

The trail begins in an area of dense undergrowth to the left of a fresh water marsh and then winds along the edge of a second fresh water marsh. These marshes are home to many amphibians; in spring you may hear a chorus of peepers, the croak of a bullfrog, or the rubber-band-like twang of green frogs. After the first warm rain of spring, the mole salamanders emerge from their burrows to breed and lay eggs. An “obligate” amphibian, the mole salamander is dependent upon vernal pools for reproduction.

Native plants common to shallow freshwater bogs such as ostrich fern, blueberry, swamp azalea, and red maple are readily observed along the trail. Two antique homes owned by the Walker family are visible from the trail: a mid-1700’s sea captain’s house and a classic Greek revival house built in 1845. Halfway through the trail a high bank can be observed which appears very much like a river bank cut. As you reach the high bank at the end of the hook, you can see a small pond which in spring is surrounded by a vernal pool. There is a bench at the crest providing an opportunity for rest and contemplation.

Walker Pond was probably part of a glacial period stream that flowed from the glaciers in the east and towards Cape Cod Bay. That stream has since been cut off as the Herring River became the dominant stream

flowing east to west, leaving wetlands in its wake.

In spring, a portion of the loop near the end of the trail is usually under water or extremely soggy, use care and take the more elevated portion of the trail when this is the case. The elevated portion of the trail is steep in places so use caution, and plan appropriately with regard to insects considering the wetland nature of this property.

Please stay on the trails to protect fragile plants in the area, to prevent new erosion and to respect neighboring private properties. Like all of Wellfleet, watch for poison ivy and ticks.

Total Length of Trails: 0.6 miles

Extent: 8.3 acres

The trails pass over land owned by the Wellfleet Conservation Trust subject to a conservation restriction held by the Town of Wellfleet.

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

Prepared by the Wellfleet Conservation Trust and the Town of Wellfleet Open Space Committee
Reprinted: July 2018



WELLFLEET
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The Charles and Adelaide Walker Family Conservation Land & Trails

Area Description:

Nestled between the Herring River to the north and upper Pole Dike Creek to the south, this area derives its ecology and conservation value from the wetlands it contains, including a vernal pool. This short hook-shaped trail arcs around the central area freshwater marshes and pond. The entire property is within the bounds of the MA “Priority Habitat for Rare Species” and exhibits considerable wildlife diversity. The vernal pool was certified in 2013 based on the presence of the mole salamander whose egg masses were observed in the outlet ditch south of Walker’s Pond. The wetlands are ringed with red swamp maples which provide a spectacular autumn display.

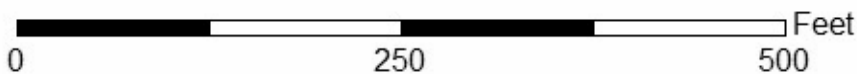
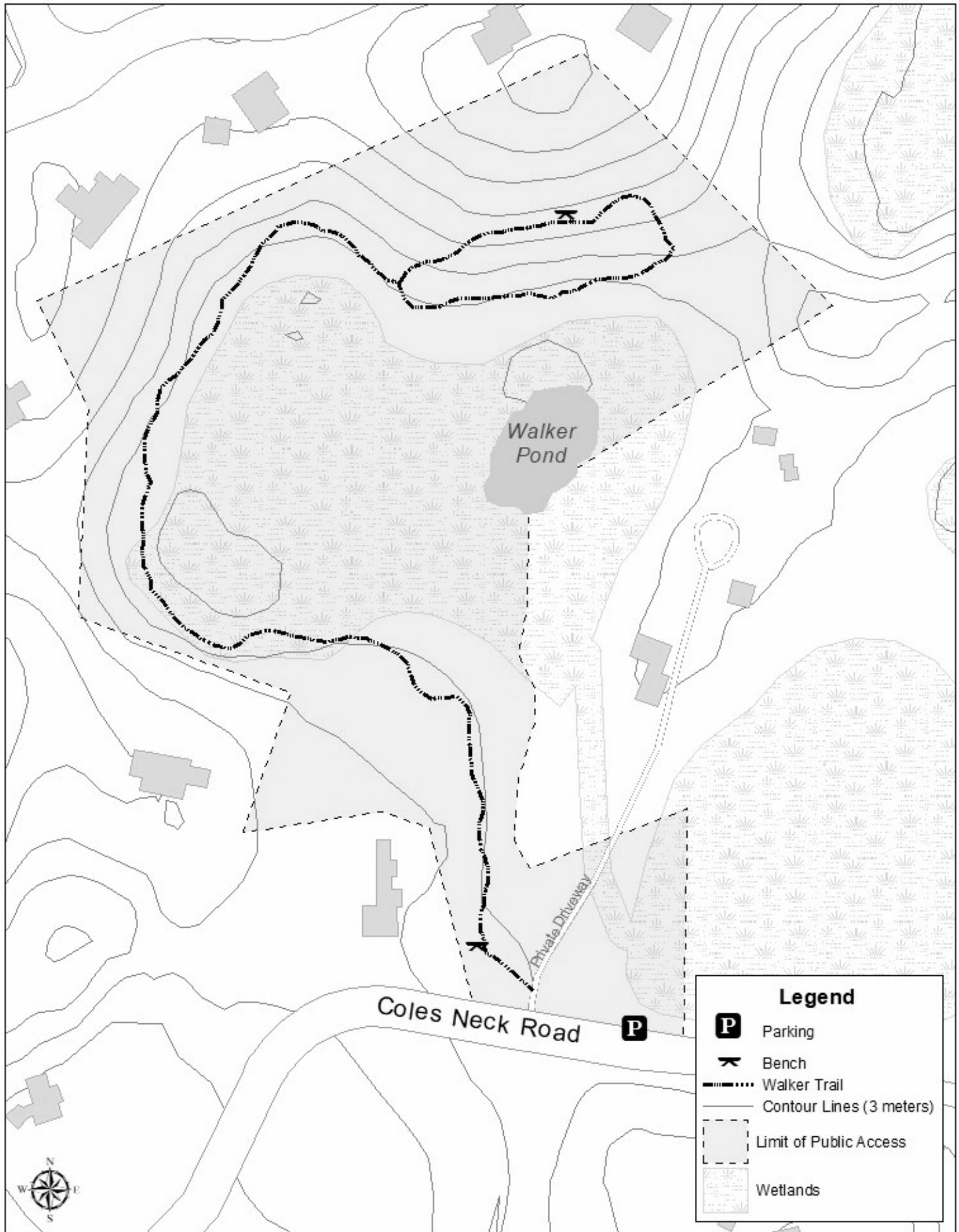
Location:

North Wellfleet, off Coles Neck Road

Directions:

From Route 6: going North, turn left onto Coles Neck Road, bear left at the fork to stay on Coles Neck Road; going South, turn right onto Coles neck Road and bear left at the fork. The trailhead is just within the driveway for 70 Coles Neck Road and to the left. Parking for two vehicles is available on the north side of Coles Neck Road at the storm drain near the yellow “Slow Curve” sign. The trailhead is marked by a large sign and bench.

The Charles & Adelaide Walker Family Conservation Land & Trails



Updated March 2021