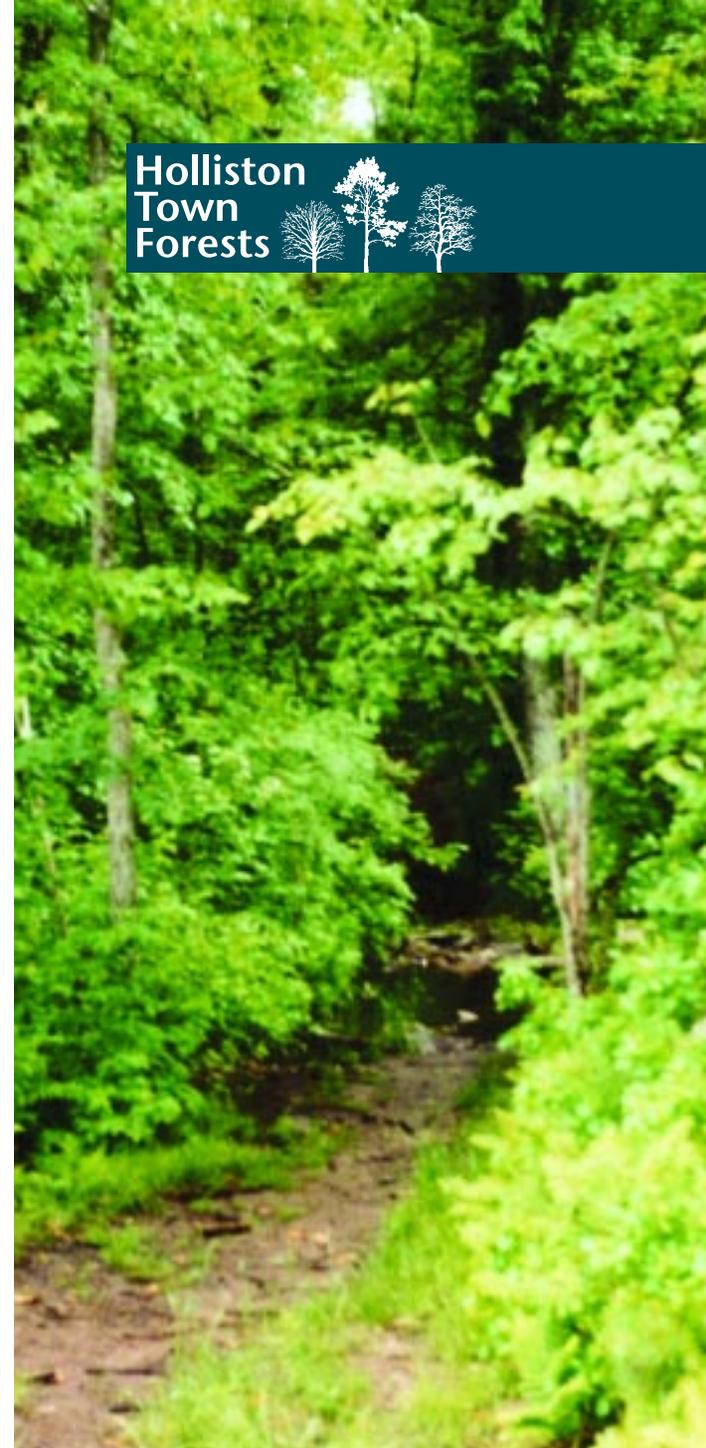


09/30/2002



Holliston Town Forest Committee
Town Hall
Holliston, MA 01746

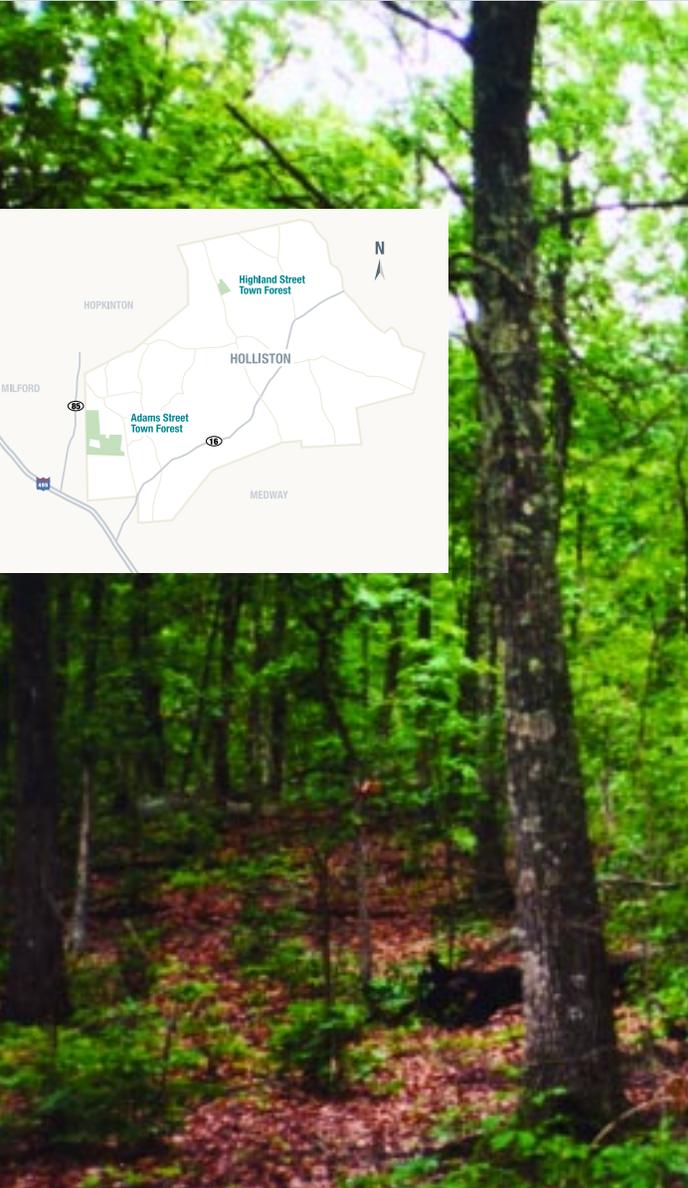
Your Town Forests – Map Inside!



The road less traveled
is right in our back yard.

Welcome to our Town Forests!

The Holliston Town Forest Committee created this brochure to develop an awareness of the many uses of the Town Forests. We hope to increase the use and appreciation of this natural resource. Take the road less traveled. It's right in our back yard.

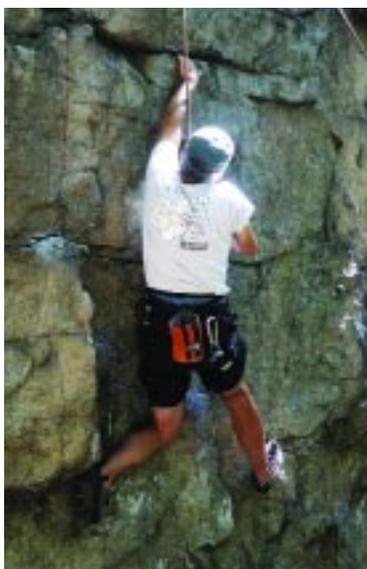




Two parcels of land comprise the Holliston Town Forests: a 24 acre parcel on the northern end of Highland Street and a 200+ acre parcel on Adams Street. Acquired over the years through a series of purchases and generous land-donations, these formerly cleared lands have returned to a forested state over the last century. Our public lands are ideal for walking, hiking, mountain biking, orienteering, horseback riding, running, dog-walking, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, and birdwatching.

The Highland Street parcel lies in a rural area of the north-central part of town, home to several farms, an equestrian center, a European-style farm, a nursery, and a vineyard. It's a great area to spend the day outdoors. Nearby are Massachusetts Audubon's Wauseeka Wildlife Sanctuary, Northeastern's Warren Conference Center, the Ashland Reservoir (boating, swimming, and fishing), Ashland State Park, and Holliston's town-owned Pinecrest Golf Course. The parcel itself is dry upland forest comprised of mixed oak and pine forest with small red maple swamp and hemlock stands in the northeast corner.

The much larger Adams Street tract lies on the western edge of Holliston contiguous with over two thousand more acres of conservation land, open space, and undeveloped



land in Holliston, Milford and Hopkinton (see map). It is primarily a dry, upland forest dominated by mixed oaks, pine and sassafras, and home to over 100 species of plants. Dozens of bird and mammal species can be found within the forest and adjoining lands. Small pockets of red maple swamp wetlands shelter many interesting plants and animals. Several hundred yards away, in Milford, you can connect with the **Upper Charles Trail** and the emerging **Rails to Trails** project that eventually will connect to other conservation lands in Holliston. You can also enjoy technical rock climbing at nearby College Rock, a 60' high, 300' long cliff face, just over the town line in Hopkinton (see map).

Thanks to the efforts of local Boy Scouts, extensive, well-marked trail systems in both forests allow for easy access and a wide-range of possibilities. Trail maps are posted at the Adams Street, College Rock, and Highland Street parking entrances. Most trails are level or of a moderate grade, although some in the Adams Street Forest are more challenging. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

In an hour or less, you can stroll through the entire forest on Highland Street. Or, hike for a while before settling in amongst the pines and oaks for a nice picnic lunch. You can choose one of the shorter trails in the Adams Street Forest for a similar outing. If you have more time and energy, the numerous miles of trails here offer many opportunities for hours of exploration, exercise, recreation and reflection.

The Holliston Town Forest Committee's mandated mission is to "manage and care for that portion of the public domain known as the...town forest." Developing awareness and appreciation of our forests is an important part of caring for them. If you are new to the town forests, use the maps on the other side to introduce yourself to this public resource. We hope this brochure has given you a better grasp of the opportunities they afford us.



RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Regulations subject to change. Check bulletin board for latest information. Please help protect the natural resources at this property.

- Forests are closed from dusk to dawn.
- Parking is available from dawn to dusk.
- No motorized vehicles or hunting are allowed.
- No fires are allowed.
- No littering, possession or use of alcoholic beverages permitted.
- Removal of any wood is prohibited.



For more information or to volunteer, contact:

Holliston Town Forest Committee
 Town Hall
 Holliston, MA 01746
www.townofholliston.com

CREDITS:

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