

WELCOME TO THE SHAW PASTURE

This area plus surrounding woodlands are owned by the Town of Chichester and managed by the Conservation Commission for the public's enjoyment. Please follow these guidelines when you visit:

- Carry out all trash
- Keep pets under control and carry out pet waste
- Stay on designated trails
- No camping, or fires are allowed
- Be aware of poison ivy, ticks and other environmental hazards.

A Little History:

This 7-acre parcel was purchased by the Town in 2017 from the Shaw family. The land provided grazing for cattle for many years prior to that. The land is now managed by the town primarily as open grassland for wildlife management and for passive recreation.

Lands adjacent to the Shaw Pasture were purchased or donated to the town over the 1990 to 2006 time period. About 25 acres were donated to the town by Madeline Sanborn (1917-2009), who wanted the land enjoyed through passive recreation and preserved for wildlife habitat.

Enjoying This Land

The Town of Chichester owns roughly 50 acres of conservation land between Marsh Pond and Main Street as shown on this map. Follow the trail from this point to Marsh Pond, a path

which takes you through an area of unusual beauty. Please respect the plants and grounds so that others may enjoy them as you have.

Marsh Pond is formed by a beaver dam which impounds the small streams which drain this area. In earlier times, this area was simply known as "the meadow." A dam was built about 1910 to control the pond's water level for practical uses. Long-time residents recall a time when the pond water level was raised in winter so that ice could be cut and stored for 'ice boxes' in people's homes. In summer, the pond was regularly drained to allow cutting of hay for animal feed.

Despite the presence of several homes nearby, wildlife is plentiful in this area. Though once totally cleared for farming, the forest is now thriving. This is an example of forest succession, through which forest re-establishes itself after cutting or burning. As you follow the trail, notice the oak, white pine, maple and beech trees which are doing well in this environment.

The grasslands and adjacent woods serve as nesting grounds for migrating birds, such as the bobolink in summer. It is also common to find monarch butterfly larvae and adults on the milkweed in season. Please stay on the designated footpaths to avoid disturbing these creatures, especially in the months of May through September. Also, pets are welcomed, but please keep them under your control.



Clarence Shaw of Chichester feeds his flock of sheep.