

Take-Your-Own Trail Walk: Davis Road Boardwalk through Nine Carlisle Road Conservation Areas, by Clem Larson, Bedford Trails Committee

This walk starts near the Davis Road Boardwalk, and then traverses nine contiguous Conservation Areas (CAs)—White Cedar Swamp, Pine Grove Farm, Bedford Meadows, Langone, Carlson, Brown, Page, Peppergrass Brook and Redmond-Anderson CAs. These conservation areas comprise 75 acres of protected natural resources. This landscape features vibrant upland and wetland habitats bordering Peppergrass Brook. The Carlson CA near Carlisle Road is an extensive red maple swamp. Sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry and swamp azalea form a dense understory. Cinnamon ferns in this wetland grow to five feet. The Brown and Page CAs in the center of the landscape are long, narrow strips of shallow marsh, remnants of the colonial practice of dividing cedar swamp and river meadows. The Redmond-Anderson CA includes a white pine grove, with American beech saplings and a variety of understory shrubs serving as upland habitat for white-tailed deer. The Peppergrass Brook CA includes upland pine, oak and yellow birch forest. The wetlands bordering Peppergrass Brook range from shallow marsh to shrub swamp and forested wetland.

The Carlisle Road CAs, along with the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, form an extensive, protected corridor in West Bedford. Wildlife observed in these areas include wild turkey, wood duck, barred owl, pileated woodpecker, fisher and coyote. The trails through these areas form a continuous link from the Minnie Reid Conservation Area on Chelmsford Road in the north, extending south to the Pine Grove Farm Conservation Area on Davis Road.

Difficulty Level: **Moderate.** This trail includes tree roots, some uneven terrain, and could be wet or muddy. The walk is about 3.5 miles long, and can be walked in about 1.5 hours.

Driving Directions: From the Bedford Public Library at 7 Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62), then keep left to continue on Concord Rd./MA-62. After 0.3 mile, turn right on Davis Rd. After 0.5 mile, turn left on Revolutionary Ridge Rd. Turn left onto the 2nd driveway to park in the small parking area (see map).

Parking: Please park at the parking area (Google address: 2 Revolutionary Ridge Rd.) (see map)





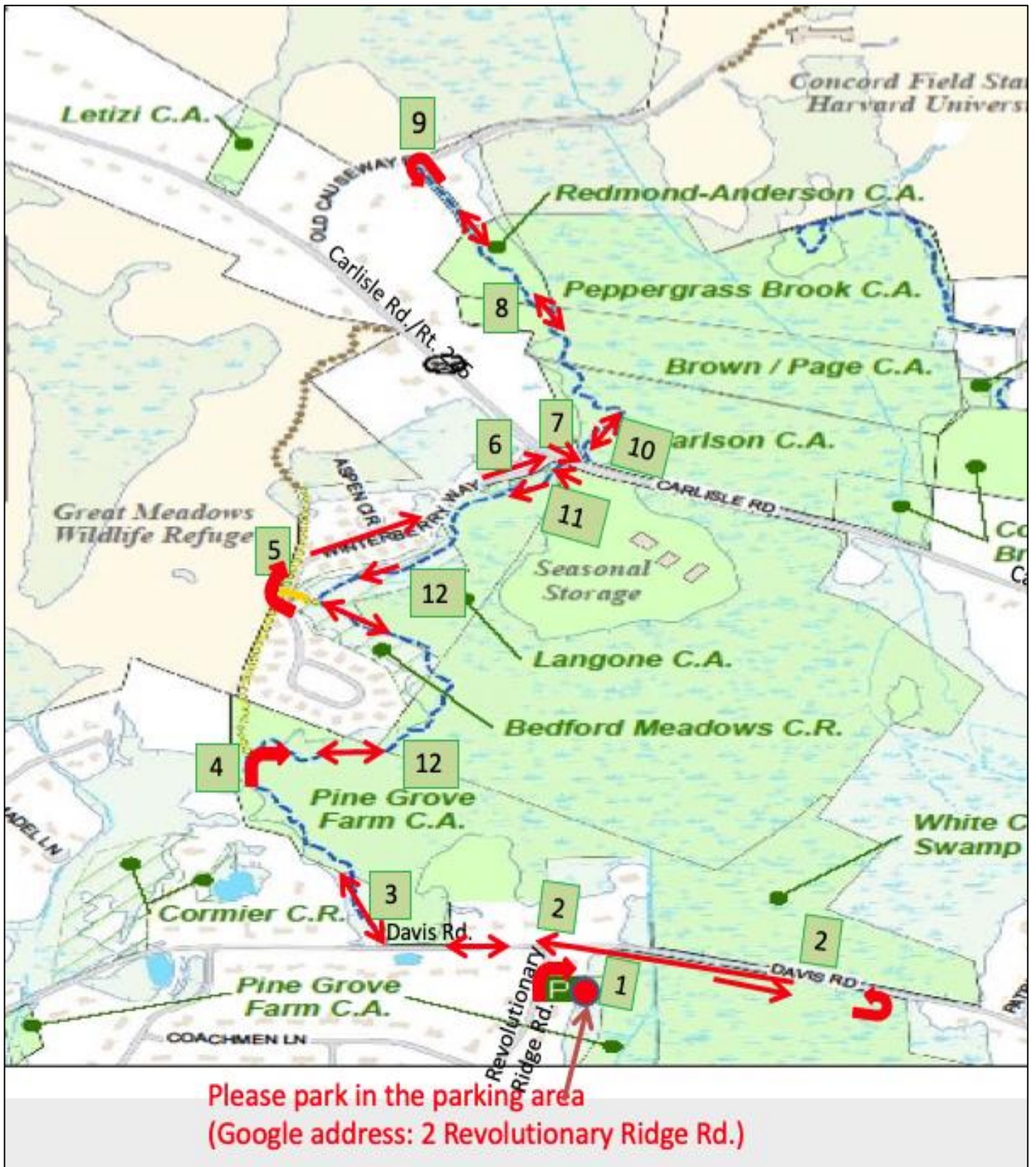
Walking Directions: Follow the *Numbered steps below which correspond to the map:*

1. From the parking area, turn right on Revolutionary Ridge Rd., then right on Davis Rd. to the end of the Boardwalk
2. Make a U-turn at the end of the boardwalk, then walk 0.4 mi. along Davis Rd.
3. About 15 yards past the "Pine Grove Farm Conservation Area" sign (see picture above), turn right onto the Blue trail (see picture below)



Blue Trail Entrance on Davis Rd.

4. Follow the Blue trail
5. Take the Yellow Blazed side-trail, then turn right on Winterberry Way. Follow Winterberry Way until the end at Carlisle Rd.
6. Cross Carlisle Rd., and turn right
7. Walk about 60 yards and enter the Blue trail at the "Carlson Conservation Area" sign
8. Follow the Blue Trail to Old Causeway Rd.
9. Take a U-turn at Old Causeway Rd., and follow the Blue Trail back to Carlisle Rd.
10. Cross Carlisle Rd./Rt. 225, turn right and walk about 50 yards
11. Enter the Blue Trail (next to Winterberry Way)
12. Return on the Blue trail to Davis Rd. and the parking area on Revolutionary Ridge Rd.



Note: Note that all walks at your own risk. Depending on the time of the year, ticks may be out, and poison ivy may be active. Please wear comfortable, closed-toe walking shoes or boots that can handle wet or mud, and ice and snow in the winter. Children and dogs on leash are welcome.

Please follow the latest [Bedford COVID-19 Data, News and Announcements](#)

Please observe Massachusetts' "Governor Baker COVID-19 "Order effective April 30, 2021 requiring people to wear masks or face-coverings in indoor public places and outdoors when they are unable to maintain 6 feet from other people."

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