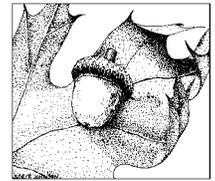




FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Submitted to: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
For enrollment in CH61/61A/61B and/or Forest Stewardship Program



CHECK-OFFS					Administrative Box			
CH61 cert. <input type="checkbox"/>	CH61A cert. <input type="checkbox"/>	CH61B cert. <input type="checkbox"/>	STWSHP new <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C-S EEA <input type="checkbox"/>	Case No. _____	Orig. Case No. _____		
recert. <input type="checkbox"/>	recert. <input type="checkbox"/>	recert. <input type="checkbox"/>	renew <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Owner ID _____	Add. Case No. _____		
amend <input type="checkbox"/>	amend <input type="checkbox"/>	amend <input type="checkbox"/>	Green Cert <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Rec'd _____	Ecoregion _____		
Plan Change: _____ to _____				Conservation Rest. <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan Period _____	Topo Name <u>Lawrence</u>		
				CR Holder _____	Rare Sp. Hab. _____	River Basin <u>Merrimac</u>		

OWNER, PROPERTY, and PREPARER INFORMATION

Property Owner(s) City of Haverhill, Haverhill Conservation Dept., c/o Robert E. Moore (Wheeler Woods CA)
Mailing Address City Hall Room 310, 4 Summer Street, Haverhill, MA 01830 Phone 978-420-3678

Property Location: Town(s) Haverhill Road(s) Boxford Road

Plan Preparer Gary H. Gouldrup, New England Forestry Cons., Inc. Mass. Forester License # 81
Mailing Address 72 Townsend Street, Pepperell, MA 01463 Phone 978-433-8780

RECORDS

Assessor's Map No.	Lot/Parcel No.	Deed Book	Deed Page	Total Acres	Ch61/61A/61B Excluded Acres	Ch61/61A/61B Certified Acres	Stewardship Excluded Acres	Stewardship Acres
11	1	15517	6	27.61	NA	NA	0.00	27.61
11	2	NA	NA	13.20	NA	NA	0.00	13.20
TOTALS				40.81	NA	NA	0.00	40.81

Excluded Area Description(s) (if additional space needed, continue on separate paper)

There are no excluded areas from Forest Stewardship Management.

HISTORY Year acquired 1999 Year management began 2014

Is subdivision plan on file with municipality? Yes No

Are boundaries blazed/painted/flagged/signs posted? (circle all that apply) Yes No Partially

Have forest products been cut within past 2 years? Yes No

What treatments have been prescribed, but not carried out (last 10 years if plan is a recert.)?

Stand no. NA Treatment NA Reason NA

(if additional space needed, continue on separate page)

Previous Management Practices (last 10 years)

Stand #	Cutting Plan #	Treatment	Yield	Value	Acres	Date
<u>1</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>Trail Mgt.</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>2005-14</u>

Remarks: (if additional space needed, continue on separate page)

This is the first Forest Stewardship Plan prepared for the property.

RECORDS (continued)

Assessor's Map No.	Lot/Parcel No.	Deed Book	Deed Page	Total Acres	Ch61/61A/61B Excluded Acres	Ch61/61A/61B Certified Acres	Stewardship Excluded Acres	Stewardship Acres
11	1	15517	6	27.61	NA	NA	0.00	27.61
11	2	UK	UK	13.20	NA	NA	0.00	13.20
TOTALS				40.81	NA	NA	0.00	40.81

EXCLUDED AREA DESCRIPTION (continued):

There are no excluded areas from Forest Stewardship Management.

HISTORY (continued):

<u>*Stand #</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Mgt. Practice</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Year</u>
1	24+/-	Trail Maintenance	NA	NA	2005-14

This is the first Forest Management Plan for the Wheeler Woods property.

Trail maintenance has been the only management conducted on the property since it was acquired.

Owner(s) Haverhill – Wheeler Woods Town(s) Haverhill



Property Overview, Regional Significance, and Management Summary

The 40-acre Wheeler Woods forest is located in a southern section of Haverhill along the northeast side of Chadwick Pond with road frontage along Boxford Road. The property is surrounded by private landowners in a semi-rural setting. A few working farms are located just north of the property. The nearest property with long term protection is Haverhill's Dead Hill Reservoir lot (62-acres) located less than a half-mile east of the property. The property is listed in the Haverhill Trails Committee guide: [A Guide to Exploring Haverhill Trails](#). The Guide provides some history of the properties acquisition and past use:

“Wheeler Woods was created by combining 13-acres of existing City land with a 28-acre lot purchased in 1999 from Benjamin Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed managing the woodlot and fishing from the shores of Chadwick Pond during his 30-years that he owned the property. Mr. Wheeler sold the land that he loved with the stipulation that it would always remain open space for the public to enjoy through passive recreational activities.” (Haverhill Trails Committee, 2009).

The property lies in the Merrimack River Watershed. Water that passes through the property flows east into Johnson's Pond in Groveland and eventually into the Merrimack River located less than a mile from the property. The property is located along the shore of Chadwick Pond which is a reserve water supply for the City of Haverhill.

The forest stewardship land is comprised of mature upland woodlands (59%), red maple swamp (7%), and open deep marsh wetland resource areas along Chadwick Pond (34%). Red oak and mixed hardwoods dominate the upland areas. Timber resource quality ranges from poor to high. The red oak timber resources are generally well formed and fair to high in timber quality. A small stand of large diameter white ash trees are located just west of the parking lot area. A quarantine of white ash forest products in Essex County was recently imposed by the USDA due to the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer found in North Andover. The white ash trees will be monitored during this ten year management period for its presence. Firewood was harvested from the property during the years Mr. Wheeler owned the property. No commercial harvesting has occurred on the property. Invasive and non-native vegetation on the property is not prevalent and consists of scattered Japanese barberry, buckthorn and honeysuckle.

Forest soils on the upland sections of the property include well and moderately well drained fine sandy loam soils (Woodbridge-Charlton). Wetland resource areas are poorly drained and consist of fine sandy loam soils (Sutton), and very poorly drained organic soils (Freetown Muck). The majority of the upland forest soils are productive and capable of producing high quality timber resources. The organic muck soils along Chadwick Pond are saturated throughout the year and are not capable of producing timber resources at this time.



Property Overview, Regional Significance, and Management Summary

The Haverhill City Mayor, through the Conservation Department, established the Haverhill Forest Stewardship Committee in 2009. The Forest Stewardship Committee has developed the following goals for the Wheeler Woods property:

Management will focus on promoting a healthy forest environment for the safety and enjoyment of the residents of Haverhill and others who will visit the property. The City would like to specifically accomplish the following on this property:

- Enhance both the quality and quantity of future timber products;
- Conduct a biomass operation to improve regeneration and aesthetics;
- Produce firewood that will be made available to residents;
- Enhance wildlife habitat by diversifying tree age and species
- Improve parking conditions and contain vehicular activities to the parking area;
- Create a picnic grove near the shore of Chadwick Pond;
- Protect the water quality of Chadwick Pond;
- Protect Rare & Endangered Species; and
- Maintain the existing trails and create a self-guided stewardship trail for public education and enjoyment.

Timber resource management will be aimed at enhancing the quality of timber resources into the future while improving wildlife habitats and aesthetics throughout the property. Commercial sales of timber will require whole-tree chipping of low quality trees and portions of trees that do not have firewood or sawtimber products primarily for aesthetic and fire protection purposes. Removing low quality hardwoods for firewood will be done in order to generate a supply of firewood for the residents of Haverhill.

The primary management objective of the Wheeler Woods property will be to preserve, maintain and improve water quality as a public water resource supply for the residents of Haverhill. The Haverhill Forest Stewardship Committee has reviewed the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System Land Management Plan, 2007-2017. The Quabbin Forest Management Objectives can be found on page 144 of the Plan. The Forest Stewardship Committee would like to pursue management of the Wheeler Woods property as stated in the first paragraph under the “Primary Objectives” (5.2.3.1). *“The primary objective of forest management of the Quabbin (Wheeler Woods) forest is to create and maintain a complex forest structure, which forms a protective forest cover and a biological filter on the watershed land. This watershed protection forest is designed to be vigorous, diverse in species and age, actively accumulating biomass, conserving ecological and economic values, actively regenerating, and most importantly maintaining a predictable flow of high quality water from the land”*.

The Forest Stewardship Committee will use the Quabbin Plan as a guide when managing the Wheeler Woods watershed lands.



Property Overview, Regional Significance, and Management Summary

Management on the Chadwick Pond Watershed will be approached by using the “*Subwatershed Administration of Forest Management*”. The Quabbin Plan defines a subwatershed on page 145 (5.2.3.21). “A subwatershed is defined in most cases as the land area that drains to a perennial tributary of the reservoir.” The Quabbin Plan defines this management theory on page 146 (5.2.3.2.2). “The general theory behind the use of subwatershed-based planning is to control the proportion of a drainage area that is disturbed by management activities (e.g., logging or road work) during the management period in order to reduce the chances of water quality impacts. This approach is partly based on research on experimental watersheds throughout the eastern US that indicate that until approximately 25-30% of the watershed overstory stocking is harvested (assuming nearly 100% forest cover type), there is no detectable increase in water yield (Hornbeck and Kochenderfer, 2004: Hornbeck et al., 1993). As increases in transport of sediments and nutrients to tributaries and the reservoir are directly related to increases in water yield, it follows that the 25-30% threshold also applies to water quality changes (so long as Conservation Management Practices are in place, the greatest concern is with the movement of nutrients rather than sediments). The same research also demonstrated that water yield generally returns to pre-harvest conditions as the harvested area regenerates – usually within 3-10 years.”

Wildlife habitats will be enhanced through the timber harvesting practices. Creating multiple age classes within the forest will benefit a variety of wildlife species. Identifying large “Legacy Trees” will be done to promote “Old Growth” characteristics within the forest where these trees exist and where this practice is applicable. Wood duck nest boxes will be considered in the partially vegetated and open wetland resource areas.

All forest management activities will be sensitive to protecting water quality, soils, cultural resources, wildlife habitats, rare and endangered species and their habitats, aesthetics and recreational values. When harvesting timber resources on the property a Chapter 132 Cutting Plan will be filed with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife’s Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) will make recommendations to protect any special vegetation or wildlife and their habitats should they exist on the property. Currently, NHESP identifies habitat for the *Least Bittern* and the *Eastern Pond Mussel* as species of concern that are on or near the property.

Trail maintenance and interpretive signage will be a priority on this forest for the safety and forest stewardship education of those using the property. Creating a picnic grove along the shore of Chadwick Pond will also be pursued.

Timber resource management will be aimed at enhancing the quality of timber resources into the future while improving wildlife habitats and aesthetics throughout the property. Commercial sales of timber will require whole-tree chipping of low quality trees and portions of trees that do not have firewood or sawtimber products primarily for aesthetic and fire protection purposes. Removing low quality hardwoods for firewood will be done in order to generate a supply of firewood for the residents of Haverhill.

Owner(s) City of Haverhill – Wheeler Woods

Town(s) Haverhill

Landowner Goals

Please **check** the column that best reflects the importance of the following goals:

Goal	Importance to Me			
	High	Medium	Low	Don't Know
Enhance the Quality/Quantity of Timber Products*	X			
Generate Immediate Income		X		
Generate Long Term Income	X			
Produce Firewood	X			
Promote Biological Diversity	X			
Enhance Habitat for Birds	X			
Enhance Habitat for Small Animals	X			
Enhance Habitat for Large Animals	X			
Improve Access for Walking/Skiing/Recreation	X			
Maintain or Enhance Privacy		X		
Improve Hunting		X		
Improve Fishing	X			
Preserve or Improve Scenic Beauty	X			
Protect Water Quality	X			
Protect Unique/Special/ Cultural Areas (Dam)	X			
Other: Attain Green Certification				X
Other: Public Education & Outreach	X			

* **This goal must be checked "HIGH" if you are interested in classifying your land under Chapter 61/61A.**

1. In your own words please describe your goals for the property:

The City of Haverhill would like to improve and protect the forest resources on the Wheeler Woods property for the benefit of the residents of Haverhill. Protecting the Chadwick Pond Watershed is a high priority. These goals will be accomplished by periodically harvesting timber resources, discouraging the use of unauthorized motor vehicle use (ATV's), enhancing wildlife habitat, and educating the public on forest stewardship matters.

Stewardship Purpose

By enrolling in the Forest Stewardship Program and following a Stewardship Plan, I understand that I will be joining with many other landowners across the state in a program that promotes ecologically responsible resource management through the following actions and values:

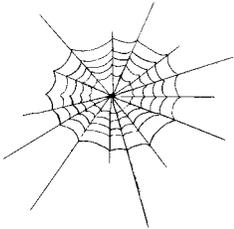
1. Managing for long-term forest health, productivity, diversity, and quality.
2. Conserving or enhancing water quality, wetlands, soil productivity, biodiversity, cultural, historical and aesthetic resources.
3. Following a strategy guided by well-founded silvicultural principles to improve timber quality and quantity when wood products are a goal.
4. Setting high standards for foresters, loggers and other operators as practices are implemented; and minimizing negative impacts.
5. Learning how woodlands benefit and affect surrounding communities, and cooperation with neighboring owners to accomplish mutual goals when practical.

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

Stewardship Issues

Massachusetts is a small state, but it contains a tremendous variety of ecosystems, plant and animal species, management challenges, and opportunities. This section of your plan will provide background information about the Massachusetts forest landscape as well as issues that might affect your land. **The Stand Descriptions and Management Practices sections of your plan will give more detailed property specific information** on these subjects tailored to your management goals.



Biodiversity: Biological diversity is, in part, a measure of the variety of plants and animals, the communities they form, and the ecological processes (such as water and nutrient cycling) that sustain them. With the recognition that each species has value, individually and as part of its natural community, maintaining biodiversity has become an important resource management goal.

While the biggest threat to biodiversity in Massachusetts is the loss of habitat to development, another threat is the introduction and spread of invasive non-native plants. Non-native invasives like European Buckthorn, Asiatic Bittersweet, and Japanese Honeysuckle spread quickly, crowding out or smothering native species and upsetting and dramatically altering ecosystem structure and function. Once established, invasives are difficult to control and even harder to eradicate. Therefore, vigilance and early intervention are paramount.

Another factor influencing biodiversity in Massachusetts concerns the amount and distribution of forest growth stages. Wildlife biologists have recommended that, for optimal wildlife habitat on a landscape scale, 5-15% of the forest should be in the seedling stage (less than 1" in diameter). Yet we currently have no more than 2-3% early successional stage seedling forest across the state. There is also a shortage of forest with large diameter trees (greater than 20"). See more about how you can manage your land with biodiversity in mind in the "Wildlife" section below. (Also refer to *Managing Forests to Enhance Wildlife Diversity in Massachusetts* and *A Guide to Invasive Plants in Massachusetts* in the binder pockets.)

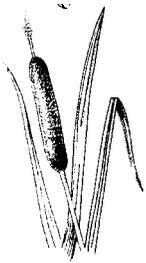


Rare Species: Rare species include those that are **threatened** (abundant in parts of its range but declining in total numbers, those of **special concern** (any species that has suffered a decline that could threaten the species if left unchecked), and **endangered** (at immediate risk of extinction and probably cannot survive without direct human intervention). Some species are threatened or endangered globally, while others are common globally but rare in Massachusetts.

Of the 2,040 plant and animal species (not including insects) in Massachusetts, 424 are considered rare. About 100 of these rare species are known to occur in woodlands. Most of these are found in wooded wetlands, especially vernal pools. These temporary shallow pools dry up by late summer, but provide crucial breeding habitat for rare salamanders and a host of other unusual forest dwelling invertebrates. Although many species in Massachusetts are adapted to and thrive in recently disturbed forests, rare species are often very sensitive to any changes in their habitat

Indispensable to rare species protection is a set of maps maintained by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) that show current and historic locations of rare species and their habitats. The maps of your property will be compared to these rare species maps and the result indicated on the upper right corner of the front page of the plan. Prior to any

regulated timber harvest, if an occurrence does show on the map, the NHESP will recommend protective measures. Possible measures include restricting logging operations to frozen periods of the year, or keeping logging equipment out of sensitive areas. You might also use information from NHESP to consider implementing management activities to improve the habitat for these special species.



Riparian and Wetlands Areas: Riparian and wetland areas are transition areas between open water features (lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers) and the drier terrestrial ecosystems. More specifically, a **wetland** is an area that has hydric (wet) soils and a unique community of plants that are adapted to live in these wet soils. Wetlands may be adjacent to streams or ponds, or a wetland may be found isolated in an otherwise drier landscape. A **riparian area** is the transition zone between an open water feature and the uplands (see Figure 1). A riparian zone may contain wetlands, but also includes areas with somewhat better drained soils. It is easiest to think of riparian areas as the places where land and water meet.

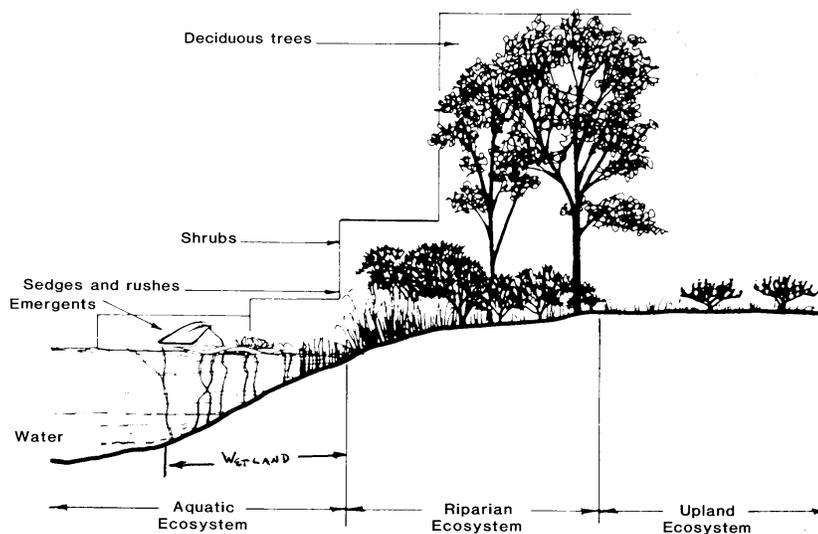


Figure 1: Example of a riparian zone.

The presence of water in riparian and wetland areas make these special places very important. Some of the functions and values that these areas provide are described below:

Filtration: Riparian zones capture and filter out sediment, chemicals and debris before they reach streams, rivers, lakes and drinking water supplies. This helps to keep our drinking water cleaner, and saves communities money by making the need for costly filtration much less likely.

Flood control: By storing water after rainstorms, these areas reduce downstream flooding. Like a sponge, wetland and riparian areas absorb stormwater, then release it slowly over time instead of in one flush.

Critical wildlife habitat: Many birds and mammals need riparian and wetland areas for all or part of their life cycles. These areas provide food and water, cover, and travel corridors. They are often the most important habitat feature in Massachusetts' forests.

Recreational opportunities: Our lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds are often focal points for recreation. We enjoy them when we boat, fish, swim, or just sit and enjoy the view.

In order to protect wetlands and riparian areas and to prevent soil erosion during timber harvesting activities, Massachusetts promotes the use of “Best Management Practices” or BMPs. Maintaining or reestablishing the protective vegetative layer and protecting critical areas are the two rules that underlie these common sense measures. DEM’s Massachusetts Forestry Best Practices Manual (included with this plan) details both the legally required and voluntary specifications for log landings, skid trails, water bars, buffer strips, filter strips, harvest timing, and much more.

The two Massachusetts laws that regulate timber harvesting in and around wetlands and riparian areas are the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (CH 131), and the Forest Cutting Practices Act (CH132). Among other things, CH132 requires the filing of a cutting plan and on-site inspection of a harvest operation by a DEM Service Forester to ensure that required BMPs are being followed when a commercial harvest exceeds 25,000 board feet or 50 cords (or combination thereof).



Soil and Water Quality: Forests provide a very effective natural buffer that holds soil in place and protects the purity of our water. The trees, understory vegetation, and the organic material on the forest floor reduce the impact of falling rain, and help to insure that soil will not be carried into our streams and waterways.

To maintain a supply of clean water, forests must be kept as healthy as possible. Forests with a diverse mixture of vigorous trees of different ages and species can better cope with periodic and unpredictable stress such as insect attacks or windstorms.

Timber harvesting must be conducted with the utmost care to ensure that erosion is minimized and that sediment does not enter streams or wetlands. Sediment causes turbidity which degrades water quality and can harm fish and other aquatic life. As long as Best Management Practices (BMPs) are implemented correctly, it is possible to undertake active forest management without harming water quality.



Forest Health: Like individual organisms, forests vary in their overall health. The health of a forest is affected by many factors including weather, soil, insects, diseases, air quality, and human activity. Forest owners do not usually focus on the health of a single tree, but are concerned about catastrophic events such as insect or disease outbreaks that affect so many individual trees that the whole forest community is impacted.

Like our own health, it is easier to prevent forest health problems than to cure them. This preventative approach usually involves two steps. First, it is desirable to maintain or encourage a wide diversity of tree species and age classes within the forest. This diversity makes a forest less susceptible to a single devastating health threat. Second, by thinning out weaker and less desirable trees, well-spaced healthy individual trees are assured enough water and light to thrive. These two steps will result in a forest of vigorously growing trees that is more resistant to environmental stress.



Fire: Most forests in Massachusetts are relatively resistant to catastrophic fire. Historically, Native Americans commonly burned certain forests to improve hunting grounds. In modern times, fires most often result from careless human actions. The risk of an unintentional and damaging fire in your woods could increase as a result of logging activity if the slash (tree tops, branches, and debris) is not treated correctly.

Adherence to the Massachusetts slash law minimizes this risk. Under the law, slash is to be removed from buffer areas near roads, boundaries, and critical areas and lopped close to the ground to speed decay. Well-maintained woods roads are always desirable to provide access should a fire occur.

Depending on the type of fire and the goals of the landowner, fire can also be considered as a management tool to favor certain species of plants and animals. Today the use of prescribed burning is largely restricted to the coast and islands, where it is used to maintain unique natural communities such as sandplain grasslands and pitch pine/scrub oak barrens. However, state land managers are also attempting to bring fire back to many of the fire-adapted communities found elsewhere around the state.



Wildlife Management: Enhancing the wildlife potential of a forested property is a common and important goal for many woodland owners. Sometimes actions can be taken to benefit a particular species of interest (e.g., put up Wood Duck nest boxes). In most cases, recommended management practices can benefit many species, and fall into

one of three broad strategies. These are **managing for diversity, protecting existing habitat, and enhancing existing habitat.**

Managing for Diversity – Many species of wildlife need a variety of plant communities to meet their lifecycle requirements. In general, a property that contains a diversity of habitats will support a more varied wildlife population. A thick area of brush and young trees might provide food and cover for grouse and cedar waxwing; a mature stand of oaks provides acorns for foraging deer and turkey; while an open field provides the right food and cover for cottontail rabbits and red fox. It is often possible to create these different habitats on your property through active management. The appropriate mix of habitat types will primarily depend on the composition of the surrounding landscape and your objectives. It may be a good idea to create a brushy area where early successional habitats are rare, but the same practice may be inappropriate in the area's last block of mature forest.

Protecting Existing Habitat – This strategy is commonly associated with managing for rare species or those species that require unique habitat features. These habitat features include vernal pools, springs and seeps, forested wetlands, rock outcrops, snags, den trees, and large blocks of unbroken forest. Some of these features are rare, and they provide the right mix of food, water, and shelter for a particular species or specialized community of wildlife. It is important to recognize their value and protect their function. This usually means not altering the feature and buffering the resource area from potential impacts.

Enhancing Existing Habitat – This strategy falls somewhere between the previous two. One way the wildlife value of a forest can be enhanced is by modifying its structure (number of canopy layers, average tree size, density). Thinning out undesirable trees from around large crowned mast (nut and fruit) trees will allow these trees to grow faster and produce more food. The faster growth will also accelerate the development of a more mature forest structure, which is important for some species. Creating small gaps or forest openings generates groups of seedlings and saplings that provide an additional layer of cover, food, and perch sites.

Each of these three strategies can be applied on a single property. For example, a landowner might want to increase the habitat diversity by reclaiming an old abandoned field. Elsewhere on the property, a stand of young hardwoods might be thinned to reduce competition, while a “no cut” buffer is set up around a vernal pool or other habitat feature. The overview, stand description and management practice sections of this plan will help you understand your woodland within the context of the surrounding landscape and the potential to diversify, protect or enhance wildlife habitat.



Wood Products: If managed wisely, forests can produce a periodic flow of wood products on a sustained basis. Stewardship encompasses finding ways to meet your current needs while protecting the forest’s ecological integrity. In this way, you can harvest timber and generate income without compromising the opportunities of future generations.

Massachusetts forests grow many highly valued species (white pine, red oak, sugar maple, white ash, and black cherry) whose lumber is sold throughout the world. Other lower valued species (hemlock, birch, beech, red maple) are marketed locally or regionally, and become products like pallets, pulpwood, firewood, and lumber. These products and their associated value-added industries contribute between 200 and 300 million dollars annually to the Massachusetts economy.

By growing and selling wood products in a responsible way you are helping to our society’s demand for these goods. Harvesting from sustainably managed woodlands – rather than from unmanaged or poorly managed forest – benefits the public in a multitude of ways. The sale of timber, pulpwood, and firewood also provides periodic income that you can reinvest in the property, increasing its value and helping you meet your long-term goals. Producing wood products helps defray the costs of owning woodland, and helps private landowners keep their forestland undeveloped.



Cultural Resources: Cultural resources are the places containing evidence of people who once lived in the area. Whether a Native American village from 1,700 years ago, or the remains of a farmstead from the 1800’s, these features all tell important and interesting stories about the landscape, and should be protected from damage or loss.

Massachusetts has a long and diverse history of human habitation and use. Native American tribes first took advantage of the natural bounty of this area over 10,000 years ago. Many of these villages were located along the coasts and rivers of the state. The interior woodlands were also used for hunting, traveling, and temporary camps. Signs of these activities are difficult to find in today’s forests. They were obscured by the dramatic landscape impacts brought by European settlers as they swept over the area in the 17th and 18th centuries.

By the middle 1800’s, more than 70% of the forests of Massachusetts had been cleared for crops and pastureland. Houses, barns, wells, fences, mills, and roads were all constructed as woodlands were converted for agricultural production. But when the Erie Canal connected the Midwest with the eastern cities, New England farms were abandoned for the more productive land in the Ohio River valley, and the landscape began to revert to forest. Many of the abandoned buildings were disassembled and moved, but the supporting stonework and other changes to the landscape can be easily seen today.

One particularly ubiquitous legacy of this period is stone walls. Most were constructed between 1810 and 1840 as stone fences (wooden fence rails had become scarce) to enclose sheep within pastures, or to

exclude them from croplands and hayfields. Clues to their purpose are found in their construction. Walls that surrounded pasture areas were comprised mostly of large stones, while walls abutting former cropland accumulated many small stones as farmers cleared rocks turned up by their plows. Other cultural features to look for include cellar holes, wells, old roads and even old trash dumps.



Recreation and Aesthetic Considerations: Recreational opportunities and aesthetic quality are the most important values for many forest landowners, and represent valid goals in and of themselves. Removing interfering vegetation can open a vista or highlight a beautiful tree, for example. When a landowner's goals include timber, thoughtful forest management can be used to accomplish silvicultural objectives while also reaching recreational and/or aesthetic objectives. For example, logging trails might be designed to provide a network of cross-country ski trails that lead through a variety of habitats and reveal points of interest.

If aesthetics is a concern and you are planning a timber harvest, obtain a copy of this excellent booklet: *A Guide to Logging Aesthetics: Practical Tips for Loggers, Foresters & Landowners*, by Geoffrey T. Jones, 1993. (Available from the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service, (607) 255-7654, for \$7). Work closely with your consultant to make sure the aesthetic standards you want are included in the contract and that the logger selected to do the job executes it properly. The time you take to plan ahead of the job will reward you and your family many times over with a fuller enjoyment of your forest, now and well into the future.

This is your Stewardship Plan. It is based on the goals that you have identified. The final success of your Stewardship Plan will be determined first, by how well you are able to identify and define your goals, and second, by the support you find and the resources you commit to implement each step.

It can be helpful and enjoyable to visit other properties to sample the range of management activities and see the accomplishments of others. This may help you visualize the outcome of alternative management decisions and can either stimulate new ideas or confirm your own personal philosophies. Don't hesitate to express your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Keep asking questions! Please be involved and enjoy the fact that you are the steward of a very special place.



STAND DESCRIPTIONS

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	AC	MSD OR SIZE-CLASS	BA/AC	VOL/AC	SITE INDEX
STEW	1	OH	24.04	12.9" DBH Sawtimber	113 sqft	9,005 BF & 21.3 Cds	63 (RO)

Red oak and mixed hardwoods dominate the overstory in this well stocked sawtimber sized stand. The red oak is primarily in the sawtimber class with a minor component in the pole class. The red oak stems are generally well formed and fair to high in timber quality. Black oak, white oak, red maple, hickory, white ash, American beech, and scattered white pine poles and sawtimber of poor to good form and timber quality can also be found. Forest regeneration is scattered and includes white pine and mixed hardwood saplings. No commercial timber harvesting has occurred on the property in the past. A grove of white ash sawtimber sized stems can be found on the east side of the property near the parking lot off of Boxford Road. The area is flat to gently sloped with well and moderately well drained soils (Charlton-Woodbridge-Sutton). The soils are capable of producing high quality timber resources. Management will focus on timber resource management and recreation and aesthetic improvements. The desired future condition is a stand that is growing high quality timber resources in several size and age classes while providing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for the public while protecting water quality of the Chadwick Pond watershed.

STEW	2	MD	13.98	Deep Marsh	NA	NA	40 (RM)
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Alder, cattails, sweet pepperbush, swamp azalea, grasses and a variety of other wetland plants and shrubs can be found growing in this open wetland resource area along the edge of Chadwick Pond. Red maple saplings are the only trees scattered within and along this area. The area is flat, seasonally wet, hummocky, and the soils are very poorly drained organics (Freetown Muck). The soils are not capable of growing a productive crop of trees due to the current high water table. No management is recommended at this time. The desired future condition is a stand that provides habitat for wetland wildlife species.

STEW	3	RM	2.78	10.8" DBH Pole-Sawtimber	30 sqft	5.4 Cds.	50 (RM)
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Red maple is the primary species in this pole and small sawtimber sized stand in a wetland resource area. The stems are generally poor to fair in form and timber quality. Sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry, alder, arrowwood, ferns and other wetland plants and shrubs are the primary source of vegetation in the understory. Wind storms have damaged the stand. Many blow-downs are scattered throughout the area. The area is flat with very poorly fine sandy loam soils (Whitman) capable of producing fair quality red maple timber resources. A stream runs east through the stand from Chadwick Pond. No management will be conducted in this stand unless some of the blow-downs can be removed when harvesting is conducted in Stand 1. The desired future condition is a wetland resource area that protects water quality and provides wetland wildlife habitat.

OBJECTIVE CODE: CH61 = stands classified under CH61/61A STEW= stands not classified under CH61/61A
 STD= stand AC= acre MSD= mean stand diameter MBF= thousand board feet BA= basal area VOL= volume

Owner(s) Haverhill – Wheeler Woods Town(s) Haverhill

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
to be done within next 10 years

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION	AC	TO BE REMOVED		TIMING
					BA/AC	TOT VOL	

Timber Management

STEW	1	OM	Selection Harvest Improvement Thin	28+/-	35 sqft	42 MBF & 75 Cords	2014-2023
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Management will focus on improvement thinning by selection harvesting. The target is to harvest approximately 1/3 of the overstory volume. Harvesting will focus on harvesting mature oak and hardwood sawtimber sized stems (18" DBH+) in order to improve growing conditions within this overstocked stand. Suppressed and low quality stems of all sizes will also be harvested and utilized as firewood and wood chips. Thinning will release well-formed and high quality stems in order to improve their growth and canopy development. Advanced regeneration will be released and the site will be prepared for new production in the understory as a result of thinning. Some of the largest trees within the stand (25" DBH+) will be selected as "Legacy Trees" and retained for biological diversity. A buffer around the point that extends into Chadwick Pond will also be observed. The Forest Management Committee will determine the buffer boundaries prior to any timber harvesting. High value sawtimber will be sold as sawlogs, low quality hardwoods will be utilized as firewood, and tops of trees will be chipped and burned at wood burning facilities for generating electricity. Please see below for details about the Haverhill Home Fuelwood Program. Chipping the tops of trees will be important for protecting and improving aesthetics and reducing the threat of forest fires.

Wood landing areas will be seeded to ensure stability and provide alternative wildlife habitat.

Home Fuelwood Program

The Forest Management Committee has developed the *Haverhill Home Fuelwood Program* as a means of making firewood available to the residents of Haverhill. The low quality hardwood stems that are harvested in the recommended timber sales within the Wheeler Woods property will be one of the sources of wood for this program. Hardwood stems that are cut on the property will be skidded to landings on the property used for the commercial timber harvesting project. The trees will be cut to a length of approximately 24 feet and then trucked to the Haverhill Highway Facility at 500 Primrose Street where the firewood will be stacked in one-cord piles. Haverhill residents will be allowed to bid on the one-cord piles at the completion of the commercial harvest. Successful bidders will be required to cut the trees into stove lengths and remove the firewood on their own. The successful bidders will be required to sign a liability waiver that does not hold the City of Haverhill liable for any accidents, injury or death as a result of cutting and removing the stacked firewood. The intent is to make the project revenue neutral and as safe as possible. There will be a cost of having the firewood trees cut, skidded, landed and trucked to the Haverhill highway facility at 500 Primrose Street of approximately \$75-\$80 per cord. Bids for the stacked firewood must at least cover this cost.

OBJECTIVE CODE: CH61 = Forest Products (for Ch. 61/61A) STEW= Stewardship Program practices
 STD= stand Type= Forest type AC= acre MBF= thousand board feet BA= basal area VOL= volume

Owner(s) Haverhill – Wheeler Woods Town(s) Haverhill

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
to be done within next 10 years

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION	AC	TO BE REMOVED		TIMING
					BA/AC	TOT VOL	

Biological Diversity

STEW 1-3 All Invasive Species Control 40+/- NA NA 2014-2023

The Forest Stewardship Committee is interested in promoting biological diversity on the property. Eliminating invasive and non-native trees, plants and shrubs will be done where these species exist and when economically feasible and practical. Although invasives are not prolific on the property, buckthorn, firebush (winged euonymus), bittersweet, honeysuckle, Norway maple, and Japanese barberry are a concern in this area. Cutting the stems of invasive species with saws, or with other mechanical means, will help reduce and control the spread of the invasive species. Controlling the invasive species through well timed timber management activities is another management tool. Encouraging vigorous growth of native tree species in the forest understory will be accomplished by scarifying the soil prior to seed dissemination. Another biodiversity issue is the distribution of forest growth stages. Trying to maintain multiple forest age and size classes on the property will also be pursued by the landowner on this property through periodic timber harvests and wildlife habitat management. Please see the Biological Diversity issues on page #7 for more details.

The Forest Stewardship Committee will seek council from the UMass Amherst Extension Center for Agriculture and the United States Forest Service with regard to controlling invasive species as part of a forest stewardship program to ensure active management activities do not result in proliferation of these species in any of the City's forest lands.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

STEW 2 MD Artificial Nest Box 13+/- NA NA 2014-2023
Wood Duck

This wetland resource area provide habitat for **wood ducks**. The open water and emergent vegetation within these areas are important for the development of young wood ducks. The boxes should be set up approximately four feet above open water on cedar, or metal poles to protect the young and eggs from predators. The boxes should also be set up over water that is 1-4 feet deep. The boxes should be cleaned every year and new bedding placed on the bottom of the box. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife can provide further information about the box dimensions, installation, and maintenance. The recommendation is to install no more than one (1) box in this area on an experimental basis.

OBJECTIVE CODE: CH61 = Forest Products (for Ch. 61/61A) STEW= Stewardship Program practices
STD= stand Type= Forest type AC= acre MBF= thousand board feet BA= basal area VOL= volume

Owner(s) Haverhill – Wheeler Woods Town(s) Haverhill

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
to be done within next 10 years

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION	AC	TO BE REMOVED		TIMING
					BA/AC	TOT VOL	

Recreation Management
Forest Stewardship Education

STEW	All	All	Trail Maintenance Forest Stewardship Education	40+/-	NA	NA	2014-2023
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The existing trails on the Wheeler Woods property will be periodically maintained for the safety, enjoyment and education of the residents of Haverhill. Trail maps, tags, interpretive signs, picnic tables, and a gate will all be variables associated with the management of the trails and the education of those who will be using the trails. A picnic area near Chadwick Pond is being considered by the Forest Stewardship Committee. Interpretive signs along the trails will help educate the property users about Forest Stewardship matters within the forest interior. Improving the parking lot area and prohibiting vehicular access to the forest will also be a priority. An upgraded gate at the west side of the parking lot has been proposed by the Committee.

Boundary Maintenance

STEW	All	All	Blaze & Paint	40+/-	NA	NA	2014-2023
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The southeast boundary line has not been identified and its exact location is unknown at this time. This section of property line will be identified prior to any timber management activities on the property. Most of the remaining upland boundary lines are defined by stone walls.

OBJECTIVE CODE: CH61 = Forest Products (for Ch. 61/61A) STEW= Stewardship Program practices
 STD= stand Type= Forest type AC= acre MBF= thousand board feet BA= basal area VOL= volume

Owner(s) Haverhill – Wheeler Woods Town(s) Haverhill

Signature Page

Please check each box that applies.

CH. 61/61A Management Plan I attest that I am familiar with and will be bound by all applicable Federal, State, and Local environmental laws and /or rules and regulations of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. I further understand that in the event that I convey all or any portion of this land during the period of classification, I am under obligation to notify the grantee(s) of all obligations of this plan which become his/hers to perform and will notify the Department of Conservation and Recreation of said change of ownership.

Forest Stewardship Plan. I pledge to abide by the management provisions of this Stewardship Management Plan for a period of at least ten years, following approval. I understand that in the event that I convey all or a portion of the land described in this plan during the period of the plan, I will notify the Department of Conservation and Recreation of this change in ownership.

Signed under the pains of perjury:

Owner(s) _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

I attest that I have prepared this plan in good faith to reflect the landowner's interest.

Plan Preparer _____ Date _____

I attest that the plan satisfactorily meets the requirements of CH61/61A and/or the Forest Stewardship Program.

Approved, Service Forester _____ Date _____

Approved, Regional Supervisor _____ Date _____

In the event of a change of ownership of all or part of the property, the new owner must file an amended Ch. 61/61A plan within 90 days from the transfer of title to insure continuation of Ch. 61/61A classification.

Owner(s) Haverhill – Wheeler Woods Town(s) Haverhill

BOUNDARY & STAND TYPE MAP

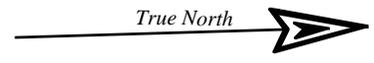
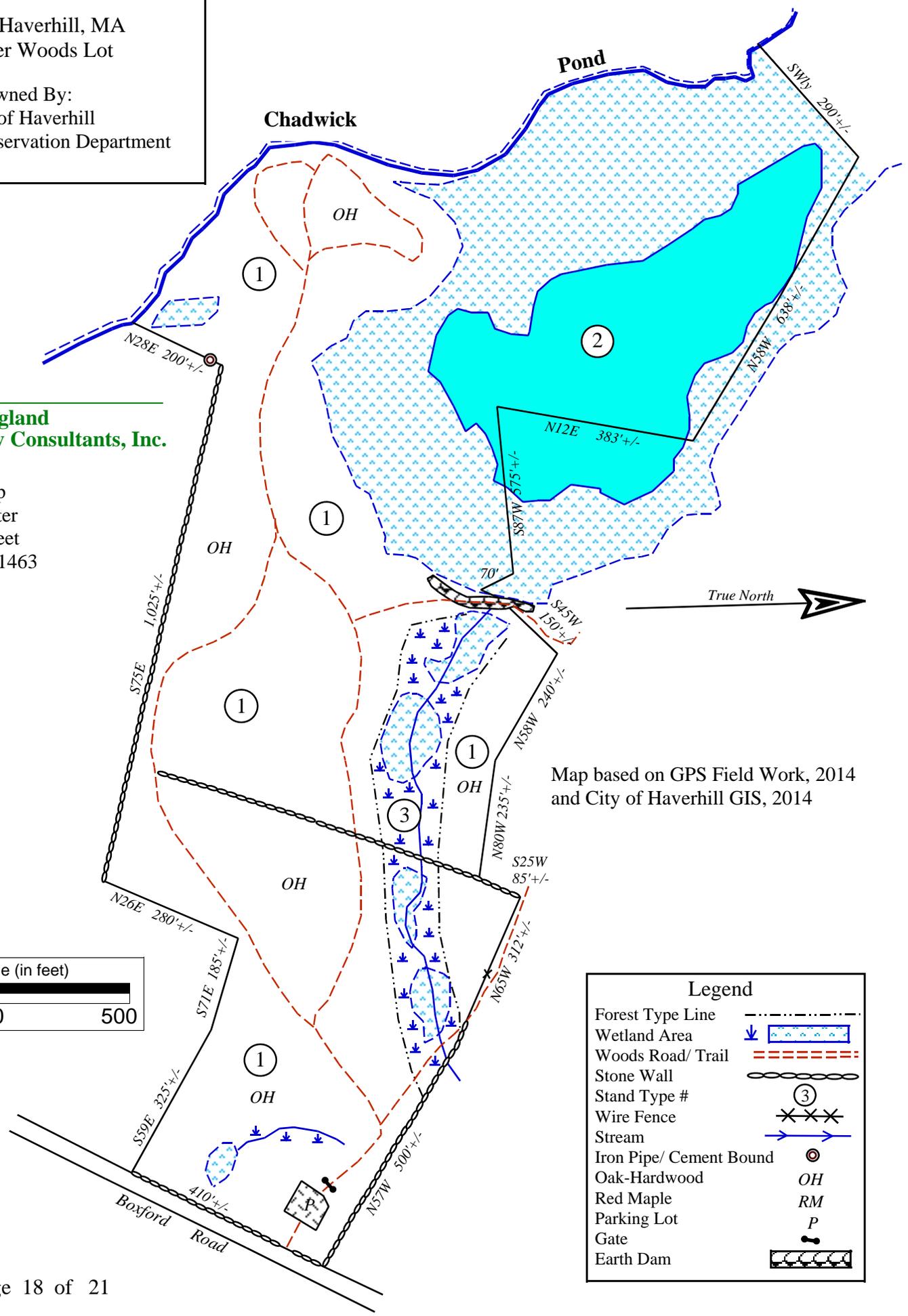
Land in Haverhill, MA
Wheeler Woods Lot

Owned By:
City of Haverhill
Haverhill Conservation Department

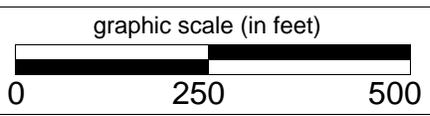


**New England
Forestry Consultants, Inc.**

Prepared By:
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Consulting Forester
72 Townsend Street
Pepperell, MA 01463
978-433-8780
2/10/2014



Map based on GPS Field Work, 2014
and City of Haverhill GIS, 2014



Legend	
Forest Type Line	- - - - -
Wetland Area	
Woods Road/ Trail	- - - - -
Stone Wall	
Stand Type #	③
Wire Fence	
Stream	
Iron Pipe/ Cement Bound	⊙
Oak-Hardwood	OH
Red Maple	RM
Parking Lot	P
Gate	
Earth Dam	

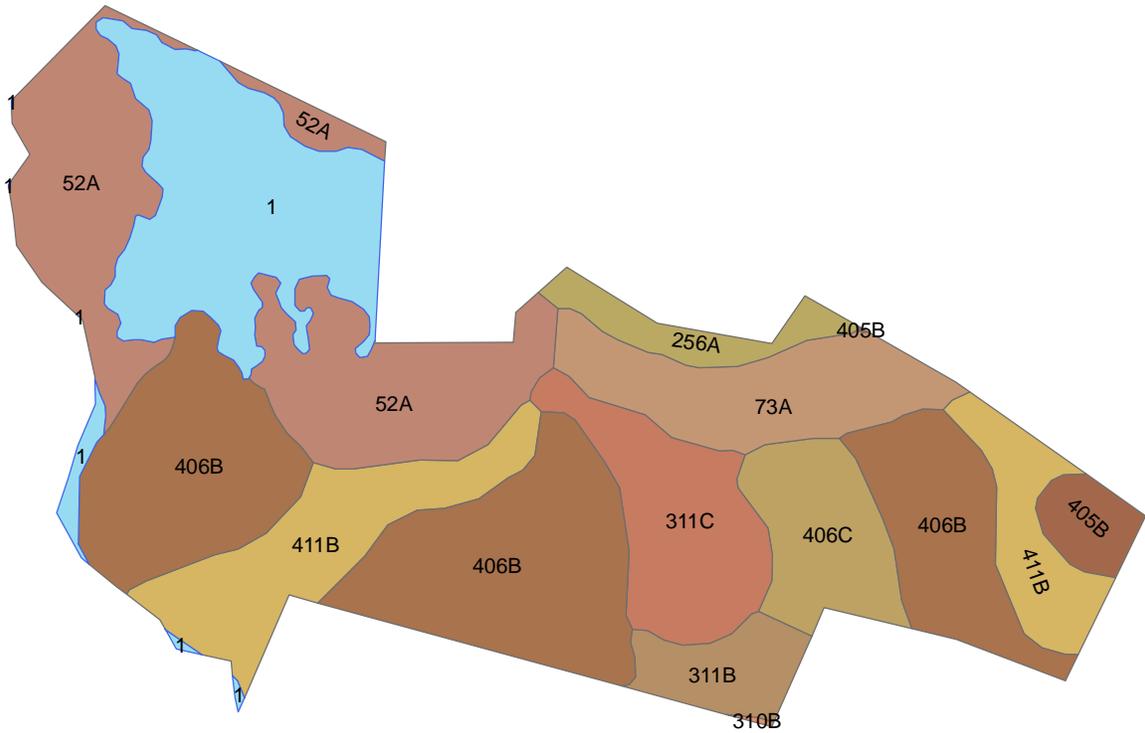
City of Haverhill
Wheeler Woods Lot
Haverhill, MA
2013 Aerial Photo



Prepared by:
New England Forestry Consultants, Inc
Sherman R. Small, Consulting Forester
Maine License # LF655
New Hampshire License # 409
April 16, 2014

Sketch map for management and planning purposes only, NOT A LEGAL SURVEY
Data obtained from MASS GIS, & New England Forestry Consultants, Inc.

City of Haverhill
Wheeler Woods Lot
Haverhill, MA
Soils Map



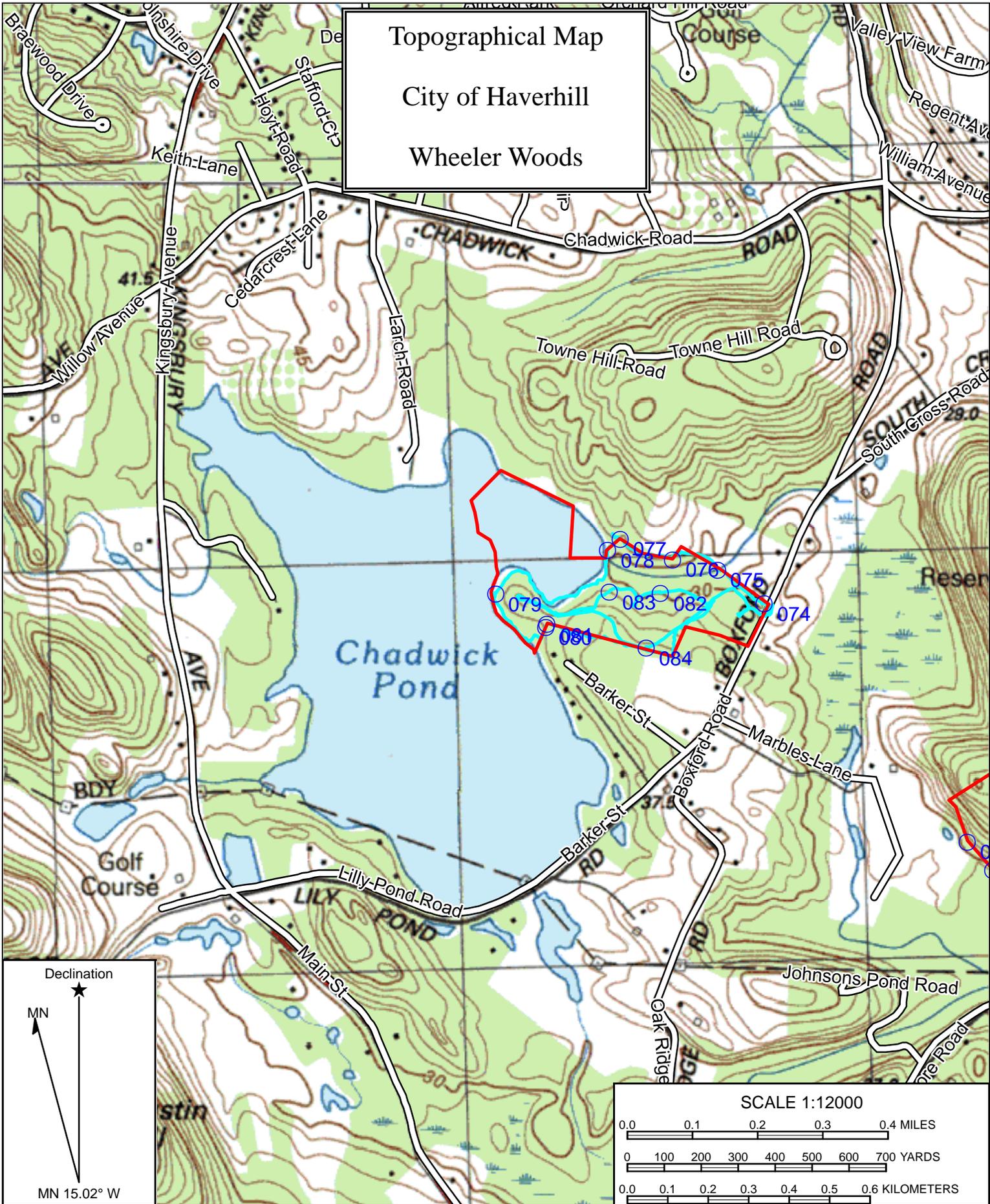
307B Soils Symbol



Prepared by:
New England Forestry Consultants, Inc
Sherman R. Small, Consulting Forester
Maine License # LF655
New Hampshire License # 409
April 16, 2014

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Topographical Map
 City of Haverhill
 Wheeler Woods



Name: LAWRENCE
 Date: 04/28/14
 Scale: 1 inch = 1,000 ft.

Location: 042° 44' 26.21" N 071° 04' 32.00" W
 Caption: Wheeler Woods