

Current Stewardship

Recent land stewardship activities at Mandell Hill include reclaiming 15 acres of overgrown pasture that links with existing fields. The fields are leased to a local farmer producing grass-fed beef for regional markets. The grazing practices on all these fields are modified to facilitate successful breeding by grassland breeding bird species, such as bobolink and meadowlark. Populations of invasive plants, such as Asiatic bittersweet and multiflora rose, were also controlled in areas reclaimed to pasture. These species are aggressive in their colonization and dominance of an area creating conditions where mechanical and chemical controls are required to promote native plants.



Conserving the land, Preserving our heritage

The East Quabbin Land Trust works to foster the sustainable use of our natural resources for the benefit of all generations through the conservation and stewardship of the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the east Quabbin region of Massachusetts. By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups and other land trusts, the East Quabbin Land Trust has protected over 2,000 acres since 1994. It is the ultimate goal of the East Quabbin Land Trust to be a driving force in creating a local community that is compatible with its natural environment, economically viable, and preserves its quality of life for generations to come.

Directions to Mandell Hill

From Rt. 32A to Hardwick Center, Turn on to Barre Road, for 1.2 miles, Turn right into the parking area opposite Ridge Road.

From Rt. 32 in Old Furnace (Silver Bridge) turn up the hill on to Barre Road, Turn left into the parking area opposite Ridge Road.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Mandell Hill

Donated by Harry A. & Betty Mixter Morss



Painting compliments of Frank Bly

A Property of the

East Quabbin
LAND TRUST



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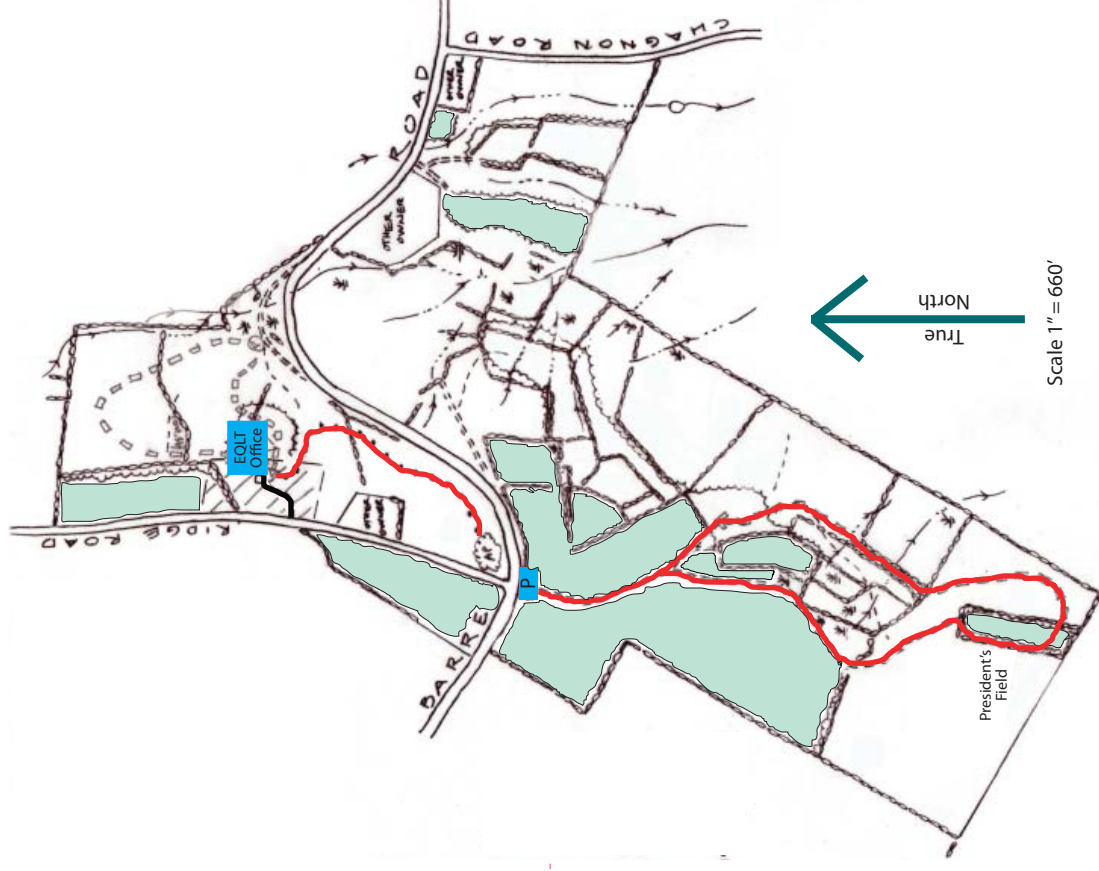
The Land

Mandell Hill is a 200-acre farm overlooking the Ware River valley on Ruggles Ridge to the east of Hardwick center. Historically, the fields were pasture or produced hay and corn. The woods are largely mixed hardwoods of modest age, 80 to 120 years old, and occupy the steepest and rockiest portions of the property. An abandoned apple orchard on Barre Road, with approximately 40 trees, provides food and cover for wildlife. Other important features on the property are various farm-oriented historical sites, viewscapes, and the Mors house at 120 Ridge Road.

Recent History

In the 1970's Henry A. and Elisabeth (Betty) Mixer Mors built a house on the property at 120 Ridge Road, which currently serves as the headquarters of the East Quabbin Land Trust. Conservation of the agricultural landscape meant a lot to Mrs. Mors because of her youth spent in Hardwick and their eventually retiring to the land. Through her will, Mrs. Mors ensured that her home and Mandell Hill would remain permanently conserved in perpetuity. In 2003, Mrs. Mors' executors worked with the East Quabbin Land Trust and the Trustees of Reservations to place a conservation restriction on the property and subsequently transferred the house and land to the East Quabbin Land Trust. In addition, a \$500,000 endowment was given to ensure that the building and property could be maintained into the future.

Explore



General Comments

The Mandell Hill property is a beautiful landscape that the public is encouraged to utilize, but do keep in mind that this is a working farm property, and that the ecological management is ongoing. There will be times when there is machinery about, and you may also witness areas of land clearing. This work is always according to a strict, long-term management plan in pursuit of the East Quabbin Land Trust's mission of fostering the sustainable use of the natural resources for the benefit of all generations. At times gates may block trails as cattle are being pastured in rotation. Gates on trails are meant to be passed through, but ALWAYS close the gates behind you immediately. Dog walking is discouraged because of potential conflicts with cattle, the electric fencing and the promotion of ground-nesting birds.



Non motorized recreation only please