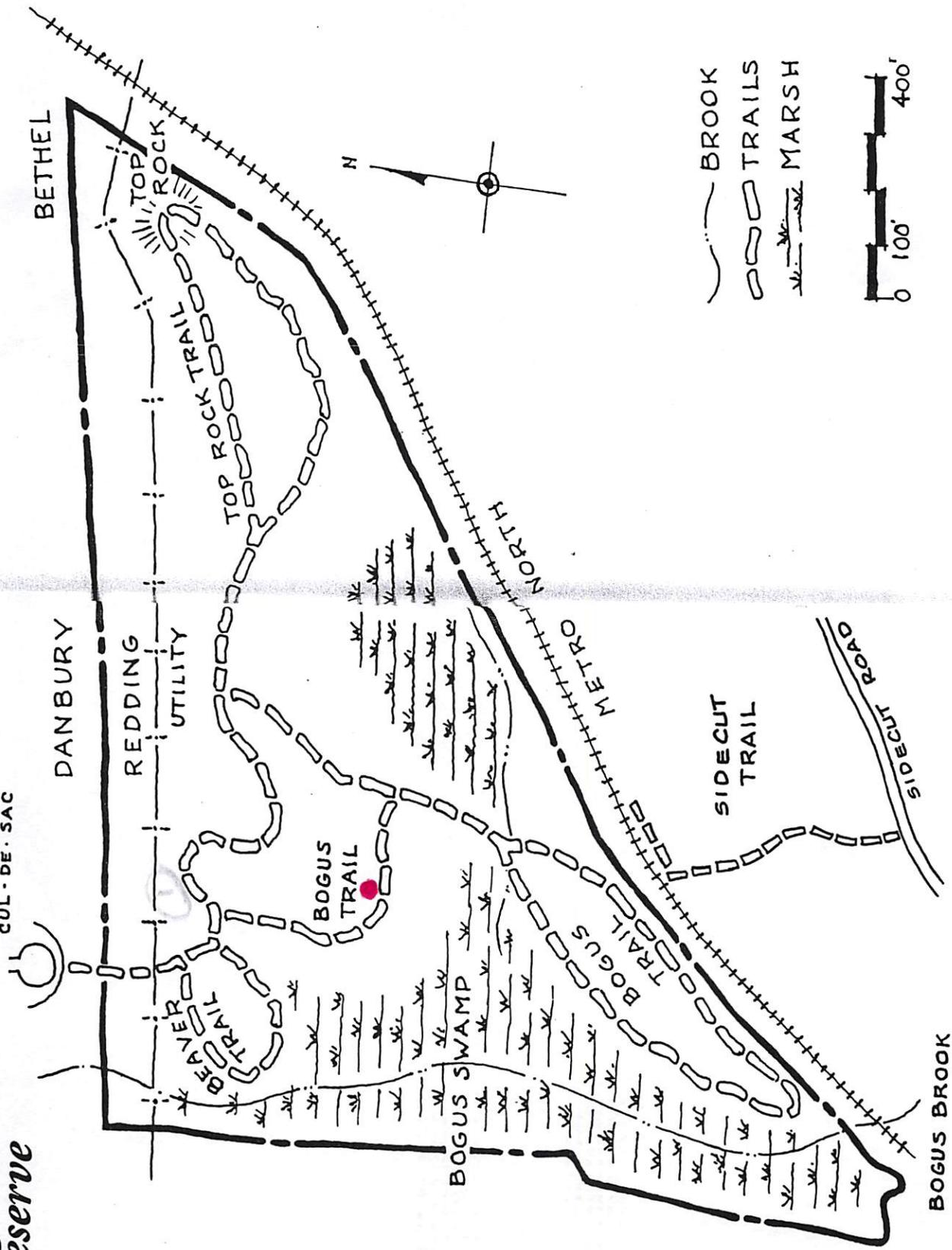


Bogus Brook Preserve

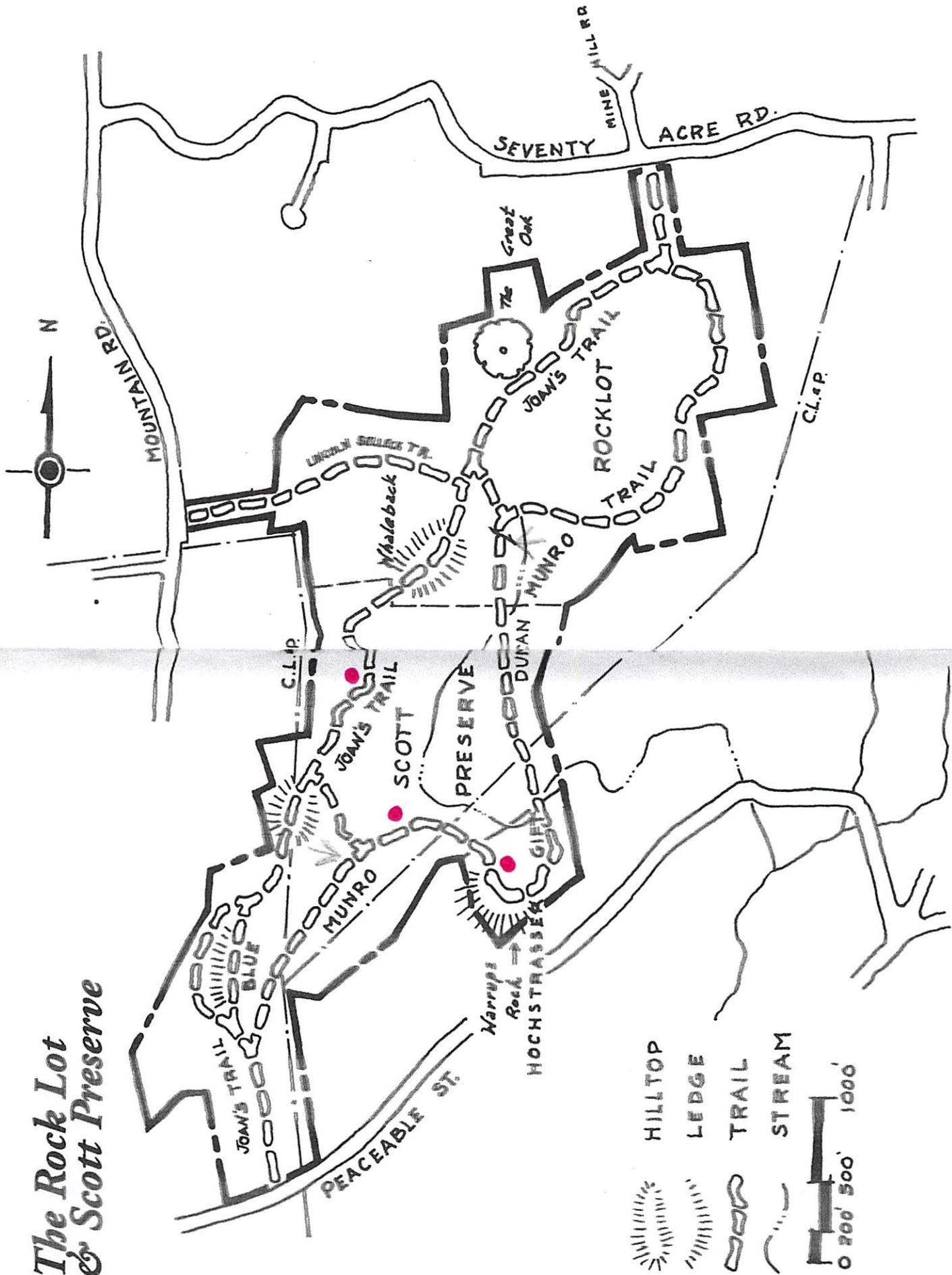
CHUCK WAGON RD.
CUL-DE-SAC



- BROOK
- - - TRAILS
- v v v MARSH



The Rock Lot & Scott Preserve



How the Great Ledge Was Saved

The acquisition of the Redding Great Ledge in 1988 by the Redding Land Trust came about quite differently from that of any other property in the Trust's register of open space lands. Previously, every one of its 600-odd acres had either been donated to the Trust or transferred to it as a result of the Town's subdivision setback policy. But the Great Ledge was purchased with hard cash—and with virtually the whole town pitching in to raise the needed funds. Here's how it happened.

For years, the Land Trust had its eye on this magnificent piece of property—nine acres privately owned but lying at the crown, if you will, of the 1,600-acre Devil's Den Preserve, which extends into Redding from Weston.

What made this property so desirable, besides its location, were its scenery and topography. High, dry and wooded, the terrain sweeps up to the lip of a sheer, 200-foot granite cliff—the choicest portion of the entire Great Ledge area.

This cliff on the Weston town line, overlooking the Saugatuck Reservoir and hundreds of acres of wooded hills and valleys, commands one of the finest views in all Connecticut. Across the full sweep of the horizon not a house can be seen. A lone, distant church steeple points up the absence of any other sign of human handiwork. The reservoir, dotted with green islands, stretches below.

This long-coveted property had an interesting history. It was owned by Deborah Dayton Scoblick, the daughter of Theodore and Anna Lee Dayton, longtime Redding residents who, 18 years earlier, had offered the town, at a personal sacrifice, 45 acres of forest adjoining the Devil's Den and including a portion of the Great Ledge. Their offer did not include these nine most spectacular acres, which they left to their daughter.

In the fall of 1987 this gem went on the market. To lose the property to development would have been devastating to the ecological integrity of the region's largest pristine preserve, for a wide swath, winding through the untouched wilderness, would surely have been cut to provide access to building lots.

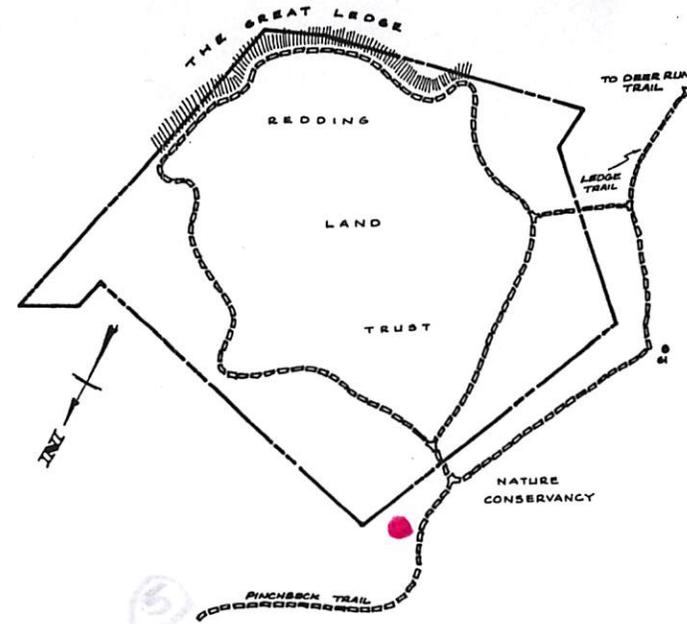
Mrs. Scoblick, like her parents, was willing to sacrifice to have her property saved from development. When officials of the Conservation Commission and the Land Trust learned the land was for sale, they resolved to buy it if at all possible. They contacted The Nature Conservancy in Weston, owners of Devil's Den. The Conservancy in turn approached Mrs. Scoblick, and an arrangement was made whereby the Land Trust would acquire the property if it could raise \$225,000—far below the land's market value—within a year.

With confidence in the people of Redding and with an acquisition fund sufficient for a down payment, the Trust under then President Phyllis Kroll plunged into a fund-raising drive of unprecedented scope. Spearheaded by Eugene Connolly and the late Constance Pharr Breton, the campaign soon enlisted the efforts of scores of enthusiastic volunteers. And with private contributions large and small, a substantial matching grant from Redding Open Lands, Inc., and some corporate help, the money was raised and the deadline met.

This achievement was recognized the Connecticut Land Trust Service Bureau, a statewide coalition, which awarded the Redding Land Trust its annual "Productivity" citation.

JOAN ENSOR

The Great Ledge



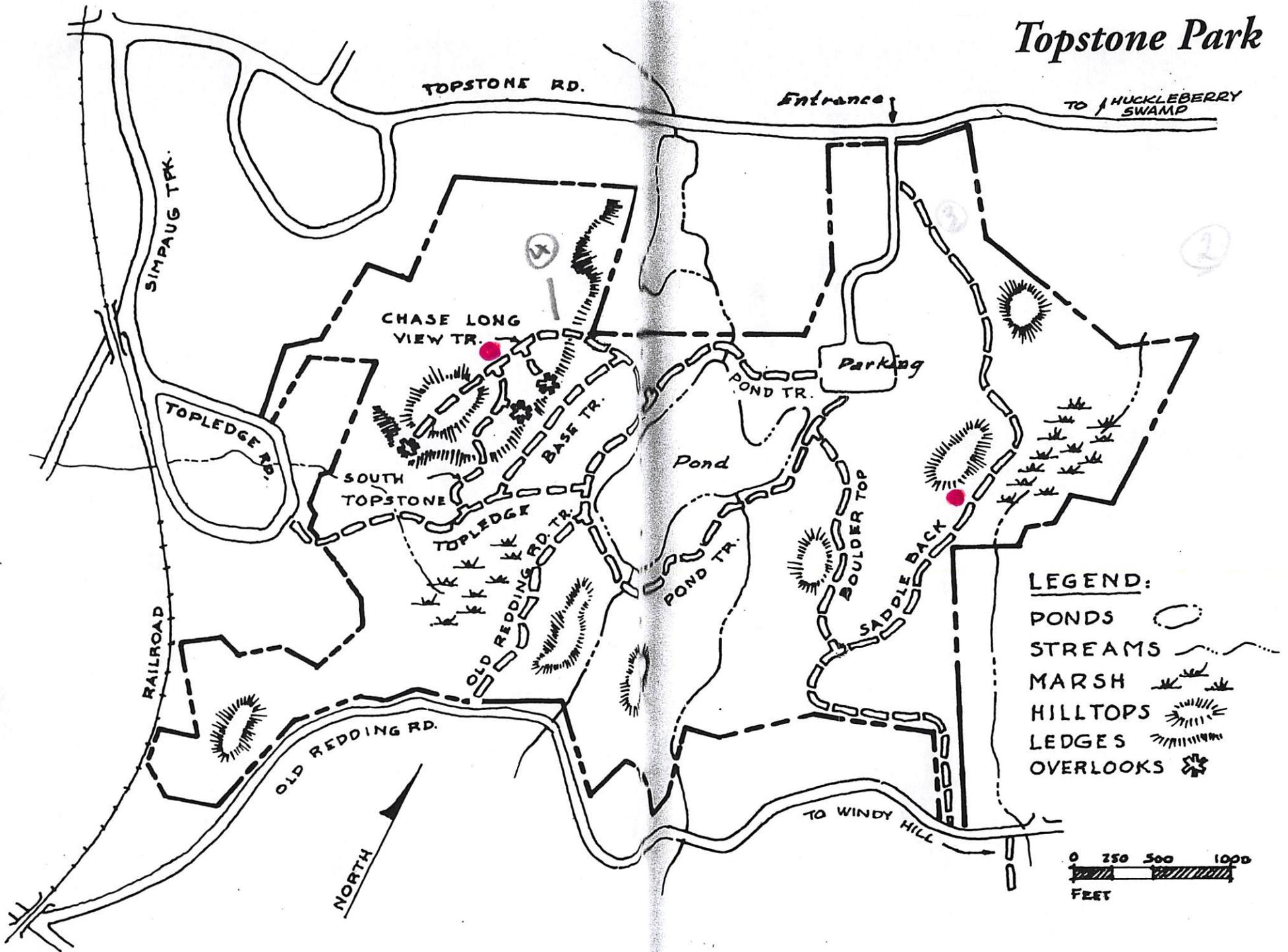
OWNERSHIP:	Redding Land Trust
ACREAGE:	8.9
ACCESS:	Off Dayton road at Fox Lane (via Pinchbeck Trail)
PARKING:	Across from Fox Lane/Pinchbeck trailhead; 5-car limit
TRAIL:	Approximately 0.5 mile (white blazes)

KEY FEATURES: The breathtaking views from the Great Ledge are described on the facing page. Suffice it to say that they rival the very best to be enjoyed from any promontory in southern New England. To relish the most dramatic effects, first-time visitors are encouraged to follow the Great Ledge loop in a clockwise direction.

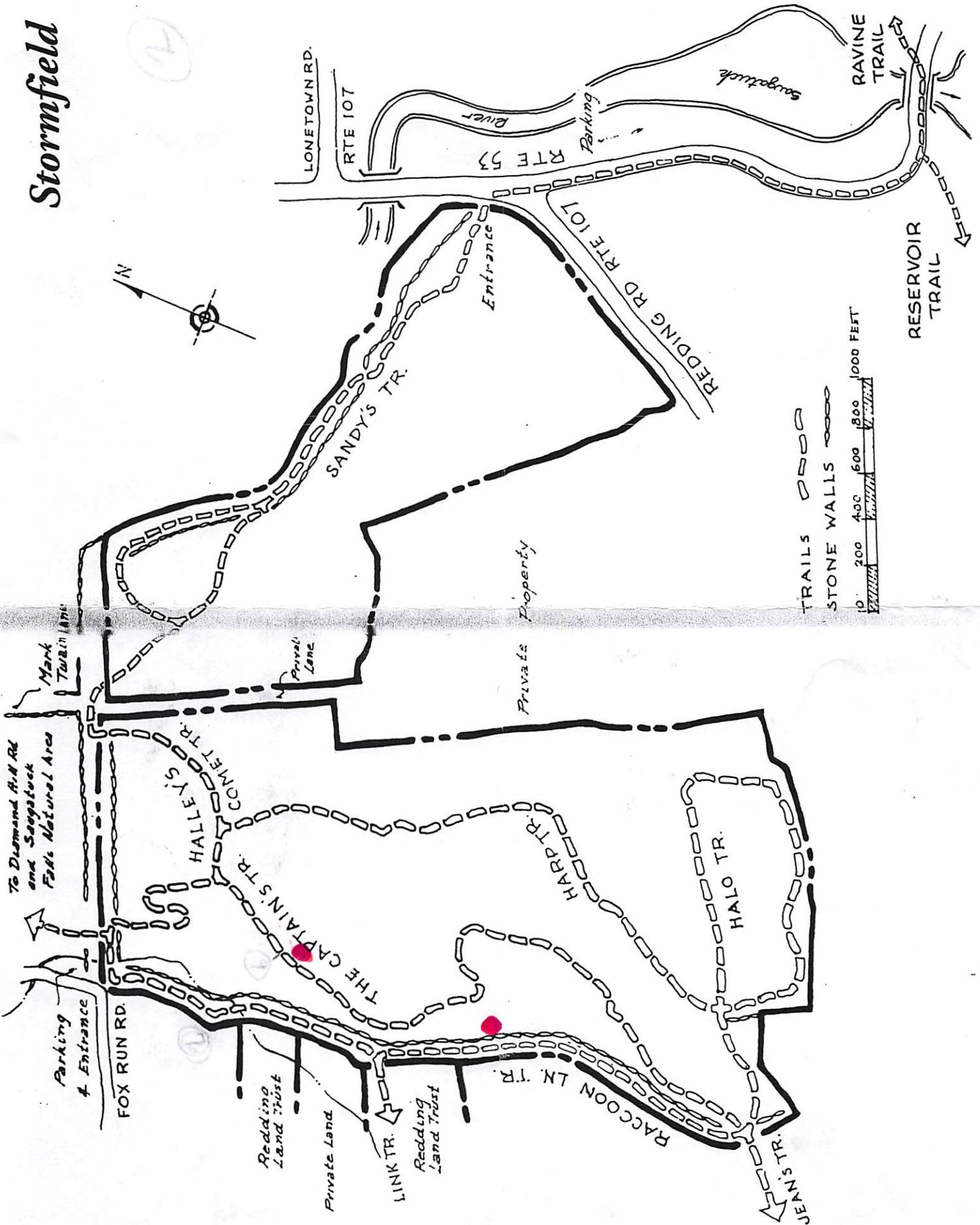
A word about trail blazes: Both the Pinchbeck and the Great Ledge Trails are blazed in white. However, where the Pinchbeck enters Devil's Den, it may also carry the yellow blaze of The Nature Conservancy's marking system.

A word about nomenclature: Redding's Great Ledge is part of an escarpment that extends into Weston and the precincts of Devil's Den. Alas, folks down that way have historically called their part of the 'scarp "The Great Ledge" too. An impartial observer, however, would have to concede that, based on the quality of the view, Redding's half of the ledge is by far the greater. Therefore, with apologies to our neighbors South of the Border, we have arranged our signs and maps to celebrate this territorial superiority. Ours is The Great Ledge. Theirs is the Ledge. Go in peace. »

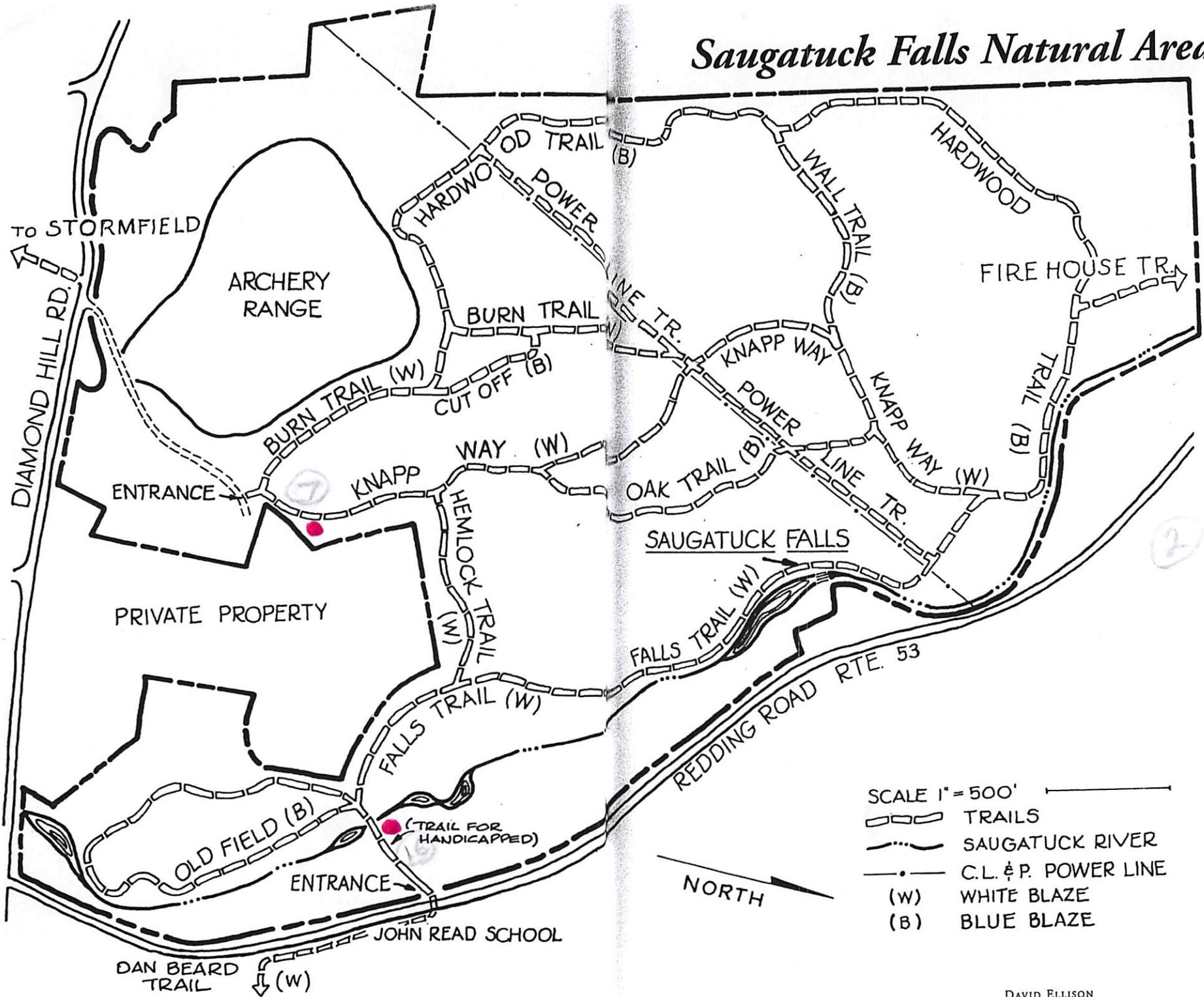
Topstone Park



Stormfield



Saugatuck Falls Natural Area

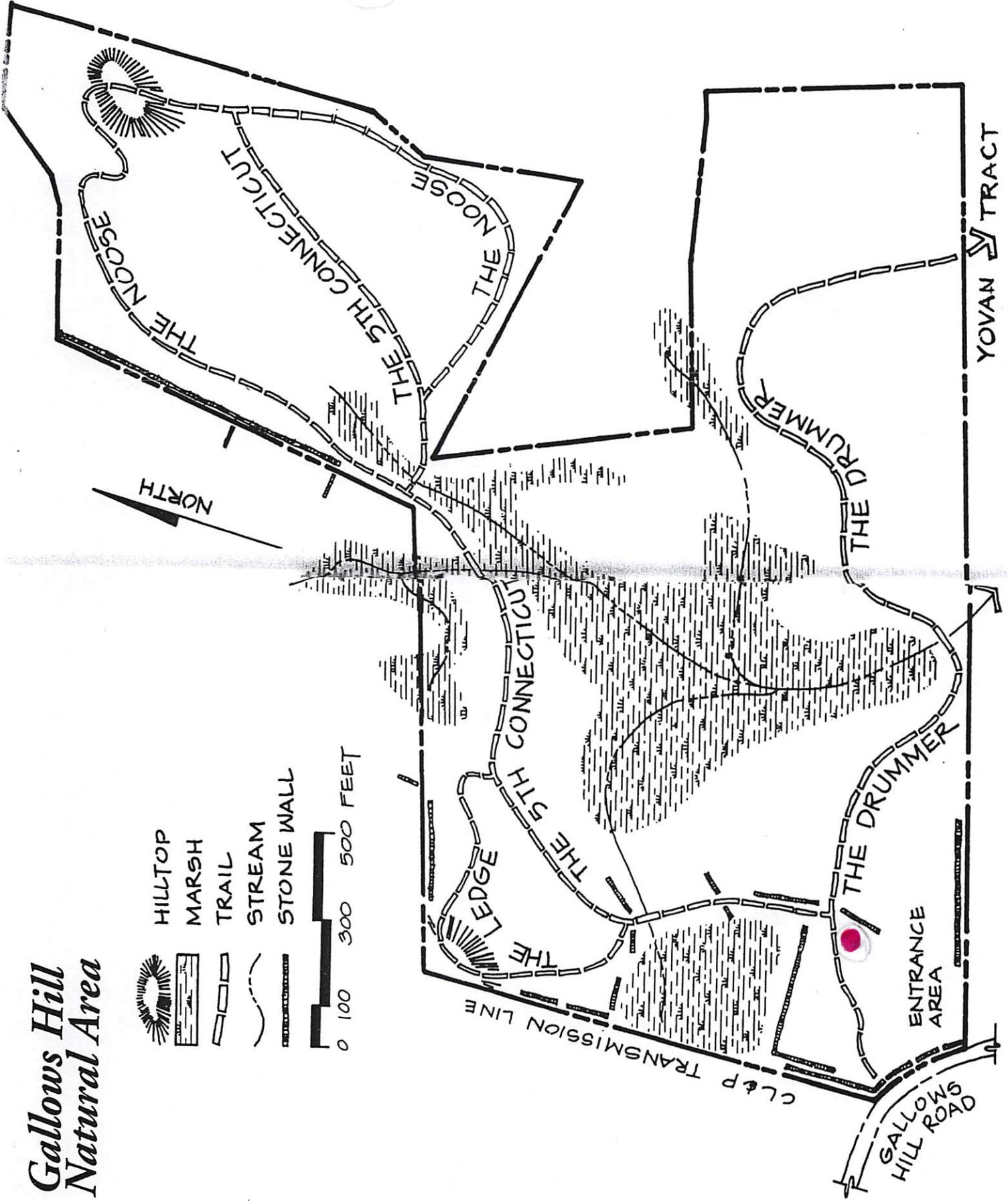


- SCALE 1" = 500'
- TRAILS
 - SAUGATUCK RIVER
 - C.L. & P. POWER LINE
 - (W) WHITE BLAZE
 - (B) BLUE BLAZE

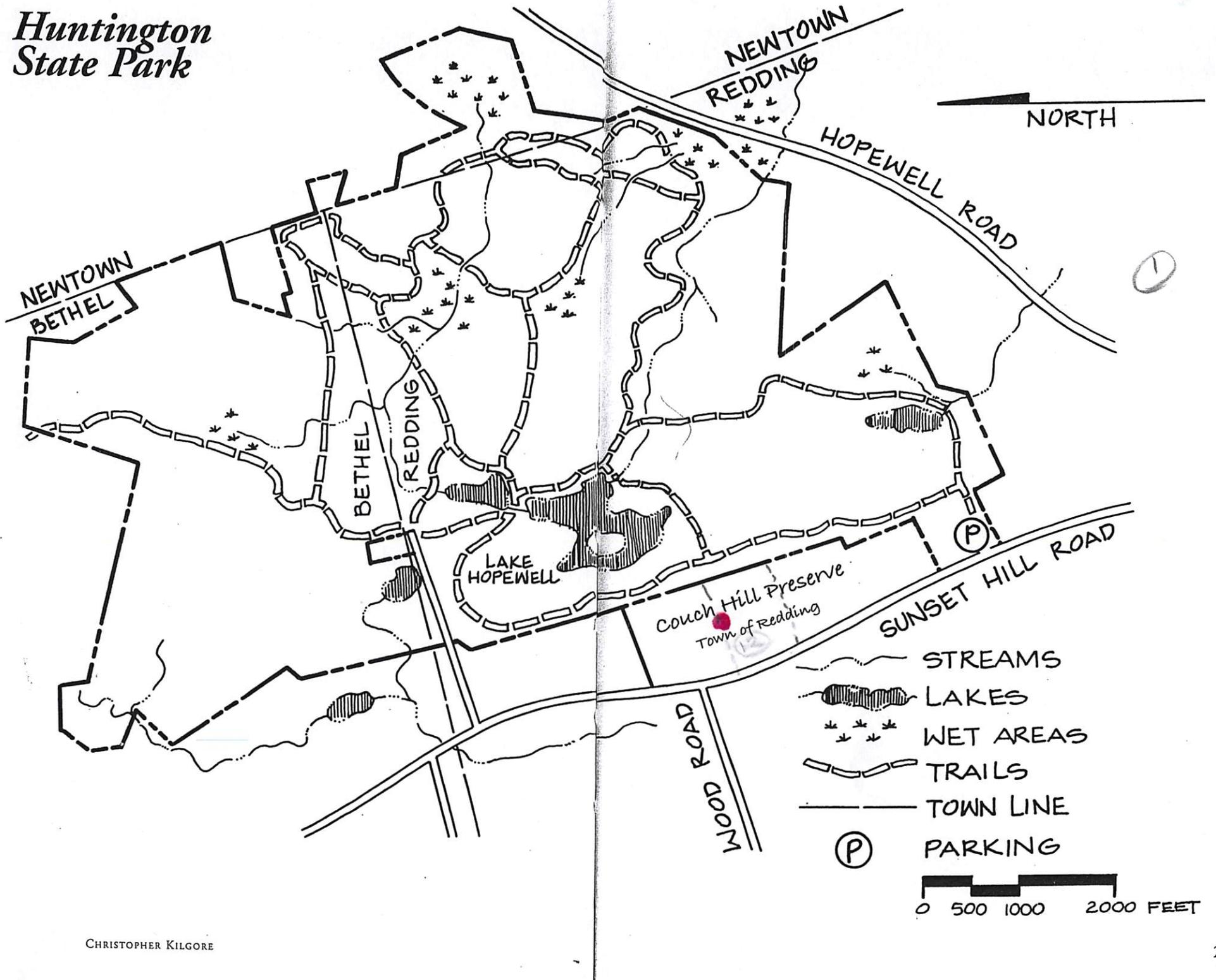


Gallows Hill Natural Area

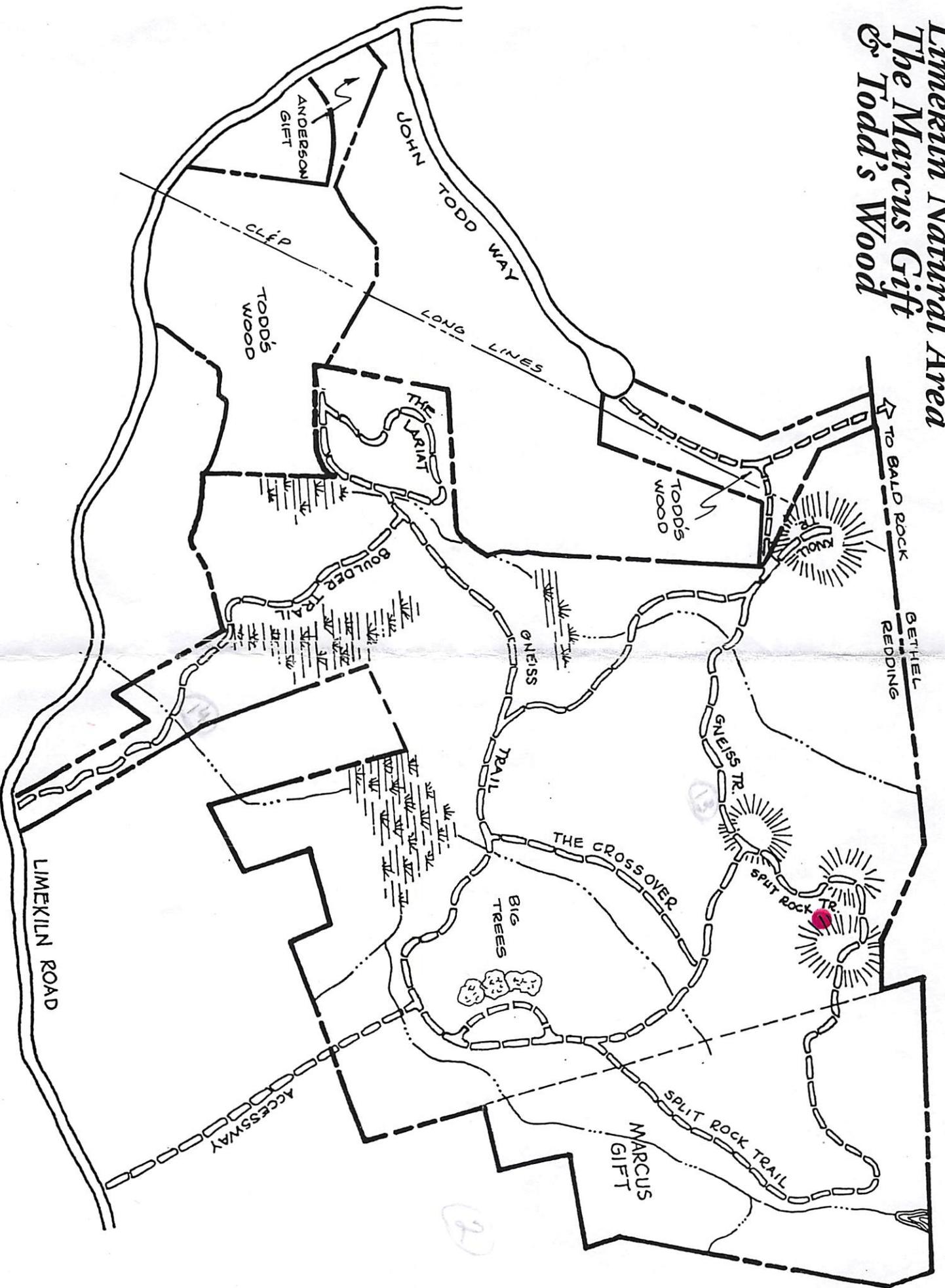
-  HILLTOP
 -  MARSH
 -  TRAIL
 -  STREAM
 -  STONE WALL
- 0 100 300 500 FEET



Huntington State Park



Limekiln Natural Area The Marcus Gift & Todd's Wood



Ground Pine Sanctuary

OWNERSHIP:	Town of Redding
ACREAGE:	54
ENTRANCE:	Sport Hill Road, at top of hill one-quarter mile from Stepney Road
PARKING:	Abandoned dirt road at entrance
TRAILS:	Sanford Trail, 1.4 miles, white blazes Grouse Run, 0.14, blue The Snipe, 0.7, blue

BACKGROUND: Ground Pine Sanctuary, acquired by the Town of Redding in 1973, was once a part of the Sanford Farm—and former First Selectman Jesse Sanford remembered it fondly as a cow pasture. Nowadays the prevailing hoof-prints run a bit wilder. The trails system here was designed and executed for the Conservation Commission by James Ellsworth of Redding.

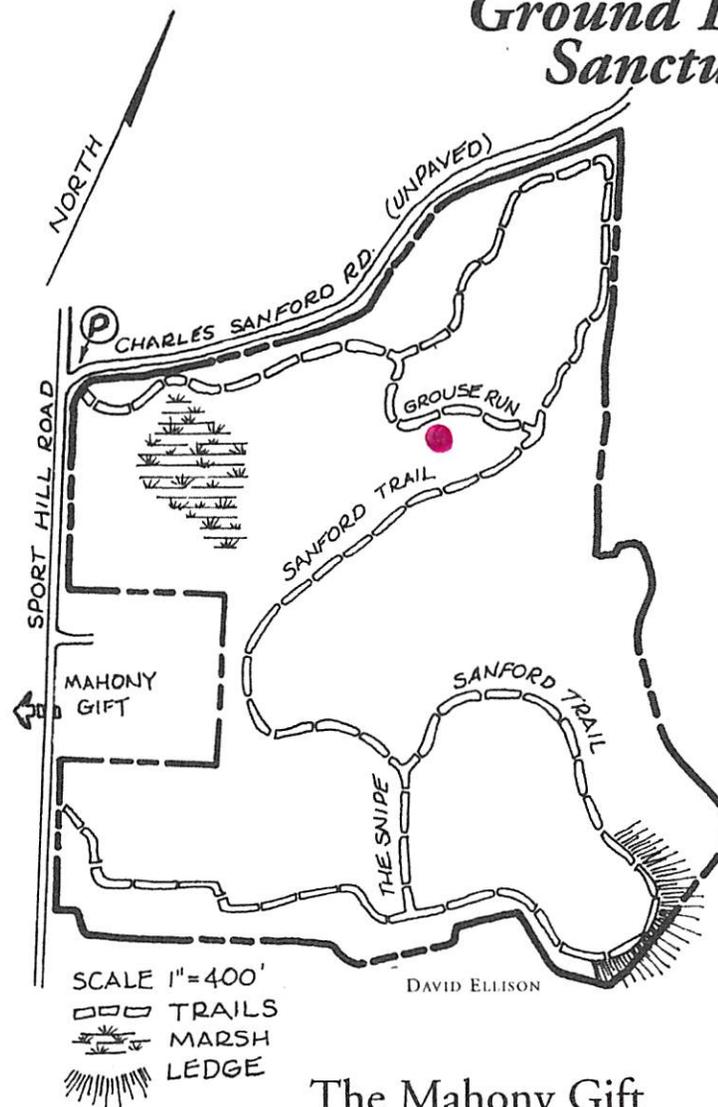
KEY FEATURES: Walking at the north end of the Sanctuary is relatively flat and easy. Toward the south, the ups and downs are somewhat more strenuous.

After leaving the entrance area, the Sanford Trail passes a giant oak—no doubt a “wolf tree” from long-gone pasturing days—and rises gently to higher ground beyond an intermittent stream. One soon discovers how the Sanctuary got its name, for the floor of the born-again forest is covered with ground pine. There are scattered hemlocks here, and red cedar, a successional sign that these woods were open fields not so long ago. Where the main trail swings into the southern half of the Sanctuary, the forest begins to show more maturity—large oaks and shagbarks and sugar maples. And the land starts to dip and roll more steeply. Those preferring to avoid one relatively steep ascent on the Sanford Trail are advised to use the Snipe cutoff instead. The Sanford finally emerges at Sport Hill Road, and a short 350-yard stroll north returns the hiker to the parking area.

Couch Hill Preserve

Abutting Huntington State Park, this unique 70-acre tract was acquired in 1999 from Hjalmar Granskog, a long-time Redding resident. Identified in the 1998 Open Space Plan as the number one priority for acquisition, the Preserve consists of two-thirds open meadows, which are increasingly rare in Redding and the entire state, and one-third woodland. Offering sweeping views of distant ridges, the property is a remnant of the last ice age known as a drumlin. Meadows provide critical bird habitat, particularly for the Bobolink, a listed species “of special concern” in Connecticut. After mowing, the fields may be used by hikers and horseback riders.

Ground Pine Sanctuary



The Mahony Gift

OWNERSHIP:	Redding Land Trust
ACREAGE:	15.1
ENTRANCE:	Off Sport Hill Road, opposite Ground Pine Sanctuary

Brian Mahony donated these acres to the Redding Land Trust in several stages. There is no cut trail in the property, but the accessway leads to an old logging road that winds through open, sunny woods. A pleasant stroll.

Samuel E. Hill Little River Preserve

NORTH

SCALE 1" = 400'

