



## About This Property

The King Philip Woods Conservation Land derives its name from the Wampanoag sachem Metacom, son of Massasoit, also known as Metacomet, Pometacom, and to early English colonists: King Philip. It is located in the eastern end of town, where Old Sudbury Road (Route 27) crosses the Sudbury River and into Wayland.

Consisting of two parcels totaling 87 acres in size, this land was jointly purchased in 1987 by the Town of Sudbury and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. Water Row cuts between and separates these parcels from each other. One parcel encompasses about 57 acres as it stretches east, ending in roughly 1,300 feet of frontage along the Sudbury River. The other, measuring just over 30 acres, lies to the west of the divide. It nestles snugly into other wooded properties, field stone walls the only observable seams. King Philip Woods forms a part of a large, complex tapestry of open spaces that includes adjacent properties owned by the Conservation Commission (Piper Farm, Libby, and Dickson), the Sudbury Valley Trustees, and the Federal government.

This land has many tales to tell. The fertile floodplains of the Sudbury River once supported the growth of valuable hay. Local farmers would harvest this hay, a practice rendered untenable by the construction of dams at various points throughout the watershed. The wide trail running between Water Row and Old Sudbury Road used to carry stagecoaches travelling from Boston to Lancaster, and is still known as the Old Berlin Road. Along this same route hulks the foundation of the tavern that served those travelers of old. Not far away is yet another foundation, all that remains of the Haynes Garrison House. Colonists used fortified garrison houses to defend themselves during times of conflict.

On April 21, 1676, the Haynes Garrison House became the site of a noteworthy battle during King Philip's War (1675-1678). Indigenous peoples, faced with the increasing loss of land to colonists and the imposition of English law, launched a struggle for sovereignty and cultural survival. The war resulted in a massive loss of life on both sides, with an estimated 3,000 Native Americans and 600 colonists were killed. Many New England towns were destroyed, and the economy severely disrupted. The war reshaped the cultural and political landscape, setting the stage for further colonial expansion. The Goodnow Library and the Sudbury Historical Society are excellent resources for learning more about local history.

Wildlife abounds in the forested uplands, bogs, floodplains, and vernal pools of King Philip Woods. Wood duck, green heron, and Great blue heron are regular visitors. Beaver ply the waters of the pond. During mast years, white-tail deer are drawn to feast on acorns. In the spring, the wood frogs offer up their songs, while songbirds like warblers and wrens contribute their own vocalizations.

Trailheads with gravel parking lots are situated off of Old Sudbury Road and Water Row. These enter onto trails that connect hikers to the Haynes Garrison House, Plympton Road and Fieldstone Farm Road, with some mild to moderate grades along the way. One circuit circumnavigates the pond, which is skirted by the Old Berlin Road along the south bank. Hikers can also cross Water Row to view The Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge at designated viewing areas.

## Land Use Regulations

- Conservation Land is open to the public ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.
- No trails shall be cut or marked, nor dams built, nor any structure such as lean-tos, bridges, towers or handrails constructed.
- No person shall cut, break, remove, deface, defile, or ill-use any rock, building, fence, bench, bog bridge, sign or other structure or property, or have possession of any part thereof.
- Depositing or leaving rubbish, litter, demolition or yard debris, garbage, excavated fill or any hazardous waste is prohibited.
- No person shall engage in business, sell, or expose for sale, post, place, or give away any goods, wares or circulars.
- Fishing, trapping, catching, injuring, destroying or interfering in any way with birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals or any other wild animals is prohibited.
- Hunting prohibited except as permitted by the Conservation Commission.
- Horse riding is allowed on designated trails. The Conservation Commission reserves the right to close any trails to horses at any time should trail conditions warrant closure. Riders are expected to remove any horse waste from the trails and not dispose of it in any wetland area. Groups of more than five riders or organized horseback activities require a permit from the Commission.
- Dogs shall be restrained in accordance with the General Bylaws (Chapter 117 – Article II). More than 4 dogs per person shall require written permission from the Conservation Commission. Dog owners/walkers are expected to remove any dog waste from the property. Dog owners/walkers shall yield to horse riders and other trail users. All dog waste must be removed from the property and properly disposed of.
- Possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
- Possession of weapons or the discharge of firearms, firecrackers, rockets, sparklers, or fireworks is prohibited, except as permitted by the Conservation Commission.
- No motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed except for government emergency vehicles or vehicles authorized, in writing, by the Conservation Commission.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. The Conservation Commission reserves the right to close any trails to bicycles at any time should trail conditions warrant closure.
- Public nudity is prohibited.
- Swimming and wading is prohibited.
- All trash, litter, cans, refuse, bottles etc. shall be removed from the land by the user and disposed of or recycled properly.
- No glass bottles or containers or any kind are permitted on conservation land.
- Please park to maximize the space available. Please do not block the emergency entrance gate.
- Camping permitted by permit. Open fires are prohibited.

*A fine of not more than \$100.00 per day shall be imposed for any violation of these regulations, or of a permit issued under these regulations, according to the following schedule: \$150 for a second offense, and \$200.00 for a third or subsequent offense. These fines may be imposed, under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40 Section 21D, by the Police or by Commission members or staff. Each day shall constitute a new offense.*

# King Philip Woods

## Trail Guide



# Town of Sudbury Conservation Commission



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<https://sudbury.ma.us/conservationcommission/>

