

**FINDING IT** Drive down Lafayette Street and come to a dead end *cul de sac* to reach the trail entrance.

**DESCRIPTION** Feel “away from it all” in this secluded, natural spot – neighboring homes are at a distance. Runoff from the Blue Hills feeds the pond via Pine Tree Brook. You will see colonies of birch trees and goldenrods as well as dense stands of invasive *Phragmites australis*, or common reed. The pond is a non-tidal freshwater body in the Neponset River Watershed with little flowing current and some green algae, almost stagnant. A small waterfall flows, sometimes, from the pond into Pine Tree Brook, and the brook travels from Pope’s Pond through woods and residential neighborhoods to Milton H.S., Pierce M. School, Glover Elementary School, and to the Neponset River. It’s all connected!

**STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** Light no campfires. In order to keep runoff from ground surface water unpolluted, remove litter and pet waste and avoid phosphorous-laden lawn fertilizers.

**HISTORY** Pope’s Pond was originally a rural meadow but was dredged and dammed to create an ice pond which once supplied ice for refrigeration in area homes and businesses. John Myers (Myers Lane) harvested ice there for about 25 years, 1853 - 1878. After his death, J. Frank Pope (Pope’s Pond) acquired the business and merged, eventually, with Jacob Turner (Turner’s Pond) to create a joint operation. In 1884, records cite that they cut 6,500 tons of ice from Popes Pond. A typical harvesting year lasted six months; the business employed teams of men and horses and used white pine sawdust to insulate ice slabs stored in large wooden warehouses.

**ACTIVITIES** In this woody pond habitat, observe ducks, birds, small mammals, and other wildlife. Go fishing for a variety of freshwater species, including trout (fishing license required; contact MA Department of Fish and Game or Milton’s Town Clerk at Town Hall for purchasing information, fishing rules and regulations). Jog or walk and dog walk. Picnic.