



Committee Members

Mary Knittle, Chair
Stefanie Covino, Vice Chair
Ted Conna
Nathan Fournier
Evelyn Herwitz
Deirdra Murphy
7th member TBD

Contacting the Committee

Department of Sustainability and Resilience
Address: 455 Main Street, Room 108,
Worcester, MA 01608 (by appointment)
Email: GreenWorcester@worcesterma.gov
Website:
WWW.WorcesterMA.gov/GreenWorcester

Department of Sustainability and Resilience

Our Mission:

To implement the ambitious and urgent goals of the Green Worcester Sustainability and Resilience Strategic Plan (GWP), a roadmap for making Worcester the greenest mid-size city in the country.

Our Staff:

John Odell, Chief
Jacquelyn Burmeister, Senior Environmental Analyst, Lakes and Ponds Program
Jessica Davis, Project Manager
Nick Pagan, Environmental Analyst, Lakes and Ponds Program
Sushil Rajagopalan, Energy Analyst
Luba Zhaurova, Director of Projects

Accessibility:

The GWAC is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to all. Should you require interpretation, auxiliary aids, services, translations, written materials in other formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, please contact the DSR a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Translations:

Hay disponibles servicios de interpretación y otras adaptaciones con solicitud previa.
Avisanos por
greenworcester@worcesterma.gov

CITY OF WORCESTER

Meeting Agenda

Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Monday, July 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
Location: Levi Lincoln, City Hall Floor 3

This meeting will be held in-person at the date, time and location listed above. Meeting attendees will additionally have options to participate remotely by joining online or by phone. Note: If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting, the meeting will continue.

Web: Use the following link to join the meeting via computer
<https://cow.webex.com/meet/greenworcester>, or

Call: 415-655-0001. **Access Code:** 2313 821 4580.

Call To Order: 5:30PM

1. **Welcome**
2. **Approval of Minutes – June 27, 2022** (Attachment A)
3. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. GWAC's letter for requested qualifications for new City Manager including status (Attachment B)
 - b. Vacancy recruitment progress
4. **New Business and DSR Updates**
 - a. Presentations by Community Groups:
 - i. Colin Novick, [Greater Worcester Land Trust](#)
 - b. GWAC Survey Results: Internal priorities and potential partners (Attachment C)
 - c. Opportunity to sign on a letter to the MSBA Board encouraging that all school building projects funded by MSBA be fully electrified, and climate resilient. (Attachment D)
 - d. Review of GWAC charge approved 3/7/22 (Attachment E)
 - e. Discussion of work product objectives for GWAC
5. **DSR Updates**
 - a. Upcoming GWAC Tours: Solar Farm, Lakes, Water Filtration Plan, Wastewater Plant, Heat Island
 - b. Green Worcester Plan Action Updates
6. **Standing Items**
 - a. Upcoming events
 - b. Community outreach
 - i. HEART July 9 event (Attachment F)

- ii. Art exhibit
- iii. Sustainability contest
- c. Community feedback

7. Received Communications

Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
September 12	Meeting Room A, 50 Officer Manny Familia Way
October 24	Esther Howland, Worcester City Hall
December 12	Esther Howland, Worcester City Hall



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CITY OF WORCESTER

Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Esther Howland Chamber, City Hall Floor 3

This meeting will be held in-person at the date, time and location listed above. Meeting attendees will additionally have options to participate remotely by joining online or by phone. Note: If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting, the meeting will continue.

Web: Use the following link to join the meeting via computer
<https://cow.webex.com/meet/greenworcester>, or

Call: 415-655-0001. **Access Code:** 2313 821 4580.

Attendance

Present

District 1: Evelyn Herwitz
District 2: Nathan Fournier
District 4: Ted Conna
District 4: Deirdra Murphy
District 5: Stefanie Covino, Vice Chair

Absent:

District 1: Mary Knittle, Chair

Staff:

John Odell
Jessica Davis
Sushil Rajagopalan
Luba Zhaurova

Call To Order at 5:35 by Stefanie Covino, Committee Vice Chair

- 1. Welcome.** The Vice Chair read out the rules of meeting conduct.
- 2. Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2022**

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the May 9th minutes with a correction of item 3Bii as requested by Member Conna. The correction is to change two committee members to a non-quorum number of the committee members when working on a draft outside a meeting.

- 3. Old Business**

- a. Review of the draft letter from the GWAC to the Mayor about requested qualifications for the new City Manager position.
 - i. Member Conna, Member Covino and Member Herwitz developed a draft to share with the committee. Member Covino explained that the letter is a request to the City Council Municipal Operations Subcommittee to ensure that sustainability and climate change resilience is incorporated into the search for a new City Manager as a key element in new manager's qualifications and incorporated into the job description. Member Conna read aloud the draft letter (**Attachment A**). The committee agreed that the letter was well written and that any small insubstantial changes could be made by the original ad hoc group working on it before finalizing.
 - ii. A resident present in person, Joseph Johnson, asked what will happen to the final letter including whether it would be read aloud at a City Council meeting. He shared that he liked the letter and wanted to ensure the letter became public. Mr. Odell explained that the letter won't be read into the record at a City Council meeting but will be part of the meeting packet to be discussed by the City Council. He suggested that someone from the committee attend the meeting to answer any questions they may have. To avoid any unintentional breaches of the Open Meeting Law, he recommended that no more than three GWAC members can attend the Council meeting in person and they must identify themselves as members but other members can watch virtually.
 - iii. Member Herwitz asked what the deadline is for completing the letter. Mr. Odell explained that there isn't a hard deadline for the letter but if approved now it could be ready for the City Council's July 19th meeting. It would need to be submitted at least a week in advance of the meeting to get on the agenda.
 - iv. The committee voted unanimously that any members with feedback on the letter should send it to DSR staff within 1 week for the staff to send to Member Conna and that the original ad hoc group can make any non-substantial changes (grammar, fixing typos, etc.) to the letter in the meantime. As long as no substantial changes are suggested by the other committee members, the letter is approved to send to the City Council for their July 19th meeting. If there are substantial changes then it would return for discussion at the next meeting.

4. New Business and DSR Updates

- a. Internal survey for the members to identify GWAC priorities
 - i. As Chair Knittle was absent, Ms. Davis presented an idea she shared with her. Chair Knittle suggested creating a survey for members to vote on their top priorities for the committee's work to assist with identifying overarching top priorities to focus on. The committee agreed that the DSR staff should create this survey to gather priorities, as well as to contribute to a list of non-governmental organizations that can be partners in this work.
- b. Review of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Event and final report
 - i. Mr. Odell shared that the final written report for the GHG inventory will be completed soon and will be sent out to the committee members when finalized.
 - ii. Ms. Zhaurova asked if the committee had any feedback on the public event on May 26. Member Herwitz thought the event was great but wished more members of the public attended. She suggested the committee consider how to get more members of the public to attend these types of events in the future.
 - iii. A resident present in person, Greg Doerschler, asked if the event was recorded and available to watch online. Ms. Davis replied that the video is posted on the Department of Sustainability and Resilience webpage.
 - iv. Member Conna recommended that DSR should have a goal of getting our events and work into the local newspapers. Member Herwitz agreed that getting our stories into the newspaper is important but we need to consider our priorities and what are the most interesting and effective hooks that will engage the journalists and readers. Additionally, the priority survey will help determine topic priorities for media coverage. Member Herwitz asked if GWAC members could

write letters to the editor. Mr. Odell previously spoke with the legal department to get an answer to this question. The legal department said that if you identify as a member of the committee, then you are deemed to be a representative of the City, whether you are hired or volunteering (as the GWAC members are). Therefore, if you identify yourself as a GWAC member then you would need to contact the DSR first who would then seek approval from the City Manager for the public communication. However, if you do not identify as a GWAC member in your public communication, it would still be prudent for the City to preview the public communication beforehand to determine if it will impact the City operations negatively or go against the City's position on a certain issue.

c. Vacancy recruitment progress

- i. Mr. Odell shared that we haven't received any new applications so we are looking for new ideas to promote the vacancy and will be working on that over the coming months.

5. Standing Items

a. Presentations by Community Groups:

- i. Ms. Davis explained that at the previous GWAC meeting, the GWAC requested having representatives from local organizations come to the GWAC meetings to present their work and how it is related to the Green Worcester Plan (GWP). DSR reached out to the groups that participated in the development of the GWP and we received a few responses. There are three groups signed up to present at future meetings so far. Ms. Davis asked that the GWAC members share any other requests for presenters so that DSR can reach out to them.
- ii. **Blackstone Watershed Collaborative.** Member Covino, the GWAC's Vice Chair and the program manager for the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, presented on the Collaborative's work (**Attachment B**).
 - a. A resident present in person asked about where to watch the videos that Member Covino discussed in her presentation. He also asked if there was a central repository for all the events she mentioned. Member Covino replied that the videos are free to watch on YouTube and the presentation will be attached to the meeting minutes. The list of events is available on the BlackstoneCollaborative.org website under their meeting minutes.
- iii. **HomeHarvest Central MA.** Member Fournier, a GWAC committee member and owner of HomeHarvest Central MA, presented on how to transform underutilized spaces into abundant ecosystems (**Attachment C**).

b. Strategic Communication

- i. GWAC social media promotional documents
 1. Ms. Davis explained that at the previous GWAC meeting, Chair Knittle requested a social media posting draft to promote the GWAC and the seat vacancy. Ms. Davis presented two drafts for feedback (**Attachment D**).
 2. A resident present in person suggested using targeted advertising on Facebook for the zip code of District 3 to advertise the vacancy to those who live in that area.
 3. Member Covino suggested using different photos in the social media posts that would demonstrate various initiatives that DSR works on such as photos of trees and water.
 4. Member Fournier suggested working with high school interns or freelancers for video marketing on our work such as the GHG emissions.
- ii. HEART (Healthy Equitable Affordable Retrofits & Training) Event, July 9, 2022
 1. Ms. Davis shared that DSR was asked to table at this event and she and Mr. Rajagopalan of DSR will attend. The event organizers asked DSR to share "about the Green Worcester

Plan and/or any kinds of city-led or supported efforts/programs/plans for addressing energy efficiency in older housing stock, creating green jobs, or related topics.”

- iii. Member Conna shared some outreach ideas:
 - 1. DSR could work with city arts and cultural organizations to promote sustainability themed events such as art or music events. It would raise awareness, mobilize the creativity of the arts community and would be a new way to reach new people. This could be a good project for an intern.
 - 2. DSR could run a sustainability contest for the general public, school kids and adults to seek out new and better ideas for living and working sustainability. The contest could be organized by participant categories such as a school focused contest or one for the general adult public. This would engage people and mobilize their creativity and be a way to connect with new people. This could be a good project for an intern also.
 - 3. The Worcester Climate Collaboration has a periodic email newsletter where they mention relevant events and what DSR and GWAC are doing. GWAC members should sign up to receive that. One item in the newsletter was Worcester’s Now | Next master planning campaign and Member Conna suggested that GWAC members attend the planning workshops to make sure sustainability is included in the City’s master plan.
- iv. Member Conna asked if a standing item category for “Citizen Concerns” could be added to the agenda. Mr. Odell replied that agendas need to represent what is reasonably expected to be discussed at a meeting, allowing the public an opportunity to decide whether or not to participate. Since finalized agendas need to be posted minimum 48 hours in advance of the meeting, proposed agendas items need to be sent to DSR in advance of that to ensure they get placed on the agenda in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Odell encouraged that anticipated topics for the Citizen Concern section are provided for agenda inclusion. Member Conna felt that there are times when there may not be enough time to place specific Citizen Concerns’ topics in advance. Mr. Odell stated that in that case, such topic may be introduced, but cannot lead to a discussion; instead, with the Committee’s approval, it can be continued to the next meeting for the actual discussion.
- v. Member Herwitz asked how the GWAC can all identify all of the sustainability related organizations in the city and how to manage the scope of the GWAC’s work. Ms. Zhaurova said that’s why the priority list from the survey will be important for organizing the scope and the GWP sets clear goals which we can follow when getting overwhelmed by all that needs to get done in the City.
- vi. Member Covino asked if an “Events” section can be added as a standing item on the agenda. Mr. Odell replied that would work but it would need to have relevance to the GWAC and that we can’t recommend or promote a certain product or company.

c. Energy

- i. No comments.

d. Resilience

- i. Member Covino encouraged different city departments be integrated into the DSR’s work. She emphasized the issue of flooding in the City and hoped that the relevant departments (Department of Public Works, Inspectional Services Department, Division of Planning and Regulatory Services and DSR) could work together to address that issue. Flooding is already impacting the City and will increase in the future and it particularly impacts our most vulnerable residents.
- ii. Member Conna brought up two citizen concerns. One was that there needs to be an effort for community engagement and community organizing. The second was that the City needs to address invasive species. Member Fournier said that he has experience with removing invasive species and it is a very costly and difficult effort. There are some groups in the City that are working on that issue so GWAC could try to support them in some way, particularly by spreading

awareness and promoting their efforts. Member Covino said that the Conservation Commission asks for native species or wildflower mixes for projects and DPW does the same. However, the Conservation Commission could do more to assist in making sure native plants are planted. In terms of removal of invasive plants, Clark University completed a large project that could serve as an example. Member Conna mentioned that there is a local group working on this issue, the Worcester Native Plant Initiative. A resident present in person, said that he is interested in the invasive plants issue. He runs a Facebook group and is part of a local group that works to protect Dodge Park. He suggested building a rain garden in that park to manage the storm water there.

- e. Green Worcester Plan Action Updates
 - i. Ms. Zhaurova shared that DSR bid for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in 3 municipal garages (Pearl Elm, Common and Federal) which will total 18 parking spaces for public use of the EV vehicle charging. DSR is currently working on executing a contract with an installer. This is important for our goal of electrifying both the municipal fleet and private vehicles as well.

6. Received Communications

- a. Ms. Herwitz shared this event with the committee: Faith Action for Climate Justice: Summer Surge 2022: 6 - 8 PM, Wednesday, June 29, First Unitarian Church, 90 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608 (**Attachment E**)

Adjournment: 7:51 pm

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Attachments

- Attachment A: Draft Letter for City Manager*
- Attachment B: Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Presentation by Stefanie Covino*
- Attachment C: Home Harvest Central MA by Nathan Fournier*
- Attachment D: Social media post drafts*
- Attachment E: Faith Action for Climate Justice Event email*

Upcoming Meetings

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
July 25	Levi Lincoln
September 12	Meeting Room A (50 Officer Manny Familia Way)
October 24	Esther Howland
December 12	Esther Howland

To: Worcester City Council

From: Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Date: July 7, 2022

Honorable City Councilors:

As members of the Green Worcester Advisory Committee, we are tasked with helping the City of Worcester implement the ambitious goals of the [Green Worcester Plan](#) by serving as the liaison between the community and city government. We applaud your vision in approving the Plan in April 2021, and we write to you now because it is clear to us that successful implementation of the Plan will require the commitment and participation of many different city departments and agencies. For that to happen, leadership from the top is essential.

The health and resilience of our city and residents is a top priority for any City Manager. But to ensure our City is prepared for the coming challenges of climate change, we ask that among the many criteria you consider in the search for Worcester's next City Manager, you seek a chief executive with knowledge of sustainability issues and a strong commitment to advancing the goals of the Green Worcester Plan. Under the leadership of John Odell, Luba Zhaurova, and their excellent staff, the Department of Sustainability and Resilience has made considerable progress as they begin to implement key aspects of the Plan. But no single department can do this alone—in order to succeed, implementing the Green Worcester Plan must become a city-wide effort. That means educating and engaging many other city employees for whom sustainability is currently neither their first priority, nor part of their job description. Such an effort cannot fully succeed without strong leadership and commitment from the top executive, and this is your opportunity to ensure that that happens.

Climate change is already affecting our City and our most vulnerable citizens will experience its impacts hardest – through flooding, extreme heat, increasing drought, and the many ways that the changing climate will increase the cost of living. Understanding these challenges in the context of cost-effective, equitable, and common-sense solutions will be a critical element of leading our City into its next phase. Choosing a leader with experience in environmental sustainability and climate resilience will help Worcester successfully respond to these challenges.

Ed Augustus had the vision to support and promote the Green Worcester Plan and its goal to make Worcester one of the most sustainable and climate-resilient mid-sized cities in America by 2050. It's a smart strategy that will position Worcester well, both economically and environmentally. But for that goal to be realized, the next City Manager needs to be someone who will take it to the next level. Sustainability must be woven into the fabric of everything our City does—from improving energy efficiency in buildings and incorporating climate resilience into school programming, to increasing tree retention and enforcing floodplain regulations. The Green Worcester Plan outlines an ambitious strategy to bring diverse voices together to address the complicated challenge of climate change, and we need a leader committed to making this vision a reality.

Worcester recently surpassed 200,000 people in the last Census. As we grow, we can set an example to others around the country by showing how we can grow sustainably, support our current residents, and invite new ones into our wonderful City. **Having adopted the Plan as official city policy, we ask that you now include experience in climate resilience and environmental sustainability as a key element in the new Manager's qualifications, and make the citywide implementation of the Plan's sustainability goals an explicit part of the new Manager's job description.** This will ensure equitable, cross-cutting implementation of our former Manager's forward-thinking vision. We look forward to working with you to use the City Manager search process to introduce new candidates to the Green Worcester Plan, and hire a new City Manager who is well qualified to lead our City into its next phase of growth and resilience.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Knittle, Chair
On behalf of the Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Green Worcester Advisory Committee Member Priorities and Networks Survey Results: July 2022

Question 1: Select your top 5 priority topics for GWAC's work.

Total votes for each topic in order of number of votes with the top 5 highlighted:

Topic Area	# votes
Climate Change Resilience	5
Connected Green & Blue Spaces with Healthy Natural Systems	5
Net-Zero & Climate Resilient Buildings	4
Clean & Affordable Energy	4
Integrated Water Management	3
Sustainable Transportation Choices	3
Sustainability, Resilience & Green Education in All Policies	3
Sustainable Local Food Systems	2
Zero Waste	1
Pollution Prevention	1

Question 2: If your priority topic area is not listed above, please explain here.

- Within Green and Blue Spaces, a specific focus on stewardship of our urban forest
- Tree/Forestry programs.

Question 3: Please list any groups you are affiliated with and a contact email if appropriate. (Note: emails were removed to protect privacy)

- Worcester Green Corp: Miranda Hotham
- Blackstone National Park Service: Eric Breikreutz
- Blackstone Heritage Corridor: Bonnie Combs
- Others if you're interested I can share more info: Mass Rivers Alliance, Blackstone River Watershed Association, Worcester State (invertebrate research in Worcester streams - Jackie is involved), etc. etc.
- Green Streets (informal group that pushed for the Urban Forestry Tree Commission. I'm the contact.

- Susan Buchan E4theFuture s
- Permaculture Association of the Northeast
- Regional Environmental Council (REC)
- MassLandlords
- Food Solutions New England
- Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA)
- Ecological Landscape Alliance
- ReEarth Boston Green Infrastructure
- REC
- Greater Worcester Land Trust
- RENEW Worcester
- Worcester Climate Collaborative
- Worcester Native Plant Initiative
- Ecotarium
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden/Worcester Tree Initiative
- ArtsWorcester
- Mass Audubon/Broad Meadow Brook
- Mothers Out Front
- 350.org
- MassPIRG/Environment Massachusetts
- Community Action Works
- Clean Water Action
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Greenpeace
- EarthJustice
- Friends of the Earth
- Seven Hills Green Committee Leslie Courtney Vice President of Seven Hills Family Services
- New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, CEO, Grace Chapman Elton
- Regional Environmental Council, Grace Sliwoski, Director of Programs

Question 4: Please list any groups you would like to invite to present at a future GWAC meeting and a contact email if available. (Note: emails were removed to protect privacy)

- DPW Sewer Division - Ian Weyburne (GI/SW mgmt)
- Worcester Green Corp - Miranda Hotham (trash/pollution/education/vulnerable populations)
- Mass Audubon
- Clark U - Prof. John Rogan - has worked with planning, parks, & DSR regarding tree planting, heat islands, GI placement, etc.
- Deb Cary for Mass Audubon Broadmeadow Brook.
- Also, Mass Audubon has a wonderful new urban ecologist, Erica Holm, who presented to our Green Streets group recently.
- Tower Hill--follow up on Tree Initiative and green spaces. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Grace Chapman Elton, Executive Assistant and Board Liaison, Diana West

- Clark University researchers have done some really interesting research in/about the city. Dr. John Rogan <https://www2.clarku.edu/faculty/facultybio.cfm?id=460>
- Regional Environmental Council Mass DOER and CEC--initiatives they are funding for residents I'm weak in the area of policy for commercial buildings--how can building code impact existing businesses and how can we develop an interest with those owners/investors, many being non-local, to work with the city on our goals. and then extend this thing to the not for profit sector: academic, medical, religious, etc.
- Trevor Smith
- Any of the above with local footprints could be interesting. Some I am quite familiar with already, so I don't really need introduction. But I suggest we expand the objective beyond just a presentation, to a presentation plus a discussion of how the group can be a partner in promoting GW goals and how we can support them to do so.
- REC
- Greater Worcester Land Trust
- RENEW Worcester
- Worcester Climate Collaborative
- Worcester Native Plant Initiative
- Ecotarium
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden/Worcester Tree Initiative
- Mass Audubon/Broad Meadow Brook
- Mothers Out Front
- 350.org
- any school and college environmental groups
- Regional Environmental Council

April 22, 2021

Deborah Goldberg, Chair
Anne Brockelman
Sean R. Cronin
Matt Deninger
Terry Kwan
Greg Sullivan
Sheila Vanderhoef

Via email to james.macdonald@state.ma.us

Dear Treasurer Goldberg and members of the MSBA Board,

We are writing to encourage the MSBA to require that all school building projects funded by MSBA be fully electrified, and climate resilient.

The MSBA is to be commended for its track record of helping cities and towns replace or renovate school buildings in an environmentally sustainable manner.

As [your website](#) notes,

The MSBA's Green Schools Program provides incentives to a district to increase the energy efficiency and sustainability for new construction and major renovation/addition projects, by exceeding Massachusetts Energy base code by 20% for 2 additional reimbursement points. All projects are required to register for the most recent version of LEED-S or NE-CHPS and exceed Massachusetts Energy base code by 10%.

The MSBA's updated Accelerated Repair Program provides a new opportunity to apply sustainable standards to specific building systems such as roofs, boilers and window systems. The MSBA's green programs aim to encourage a high standard of sustainability for all MSBA-funded projects. **The MSBA continues to monitor the effectiveness of its sustainable policies and make recommendations for improvement, with an emphasis on energy and cost savings, resulting in direct operational savings for school districts.** [bold added]

As municipal leaders interested in speeding the transition away from fossil fuel dependency, we were particularly pleased to see the highlighted above, as it demonstrates an interest in continuous improvement in the area of sustainability and carbon emissions reduction. We are following up on your interest in improvement to encourage you to tie school building funding to the following requirements for all new or renovated schools:

- Heat and cooling should be supplied by clean all-electric heating and cooling systems, not oil, propane, or gas-fueled systems.
- Parking lots should offer electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for staff and/or visitors.
- Schools built on or near historic wetlands or in floodplains should take into account precipitation modeling for 2070 and beyond; this may entail a raised structure or building in an alternate location.

How do these recommendations fit into the Commonwealth's climate goals?

- Massachusetts has a greenhouse gas reduction mandate of 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a commitment to be net zero by 2050; many cities and towns have more aggressive goals. The IPCC issued a report in 2018 noting that to keep global temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius -- a goal of the **Paris climate agreement** -- anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions would have to be on a **path** to fall by about 45 percent by around 2030.
- Massachusetts also has a goal of 300,000 EVs on the road by 2025.
- As HVAC systems are built to last for at least 20-30 years, that means we must act now to eliminate this significant source of fossil fuel energy.
- The National Climate Assessment projects that the Northeast will see dramatic increases in precipitation and flooding.

Why is all-electric the more environmentally beneficial choice? Under state law, the electric grid is powered by an increasing amount of renewable energy every year. In contrast, an oil or gas boiler is running on fossil fuels from day one until the day it is retired.

School building electrification is not a new concept. In fact, schools across the state are converting to 100% clean electricity to save money, improve air quality for students, teachers and staff, and advance climate goals.

- Lincoln is about to break ground on a Net Zero K-8 renovation school project.
- Wellesley has one net zero ready elementary school in the design phase and is in the feasibility phase of a second.
- Brookline passed a Warrant Article in May 2019 requiring that all new school buildings be fossil fuel free.
- Westborough has approved and is [moving forward](#) with a net-positive energy elementary school.
- Arlington is about to break ground on a new [all-electric high school](#) where heating and cooling systems will utilize heat pumps.
- Several Cambridge schools have been rebuilt all-electric: Martin Luther King School, King Open School and the Cambridge Street Upper School, as well as the Valente Branch Library and a new administrative building for the entire school department; the Tobin/Vassal-lane school will be rebuilt all-electric.
- Construction is underway on the new Belmont Middle and High School which will be net zero and all-electric with heating and cooling by a geothermal heat pump system.

- Amherst passed a bylaw in 2017 requiring zero energy new municipal and school buildings.
- Concord is at the end of Feasibility for a net zero design for a new middle school and expects to start Schematic Design in the next few months (there was a CV-related delay).
- Lexington's Select Board and School Committee adopted a building policy calling for construction of all-electric buildings, maximizing onsite renewable energy, and setting high standards for indoor air quality. Lexington's Hastings Elementary School and Lexington Children's Place pre-school are both expected to be net positive buildings when the solar energy systems that have been approved are completed later this year.

Energy efficient all electric schools are cost-effective to build and operate, while providing a healthier and safer learning environment for students and teachers alike.

Schools built on wetlands are more likely to suffer from mold and poor air quality, and need expensive repairs, especially as our region sees more frequent and intense rainfall.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. From the Green Communities Program to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program to the Complete Streets grants and more, we are so appreciative of the Commonwealth's partnership in supporting cities and towns efforts to advance our transition to a clean economy and make our communities more resilient as we face a changing climate. We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you in more detail about these recommendations and help you build support to enact them.

Sincerely,

Amherst

Darcy Dumont, Town Council, District 5

Dorothy S. Pam, Town Council, District 3

Patricia De Angelis, Town Councilor

Andover

Maria Bartlett, Member of Green Advisory Board

Arlington

Joseph A. Curro, Jr., Select Board Member

Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

Ashland

Robert Scherer, Select Board Member

Barnstable

Gordon Starr, Town Councilor, Precinct 1

Becket

Alvin Blake, Planning Board

Belmont

Catherine Bowen, School Committee Member

Bolton

Jonathan Keep, Select Board Member

Boston

Kenzie Bok, City Councilor

Andrea Campbell, City Councilor

Annissa Essaibi-George, City Councilor (At-Large)

Michael Flaherty, City Councilor

Ed Flynn, City Councilor

Matt O'Malley, City Councilor

Michelle Wu, City Councilor

Braintree

Julia Flaherty, Town Council, District 1

Kelly J. Cobb-Lemire, School Committee Member

Brookline

Raul Fernandez, Select Board Member

Nancy Heller, Select Board Member; Co-Chair, Climate Action Committee

John VanScoyoc, Select Board Member

Werner Lohe, Climate Action Committee (Co-Chair)

Burlington

Martha Simon, School Committee Member

Cambridge

Dennis Carlone, City Councilor

Patricia Nolan, City Councilor

Sumbul Diddiqui, Mayor

Quinton Zondervan, City Councilor

Concord

Charles Parker, Middle School Building Committee Member

Dalton

Robert Bishop, Select Board Chair

Cheryl Rose, Conservation Commission

Henry Rose, Commissioner, Conservation Commission

Joseph Fish, Chair, Green Dalton Committee

Dedham

Jessica Portee, Planning Board Member

Everett

Gerly Adrien, City Councilor-at-Large

Framingham

Yvonne Spicer, Mayor

Jessica Barnhill

Geoff Epstein, School Committee Member

Richard Finlay, School Committee Member

Adam Freudberg, School Committee Member

Beverly Hugo, School Committee Member

William LaBarge, School Committee Member

Tiffanie Maskell, School Committee Member
Priscila Sousa, School Committee Member
Scott Wadland, School Committee Member

Franklin

Cobi Frongillo, Town Councilor

Gloucester

Jennifer Holmgren, Councilor-at-Large

Hopkinton

Jeffrey S Barnes, Conservation Commission (Chair)

Ipswich

Kerry Mackin, Select Board Member, and Ipswich Climate Resiliency Committee

Lakeville

Jesse L. Medford, Open Space Committee (Chair)

Lawrence

Joshua Alba, School Committee, District D

Jonathan Guzman, School Committee Member, District F

Jeovanny Rodriguez, City Councilor, District D

Kassie Infante, School Committee Member, District A

Lexington

Joe Pato, Select Board Member

Mark Sandeen, Select Board Member

Longmeadow

Steve Marantz, Select Board Member

Mansfield

Neil Rhein, Select Board Member

Marlborough

Samantha Perlman, City Councilor

Medfield

Osler L. Peterson, Select Board Member

Fred Davis, Energy Committee Chair

Medford

Zac Bears, City Councilor

Nicole Morell, City Councilor

Paul Ruseau, School Committee Member

Jenny Graham, School Committee

Melrose

Paul Brodeur, Mayor

Lizbeth DeSelm, School Committee Member

New Bedford

Michele Paul, Director of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship

Newton

Susan Albright, City Council President

Alicia Bowman, City Councilor

Deb Crossley, City Councilor

Vicki Danberg, City Councilor

Andreae Downs, City Councilor

Maria Scibelli Greenberg, City Councilor

Becky Grossman, City Councilor

Bill Humphrey, City Councilor

David Kalis, City Councilor

Andrea Kelley, City Councilor
Josh Krintzman, City Councilor
Marc Laredo, City Councilor
Alison Leary, City Councilor
Tarik Lucas, City Councilor
Rick Lipof, City Council Vice President
Julia Malakie, City Councilor
Chris Markiewicz, City Councilor
Brenda Noel, City Councilor
Emily Norton, City Councilor
John Oliver, City Councilor
Holly Ryan, City Councilor
Pam Wright, City Councilor
Margaret Albright, School Committee Member
Anping Shen, School Committee Member

Northampton

Bill Dwight, City Councilor at Large
Alex Jarrett, City Councilor
Karen Foster, City Councilor, Ward 2
Rachel Maiore, City Councilor
Susan Voss, School Committee Member
Chris Mason, Energy & Sustainability Officer

Pittsfield

Mary Stucklen, Commissioner - Green Commission

Reading

Vanessa Alvarado, Select Board Member

Sharon

Hanna Switekowski, Select Board Member

Somerville

Katjana Ballantyne, City Councilor
Jesse Clingan, City Councilor Ward 4
Ben Ewen-Campen, City Councilor
Will Mbah, City Councilor
Kristen Strezo, City Councilor-at-Large

Taunton

Phillip Duarte, City Councilor

Wakefield

Mehreen N. Butt, Town Councilor
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Councilor
Susan Veilleux, School Committee Member
Rob Darnell, Environmental Sustainability Committee (Chair)
Mary Hajjar, Environmental Sustainability Committee (Vice Chair)
Robin Greenberg, Environmental Sustainability Committee
Jennifer Kallay, Gas & Light Board Commissioner
Elizabeth Sheridan, ESC Student Liaison

Watertown

Caroline Bays, Town Councillor
Anthony J. Donato, Town Councilor at-Large
Lisa J. Feltner, Town Councilor District B
Angeline B. Kounelis, Town Councillor
Tony Palomba, Town Councillor-at-Large
Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Town Councilor
Mark Sideris, Town Council President; School Committee Member

Wellesley

Lise Olney, Select Board Member

Wilbraham

Susan Bunnell, Finance Committee Member, Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Williamstown

Anne O'Connor, Select Board Member

Winchester

Michael Bettencourt, Select Board (Chair)



Green Worcester Advisory Committee Charge

Approved March 7, 2022

The Green Worcester Advisory Committee is charged with assisting in the implementation of the Green Worcester Plan actions.

Communication:

1. Develop, revise as needed, and implement an effective external communication strategy to advance Green Worcester Plan goals.
2. Assist with outreach and education about Green Worcester Plan actions by the businesses, institutions & nonprofits, households & individuals (“Getting Started” sections at the end of each chapter).
3. Serve as a transparent channel of providing information to the public and other external stakeholders about the City’s efforts to advance Green Worcester Plan goals and actions.
4. Serve as a sounding board for new initiatives and opportunities within the community aligned with the Green Worcester Plan goals and actions.

Project Prioritization and Review:

1. Assist annually with prioritization of short term and long term municipal and community Green Worcester Plan actions.
2. Assist with the development of the Sustainable Project Score Card, which will incorporate the three Green Worcester Plan lenses – equity, health and prosperity.
3. Review and advise on upcoming municipal projects using the Sustainable Project Score Card.

84°

WORCESTER > | JULY 11, 2022

LOG IN

4 VIDEOS LEFT UNTIL SIGN-IN REQUIRED

SIGN IN

BY DEVIN BATES | WORCESTER

PUBLISHED 5:53 PM ET JUL. 09, 2022

WORCESTER, Mass. - On Saturday, local nonprofits gathered for an information-packed block party that gave Worcester residents the chance to learn more about sustainability.

From saving on energy bills to learning about job opportunities in the field of green energy, there are plenty of resources and opportunities available. Participants said it's beneficial to remind the public of their work, because it often goes unnoticed.

"It's important to connect outside with other people so they know what we do, because a lot of people think they know what we do, but they don't know what you do," said Rosa Maria Salas of Community Loan Fund.

Other nonprofits like Mothers out Front were set up all afternoon bringing exposure to their mission. The organization is focused on building a sustainable future for kids.

"I have a daughter, she's 7, and I'm really worried about the state of the climate and what the future might look like for her, so I heard about Mothers out Front and was happy to find another group of moms to connect with," said Mara Flynn, a volunteer.

Grace Umaña works for the nonprofit All in Energy, which works to build an inclusive green economy while helping minority students explore career opportunities in the field.

The nonprofit also helps people who have been disproportionately left out of energy-saving programs.

.....

"It gives all the people here an opportunity to meet each other and think about how to hopefully imagine a way to make all of these resources, the service universe, less fractured," said Jeuji Diamondstone, who helped coordinate the event.

YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN



2:37

"SALE DAY"



Green Worcester Committee

7/25/2022

TWT
MASTER

WHAT'S LEFT: An Update on Worcester's
Open Space

Worcester Conservation Commission

1 August 1987

1987 Open Space Top Ten List

Cascades Park East/ West	60.56 acres	Saved
Coal Mine Brook	71.15 acres	Partially Saved, Lost & Outstanding
Stratton Hill	126.80 acres	Lost
Nick Chase Estate	59.30 acres	Saved
Broggard Farm & Higgins Estate	319.86 acres	Partially Lost & Outstanding
Poor Farm Brook North	85.43 acres	Partially Lost & Outstanding
Parson's Estate	28.00 acres	Saved
God's Acre	17.15 acres	Saved
Broad Meadow Brook	+/- 245.05 acres	Saved
Crow Hill	42.25 acres	Saved (50 acres)

1996 Open Space Top Ten List

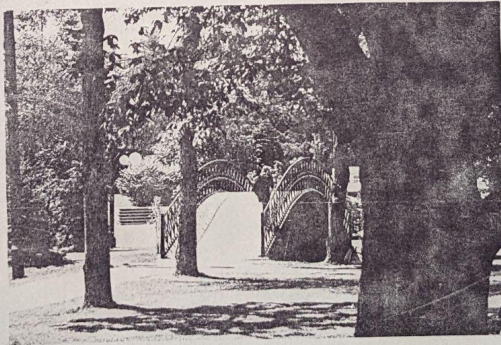
Cascades Park East	41.26 acres	Saved (30.86 acres)
Catholic Charities (Parcel K)	85.00 acres	Saved
Coes Reservoir Abutters	100.26 acres	Saved
Crow Hill	33.65 acres	Saved (50 acres)
Higgins Estate	115.17 acres	Partially Lost / Outstanding
Kettle Brook North	29.60 acres	Saved
Laurel Mountain	126.57 acres	Saved
Poor Farm Brook North	46.73 acres	Partially Lost & Outstanding
Stoddard Estate/Brooks	43.62 acres	Outstanding
Wigwam Hill & Coal Mine Brook	47.70 acres	Partially Saved , Partially Lost

1998 Open Space Top Ten List

<u>Cascades Park East</u>	41.26 acres	Saved (30.86 acres)
<u>Catholic Charities (Parcel K)</u>	85.00 acres	Saved
<u>Crow Hill</u>	33.65 acres	Saved (50 acres)
Higgins Estate	115.17 acres	Partially Lost / Outstanding
<u>Kettle Brook North</u>	29.60 acres	Saved
<u>Laurel Mountain</u>	126.57 acres	Saved
<u>Logan Field Extension</u>	31.03 acres	Partially Saved
Poor Farm Brook North	46.73 acres	Partially Lost & Outstanding
Stoddard Estate/Brooks	43.62 acres	Outstanding
Wigwam Hill and <u>Coal Mine Brook</u>	47.70 acres	Partially Saved , Lost & Outstanding

WORCESTER

1987 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN



Vision of Open Space

Public Users:

Hikers

Bird Watchers

Hunters

Snow Shoers

Trappers

Photographers

Campers

American Chestnut Program

Walkers

Cross Country Skiers

Backpackers

Lepidopterists

Environmental Studies

Picnickers

Geocachers

Artists... etc.

CONTEXT: Greater Worcester Land Trust

Founded:	1987		
Staff:	1.5 FTE		
Board:	12 (Twice Monthly)		
Membership:	412		
Annual Budget:	\$150,000		
Towns:	10		
Fee: 1396ac	CR: 950ac	Easement: 17ac	Pass Through: 546ac







"It is not enough to save bits and pieces of wilderness.

You can not have a healthy canoe country and ill urban centers and expect the planet to feel well.

We can preserve every last tree in the canoe country, and all the trees in all the other official wilderness areas and still be doomed if we do not check the spread of cities, the suburban sprawl that eats away daily at the wild areas that have not received lawful protection.

We must, each one of us, find those meadows and marshes, woodlots and creeks near our homes and deal with them with the same respect we reserve for renowned wilderness.

If we do not, the planet will simply cease to function."

Michael Furtman
A Season for Wilderness



Greater Worcester Land Trust

by the Numbers

- 33 Years Protecting Open Space
- 10 Municipalities
- 83 Properties
- 1,339 Acres Owned
- 950 Acres Cons. Restriction
- 10 Ponds
- 17 Acres of Easements
- 546 Acres of Transferred Lands
- Highest Elevation:
1388' Asnebumskit, Paxton
- Lowest Elevation:
358' Coal Mine Brook, Worcester
- 22 Miles of Rivers & Streams

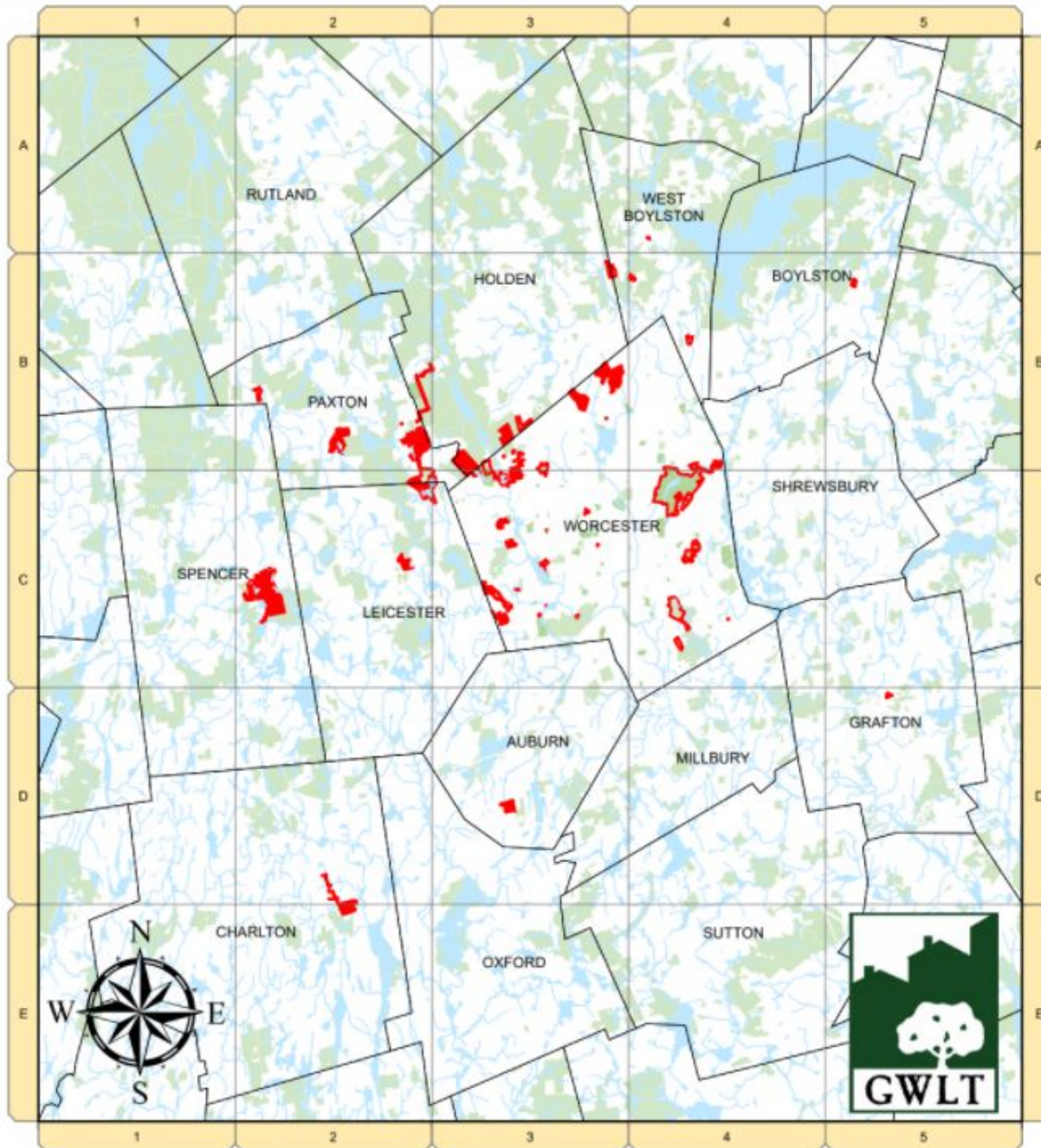
2,856

Acres Conserved Overall
creates access to open space for

293,214

people like you

GWLT.org



■ GWLT-Owned Land □ GWLT Conservation Restriction ■ Conserved Land ■ Waterways

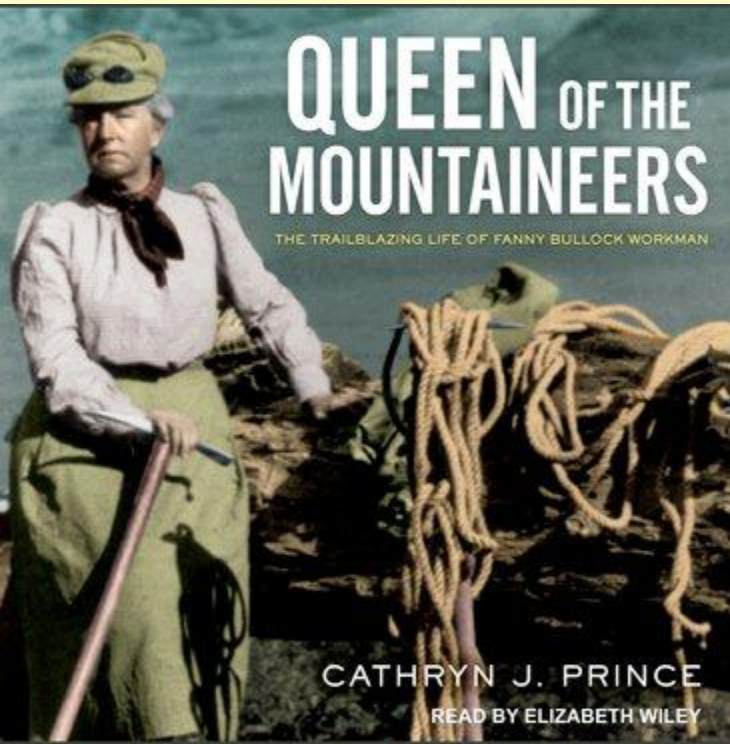
Historical Context

An early community focus on mountains, trails, and backcountry -

And how that focus was brought home from other regions to the local community through trail systems and networks

Fanny Bullock Workman

Worcester Mountaineer & Explorer



Worcester Natural History Camp 1885



Appalachian Mountain Club

Lodge



Green Mountain Club

Lodge

\$4,000 Fire Destroys Green Mountain Club

HOLDEN, Aug. 11 — A fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Green Mountain Club on Salisbury street late last night.

G 11 Aug. 56

Fire Chief Robert Johnson said the blaze did about \$4000 damage and virtually leveled the one-story wooden structure. He and a representative from the fire marshal's office will investigate the fire today, he said.

The blaze was discovered by Charles W. Robinson, 639 Salisbury St., about 11:45 p. m. He spotted the flames from his home and called the Fire Dept.

Apparatus from both the Chaffin and Holden Fire stations answered the alarm.

The fire gained headway before being discovered, Chief Johnson said, and the building was completely ablaze when firefighters arrived.

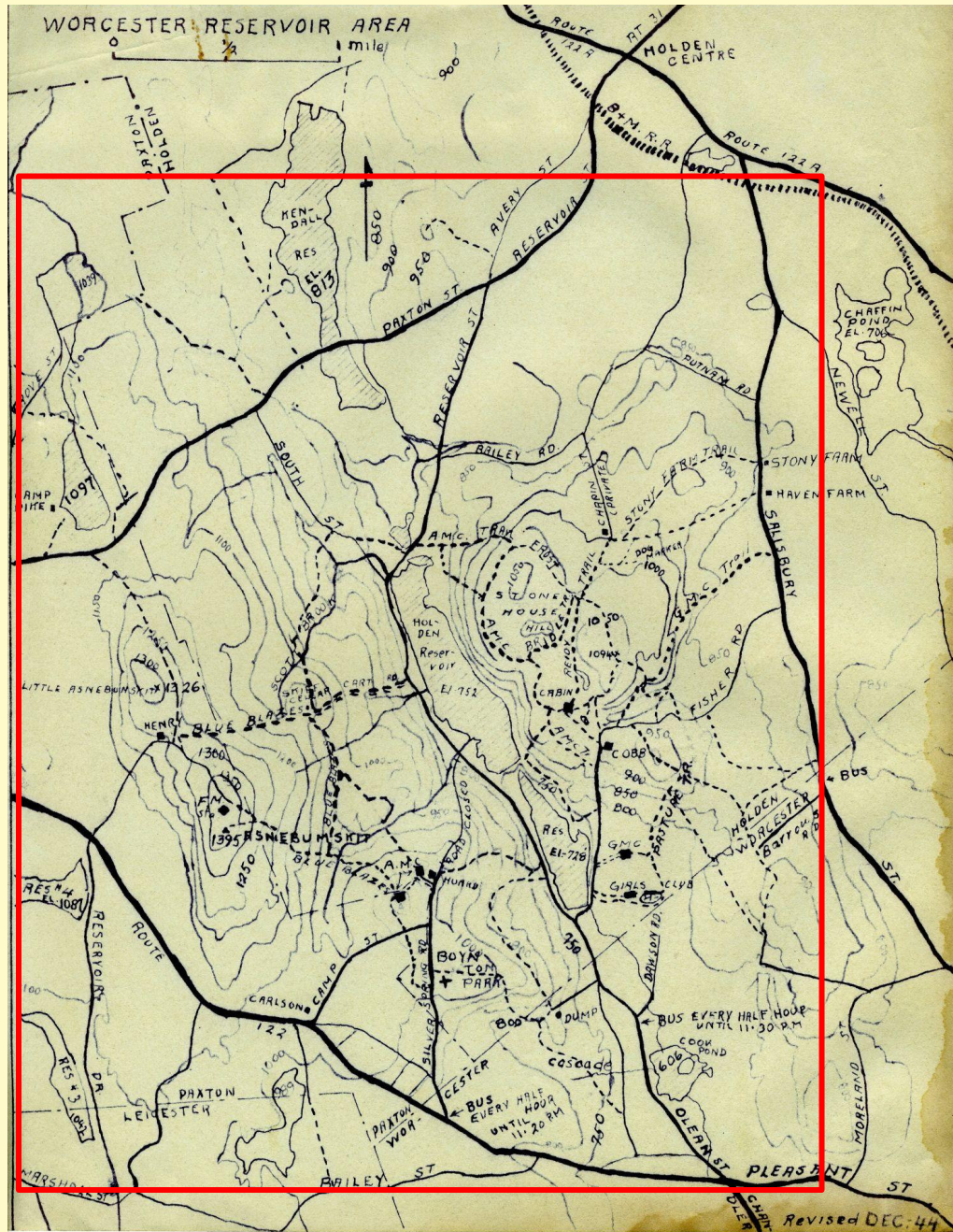
The building stood in a wooded area some distance from Salisbury street. Firefighters used the department's 1,000-gallon tank truck to contain the blaze while laying hose from the nearest hydrant, about 1,000 feet away.

The building, containing a kitchen and a large meeting room, was owned by the club. The organization is made up of about 100 outdoor enthusiasts who help maintain the Long Trail, a hikers' route through the Green Mountains from Massachusetts to the Canadian border.

Club members said there had been no meeting in the building last night.

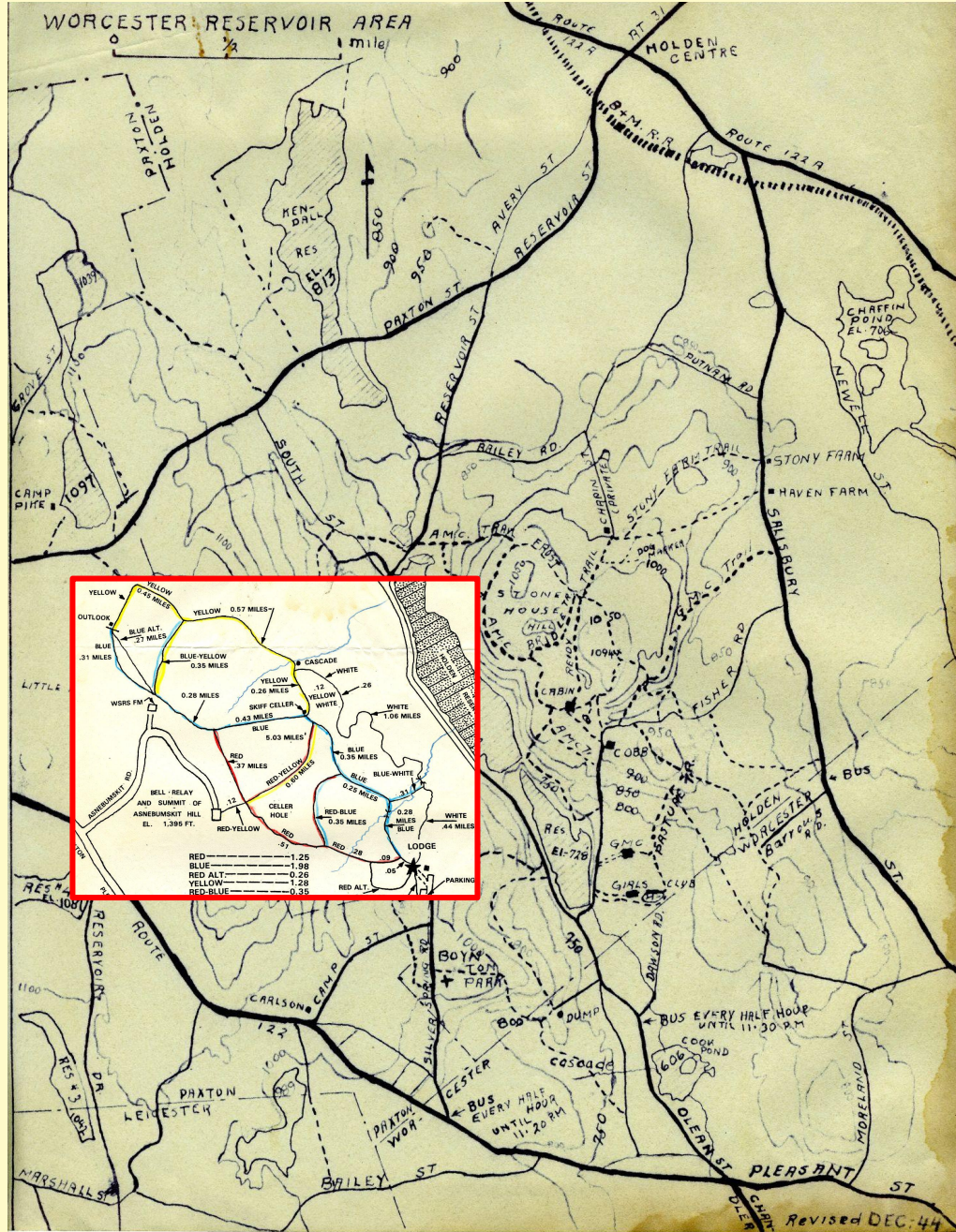
The Massive Trail Network That Was

1944



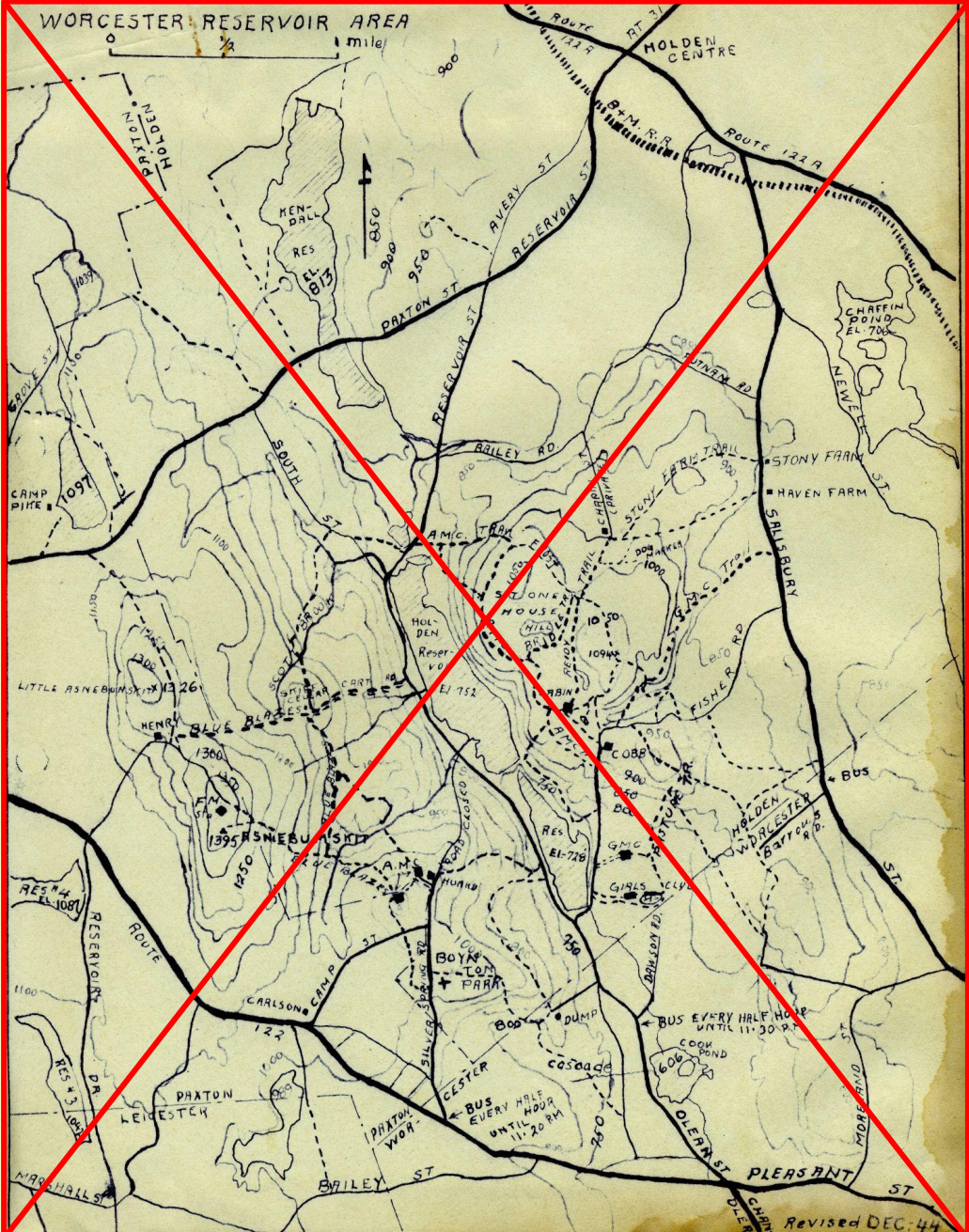
The Trail Network Reduced

1980



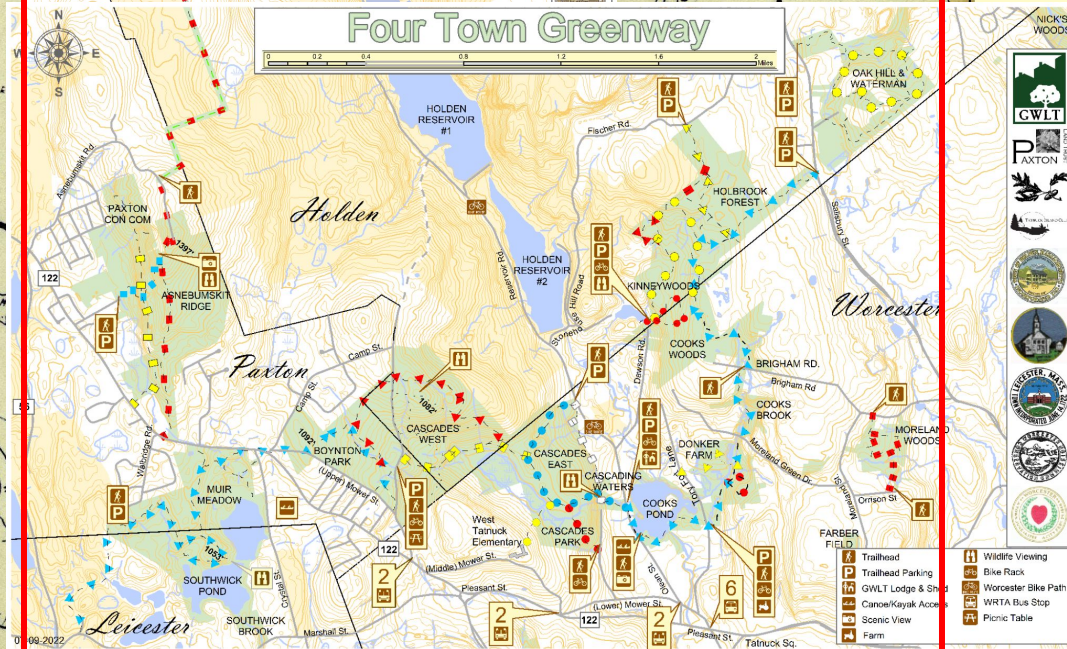
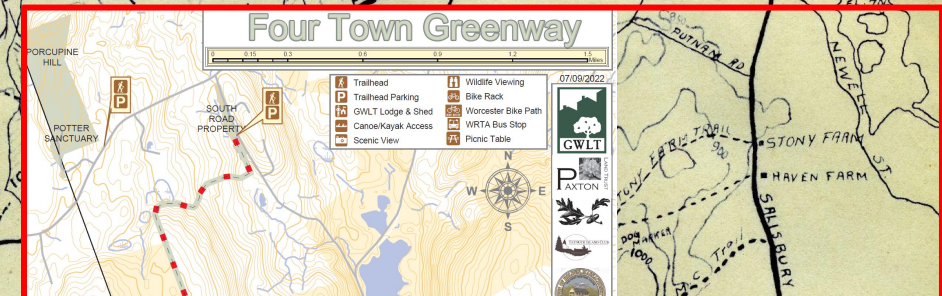
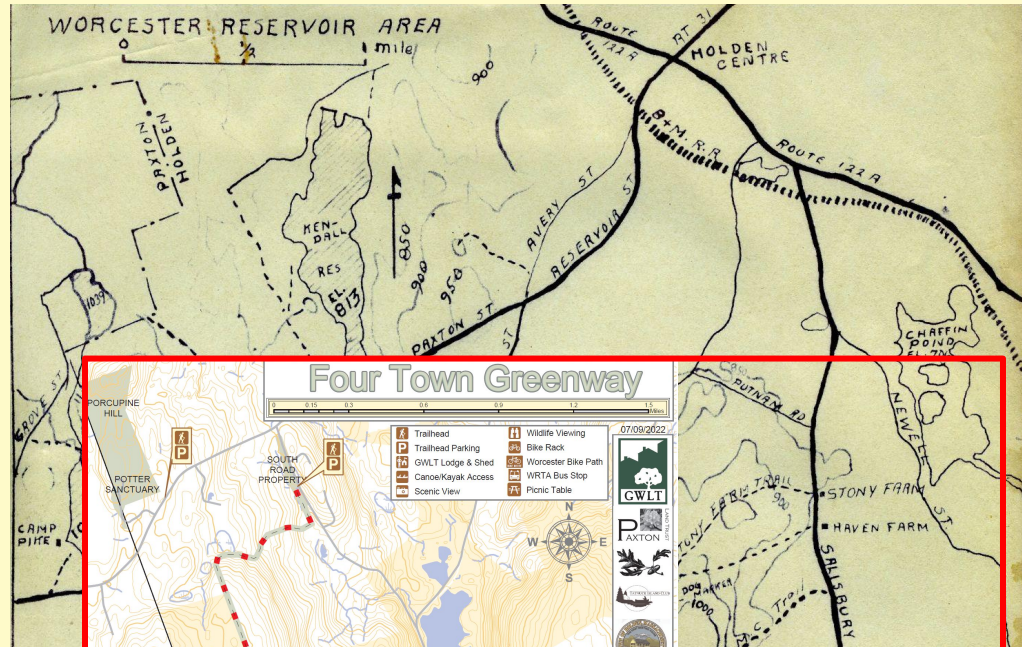
The Trail Network Lost

1995



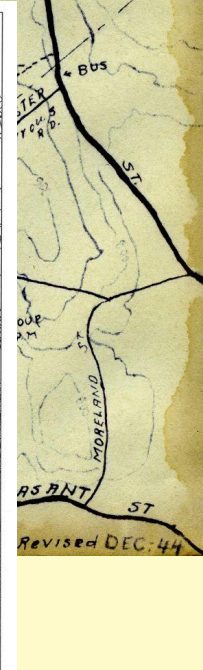
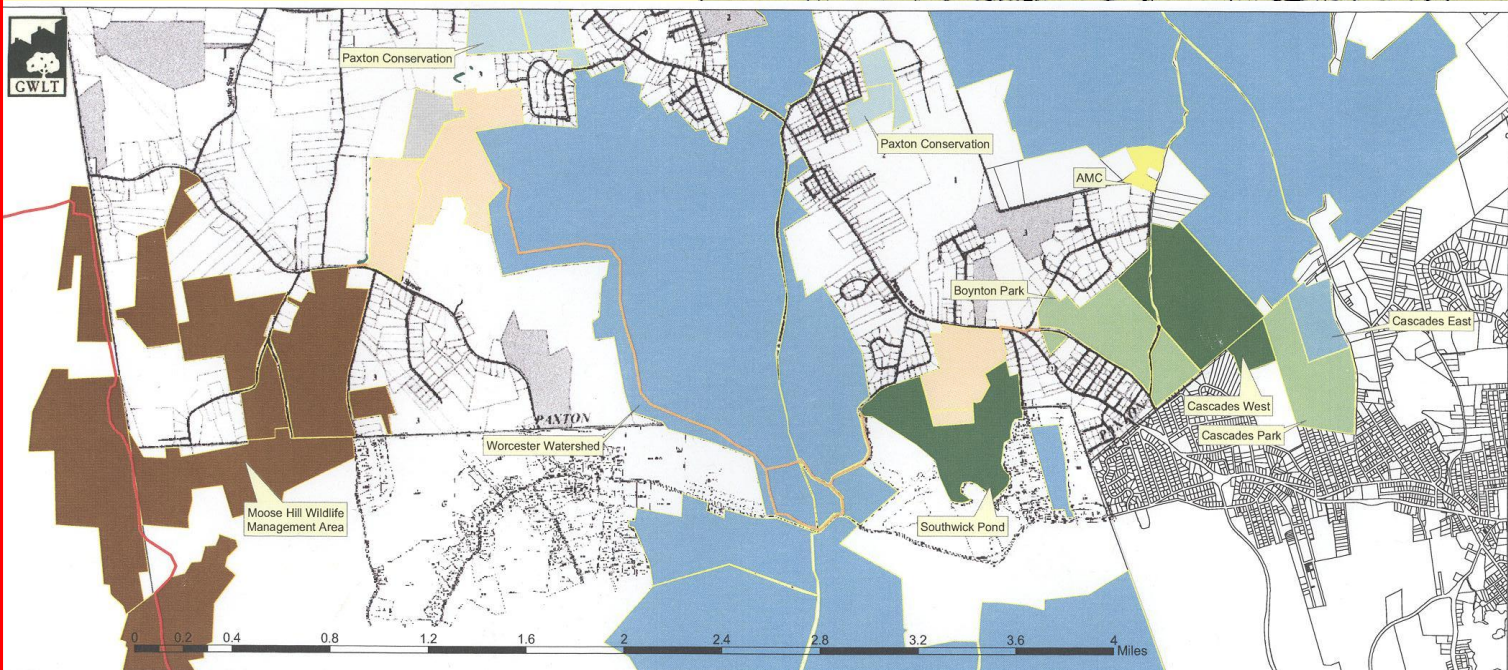
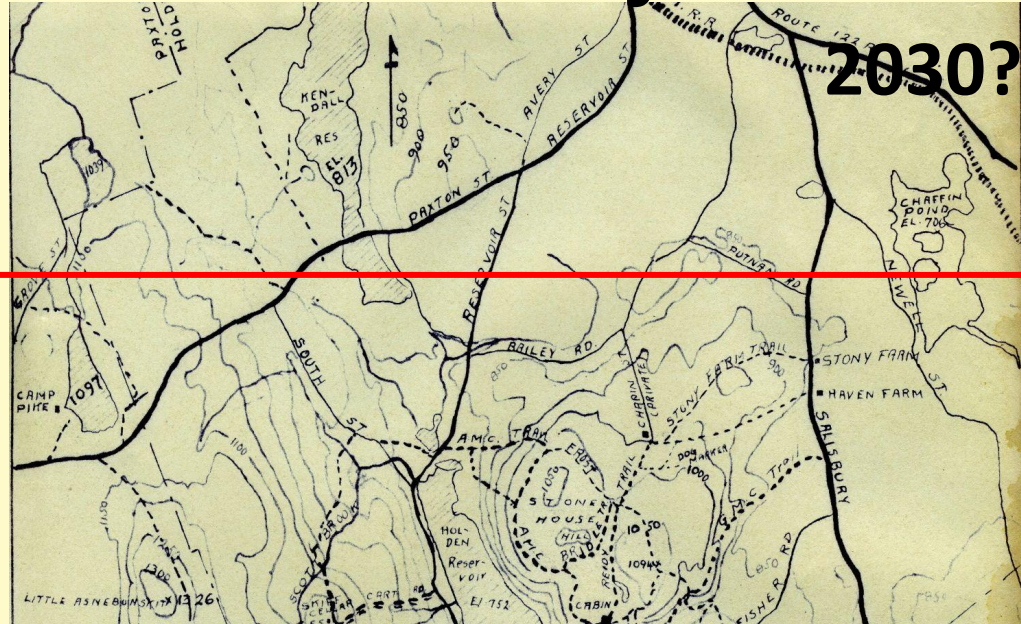
The Trail Network Re-Envisioned

2022



The Trail Network Projected

2030???



“Frontcountry”



- The “Leave No Trace” organization defines Frontcountry as “outdoor areas that are easily accessible by vehicle and mostly visited by day-users.”
- The principles of “Leave No Trace” were designed around backwoods ethics but generally apply to conservation lands in more urbanized areas.
- The idea of Frontcountry then becomes one of a classroom or learning laboratory for how one responsibly enjoys wild landscapes, which in turn, allows for those spaces to be able to survive human use.

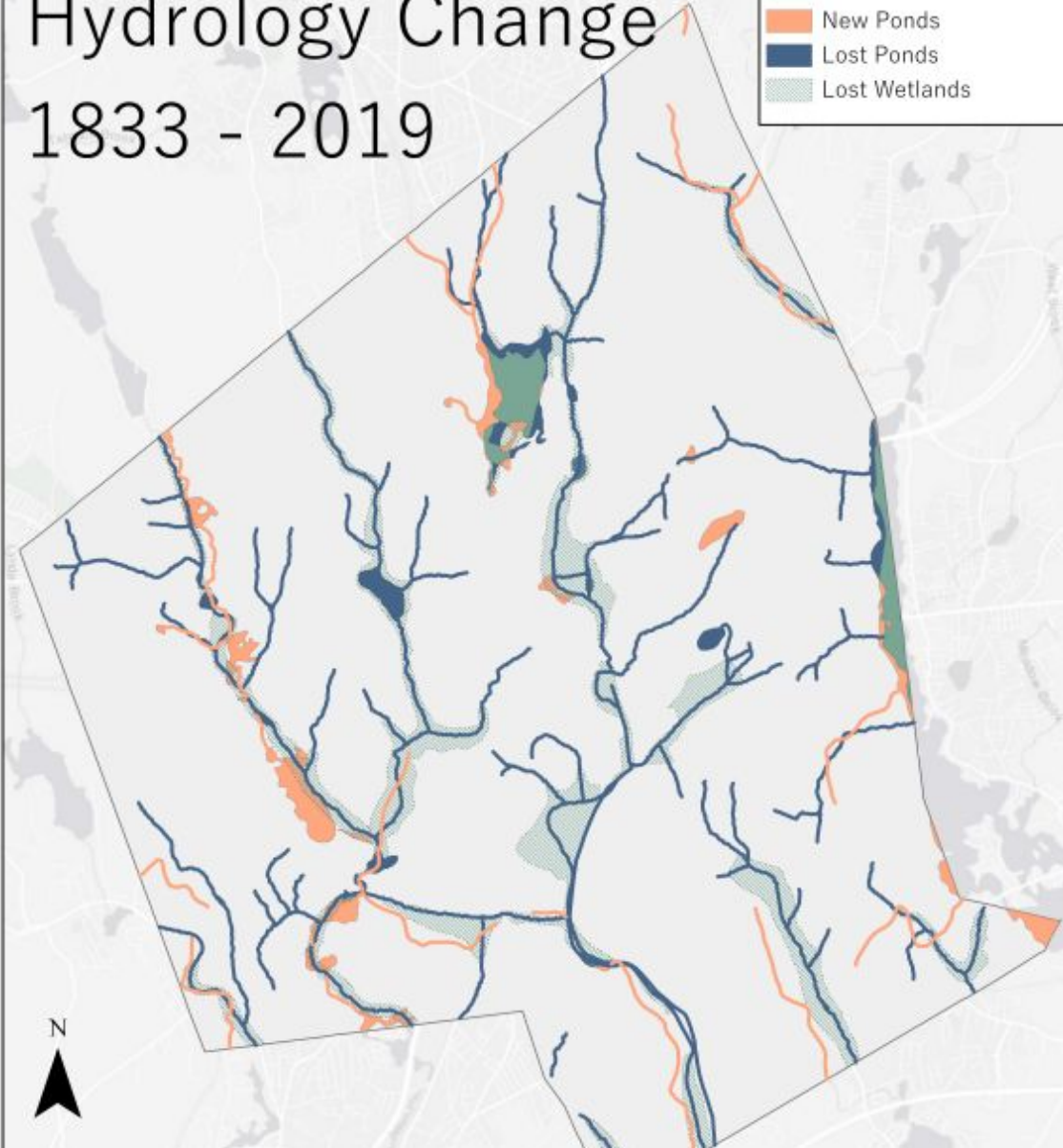
- The original creators of the first local trail network were inspired by and used the same techniques and approaches as the White Mountain National Forest, the Long Trail, and the AMC and GMC trail systems of rugged primitive footpaths with painted blazes and routed wooden signs.
- We need to go backwards and bring forward the culture of long distance trails and trail networks INTO the City, creating a “Frontcountry” learning space for urban dwellers that draws them into a lifelong experience of the forest, greenways, and trails.
- This can be where they learn about trails, navigation, outdoor access, and gateway experiences with a campfire or an overnight component.

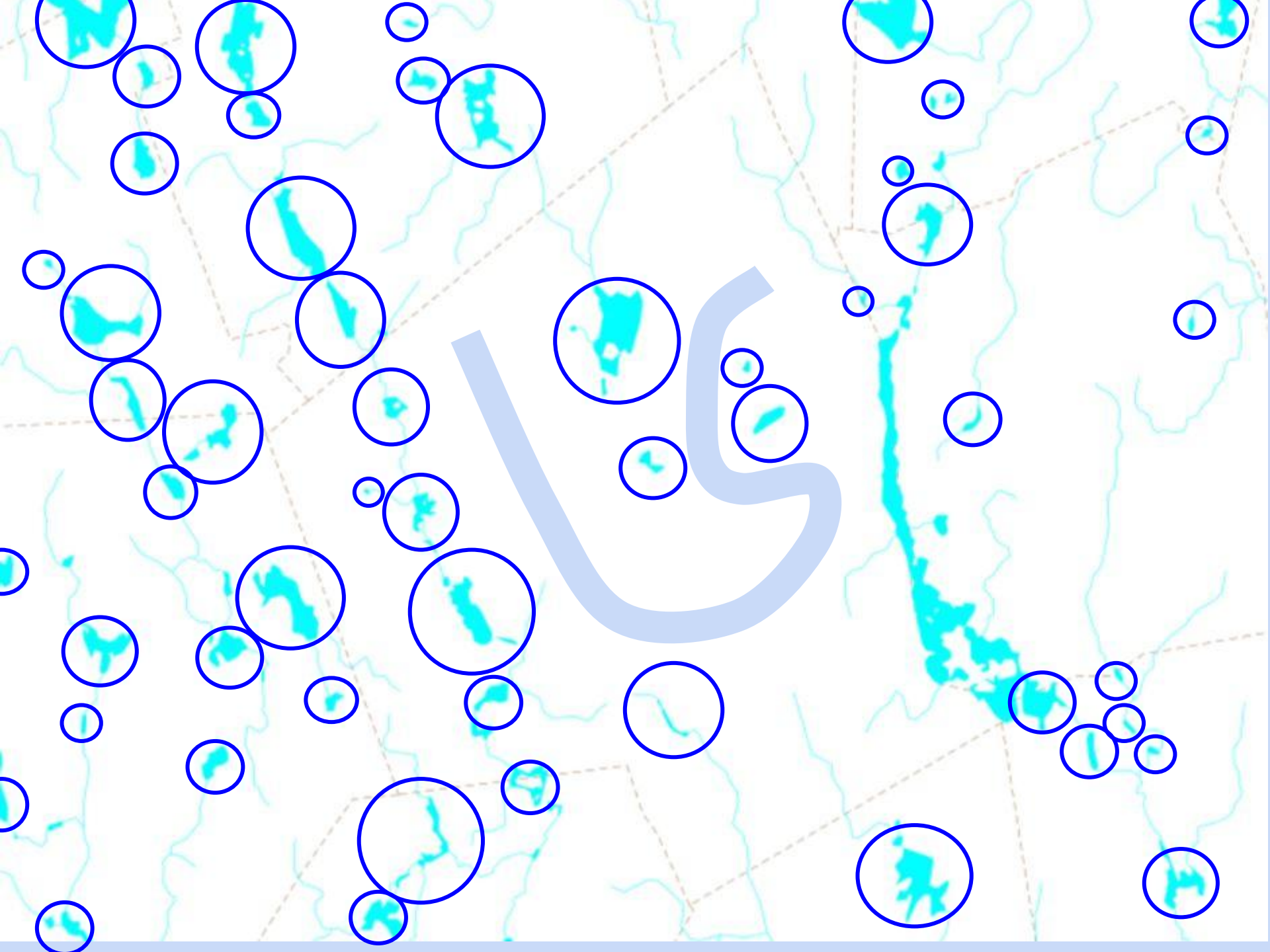
The AMC Gearshed Hosted by GWLT



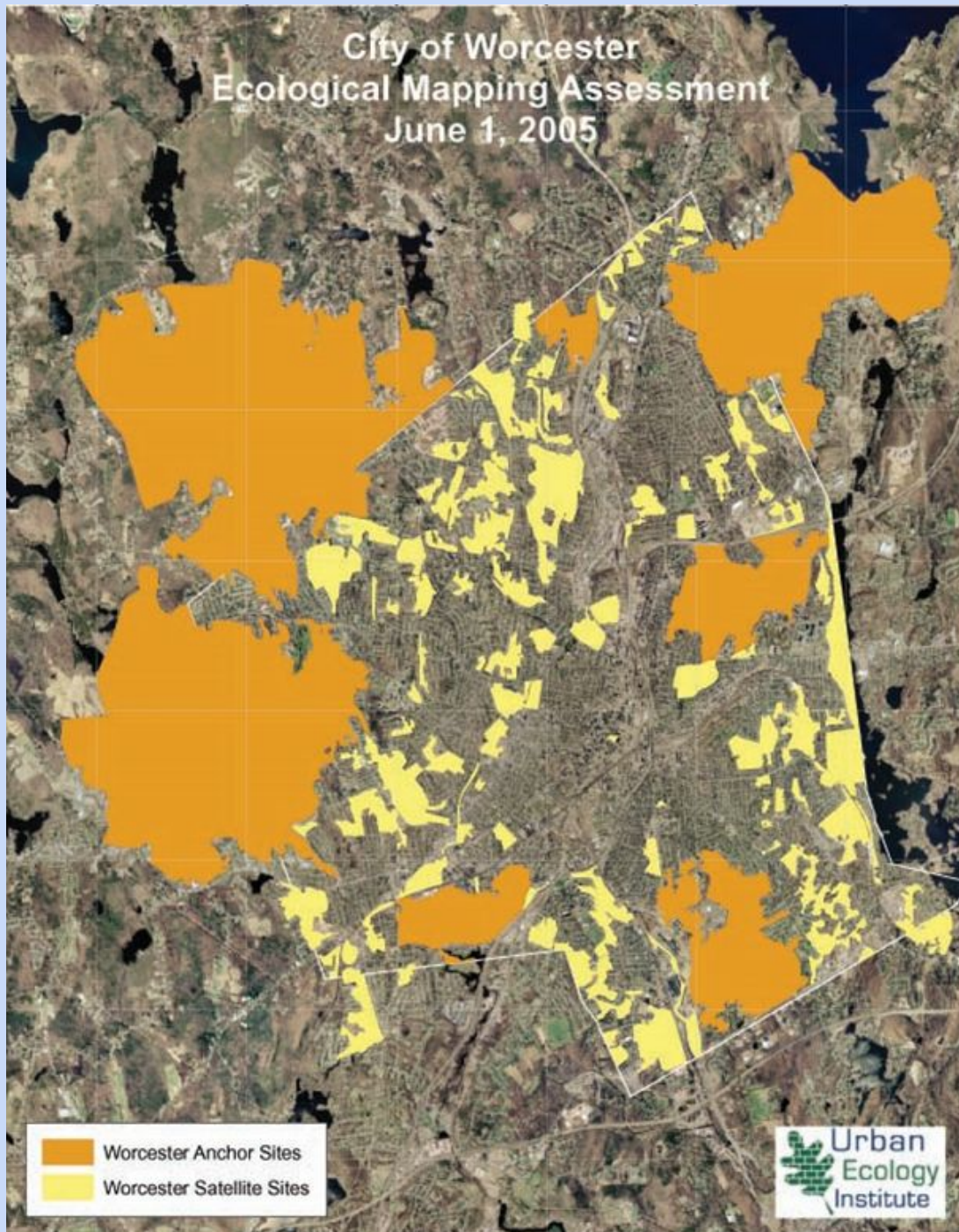
Worcester Hydrology Change 1833 - 2019

- New Rivers
- Old Waterways (including Blackstone Canal)
- Ponds Maintained
- New Ponds
- Lost Ponds
- Lost Wetlands





City of Worcester
Ecological Mapping Assessment
June 1, 2005



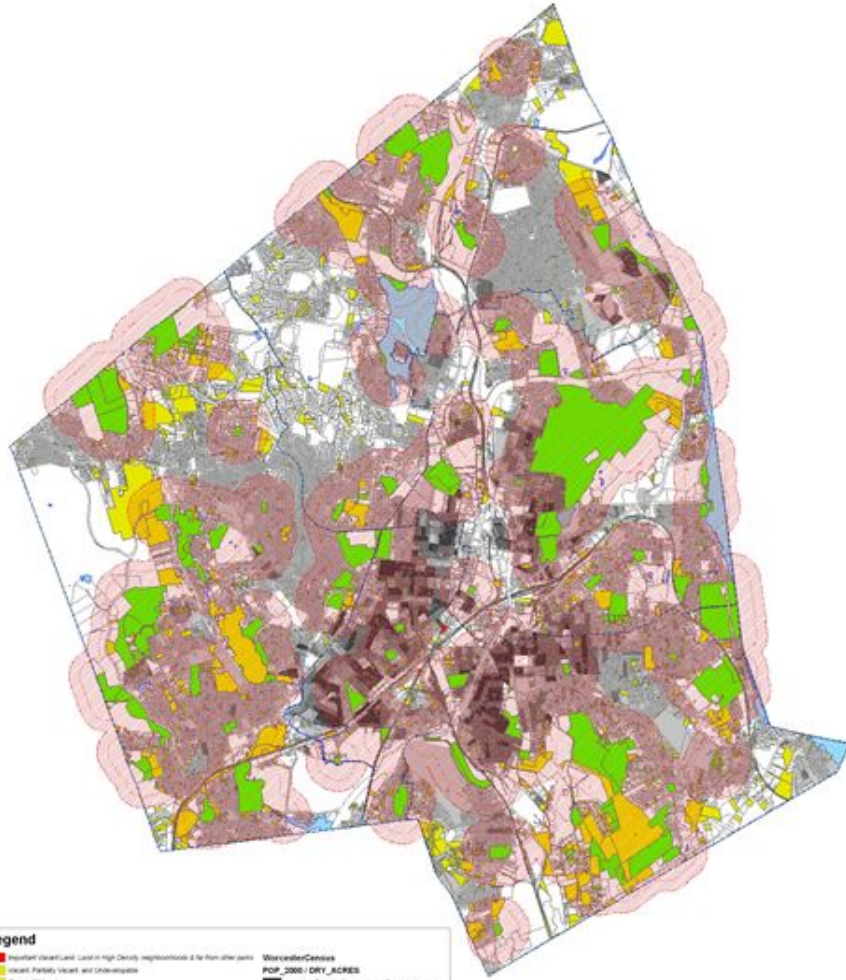
Orange Worcester Anchor Sites
Yellow Worcester Satellite Sites



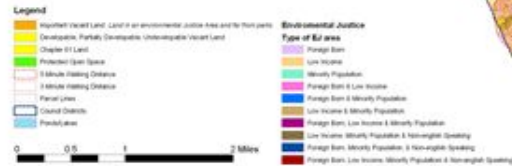
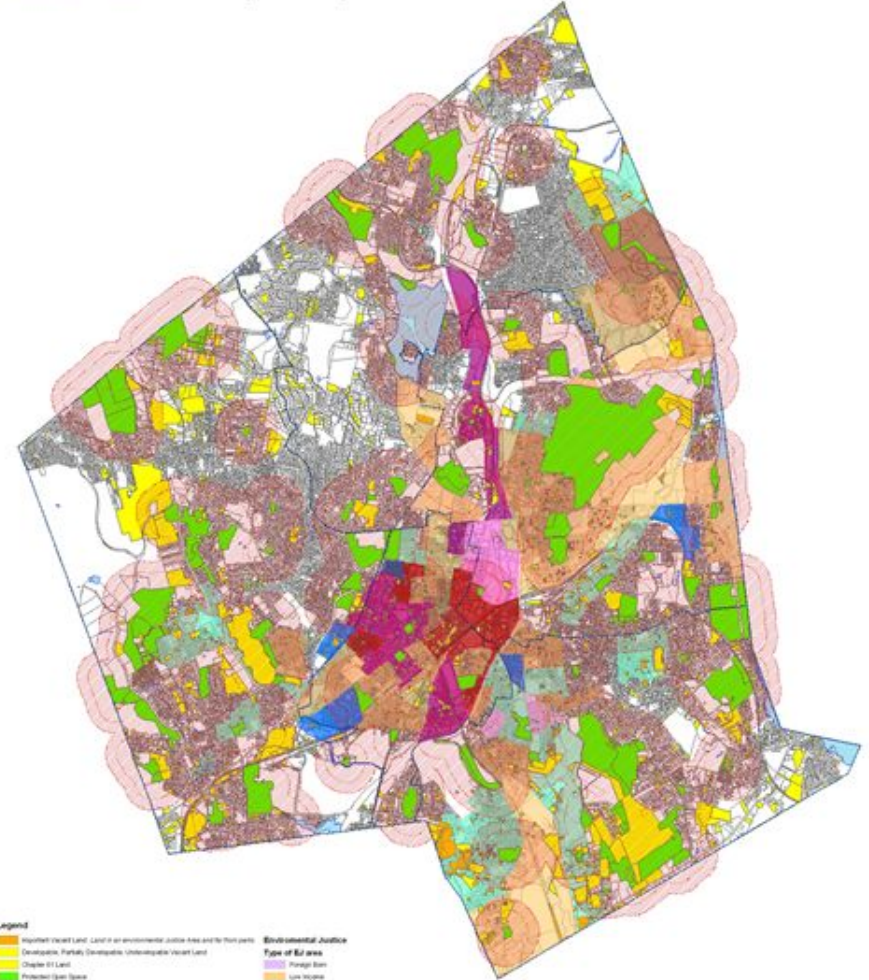
Adding in Density, Proximity, & EJ Designations



Analysis of Vacant Lots Based on Density and Proximity to Open Spaces



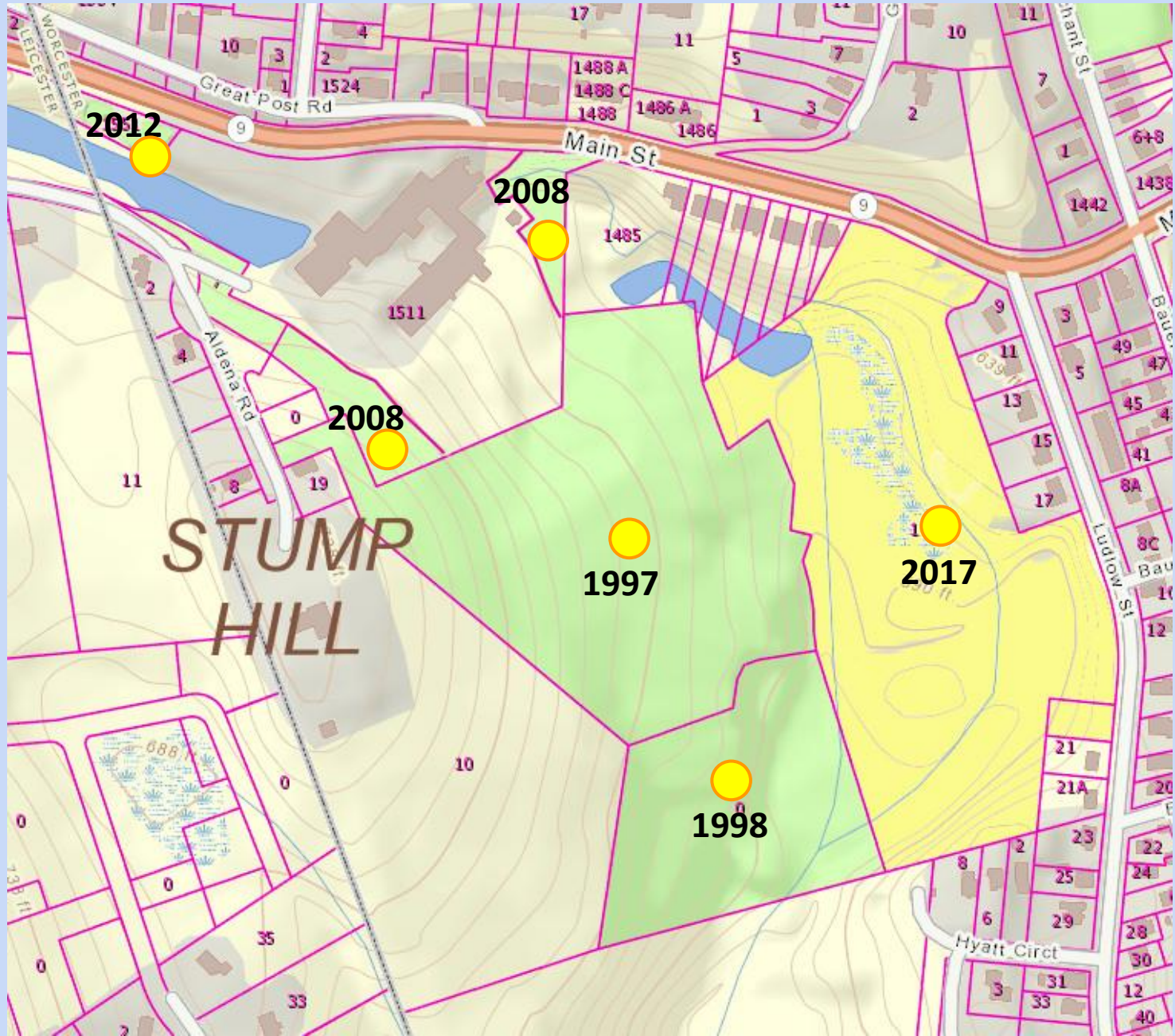
Analysis of Vacant Land Based on Environmental Justice and Proximity to Open Space



Less Orthodox Urban Connection Tools

- Utility Corridors
- “Paper” Streets
- Side-yard & Rear-yard Setbacks
- Tax Title Properties
- Regulatory Zones (Wetland Setbacks)
- Demo
- Brownfields -> Greenfields (Groundworks)
- Highway Cow Tunnel & RxR Pedestrian Underpass
- Rail to Trail Conversion
- Permitting Process

Kettle Brook North





Pleasant & Winslow Peace Park







WSU





11/15/2007









[Home](#)

[Map](#)

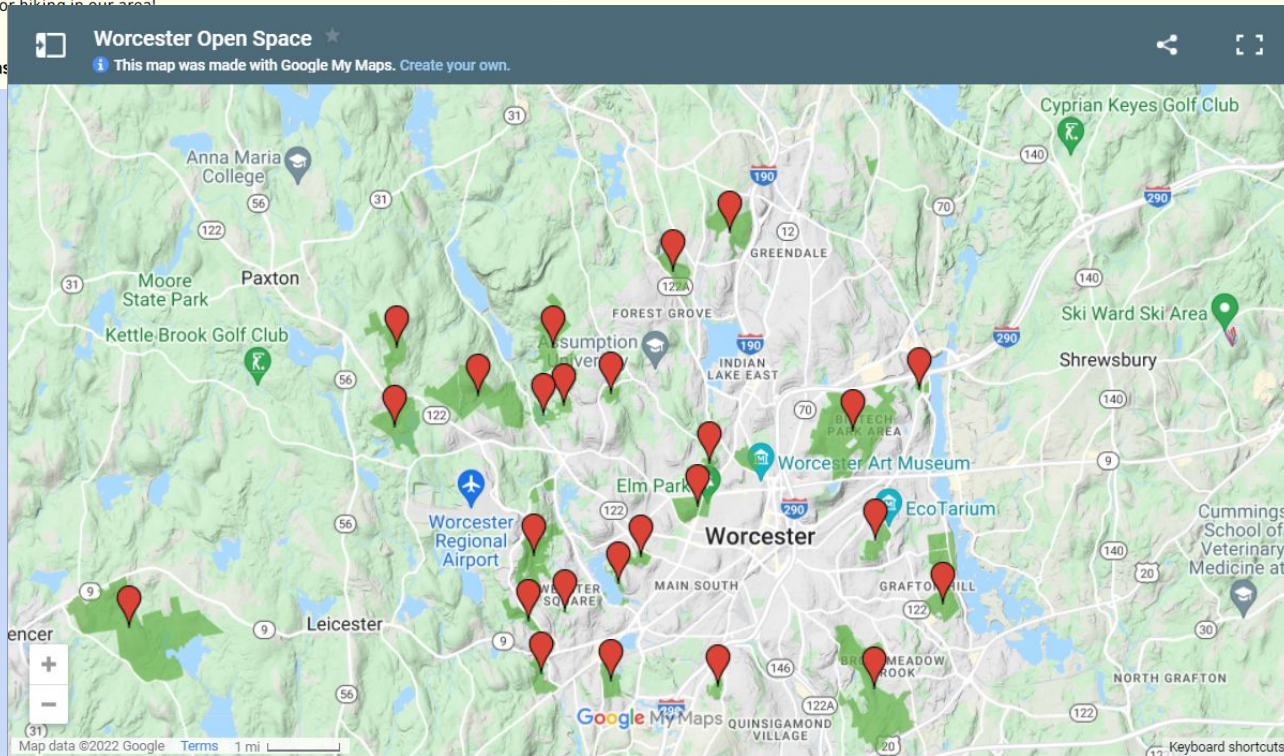
[Lands and Trails](#)

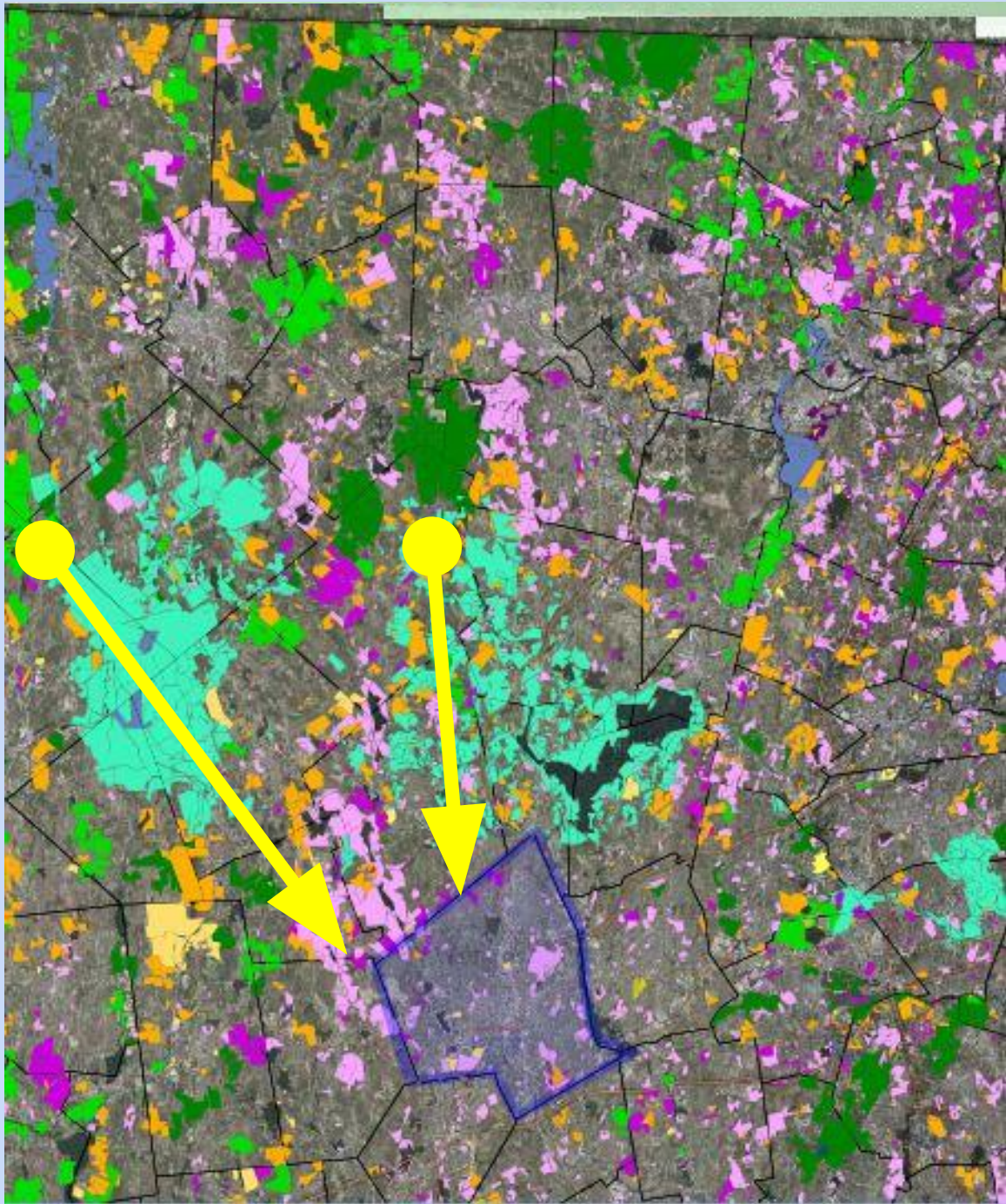
[More Info](#)

[January 2018 Hiking Guide](#) (.pdf courtesy of Jacqueline Lynn) [download](#)

This will be the ULTIMATE guide to hiking in and around Worcester, particularly featuring the lands of the Greater Worcester Land Trust! You will surely be surprised at the number and variety of opportunities for hiking in our area!

Looking for reas





Partnerships Are King

4 municipalities,

4 land Trusts, and

2 private groups

Working over **3** decades

To Build the “Four-Town Greenway”

an **965** acre beltway,

for public access through hiking,

as well as forestry,

as well as a traditional N.E. family farm,

as well as wildlife habitat,

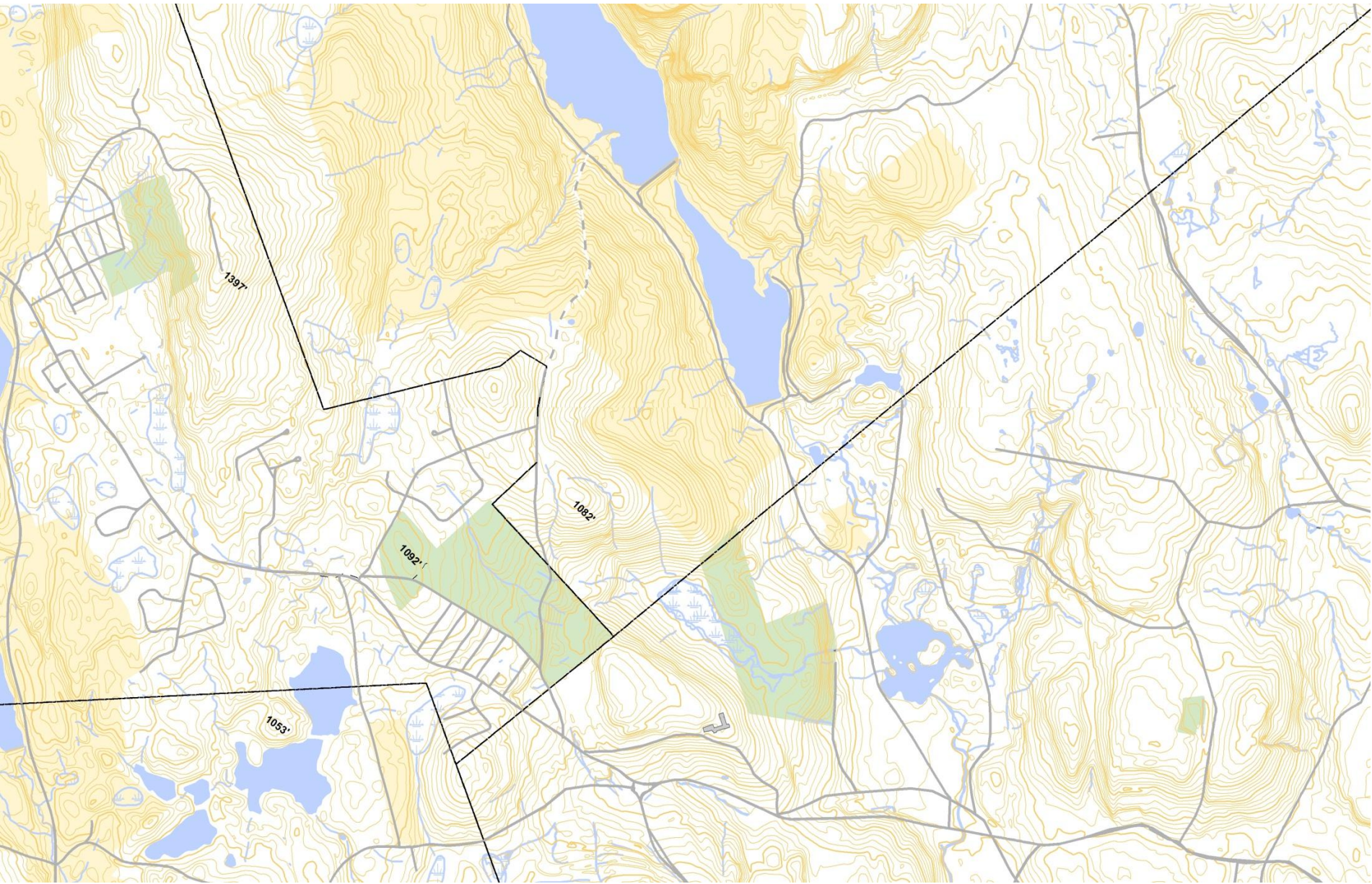
as well as hunting and trapping,

as well as a back-country campsite.

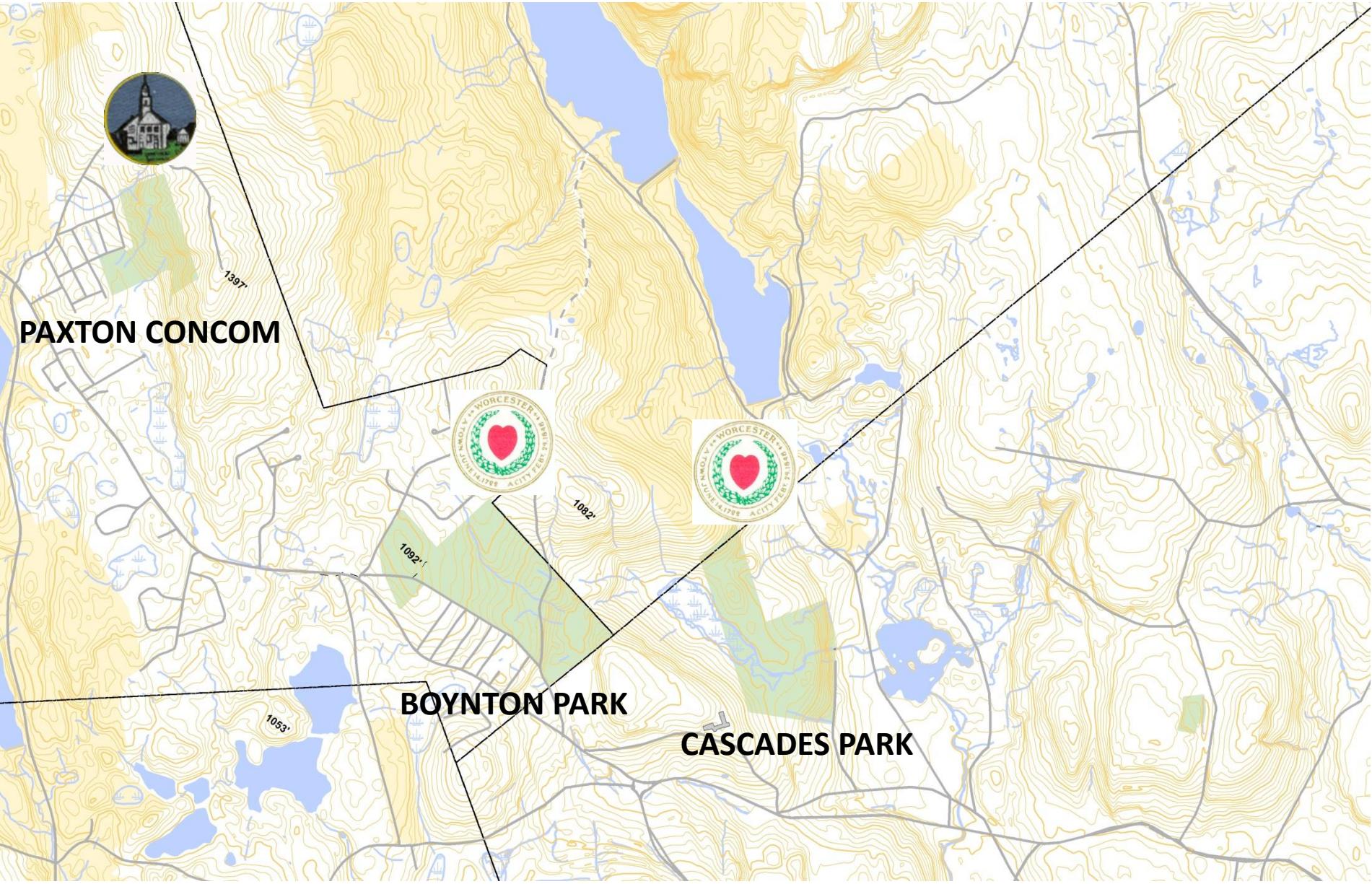
And the Project isn't over YET!



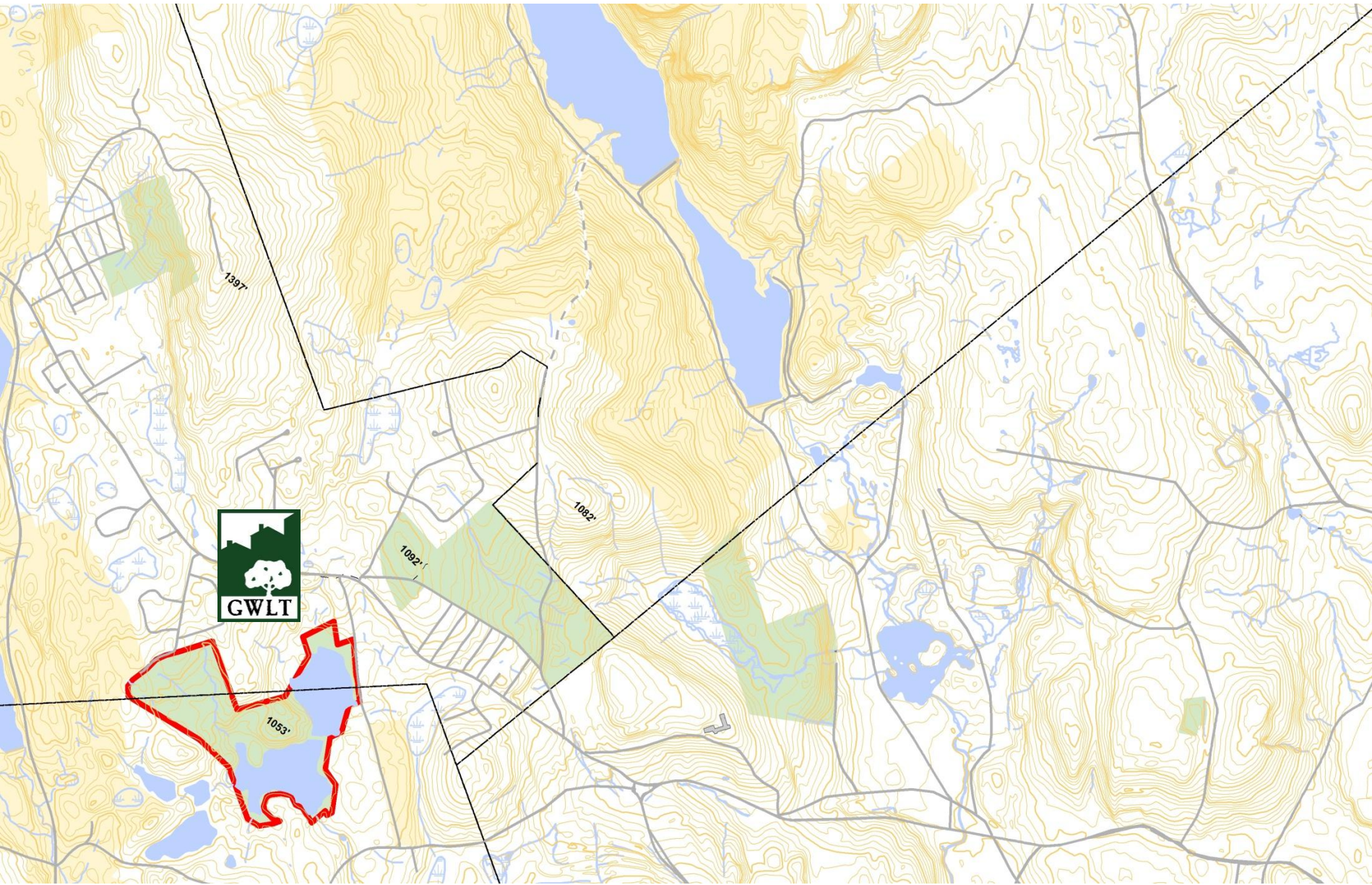
1989



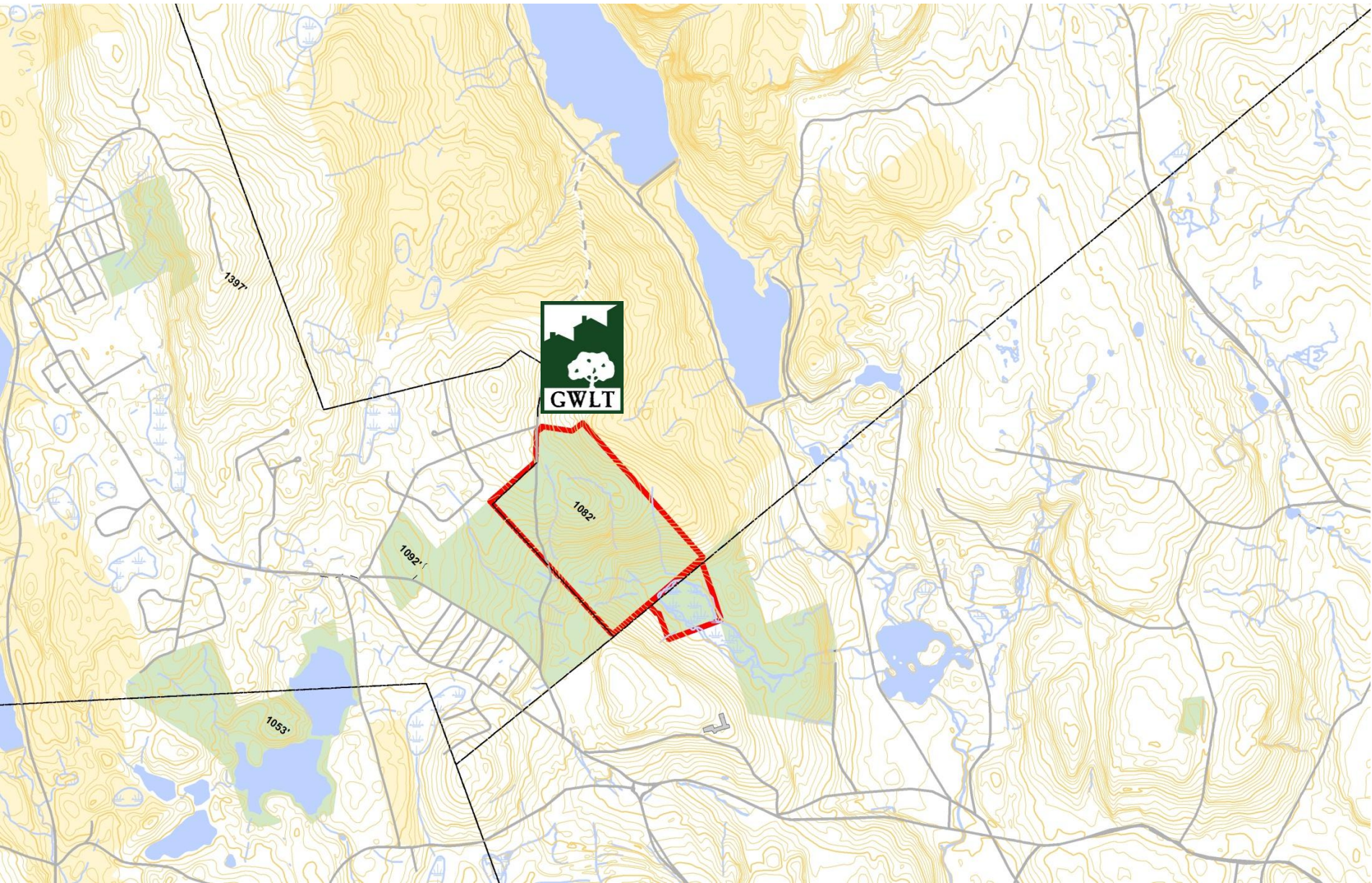
1989



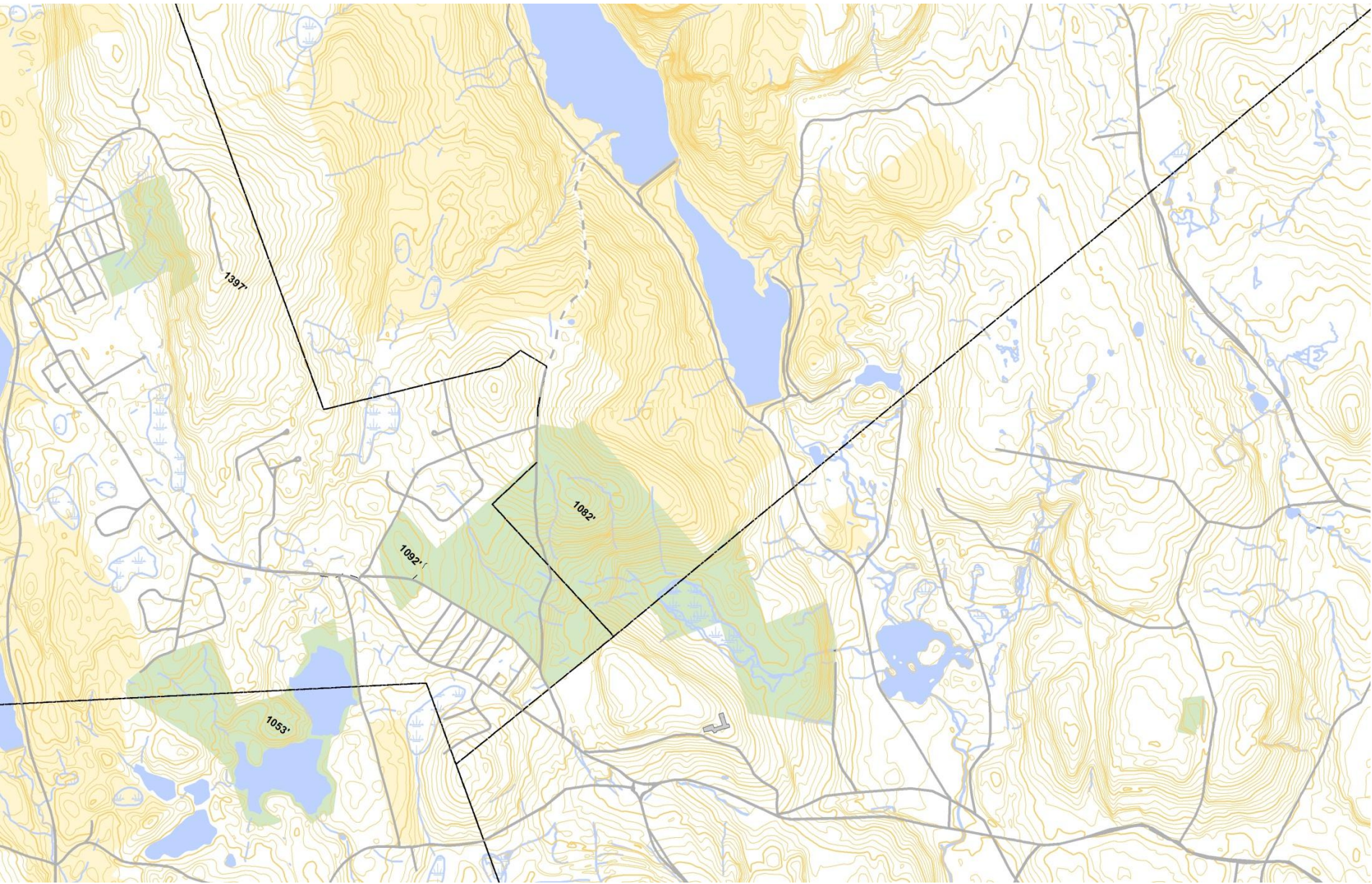
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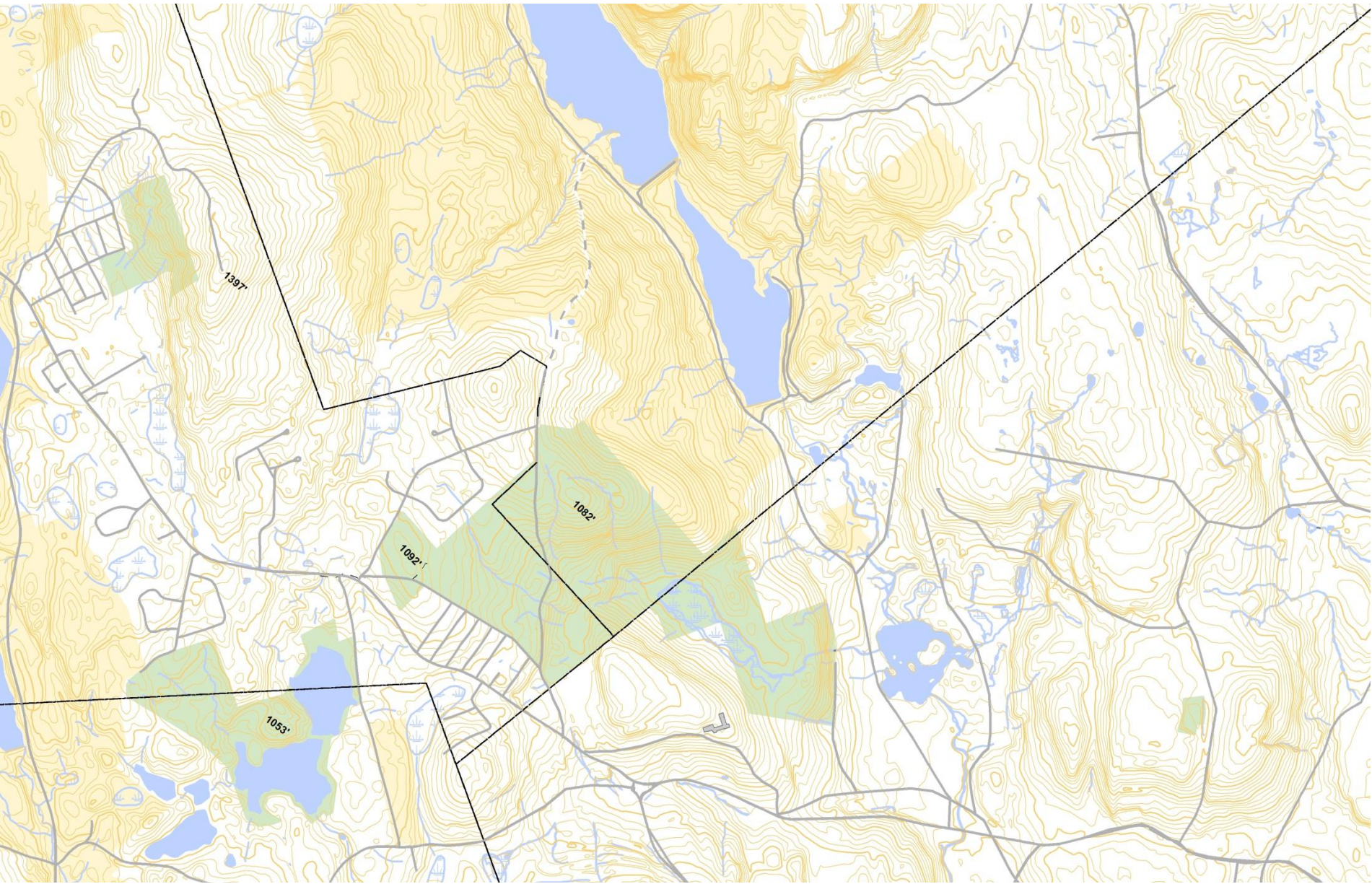
1991



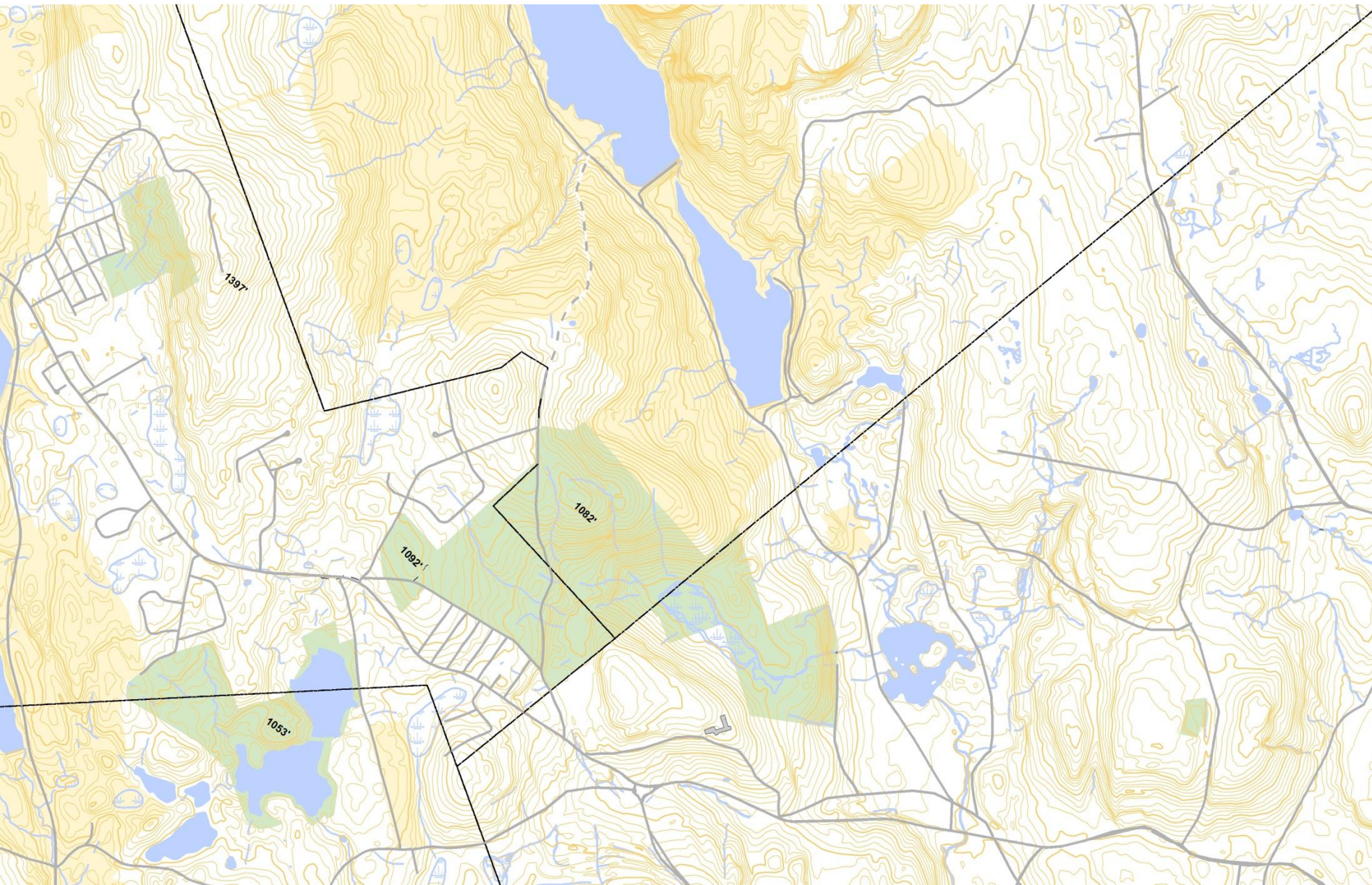
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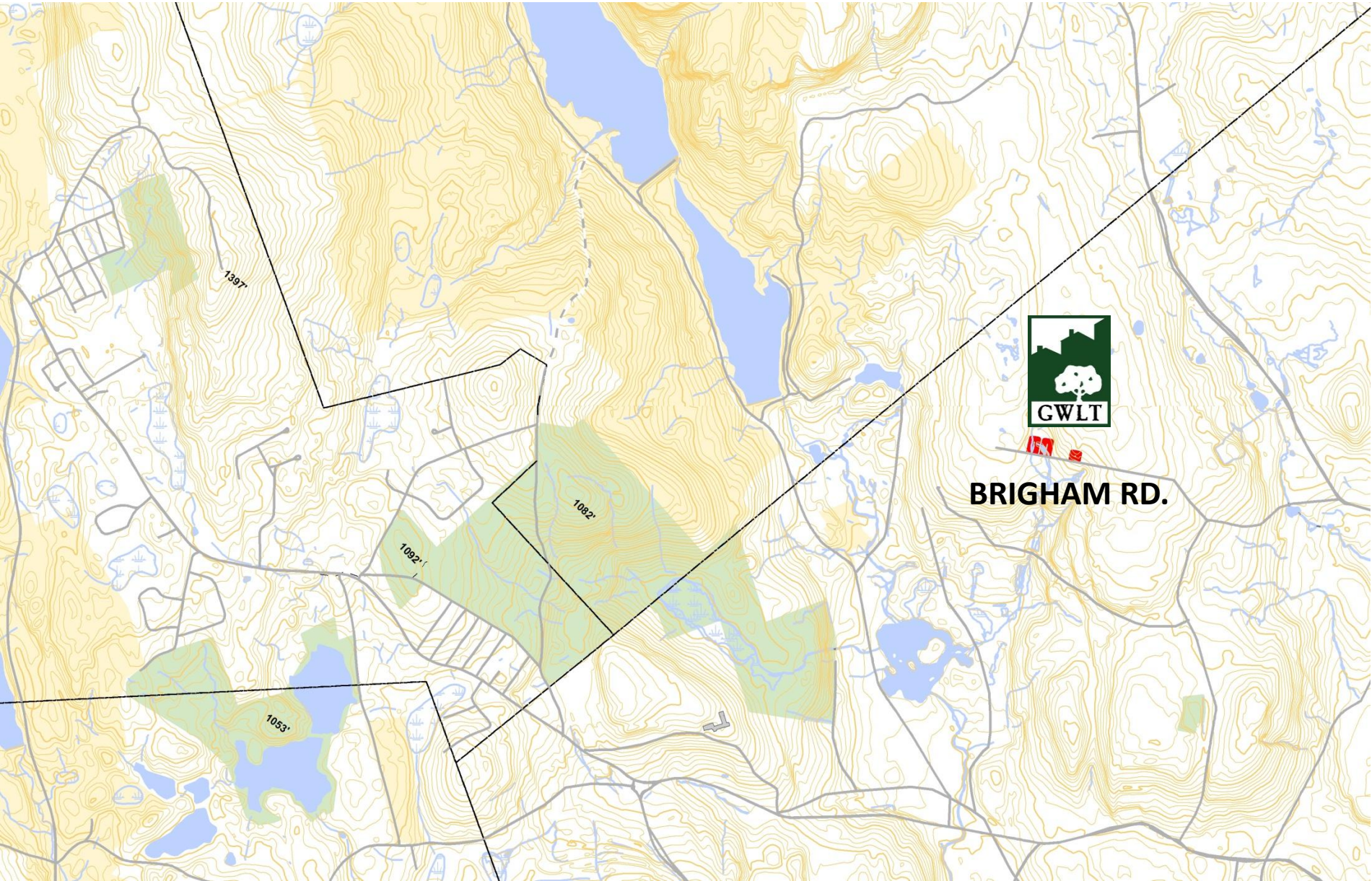
1993...



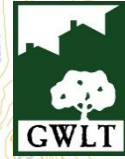
1994...



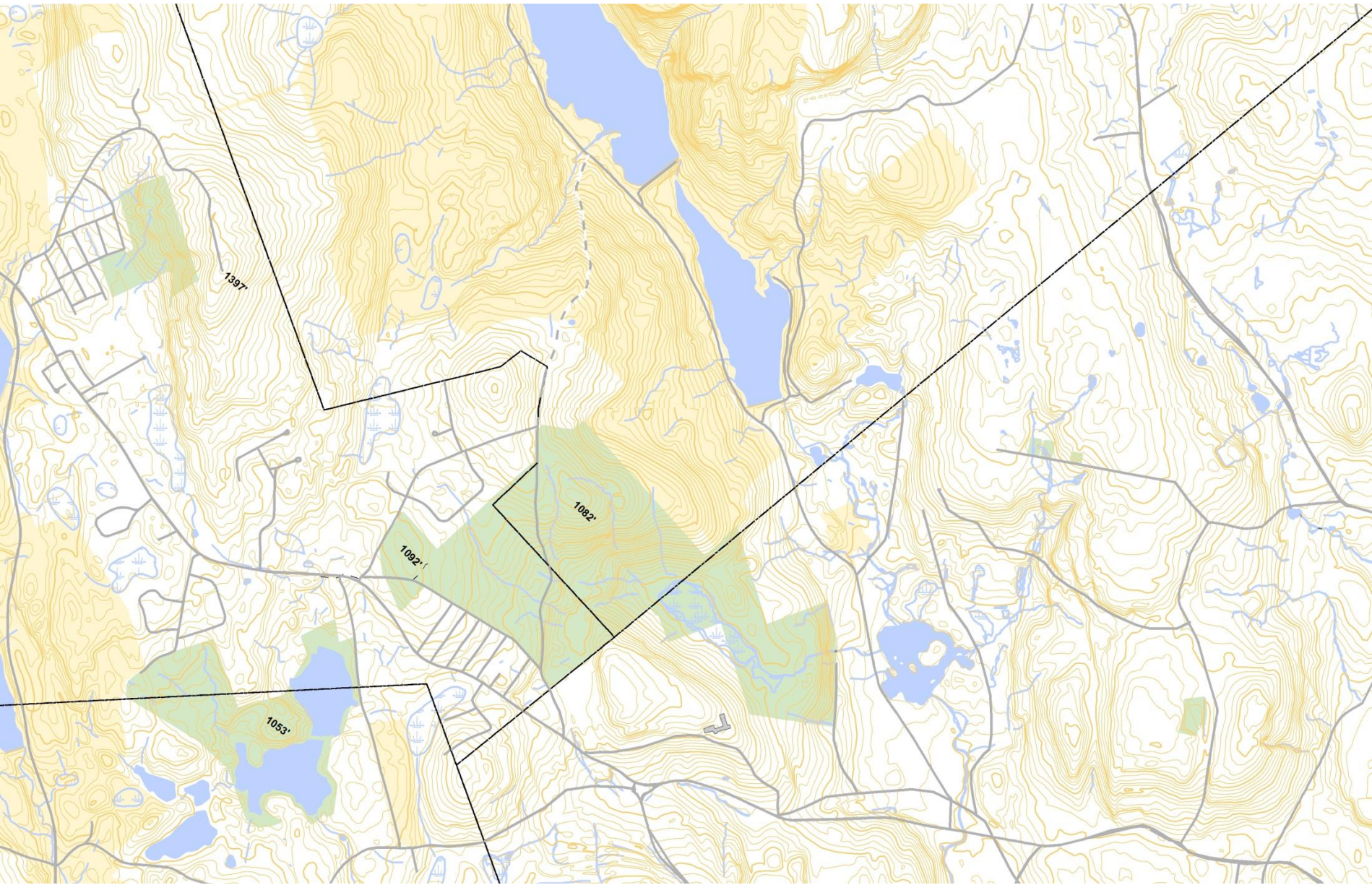
1995



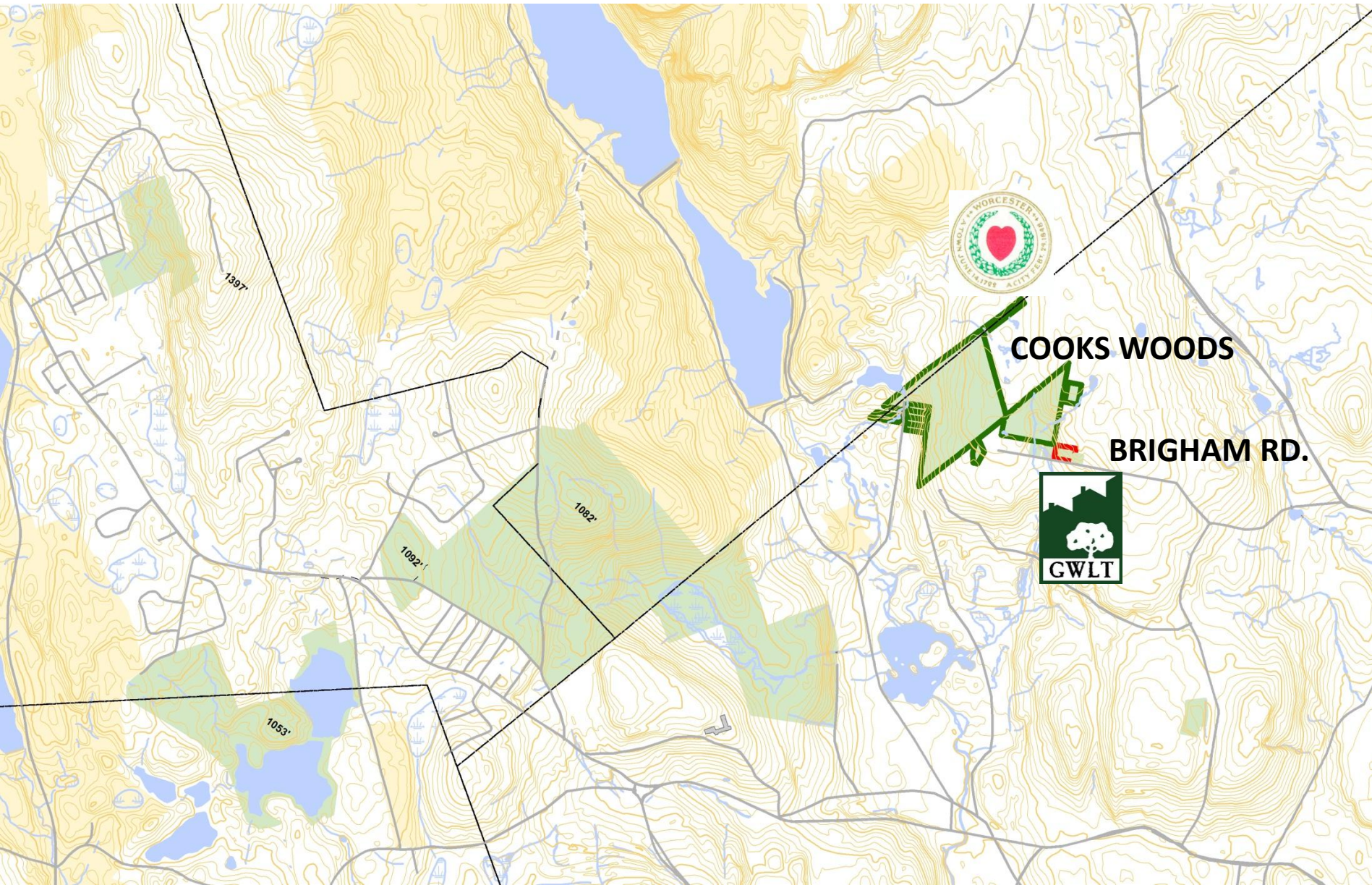
BRIGHAM RD.



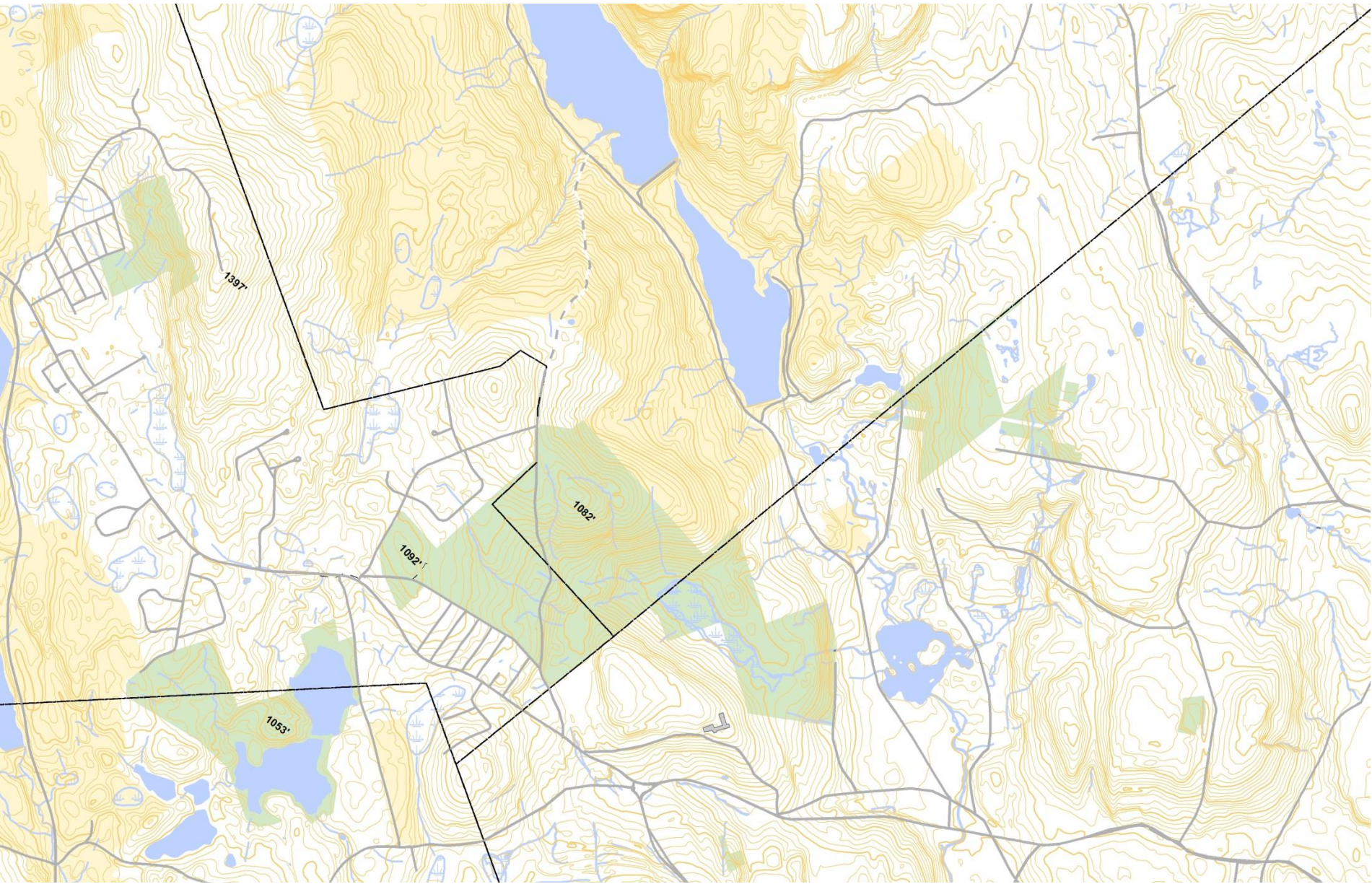
1996...



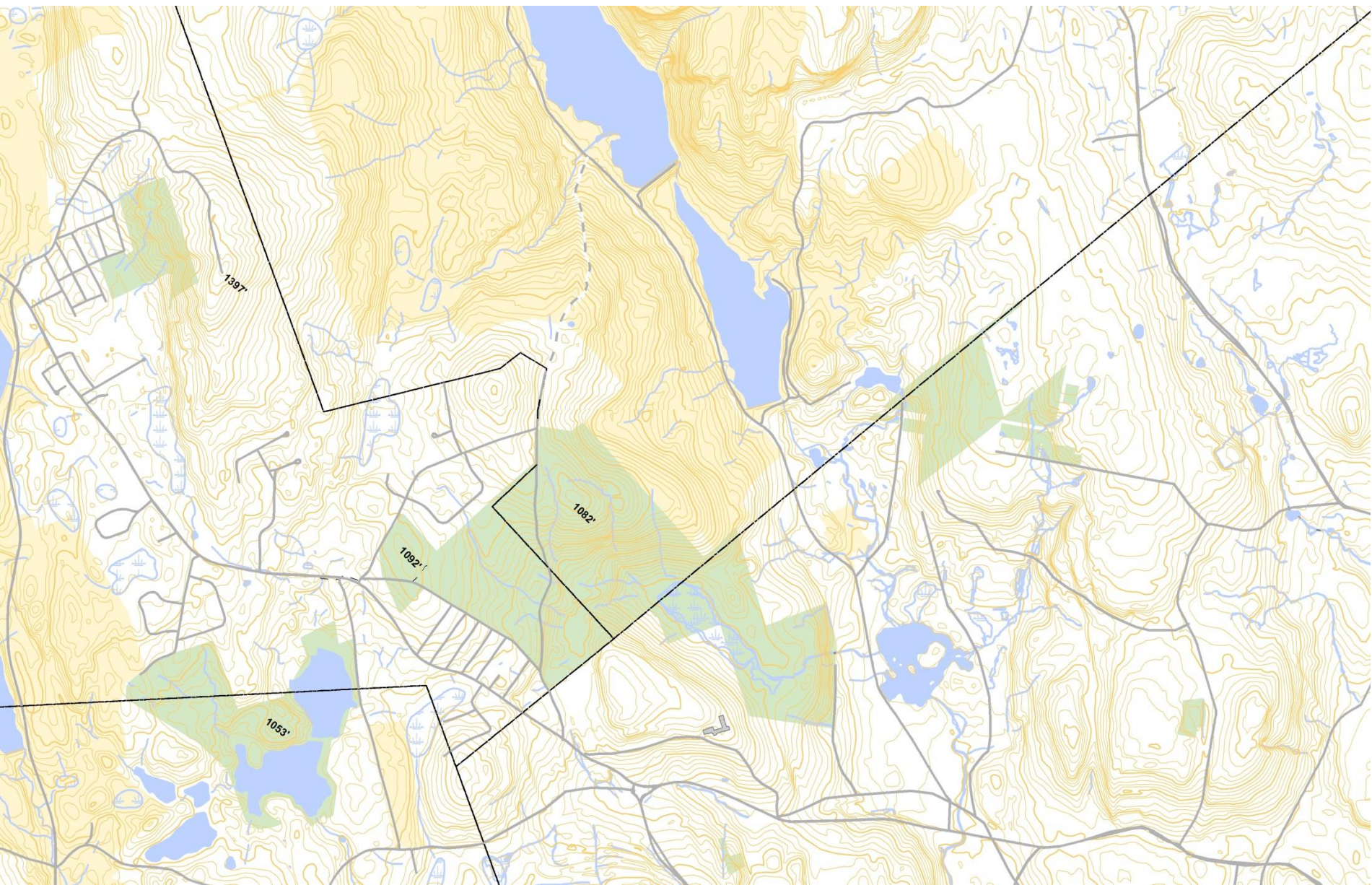
1997



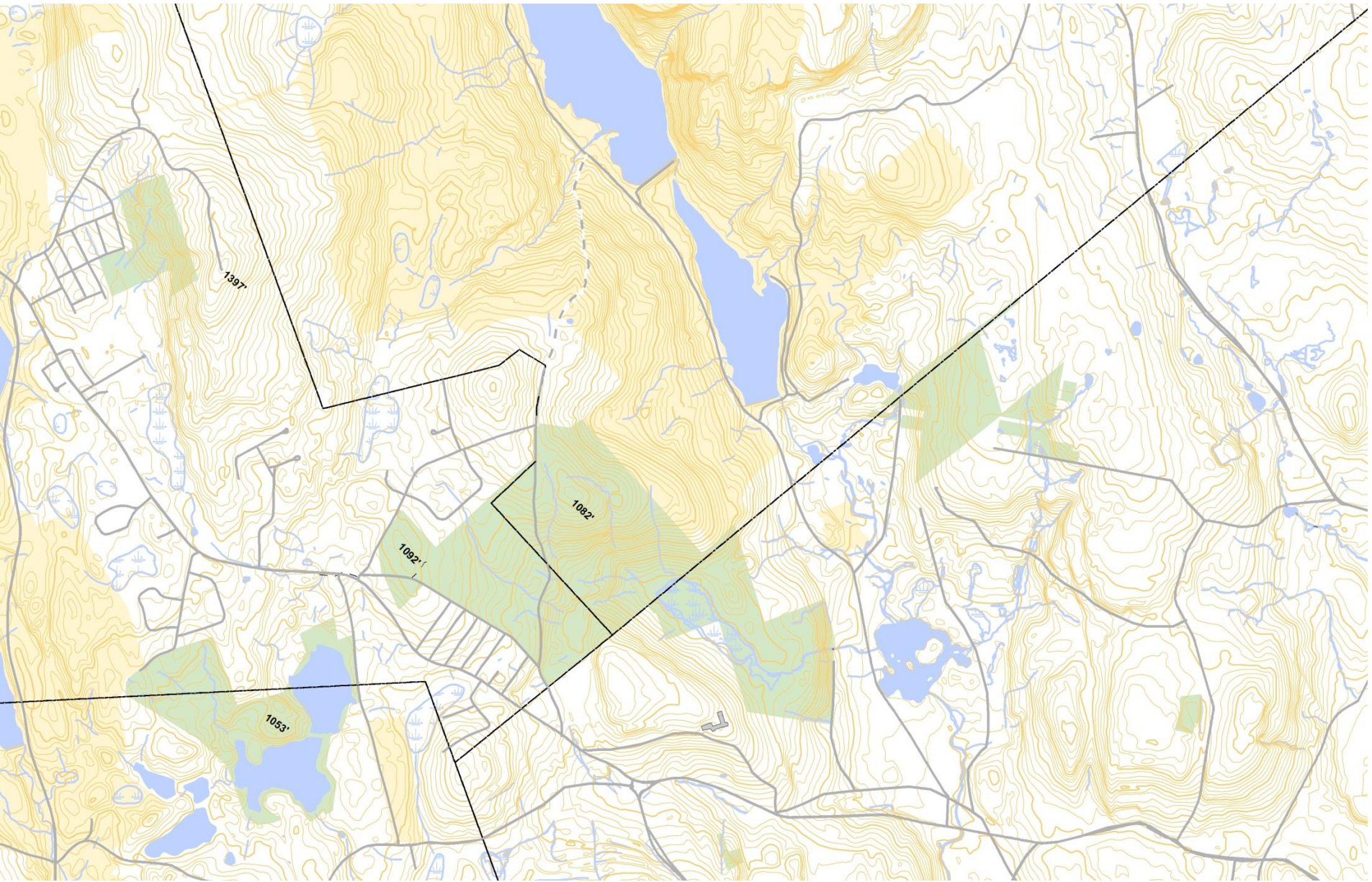
1998...



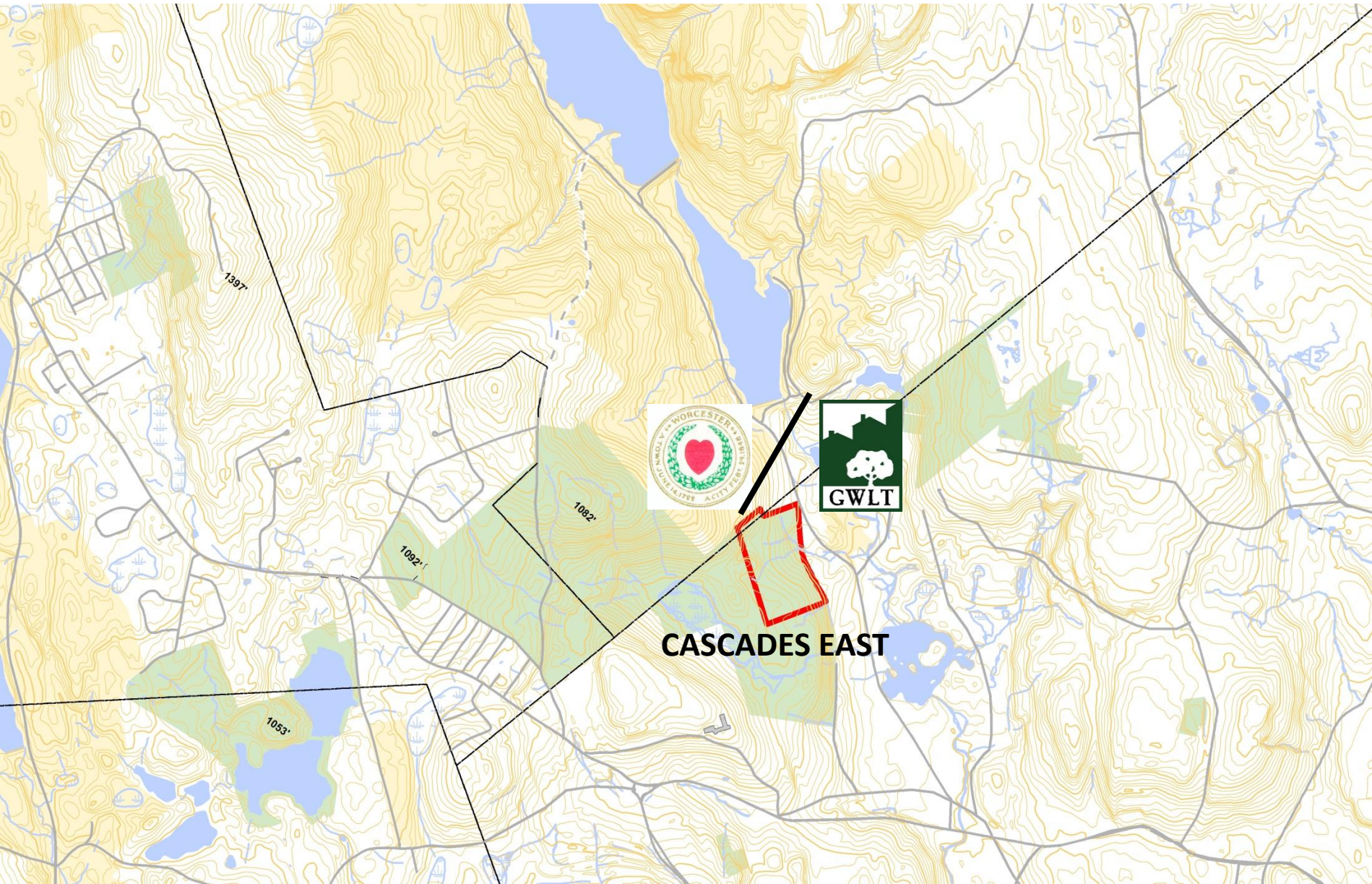
1999...



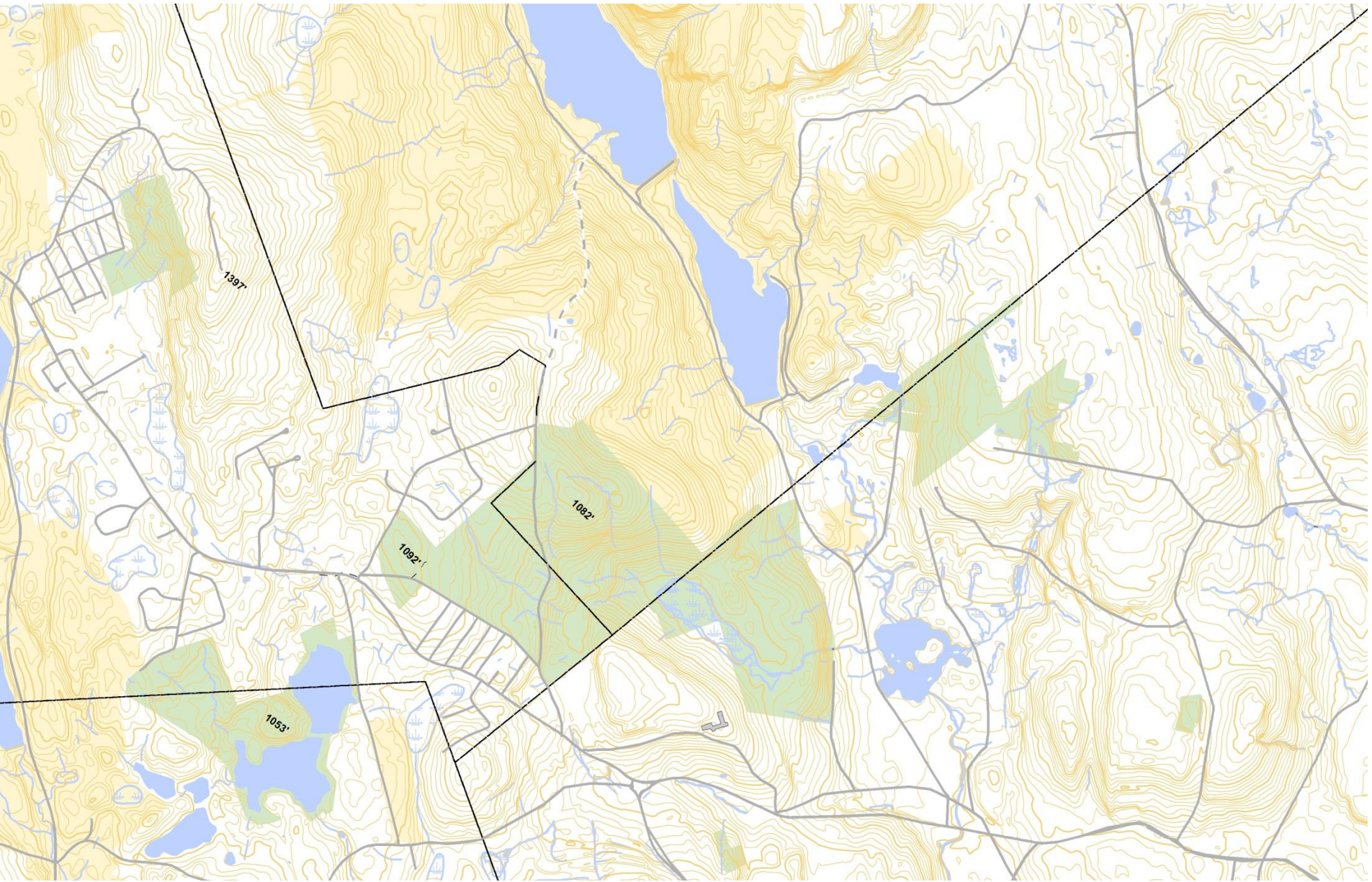
2000...



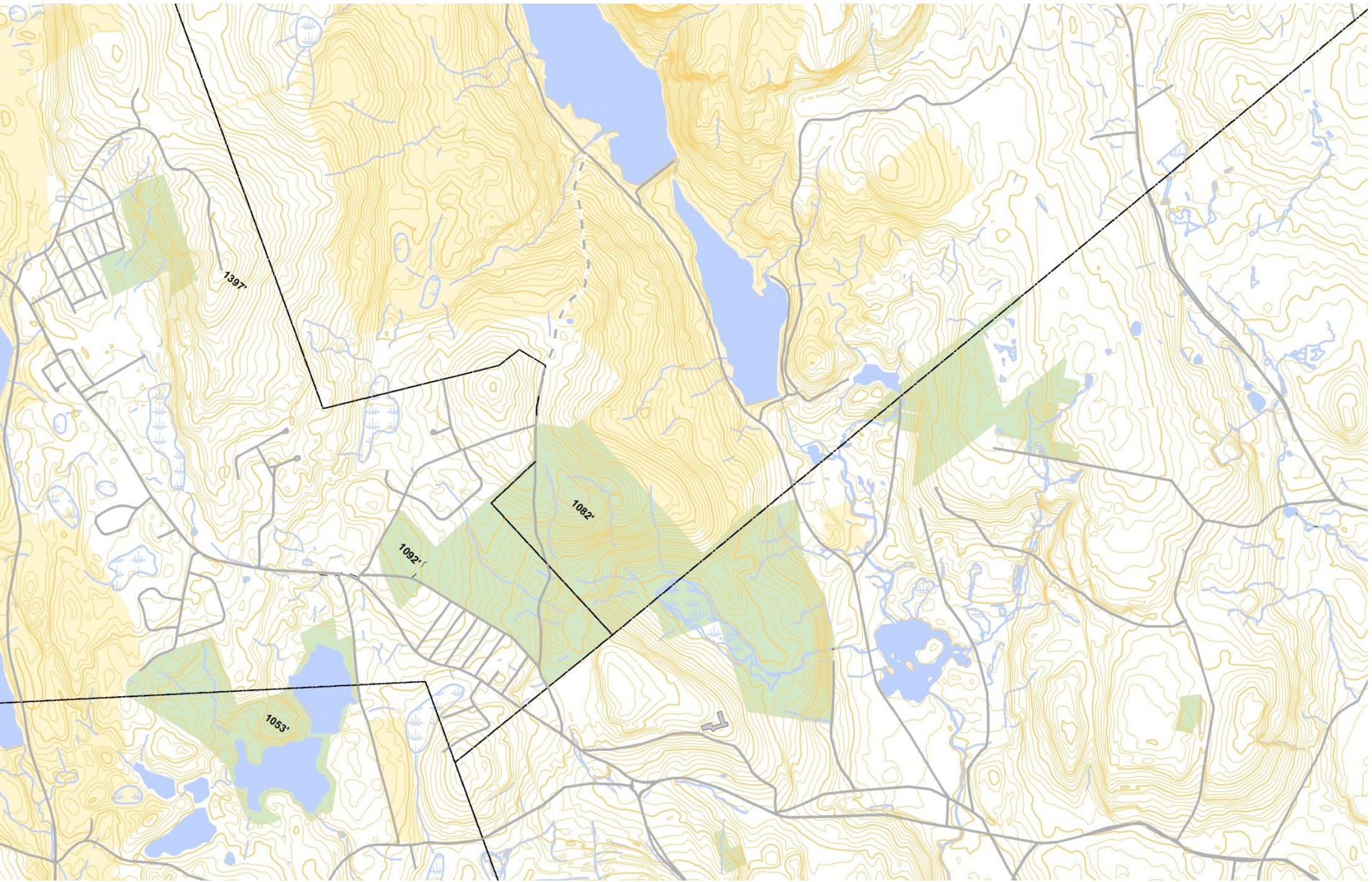
2001



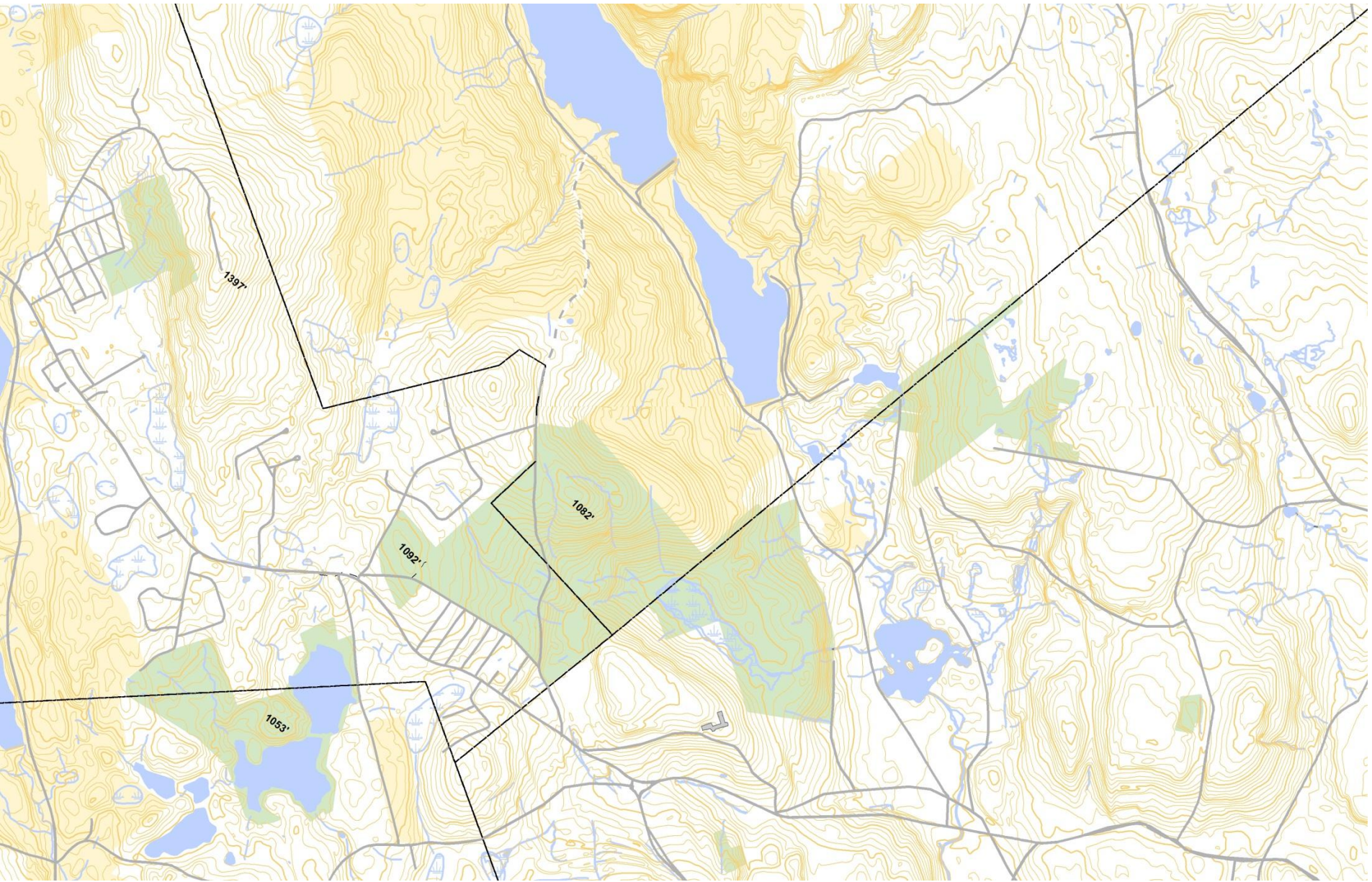
2002...



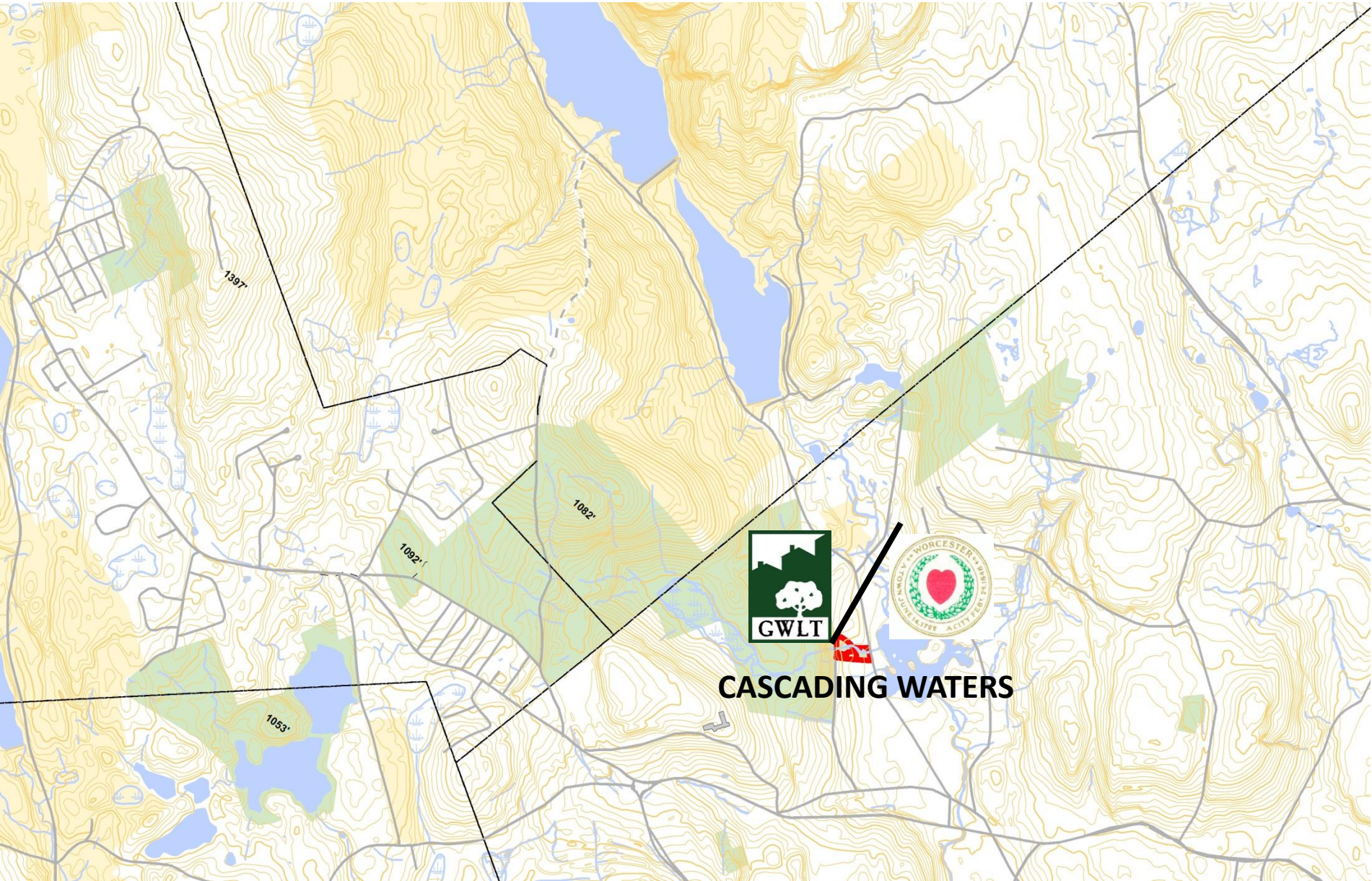
2003...



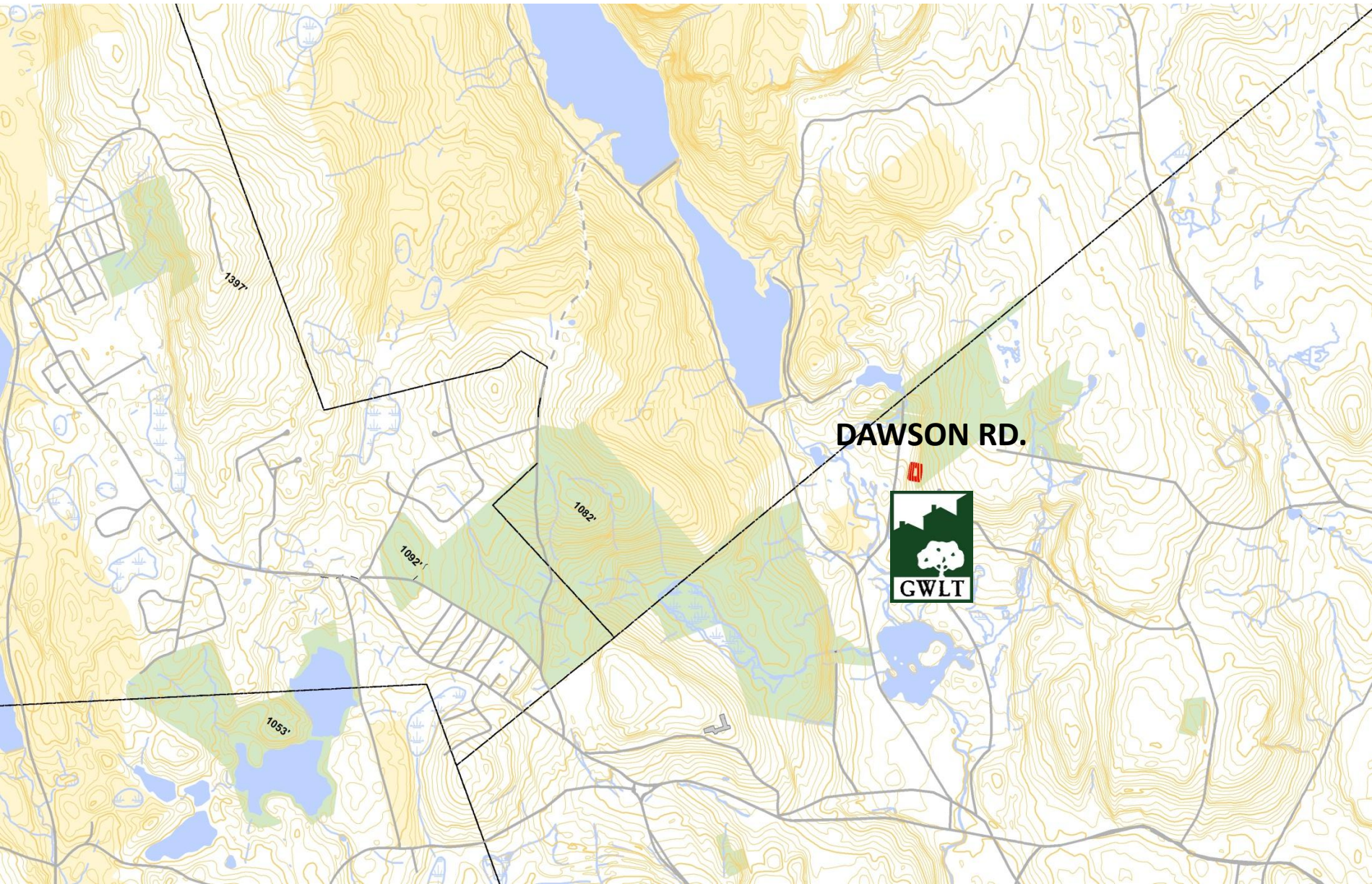
2004...



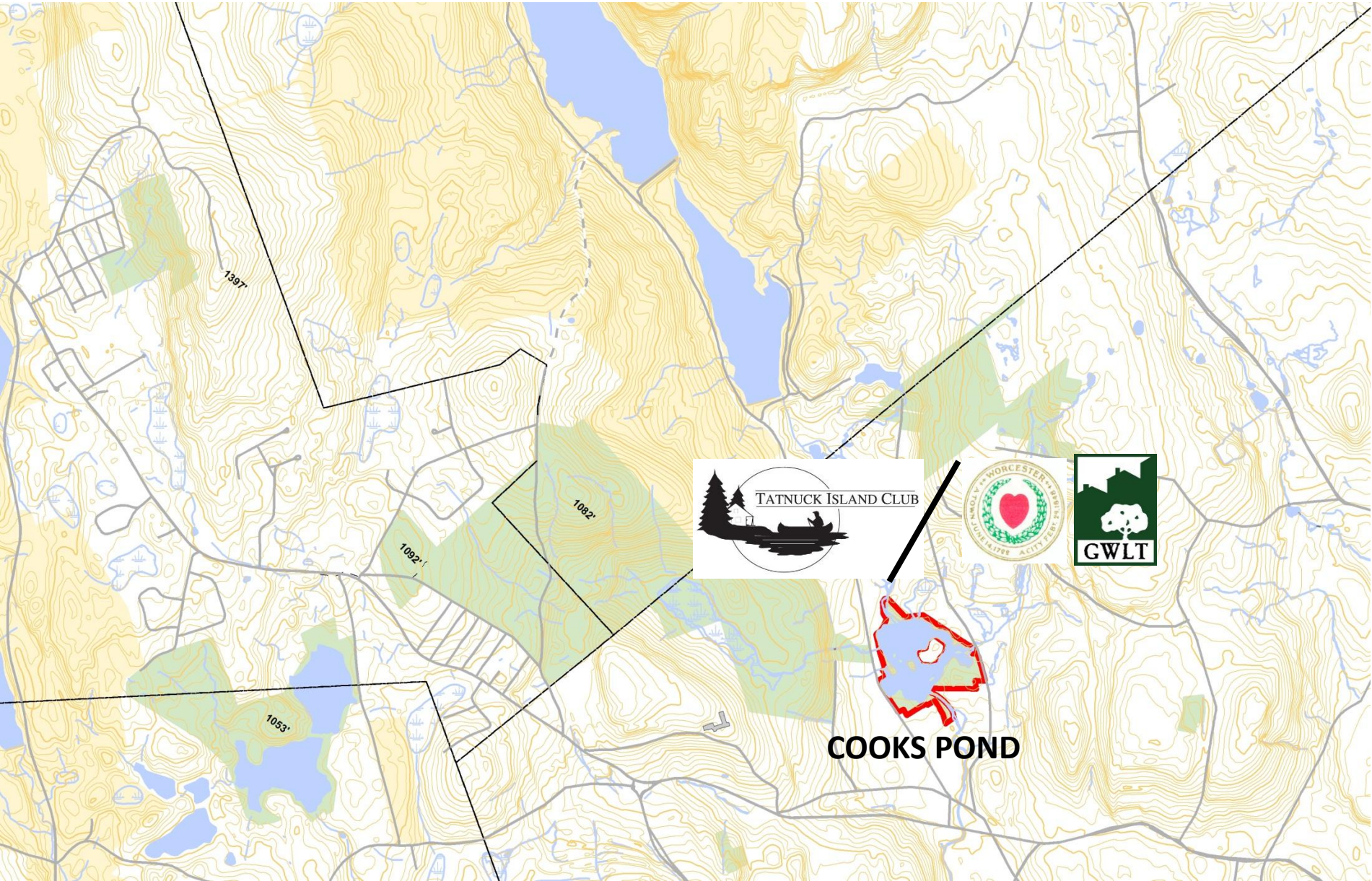
2005



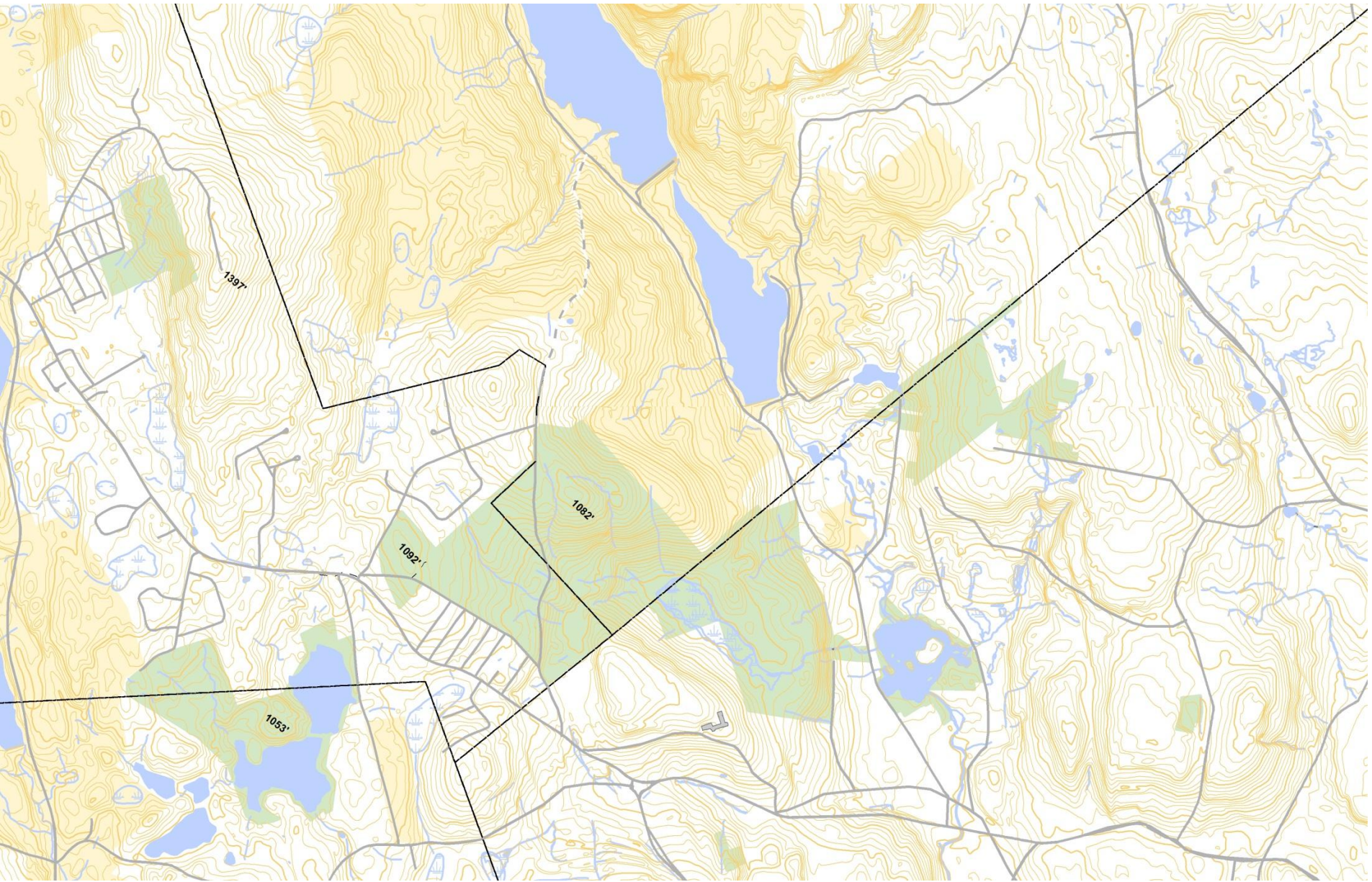
2006



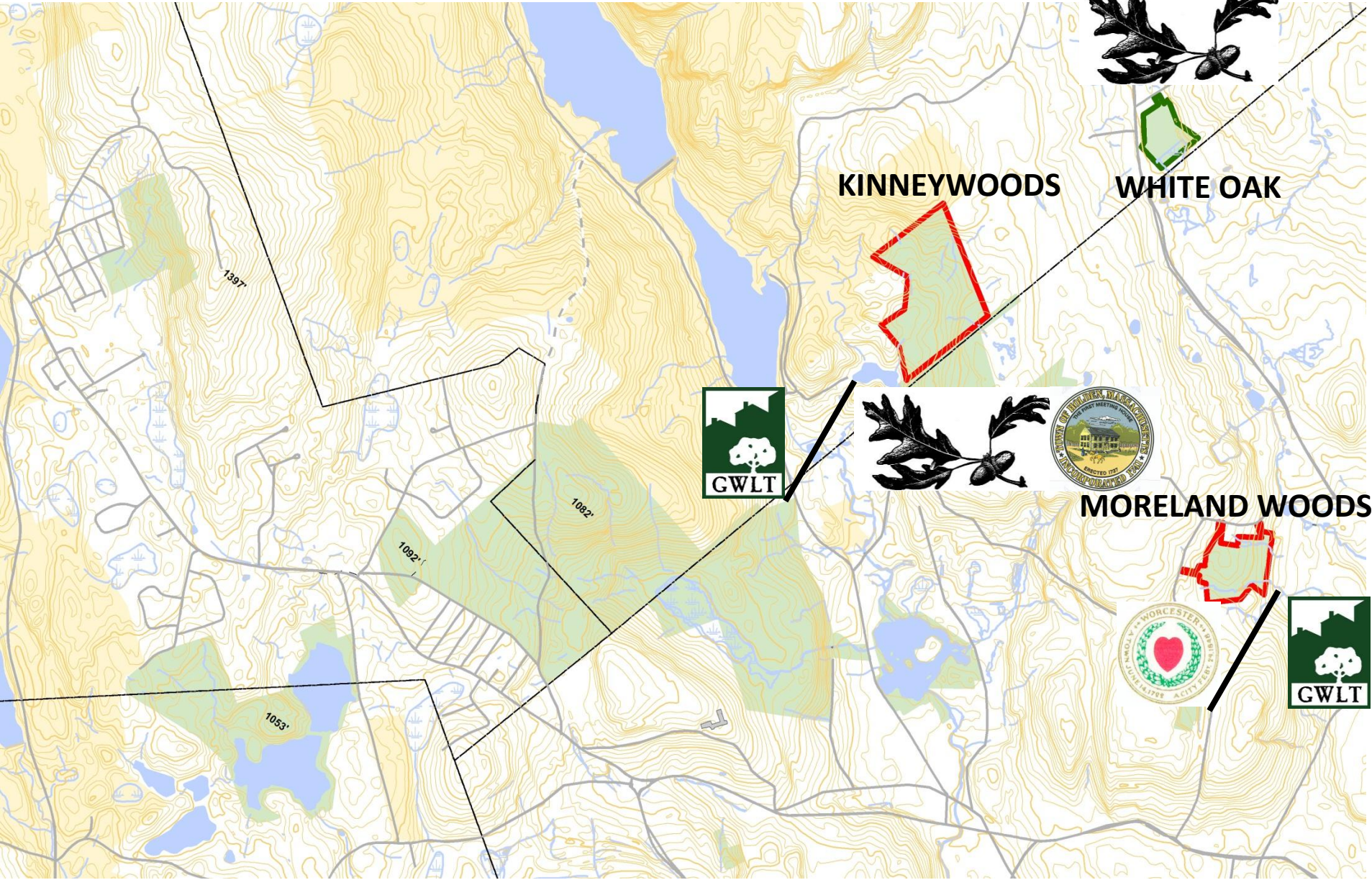
2007



2008...



2009



KINNEYWOODS

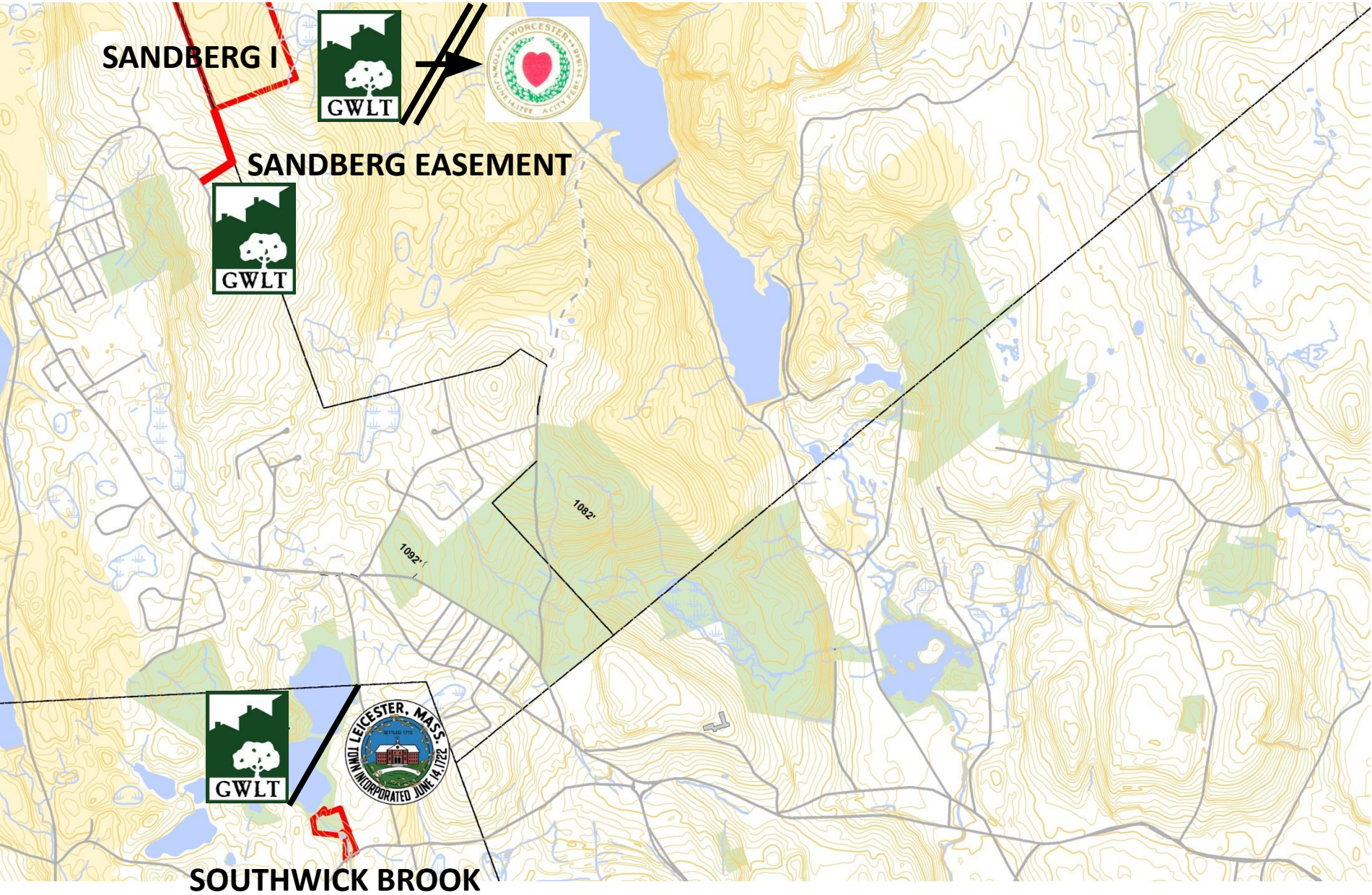
WHITE OAK



MORELAND WOODS



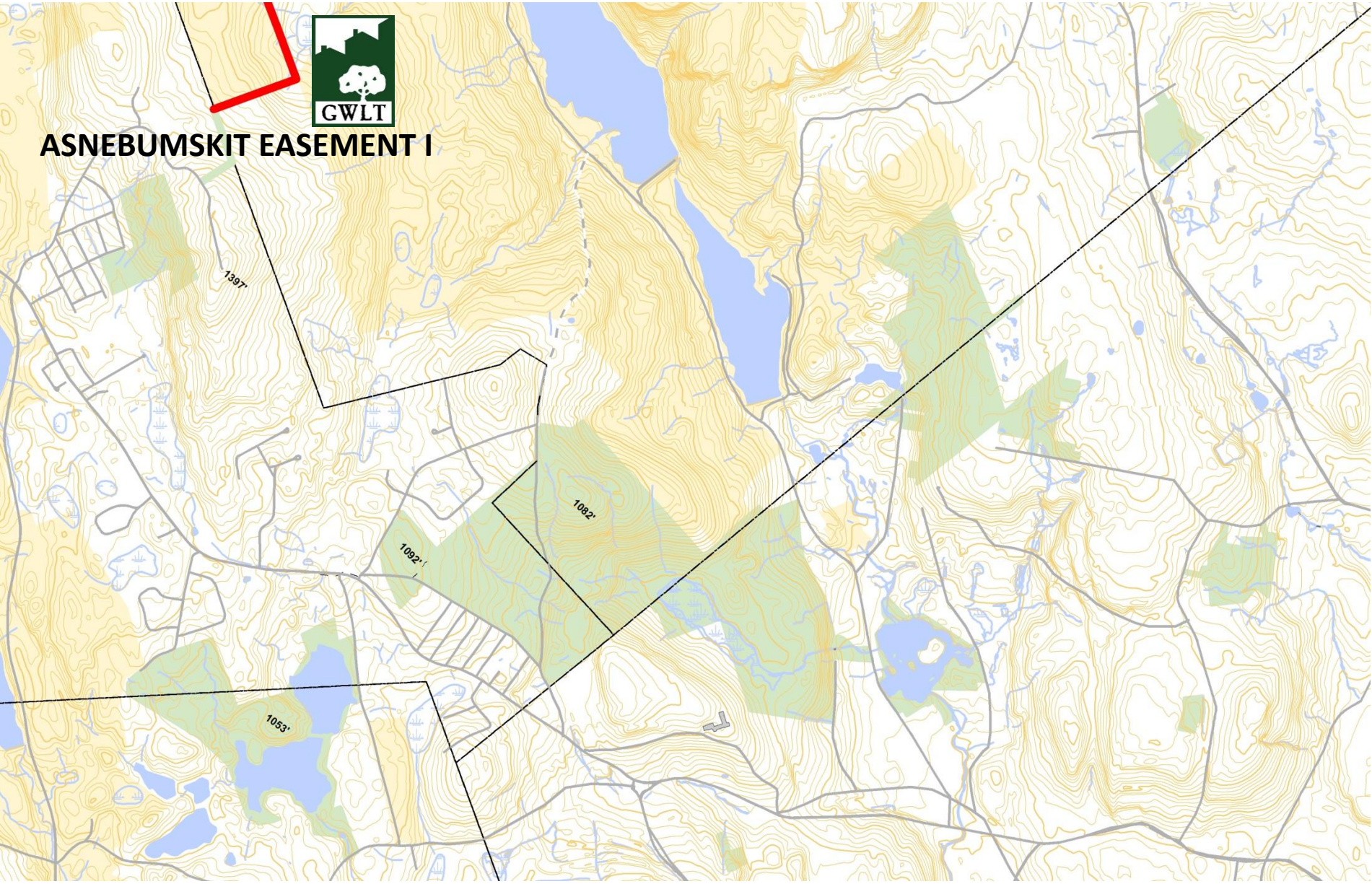
2010



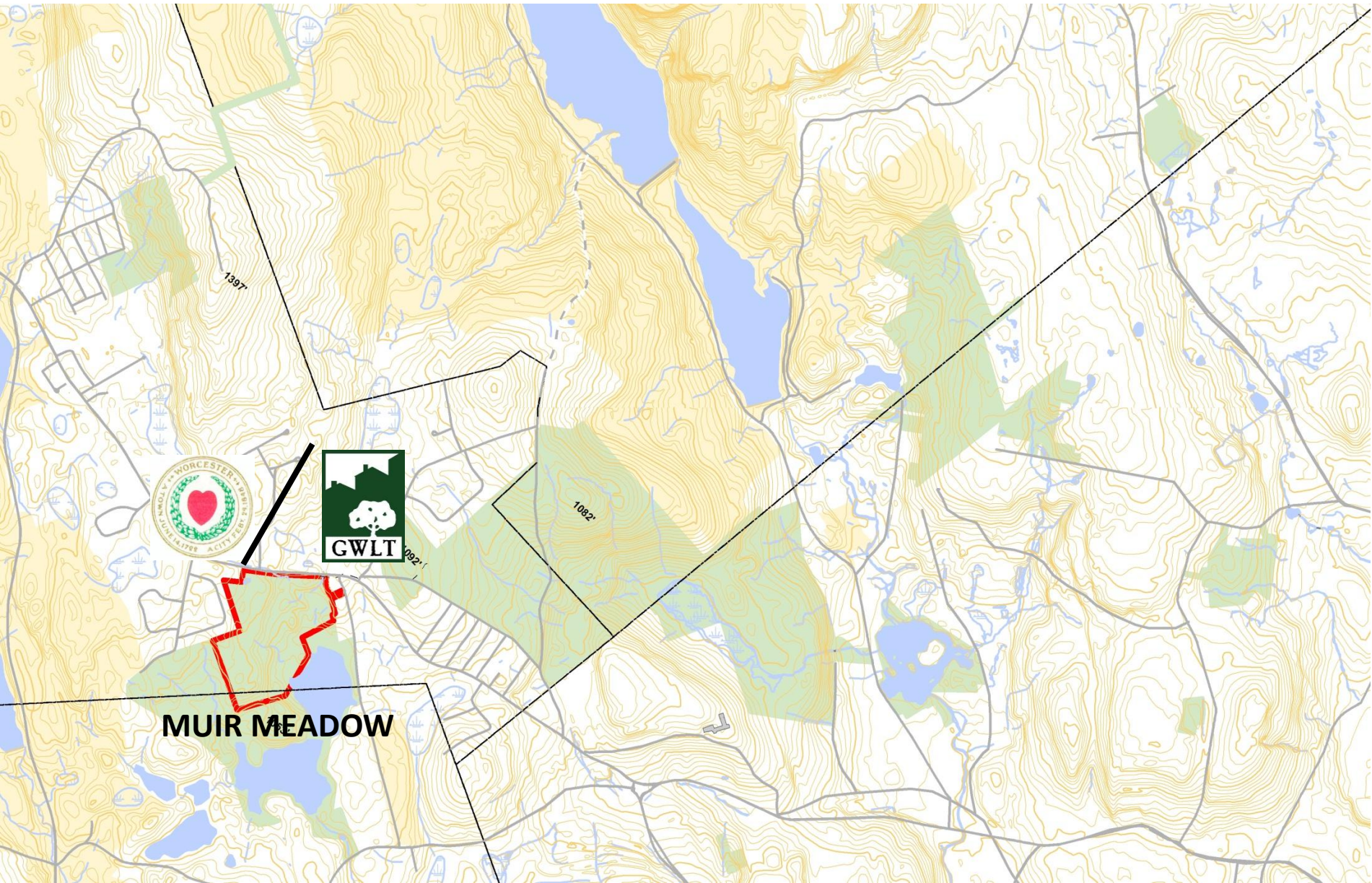
2011



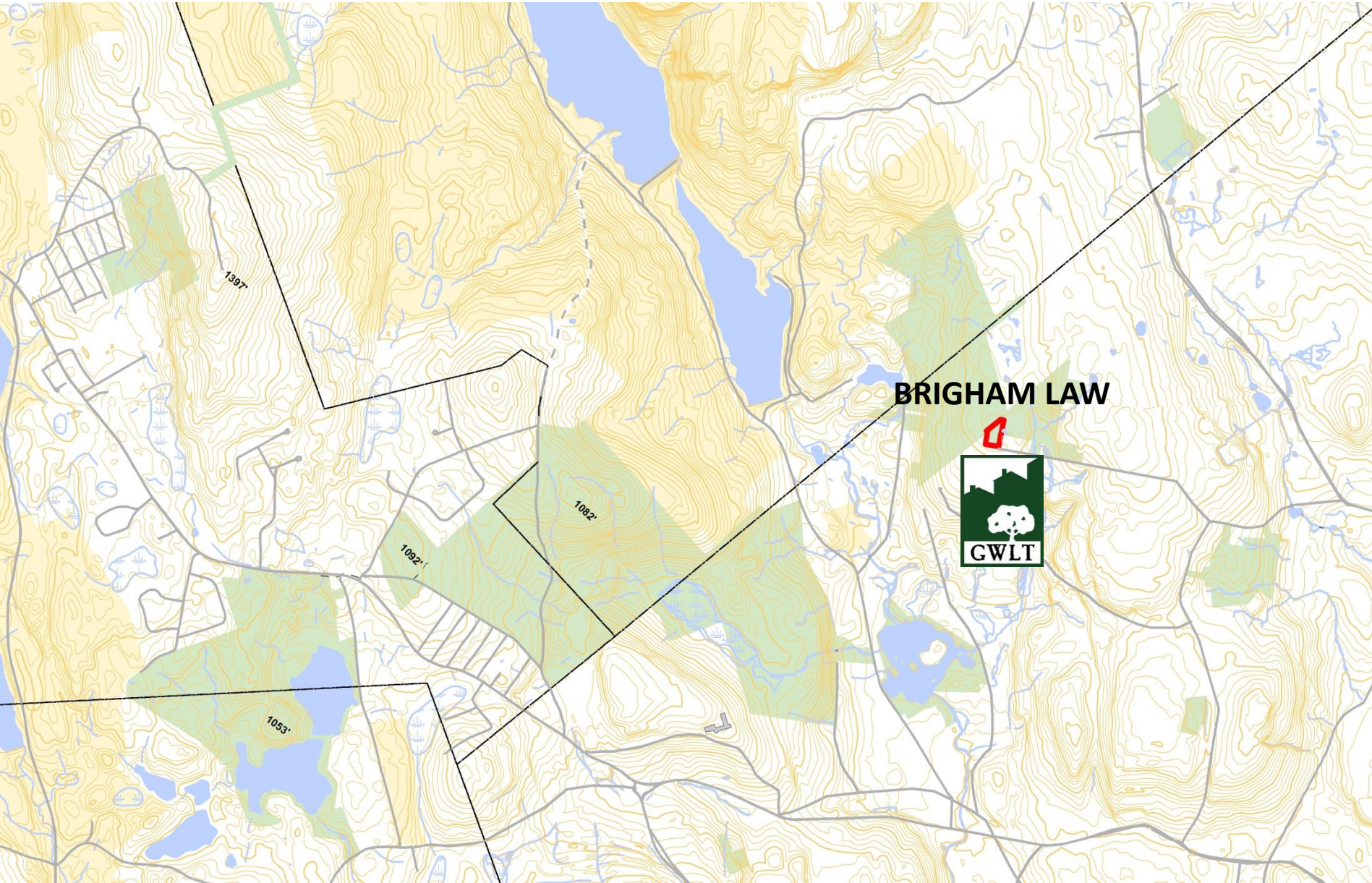
ASNEBUMSKIT EASEMENT I



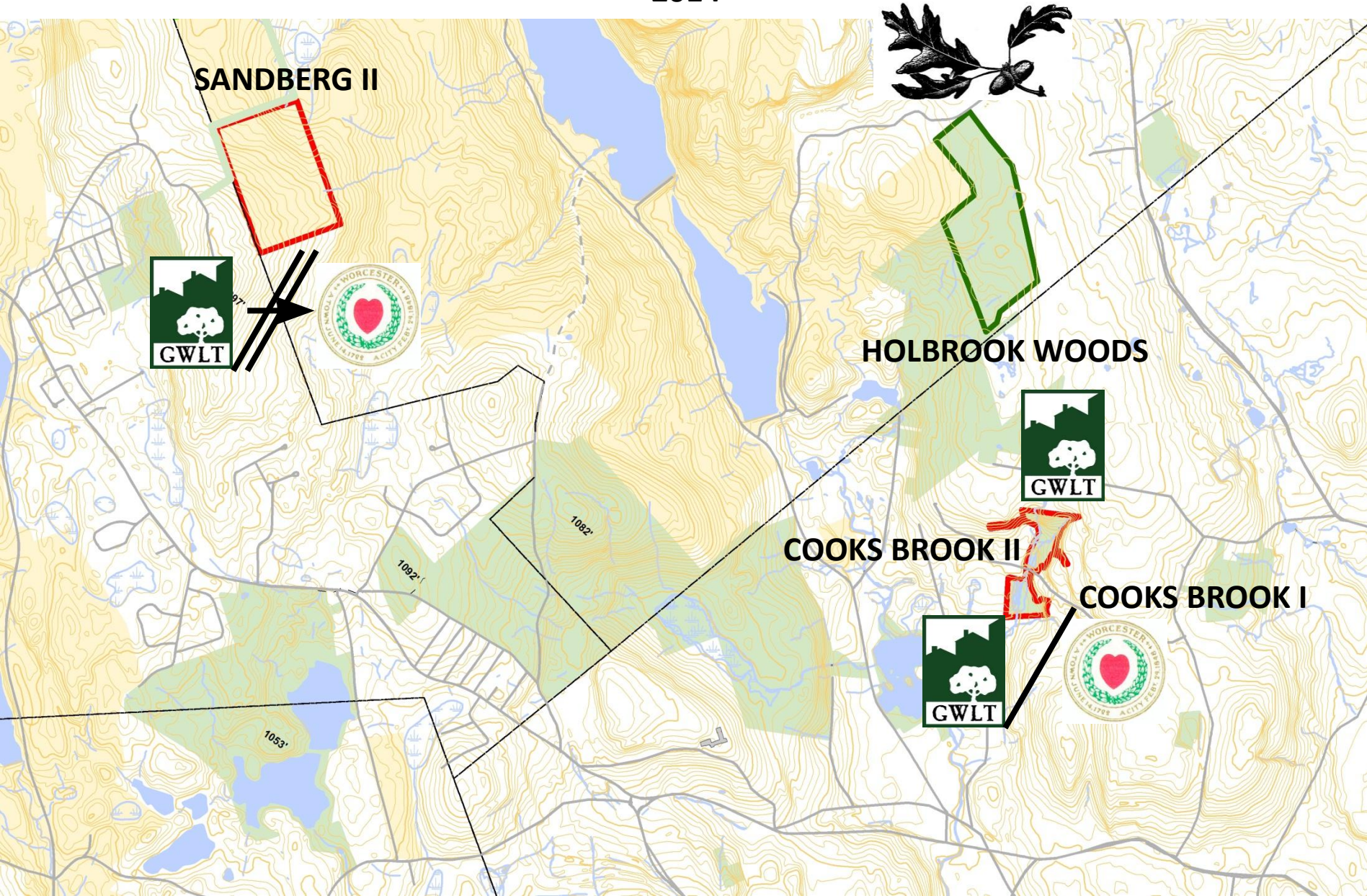
2012



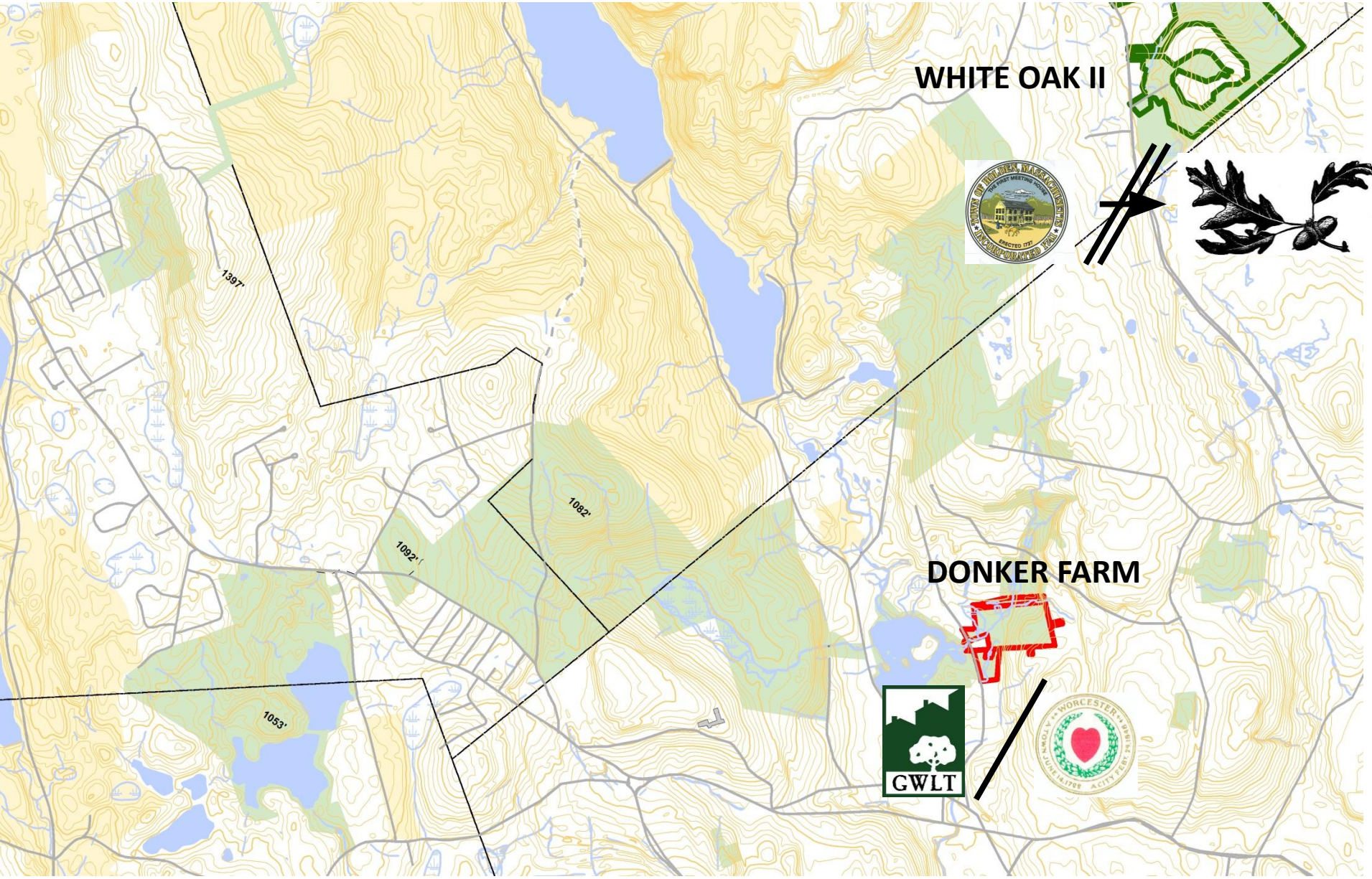
2013



2014



2015



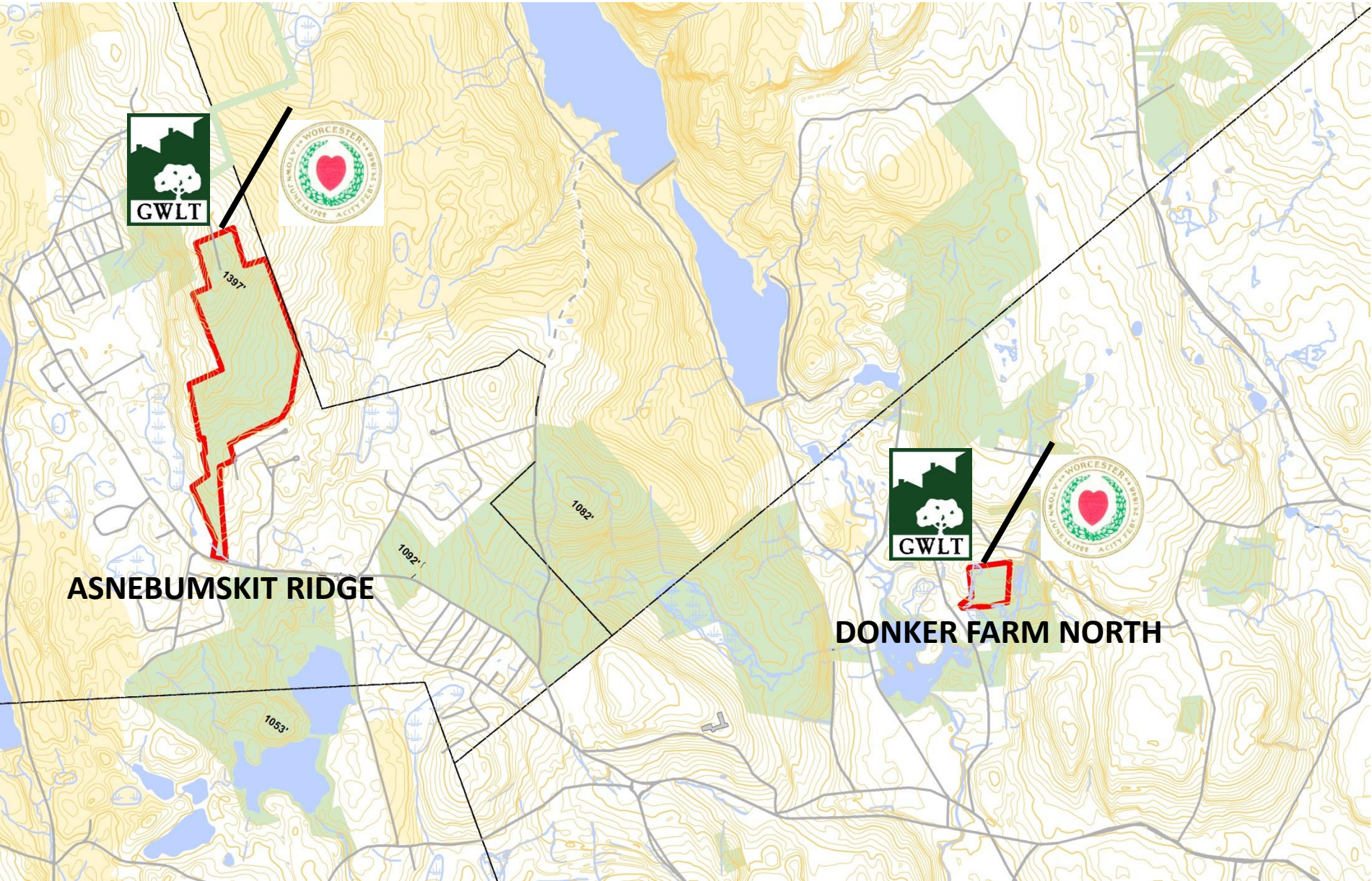
WHITE OAK II



DONKER FARM



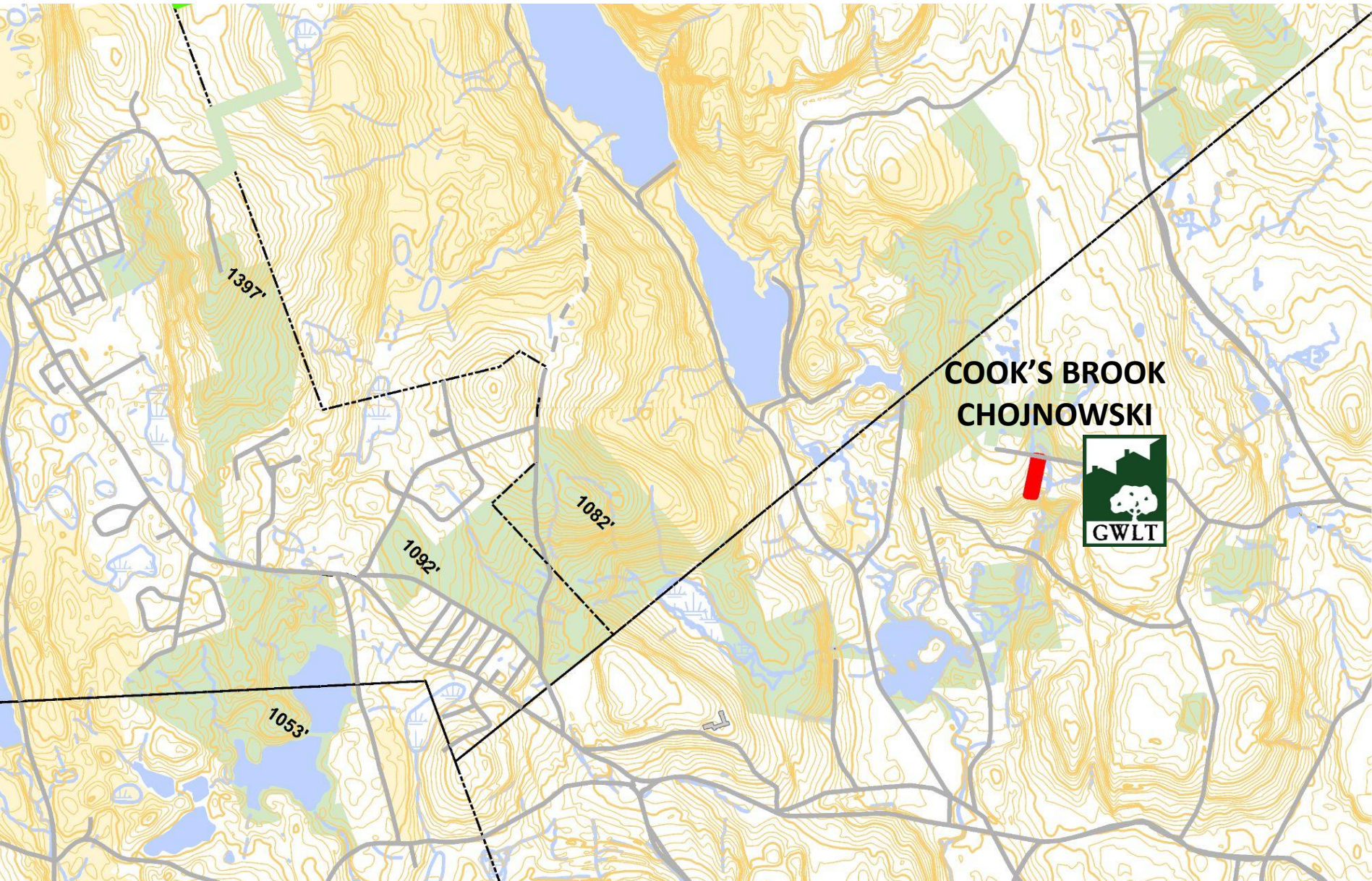
2016



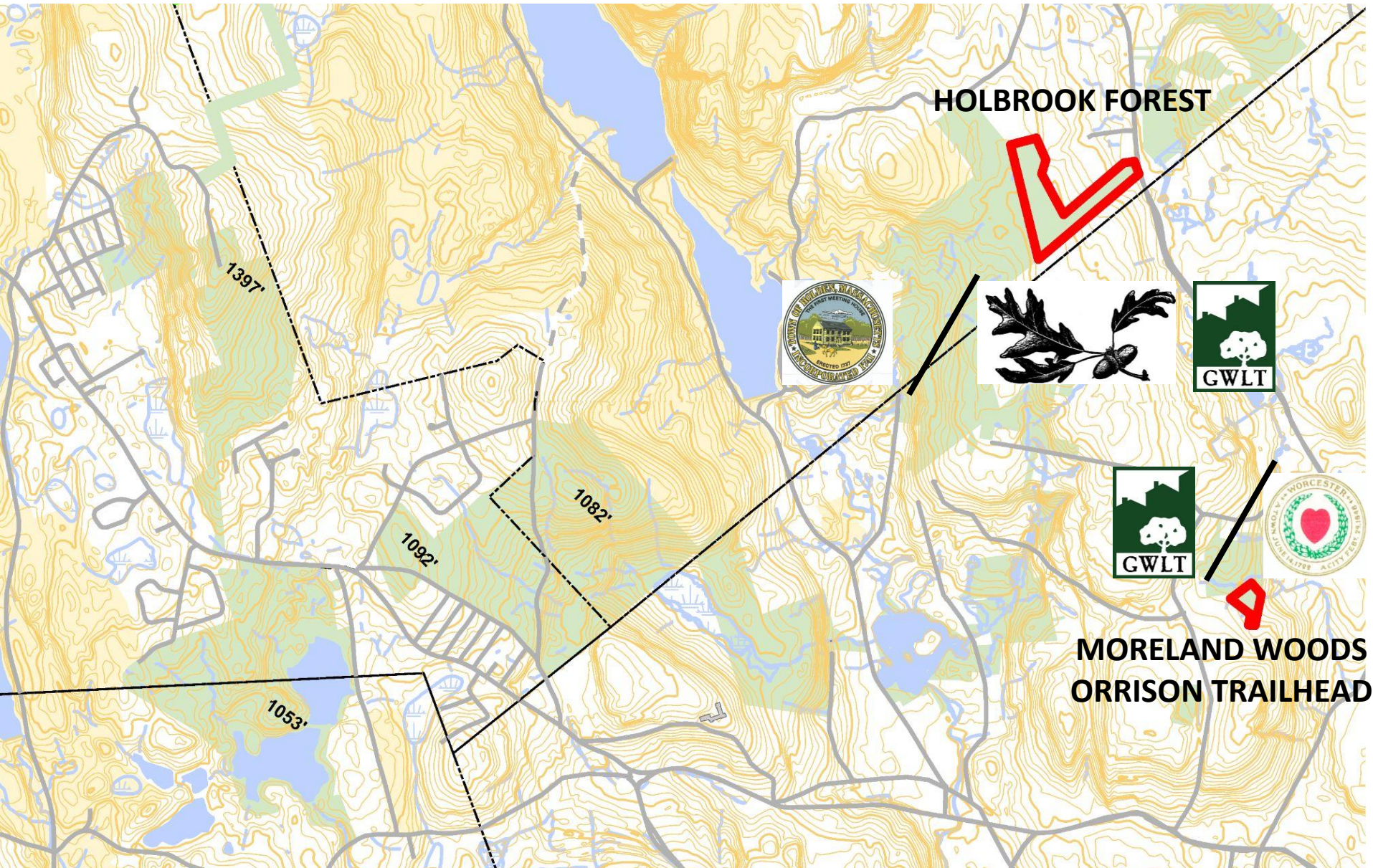
ASNEBUMSKIT RIDGE

DONKER FARM NORTH

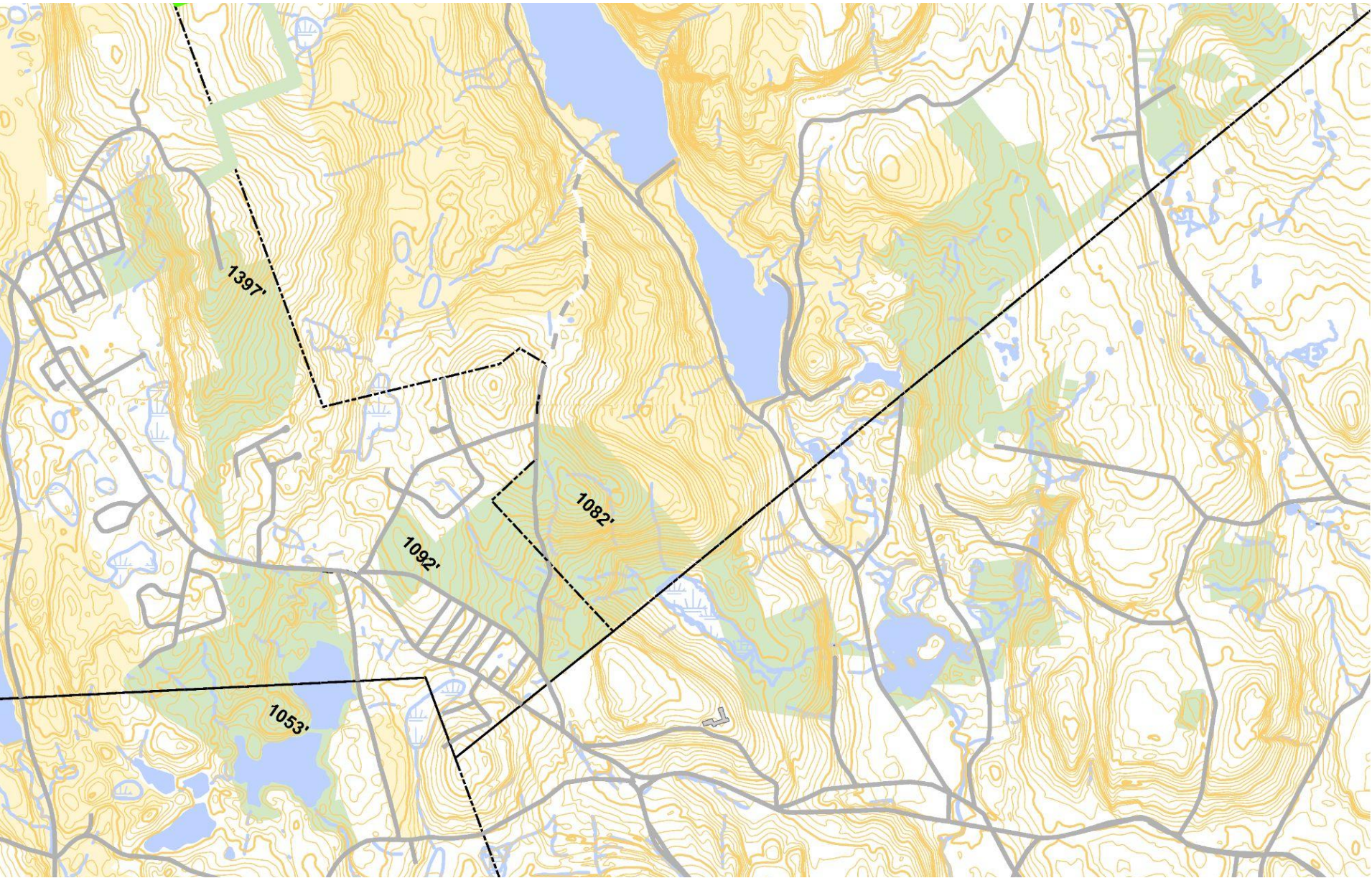
2017



2018



2019...



2020



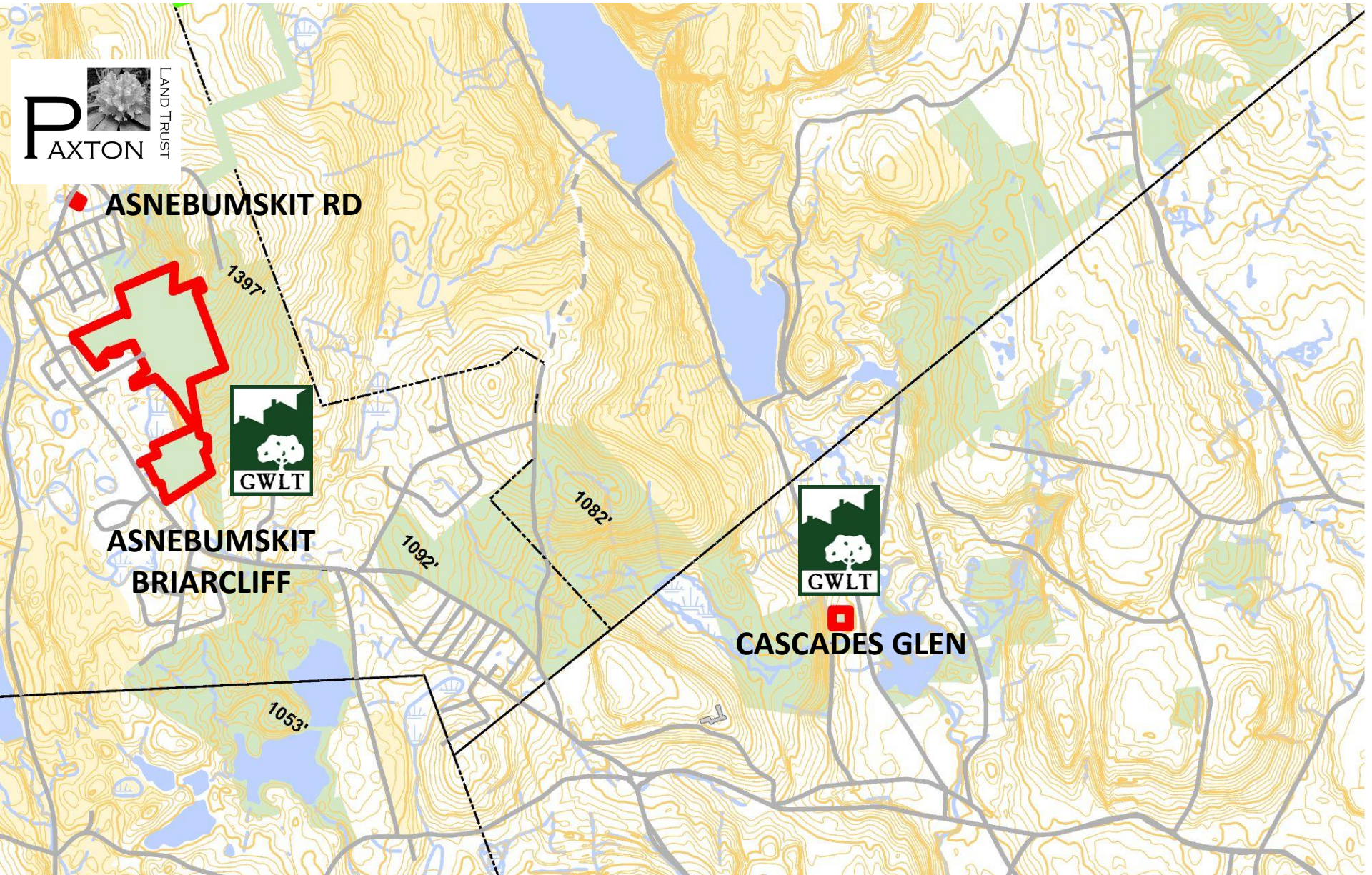
ASNEBUMSKIT RD



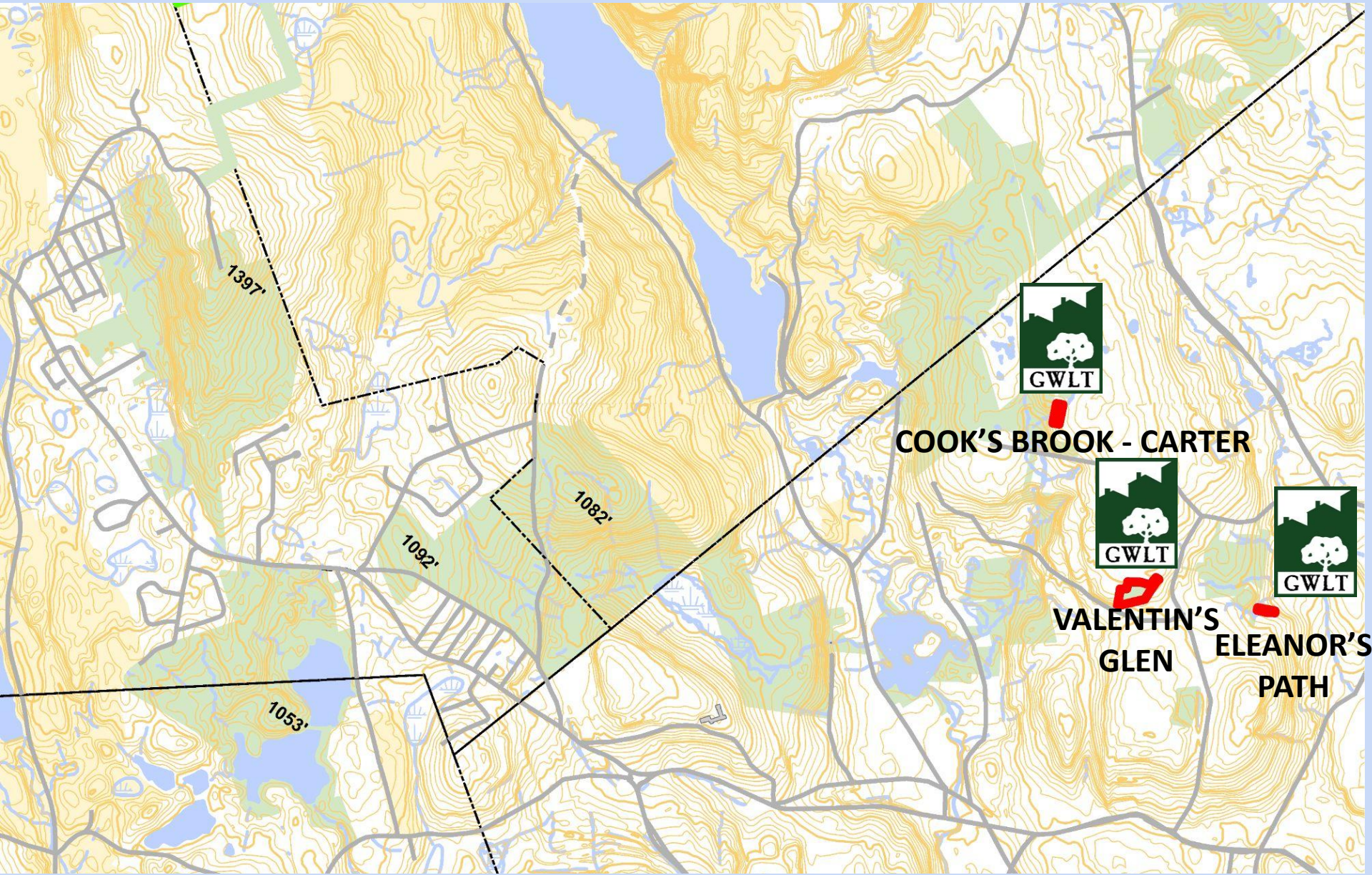
ASNEBUMSKIT
BRIARCLIFF



CASCADES GLEN



2021



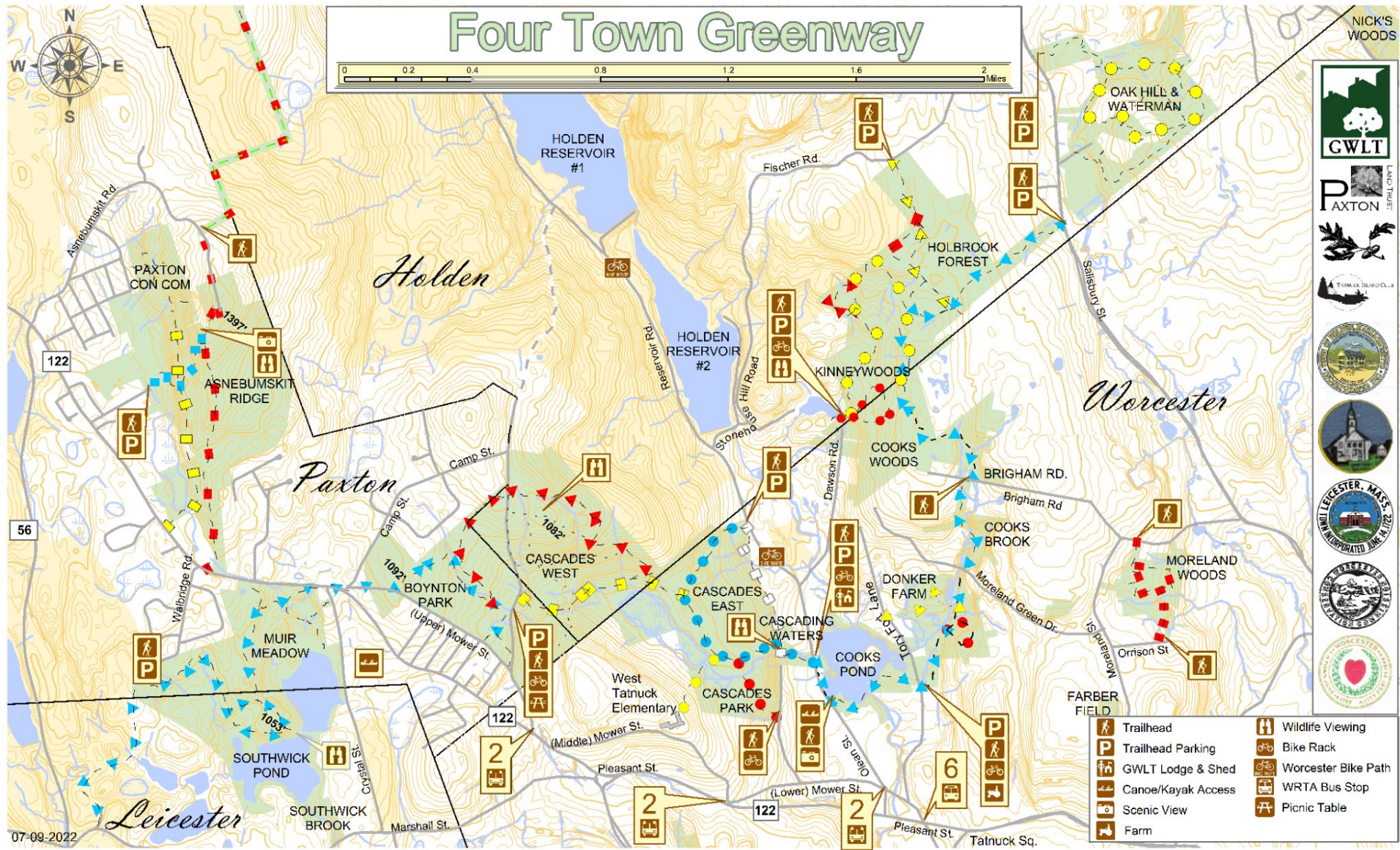
COOK'S BROOK - CARTER

**VALENTIN'S
GLEN**

**ELEANOR'S
PATH**

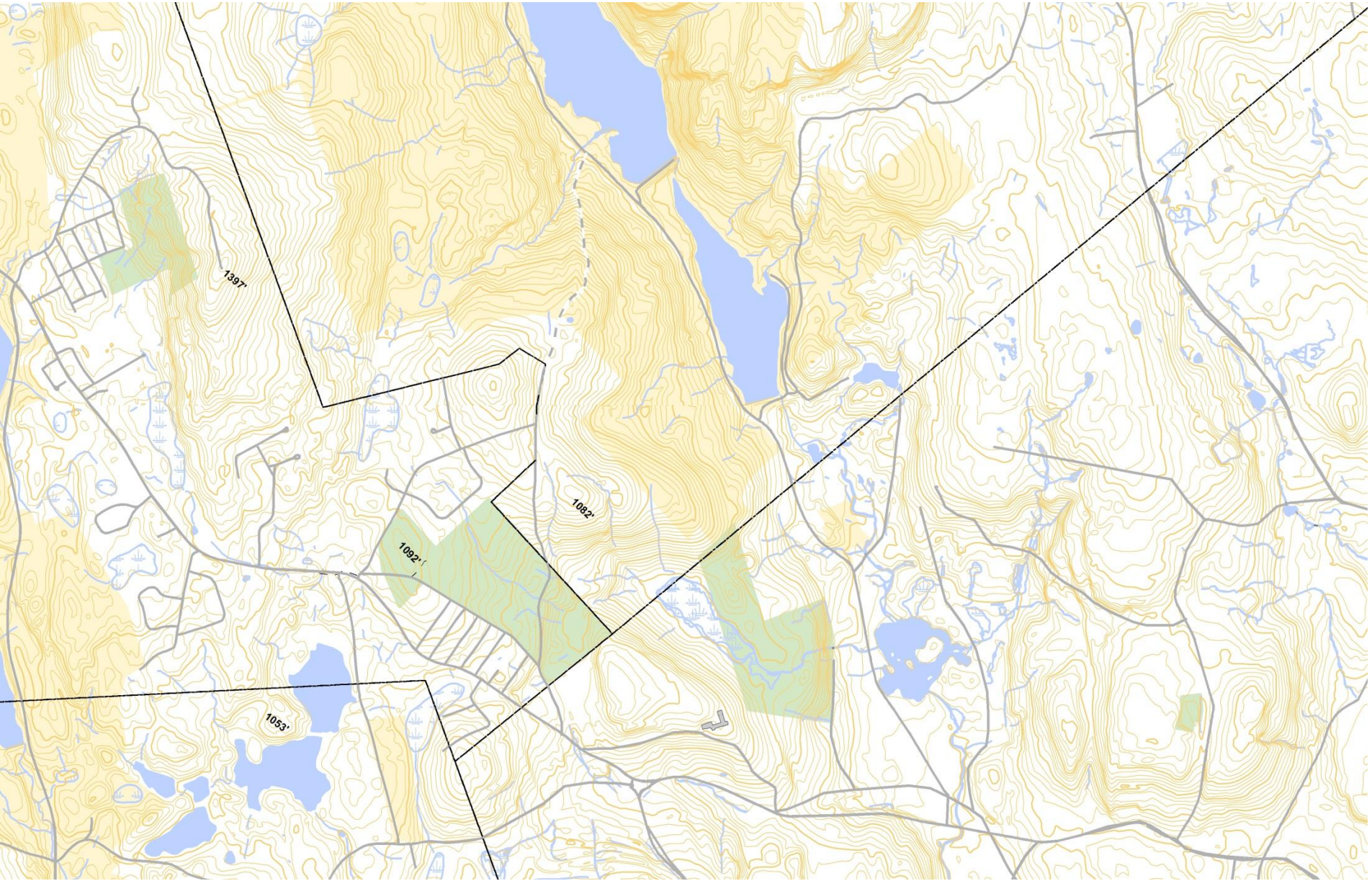


Four Town Greenway



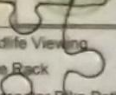
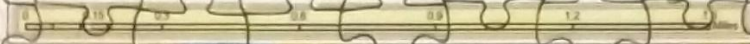
- Trailhead
- Trailhead Parking
- GWLT Lodge & Shed
- Canoe/Kayak Access
- Scenic View
- Farm
- Wildlife Viewing
- Bike Rack
- Worcester Bike Path
- WRTA Bus Stop
- Picnic Table

1989



Four Town Greenway

10/10/2016



- Trailhead
- Trailhead Parking
- GWLT Lodge - Shed
- Canoe/Kayak Access
- Scenic View
- Farm
- Wildlife Viewing
- Bike Rack
- Worcester Bike Path
- WRTA Bus Stop
- Picnic Table

So.... Where Next?

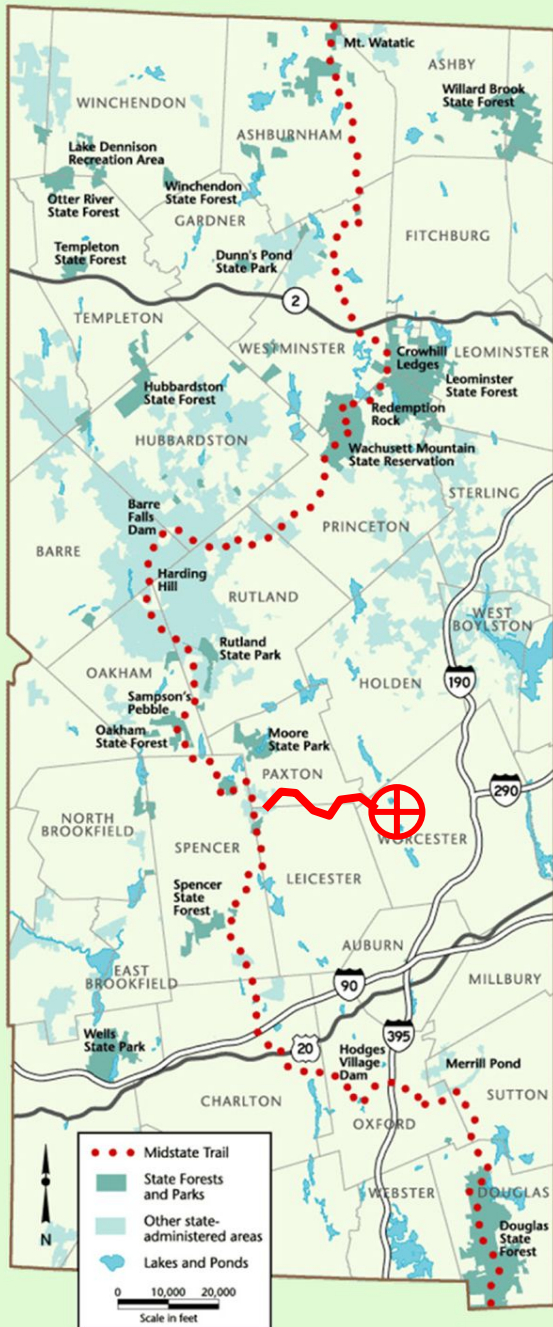
The Massachusetts MidState Trail

Inter-State Hiking Trail

92 miles

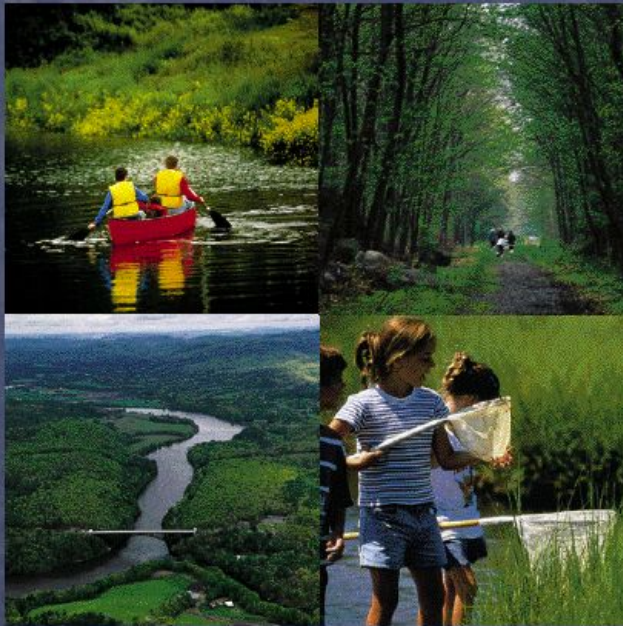
From RI North - South Trail to Narragansett Bay
To NH Wapack Trail to Mt. Wapack

A Project of the Worcester Chapter of the Appalachian
Mountain Club



COMMONWEALTH CONNECTIONS

A greenway vision for Massachusetts



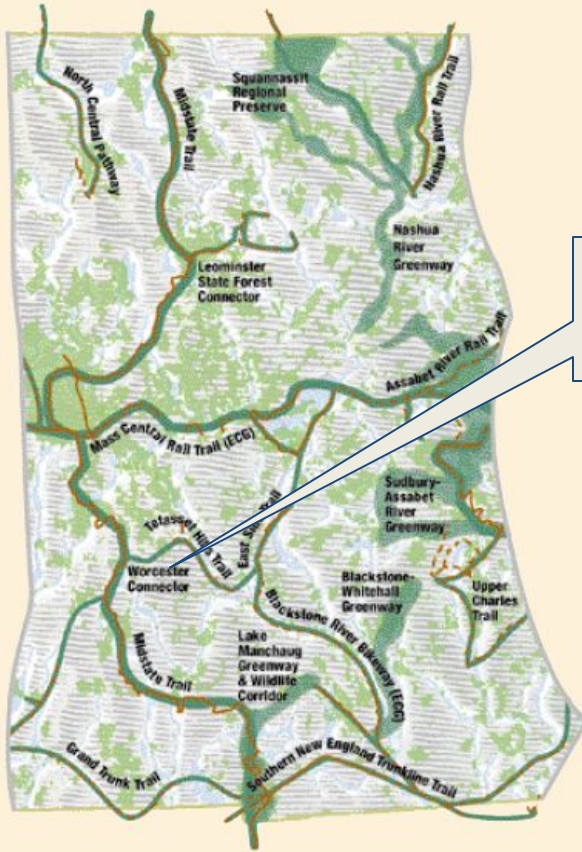
Department of Environmental Management

3 Strategically link important natural and human communities.

Greenways serve to connect people and places. They connect natural areas to each other and to the places people live. By “assembling” greenway corridors that follow linear natural features and incorporate unique ecological and historic resources, we can at once protect these special places and weave them into a unified greenway system. Together, these networks have far greater ecological value than the individual resource areas, and are often more interesting and accessible for public recreation. These connections, in turn, can help build a larger greenway constituency committed to the protection and stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

- Develop a competitive grant program to support regional initiatives that connect population centers to the Massachusetts greenway and trail network.

Central Massachusetts



Worcester Connector



View of the Blackstone River from Lookout Rock. In this region, increasing development pressures are threatening critical resource areas. (John Pikusinski)

From the summit of Mt. Watatic to the floodplain of the Blackstone River, this diverse region encompasses rich agricultural lands, an abundance of rivers, ponds and man-made waterways, historic villages and the urban centers of Worcester, Leominster and Gardner. Amidst a patchwork of publicly held lands, unique natural features such as Wachusett Mountain, Wallum Lake and the Blackstone and Nashua rivers help to define the character of the region. Equally important is the region's heritage as a major industrial center.

“Advocates have called for protection and development of existing trails as “spines” of a region-wide trail network and for making these trails more accessible by linking them with population centers.”

page 23

Worcester Trails — Blazing urban trails

In Worcester, a number of paths and walkways lead to historic sites, scenic views and a rich variety of park



View of Worcester skyline from the East Side Trail. (Colin M.J. Nonsck)

lands, including Elm Park the nation's oldest public park. While these urban gems are a source of pride for the city, many are viewed as neighborhood rather than regional resources.

The Regional Environmental Council

(REC), in partnership with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Greater Worcester Land Trust, private landowners, educational institutions and volunteers, hopes to change this perception.

Starting with existing paths that feature one or more of the city's parks, the REC is mapping and blazing paths and greenways with a consistent symbol to visually connect each to the next. The East Side Trail, a 3.5 mile section of this proposed network, leads hikers past Bell Pond, a unique glacial feature, through blueberry thickets, an oak savanna, open fields, and past the shores of Lake Quinsigamond. The trail also connects places of historical significance, including the remnants of an abandoned coal mine shaft where 19th century entrepreneurs once attempted to launch a local coal producing industry.

Worcester Trails supporters hope to expand the system of trail blazes to city streets and sidewalks throughout the city and beyond.

CITY OF WORCESTER
MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS



OPEN SPACE &
RECREATION PLAN
UPDATE 2021



Weston & Sampson

GOAL 7: IMPROVE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM CONNECTIVITY

There is a strong desire to achieve a higher level of connectivity between assets within the City's park and open space network in order to enhance public recreation opportunities and benefit. Residents have a vision of being able to traverse long distances through open space properties and along travel ways that have park-like characteristics.

Objective 7d | Trail System Upgrades

Explore trails connectivity within and between open space assets.

Objective 7e | Land Purchases

Explore purchasing or acquiring the rights to lands with the express goal of improving and expanding connectivity between open space assets.

Work with the Greater Worcester Land Trust, as their representatives continue to have a keen sense for ways to expand the City's inventory of protected sites that provide environmental benefit and opportunities for connectivity (the linking of disparate park and open space properties).

GWLT and Mass Audubon, in partnership with the City, are committed to seeking opportunities to preserve unprotected open space assets and enhance the existing ones through new contiguous acquisitions in order to provide expanded opportunity for public use and enjoyment, wildlife habitat protection, and watershed protection. In many cases, these lands merge into other City-owned lands (that are under the ownership of various departments including Conservation Commission and Department of Public Works & Parks) to create impressive strings of connected public open space.



Connection Focus Area

