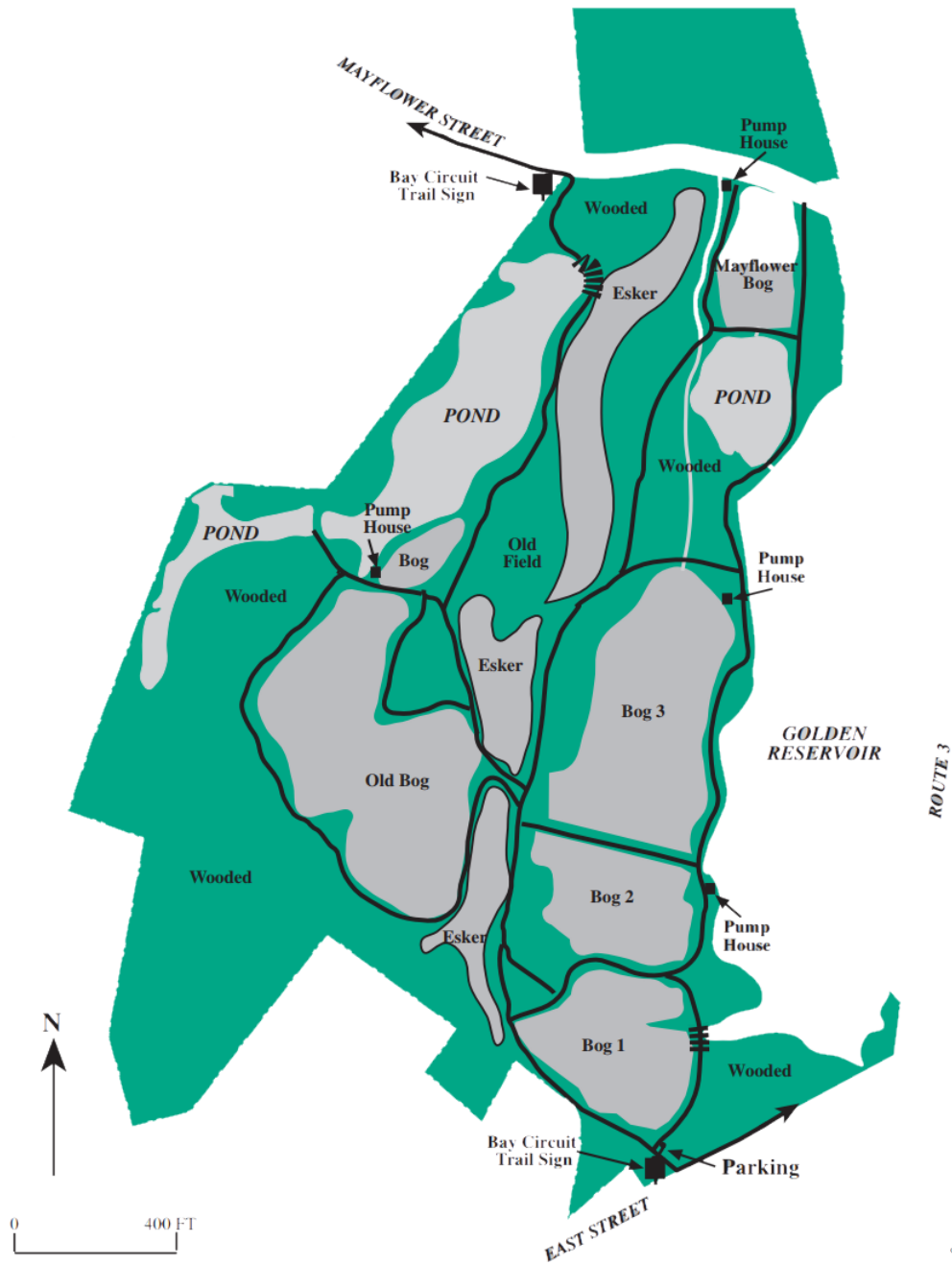


DUXBURY BOGS TRAILS



FLORA AND FAUNA

An Esker—An esker is a long, meandering deposit of finely sorted sand and gravel left by a stream formed on or within a glacier that has since retreated. The finely-sorted sand and gravel are the remnants of the ancient streambed. The trail at Duxbury Bogs follows a textbook example of an esker for three quarters of a mile, crossing it where it has been leveled to provide sand for the bog. Although the esker is interrupted in several places by borrow pits, it is an impressive example of a glacial land form.

The vegetation of Duxbury Bogs is diverse. The alteration of the area due to cranberry production has allowed for a great variety of vegetation. You can think of Duxbury Bogs as having three distinct areas, each with its own unique landscape and populations.

Upland—This relatively dry area near the bog has a forest canopy of eastern pine and red and white oaks. Below them, in the understory, you will find blueberry and arrowwood (viburnum) bushes.)

Transition Area—The area between the upland and the bog hosts a wide variety of wetland vegetation. Plants such as sweet pepperbush, high-bush blueberry, arrowwood, wild raisin, common elder, winterberry, bayberry, and staghorn sumac grow here. The trees you are most likely to see are the large tooth and quaking aspen, gray birch, black cherry, sassafras, and black tupelo.

Cranberry Bog—The bog itself is dominated by cranberry plants, members of the heath family.

By far, the most abundant wildlife seen at the Duxbury Bogs are waterfowl. There are many migratory birds passing through that use the reservoirs as a place to rest and eat. With luck, you may spot a great blue heron. You are more likely to see mallard, bufflehead, wood ducks (notice the wood duck boxes as you pass Golden Reservoir on Route 3), Canada geese, or a pair of mute swan. Keep a lookout for the more elusive animal residents such as snapping turtles, red fox, white-tailed deer, coyote, raccoon, skunk, mink, otter, and opossum.