

Higgins-MacAllister Preserve

Location: Located adjacent to the Bates Lane Complex off Carl Pipes Trail, and also off Holly Crest Road. Presently, access is available only through the Bates Lane Complex along the Pipes Trail (see Bates Lane trail map), until such time as a parking area is completed at the end of Holly Crest Road.

Parking: It is planned and approved, with work to begin and completed during 2020. It will be at the very end of Holly Crest Road. Approximately ¼ of a mile below the parking area a bridge will be built to cross the stream, which will access the majority of the Preserve.

Purchased: The Town of Scituate Annual Town Meeting voted to authorize the purchase of the site in 2012.

Acreage: 37

Description :

The Higgins-McAllister Preserve is most notable for its proximity to the very scenic tributary of Bound Brook, which flows adjacent to a portion of the trail. It's flow meanders among rocks and small water falls in an idyllic setting.

The trail system is a large loop which crosses interesting stone walls and contains several interesting features. (see Trail Map). There is a trail connection to the Carl Pipes Trail in the Bates Lane/West End complex.

Bridge:

A bridge is accessible from the Holly Crest parking area, extending over water and rocky outcroppings. Parking at the end of Holly Crest will afford easy access to the trail running along the beautiful stream with a relatively short walk.

Geology:

The surface of the valley on the west side of the site, along the wetland, is full of boulders and stone walls. There is one notable outcropping of large boulders around which an interesting confluence of stone walls has been arranged. A small stream flows on the far side of this "boulder valley" and is worth exploring.

Flora / Fauna:

The soil types have an effect upon the vegetation growing on the site: pines and beeches on the higher elevations, and red maples and yellow birch on the lower elevations. Some areas have dense shrubs (closer to the wetlands) and other areas have a park-like setting, due to the abundance of the four-footed plant predators (deer). There are more wetland-indicator plants on the site than one would expect from an upland site due to the high groundwater levels in the winter months. These plants include common winterberry and cinnamon fern.

Small mammals and birds can be heard and observed on this site. Squirrels and chipmunks inhabit the stone walls scattered on the property. Amphibians and reptiles (including the common garter snake) are common in the wetter habitats. Some species (or their footprints) are more easily spotted along the stream.

The trees for which Holly Crest Road is named, American holly, are close to their natural growing extent north (which is Whitney-Thayer Woods in Cohasset).