

Matfield and Satucket Rivers

Historically, the Matfield and Satucket Rivers once supported a thriving and diverse population of anadromous and freshwater fish. American Shad and blueback herring are river spawning species; alewives lay their eggs in connecting ponds. They require unobstructed clean, well-oxygenated water free of excessive chlorine and other pollutants. Evidence of the importance of these fish to the native Wampanoag Nation can be found at low



Matfield River Quickwater



Historic Satucket Fish Weir

water when one of the surviving stone fish weirs is visible in the Satucket, upstream from the Carver Cotton Gin. These rivers still provide recreational canoeing and

kayaking, with the Bay Circuit Trail running close by along the Satucket River.

These rivers were part of the Taunton River Wild & Scenic Study Area.

Sachem Rock Farm

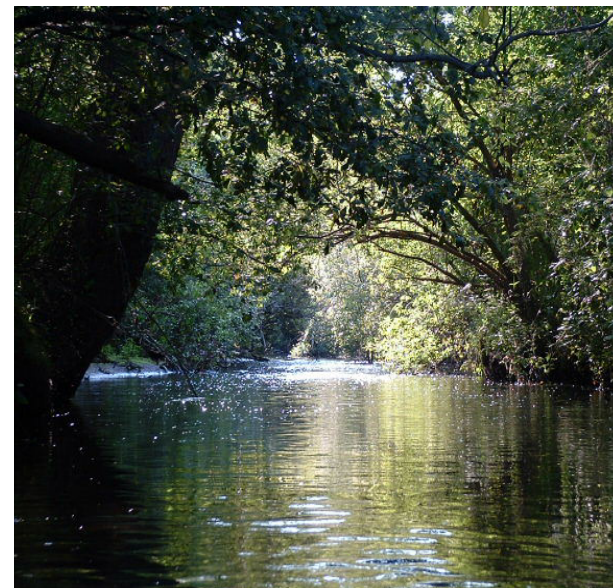
The 32- acre Sachem Rock Farm property is the most historic parcel within the area, the first inland property purchased by the Pilgrim Fathers. On the bedrock outcropping at the rear of this site Miles Standish, Samuel Nash and Constant Southworth purchased the land, then called Satucket and now including the three Bridgewater and Brockton. The seller was the Pokanoket Sachem Ousamequin, and the purchase was to include all land in a square 7 miles north, east, south and west measured from a fish weir in the neighboring Satucket River. This picturesque town- owned property is now proposed as the site of a new Senior / Community Center, **on which the Friends of East Bridgewater Trails group plan to improve a perimeter foot trail.**



Pokanoket Sagamore Winds of Thunder, descendant of Ousamequin, and John Haines, descendant of Pilgrim Miles Standish meet at Sachem Rock Farm 361 years after both of their ancestors passed the original deed for the first inland settlement of Plymouth Colony, a territory that became known as 'Old Bridgewater.'

To preserve this historic property, East Bridgewater residents are proposing a Senior / Community Center utilizing the existing farmhouse and barn, to be called the Center at Sachem Rock Farm.

The Greenway Approach To Historic Preservation



*Looking downstream on the Matfield River
(aka Ahquannissowamssoo River)*

**Connecting Recreational Trails in
East Bridgewater, Massachusetts:**

**Bay Circuit Trail
Historic Matfield & Satucket Rivers
Sachem Rock Farm
Leland Farm
Captain Washburn Pond**

Project Overview...

Connecting Greenways:

Today there is a Vision ...and a huge effort across the state to link hundreds of local open spaces – ribbons of green laced together through parks, natural resource areas, and important community features – to satisfy a diverse set of environmental, economical, educational, and social needs.

Greenways are corridors of land and water and the natural, cultural, and recreational resources they link together. A walking trail connecting to historical sites and neighborhood parks, a wildlife migration corridor, and a series of open spaces joined by trails are all examples of Greenways.

Bay Circuit Trail

Forerunner of today's national Greenways movement, the Bay Circuit Trail was started as an outer "emerald necklace," linking parks, open spaces and waterways from Plum Island to Kingston. Focused on a 200-mile corridor of 50 cities and towns, BCT connects the "jewels" of the "emerald necklace." Community by community, the dream of connecting a protected Greenway around Boston is now becoming a reality.

We need your Help and Support!
Participation is an investment in the
FUTURE of East Bridgewater.

For information or to volunteer, please contact:

The Friends of East Bridgewater Trails,
P.O. Box 59, East Bridgewater, MA 02333
Howard Wilbur at 508-378-3473
hawilbur@Juno.com
eastbridgewatertrails.org

or

East Bridgewater Conservation Commission,
508-378-1623

Leland Farm

The former Leland Dairy Farm is a 160-acre town-owned parcel of diverse habitat with fields, streams, and hedgerows. It is bisected by Beaver Brook, a native trout stream. The southern portion of the property has been cleared of all buildings and presently is leased by a local farmer who raises seasonal vegetable crops.



The Friends of East Bridgewater Trails seeks to develop a perimeter walking trail around this property.

Captain Washburn Pond

This industrial site was first developed in the mid-1820's with the building of a house and barn on the property. During Captain Washburn's ownership a dam was built and a vertical saw mill was constructed to cut lumber for box making. Capt. Washburn installed the first power generation in town, running lights by his own water power. The water was diverted from Beaver Brook and after passing through the dam was reconnected back to the brook. Today this historical property is popular for fishing, and in the winter, skaters and hockey players are often observed.



The property needs upgrading and the Trails Group is developing a perimeter walking trail around it.

Greenways are Pathways —

Connecting people and place:

"Walking trails provide good public access to conservation properties and enhance recreational & educational opportunities while building support for land conservation and the importance of protecting our valuable resource areas."

Claire Yocum,
East Bridgewater Conservation Commission

"East Bridgewater's trails and greenways are great local and regional assets, giving pleasurable access to local open spaces and potentially connecting with resources in surrounding towns by extending and linking local trails and by completing the Bay Circuit Trail".

Pat Ciaramella,
Executive Director, Old Colony Planning Council

"The 1937 vision of the "Bay Circuit Greenbelt" or outer emerald necklace park system surrounding Boston is taking shape with the creation of the 200 mile Bay Circuit Trail. The Conservation Parkland System in the Bridgewater's is a key component in realizing this 60 year old dream."

Alan French,
Bay Circuit Trail Alliance

"The regional network of land and water Greenways now under development in the 3 Bridgewater towns is in perfect harmony with the state Greenway Vision to connect diverse habitat and protected open spaces with hiking and canoeing trails that criss-cross the Massachusetts Landscape."

Bob O'Connor,
Director of Land and Forest Conservation, EOEEA

"Pocanoket goals include preserving open space in perpetuity for all people – some lands for recreation and some for wildlife sanctuaries. We support East Bridgewater's Greenway plan to preserve environmentally sensitive land, watersheds, and open spaces."

Winds of Thunder,
Sagamore/ President of the Council of Seven/Royal House of
Pocanoket/Pocanoket Tribe Wampanoag Nation

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