

**WILDLANDS TRUST
WILLOW BROOK AND FLEETWOOD
FARMS PRESERVE
PEMBROKE, MA**

- LOCATION:** Off Rt. 14 (Barker Street)
AREA: 73 acres
PURCHASED: Funded by an anonymous donor, 1997
DIRECTIONS: Rt. 3 to Exit 12. West on Rt. 139. Turn left at lights onto Rt. 53 South. Proceed one mile, then right on Rt. 14 West at lights, travel 1/2 mile to preserve entrance on the right.
PARKING: Parking area off Rt. 14

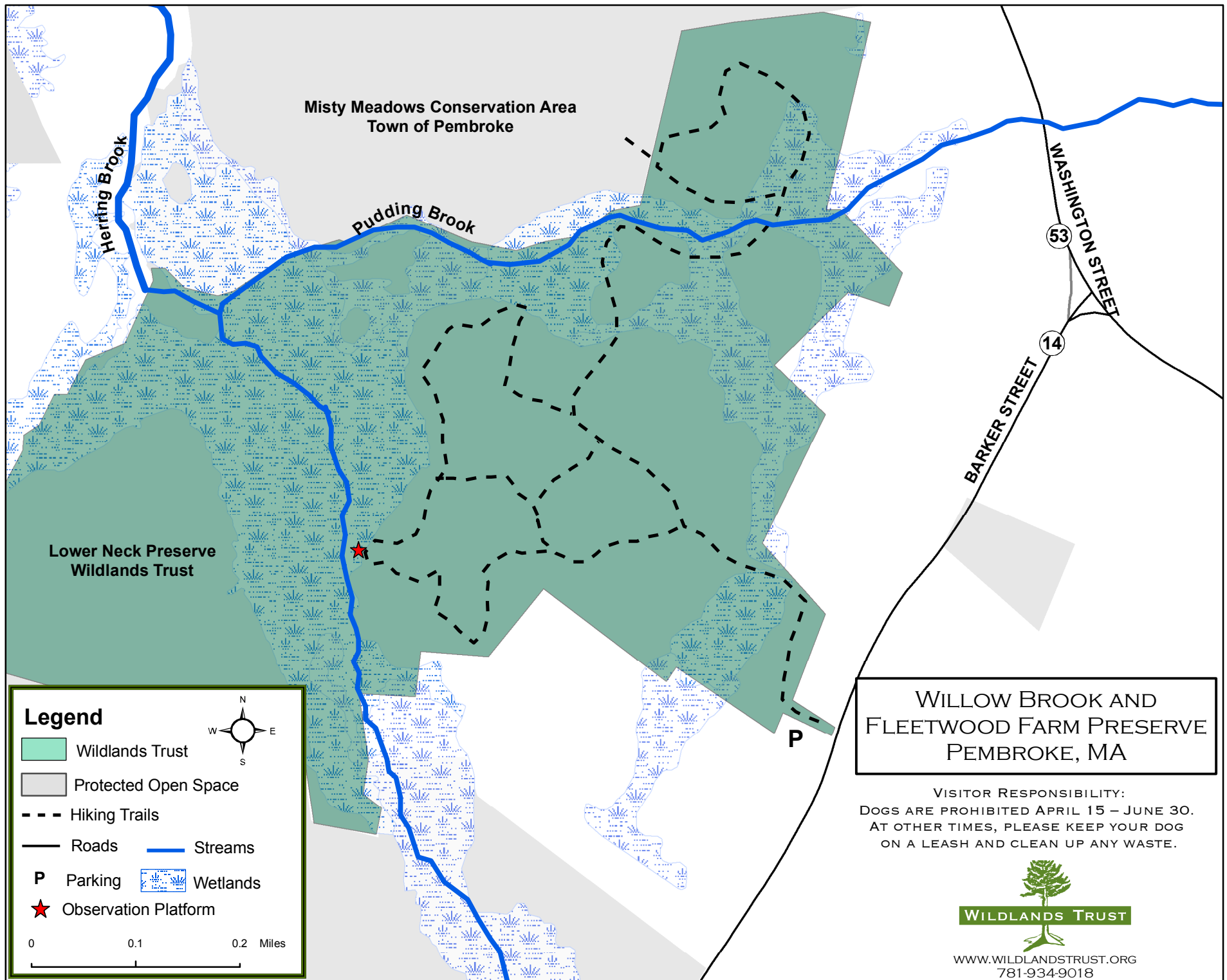
Willow Brook and Fleetwood Farms Preserve lies at the confluence of the Pudding and Herring Brooks in the Herring Brook valley, and is among the most diverse and interesting inland natural areas in Southeastern Massachusetts. In August 1996, a farsighted Marshfield couple offered to fund The Trust's acquisition of a high-quality conservation property. Staff and Board members explored 28 potential sites in 19 towns before deciding that two neighboring properties in the Herring Brook Valley on the upper reaches of the North River in Pembroke were lands of exceptional ecological, recreational, and scenic value. Thanks to the generosity of the visionary couple, who donated over one million dollars to the project, and to the willingness of the owners of the properties — Connie and Marcia Crosby at Willow Brook Farm Preserve and Leah Conathan and Jane Cohn at Fleetwood Farm Preserve — to sell at substantial discounts from the appraised values, both historic farms were acquired by The Trust.

The area is extremely productive for wildlife and conserves an unusual freshwater tidal marsh, a habitat type of both state and global significance. Tidal fluctuations can be observed here, some 11 miles upstream from the Atlantic Ocean. Within the valley lies a wilderness of more than 2,000 acres, which is a headwater area of the North River, and critical to water quality downstream.

Begin your walk at the informational kiosk near the entrance. Trails and ancient farm lanes wander through old fields and dense woods that include very large trees. The preserves provide habitat for a wide range of wetland species and an abundance of wildlife, including several rare species and a number of "Partners in Flight" watch-list birds. River otter, coyote, beaver, woodcock, ruffed grouse, and several amphibian species have been seen on the preserve.

Follow the trails to an observation tower for expansive views of the freshwater tidal marshes. This un-spoiled vista, in which no development can be seen, is surprising, given that the valley is surrounded by suburban towns and is only 30 miles from Boston. The Preserves' diversity and interesting topography encourage visitors to return often to sample the changing seasons.

* See map on next page



Misty Meadows Conservation Area
Town of Pembroke

Herring Brook

Pudding Brook

WASHINGTON STREET
53

BARKER STREET
14









Lower Neck Preserve
Wildlands Trust

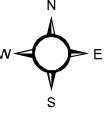
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WILLOW BROOK AND
FLEETWOOD FARM PRESERVE
PEMBROKE, MA

VISITOR RESPONSIBILITY:
DOGS ARE PROHIBITED APRIL 15 – JUNE 30.
AT OTHER TIMES, PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG
ON A LEASH AND CLEAN UP ANY WASTE.

Legend

-  Wildlands Trust
-  Protected Open Space
-  Hiking Trails
-  Roads
-  Streams
-  Parking
-  Wetlands
-  Observation Platform



0 0.1 0.2 Miles



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