

Basket Swamp, formerly known as Sandywoods, is a 96 acre forest purchased in July 2009 from Dr. Joseph Bossom and Mika Seeger. The property follows the stream corridor of Adamsville Brook, a principal tributary of the West Branch of the Westport River.

A map of Tiverton from the 1850's designates this area as Basket Swamp. It is likely so named because the wetland supplied black ash trees, *Fraxinus nigra*, a tree that was once plentiful throughout the Northeastern US, but is now scarce. This tree was also called basket ash because it was a prime source for Native American basket making. The wood would be soaked, then pounded with wood mallets to separate it into thin layers which could then be cut into strips for basket weaving. Native Americans and artisans still create beautiful baskets in this tradition.

Native American basket makers include the Mohawk, Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga, Oneida, Tuscarora, Penobscot, Micmac, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, Anishinabe, and the Abenaki. Organizations such as the Akwesasne Museum and the Maine Indian Basket Alliance have contributed greatly to the preservation of basket making.

An Anishinabe legend tells of a dream of Black Elk, with instructions he received for his people to burn his body and

spread the ashes in a place where a special tree grows that will provide for their families by making and trading baskets. The Passamaquoddy creation legend relates the ties of that nation to Black Ash, as they came out of the ash tree bark. Efforts are on-going to re-introduce the black ash in Basket Swamp.

The Tiverton Land Trust takes pride in preserving these 96 acres for your enjoyment. Hike slowly and use all of your senses. If you would like to be part of the preservation efforts please visit our website or write us.

Preservation of this land was made possible with funding from the RI Dept of Environmental Management, the Nature Conservancy of RI, the Bafflin Foundation, and by contributions from people like you.

*For free trail maps for places across Rhode Island visit:
www.ExploreRI.org*



Funding for the printing of this brochure was provided by a grant from the RIDEM - RIDOT Recreational Trails Program.

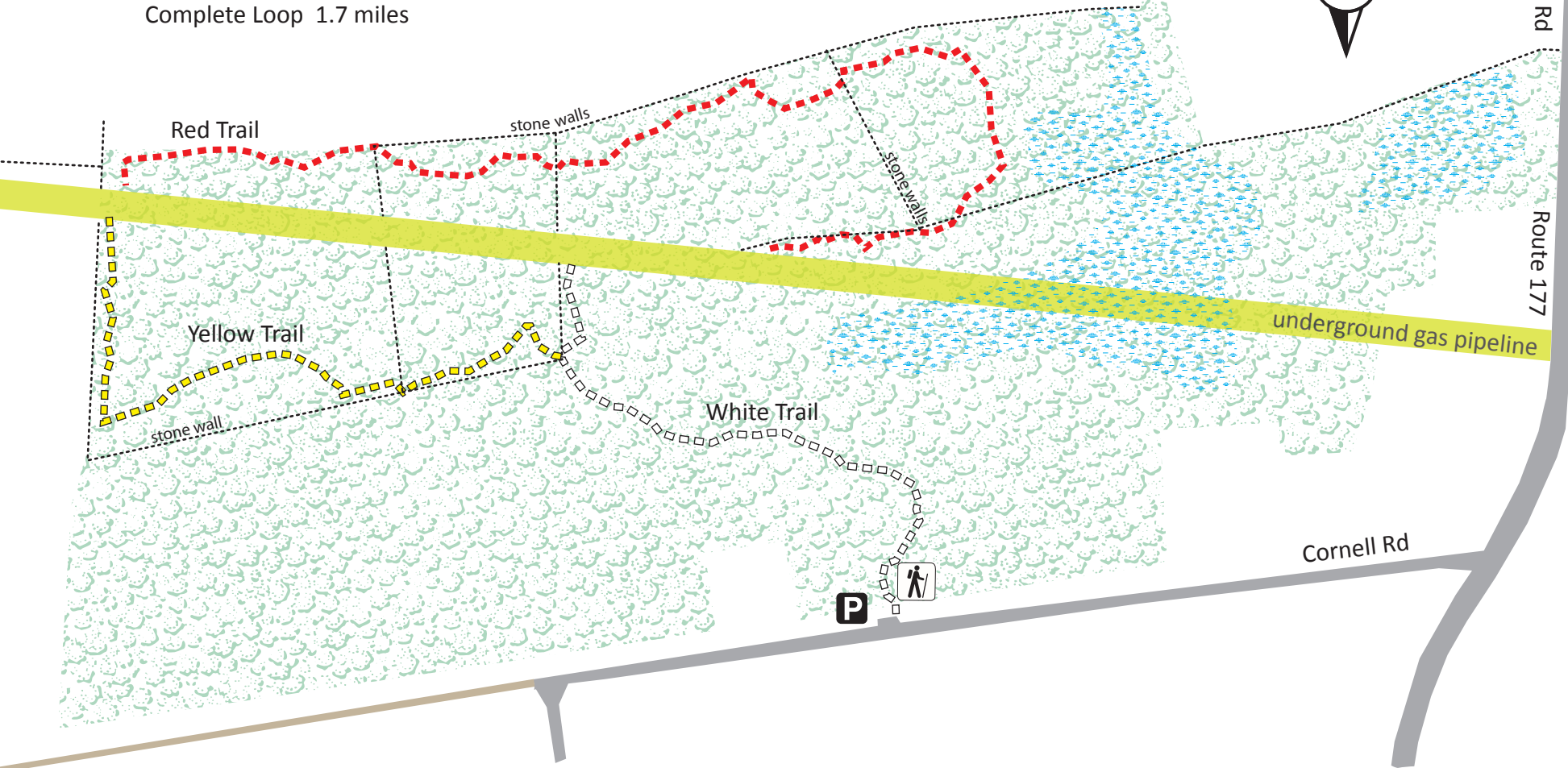
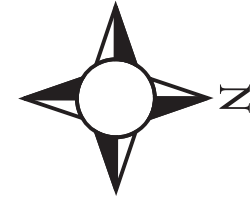
Basket Swamp Preserve



Tiverton Land Trust
PO Box 167
Tiverton RI 02878

TivertonLandTrust.org

White Trail 0.3 miles
Red Trail 0.6 miles
Yellow Trail 0.4 miles
Complete Loop 1.7 miles



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Trail map produced
with assistance from the
RI Land Trust Council
July 2015