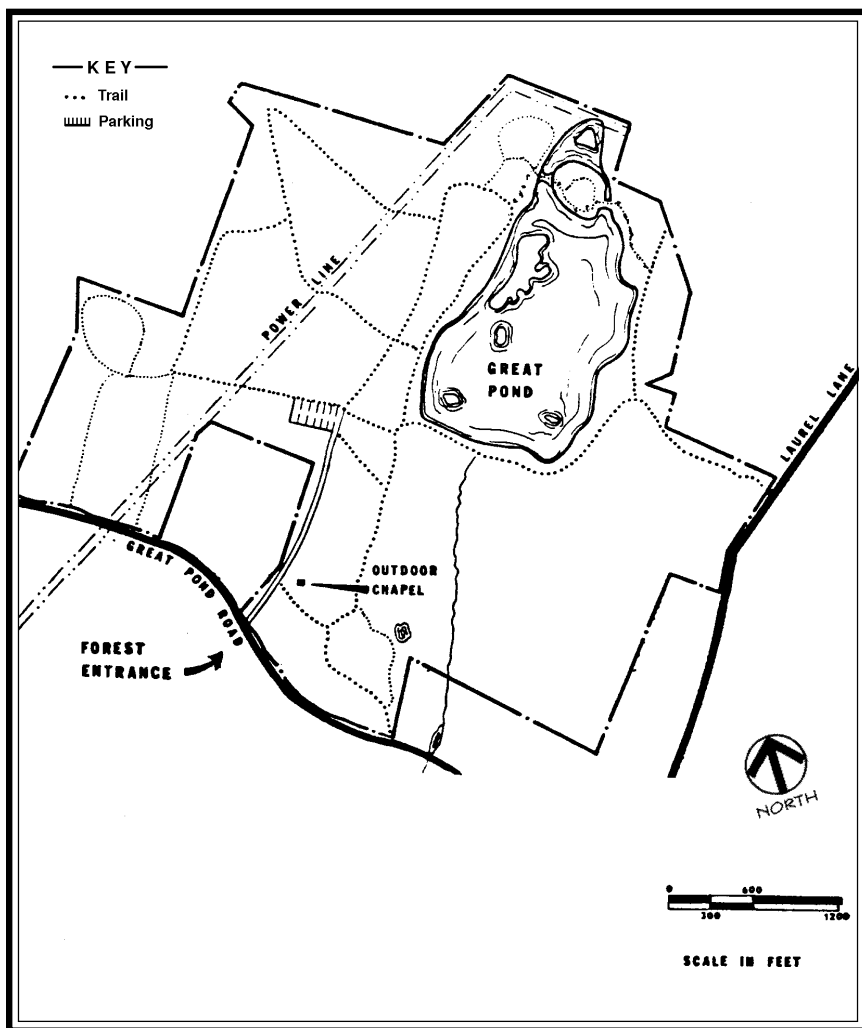


# GREAT POND STATE FOREST



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Great Pond State Forest is a 280-acre coniferous forest that is unusually peaceful throughout the year. There are several miles of well-defined trails which are level and very easy to walk. On the northern side of the pond the trails can become very muddy after rains.

A dirt road off Great Pond Road, between Laurel Lane and Old Farms Road leads to the parking lot.

One of the most beautiful features of the forest is the shallow 30-acre pond near its center. It attracts a variety of wildlife including deer, beaver, and many migrating waterfowl. There are a number of scenic outlooks along the trails around the pond. The pond is particularly lovely when the water lilies bloom in summer. In winter it can be a good place for ice skating.

Along the northeastern edge of the pond a section of the trail is surrounded by a large stand of rhododendron, their height almost creating a canopy. West of the pond the forest has tall pines and hemlocks, creating a cool and quiet atmosphere. Because of the pond and the conifer-based sand plain environment, the park attracts a large variety of nesting birds. Over one hundred species are thought to nest here, including green-backed heron, common merganser, great horned owl, broad-winged hawk, and pine warbler.

