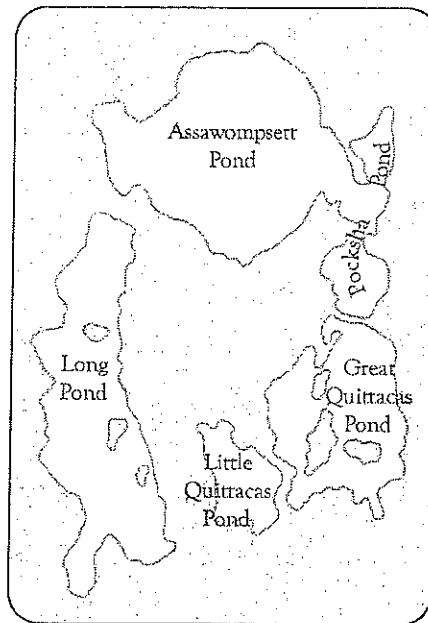


# The Assawompset Pond Complex (APC)



## Including Betty's Neck



© History of the Town of Middleboro, Massachusetts, 1669-1905 by Thomas Weston

**No fees are charged for access.**  
We encourage you to support and respect the rules and regulations of the APC.

**Hours: Dawn to Dusk**

## INTRODUCTION

Betty's Neck is the heart of the Assawompset Pond Complex (APC). Here you will find the Visitors Center located in the Peach Barn, where educational programs are offered year round to people of all ages.

The purchase of Betty's Neck, through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Aquifer Land Acquisition Grant Program and the resulting Conservation Restrictions (CRs), ensure the permanent protection of these pristine water resources. Now, for the first time in 100 years, specified portions of the APC are open to the public.

The APC's surrounding watershed acts as a protective buffer for Taunton and New Bedford water supply resources, the source of municipal water for both cities as well as several surrounding communities. The APC covers about 4,000 acres in Lakeville, Middleborough, Rochester and Freetown. This land is predominately owned in fee by Lakeville, New Bedford and Taunton. Access to APC watershed land was restricted for over a century to ensure water quality.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement (DFWELE), the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DC&R), Middleborough, Lakeville, New Bedford and Taunton have worked collaboratively to draft CRs to protect the drinking water supply and other natural resources while allowing for, and managing public access to the municipally-owned land within the Assawompset Pond Complex.

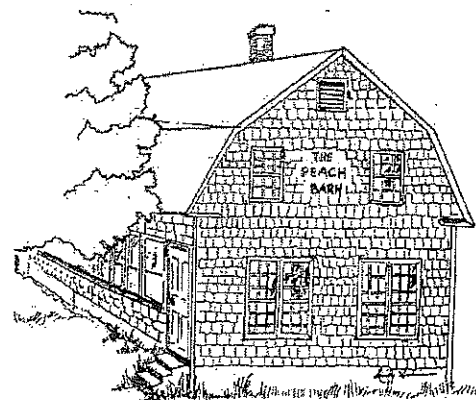
## HISTORY

The APC is unparalleled in its cultural and historical significance with nearly 12,000 years of recorded Native American habitation. The 1700's saw a gradual integration of the native and colonial inhabitants. In 1793, eight Native families still resided at Betty's Neck, making Betty's Neck one of the few remaining Native communities in the State.

The substantial quantities of iron ore discovered on the bottom of the ponds led to a thriving iron works industry during the mid-colonial period, until Middleborough claimed the ore.

By the late 19th century, the shores of the Great Ponds had developed into a summer resort with stately mansions, inns and guesthouses. One could travel from Boston by train, steamboat up the Nemasket River from Middleborough, and enjoy the beauty of the ponds. There you could disembark to take refreshments at one of the restaurants lining the shore, watch the sail boat races, or take a moonlight excursion to a dance pavilion.

Nineteen ninety-three heralded the return of a nesting pair of American Bald Eagles to Assawompset Pond for the first time in 85 years. This diverse area is the perfect habitat for the eagle. Protection of the APC will ensure a future for the American Bald Eagle.

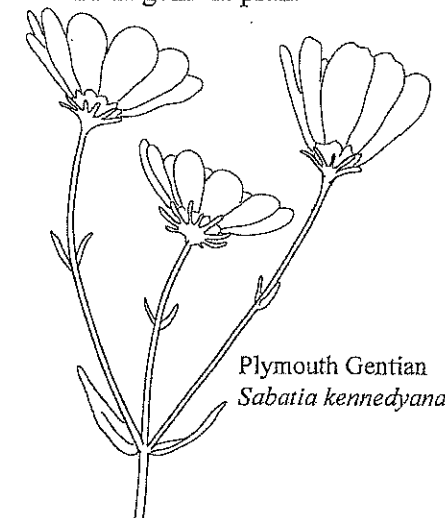


## APC OBJECTIVES

The overriding purpose of the APC is to protect and improve public water supply resources, yet allow for public access and recreation that are consistent with water supply protection.

Objectives include:

- Maintaining and improving a high quality public water supply.
- Protecting and managing the natural resources of the APC.
- Providing safe, enjoyable and diverse outdoor recreational opportunities for visitors with varying abilities, focusing on passive activities that are compatible with watershed protection.
- Educating the public about the need to protect the watershed while enjoying the APC.
- Protecting biodiversity within the APC.
- Monitoring use and enforcing the management plan.



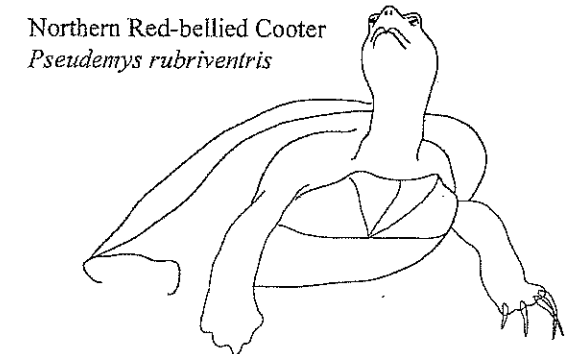
Plymouth Gentian  
*Sabatia kennedyana*

The APC objectives are geared towards the preservation and enhancement of sustainable habitats for native species, as well as the protection of natural communities, whether common or rare. Activities that are related to biodiversity protection also promote water quality and quantity.

## RARE SPECIES KNOWN TO INHABIT THE ASSAWOMPSET POND COMPLEX:

American Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus Leucocephalus</i>	E, FT
Bridle Shiner <i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	SC
Eastern Pond Mussel <i>Ligumia nasuta</i>	SC
Northern Red-bellied Cooter <i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	E, FE
Plymouth Gentian <i>Sabatia kennedyana</i>	SC

FE - Federally listed as Endangered  
E - State listed as Endangered  
FT - Federally listed as Threatened  
SC - State listed as Special Concern



Northern Red-bellied Cooter  
*Pseudemys rubriventris*

Massachusetts designates over 440 plants and animals as rare and worthy of protection just because they exist. However, these species are an even more valuable indicator of a healthy, intact, complex, well functioning ecosystem. Biodiversity is the entire array of plants, animals, fungi, microbes – all of life taken together – upon which we all depend. This biodiversity is threatened by human impacts. Protecting the rare species of Massachusetts and their habitats – the ponds, mountains, and forests where they live - helps ensure the biodiversity of the Commonwealth.

**RULES & REGULATIONS  
FOR RECREATIONAL USES**

- Allowed Uses:**
- Walking, Running, Hiking
  - Nature study, Sightseeing
  - Photography, Artistic work
  - Cross country skiing & Snowshoeing *on designated trails.*
  - Horseback riding *designated trail only*
  - Hunting in accordance with State Regulations
  - Hunting deer on Betty's Neck by special permit subject to a lottery
  - Shoreline fishing in accordance with State Regulations
  - Mountain biking, non-motorized, *on designated trails only.*
  - Picnicking - pack in/pack out, no fires
  - Dog walking, *dogs are required to be leashed*, pooper scooper requested

- Special Permits Required for:**
- Competitive or any other special event
  - Fox hound running, dog training
  - Night use, e.g. owl survey, stargazing
  - Scientific research

*For Special Permits Contact:*  
*Office of the APC Manager,*  
*346 Bedford Street, Lakeville, MA 02347*

- Prohibited:**
- Alcoholic beverages
  - Boating except for grandfathered property owners
  - Camping
  - Canoes or kayaks
  - Collecting artifacts
  - Commercial dog walking/training
  - Digging in the ground of any type
  - Ice skating, Ice fishing
  - Metal detectors
  - Motorized vehicles, any type e.g. dirt bikes/ATVs, and Snowmobiles
  - Paint Ball, Target practice
  - Rollerblading, skateboarding
  - Skiing or snowshoeing on ice
  - Sled dog running
  - Swimming, Wading

**PLEASE**

Observe the rights of others,  
including adjacent property owners.

Enjoy the beauty of the APC.  
Take only your experience with you.

Play safe – Remain alert.

Inform the APC Manager of any concerns  
at 508-498-4347. Our volunteers work hard  
to keep trails safe.

Beware of poison ivy and sumac.

Check yourself, your children and pets  
for ticks. Insect repellent is recommended.

Take away all picnic materials.

*The APC provides quality  
drinking water to nearly a  
quarter million people.  
Protect it.*

**Color maps of the APC**

**Can be obtained at the  
Lakeville Town Clerks office**

**For a donation of \$2.00**

If you would like to participate in  
trail monitoring, maintenance or other  
APC related activities, please contact:

**Nancy Yeatts,  
Environmental Manager  
Assawompsett Pond Complex  
346 Bedford Street  
Lakeville, MA 02347**

**(508)498-4347 (cell)**

**Assawompset Pond Complex**

