

### 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.

Note: Hunting is permitted in season. For more information refer to the website at [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/ldtf.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/ldtf.htm).

### 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. The parcel may be accessed by canoe from the lake, or at the conservation parcel on Long Drive. There are many opportunities for bird watching at this spot.

### 3) Rifle Range and Cross Road Picnic Area

This is a large, roughly 63 acre parcel located west of Bridge Street and Chuck Drive, east of Colburn Avenue, Hildreth Street, and Stonebridge Drive, and which 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 but the marsh can be seen from Chuck Drive. The adjacent "Picnic Area" can be accessed off Cross Road and contains upland woodlands with several vernal pools. Parking is on Cross Road near the unmarked trail.

### 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 a 10 acre 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 owls and herons make their homes. Parking is at the south end of East Richardson Road

### 6) McNamara Way – Kensington Street

Work on this site was completed in 2006 and the park was dedicated to deceased environmentalist, Dennis McNamara, in 2008. This six acre natural site is completely handicapped accessible and overlooks Richardson Brook. There is a small parking area at the head of the path. All town members can now enjoy this unique spot, a serene diversion in the midst of a densely residential section of town.

### 7) Nickel Mine Brook

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. Access is via a trail from 103 Varnum Avenue with limited roadside parking. Within the adjacent woods, there is small one acre parcel with two historic foundations.

## Dracut

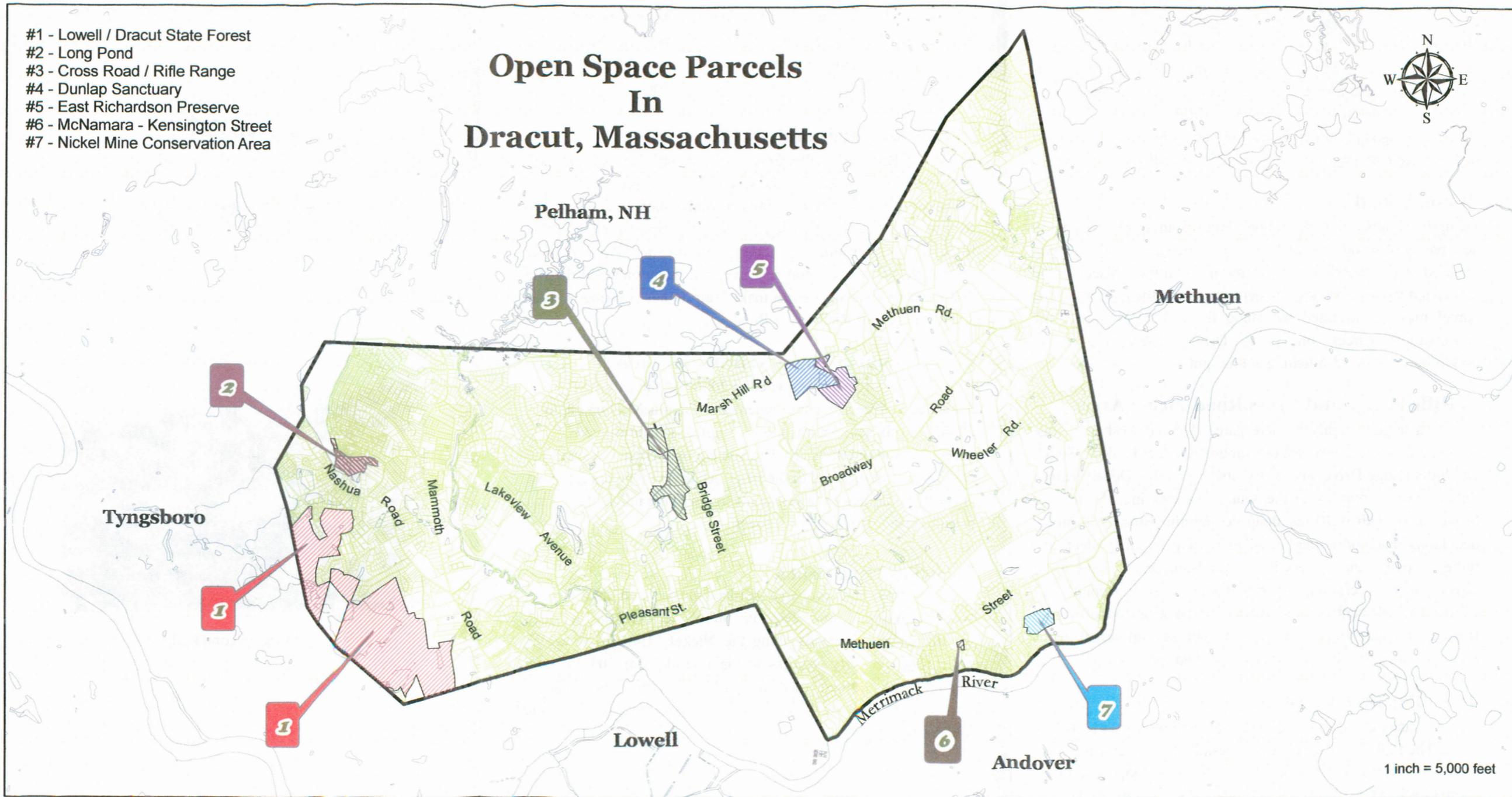
### Open Space Guide



Kayaking on Long Pond

# Open Space Parcels In Dracut, Massachusetts

- #1 - Lowell / Dracut State Forest
- #2 - Long Pond
- #3 - Cross Road / Rifle Range
- #4 - Dunlap Sanctuary
- #5 - East Richardson Preserve
- #6 - McNamara - Kensington Street
- #7 - Nickel Mine Conservation Area



1 inch = 5,000 feet