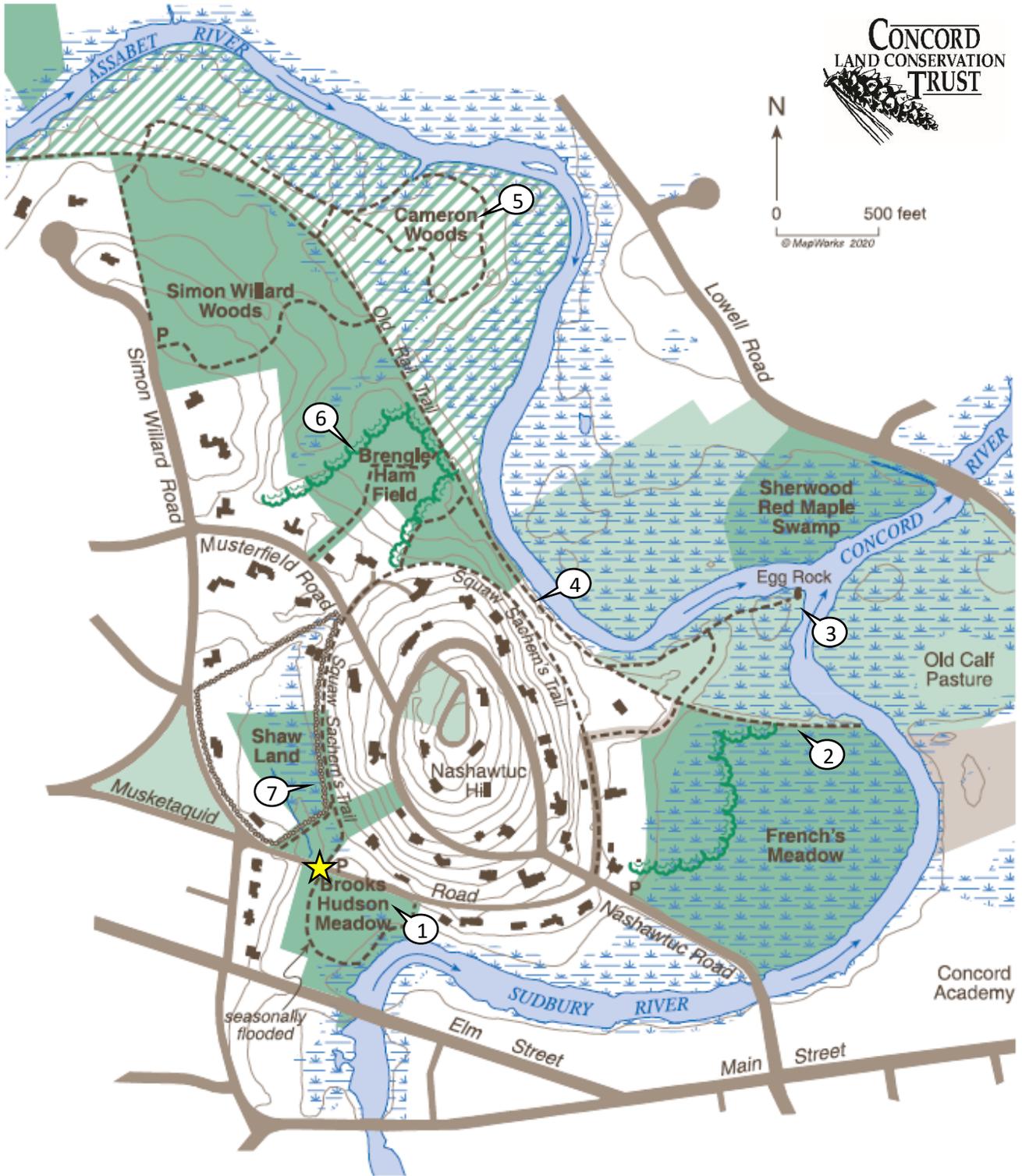


# Riverfest 2020 self-guided walk

## Concord Land Conservation Trust's Nashawtuc Hill



★ Start here! You can park along the south side Musketquid Road at Brooks Hudson Meadow.

🗨 See reverse side for points of interest descriptions.

- 1 The Concord Land Conservation Trust's (CLCT's) Brooks-Hudson Meadow has a short loop trail through a wet meadow with a diversity of wildflowers, grasses and insects that enjoy the wet meadow habitat. Occasionally Canada geese can be seen at the riverbank of the Sudbury River.
- 2 French's Meadow over 29 acres of flood plain that stretches north from the Nashawtuc Bridge. It was a valuable source of fodder for the oxen and other livestock of early European settlers. Today, it remains a wet meadow with magnificent white oaks scattered throughout. When flooded, ducks and geese frequent the pools of water. CLCT has released galerucella beetles in French's Meadow in the past to help control the invasive purple loosestrife plants.
- 3 Egg Rock, owned by the Town since 1942, is the point where the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers meet (two rivers having started a bare mile apart at their headwaters!) to form the Concord River. There is a lovely overlook of the river confluence, a significant aspect of the landscape of Concord. This spot has been extolled by several of America's famous authors, and long before that was a center of Native American settlement named Musketaquid. The intrepid hiker can find a commemorative inscription on the eastern side of the point, down near the water line.
- 4 Old Rail Trail comes closest to the Assabet River here, and affords lovely riverine views from the top of the slope. This section of trail was once the Reformatory Branch Rail Bed, connecting Bedford to West Concord, but was abandoned by the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Now the Old Rail Trail is used by walkers and hikers and the forest has regrown to a more natural state.
- 5 Taking the trail down to the short loop in Cameron Woods, you will venture into a floodplain forest that is seasonally flooded by the Assabet River. It differs from French's Meadow and Brooks-Hudson Meadow because it is forested; the mature oaks and pines are clues to its longtime management as a woodlot. This property is privately owned but protected through a conservation restriction held by CLCT. Here, you will find plant species indicative of a floodplain forest such as several fern species and red maples, with vernal pools dotted about.
- 6 The grass-dominant nature of CLCT's Brengle Ham field indicates that it is an old hay field. It probably supports tree swallows and bluebirds, along with monarch butterflies with the presence of milkweed plants. The rotational mowing regime allows native bees to overwinter in the stalks of grasses and milkweed plants of un-mowed sections.
- 7 Shaw Land has a historic and unique stone wall; note that the top dressing stones stand vertically, while most stone walls in the area have horizontal capstones. This type of stone masonry can also be seen in the Cotswolds area of England, and perhaps the masons who build this wall came from that region.

*Other areas to explore around Nashawtuc Hill not included in this self-guided walk are Simon Willard Woods and Squaw Sachem Trail. To learn and explore more, visit our website at [www.concordland.org](http://www.concordland.org)*