

# DelCarte Open Space Area



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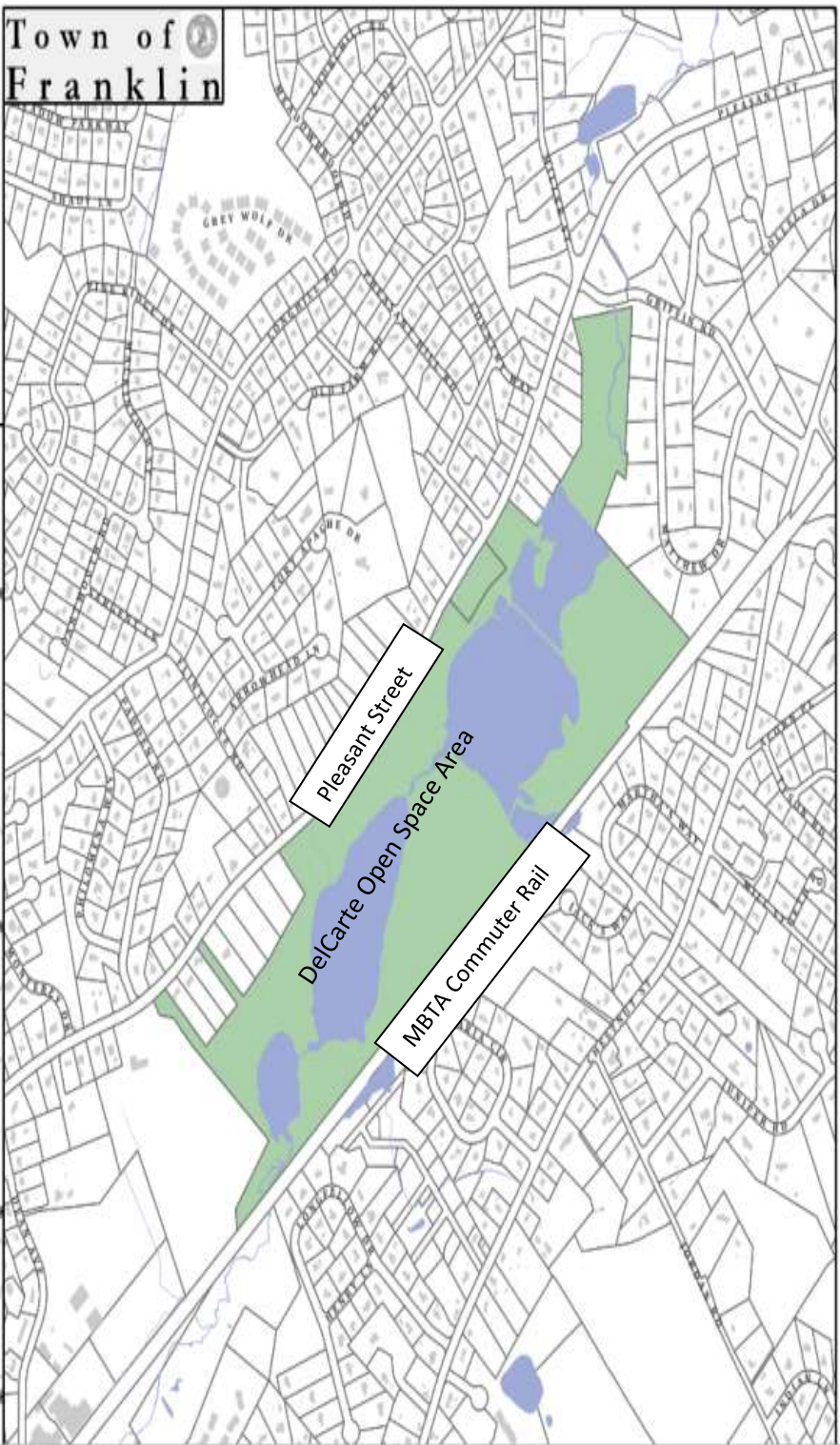
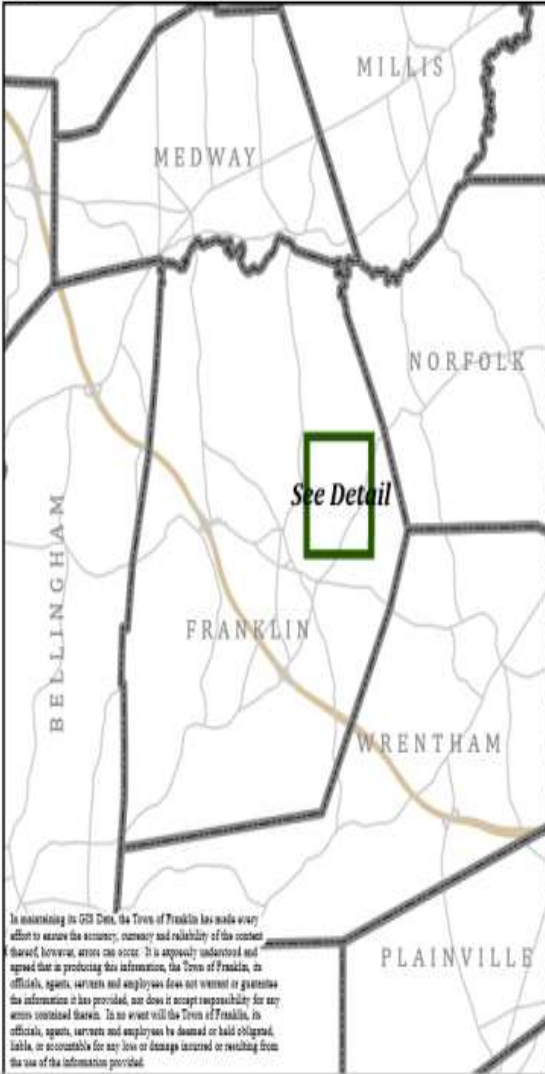
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# Maps

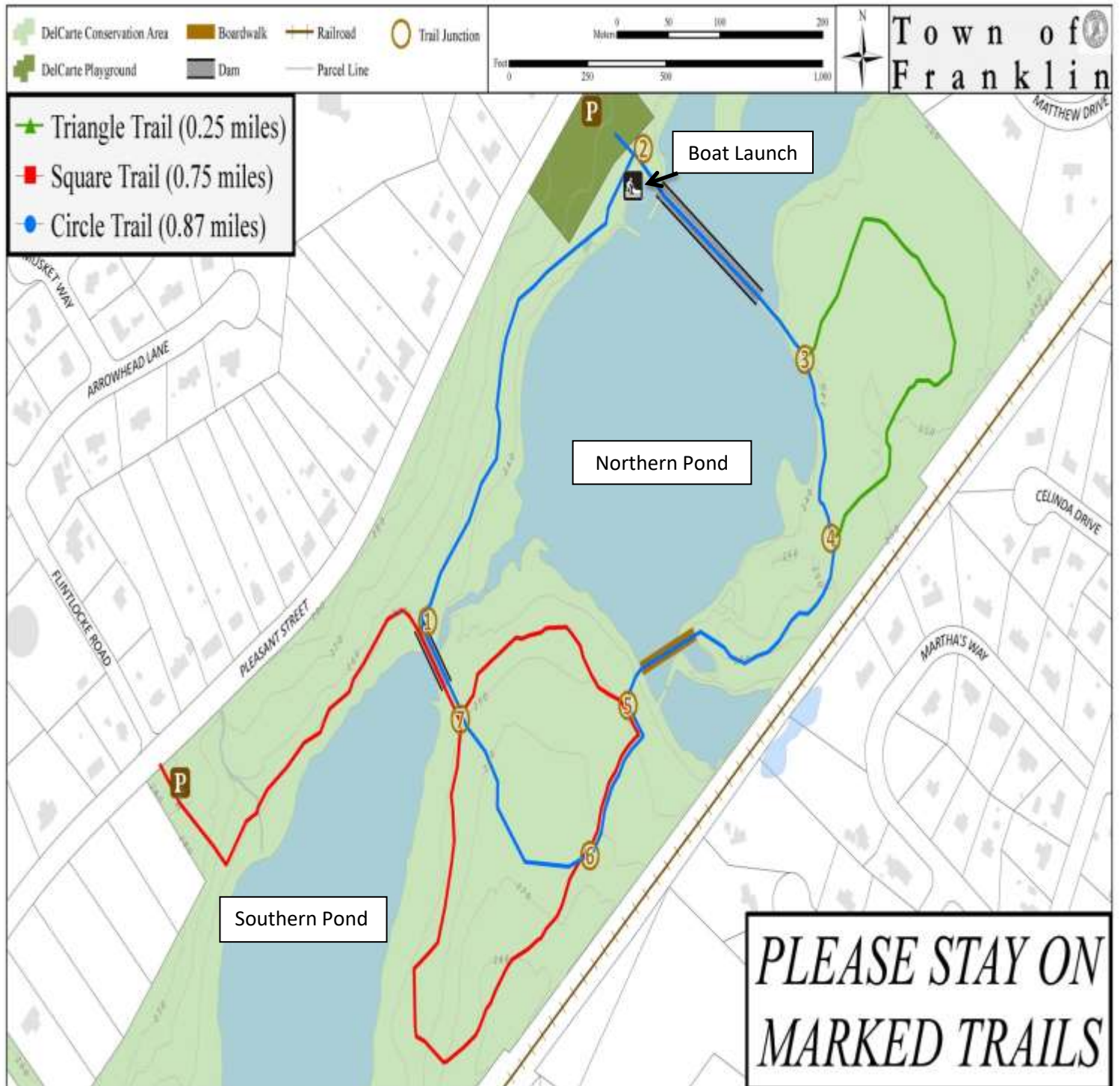
## DelCarte Conservation Area



-  DelCarte Conservation Area
-  Water
-  Structure
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Parcel Line



# Trail Map



# Narrative

As I pull up to the parking lot near the northern pond, I start to envision the incredible wildlife I will encounter on this sunny summer day. I walk by the playground and hear the call of a Baltimore Oriole, distorted by the happy screams of playing children. I stand in front of the massive Eastern White Pine trees adjacent to the playground and a flash of brilliant orange appears before my eyes.

I keep moving onward, crossing the graveled dam. I spot numerous birds as I continue- Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Red-winged Blackbirds. As I reach the bridge crossing the back of the pond, I notice a beaver den off to my left. All of the sudden, I hear a splash. I look out towards the center of the pond and, to my delight, I see an Osprey. The Osprey flies into the sky and flaps its wings to keep still above the water while scanning for prey. On my walk through the forest to the southern pond, I take notice of the different species of trees- White Oak, Red Oak, Red Maple, Sassafras, White Birch, and the dreaded Poison Ivy. I hear the

call of a Red-bellied Woodpecker, and spot the bird flying from tree to tree in search of bugs.

I reach the southern pond and immediately notice a family of mute swans and a pair of Great Blue Herons. As I patrol the bank, looking for a good place to cast my fishing line, I am startled by a large Northern Water Snake. Trying to catch my breath, I notice that the snake has a small Bluegill Sunfish in its jaws. I move away, attempting not to frighten the creature as much as it frightened me.

I finally cast my line and after about 10 minutes, I get a hit. I reel up a sizable Chain Pickerel, roughly a foot in length. I unhook the slimy creature and release it back into the pond, where it darts back towards the safety of the open water.

I leave the area and begin my journey to the parking lot. As I approach my car, I take a look back at the water. I see Painted Turtles basking on a log, Tree Swallows maneuvering across the water with extreme speed and precision, and a little chipmunk frantically gathering food underneath a mighty White Oak. I look out over the area and I feel proud to have such a unique natural area in my town.

# **Background**

The DelCarte Open Space Area, sometimes referred to as the Franklin Reservoir, was donated to the town of Franklin by Ernest DelCarte after his passing in October 2000. In addition to this generous 136-acre donation, DelCarte is remembered for his work as the owner of a tackle shop located directly on the northern pond behind the boat launch. Locals reminisce of the care that DelCarte felt over the area, which ultimately resulted in the donation of the land as a conservation area to prevent development on the ecologically unique landscape.

Since 2000, the Conservation Commission of Franklin has worked on many projects in the area, including clearing trails, refurbishing dams, developing a playground, and adding attributes for easier access for recreation, including a floating boardwalk and two canoe launches.

## **General Information**

The DelCarte Open Space is part of the Charles River Watershed. The area is fed directly by Miller Brooke, which

eventually connects to the Charles River. There are two main ponds- the pond with the playground adjacent to the water is referred to as the northern pond. The northern pond is slightly larger than the southern pond. The dominant substrate type (material layering the bottom) of both ponds is muck. The average depth of the two ponds is roughly 3.5 feet, with a max depth of about 4 feet in the northern pond and 5 feet in the southern pond. The average temperature of the ponds is 55°F, with warmer temperatures during wet weather. There are two parking lots at the area, a paved northern lot and a gravel southern lot. The pond is undergoing a significant invasion of exotic aquatic vegetation, with Variable Milfoil and Water Chestnut comprising the main invasives.

## **Purpose of Area**

The DelCarte Open Space Area provides the town of Franklin with various recreational opportunities, including fishing, birding, trail walking/running, nature watching, and canoeing. Although the town has many other conservation sites, DelCarte offers a range of ecosystems, such as wetlands, shallow ponds, and deciduous and evergreen forests. In addition,

the area controls possible flooding on Pleasant Street and surrounding residential areas by collecting rainwater during heavy rain events.

## **Responsibilities for Recreation**

DelCarte offers beautiful and safe recreation opportunities, and in order to ensure continued enjoyment, responsibility is placed on the individuals utilizing the area. There are certain rules that, when followed, benefit the health and aesthetic of DelCarte. By the trailhead of the dam on the northern lot, there is a list of “do’s and don’ts” posted, so please read this sign before entering the trails. The most crucial phrase for any person in a natural area to remember is “leave no trace”- that means nothing left behind- including litter and dog poop. This rule also explains not to clear any trails, destroy any aspect of the land, or take anything from the natural area. In addition, please be conscious of private property signs, especially when utilizing the Green Triangle trail.

# **Ecosystems**

## **Wetlands**

Wetlands are areas where soils are covered by water, or where water is present at or near the surface of soil all year or during seasonal periods including the growing season. Wetlands are an important ecosystem not only to the DelCorte Open Space Area, but also to the general health of the earth. Wetlands provide natural filtration from pollutants and sediments, filtration that is essential to the health of DelCorte due to the busy road parallel to the ponds.

Wetlands bring a large potential for biodiversity (variation of living things). They provide nursery for many spawning fish, and because of their quality for cover, resting, nesting, and foraging, wetlands also attract many mammals, amphibians, birds, and reptiles.

Wetlands have attributes that are unique to this specific ecosystem, including cattails and skunk cabbage. Some of the most prevalent plant and animal species creating and occupying

the wetlands at DelCorte are Red-winged Blackbirds, Great Blue Herons, the American Mink, Cattail, and Common Reed.

## Lentic/Pond

The ponds are characterized as a different ecosystem, a freshwater pond or lentic ecosystem. Lentic means slow-flowing waters. The pond ecosystem houses a variety of aquatic plants, fish, and provides food and home for many mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The bottom of the food chain includes algae and plankton, while the top consists of large fish (i.e. Largemouth Bass) and herons.

## Mixed Forest

Also included in the DelCorte Open Space Area is a forest ecosystem. The forests consist of deciduous and evergreen trees- primarily oak trees, maple trees, and pine trees- and small shrubs. It contains mature trees, saplings (immature trees), shrubs, and snags (dead trees), which reflects a range of conditions suitable for many forms of life. Having a diverse range of ages and species of trees allows for the extensive biodiversity in the area. Mature trees offer food in forms of seeds and acorns, saplings demonstrate that the soils are fertile

enough to produce life, shrubs contain fruits for birds and tender shoots for mammals, and snags are a popular destination for nesting birds and woodpeckers. The forests provide many animals with food and shelter, including beavers, raccoons, deer, squirrels, chipmunks, snakes, and a wide variety of bird species.

## **Trails**

### **Blue Circle**

The Blue Circle trail loops around the northern pond, giving walkers both an aquatic and forest experience. It can be accessed from the northern parking lot and also connects to the Red Square trail at Trail Junctions 1, 5, 6, and 7. Along the path are a variety of tree and shrub species, including Red Maple, Eastern White Pine, White Oaks, ferns, and Black Huckleberry bushes. The trail has many clearings along the pond for viewing pleasure where Painted Turtles, Great Blue Herons, beaver evidence, and Tree Swallows can be seen. The “back end” of the trail by the train tracks has sandy soils full of impressive Eastern White Pine trees. The path has a boardwalk that goes over the northern pond, and is a good spot to see White and Yellow Lily. After the

boardwalk is crossed (heading towards the southern pond), the path meanders into a more wooded area where a large patch of Black Huckleberry bushes and White Oak trees can be observed.

## Green Triangle

The green triangle path allows trail walkers to experience a less aquatic, more wooded ecosystem. The trail can be accessed at Trail Junctions 3 and 4, which are connected to the Blue Circle trail. The area that the trail loops around has an abundance of Eastern White Pine trees, and therefore the floor of the forest is a thick mat of pine needles. There are also many White and Red Oak trees. Since this section is more wooded, squirrels and chipmunks gather here for food and shelter. Many American Robins also occupy this area. The area is not densely populated by underbrush vegetation, allowing for an unobstructed view of a forested landscape.

**CAUTION:** The trail has an unmarked path that leads to an old concrete dam, which is somewhat unsafe.

## Red Square

The red square path does a semi-circle around the southern pond and overlaps with the blue circle path in some areas. The trail can be accessed from the southern parking lot. The section of path closest to the southern lot allows for great views of the pond. A family of Mute Swans occupies the southern pond and can be seen from the path. There are many beaver lodges along the back of the pond that can be observed, and many slides and pointed-stumps along the banks display evidence of beaver activity. Frogs and turtles can be seen along the banks of the pond, and the trail has various clearings with views of the water. The path also passes by the huckleberry section near the boardwalk. In the more wooded area, garter snakes can be seen as well as squirrels and chipmunks.

## General Health

DelCorte Open Space Area provides the town with great recreation activities and also houses a vast collection of biodiversity, so the health of the area is of top priority for the conservation department. A recent study of the area was done by

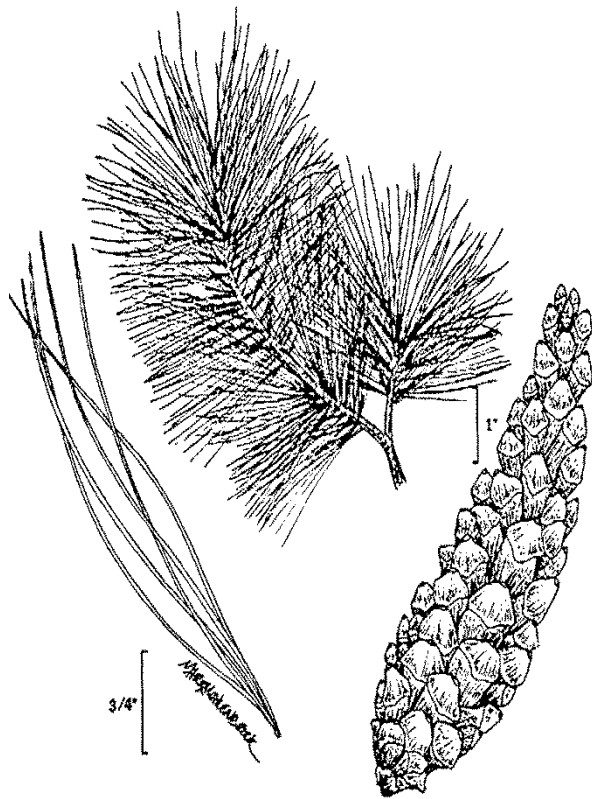
ESS Group on the ecological health of the open space. Overall, the area is moderately healthy, but the invasive aquatic plants are compromising the integrity of the ponds. The rapid success of variable milfoil and water chestnut is a major problem- they occupy the areas of the pond that could be providing native species with space, food, and nutrients.

## **Management Efforts**

The Franklin Conservation Commission is currently working with BETA Engineering, the Environmental Protection Agency, and wetlands scientists to carry out the recommendation to obtain herbicides to control the invasive vegetation in the ponds. The efforts should be implemented by the end of summer 2016.

# Inland Vegetation

Along the ponds, there are many native and naturalized tree and shrub species. Some of the most common species are Red Maple, White Oak, Eastern White Pine, and Sassafras.



Eastern White Pine



Red Oak

## Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*



**Identification:** Three distinctive points on leaf; red stems on branches and leaves; red buds

**Soil type:** Moist, well-drained, clay/loamy soils

**Human uses:** Ornamental and shade tree

**Wildlife uses:** Fruits and shoots eaten by birds, squirrels, and deer

**Range:** Across the United States due to ornamental planting

**Height:** mature tree reaches 40-60'; medium to fast growth with 13-24" per year

**Fun fact:** The red maple is the Rhode Island state tree, and Rhode Island in Dutch translates to 'Red Island'

## White Oak, *Quercus alba*



**Identification:** Leaves are simple and alternately arranged; leaves have rounded lobes; white/light grey bark

**Soil type:** Deep, moist, well-drained, with medium fertility and slightly acidic soils; sensitive to floods

**Human uses:** Widely used for lumber and interior hardwood flooring

**Wildlife uses:** Acorns eaten by many animals, including blue jays and squirrels

**Range:** Maine to Minnesota southward to Florida and Texas; wide range of soil types allows for wide range

**Height:** Mature tree reaches over 100'

**Fun fact:** DelCorte is home to both Red Oak and White Oak trees; the species can be differentiated by looking at the color of the bark, color of the stem on leaves, and the shape of the leaf

## Eastern White Pine, *Pinus Strobus*



**Identification:** Rough scaly bark; needles instead of leaves; five needles per bundle (can use W.H.I.T.E. as a way to differentiate between pines; five needles, five letters)

**Soil type:** Sandy, well-drained soils

**Human uses:** Ornamental, mulch, buffer zones, wind breaks, and lumber

**Wildlife uses:** Popular tree for wildlife nests; various birds and other wildlife eat pine seeds in pinecones

**Range:** Southern Canada to southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa; east from northern Illinois to New Jersey; south mostly in the Appalachian Mountains to northern Georgia and northwestern South Carolina.

**Height:** 50-80'; fast growing around 24" per year

**Fun fact:** Eastern White Pine trees can live up to 400 years

## Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*



**Identification:** Mitten-shaped leaves with three rounded points; grows as a single tree or dense thickets

**Soil type:** Acidic and moist soils

**Human uses:** Pleasing aroma for perfume; used by native Americans to cure almost all ailments

**Wildlife uses:** Leaves and shoots eaten by deer and hosts butterflies

**Range:** Maine west to New York; southwest in Illinois, Missouri, southeastern Kansas, eastern Oklahoma, and eastern Texas; and east to central Florida

**Height:** Up to 30"; size varies greatly and depends on nutrients available, grazing, and sunlight

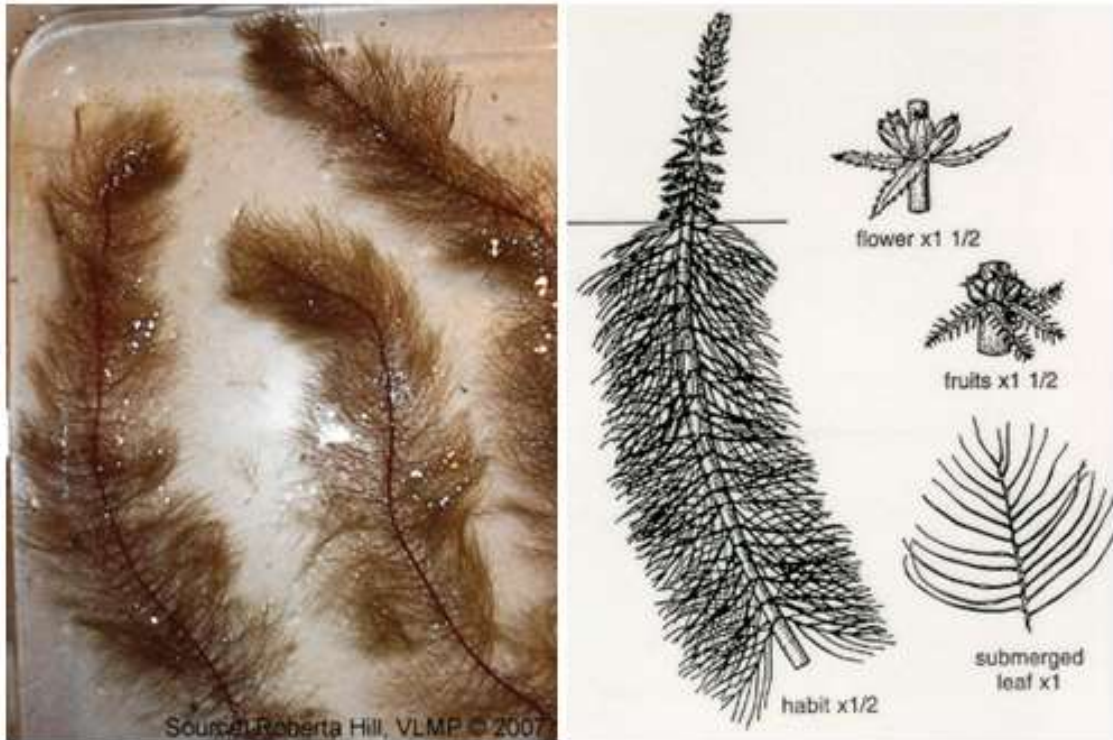
**Fun fact:** Sassafras oil is still widely used today, and is mostly put in perfume and tea

# Aquatic Vegetation

The most prevalent aquatic plants at DelCarte also happen to be the biggest threat to the health of the area. The ponds are overrun with two particular invasive species- Variable Milfoil and Water Chestnut. The most common native species found is the White Water Lily.



(Invasive) Variable Milfoil, *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*



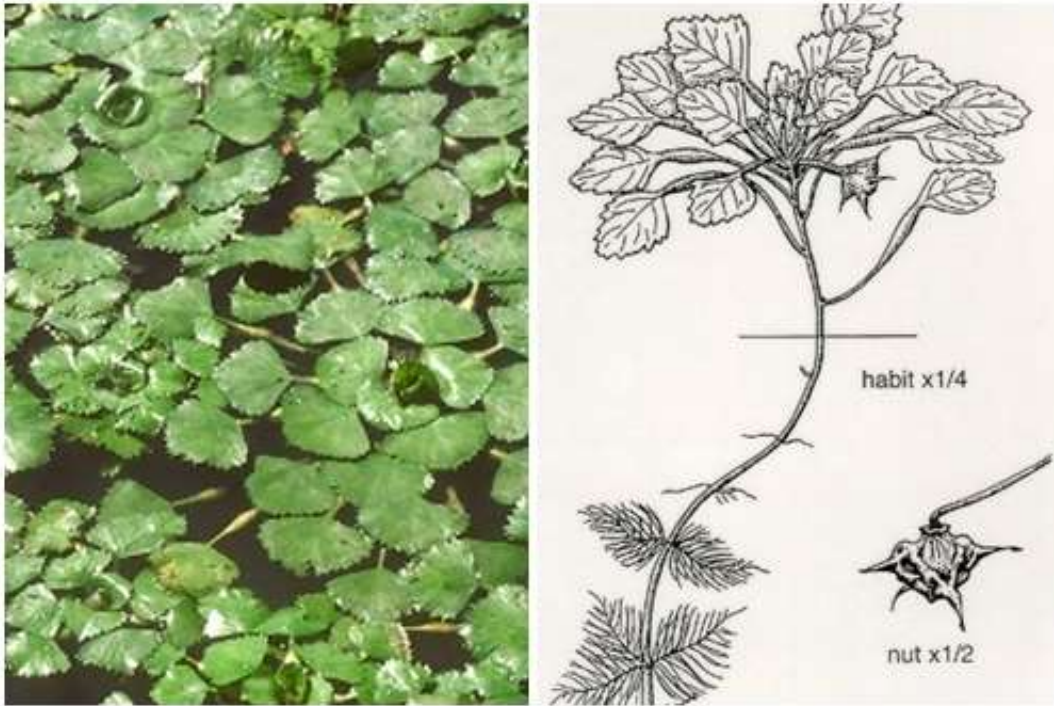
**Identification:** Dense mat rooted in pond bottom; stems with leaves that resemble pipe cleaners or feathers

**Habitat:** Slow moving water; can survive in most conditions; Native in the southern states of the United States, and is spread by animals (mainly birds) and the bottoms of boats; Plagues the eastern United States and west until the Dakotas;

**Issues:** Highly competitive and outcompetes native plants; occupies mass areas; various forms of reproduction to ensure success; decaying mats lower dissolved oxygen levels; hinders recreation such as fishing and canoeing; reduces biodiversity

**Management at DelCorte:** Planned management options to stop the reproduction of the species by killing it with an herbicide.

## (Invasive) Water Chestnut, *Trapa natans*



**Identification:** Triangular green leaves with rigid leaves that form rosettes; upper side of leaves are waxy and shiny; underside of leaves are hairy; small white flowers with four pedels emerge from July to first frost

**Habitat:** Nutrient rich waters; can survive in slow moving waters; native to Asia, Australia, tropical Africa, and the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and is spread by animals and boats and canoes/kayaks; infestations from Vermont to Virginia..

**Issues:** Highly competitive and outcompetes native plants; hinders recreation and aesthetics; reduces biodiversity

**Management at DelCorte:** Water Chestnut can be controlled with herbicides, but long term management involves hand harvesting during the peak reproduction season

## White Water Lily, *Nymphaea odorata*



**Identification:** Green round leaves (pads) connected to flexible rhizomes (stem) are 6-12" in diameter with a slice 1/3 down the middle; flower has white or pinkish pedals with yellow center

**Habitat:** Any shallow pond bottom

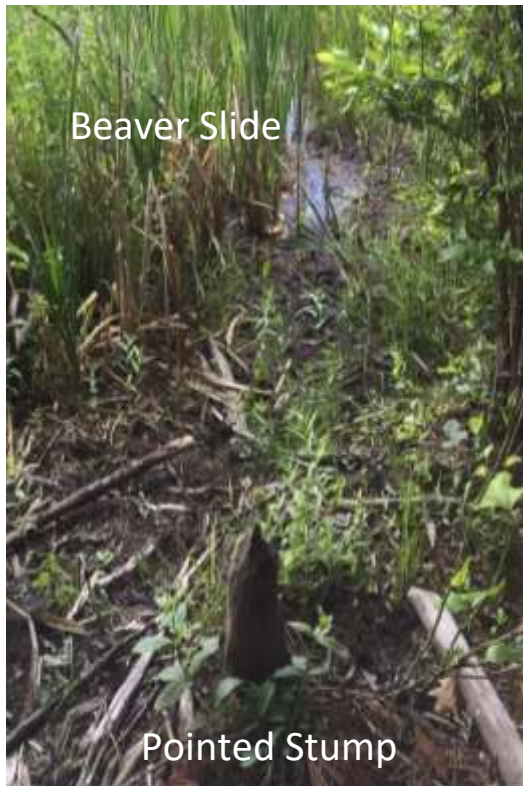
**Human uses:** Aromatic, ornamental

**Wildlife uses:** Micro and macro organisms (bacteria to turtles) attach to species and then are eaten by fish and other aquatic creatures; seeds are eaten by waterfowl; leaves are eaten by deer and muskrats

**Fun fact:** Water Lilies display their flowers during the beginning and middle of the day, but close around 3 P.M. or 4 P.M.

# Mammals

DelCarte acts as a home to various species of mammals. Like most vegetated areas in Franklin, the area has an abundance of the common gray squirrel, white-tailed deer, and chipmunk. Mammals that occupy DelCarte that are not as commonly seen are the North American Beaver, Muskrats, and the American Mink.



Beaver Evidence  
(on site)

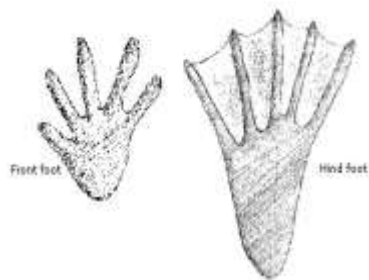


Muskrat



Raccoon

## North American Beaver, *Castor Canadensis*



**Identification:** Large rodent with muscular build and brown pelt; flat, scaly tail

**Habitat:** Slow moving streams or rivers with successional growth trees on banks

**Evidence of species:** Various dens in southern pond; stumps of trees along waterfront eaten to a triangular point; slides for beavers to enter/exit the water can be noticed along the banks

**DelCarte:** Look for dens on the southern pond; look for tree stumps with a point; look for slides along vegetated banks

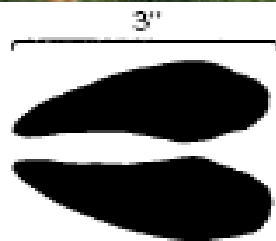
**Diet:** branches and woody debris; fond of maple and cottonwood

**Lodges:** Consists of eating chamber and nesting chamber; underwater entrance to avoid predation; frozen pond acts as barrier for entrance/exit during hibernation

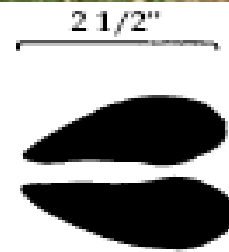
**Tracks:** Front paws have five long fingers while hind paws are bigger and have webbing between fingers

**Fun fact:** Beavers are considered keystone species, meaning that their presence shapes the ecosystem that they inhabit

## White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*



hind foot



front foot

**Identification:** Tan to brown color; stands average 5' tall; large body with long neck and short tail; adult male will have antlers

**Habitat:** Thrives in areas with fragmented forests and heavy vegetation

**DelCorte:** look for deer in the deeper wooded areas

**Diet:** Herbivores; stomachs allow them to eat most plant matter (sticks, buds, leaves, fruits) and some fungi

**Tracks:** Hooves with two distinct pieces roughly 3" in length

**Fun fact:** 'White-tailed' comes from the patch of white on the animal's tail; often seen when tail is flicking when they sense danger is near

## American Mink, *Neovison vison*



**Identification:** Weasel appearance; brown to black fur; long and slender body with a long thick tail; stubby legs; long neck; 13-18 in. in length; 1-3 lbs.

**Habitat:** Lives in areas with forest near bodies of water

**DelCarte:** Look for along the banks of the pond and wooded paths near banks; can also be seen swimming and climbing trees

**Diet:** Carnivore; eats whatever it can catch by biting prey's neck (muskrats, fish, birds, mice, chipmunks, frogs, snakes)

**Tracks:** 1" in length; 1 pad and 5 fingers with claws

**Fun Fact:** American Minks purr like cats when pleased

# Birds

DelCarte houses a wide array of birds, including common species such as Blue Jays, Catbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles and Black-capped Chickadees. Waterfowl in the area consist of Canadian Geese, Mute Swans, Great Blue Herons, and Mallards. There are also various birds of prey, including Ospreys, Red-tailed Hawks, and Turkey Vultures.



Great Blue Heron wading  
in cattails  
(on site)

## Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*



**Identification:** Large raptor; brown and mostly white, distinctive brown streak near eye; kink in wing-shape to form an ‘M’; female is slightly larger than the male; wing span 60-70 in.

**Habitat:** Near water with food source (fish); open areas for nesting; summer breeding spanning across Canada, migrates over United States, winter non-breeding across most of South America

**DelCorte:** Look for this bird fishing on the northern pond

**Diet:** Mainly live fish; sometimes small mammals or birds

**Fun fact:** Ospreys are considered one of the best anglers in the world

## Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*



**Identification:** Tall slender bird; bluish white color; black streak above eye; long legs; sinuous neck, dagger-like bill; resembles a pterodactyl when in flight

**Habitat:** Shallow bodies of water or coastlines; found year round across entire United States; some individuals migrate, summer breeding in southern Canada, winter non-breeding in northern South American countries

**DelCorte:** Look for this bird among the tall grasses on the shore of either pond

**Diet:** Fish and other small creatures in water, such as frogs; fishes by standing like a statue in water and moving very slowly until attacking lightning fast, which is called wading

**Fun fact:** Despite their comparatively massive size, Great Blue Herons only weigh 5-6 pounds

## Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*



**Identification:** Male has vibrant orange belly with black head and black wings with one white bar; female has yellow-orange belly with black head and black wings with two white bars

**Habitat:** Deciduous forests, but not deep forests; prefers edge of tree line; spends most time in canopy; Eastern United States for summer breeding, South America for winter non-breeding

**DelCarte:** Look for this bird near the playground and at the back end of the southern pond

**Diet:** Insects such as caterpillars and grasshoppers; fruit such as raspberry and mulberry; nectar

**Fun fact:** Baltimore Orioles are picky eaters in regards to fruit and only pluck the darkest and ripest fruits

## Red-Winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*



**Identification:** Male has a glossy black body with red-and-yellow shoulder patches; female is brown and streaky

**Habitat:** Occupies wetlands and fields; often seen on cattails and phragmites; spends fall and winter in agricultural fields

**DelCorte:** Look for near tall grasses; very abundant; distinctive call you can learn by watching

**Diet:** Mostly insects in summer, seeds and grains like corn and wheat in winter

**Fun fact:** Male blackbirds are attention seekers and often perch and call on high

# Fish

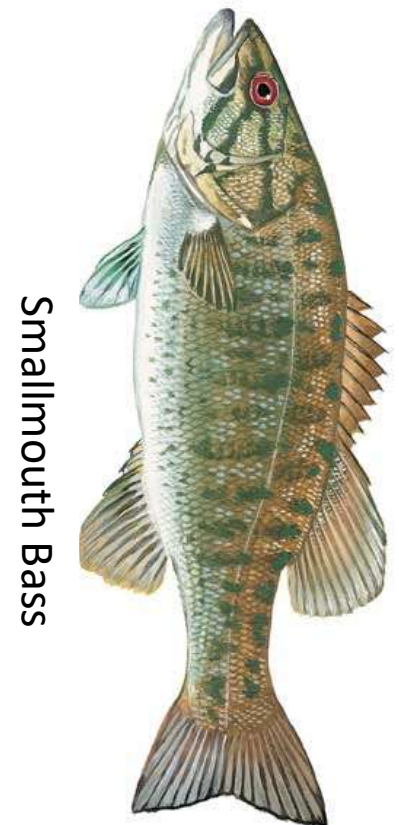
DelCarte fosters various species of fish that are commonly found in ponds and lakes, including species of Sunfish, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Carp, Chain Pickerel, White Perch, and Black and Brown Bullhead Catfish.



Green Sunfish



Catfish Species



Smallmouth Bass

## Bluegill Sunfish, *Lepomis macrochirus*



**Identification:** Greenish olive color with lighter colors closer to stomach; black flap behind ears; spiny fin; typically 4-6" long

**Habitat:** Ponds and quiet bodies of water; native to eastern North America, but introduced all over country; create nests in shallow, sandy sections of water

**DelCorte:** Look for Bluegills along the shallow waters; there are three kinds of sunfish (Green sunfish have bright green markings near mouth, Pumpkinseed sunfish have dots of various colors)

**Diet:** Insects, zooplankton, small fish, worms, and human food such as bread and corn

**Fun fact:** The Bluegill population is so numerous that they can be found in almost every quiet body of water in the United States

## Largemouth Bass, *Micropterus salmoides*



**Identification:** Dark green with distinctive black stripe along the fishes side; averages 18” long

**Habitat:** Clear, warm waters with abundant vegetation

**DelCarte:** Fish for this species where there is vegetation and fallen woody debris; is a top fish predator that controls populations of other fish species

**Diet:** Mostly smaller fish; sometimes eats insects and frogs

**Fun fact:** Largemouth bass are popular game fish because they fight and are smart enough to learn lures

**(Invasive)** Common Carp, *Cyprinus carpio*



**Identification:** Light brown color; two loarbels (whiskers) from mouth; forked tail; large, thick scales; can grow up to 4'

**Habitat:** Turbid ponds and slow-moving streams

**DelCarte:** Uncommon sighting; look for around less clear areas of pond

**Diet:** Bottom feeders; eats mollusks, seeds, insect larva, mud

**Fun fact:** Common carp were introduced to North America from Central Asia as a food source and game fish

# Reptiles

DelCorte is home to various types of snakes and turtles. Snakes species include Garter Snakes, Northern Water Snakes, and Black Rat Snakes. Turtle species include Painted Turtles, Common Snapping Turtles, and Eastern Musk Turtles.



Garter Snake



Northern Water Snake  
eating Sunfish (on site)

## Northern Water Snake, *Nerodia sipedon*



**Identification:** Can be a variety of colors, mainly brown, gray, reddish, or brownish-black; dark crossbands on neck and dark blotches on the rest of body

**Habitat:** Anywhere there is fresh water

**DelCarte:** Look for near the shallower sections of the southern pond; can be seen sunbathing on stumps or rocks

**Diet:** Small fish, birds, small mammals, frogs, worms, leeches, salamanders, young turtles

**Fun fact:** The Northern Water Snake gets darker in color with age

## Painted Turtle, *Chrysemys picta picta*



**Identification:** Smooth black shell; yellowish-red markings on shell; yellow underbelly

**Habitat:** Lakes, ponds, marshes, slow-moving streams; prefer bodies of water with logs or vegetation to bask in sun

**DelCarte:** Seen basking on logs and rocks; also look for individuals swimming in the water

**Diet:** Eats vegetation such as duckweed, water lilies, and algae; eats insects, tadpoles, smalls frogs and fish, worms, leeches

**Fun fact:** Painted turtles do not raise their young, instead the babies hatch and fend for themselves

## Common Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentine*



**Identification:** Brown to black shells; shell is bumpy and somewhat pointy; long tail; large head with pointed snout; webbed feet with long claws

**Habitat:** Muddy lakes and ponds; slow-moving rivers

**DelCarte:** Mostly nocturnal; hunts underwater during the day

**Diet:** Aquatic plants, fish, frogs, tadpoles, salamanders, insects, snails, leeches, worms, snakes, small mammals, baby ducks and goslings

**Fun fact:** Common snapping Turtles can live to 40 years old and can reach up to 2 feet in length from head to tail

# Amphibians

The ponds and wet soils in the DelCarte Open Area attract many frogs, newts, and salamanders to the area. Frog species such as the Green Frog and Pickerel Frog can be seen near and in the water, while Wood Frogs can be seen on vegetated paths.



Eastern Newt



Pickerel Frog



Christine Delay Photography

Green Frog  
(on site)

## Green Frog, *Rana clamitans*



**Identification:** Dark green or brownish color; extremely webbed toes with the second toe longer than the rest; pronounced tympanum (the circle behind the eye); 2-4in. length

**Habitat:** Widespread throughout the eastern United States; found in almost all fresh bodies of water and slow-moving streams

**DelCorte:** These frogs can be seen along the banks of the ponds and in small pools; easily frightened

**Diet:** Eats insects, spiders, and other tadpoles

**Fun fact:** Green frogs are also referred to as Bronze frogs

## Wood Frog, *Lithobates sylvaticus*



**Identification:** Varying shades of brown and red; black marking over eye; smaller frog, about 2in. length

**Habitat:** Woodlands and vernal pools

**DelCarte:** Look for this frog species in the more wooded areas and paths

**Diet:** Eats insects, spiders, worms, snails

**Fun fact:** Wood frogs are the only frogs that live in the Arctic Circle

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