



Area SP2

SETH LOW PIERREPONT STATE PARK



View across the southern end of Pierrepont Lake

Size: 304 acres

ACCESS/PARKING: Barlow Mountain Road north of the intersection with North Street; cul-de-sac at the end of Pinecrest Drive; Knollwood Drive at Old Barlow Mountain Road. There is walking access from the Liebowitz Knapp Sanctuary. [GPS Address: 50 Barlow Mountain Road].

DIFFICULTY: Easy walk at lake; moderate, with steep sections after trail leaves lake.

FEATURES: Over two miles of trails wind through mixed deciduous forest of oak, sweet birch, chestnut oak, tulip, and hickory. Swamp areas contain red maple, ash, and yellow birch. Striped maple is abundant on the slopes. Wild flowers are abundant. There are five trails:

- The white trail goes around Pierrepont Lake and then follows a stream to the junction with the blue trail loop. It continues upward toward the summit (950 feet).
- The blue trail crosses the stream and follows it to its source in the head of a canyon. In the spring, water trickles out of cracks in the ledge, and ferns and mosses grow lush as a result.
- The yellow trail offers a level by-pass loop off the white trail, but does not go to the summit.
- The orange trail is a short distance between the blue trail and Pinecrest Drive.
- The red trail follows Old Barlow Mountain Road and connects with the white and yellow trails.

Two overlooks offer excellent views of the surrounding countryside. One on the white trail is near the top of Barlow Mountain, and the outcropping on the blue trail offers views of the West Mountain area and New York State. There are also vistas along the white and yellow trails, especially when the leaves are off the trees.

In 2011, a master gardener planted hundreds of native ferns near the parking area. In 2012, the Ridgefield Garden Club received a grant to remove invasives and re-establish native plants in the park.

BOATING: Permitted (non-motorized).

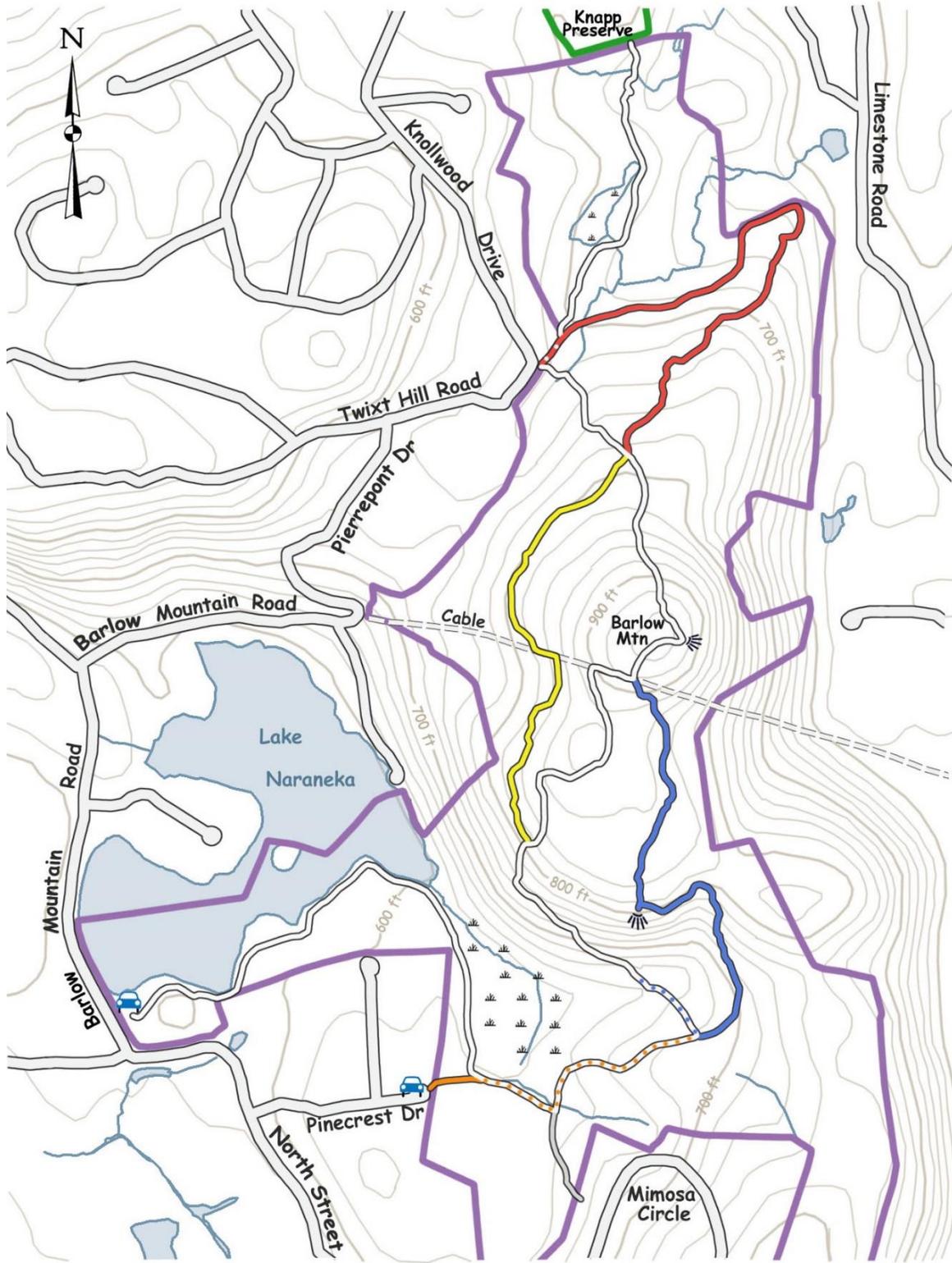
CAMPING: No campfires or camping allowed. Cooking in grills is permitted.

FISHING: Permitted according to regulations of the CT Board of Fisheries and Game.

HISTORY: General Wooster led his troops down Old Barlow Mountain Road during the Revolutionary War. John Barlow's blacksmith shop was located here. An old foundation of the Scott house dating from the 1720s can be seen at the boat launch area. The stone walls and enclosures in the park were built by the Scott family when they farmed the land. Though donated to Connecticut by Ridgefield resident Seth Low Pierrepont, this property is maintained by the Fairfield County Chapter of the Sierra Club and Conservation Commission.



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Legend

State Boundary



Parking



View

Trails

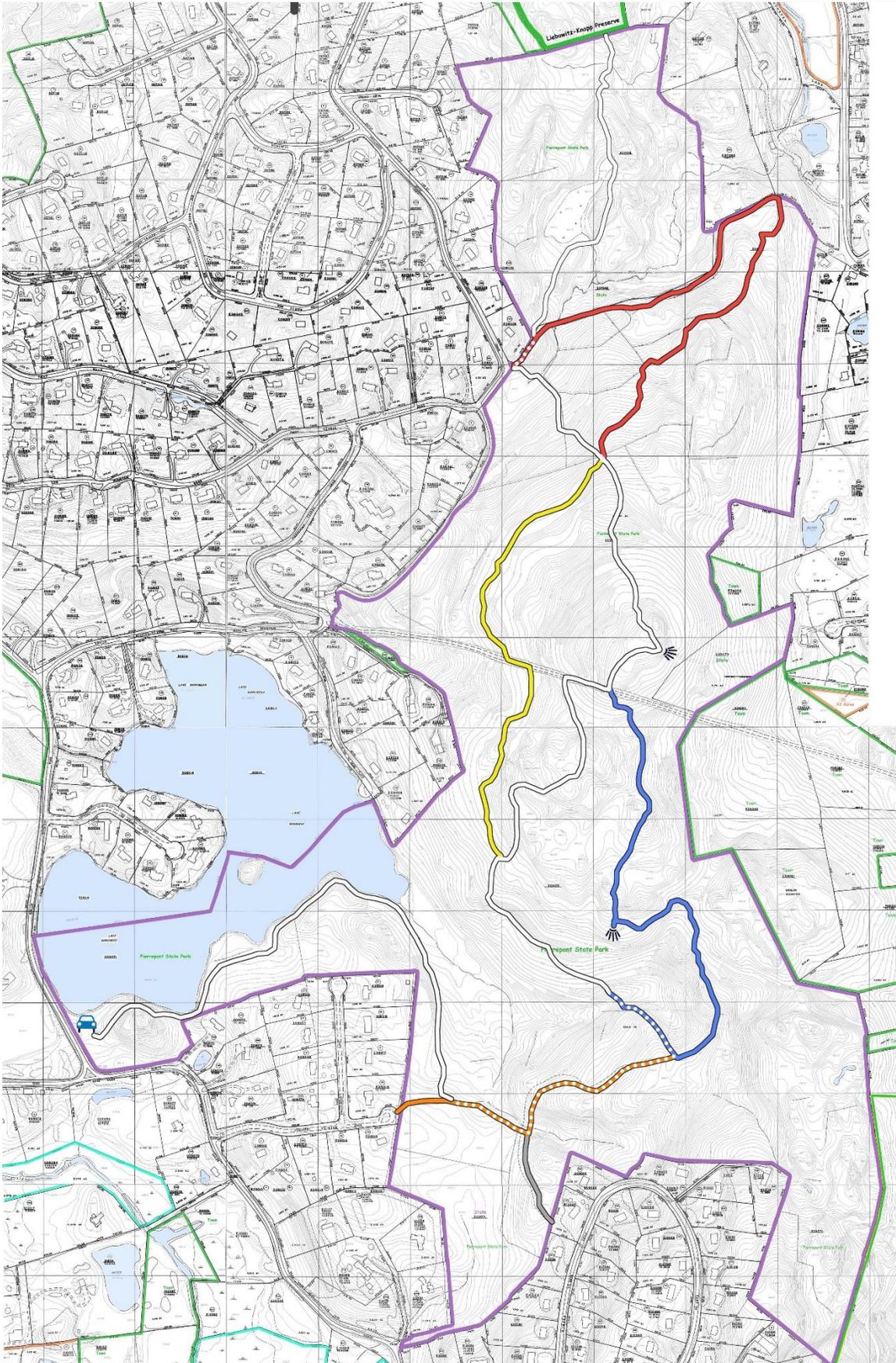


Wetlands

0.25 mile



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