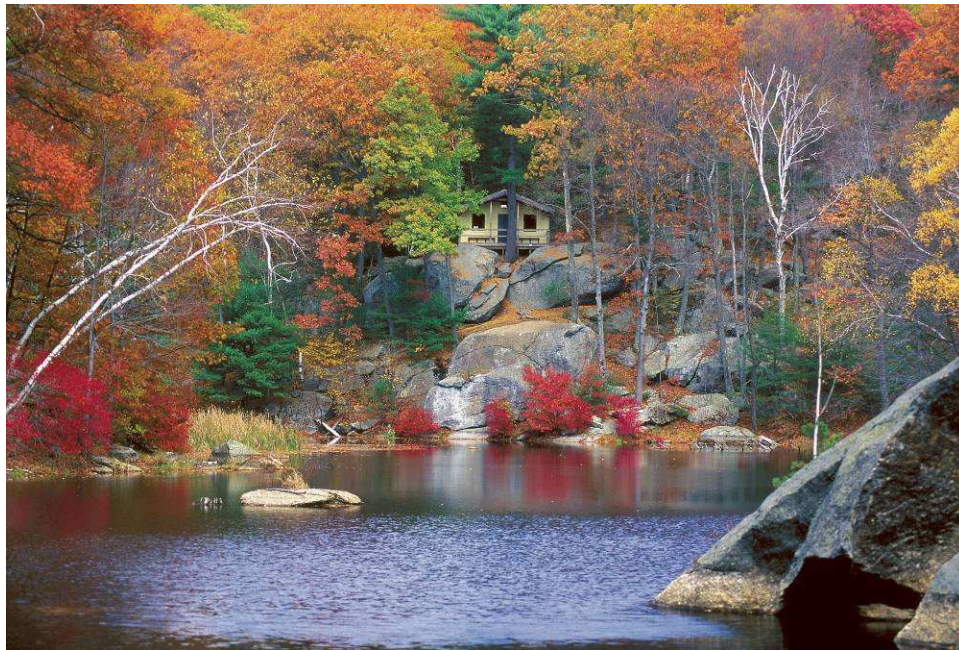


Rock House Reservation Management Plan

2010



©

Rock House: Management Plan

Location: Rock House Reservation, West Brookfield, MA

Acreage: 135 acres (property guide)

Completed by: Russ Hopping, assisted by Steve Fluet, Dick O'Brien, Susan Edwards, Chris Rodstrom, Jim Younger and Vin Antil with review by Lisa Vernegaard and John Thomas (FOC volunteer)

Date: Approved by the FOC on September 22, 2010

Supporting Reports and Materials: Property Guide; Trustees website; 2003 Vernal Pool Survey; 2007 Carter Pond Assessment; 2002 Breeding Bird Survey; 2003 Plant Community Descriptions; 2002 A History of Land Use at the Rock House Reservation; 2006 Visitor Survey; 1993 parking lot lease

I. Introduction

Brief description of property:

Built by a glacier and blessed by indigenous tribes who hunted and worshiped here, the cave-like shelter and its surroundings are an intriguing blend of geologic and human history. Nature lovers can enjoy expanses of wildflowers, hardwood forests and pine groves, while watching for a wide variety of animals, from wild turkeys to painted turtles.

The centerpiece of the property is the massive, 20- to 30-foot-high rock enclosure that stands guard over man-made Carter Pond. Visitors who choose to explore the 135-acre tract will find that there is plenty more to sample from this multi-faceted green space. Like much of central Massachusetts, the history of Rock House Reservation is that of forests transformed into farmlands, ponds and streams turned into mill power, and all, now, reverting to their natural states.

Over the thousands of years that the glacier pushed, pulled, and scraped over the New England landscape, myriad land formations, such as the Rock House, were created. The movement of the ice sheet also left behind boulders in the most improbable places. A striking example of these "erratics" is Balance Rock, which perches atop a large stone outcrop.

The Trustees categorize Rock House as a "B" level property. These properties are characterized by moderate visitation and may possess significant resources and may have other associated complex issues. These properties have the ability to engage both local and regional visitors and volunteers. Additional resources, including funding, staff, and volunteer time will be needed to implement some of the recommendations in this plan.

Rock House Reservation includes the 61-acre Lucy Stone Site located on nearby Coy Hill Road. These properties rely on the same management staff and budget. While a separate management plan was completed for the Lucy Stone Home Site in 2004, these two plans will be combined to form one overall management plan for the Reservation.

- a. Acquisition history: Anonymous gift, with endowment, in 1993 in memory of William Adams. Additional land purchased in 2002. The Rock House Reservation began with the gift of a conservation restriction to The Trustees by an anonymous donor in 1977 followed by a donation of the fee interest in 1993 in memory of William Adams. The reservation was expanded by 58 acres in 2002 with the addition of 50 acres on the Reservation's western border acquired from John Cregan and Donald Richards, and 8 acres, west of the Cregan and Richards parcel, from Maurice Labbe.
- b. Donor's wishes or other clear guiding principles See section III.a.III.1 below.

II. Summary of Preliminary Management Goals

- a. Continue to maintain property to B-level standards
- b. Continue to maintain and expand trail system
- c. Continue to monitor and control invasive species
- d. Co-manage with the nearby Lucy Stone Home Site (see 2004 Management Plan)

III. Legal and Management Considerations

- a. Any policies or other factors that would constrain or influence management
 - i. Wetlands Protection Act: Wetlands are common at Rock House and work within these areas and their 100 foot buffer zone may require permitting.
 - ii. Rare species habitat: Portions of Rock House have been designated as Priority Habitat for the state-endangered variable sedge. Work within this area will require consultation with Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MNHESP).
 - iii. Existing Conservation Restriction (Appendix E)
 1. The original 77 acres of the Rock House Reservation is encumbered by the conservation restriction (CR) granted to The Trustees of Reservations in 1977, which remained in effect even after the fee was subsequently donated. This follows the policy to retain both the CR and the fee, and manage a restricted reservation in a manner that complies with the CR. Aside from the CR, the gift of the property to The Trustees did not come with any limitations or requirements.
 2. The challenge at the Rock House Reservation arises from the CR document's lack of reserved rights that would permit amenities for the public. Recent monitoring visits in March of 2009 revealed the presence of a new interpretive sign on the property. The sign is 34" x 52" in size and is mounted on two 4" x 4" posts at the trail junction by the dam at the south end of Carter Pond. There is discretionary language in the Rock House CR that may allow the grantee to enforce the provisions of the CR as it sees fit, but no explicit provision allowing for signs on the property. The Trustees should consider

whether to interpret the CR to allow for the sign, move the sign outside of the bounds of the CR closer to the parking area, or amend the CR to allow for these types of uses.

- iv. Agreement and license for use of land adjacent to the Rock House by The Trustees of Reservations: Three acres of town land are leased by The Trustees and are subject to conditions delineated in the lease.

IV. Property Description:

A. Historic and Cultural Resources

The mammoth proportions and southern exposure of the Rock House shelter made it an excellent winter camp for Native Americans. Its location near two long Native American footpaths suggests that it may also have been a trail camp and meeting place.

In the mid-17th century, colonists cleared the forests of West Brookfield for farming. In 1866, pastures around the Rock House were added to a 281-acre farm on Ragged Hill Road owned by William Adams, whose family would tend the land for more than 125 years.

During the first two decades of the 20th century, the Rock House was a popular stop on the “Copper Line,” an electric trolley that ran between West Brookfield and Ware. Visitors came to picnic in the abandoned pastures and explore this historic Native American landmark. Later the area was used as a country retreat by Arthur Carter, a family descendent of the Adams who owned the land since the mid 1800s. Arthur built a small cabin, today’s Trailside Museum, and created Carter Pond by building an earthen dam. The property was gifted to The Trustees of Reservations in 1993.

Significant Historic and Cultural Features:

- The Rock House was used by Native Americans as a winter camp and possible meeting place.
- Carter Pond is man-made and is one of the key elements that define this property.
- The Trailside Museum, formally Arthur Carter’s cabin, is the only building on the property. This cabin was in derelict condition when The Trustees assumed ownership. Rather than demolish the cabin it was renovated to function as a rustic and unstaffed museum. It currently stands vacant, except for a small wooden bench around the inside perimeter where visitors can sit out of the elements. It is open to visitors at all hours and houses four passive natural history display panels mounted on the studded walls. It could provide interpretive program space if a ranger were to be hired in the future. The original frame and footprint of the cabin remains as it was. The porch and roof shingles were replaced, stabilizing roof supports added and the chimney and internal wall removed.

Threats to Historic and Cultural Features:

- Graffiti: There have been instances of graffiti on the Rock House itself, the Trailside Museum, and the occasional aftermath from paintball wars.
- A large rock fragment is overhanging the main entrance to the rock shelter. Cracks in the ledge suggest this fragment is separate from the main outcrop. A technical assessment will be needed to assess the structural integrity of the Shelter and any safety concerns.

Opportunities:

- Review interpretive displays in the Trailside Museum to make sure we are providing the best engagement and interpretive opportunity.
- Based on land use history, develop brochure that ties together Trustees properties and Native American history.

B. Natural Resources

Rock House is located in the Lower Worcester Plateau/Eastern Connecticut Upland Ecoregion. Elevations at Rock House range between 600 feet near its lowest elevation to more than 1,020 feet at its highest, nearly the full range of elevation for the ecoregion. Rock outcrops and large surface boulders are common, many covered with lichens and ferns. The outcrop that gives the Reservation its name is among the largest and most dramatic.

Post agricultural second-growth mixed forest and conifer plantations cover much of the eastern half of the Reservation while an oak dominated forest, possibly containing primary forest, covers the western half. Carter's Pond is a primary scenic feature near the center of the property. This two and a half acre pond is very shallow and was created sometime in the 1920s or 30s. A power line also bisects the Reservation creating early successional habitat. Several intermittent streams flow through the property, flowing south towards Route 9 and the Ware River. Woodland vernal pools are uncommon.

Significant Natural Features:

- Rare Species: Wood turtles, a Species of Special Concern have been recorded at Rock House. The Endangered variable sedge and the Watch-Listed whorled pogonia orchid occur on adjacent land and could be found on the Reservation. At least two vernal pools support obligate species of amphibians.
- Landscape Setting: Rock House is part of more than 1,100 acres of contiguous protected open space.
- Primary Forest: Parts of both Rock House and the Lucy Stone Home Site have been identified as possibly supporting primary forest – forested areas with minimal disturbance.
- Part of Rock House has been designated Priority Habitat and both properties have been designated Supporting Habitat and Watershed by MNHESP.
- Carter Pond: This small constructed pond is a scenic centerpiece and provides unique habitat within the Reservation. Sixty-one species of

plants, five species of fish, one amphibian, and more than 19 species of invertebrates were collected from the pond in 2007. The pond is functioning as a “relatively healthy ecosystem” although there is some concern over water quality. Trail erosion is leading to premature filling of this shallow pond and may be contributing to low oxygen levels. The murky water is reducing sun light penetration needed by aquatic plants.

Threats to Natural Features:

- Erosion: The Fire Road is prone to erosion. When this happens sediment is deposited into Carter Pond. Recent repairs have helped to address erosion but anticipated impacts from climate change will make erosion an ongoing issue (see bullet below on climate change).
- Invasive plants are present but control efforts funded by the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) over the past few years have helped control these species to the point that routine management should address future control needs. Knapweed is spreading along the power lines.
- Climate Change: Precipitation is expected to increase in both amount and severity. As a result trail erosion is likely to increase. Indeed, recent intense thunder storms and associated erosion at Rock House may be early impacts.
- Deer: When deer numbers are high, browsing pressures can impact forest regeneration and plant species composition. Current browsing pressures at Rock House do not appear to be obvious – perhaps due to surrounding lands and part of the Reservation being open to hunting. Hunting should be continued to prevent over-browsing as a threat.

Opportunities:

- Enlist volunteers to assist with trail erosion and early detection of invasive species.
- Encourage visitors to report wood turtle sightings by posting information on the bulletin board.

C. Scenic Resources

Significant Scenic Features:

- Carter Pond, especially from Trailside Museum
- Scenic Vista: In the northeast corner of the property located at the top of the Summit Trail is a scenic vista with views to the east and southeast. This view-shed is disappearing due to growing trees on the adjacent private property and should be considered for abandonment.

Threats to Scenic Features:

- The siltation of the pond due to episodes of erosion is impacting the aquatic ecosystem and will result in the eventual filling in of the pond.
- The area in the vicinity of the scenic vista is presently filling in with vegetation. New homes have been constructed at the base of the slope of the scenic vista. Removal of some vegetation would expose these structures and detract from the vista. Some of the vegetation that is

growing into the vista is located on these private properties. This vista should be abandoned and allowed to grow in naturally.

Opportunities:

- Adjacent to the northern side of the Reservation is a large farm on Ragged Hill Road that is protected by an APR. The fields provide a long-distance view to the north. Where the Summit Trail comes close to the Reservation boundary visitors can glimpse this vista. With minimal effort a vista could be developed but this would require working with the landowner to clear the field edge.

D. Structural Resources

Rock House has few structures and all of these appear to be in “good” condition. In addition to the structures listed below, a power line crosses the Reservation. This power line consists of steel towers every 200 feet approximately. While the power line is located on land owned by The Trustees, National Grid USA owns an easement and maintains the structures and corridor.

Structure	Current Use	Current Condition
Trailside Museum	Visitor Support	Good
Bulletin Board	Visitor Support	Good
Stone Walls	Cultural Resource	Good
Carter Pond Dam	Creates Carter Pond	Good; there has been chronic but minor seepage at the toe of the earthen dam for some time and this should continue to be monitored.
Trails (three miles)	Visitor access	Good. Occasional erosion along the Fire Road is an ongoing issue and should be addressed.
Portable Toilet	Seasonal/Visitor Support	
Trailside Benches (6)	Visitor support	Good
Steel Gates (4)	Infrastructure/Resource Protection	Good

Threats to Structural Resources:

- The Trailside Museum is vandalized frequently and requires painting to cover the graffiti. Structural vandalism is minimal.
- The structural condition of Carter Pond Dam is assessed regularly during scheduled visits and appears to be good. It currently functions but some seepage of water through the dam has been reported. This is a small earthen dam.
- Trail erosion is an ongoing issue. The Fire Road is especially vulnerable as recent downpours have resulted in significant sediment entering Carter Pond. This may be an increasing issue if storm frequency and

intensity increase as predicted due to climate change.

E. Opportunity for Engagement and Visitor Services

Current Volunteer Engagement:

The Rock House Reservation has a Property Committee consisting of eight active members. The Committee is mainly involved with the annual fundraiser, the Rock House Dinner Auction which has been held for the last 15 years. The Committee also assists with other events on the Property and with volunteer work days. A recent attempt to invigorate the Property Committee resulted in a few new committee members. A few volunteer work days are held annually (e.g., annual care of the butterfly garden). These work days usually generate minimal attendance.

Opportunities:

A trail steward would be a great addition to the Property. The current users of the Rock House do help keep the trails clean and clear but a dedicated trail steward reporting to the Superintendent would be an asset in conducting routine maintenance of the Property.

Visitor Engagement:

The Rock House Reservation is an unstaffed property that receives up to 10,000 visitors annually. A part-time ranger formerly worked at the property on weekends and was available to greet and assist visitors. The ranger position was not funded in FY2010 due to budget constraints. Other visitor engagement consists of a few programs that occur on the property throughout the year. A butterfly garden was established in 1999 to highlight the habitat created by the power line right-of-way and to attract many of the butterflies already using the habitat to generate additional visitor interest in the property. The garden has changed over the years with various levels of care. Many of the original plants are still present but deer browse, invasive plants and weeds are a constant issue.

Opportunities:

Construct a hiking trail loop that links Rock House and the Lucy Stone Home Site to provide visitors with new hiking option and the opportunity to learn about a significant historical site and figure. This trail will also expose visitors to the contiguous open space that includes Rock House.

Given the historic significance of the Rock House (Native American use) and the adjacent Lucy Stone Home Site (LSHS), we have an opportunity to engage new audiences not typically associated with conservation. Although some effort was made to appeal to these different audiences during acquisition of the LSHS the opportunity still remains.

Visitor Service:	Does it Exist?	Specific Description: age, condition, actively updated?
1. Approach signs that lead visitors to the property	Y	Sign is on Route 9 coming from the west. It is about 15 years and could use updating.
2. Entrance and trailhead signs.	Y	
3. Kiosk or Bulletin Board meets standards.	Y	Bulletin board is extra large
4. Up-to-date Map on bulletin board and website.	Y	
5. Trails are clearly marked	Y	
6. Adequate parking area.*	Y	The parking lot has room for 12 cars

*The reservation entrance and parking area off Route 9 are owned by the Town of West Brookfield. The Town allows The Trustees to use this municipally-owned property as long as town residents can use the Reservation for free.

V. Current Resources Available for Management

a. Staff and Volunteers:

The Rock House Reservation is part of the Central Region. This region does not include separate management units but instead two Superintendents, assisted by seasonal help during the summer, divide region-wide responsibilities. Reservation staff and equipment are based out of the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster which is approximately one hour northeast of the Rock House Reservation. Volunteers are underutilized within the Region, and there is a disconnect between the staff and the communities in which the properties are located due to the relative distances between them and minimal staff presence.

b. Equipment:

Major pieces of equipment available for the management of the Rock House Reservation include: a F-250 4x4 Ford pick-up truck with plow, a Ford F-350 4x4 dump truck with plow, a John Deere 45-hp tractor with front loader, backhoe, wood chipper, mowing deck and 12 ton trailer stored at the Doyle Reservation.

Other equipment resources include a 52-inch Z-track mower, a 48-inch walk behind mower, a walk-behind field mower, push mowers, chain saws, brush cutters, a blower and sprayers for controlling invasive plants. These resources are available to the Rock House Reservation and transported to the site from the Doyle Reservation in Leominster. Additionally, tools and materials utilized in the maintenance of the Trailside Museum are also available. Currently, these equipment resources are adequate to meet the stewardship demands of the Reservation.

c. Operating budget:

The total operating expenses for Rock House in FY 2010, including allocated man-power is \$9,040. There is \$700 budgeted for property service (porta-potty service) and \$100 for general maintenance and repairs. Other operating expenses include funds for special events (the annual Dinner Auction), postage and uniforms. Endowment, dinner auction proceeds, membership monies, and donations through the on-site iron ranger provide an annual income of \$22,000. The property generates a surplus of more than \$13,000. At the present time, the funding allocated is enough to conduct the basic necessary routine maintenance operations at the Property.

d. Other (partners, etc.): none

VI. Recommended One-time Actions

Rec#	Type	Resource Protection Action	Description/Rationale	Phase	Rank	1° staff	2° staff	Phase 1 Staff hours	Phase 2 Staff hours	Phase 3 Staff hours	Total Plan Staff Needs	Vol. Op?	Total Phase 1 Costs	Total Phase 2 Costs	Total Phase 3 Costs	Total Plan Costs all Phases	Budget Source	Operating	Supplemental	Capital	Targeted Funding Source	Notes	Stat
1	NR	Post invasive species alerts on bulletin board	Posting invasive species alerts will educate visitors and encourage them to report observations as part of an early detection program.	ongoing	N	S	EC	3	3	3	9	yes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	O					One hour annually is anticipated for posting new material on bulletin board.	NS
2	NR	Encourage visitors to report turtle sightings using bulletin board	Visitors should report any sightings of wood and box turtles to help with monitoring and to encourage stewardship awareness of these rare species.	ongoing	D	S	EC	2	1	1	4		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	O					Hours are for developing material for posting on the bulletin board. This task can be completed together with other postings (e.g., invasive alerts) and should not require any additional time or dollars beyond maintaining posting in good condition.	NS
3	NR	Control knapweed along power lines and butterfly garden.	Knapweed, an invasive plant that is allelopathic is invading the early successional and disturbed areas along the power lines. This biennial is currently limited in distribution but unless controlled it will continue to spread.	I	C	S	EC	57			57	yes	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$200	O	\$200			SCA crew	Hours include one full day for a six-member SCA crew and two staff and travel. \$ cost is for herbicide and associated safety material. Following initial treatment control will be addressed through routine management.	IP
4	VM	Construct trail that links Rock House Reservation with the Lucy Stone Home Site.	This effort will need approval from Mass. Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife, but this is not seen as problematic.	3	D	S				200	200	yes	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$100	O	\$100				Recommendation from the Lucy Stone HS plan. Cost is for chain saw supplies and paint for marking trail.	NS

5	GM	Amend the current conservation restriction to allow for interpretive materials	There are no reserved rights specified in the CR that would permit amenities, such as interpretive signs, for the public.	I	C	LC	S	40			40		\$100	\$0	\$0	\$100	O		\$100			This would include drafting the CR, obtaining local and state approvals (including attending Conservation Commission and Selectmen's meetings), and completing an updated baseline documentation report.	NS
6	SC	Work with adjacent farm owner to provide access to or create vista by clearing the field edge.	Existing vista to the east is filling in and management will require the cutting of small trees and brush on private property. This northern vista is more sustainable and expansive.	3	D	S				46	46	yes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	O					Hours are for superintendent to plan and participate in one volunteer work day and approximately six volunteers for a day.	NS
7	GM	Enlist volunteers to assist with trail erosion and early detection of invasive species.	This could involve recruiting a Trail Steward(s) or other volunteers that frequent the property.	2	C	S	EC		6	6	12	yes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	O					Estimated annual time for recruiting and training volunteers is two hours.	IP
8	E/I	Review interpretive displays in the Trailside Museum to make sure we are providing the best engagement and interpretive opportunity.	There is currently no historic and/or land use history interpretation in the Trailside Museum.	ongoing	N	S	HR	3	3	3	9		\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	S		\$2,500	England Trust	Special Project funds exist that could help make this happen.	NS	

9	VM	Conduct structural assessment of the Shelter's overhang.	The structural integrity of the rock shelter remains in question. The large overhanging fragment could dislodge and fall to the ground.	I	C	DSR	S	20			20	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	S			\$4,000		England Trust	Dollar costs pay for a structural engineer to conduct assessment. Staff hours are for site visits, working with consultant and signage needs.	NS
		TOTAL						125	13	259	397	\$6,800	\$	\$100	\$6,900			\$400	\$6,500	\$			

Type: E/I – Education and Interpretation, GM – General Management, HR - Historical and Cultural Resource Management, NR – Natural Resource Management, SR – Structural Resource Management, VM - Visitor Management

Phase: I – Phase I (FY2011-FY2013), Phase 2 (FY2014-FY2016), Phase 3 (FY2017-FY2019)

Rank: C - Critical, N – Needed, D - Desired

Staff: DSR – Director of Structural Resources, E & O - Education & Outreach, EC – Ecologist, HR - Historic Resource Staff, RD – Regional Director, S – Superintendent

Budget Source: C – Capital, N – Not Applicable, O – Operating, S - Supplemental

Status: IP – In Progress, NS – Not Started

VII. Routine Management Program

Line #	Task	Action Type	Acceptable Performance Level(APL)	Acceptable Frequency	Less than annual	Season	Who?	Volunteer Opp?	Total hours needed to reach APL	Add'l funds needed to reach APL	Notes
1	Monitor (and control as needed) invasive plant species	NR	Adequate	Quarterly	no	S,Su,F	S	yes	16	\$0	Treatment will be coordinated with other management to avoid additional travel.
2	Pick up trash in parking lot and stock bulletin board	VM	Adequate	Weekly	no	S,Su,F,W	S	yes	40	\$0	Frequency in the winter can be less (every other week). Hours do not include travel time - typically done in coordination with other maintenance activities.
3	Conduct spring cleaning, mulching and plant butterfly garden	VM	Adequate	Annually	no	S	S	yes	8	\$0	Based on volunteer work day. Prep time for Superintendent is 8 hrs. Volunteer hrs not included.
4	Plow parking lot	VM	Adequate	As needed	no	W	S	no	0	\$1,200	Use local contractor.
5	Walk trails, remove hazardous trees and monitor property	GM	Adequate	Bimonthly	no	S,Su,F	S	yes	20	\$0	Demands vary with storm frequency. Does not include travel. Usually done during regular maintenance visits.
6	Paint over graffiti on Trail side museum	GM	Strong	Bimonthly	no	S,Su,F	S	yes	12	\$0	May require visits between regular maintenance visits.
7	Mow fringes of parking lot,	GM	Adequate	Biannually	no	Su	S	no	4	\$0	Hours do not include travel.

	entrance and in front of Rock House shelter											
8	Special events	GM	Strong	Annually	no	F	S	yes	105	\$0	Staff time = 25 hours, volunteers approximately 80 hours.	
9	Committee meetings	GM	Adequate	Quarterly	no	S,Su,F,W	S	no	72	\$0	12 hours staff time, 60 hours volunteer time	
10	Maintain water bars on trails	GM	Strong	Monthly	no	S,Su,F	S	yes	18	\$0	Approximately 3 hours per visit needed to clean and repair all waterbars.	
TOTAL									295	\$1,200		

Key:

Action Type:

- E/I – Education and Interpretation
- GM – General Property Management
- NR – Natural Resources Management
- SC – Scenic Resources Management
- SR – Structural Resources Management

Who?:

- EC – Ecologist
- PM – Property Manager
- S - Superintendent

Performance Level:

- Adequate - The task is currently completed at a level that does not hinder resource protection or the visitor experience.
- Strong - The task is completed in a manner/at a frequency that represents the ideal.

VIII. Conclusions

Rock House is a popular destination. More than 10,000 visitors walk the Property's wooded trails annually. Highlights include the massive Rock House Shelter and scenic Carter Pond. The Reservation is easily accessed off Route 9 and easy to navigate. Trails are well maintained and bring visitors to all the notable features including the Shelter, Balanced Rock, and Carter Pond. The Trailside Museum allows visitors to take a break, learn about the property and enjoy a bird's eye view of Carter Pond. Some additional interpretation, especially land use history, would complete the Reservation's story and benefit the visitor's appreciation for Rock House. While specific trail erosion, graffiti and the occasional vandalism to the Trailside Museum remain ongoing issues, routine management has kept pace. Invasive species represent a greater challenge but control efforts have resulted in significant progress. Vigilance will be needed to counter these ongoing threats and volunteers will likely prove invaluable in this endeavor. Monitoring and community engagement is difficult as staff are an hour away and this management structure is unlikely to change in the short term.

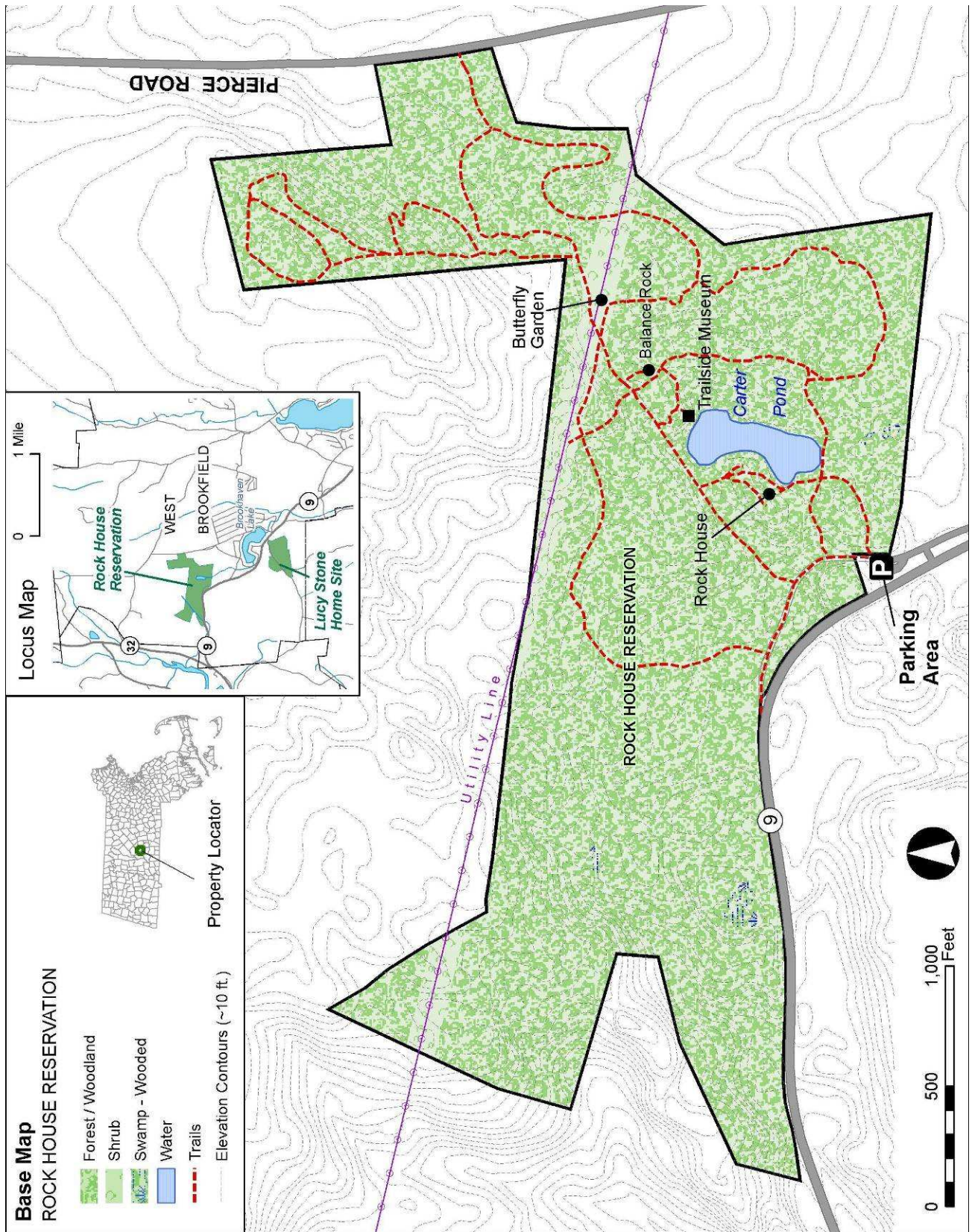
IX. Monitoring and Review

- a. Property plan should be reviewed annually by staff to ensure progress is being made to complete the recommendations. Future plan revisions may require additional research and field work.

APPENDIX A: Rules and Regulations

- Seasonal hunting is permitted (see map)
- Alcoholic beverages, fires, camping and littering are prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited except for purposes related to property management
- Horseback riding and mountain biking are allowed on the fire road only.
- Disturbing, removing, defacing, cutting or otherwise causing damage to a natural feature, sign, poster, barrier, vegetation or other property on the Reservation is prohibited.
- Dogs are prohibited except under control of the owner.
- Fishing and swimming in Carter Pond are not permitted.
- Hunting, trapping, fishing and firearms are prohibited (except in the designated hunting area)
- Conduct that disturbs the tranquility of the Reservation or its enjoyment by others is prohibited
- The Reservation is open from sunrise to sunset. Entering or remaining on the property between sunset and sunrise is prohibited.

APPENDIX B: Base Map



APPENDIX C: Conservation Opportunities

Critical Lands Inventory and Assessment

There are a number of parcels surrounding the Rock House Reservation, which, if conserved, would protect the integrity of the Reservation's resources, conserve properties that are, in their own right, of resource importance, and expand and enrich the regional open space network. The following is an identification and prioritization of lands whose protection would benefit the Reservation's viability, management, appeal, and visitation. Parcels identified for protection are ranked using the following criteria:

Critical: Parcels whose preservation is essential to the protection and integrity of key resources on the reservation, including wetland areas, rare habitats, scenic views and cultural features. They also include parcels that eliminate inholdings.

Significant: Parcels whose preservation would add significantly to the reservation, but whose loss would not detract significantly from the character and quality of the reservation.

Valuable: Parcels whose preservation would add to the scenic, historic, or ecological value of the reservation nor would contribute to its efficient management, but are not considered critical or significant (e.g. contiguous parcels of land without unique features).

Five specific parcels identified as having an impact on the Rock House Reservation are identified below. This assessment is suggested as a guideline to future protection efforts and is not meant to imply that parcels not identified here are of no conservation value. As new information and opportunities arise, land protection priorities may change.

Significant

Parcel 23-12:

The owner of this 29-acre parcel located between Boos and the Rock House is unknown. This parcel has a cluster of exemplary vernal pools, supports two known rare plant populations and is designated as priority habitat by MNHESP. Its protection would add significant habitat and rare species to the Rock House Reservation. Although the property has no frontage and is unlikely to be developed, it should be at least conserved, at best added to the Reservation so that it could be managed by TTOR. Conservation options include working with the Town to permanently conserve the property (currently the town is seeking acquisition for back taxes). TTOR may wish to acquire the fee, a CR or a management agreement.

Valuable

Parcel 23-2:

The 90-acre property owned by Dick and Charlotte Boos is considered Valuable for its ecological significance. Although the property has no frontage and is unlikely to be developed, it should be at least conserved, at best added to the Reservation so that it could be managed by TTOR. Conservation options include acquisition by TTOR or a conservation restriction limiting the property's development potential.

Parcel 23-9:

This parcel is 61 acres and would add a relatively large number of undeveloped acres to the Reservation, strengthen the connection of Rock House to other protected land and buffer the Reservation and rare species habitat. Both parcels show minimal signs of historic disturbance and may represent a block of primary forest together with parts of Rock House.

Parcel 23-10:

See description of parcel 23-9 for conservation value. The parcel is 25 acres.

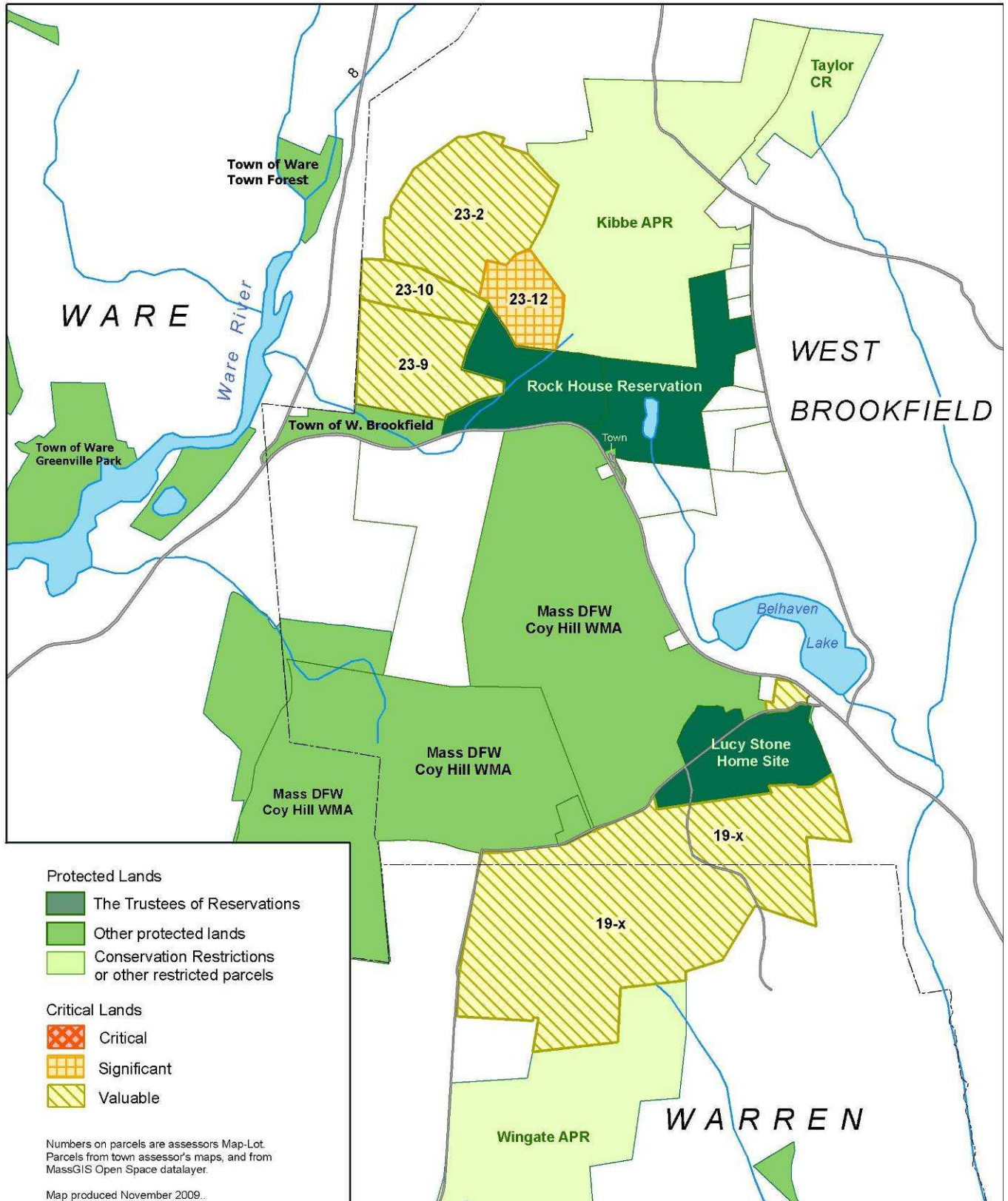
Parcel 19-X:

This 309-acre parcel is a valuable buffer for the Lucy Stone Home Site and adds significant acres to the existing mosaic of protected land.

Open Space Context Map

ROCK HOUSE RESERVATION


0 0.5 Mile

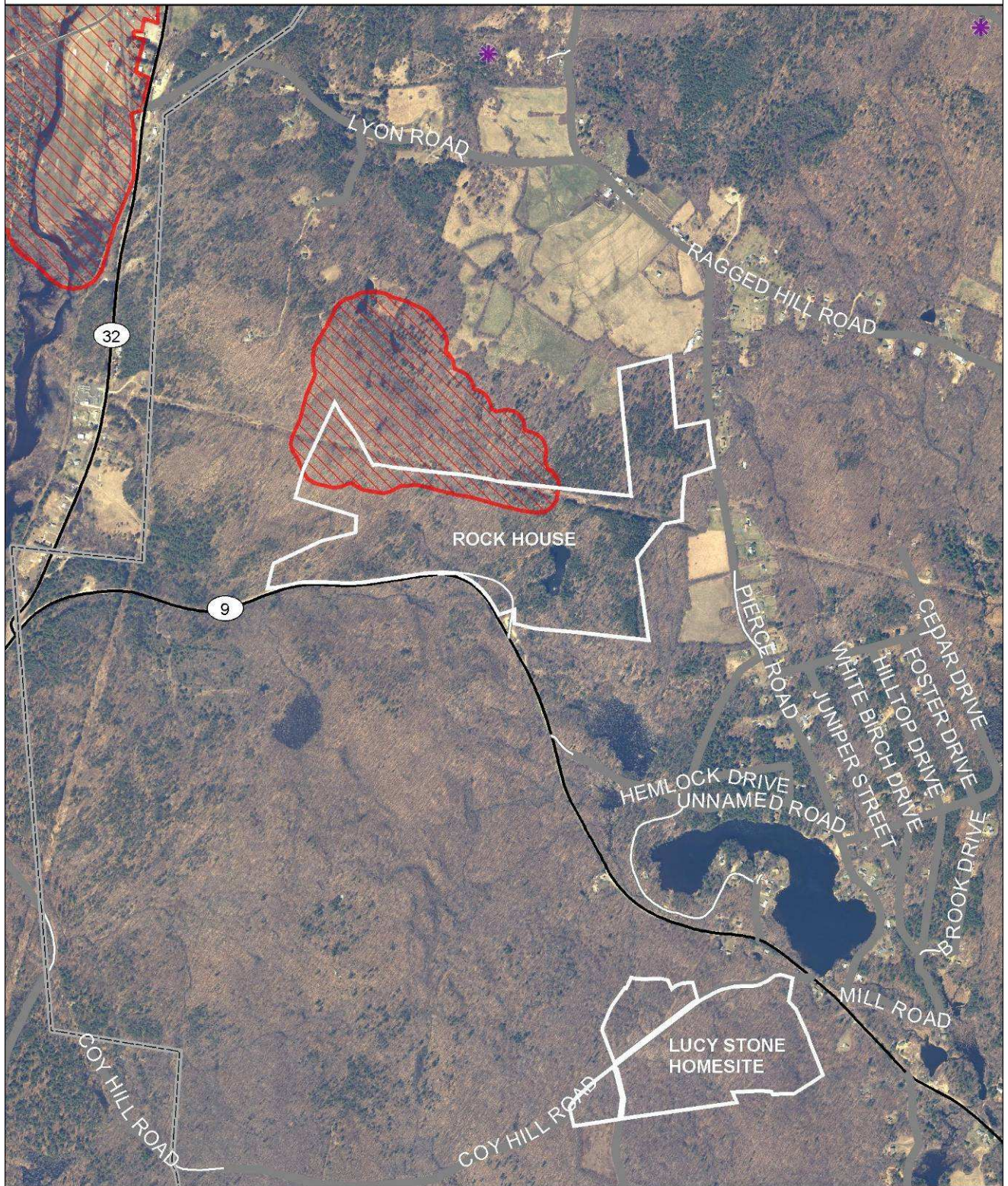


APPENDIX D: Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Map

Mass. NHESP Resources

ROCK HOUSE RESERVATION

-  Certified Vernal Pools
-  BioMap Core Habitat
-  Priority Habitats
-  LivingWaters Core Habitat



Data provided by Mass. NHESP:
 Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.
 Map produced by The Trustees of Reservations
 October 2009.

APPENDIX E: Conservation Restriction

BOOK 6414 PAGE 9

~~BOOK 6371 PAGE 361~~

CONSERVATION RESTRICTION - - EASEMENT

The Grantors: Walter F. Fullam
Box 498
Princeton, New Jersey

The Grantee: The Trustees of Reservations, a Massachusetts charitable corporation established under Chapter 352 of the Acts of 1891, with an address at 224 Adams Street, Milton, Massachusetts, its successors and assigns.

The premises are located in the Town of West Brookfield, in the County of Worcester, Massachusetts and are described in Schedule A attached hereto.

The grantor, for consideration of less than \$100, grants to the grantee and the successors and assigns of the grantee a Conservation Restriction-Easement on the premises, as set forth below.

A. The terms of the Conservation Restriction-Easement are that, except as set forth in paragraph B, neither the grantor nor the heirs, devisees, successors or assigns of the grantor will perform nor give permission to others to perform the following acts or uses on the premises:

(1) No building, road, sign, billboard, or other advertising display, mobile home, utility pole, tower, conduit or line or other temporary or permanent structure will be constructed, placed or permitted to be placed or to remain on, above or under the premises.

(2) Except for customary drainage ditching activities relating to mosquito and other insect control, no soil, loam, peat, gravel, sand, rock or other mineral resource or natural deposit shall be excavated, dredged or removed from the premises; and no soil, refuse, trash, vehicle bodies or parts, rubbish, debris, junk, waste or other substance or material whatsoever shall be placed, filled, stored, dumped, or permitted to remain thereon.

(3) No trees, grasses or other vegetation shall be cut, removed, or otherwise destroyed, except for (a) the harvesting of marsh hay, (b) ditching activities, and (c) clearing of shrubbery, trees and other vegetation for the purposes of beautification and maintenance of vistas.