

The Town of Wilton acquired Cherry Lane Park in September of 1972. The Town Plan of Development of 1963 recommended the property for Town acquisition.

However, the family owning the property, initially were not interested in selling the parcel. Fortunately for the Town, they decided to perpetuate the open space quality of the land and the Town was eventually able to purchase the property.

**A**mong the features of the parcel making it desirable open space are a fine stand of conifers, a pond, stream and a large wetland area. These amenities lend themselves well to passive recreational pursuits such as hiking, nature study, birdwatching

Veering in a northeast direction, the trail passes through a clump of spruces and firs before entering a hardwood forest. At this point, it descends a slope and crosses the stream that feeds the pond. The terrain rises rapidly from the stream and heads eastward toward the park boundary.

Many different tree species can be observed along the trails. As the elevation increases, changes in vegetation occur. Red maple, beech and black birch are abundant at lower elevations and mid-slope areas. Yellow birch, tulip poplar and basswood are others to look for. Lowbush blueberry and huckleberry found in the shrub layer prevail at higher elevations in the northeast portion of the park. Along the hilltops and even drier sites, shagbark hickory, pignut hickory, and red, black and white oak dominate.

When the trail reaches a crest and begins to descend, it joins the hill loop trail, which follows roughly a circle around the ridge top. During winter and early spring, along the western portion of the hill loop trail, are pristine views of the pond. The hill loop trail passes by rock outcrops and continues through a grove of beech trees. At the southern end of the combined orange and white trail, the orange perimeter loop continues through a mixed hardwood stand and crosses two intermittent streams below the outfall of the pond.

The trails at Cherry Lane Park are excellent for hiking; however, they are not suitable for either horseback riding or cross country skiing, and picnicking. The property also supports a sizable red maple swamp, which performs many valuable functions such as absorption of water during floods, maintenance of stream flow and provision of wildlife habitat.

There are several trails in Cherry Lane Park. The perimeter loop marked with orange blazes will lead visitors around the park, excluding the southernmost portion which contains a large swamp traversed via the red trail. This red trail loops around the swamp and proceeds upland through a fine stand of evergreens before descending to meet up again with the perimeter loop trail. The blue-blazed trail follows the margins of the pond and provides a very pleasant walk for visitors with limited time. The hill loop, marked with white blazes, passes by the pond before circling the ridge top.

The pond is Cherry Lane Park's most dramatic feature. Ducks are almost always present on the pond. From the pond's shores, many forms of pond life can be observed. It is a tranquil place and lovely during all seasons of the year.

The orange perimeter loop trail passes through several different plant associations. Following the trail north from the parking lot, one passes through a planted stand of white pine trees. Even-aged, approximately 60 years old, this pine grove makes the area a cool and quiet place in the summer. Lack of sunlight causes few plants to grow underneath the trees, therefore a soft bed of pine needles cushion one's step. Owls have been observed in the pine grove and may even nest there.

## Directions:

From the junction of Routes 7 and 106, follow Rte. 106 east for 1 mile to Cherry Lane. Turn right (south) on to Cherry Lane; park entrance is 0.3 miles on the left (east side of the road).

## Acreage:

50.557

## Parking:

Lot at Cherry Lane entrance

## Access:

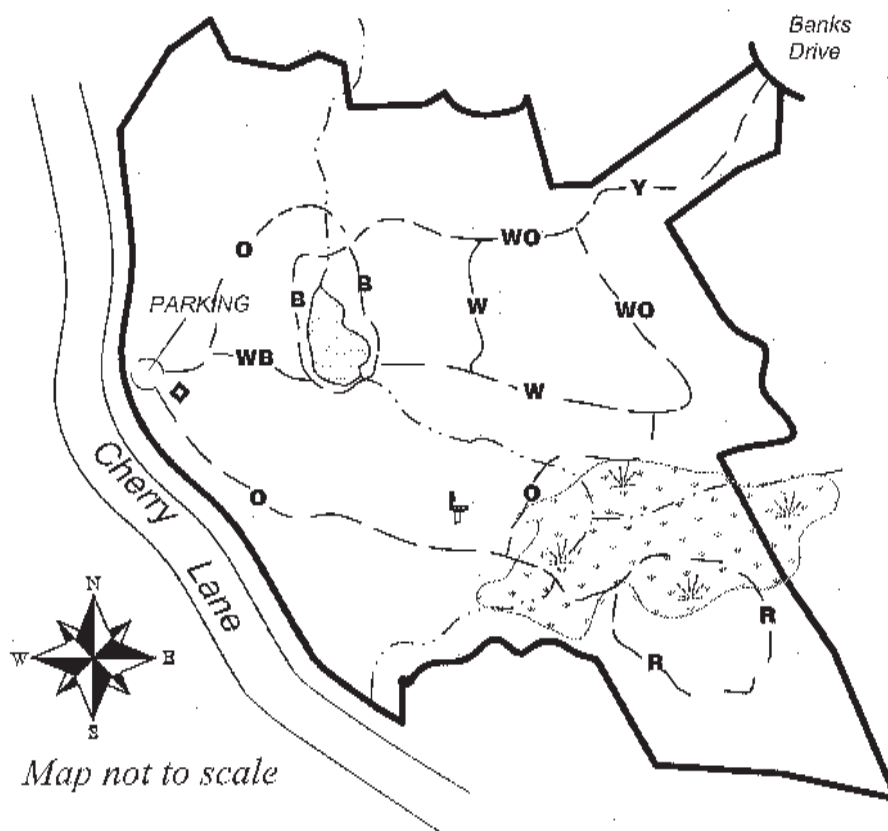
Cherry Lane and Banks Drive

## Trails:

Perimeter Loop	0.84 miles	orange
Pond Edge	0.25 miles	blue
Hill Loop	0.45 miles	white
Swamp Loop	0.25 miles	yellow

## Ownership:

Town of Wilton



## LEGEND

**B** Blue Trail  
**R** Red Trail  
**O** Orange Trail  
**W** White Trail  
**Y** Yellow Trail  
**WB** White-Blue Link  
**WO** White-Orange Link

Stream  
 Pond  
 Wetland  
 Kiosk