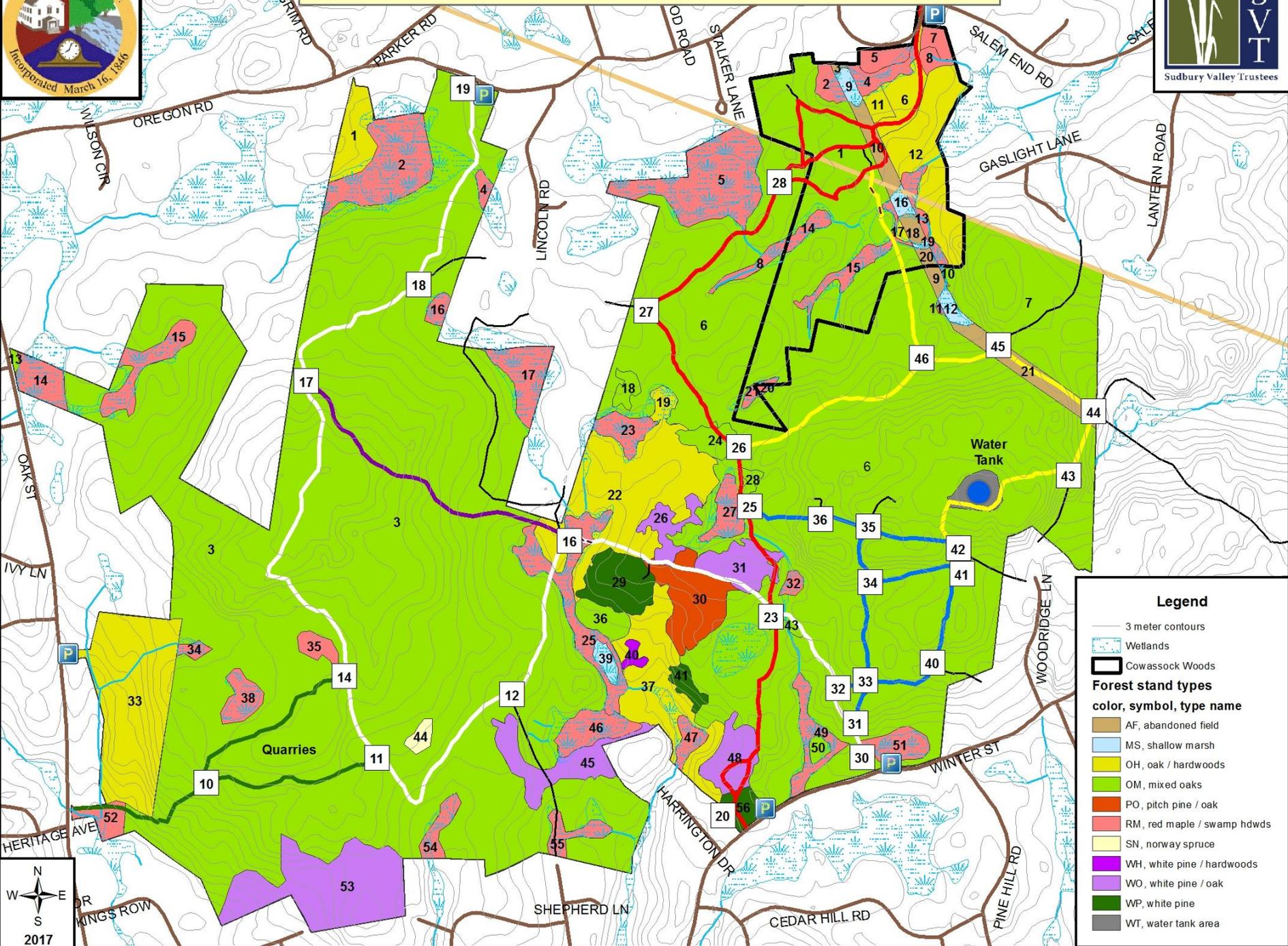




# Ashland Town Forest & Cowassock Woods Forest Stand Map



**Legend**

- 3 meter contours
- Wetlands
- Cowassock Woods

**Forest stand types**  
color, symbol, type name

- AF, abandoned field
- MS, shallow marsh
- OH, oak / hardwoods
- OM, mixed oaks
- PO, pitch pine / oak
- RM, red maple / swamp hdwds
- SN, norway spruce
- WH, white pine / hardwoods
- WO, white pine / oak
- WP, white pine
- WT, water tank area



## Ashland Town Forest Stewardship

The Ashland Town Forest and Cowassock Woods is a 565 acre parcel of open space located in northeast Ashland. Cowassock Woods is a 51 acre parcel of land bordering the Ashland Town Forest. The area has a natural wealth of granite outcroppings, upland and lowland swamp, vernal pools, mixed hardwood forest and several open pit quarries.

The Ashland Town Forest is managed by the Town Forest Committee (TFC). The Cowassock Woods is owned and managed by the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT).

With a grant from DCR in 2016, licensed foresters conducted an inventory of the Ashland Town Forest and Cowassock Woods. Forest Stewardship Management Plans were developed for both properties with the forest inventory data and fauna information collected, by MassWildlife and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

The purpose of the stewardship plan is to sustainably manage the property for the long-term health, productivity, diversity and quality utilizing the management goals determined by the Town Forest Committee.

The high importance goals identified are:

- Promote Biological Diversity
- Enhance Habitat for Birds
- Enhance Habitat for Small Animals
- Improve Access for Walking/Recreation
- Preserve or Improve Scenic Beauty
- Protect Water Quality
- Protect Unique/Special/Cultural Areas

The medium importance goals identified are:

- Enhance Habitat for Small Animals
- Improve Hunting or Fishing



### Forest Stand Type Information

The inventory identified several forest types with Mixed Oak being the dominate type found in the forest. The Mixed Oak type is composed of Red Oaks, Black Oaks, White Oaks, Scarlett Oaks, hickories and other hardwoods. The second most dominate type is the Red Maple / Swamp Hardwoods which consist of pure red maple or mixtures of red maple, silver maple, black ash, green ash, American elm, river birch and sycamore.

The following table provides the breakdown of the forest types:

Type	Acres	%
Mixed Oak	419.4	74.4
Red Maple	62.1	11.0
Oak – Hardwoods	43.7	7.8
White Pine – Oak	23.5	4.2
White Pine	5.9	1.1
Pitch Pine – Oak	4.4	0.8
Abandoned Field	2.7	0.5
Shallow Marsh	1.3	0.2
Norway Spruce	0.6	0.1
White Pine – Hardwood	0.4	1.1

The map shows the location of the forest type composition in the Town Forest and Cowassock Woods. The smaller numbers are the stand numbers.

### Forest Bird Habitat

A forest bird habitat assessment was done in conjunction with the forest inventory. The assessment was done by MassAudubon. Two different habitats and one potential habitat were identified.

Habitat 1 – Mature Upland Mixedwood Forest (513 acres) represents mature forest habitat but lacks the mid and understory vegetation that provide nesting sites, foraging sites and protection cover. Species found in this habitat includes the Black-throated Blue Warbler, Wood Thrush, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Habitat 2 – Red Maple Swamp (46 acres) characterized by developed understory and uneven forest floor. Species that utilize this type of habitat are the Canada Warbler, Veery, Red-Shoulder Hawk and Barred Owls.

Habitat 3 – Potential Early Successional Habitat (2.7 acres) could be created utilizing the power line right-of-way. The early successional habitat would be characterized by thick shrub and sapling layer. Birds that would utilize this habitat are Chestnut-side Warbler, American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse and Magnolia Warbler.

The report recommended keeping the property as forest and protecting the interior forest condition. Some enhancements should be undertaken to promote a more desirable mid-story and understory. Also, young forest early successional habitat should be created.

For more information go to:

<http://www.ashlandmass.com/308/Town-Forest-Committee>

<http://www.ashlandmass.com/299/Open-Space-Recreation-Committee>

<http://www.svtweb.org/>