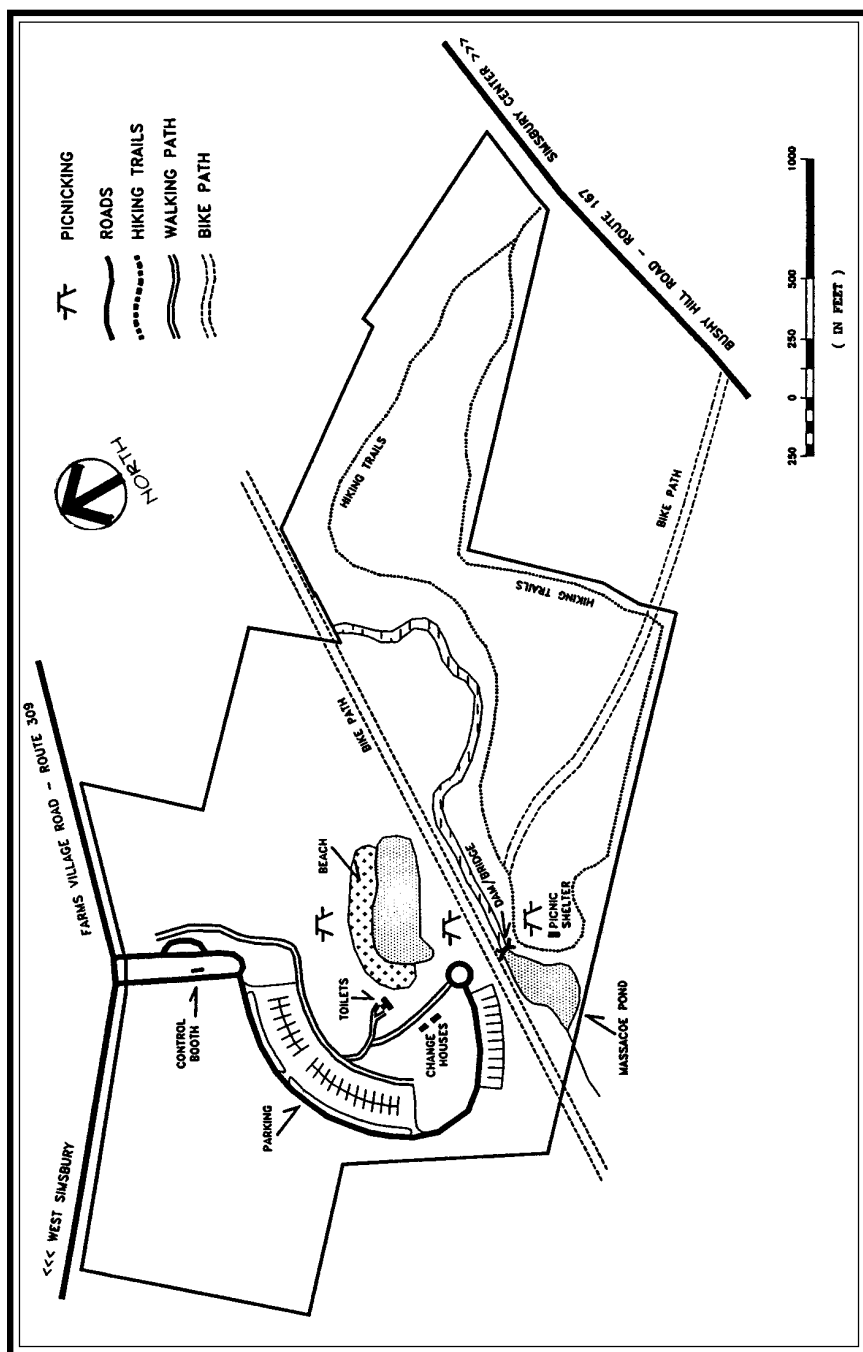


STRATTON BROOK STATE PARK



STRATTON BROOK STATE PARK

This 148-acre state park includes a pond and brook for fishing, a separate swimming pond, and a picnic shelter as well as trails for hiking and biking.

The park was acquired in 1908 as part of Massacoe State Forest for the purpose of demonstrating techniques of forest fire control in areas adjacent to railroad lines. The bike path was built by the Town of Simsbury on the former Central New England Railroad bed and extends through Simsbury Town Forest Park to West Mountain Road. Massacoe Pond, the small fishing pond, was created by a dam built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933.

Replete with a large numbers of white pines with mixed hardwoods, this park is a fine example of a sand plain forest. In the spring there are wild flowers such as rue anemone, white and birdfoot violets, fringed polygala (Gaywings), and lady slippers. Along the edges of the park's open spaces are good spots to see a wide variety of warblers, brown thrashers, cedar waxwings, woodpeckers, and other interesting birds. (Note that groves of red pines were harvested in 1990 after they were damaged by insects (Red Pine Scale)).

Visitors can access the park through the main gate on Farms Village Road (Route 309) two miles west of route 10 or across from the junction of Stratton Brook Road and Town Forest Road.

