



WENAKEENING WOODS TRAIL MAP

HISTORY

The Nipmuc tribe had a settlement along the shores of Lake Winthrop in Holliston. Native Americans knew the pond as Lake Wenakeening (translation: "Smile of the Great Spirit"). The land was later used as a farm named Green Hills that was purchased by Kate Sanborn and her brother Edwin as part of her gentleman's farm known as Breezy Meadows. Ms. Sanborn's final home was located on what is now known as the Betania II property in Medway that adjoins Wenakeening Woods. Ms. Sanborn lived there from 1888 to 1917 and is best noted for her books "Adopting an Abandoned Farm" and "Abandoning an Adopted Farm."

The Avery Dennison Corporation donated the 104 acres of Wenakeening Woods to the Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust in 1992. In turn, the Land Trust granted a conservation restriction to The Trustees of Reservations. Later, an additional 5 acres near Mission Springs were added. The Upper Charles Trail (initially conceived by the Land Trust) abuts Wenakeening Woods and attracts many visitors.

The past agricultural use of the land is evident. Farmers cleared the area and constructed stone walls throughout the property. An old cranberry bog is located on site as are foundation holes associated with the farmhouse and outbuildings. Today, the land supports a typical mixture of hardwoods (maples and oaks) and white pines.

WILDLIFE

Chicken Brook flows through Wenakeening Woods and the water attracts many types of birds such as owls, woodpeckers, vireos, wrens, and wood ducks. Mammals also populate the area, most notably raccoons and white tail deer. In 2014 a beaver dam started to cause significant flooding. The Land Trust installed a "beaver deceiver" pipe that enables the stream to flow, reduces water levels, and permits the beaver family to stay on the property.



NOTICE
BETANIA II SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER - PRIVATE
PROPERTY. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL AND LEASH
DOGS AT ALL TIMES.

Financed by the Holliston Community Preservation Committee