

**THE WOODBRIDGE PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
WOODBRIDGE, CONNECTICUT  
FOUNDED IN 1928

**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2003**

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Dear Friends,

As we approach 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Woodbridge Park Association, it is my pleasure to report to you on the activities of the Association during the past year. The Association has been active in joining other supporters of open space initiatives in Woodbridge to encourage the Town to devote additional funds to the acquisition and preservation of open space. The vote at the annual Town Meeting in May to authorize funds to purchase more than 20 acres of woodland on Seymour Road as an open space preserve was a welcome milestone in the Town's long range plan for open space preservation. The Woodbridge Park Association recognizes its shared mission with the Town, the other land conservation groups in Woodbridge, and the many citizens of Woodbridge who cherish the town's rural quality to preserve the open spaces that make it special. We are pleased that First Selectman Amey

Marrella and her team, Senator Joseph Crisco, and Representative Themis Klarides are showing such strong leadership and commitment to open space initiatives. The Woodbridge Park Association continues to seek opportunities to purchase land for preservation as part of the Association's holdings, to supplement the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park and the preserve on Newton Road.

The primary focus of the Association's activities remains the flagship Alice Newton Street Memorial Park. Eagle Scout Jeff Stauffer completed the construction of a new bridge on the main trail, over the Wepawaug River. Eagle Scout Peter Hubbard undertook significant improvements on the Yellow Meadow Trail from the meadow to the East Boundary Trail. Eagle Scout Jeff Lange completed repair and marking of the cross trails between the Blue Trail

*The*  
*Alice Newton Street*  
**MEMORIAL**  
**PARK**



*The*  
Woodbridge Park Association, Inc.  
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and the Meadow Trail. Eagle Scout Dan Ireland executed plank walks and marking on the East Boundary Trail. We are grateful to these Eagle Scouts for their outstanding work, continuing the tradition of service that Eagle Scouts have provided the park and its users for many years. Plans for additional improvements to the main trail, primarily to address drainage issues, are in place. In spite of rainy weather that forced the cancellation of the annual park cleanup in April, the work was completed by Board members and friends who reconvened later in the summer.

A second focus was the Association's preserve on Newton Road, which has been essentially inaccessible since its acquisition. Although the Association's charter permits the acquisition of property solely for preservation purposes, it has long been hoped that the Newton Road property might be opened up for hiking. To this end, Association Director Michael Walter designed and cleared a new trail to permit sufficient access to study the terrain and determine what would be required to open safe and accessible trails. As a first step, Eagle Scout candidate Andy Dickgiesser will blaze the proposed trails. The overall project, which will be undertaken with the help of other Association directors and additional Woodbridge Boy Scouts, will no doubt take several years to complete, but the resulting trails will offer new opportunities for recreation for our town.

In preparation for celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the newly activated Archives Committee began a long term project to research and write a history of the Association. Through an examination of old records, it was determined that the Association was incorporated on October 4, 1928. It was not until January 14, 1929, however, that a Board of Directors consisting of eight members was elected. Subsequent records indicate that the latter date has since been viewed as the founding date for the purpose of marking anniversaries. We plan to provide further details about the early years of the Association's history at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, to which we hope to welcome you all.

At the annual meeting in May, the Association received and accepted with great regret the resignation of three of its long-time directors and officers, Donald G. Rowland, Louise Rowland, and Paul Konwerski. Don Rowland, past vice president and president of the Association, is mentioned in the historical records as far back as 1967 as Park Superintendent. Louise Rowland served as secretary for many years. Paul Konwerski, also a director of long standing, likewise served as both vice president and president. I have had the pleasure of working with all three of these generous and dedicated Association directors for many years, and, on a personal level, I will miss their warmth and spirit. I am sure that I speak for everyone involved with the Park Association in thanking them profoundly for their devotion to the park and the Association's goals. They have been true friends to the people of Woodbridge.

The annual meeting marked the end of my third and final year as president, and I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow officers and directors for their dedicated stewardship of the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park and the generous vision of the Association's founders, and their energetic efforts in moving the Association forward toward its other preservation goals. I am also grateful to Attorney David W. Schneider for his wise and expert guidance in the increasingly complex issues surrounding open space preservation. An outstanding slate of new officers was elected at the annual meeting: Dr. Richard J. Forselius, President; Christopher R. Dickerson, Vice President; Barbara W. Adams, Secretary, and Michael E. Burt, Esq., Treasurer. Winchester L. Hubbard was re-elected Park Superintendent, and Michael Walter was elected to the reinstated post of Assistant Superintendent. Rebecca Daymon was elected as a new member of the Board of Directors; we welcome her warmly. I look forward to working with this exceptional new team of leaders for the benefit of the park and the open space preservation goals that so many of us in Woodbridge share.

Please come and enjoy the Alice Newton Street Park, and share with us any historical knowledge or personal experiences about it that you and your family might have — our history will be the richer for your contribution.

With all best wishes,



Susan B. Matheson  
President

## *Contributions 2002-2003*

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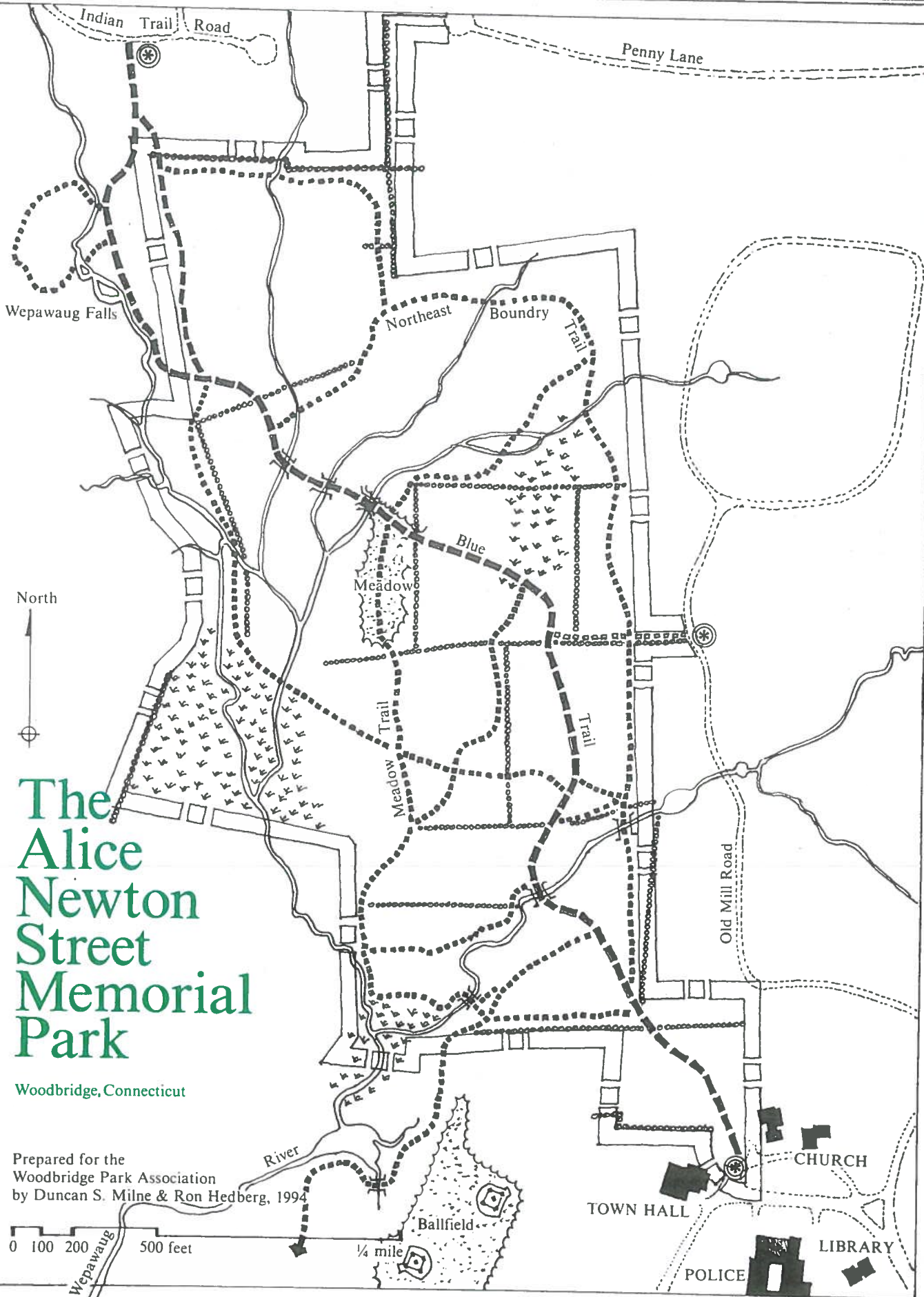
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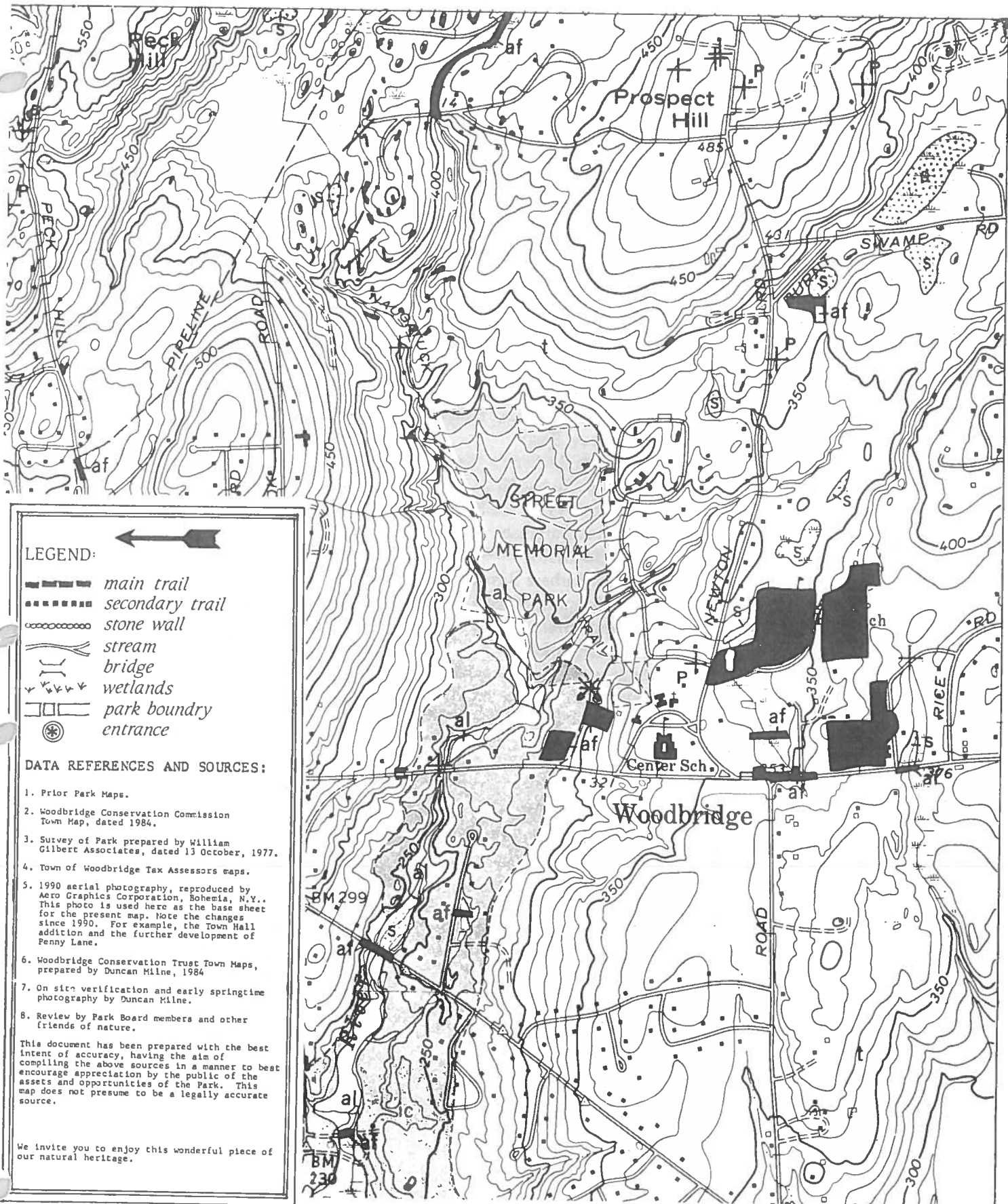
# The Alice Newton Street Memorial Park

Woodbridge, Connecticut

Prepared for the Woodbridge Park Association by Duncan S. Milne & Ron Hedberg, 1994

0 100 200 500 feet

1/4 mile



**LEGEND:**

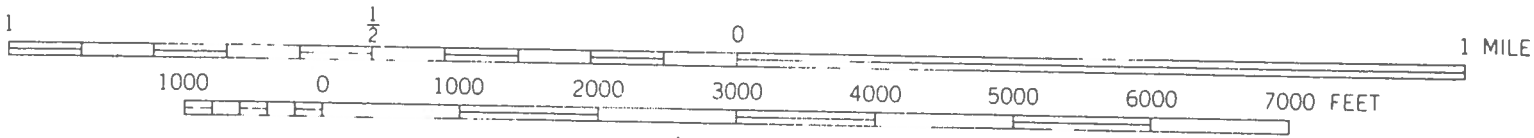
- main trail
- secondary trail
- stone wall
- stream
- bridge
- wetlands
- park boundary
- entrance

**DATA REFERENCES AND SOURCES:**

1. Prior Park Maps.
2. Woodbridge Conservation Commission Town Map, dated 1984.
3. Survey of Park prepared by William Gilbert Associates, dated 13 October, 1977.
4. Town of Woodbridge Tax Assessors maps.
5. 1990 aerial photography, reproduced by Aero Graphics Corporation, Bohemia, N.Y.. This photo is used here as the base sheet for the present map. Note the changes for since 1990. For example, the Town Hall addition and the further development of Penny Lane.
6. Woodbridge Conservation Trust Town Maps, prepared by Duncan Milne, 1984
7. On site verification and early springtime photography by Duncan Milne.
8. Review by Park Board members and other friends of nature.

This document has been prepared with the best intent of accuracy, having the aim of compiling the above sources in a manner to best encourage appreciation by the public of the assets and opportunities of the Park. This map does not presume to be a legally accurate source.

We invite you to enjoy this wonderful piece of our natural heritage.



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### *IN MEMORY OF JOHN CHATFIELD*

Elizabeth Chatfield  
Cathy Shufro

## *Land Donations*

In addition to the founding gift of land in 1928, the Association has received important donations of land, as listed below together with the dates of acquisition:

Chester Hitchcock Family, 1920: 2.5 acres adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

First Ecclesiastical Society of the Town of Woodbridge, 1935: 0.7 acre by Meetinghouse Lane

Mrs. Dorothy Heise, 1956: 1 acre adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, 1987-88: 3.9 acres adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

Dennis Nicotra, 1986: 6 acres on Newton Road

Harry Grossman, on behalf of the Woodbridge Estates, 1988: 1 acre on Newton Road;

1989: 7.8 acres on the northwestern corner of the Park

## *Use of the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park*

The Park is free and open to all, every day of the year.

*Main Entrance:* Meetinghouse Lane, north of the Green and Town Hall.  
Parking adjacent to the entrance.

*Second Entrance:* Old Mill Road. Limited parking.

Major hiking trails are marked. A large map showing the trails can be found at the main entrance. Picnic tables and benches are provided near the main entrance.

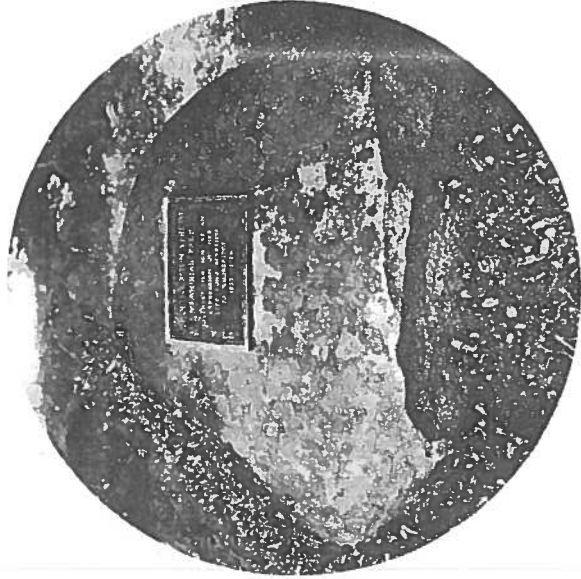
Two maps are included in this letter. The one of the park was prepared by Duncan Milne and Ron Hedberg (1994). The other is an enlarged portion of the Surficial Geographic map of the Ansonia quadrangle which shows the park land and its surroundings.

To ensure the safety of visitors and the preservation of the park, smoking and fires are prohibited.

The park is designed to remain in its natural state. Therefore, no motorized vehicles are allowed in the park, except those used for park maintenance. Hunting and fishing are not allowed. Please do not pick the wildflowers or disturb other plants or wildlife.



*The*  
*Alice Newton Street*  
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