

1) Lowell, Dracut, Tyngsboro State Forest

Large parts of this state forest are located within the town of Dracut. There is an extensive trail system for pedestrians and mountain bikers. The forest contains a small lake, a large area of wetland, an upland forest, and large tracts of mature pines. It is also home to an extensive variety of wildlife. Caution: Hunting is permitted in season. For more information refer to the website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr>.

2) Long Pond

Along the southeast shore of Long Pond is an approximately 30 acre parcel of woodlands and wetlands. The site includes several hundred feet of lakeshore with many informal trails bisecting the parcel and wetlands on the southern portion of the property. There are many opportunities for bird watching at this spot. The parcel may be accessed by canoe from the lake, or at the conservation parcel on Long Drive.

3) Cross Road and Rifle Range

The old "Picnic Area" contains upland woodlands with several vernal pools. The rest of this 63 acre parcel is located west of Bridge Street and Chuck Drive, east of Colburn Avenue, Hildreth Street, and Stonebridge Drive, and abuts the town Department of Public Works complex to the south. Features include a large beaver pond with wetlands along Peppermint Brook and mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands frequented by deer and turkey. Coyote and fishers have also been seen. There is no direct public access to the rifle range, but the marsh can be seen from Chuck Drive. Parking for the picnic area is on Cross Road near the conservation sign.

4) Dunlap Sanctuary

This sanctuary covers 85 acres and is located on Marsh Hill Road. The trail is a relatively easy one-mile hike over a couple of small hills. It passes beside a beaver dam and loops along the shore of the 10 acre Big Pond. There are several benches along the trail on which to rest and enjoy nature. This trail was created by local boy scouts as an Eagle project in 1996 and is called Marjorie's Way in memory of the previous landowner, Marjorie Dunlap. We are able to enjoy this property courtesy of the Dunlap family who donated development rights of the parcel to the Town of Dracut. Parking is available on Marsh Hill Road.

5) East Richardson Preserve

The East Richardson Preserve is the first piece of property purchased by the town for the sole purpose of preservation and hiking trails. There are two trails as well as benches constructed by boy scouts

as Eagle projects. The Preserve is made up of hilly, forested terrain, with some small streams. Areas of note include vernal pools, a spruce grove, and many views of the Big Pond, where beavers, owls and herons make their homes. Parking is at the south end of East Richardson Road.

6) Dennis P. McNamara Way

Work on this site was completed in 2006 and the park was dedicated to deceased environmentalist, Dennis McNamara. This six acre natural site is completely handicapped accessible and overlooks Richardson Brook. All town members can now enjoy this unique spot, a serene diversion in the midst of a densely residential section of town. Parking area is at the end of Kensington Street.

7) Nickel Mine Conservation

This 23 plus acre property borders Brox Sand and Gravel, Varnum Avenue, and Jackson Street. It consists of open woodlands and wetlands along the Nickel Mine Brook, which bisects the property. Within the adjacent woods, there is a small one acre parcel with two historic foundations. Access is via a trail from Varnum Avenue with limited roadside parking.

8) Dracut Land Trust

This 31 acre parcel is owned by the Dracut Land Trust. The hiking trail is seven tenths of a mile long. It runs by two vernal pools and an old stone wall sheep pen. There are several benches to sit and enjoy the amazing view of the hay fields of Ogonowski Memorial Preservation Farmland. Please stay on the trail and away from the farmland. Parking is located on Broadway Road, an eighth of a mile west of Jones Avenue.

9) Proprietors' Way

This trail follows the route of an historic road through Dracut and is publicly accessible from Meadow Creek Drive.

The westerly trail is on the left between 101 and 103 Meadow Creek Drive. Follow the path between these two houses. This section of the trail continues a short distance between two stone walls. These walls are the only remaining part of the original Proprietors' Way.

The easterly trail is on the right between 98 and 100 Meadow Creek Drive. Follow the path between these two houses to a golf cart path, turn left and follow the trail signs through the golf course. The trail proceeds easterly up a hill where it crosses a fairway, and then becomes Founders' Way Trail in the East Richardson Preserve. Parking is at the Four Oaks Golf Course.

Dracut Open Space Committee

Mission Statement

The Dracut Open Space Committee is committed to encouraging and facilitating the preservation and appreciation of Dracut's natural, farm, and recreational lands. By working with municipal and state organizations we integrate local conservation and environmental goals with state and regional initiatives.

For more information about Dracut open spaces please contact the Dracut Board of Selectmen at:

(978) 452-1908 or boardofselectmen@dracutma.gov

Contributions to help the committee preserve our open spaces should be made out to the Open Space Committee and mailed to:

Town of Dracut

Attn: Treasurer's Office

62 Arlington Street

Dracut, MA 01826

More information is available at the

Open Space Committee Website:

<http://www.dracutma.gov/open-space-committee>



Dracut

Open Space Guide



1) Lowell, Dracut, Tyngsboro State Forest

- Parking in Dracut cul-de-sac on Dexter Avenue
- Parking in Lowell on Trotting Park Road

2) Long Pond

- The parcel may be accessed by canoe from the lake, at the conservation parcel on Long Drive

3) Cross Road and Rifle Range

- Parking is available on Cross Road

4) Dunlap Sanctuary

- Parking is available on Marsh Hill Road

5) East Richardson Preserve

- Parking is at the south end of East Richardson Road

6) Dennis P. McNamara Way

- Parking area is at the end of Kensington Street

7) Nickel Mine Conservation

- Limited roadside parking on Varnum Avenue

8) Dracut Land Trust

- Access via Broadway Road, near the water pump station

9) Proprietors' Way

- Parking can be found at Four Oaks Golf Course and from East Richardson Road via the Preserve

