

HOVEY'S POND, BOXFORD, MA



The deepest of Boxford's ponds (maximum depth 50 feet), Hovey's Pond has a surface area of 30 acres and is surrounded by farm and conservation properties. Access to the Pond can be gained off of Main Street just north of the Main Street / Route 133 intersection. Look for the black and white "Oreo" cows at Millbrook Fields Farm on your left as to travel North on Main Street. (Yes, the same breed of cows made famous for their 2012 party crashing and beer-guzzling episode in Boxford.) Just past the Farm is a maintained public access road and parking area with an informative kiosk and boat launch site.

Three distinct conservation areas can be accessed from the parking zone, including the Millbrook Farm Conservation Area (11 acres), Hovey's Pond Meadow (8 acres), and the Heron Rookery Trail. Immediately across Main Street are additional trails and sites of historical interest, including the Chadwick Mill and Anvil Farm. Details of these areas and associated historical notes as well as trail maps can be found in the *BTA/BOLT Boxford Trail Guide* (Revised 2012) at pages 153-163 and Maps #19 and #20. This uniquely protected area was further enhanced in November 2013 when the combined efforts of BTA/BOLT, Essex County Greenbelt, The Town of Boxford and private citizens successfully supported the Town's acquisition of the adjacent 46-acre Nason's Farm property, which includes 450 feet of frontage on Hovey's Pond. With more than half of the acquisition cost covered by private donations, the Nason property acquisition is a tribute to the determination of local residents to preserve treasured green space in the Town of Boxford.

The topography surrounding Hovey's Pond is unlike other Boxford great ponds. Its steep banks allow very limited access other than from the parking area off of Main Street. The surrounding farmlands, forests and meadows give Hovey's a more primitive, remote aura. The Pond boasts very clean waters and superior fishing opportunities, although MA Fish and Wildlife do no stocking of this Pond. Largemouth bass reside here together with a robust population of snapping turtles.