

Take Your Own Trail Walk: Altmann and Pickman Meadows Conservation Areas (CAs), by Clem Larson and Michael Barbehenn, Bedford Trails Committee

This walk explores the Altmann and Pickman Meadows CAs, then heads to the Concord River to see Two Brothers Rocks. The Altmann CA land was purchased by the Town in 2002, through a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Bedford's Community Preservation Fund. The Altmann CA is protected by a Conservation Restriction granted to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. The 15.9 acre area abuts the Huckins Farm Conservation Restriction, **Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge**, and the Town-owned **Pickman Meadow**. Please note that *in*



accordance with the Huckins Farm Conservation Restriction, bicycles are not allowed on Huckins Farm nor Altmann CA trails.

Mostly wooded, the terrain slopes gradually toward the river. The trails lead to picturesque stone walls, open fields, and a certified vernal pool (see *picture lower left*). Remnants of an old "bog garden" near the vernal pool feature a variety of naturalized plants, including Carolina hemlock, sweet bay magnolia, sweetshrub, and several species of azalea, interspersed with native highbush blueberry, winterberry, alder and ferns. A view corridor is managed by the Conservation Commission as a native shrub community. The northern part of Altmann CA is designated as Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Altmann CA flourishes with indigenous trees including oak, white pine, eastern hemlock, eastern red cedar, red maple, tupelo, and birch, found in the wooded swamp and upland forest. Nearby Pickman Meadow is an open field and wet meadow acquired in 2006 (see *the Sudbury Valley Trustees April 2009 Newsletter article at right*).



New CR in Bedford



In January, the Town of Bedford granted SVT a conservation restriction (CR) over Pickman Meadow in Bedford, a small parcel adjacent to the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The Town acquired the parcel using Community Preservation Act funds, which required that a CR be put in place. We were delighted to accept it.

Located in the northwestern part of Bedford, Pickman Meadow abuts a large corridor of conservation land along the Concord River and provides habitat for threatened and endangered species. Its trail links to those on Bedford's Altmann Conservation Area.

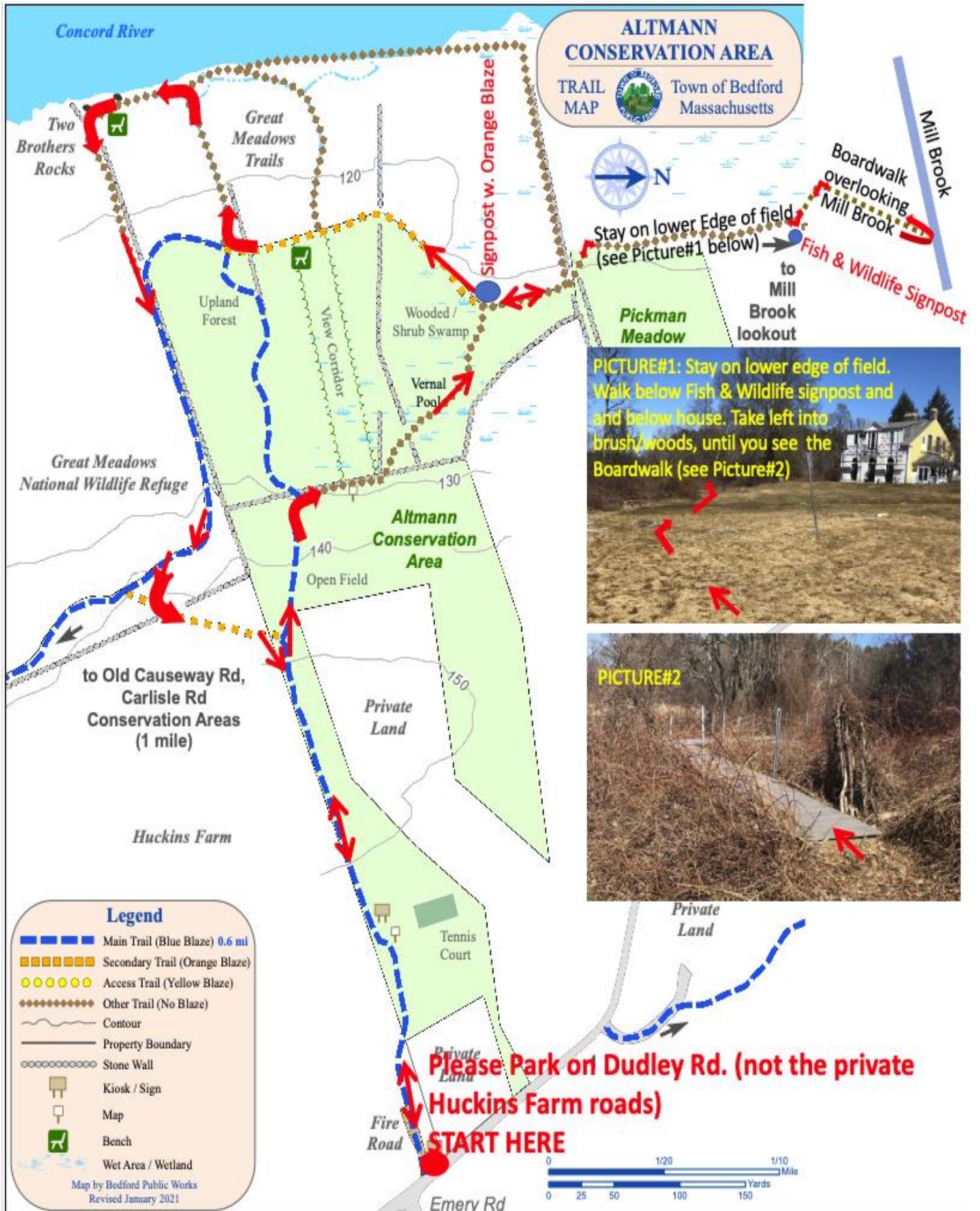
Difficulty Level: **Moderate/Difficult.** This trail walk is fairly rough, with uneven terrain, tree roots, bog bridges, walls, and often is muddy or wet. The walk is about 1.6 miles long, and takes about an hour to walk.

Driving Directions: From the Bedford Public Library at 7 Mudge Way, turn left on The Great Road (Routes 4/225/62). Follow North Rd. (Rt. 4) 1.2 miles, then left on Dudley Rd. for 0.9 miles.

Parking: Please park on Dudley Rd. near Emery Rd. (see map on next page). Please don't park on the private roads in the Huckins Farm community.

Walking Directions: (see map) Starting at the map kiosk at the intersection of Dudley Rd. and Emery Rd., go west down the Fire Road wood chip path into the woods, and follow the directions on the map. Just after the vernal pool, keep right at the Sign Post with the Orange blaze, and go through the woods until you reach Pickman Meadow. Walk across the lower portion of the meadow, below the Fish & Wildlife signpost and the house (see Picture#1 on map), until you see the boardwalk (see Picture #2 on map). At the boardwalk, you'll have views of the Concord River and overlook the Mill Brook (see pictures at right). Then retrace your steps to the Orange trail, and follow the map directions to Two Brothers Rocks and the Concord River, before returning on the Blue Trail.





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's COVID-19 Order . . . requiring all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others"](#)

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