



## Area 3 HEMLOCK HILLS



**Green Trail entrance**

Size: 385 acres

**ACCESS/PARKING:** Ned's Mountain Road opposite Bogus Road, 1.3 miles from Ridgebury Road; south end of Bear Mountain Road; south end of Pine Mountain Road; east end of North Shore Drive; South Shore Drive (Lake Windwing); end of subdivision road off north side of Mountain Road. Parking is best at Ned's Mountain, Pine Mountain, and North Shore Drive. [GPS address: 1 Bogus Road]

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy to difficult, depending on loop selected.

**FEATURES:** Hemlock Hills derives its name from the vast hemlock forest that covers the northern part of the refuge. Mountain laurel, striped maple, witch hazel, and pignut hickory are all present. In spring and summer, the area is alive with wildflowers, including an unusual profusion of marsh marigolds in the swampy areas. Marble deposits underlying the red maple swamp just north of Lake Windwing and the ravine directly west of Pine Mountain Road cause the growth of different plants than in other parts of the open space. Striated rock formations and large perched rocks give evidence of extensive glacial action.

The Pine Mountain entrance leads down to streams with interesting multiple crossings, and there is an historic ruin along the trail from Mountain Road. The overlook on the trail from North Shore Drive offers views of Ridgebury School, Lake Windwing, and Barlow Mountain.

**CAMPING:** Primitive camping. Permit required from Parks and Recreation for campfire and overnight camping.

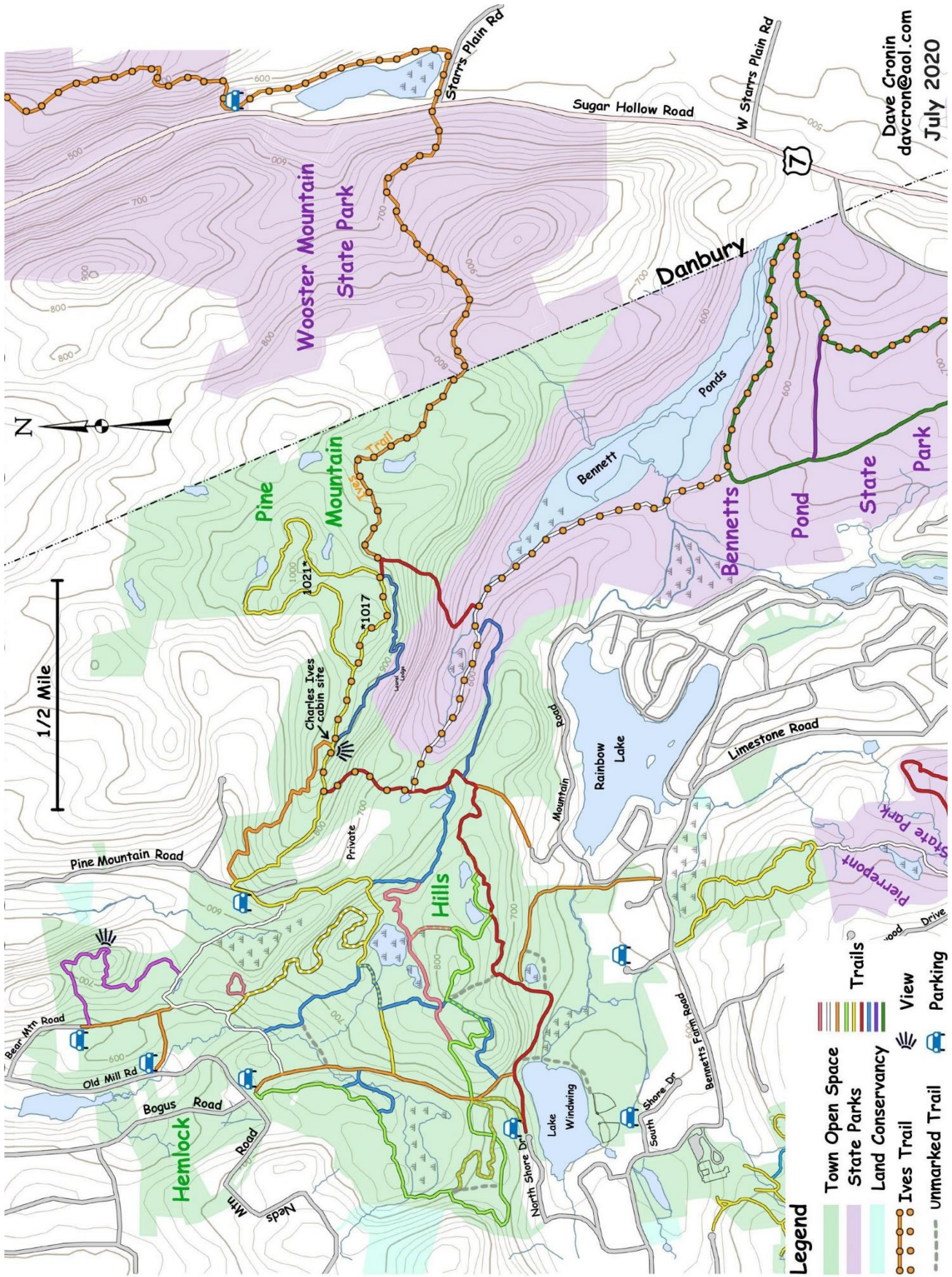
**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:** Trail from Ned's Mountain Road to Lake Windwing; also lower part of red trail from North Shore Drive to wooded loop, Lake Windwing fields and South Shore Drive.

**HISTORY:** The Hemlock Hills property was originally acquired by Otto Lippolt for a development and then sold to Ridgefield. The unpaved roads are now part of an extensive network of trails with loops of varying lengths. A section of Hemlock Hills property was generously given to the town as a gift from Dr. Daniel Liebowitz





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