

History of the Betty Maitland Memorial Forest

The history of Betty Maitland Memorial Forest began in the 1970's when Alastair Maitland and his first wife Betty moved to Heath to settle down and live in the country. The Maitland's grew to love the land and after Betty's untimely death in 1980, Alastair gifted the land to the Franklin Land Trust in 1992 in memory of Betty. In 1998, FLT donated a conservation restriction to the Town of Heath to ensure protection in perpetuity. FLT maintains the trails and completes forest management projects to promote habitat diversity for wildlife. FLT hosts regular events at the Forest including vernal pool workshops and forest management tours. Alastair maintained interpretive signs along the trail during his lifetime and after his death in 2011, FLT refreshed these signs with permanent signage for visitors to enjoy into the future.

Ecological Highlights

Visitors will enjoy the awakening of the vernal pool in the spring, finding the bear-clawed Aspen and birding in the wildlife opening. Look for interpretive signs describing beech bark disease, New England history and agricultural history of the site prepared by interns from the Student Conservation Association of MA, located in Hawley.

FLT Management Goals & Current Projects

A 10-year stewardship and forest management plan guides the Franklin Land Trust's timber and wildlife habitat projects. The trail system is complete and regular maintenance is ongoing.

Funding Sources

FLT received financial donations from Alastair Maitland for stewardship activities and member donations help support stewardship staff that maintain the property. The USDA NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and The MA Forest Stewardship Program funded habitat projects and the updated management plan.

Partners in Conservation

The Student Conservation Association of MA and The Conservation Commission of The Town of Heath.

Updated 9/2021

Trail Description

FLT has installed trail markers and interpretive signage along the designated trail loop to guide and educate visitors through the Forest. The 3 to 5 foot wide trail loop is just over 1.2 miles in length and gently sloped from the beginning.

Rules & Regulations

In order to protect this conservation area's recreational, ecological and historical areas we ask visitors to respect the rules outlined below:

- Hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are allowed.
- Photography, nature study, and painting are encouraged.
- Hunting is allowed during times and seasons as regulated by the Department of Fish and Game. Please visit www.mass.gov/dfwele/ for the most current information on seasons and licensing.
- No overnight camping or fires allowed. The Forest is open from dawn to dusk.
- No all-terrain vehicles. Snowmobiles are allowed along designated trails.
- Please do not walk your dog on the property.

Directions

From the center of Heath

Head west from the center of town on West Main St. At the intersection with Long Hill Rd. & Dell Rd. stay straight onto Long Hill Rd. (dirt road). At the end of Long Hill Rd. take a right onto Jacksonville Stage Rd./8A. The Memorial Forest is found on the left hand side of the road, a little more than a 1/4 mile north of Long Hill Rd., opposite a red colonial saltbox house. A small parking lot exits at the top of a small hill about 500 feet beyond the red house.

From Route 2

Head north on Route 8A for about 5.1 miles from the intersection of 8A and Route 2 in Charlemont. The Betty Maitland Memorial Forest is found on the left hand side of the road, a little more than a quarter mile north of Long Hill Rd., opposite a red colonial saltbox house. A small parking lot exits at the top of a small hill, about 500 feet beyond the red house.



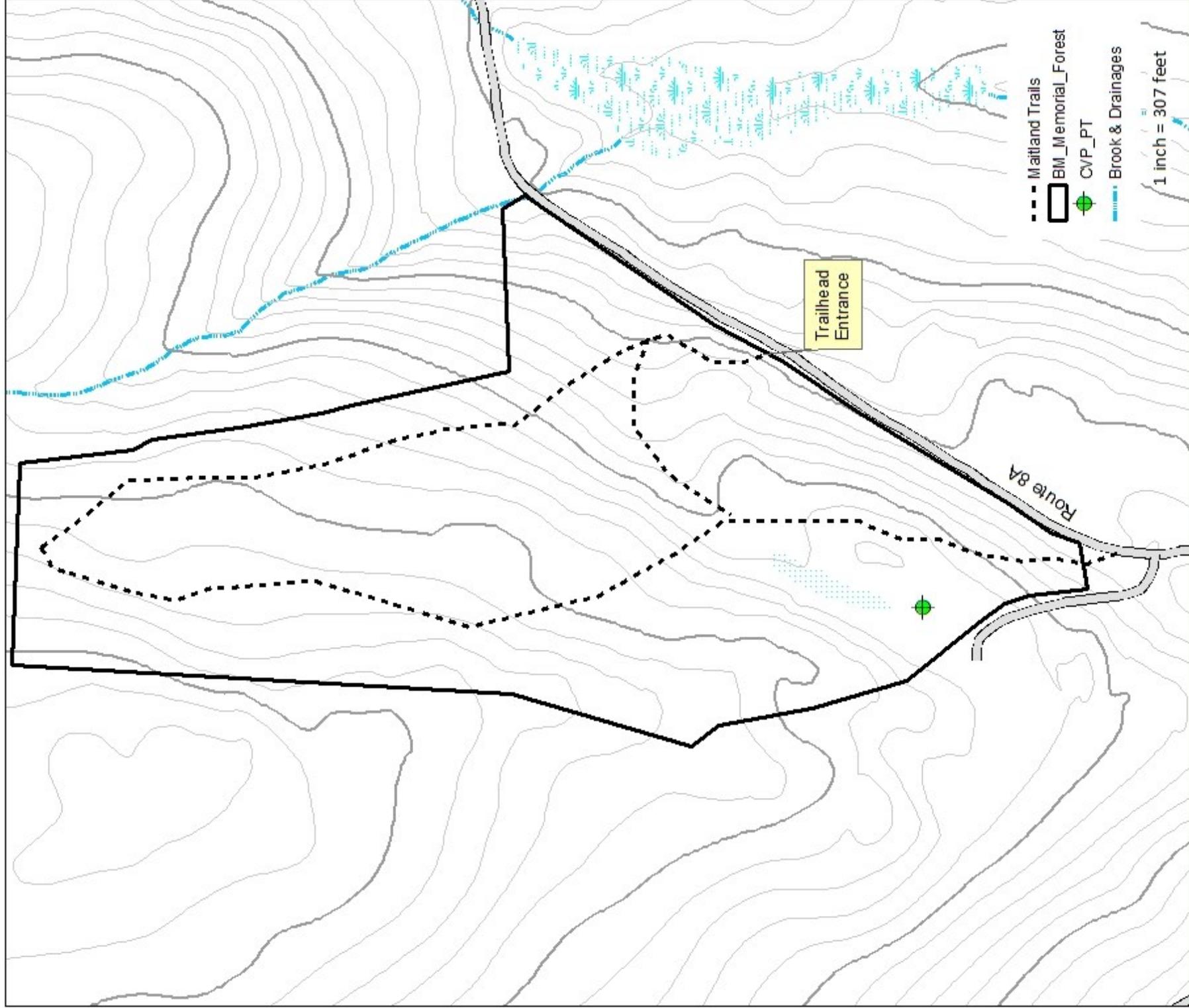
THE BETTY MAITLAND MEMORIAL FOREST HEATH, MA

Protected in Honor of
Betty Maitland
Donated to the Franklin Land Trust
by Alastair Maitland

December 18, 1992



The Franklin Land Trust
PO Box 450
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TRAIL MAP

Betty Maitland Memorial Forest
40 acres, Route 8A, Heath, MA

