

Besse Bog

Acres: 29

Trail Length: .75 mi

Land Features

The full extent of the parcel was obtained in 1997 through Town purchase and donations. The land was set aside for habitat protection and trail recreation. The area has two main types of plant habitat: mixed forest and freshwater wetlands, which developed in an abandoned cranberry bog. On the parcel you can walk the trails, see the abandoned cranberry bog, and look for native wildlife including deer, red fox, spotted salamanders, and wood frogs. Also along this trail, one can find the elusive Lady Slipper flower, and Indian Pipe flowers (a white, herbaceous perennial plant lacking chlorophyll, obtaining energy from fungus in the soil associated with tree roots, see image to right).

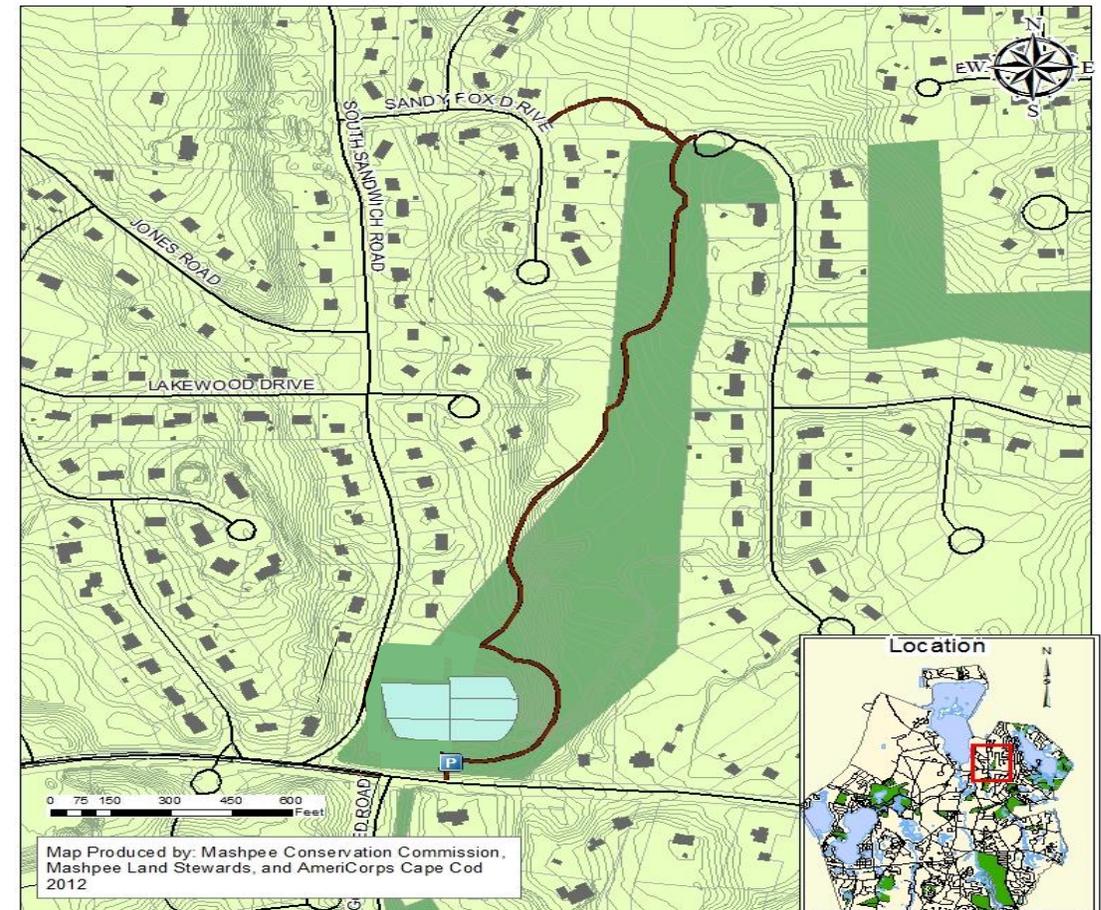
Parking: Located across from 310 Main Street (Rt 130).

Pink lady's-slipper is typically found on acidic soils. It is pollinated by bumblebees that enter the flower through a slit in the labellum, pass under the stigma that removes any pollinium (pollen sac) that may be present on the bee, and then under one of two anthers that attach a pollinium onto the bee. Finally, the bee exits through a small opening in the back of the flower.

Cranberries are one of only three fruits native to North America that are now grown commercially.* You can see Cape Cod cranberry bogs while walking Mashpee conservation trails, including these.



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*Fact from Cape Cod Cranberry Grower's Association and GoBotany!