

There are five fun Geocaches in the Shaker Woods Reserve!

Geocache #1

Description:

You are looking for a cammoed pill bottle at the Shaker Woods Reserve parking area, Stone Rd, in Alfred, ME.

This cache marks the parking area for the Shaker Woods Reserve and Trail, a cooperative venture between the Town of Alfred & Three Rivers Land Trust.

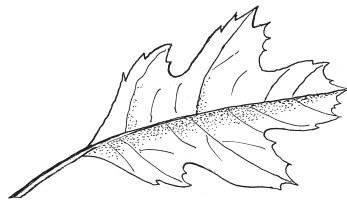
Fred Frodyma, 3RLT steward for the town of Alfred, is pleased to welcome geocachers and encourage use of this trail.

Please cache during daylight hours only.

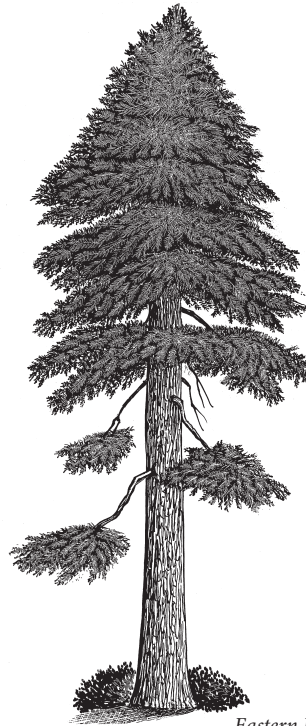
This is a foot traffic only trail.

The Shaker Woods Reserve contains a series of five caches to help you explore and enjoy this land with varied natural communities in a relatively short distance.

Enjoy your hike!



Red Oak



Eastern Hemlock

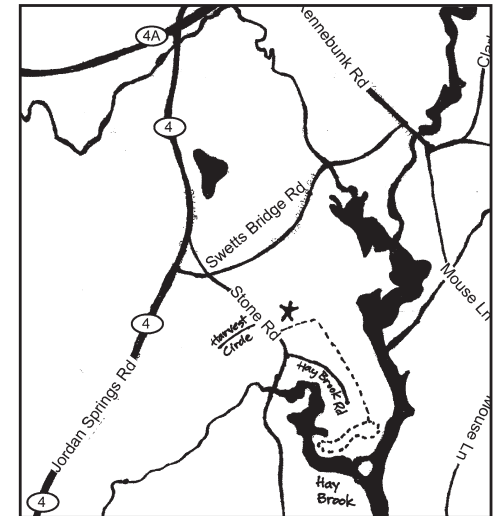
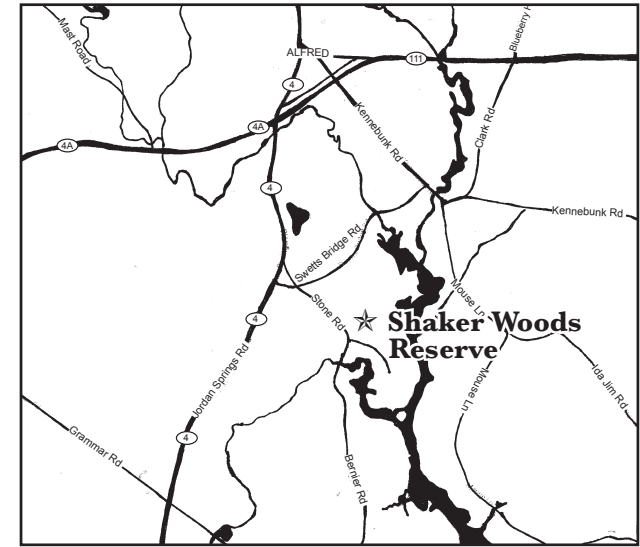
*Thanks for
exploring the reserve,
please visit again soon!*

Please respect our few simple rules:

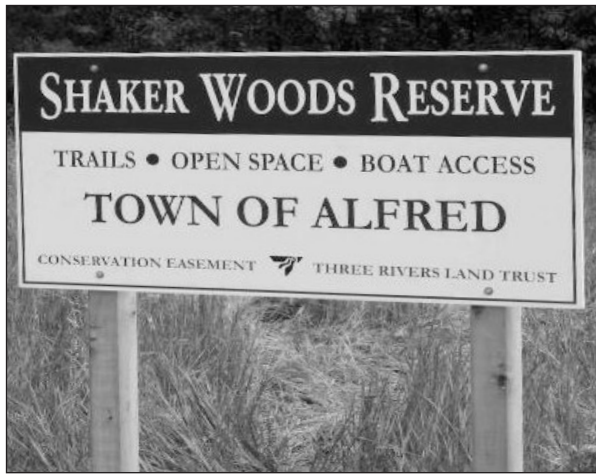
- Do not pick/remove any plants
- Carry in, carry out - do not litter
- Clean up after your dog(s)
- Leash required

*Fires and camping
are prohibited.*

Shaker Woods Reserve trail



Trail map provided by the Alfred Conservation Commission



History and Description of the Reserve Property

This 34-acre parcel is located on Stone Road in the Town of Alfred. It is bounded on the south by Hay Brook, which is the boundary between Alfred and Sanford, and on the east by Middle Branch of the Mousam River. Both bodies of water flow into Estes Lake.



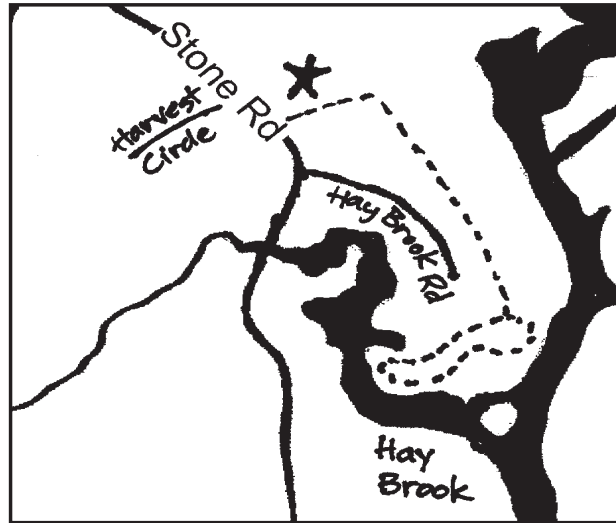
barred owl

The parcel was once a part of the so-called Lavalley Properties. These were located in Alfred and many other Southern Maine communities. In the late 90's the Lavalley family sold off much of its real state holdings. The new ownership sold the timber off of many of the parcels, and then sold the timber-harvested parcels to various developers. One of the parcels sold to a developer was a 71-acre parcel on Stone Road that includes this parcel.

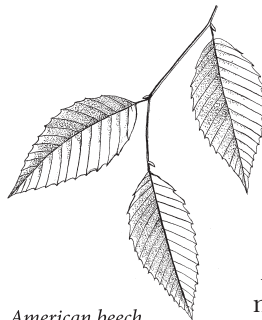
As the Town of Alfred has mandatory cluster development regulation for major subdivisions, the developer was obligated to set aside a portion of the subdivision as "open space." The subdivision

regulations offer the developer a choice of one of three options for management of the open space: (1) management by a homeowners' association; (2) retention by the developer; or (3) donation to the Town. The developer chose the third option.

Consequently, when the subdivision plan was presented to the Planning Board for its consideration, gifting the open space to the Town was one of the conditions for approval. The subdivision was approved by the Planning Board with the further condition that the Town vote to accept the parcel.

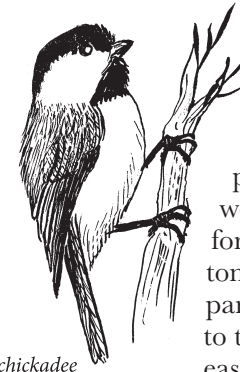


At the 2004 annual meeting, the Town voted to accept the parcel with the Selectmen having final determination of the conditions.



American beech

During the interim period, the entire subdivision, along with the 34-acre open space, was sold to another developer. The Alfred Conservation Commission continued to urge the Selectmen to accept the parcel as they felt it was a valuable asset to the community. Its greatest value is its potential use for passive recreation.

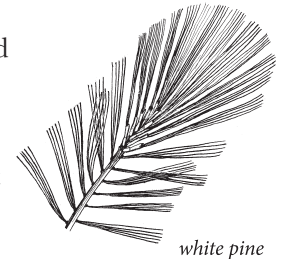


chickadee

Members of the Conservation Commission, who had additional roles in the Three Rivers Land Trust, promoted the concept of attaching a conservation easement to the property to ensure that the land would remain as open space forever. The new owners, Washington Street Associates, a Maine based partnership, were very receptive to the idea of using a conservation easement to provide perpetual protection for the 34-acre parcel. The Three Rivers Land Trust, working with the developer, wrote an easement for the open space parcel.

Three Rivers Land Trust and the developer met with the Alfred Selectmen to get their feelings on the various conditions placed on the use of the open space by the easement.

After several sessions and several adjustments, the Selectmen agreed to the conditions and forwarded the Conservation Easement to legal counsel for comment. Legal counsel approved the language of the Conservation Easement document, thereby ensuring that the Selectmen would feel comfortable accepting the open space land on behalf of the Town of Alfred when it was conveyed to them subject to the conservation Easement.



white pine



porcupine

The Three Rivers Land Trust board agreed to accept the easement because the land is undisturbed shore-front property with limited public, passive recreation permitted, including public canoe and kayak access and walking trails.