

# Mashpee Land Stewards Program



A cooperative “Open Space Lands” stewardship program connecting regional citizen volunteers and Land owners.

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# Land Stewards Program

## Introduction

As the current beneficiaries of the area's ecological assets, we share the accompanying responsibility of protecting and maintaining lands set aside for the public's enjoyment and recreation, to protect our water resources and plant and wildlife habitat, and to preserve some of the Cape's unique natural beauty.

Without a strong stewardship program to monitor the lands controlled by the Towns and other participating entities, open space properties can be degraded or lost. It is important to ensure any applicable conservation restrictions, boundaries and land use are maintained over time. A byproduct of a good stewardship program is greater public support for conservation lands.

The Land Stewards Program is a cooperative effort undertaken to provide a positive presence on open space lands. It combines monitoring, reporting and minor maintenance activities into a team effort aimed at protection and preservation of these invaluable assets.

The grassroots land steward strives to:

1. Assure monitoring frequency for parcels is at least once each year.
2. Conduct monitoring to checklist instructions and document results.
3. Accomplish minor existing trail maintenance (hand clippers).
4. Remove small quantities of litter.
5. Establish a documented record of Stewardship activities.
6. Identify and report safety hazards, illegal dumping, erosion problems, major trail problems (downed trees, etc), All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) damage, encroachment, etc.
7. Participate in activities contributing to property improvements and clean-ups.
8. Provide the Steward's Coordinator with copies of activities and notification of problems that should be brought to the attention of the property owner

## Land Steward's Role

The primary responsibility of the land steward is caretaking, "to be a presence on the land". The steward should monitor the land regularly, assist to keep trails cleared, and support cleanup efforts when necessary. The steward is encouraged to establish a group of volunteers to help on the property. Activities accomplished under this role are reported to the Steward's Coordinator on a "Visit Checklist"

**Guidelines for monitoring:**

- Walk boundaries once or twice per year;
- Note how the property is used;
- Notice any erosion problems;
- Check for encroachment;
- Note any safety hazards. Bring to attention of Steward Team Leader
- Maintain trails (when necessary):
- Hand prune trail encumbering growth;
- If hand pruning is not feasible bring to attention of Steward Team Leader;
- Keep signs visible;
- Note location of any identified invasive plants;
- Pick-up small size/volume litter

**Optional Duties**

- Assist interpreters on guided tours.
- Take part in organized clean-ups.

**Do not:**

- Perform maintenance using power tools.
- Construct new trails without prior approvals.
- Enter into confrontational situations with others harming the property.
- Introduce new plantings without prior approvals.

**Procedures for Reporting Illegal Activities**

Items such as mattresses, cars, furniture and large piles of trash that cannot be removed by the steward should be reported to the steward's coordinator for follow-up. If a party is caught in the act, give a description of the vehicle and the person or persons dumping the trash to the coordinator.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited on town land. Experience has shown that gates and boulders are not effective in keeping ATVs out of open space lands. The steward should document, as accurately as possible, locations of physical damage, if the incursions appear to be continuous and any other information that could lead to identification of the operator(s). Reports should be delivered to the steward's coordinator.

If a steward finds needles or syringes or other items that present a safety risk, they should make a description of the location that can be used by others to identify the location and notify the police Dept. as soon as possible.

**Liability**

All Land Steward activities are considered individual "Volunteerism" and no liability insurance exists for participants in the program. All individuals are expected to exercise reasonable care and cautions to protect themselves from harmful events.

Open space areas may be home to insects such as ticks, mosquitoes and similar pests as well as plants such as poison ivy. Stewards should be aware of and take precautions against these threats.

### **Land Evaluations — an Annual Physical for the Land**

The land steward's second responsibility is to submit an annual evaluation report on the property. Once a year an evaluation form is filled out and sent to the area coordinator. This document acts as the land's "annual physical," recording the health of the land and any changes over time.

#### **What is the steward's role?**

An on-foot inspection of the property and boundaries;  
Record positive, neutral, or negative changes on evaluation form;  
Return this information back to the area manager.

#### **Prepare for the visit:**

Notify Coordinator of any support needs to accomplish the annual physical.

#### **What to look for and record:**

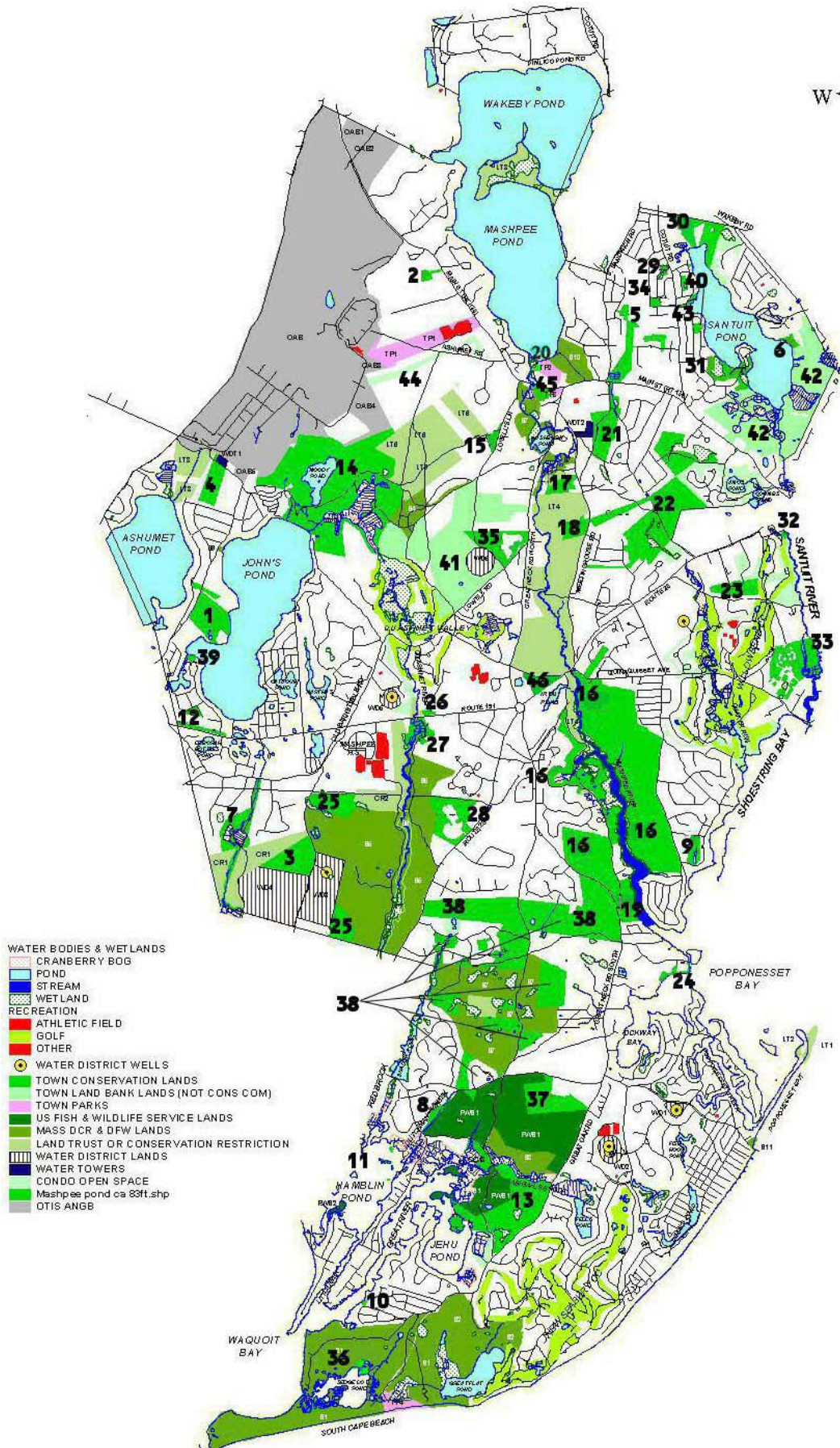
Clues that suggest change, i.e. new roads, worn tire paths, piles of brush or debris, downed trees, trash, changes in vegetation, cleared land;  
Ask questions about any changes from neighbors or walkers you meet;  
Walk the boundaries to check for encroachment;  
Look for special features, invasive species, unusual plant life, evidence of wildlife, terrain change;  
Observe trail usage and condition.  
Observe signage, especially along boundaries.

### **Land Steward Coordinator's Role**

Maintain steward vs assigned area list  
Facilitate steward activities and recognition  
Interface between stewards and property owners  
Track status  
Coordinate with agencies providing volunteers  
Document program status annually  
Assist in organizing annual clean-ups

# **Appendix A**

## **OPEN SPACE MAP**



- WATER BODIES & WETLANDS**
- CRANBERRY BOG
  - POND
  - STREAM
  - WET LAND
- RECREATION**
- ATHLETIC FIELD
  - GOLF
  - OTHER
- OTHER**
- WATER DISTRICT WELLS
  - TOWN CONSERVATION LANDS
  - TOWN LAND BANK LANDS (NOT CONS COM)
  - TOWN PARKS
  - US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE LANDS
  - MASS DCR & DFW LANDS
  - LAND TRUST OR CONSERVATION RESTRICTION
  - WATER DISTRICT LANDS
  - WATER TOWERS
  - CONDO OPEN SPACE
  - Mashpee pond ca 83ft.shp
  - OTIS ANGB

# **Appendix B**

## **PROPERTY LISTS**





**TOWN OF MASHPEE CONSERVATION AREAS**

<b>MAP KEY</b>	<b>PARCEL</b>	<b>MAP/BLOCK</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>USE</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b>
1	Alper CA	57/26&47	103&140 Hooppole Rd.	33.280	OS	Good
2	Anchor Donation	19/11 part	600 Main St.	2.430	OS	Fair
3	Andrade CA	86/1&2	137&185 Turner Rd.	32.700	OS	Poor
4	Back Rd.	41/34	Back Rd.	19.365	OS	Good
5	Besse Bog CA	6 lots	311 Main St.	23.768	OS/C. Bog	Good
6	Bickerstaffe CA	30/117	6 Chopchaque Rd.	3.500	OS/Wetland/Water	Fair
7	Childs River CA	5 lots	694 Old Barnstable Rd.	37.800	OS/Stream/Bogs	Poor
8	Dutchman's Cr. CA	109/7, 20-23	80 Monomoscoy Rd.	8.270	OS	Good
9	Frog Pond CA	90/89	20 Frog Pond Close	7.780	OS	Fair
10	Great River CA	125/155	77 Wippoorwill Cir.	0.500	OS/Water access	Good
11	Hamblin Pond CA	114/1-4,4A	islands in Hamblin Pond	1.480	Island	Island
12	James Circle	71/16,77,84&164	James Cir./Rt. 151	5.730	OS	Good
13	Jehu Pond CA	115/12-16,19 121/100, 102	Great Oak / Great Hay Rd.	109.490	Os/Wetland/Water	Good
14	Johns Pond Park CA	19 lots	Back Rd./ Grafton Pocknett Rd	308.024	OS/Beach/	Good
15	Lovell's Lane, CA	2 lots	101-125 Lovells Ln.	4.900	OS	Good

16	M.R. Woodlands CA	9 lots	Quinaquisset Ave/ Mashpee Neck Rd/ River Rd/ G.N. South	391.410	Trails/Canoe/ Picnic/Fishing	Good
17	M.R. Woodlands - Lopez	45/9	127 Meetinghouse Rd. River Rd/G N South	15.220	OS/Trails	Good
18	M.R. Woodlands - Fitch	53/81	233 Meetinghouse Rd.	11.200	OS/Trails	Good
19	MR. Woodlands - Desrosiers	95/47	408 Great Neck Rd. South	13.700	OS/Trails	Good
20	Mashpee Pond CA	27/45	28 Lake Av.	1.800	OS	Excellent
21	Noisy Hole CA - Als	36 /35&38	Goodspeeds Rd.	32.200	OS/Wetland	Good
22	Noisy Hole CA - South	9 lots	Noisy Hole Rd.	129.189	OS	Poor
23	Pheasant Run CA	62/152, 63/6	Cape Dr.	13.610	OS/Power Line	Good
24	Punkhorn Point CA	100/14	end of Punkhorn Point Rd.	2.600	OS/Landing	Fair
25	Quashnet River CA	79/17, 8014, 92/4	off Turner Rd.	44.280	OS	Poor
26	Quashnet River CA - Bates Road	73/33	153 Nathan Ellis (Rt. 151)	1.640	OS	Good
27	Quashnet River CA - Dawson	73/11	166 Nathan Ellis CRT. 151)	14.500	OS /Wetland	Good
28	Quashnet Woods	81/120,121&122	2 Quashnet Woods Dr.	26.961	OS	Unofficial
29	Radcliffe Rd.	22/34,114&115	35 Radcliffe Rd.	2.015	Vernal Pool	Good
30	Sachem's Field CA	16/5,6&8 + land In Sandwich	Wakeby Rd.	27.200	OS/Trails	Poor
31	Santuit Pond CA ‘	27 lots	Shields Rd.	16.174	OS/Trails	Fair
32	Santuit River CA – North	55/2	off Rt 28	0.865	OS	None

33	Santuit River CA	46 lots	Popponeset Ave	37.150 OS/Trails	Good
34	Scituate Rd.	22/135	Scituate Rd.	2.610 OS	Good
35	Sconset Village	52/146-148	Lowell Rd.	21.320 OS	Good
36	Sedge Lot Pond CA	130/20,134/21 &22	South Cape Beach	10.300 Marsh	Poor
37	Sipps Road CA	110/67,70&71	50 Sipps Rd.	32.250 OS	Good
38	South Mashpee Pine Barrens CA	21 lots	Great Hay Road	278.990 OS/Trails	Good
39	Sunset Circle	64/22	59 Sunset Cir.	0.314 OS/Water access	Good
40	Timberlane Lots	11 lots	Timberlane Dr. & Autumn Dr.	5.185 OS	Good

**TOWN OF MASHPEE LAND BANK PROPERTIES - NOT CONS COM**

<b>MAP</b>	<b>PARCEL</b>	<b>MAP/BLOCK</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>USE</b>	<b>PUBLIC</b>
<b>KEY</b>						<b>ACCESS</b>
41	Quashnet Woodlands (Belcher and Cape Club)	44/46,51/5	between GN North! Lowell Rd./ Great Hay Rd./Quashnet Rd	192.95	os	Good
42	Santuit Pond Preserve	15 lots (not including portion in Barnstable)	off Rt. 130 and Newtown Rd.	185.89	os	Fair
43	Silva	22/22	105 Timberlane Dr.	0.460	os	Good
44	Johnson Road (Jackson)	35/7	64 Johnson Rd.	0.12	os	Poor
45	Attaquin Property	28/3, 36/10 & 36/80	400,409 & 415 Main St.	9.3	os	Good
46	Mashpee Place	67/76-77,68/104-105	between Great Neck Rd. North / Route 28 / Old Barnstable Rd.	16.46	os	Good

# **Appendix C**

## **Report Form**

## Report Form

Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Steward: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Property Key # \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Condition of the Property

	Yes	No	See comment Below
Are there adequate boundary markers?			
Is there dumping of trash? (Please explain, e.g., large items, truckloads of debris, brush or leaves)			
Are neighbors encroaching? -(Describe)			
Is there evidence of ATV use?			
Is there evidence of fires on the property?			
Have you received any complaints? (Explain)			
Have any trees or shrubs been cut down?			
Have storms brought down trees or limbs that need to be cleared from paths?			

Section 1. comments

### 2. Natural Landscape

	Yes	No	Comment on Back
Have you seen any bird life?			
What other animals have you seen?			
Are any trees or other plants unhealthy or dying?			
Are invasive species taking over in any area?			
Are there any features of note you particularly enjoy seeing?			

### 3. General Observations

Please give your general impressions of the property since your last visit. Has anything changed?

### 4. Suggestions

Do you have any recommendations for improvements (e.g., trails, signage, parking to improve public access; removal of invasives; boundary markers)?

Please place additional Comment here.



# **Appendix D**

## **Some Invasive Species**

## **Phragmites (An Invasive Species)**



## Japanese Knotweed (An Invasive Species)





**Asian Bittersweet (an Invasive Species)**





**Purple Loosestrife (An Invasive Species)**



**Burning Bush (An Invasive Species)**





**Norway Maple (An Invasive Species)**





## Japanese Barberry (An Invasive Species)





**Japanese Honeysuckle (An Invasive Species)**



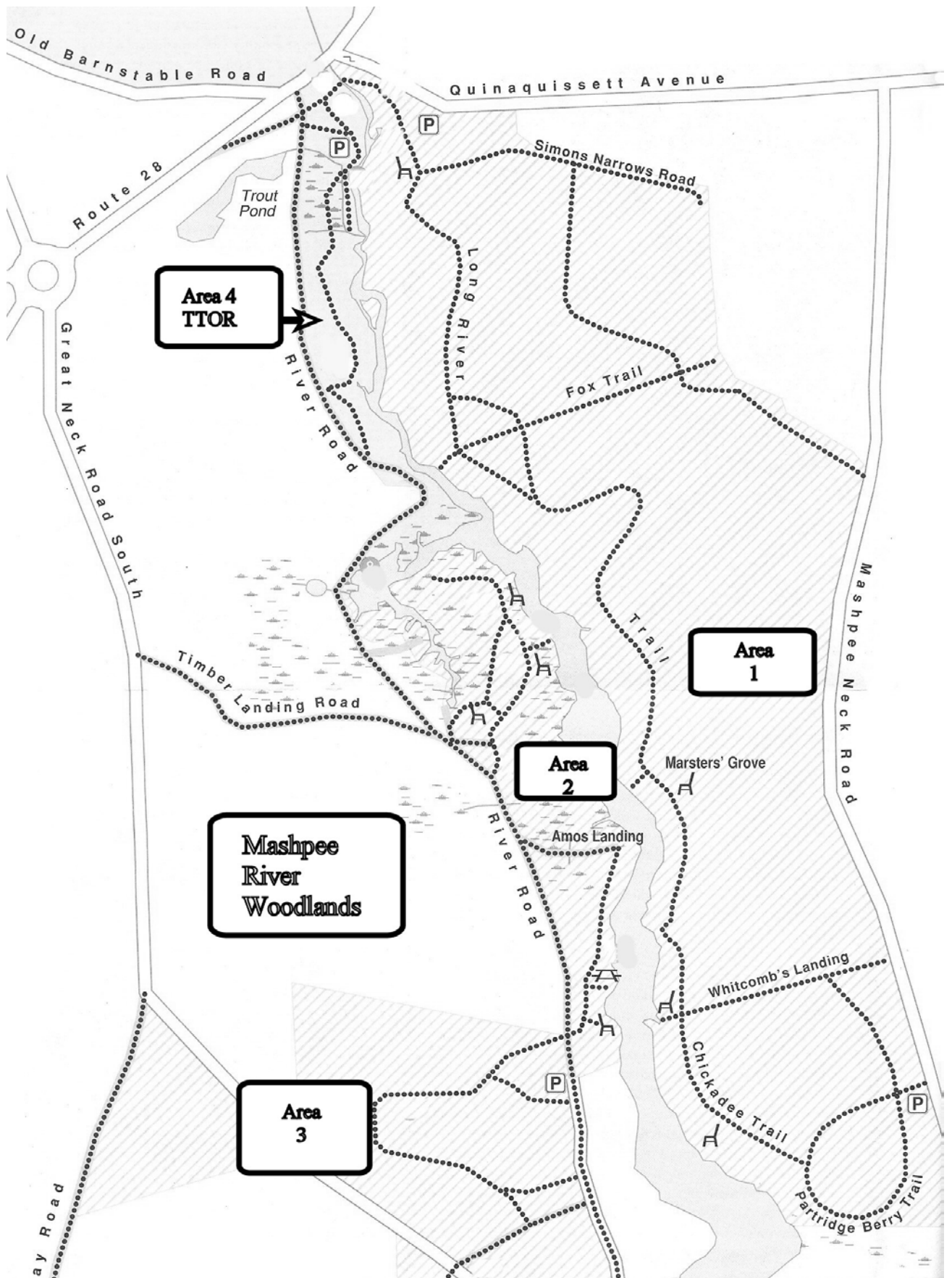


**Autumn Olive (An Invasive Species)**



# **Appendix E**

## **Individual Area Maps**



**Desrosiers  
Parcel 19**



Mashpee River

GREEN HILL RD  
200 FT

20

25 47.5

40

50

35

30

25

20

15

10

5

0

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

# **Appendix F**

## **Steward Assignments**









**Appendix G**

**Calendar Year  
Status**

