooden bridge and onto old spoil pile created where the canal was dredged.

0.2 Follow narrow trail along edge of canal into **Shepherd Memorial Forest**. At cart path turn left to follow cart path southeast. At trail junction, turn right and follow the trail to a T intersection. Turn left. *(Side trail to the right*

leads down to Indian Head Pond where there are some beautiful spots overlooking the pond.)

0.6 Exit **Shepherd Memorial Forest**. Walk thru the playing field parking lot (P=25+), straight on driveway to come out at Mattakeesett St across from Raymond Ave. (This is the eastern end of the Mattakeesett Path BCT section.)

0.8 Cross Mattakeesett St onto Raymond Ave and then turn left onto William Ave. At the end of William Ave, turn right onto Fairview Ave.

1.1 Follow Fairview Ave along **Great Sandy Bottom Pond** to where it meets Glenwood Rd, then turn left.

R N42 02.900 W70 49.879

1.6 Bear right at the intersection of Glenwood Rd and Ridge Ave and proceed S/SE where there are nice views of old cranberry buildings and bogs **Little Sandy Bottom Pond** can be seen in the distance. Take the left fork and continue as the road becomes bordered by woods.

2.0 At the top of the hill just past power lines, turn left onto a rutted dirt road. Cross the paved road (Sandy Ln) and continue on trail weaving through woods. Turn right at the power line and follow the wooden electric poles behind Bryantville Elementary School. At the bottom of the steep hill, turn right and follow the bog road around a left curve and out to Center St (Rte 36).

2.6 Walk to the far left side of the opening onto the street by the mail box. Cross Center St and enter the paved driveway briefly. In about 20 feet, step off onto the dirt path on the right. *Please stay within the narrow*

corridor of marked path until you climb the hill as the public way closely skirts private property between two houses in this area.

The path passes between some rock outcrops and makes a couple of sharp turns as it goes over the hill and down to **Tubb's Meadow**, an area of old cranberry bogs and ponds.

2.9 Turn left on the bog road and follow it to the cut-through on the left, which leads out to a large sandy area. A stone ring, of unknown origin, is located here.

The BCT follows the bog road to the left and continues around the perimeter of the open area. Many species of birds live here. Watch for ducks, swans, Canada Geese and Great Blue Herons.

When the path crosses a cement culvert, turn left and shortly thereafter, continue on the main trail as it bears right (south). Continue on main trail past the viewing platform on the right.

At the next intersection, bear left, keeping the water on the right. Continue straight to the large Y fork and bear left away from the water.

At the next intersection turn left. After a very short distance follow the primary trail as it bears right.

Continue to the fork and follow the path on the right down the hill, past the viewing platform and around to the left where it enters parking lot

S N42 02.540 W70 48.563

3.9 Main parking area for **Tubb's Meadow Preserve** (P=10) on Monroe St.

Here the trail splits into two separate routes to Kingston Bay. The southern branch heads to

Silver Lake Sanctuary and follows the trail through Kingston. The northern branch heads to Ashdod Forest and follows the trail through Duxbury. Both routes end at the Bay Farm southern terminus of the Bay Circuit Trail.

Pembroke southern branch to Kingston:

S N42 02.540 W70 48.563

- 3.9 Exit the parking area, turn right onto Monroe St (S) and proceed to School St (Rte 27) and turn left. Before the top of the hill, look on the right for two white posts with a low connecting chain, entrance to **Veterans Commemorative Town Forest**.
- 4.5 Enter the **Veterans Commemorative Town Forest** at the white posts. Follow the trail to a T junction and turn right. The trail follows the top of a glacial esker until the first very obvious side trail. Right on this trail, which cuts back sharply to the right, down to the bottom of the esker and then parallel to it. At the T intersection turn right. At the next T turn left.
- 5.0 At Y junction, follow the main trail to the left. *(Take side trail on right for a beautiful overlook of Silver Lake just a short walk up and to the left of the trail. Silver Lake is a reservoir for Brockton and is a beautiful, peaceful body of water with no boating or swimming allowed. Bald eagles have been seen in the area).*
- 5.1 At the T intersection the BCT (main trail) goes left. *(Side trail right goes to another view of the lake and offers a bench.)* Continuing on the main trail, bear right at the Y and go down the hill. Very quickly come upon the next intersection and bear left. Follow the trail up the hill.

Near the top, take the right fork and proceed on the wider path. Proceed straight past intersecting trails on the right and left. At the Y take the left leg and follow it for a distance out to the main entrance and parking (P=10+) where you will exit the **Veterans Commemorative Memorial Forest** at School St (Rte 27).

T N42 01.990 W70 48.063

- 5.5 Left briefly on School St (Rte 27) to the intersection of School and Lake Sts. Cross School St and continue north on Lake St until you reach Plain St at Country Corner Store.
- 5.7 Right onto Plain St and go east to the Plain St trailhead on the right. Parking (P=1 or 2) on north side of Plain St under power lines.
- 5.9 Right on trail down the embankment and thru an old cranberry bog that has been allowed to go wild. Continue to a section of hummocks, walking on them thru a seasonally wet area. (Look for two 80 feet tall hemlocks with ax marks on their trunks made by a surveyor and then notice a boundary marker. Nice place for lunch.) Follow the trail to power line.
- 6.2 Cross diagonally under the power line on a bearing of 120° and bear left into woods to go down an old cart path. Continue on the cart path thru a couple of intersections, turning first right and then left. Look for a trail off to the right and follow it thru a stand of hemlocks, white pines, and holly trees until it rejoins the cart path and turns right. At the next intersection of cart paths turn right and follow the cart path until the trail goes off to the left. Walk thru a brushy area looking for high bush blueberries on the left. Cross a streamlet and enter open woodland.

To the left is the first of two oak and maple swamps. Continue following the trail and come to the power line.

- 7.0 Turn left and follow the power line service road for 100 yds, then right on trail and enter a wooded area. To the right is the second oak and maple swamp. Trail takes a sharp turn to the left onto a cart path. Then stay right at an intersection. Skirt wet areas and cross the headwaters of Mirage Brook. Just before private property ahead, turn right off the cart path. Follow the trail as it zigzags thru a low area and exits right onto another cart path. (These cart paths were actively used when the area was logged and farmed.) After a series of hills, the trail turns off the cart path to the right just after a stone wall, and descends a hill overlooking Mirage Brook. (The brook was named Mirage by local environmental activist Pine duBois because at low water it does not seem to flow). Cross the stream and climb a short hill. Crest the hill and then descend as trail goes along the edge of open woodland. After another short descent, come to Mirage Brook again and cross an unnamed feeder stream on footbridge.

U N42 01.260 W70 47.597

- 8.1 Climb the embankment to School St (Rte 27). End of trail in Pembroke. Left for trail in Kingston.

(Continued on map 14 at point "L")

Pembroke northern branch to Duxbury

S N42 02.540 W70 48.563

3.9 From the Tubbs Meadow parking lot, turn left onto Monroe St. Right onto Hobomock St, then pass Hobomock Ice Arena and the Pembroke Recycling Center.

5.0 Left onto Learning Lane, passing between Pembroke HS and Hobomock Elementary School.

***Pembroke Trail Closure:** BCT is temporarily closed from Learning Ln at the Hobomock School to High St from February 1, 2014, to about August 1, 2014. The trail is closed due to logging operations at Hold Fast Farm. To detour around the closure: Instead of taking a left off Hobomock St onto Learning Ln, continue on Hobomock St for 0.2 mi, left on Standish St for 0.6 mi, left on Forest St for 1.1 mi, and left on High St for 0.1 mi. Turn right onto Old Washington St to continue on the BCT. Check **Trail Notices** on website under the Explore tab for current status.*

V N42 03.418 W70 47.750

5.6 (Parking along Learning Lane near the tennis courts P=25+).

Enter Hobomock School Conservation Area at the left of the cul-de-sac of Learning Lane.

(Continued on map 14 at point "A")

Map 13 – East Bridgewater, Hanson, Pembroke - THE JEWELS

East Bridgewater:

Satucket River Conservation Area (52 acres) – Riverside woodlands, including the town's first

wildlife management area gifts, the **Phillips Wildlife Area**. "Express" trail and a meandering riverside trail that the BCT follows. Access from Bennett Lane off Plymouth St and from Susan Dr off Rolling Hills Dr

Poor Meadow Brook WMA (102 acres) -

Poor Meadow Brook has its headwater in Holbrook and Weymouth and it flows southwesterly to the Satucket River just north of its beginning at Robins Pond. The portion of Poor Meadow Brook in East Bridgewater has seen only a little development over the years. The river is an area deemed to have importance to the East Bridgewater Conservation Commission for conservation purposes.

Robbins Pond State-owned landing area on Pond St

Hanson:

Smith-Nawazelski Conservation Area (Town of Hanson, 101 acres) - This property, named for two local conservationists, abuts the town of East Bridgewater. Diverse habitats include upland forest and fields that continue in active agriculture, and Poor Meadow Brook running along the western edge. Plans for improved trailhead parking are underway.

Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area

(Massachusetts Div of Fisheries and Wildlife; 1,695 acres) - Divided equally between Hanson and Halifax, this property has it all. Wooded uplands, Atlantic White Cedar swamps, open water, and miles of gravel roads and paths invite hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. Acres of cranberry bogs are being returned to more natural wetlands, and the remaining working bogs near

Elm Street are traversed by the Bay Circuit Trail. Many waterfowl species and an active osprey nest provide wildlife watching opportunities. The BCT travels over the historic **Indian Crossway**, or "Tunk", which runs west to east through wetlands that give the hiker unexpected vistas across the landscape of the Great Cedar Swamp. A map of Hanson dated 1870 indicated the "Indian Crossway," which was higher ground through the swamplands, reportedly a place of passage for Native Americans. Today it exists as a remnant of the dike system to control water levels in the growing of cranberries.

Plymouth County Hospital (Town of Hanson, 58 acres) - Northernmost 25 acres of this former tuberculosis hospital are intended to be preserved as the "Bonney Hill Meadows" open space area. Large open meadows are a remnant of the region's agricultural past, surrounded by woods, with **Wampatuck Pond**, cranberry bogs and wetlands off to the east. In the summer months myriads of butterflies can be found in these meadows. Resident and migratory birds abound - watch for hawks hunting over the fields, and glimpse an occasional meadowlark.

Town Hall Park (Town of Hanson, 1 acre) - On the northern shore of Wampatuck Pond (site of a 17th-century millpond), probably the most scenic back-drop for any municipal office on the South Shore of Massachusetts. The reproduction of the historic "Thomas Mill" is located just to the east and across from the parking area.

Hanson Town Forest (Town of Hanson, 35 acres) - Hanson's first conservation area, set aside in the 1930s for forestry, recreation and wildlife. Wampatuck Pond forms its western boundary and

provides water views from trails that wind through tall pines, oaks, beeches, maples, yellow birch and tupelo. Two primitive campsites are managed by the Town Forest Committee.

Camp Kiwanee (Town of Hanson, 64 acres) - Rustic cabin/camping facilities, lodge for functions, Cranberry Cove beach, administered by the Hanson Recreation Committee. Originally built as a summer residence for a wealthy industrialist in 1905, Camp Kiwanee was used by the Camp Fire Girls and the American Red Cross from 1923 to the 1970s. Purchased by the town in 1979, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. Property is mostly wooded, with scenic overlooks of pristine Maquan Pond and working cranberry bogs near Indian Head Pond. Property is the link between the BCT in Hanson and Pembroke.

Alton J. Smith Reserve, better known as **Smitty's Bog**, is a new 103-acre jewel of retired cranberry bogs, wetlands and upland forest managed by the Hanson Conservation Commission. Formerly known as "Edgewood Bogs", this was generously donated by the family of Matt Rhodes in 2011. The Reserve shares a long boundary with town-owned Camp Kiwanee, and connects with undeveloped areas across the town line in Pembroke, resulting in a protected landscape of over 300 acres between Maquan and Indian Head Ponds. The Conservation Commission is partnering with the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on a multi-year project to restore forested wetland habitats, including Atlantic White Cedar, and natural stream flow in Indian Head Brook. The Bay Circuit Trail and a network of old bog roads provide vistas that offer bird sightings such as

Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Kingfisher, Northern Harrier, Eastern Bluebird, and many kinds of waterfowl ; other wildlife includes Whitetail Deer, Muskrat, Mink, and even River Otter.

Pembroke:

Willow Brook Farm Preserve (Wildlands Trust) - trails thru varied habitats including old cranberry bog and a red cedar grove. Observation tower for views of swamp and Herring Brook. Parking on Barker St (Rte 14) southwest of Rte 53.

Hobomock School area - Wide paths running through a densely wooded area, including a historic cart path marked on early maps. Old fieldstone walls criss-cross the property. Best hiked as a linear path, starting at the parking lot at the very end of Learning Lane (off Hobomock St). Main trail marked with painted white blazes; many unmarked and unmapped side trails.

Veteran's Commemorative Town Forest - This beautiful pine forest nestles on the shores of Silver Lake. Many trails crisscross this hilly preserve and occasionally offer lovely views of the peaceful reservoir. Parking at the main entrance on Rte. 27 near the Pembroke Community Middle School.

Tubb's Meadow Preserve - 125 acres of diverse habitat including old cranberry bogs, dirt roads, a large reservoir, unaltered wetlands and acres of oak and pine uplands. It is home to many animals and birds. Two parking areas are located off Mill St. near Center St. and off Monroe St. Map online:

<http://pembrokema.gov/Conservation%20files/Tubs%20Meadow%20Trails.pdf>

Mirage Brook Forest - Large diverse area of woodlands, old cranberry bogs, natural wetlands, and streams. Site of two giant 80-ft high eastern hemlocks. Forest is located on the Bay Circuit Trail between Plain and School Sts.

Map 13 – East Bridgewater, Hanson, Pembroke - FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maps and trail guides:

Relevant USGS topo maps are 7.5 x 7.5 Whitman, Bridgewater, Hanover, and Plimpton

Burrage Pond WMA map at South Eastern District office of Mass Dept. of Fish and Game (195 Bournedale Rd, Buzzards Bay) and online www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/maps/wma/sotheast_maps.htm

land and water protection organizations:
East Bridgewater Conservation Commission - www.eastbridgewaterma.org/

Hanson Conservation Commission – www.hanson-ma.gov/

Pembroke Conservation Commission – 100 Center St, Pembroke 02359 781-293-3844, <http://www.pembroke-ma.gov/conservationcommission.html>

Hanson Town Forest Committee—see town

website: www.hanson-ma.gov/

Wildlands Trust of Southeastern

Massachusetts - A non-profit land conservation organization founded in Plymouth in 1973. Works with private landowners on gifts of beloved land, conservation restrictions, and (rarely) purchases land. The Trust now owns or holds conservation restrictions on more than 140 properties, protecting over 4,500 acres of land in 26 communities and growing. Membership applications on line. Also some maps and suggested walks. www.wildlandstrust.org

Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife – manages Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area www.mass.gov/dfwele/

Pembroke Watershed Association – Mission is to educate the public and to restore and preserve the ponds of Pembroke for clean and safe recreational use. Events and photos on website. www.pembrokewatershed.com/

North and South Rivers Watershed Assn – river and stream protection and activities. Events and membership info on-line www.nsrwa.org

Taunton River Watershed Alliance – river and stream protection and activities. Membership info on-line. www.savethetaunton.org

Green Hanson – a citizens' group whose mission is to foster a culture of environmental awareness and to support stewardship of community and natural resources. www.greenhanson.org

Charles River Wheelmen - very active group of bicyclists that lead rides of varying lengths

throughout BC area. Excellent website lists rides, membership & other info www.crw.org

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