

This trail and the land it traverses are a neighborhood treasure in South Wellfleet. In addition to providing convenient access to woodland with quiet and seasonal pleasures, it allows visitors to see a long established Wellfleet neighborhood, explore the woodlands adjacent to the National Seashore Park, and, even, to access trails through the Park to Duck Pond or the coastal Atlantic Beach.

As you approach the trailhead, notice the Clover family's lovely 1830's "three quarters" Cape house on your right (private). Prior to the Clovers arrival in 1969, the land had been owned by many recognizable Wellfleet families such as Holbrook, Newcomb and Bell.

If you have only a short time in the woods, follow the arrows until you come to the scar of the southern fork of the old Bell Rd. By turning right, you will soon be back on Old County Rd. just down the road from the parking area. If you have more time, head left at the old Bell Road and look for the trail that leads uphill to a bench where you can rest for a while, listening to birdsong and watching for other wildlife activity.

An historic, abandoned, and barely perceptible cart path (Bell Road) traverses the 8 acre tract and runs through the Seashore and out to the Atlantic. For a longer hike, follow the main trail to the old railroad bed and power lines. If you are

very adventurous and have lots of time, you can strike out in a number of directions from here. To the north is the Duck Pond area. Following the former rail bed southward will bring you to LeCount Hollow Rd. If you keep going eastward on the Bell Rd., you will connect to a Cape Cod National Seashore trail and, eventually, come out at Ocean View Drive.

In Spring, look for mayflowers, the State flower. Other Spring flowers to appear will be lady slippers, foam flowers, and star flowers. Signs of Fall are Indian pipes and winterberries. On a day of light rain, you might encounter an Eastern box turtle heading over to the sandy soil under the power lines to lay its eggs.

At just about any time of day and in any season, you will find this conservation area a real gem.

Please stay on the trails to protect fragile plants in the area and to respect private properties. Be vigilant about poison ivy and ticks!

Total Length of Trails: 0.4 miles (Many more lie beyond)

Extent: 8 acres leading to the Cape Cod National Seashore.

Special thanks to the Clover family for their generous cooperation as former landowners.

The trails pass over land owned by the Wellfleet Conservation Trust and the Town of Wellfleet.

Prepared by the Wellfleet Conservation Trust and the Wellfleet Open Space Committee

Reprinted: July 2018



WELLFLEET
CONSERVATION
TRUST

The Ralph and Dorothy Clover Conservation Area

Area Description:

The property consists of a healthy pitch pine and oak forest in full canopy, with occasional immature maples. The shrub layer consists of viburnum, bayberry, shadbush, high bush and low bush blueberry and black huckleberry. The understory suggests that while the land may have been cleared (as most of the Cape was by the mid-19th century), it was never plowed. Ground covers include mayflowers, checkerberry (winterberry), Indian pipes and other typical flora of the acidic, nutrient poor, sandy Cape Cod second growth forest.

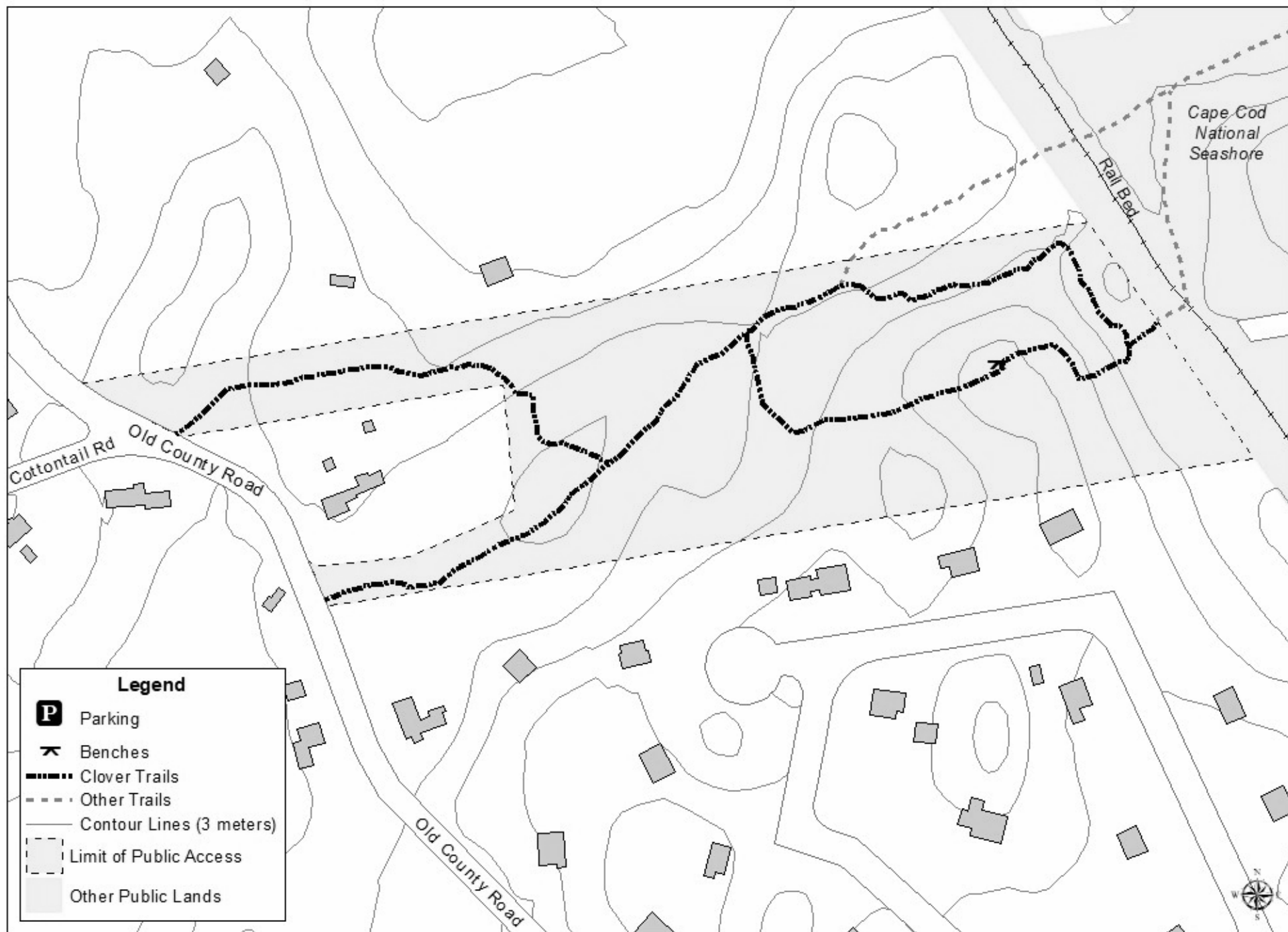
Location:

South Wellfleet, immediately north of 130 Old County Road.

Directions:

From Rte. 6, turn East on either Old County Rd. or Cottontail Rd. The trail is located at the bend where Old County Rd. becomes Old King's Highway, just across the street from Cottontail Rd. Look for the Clover Conservation Land sign and park in the area marked by the split rail fence.

The Ralph & Dorothy Clover Conservation Land and Trails



0 250 500 Feet

Updated March 2021