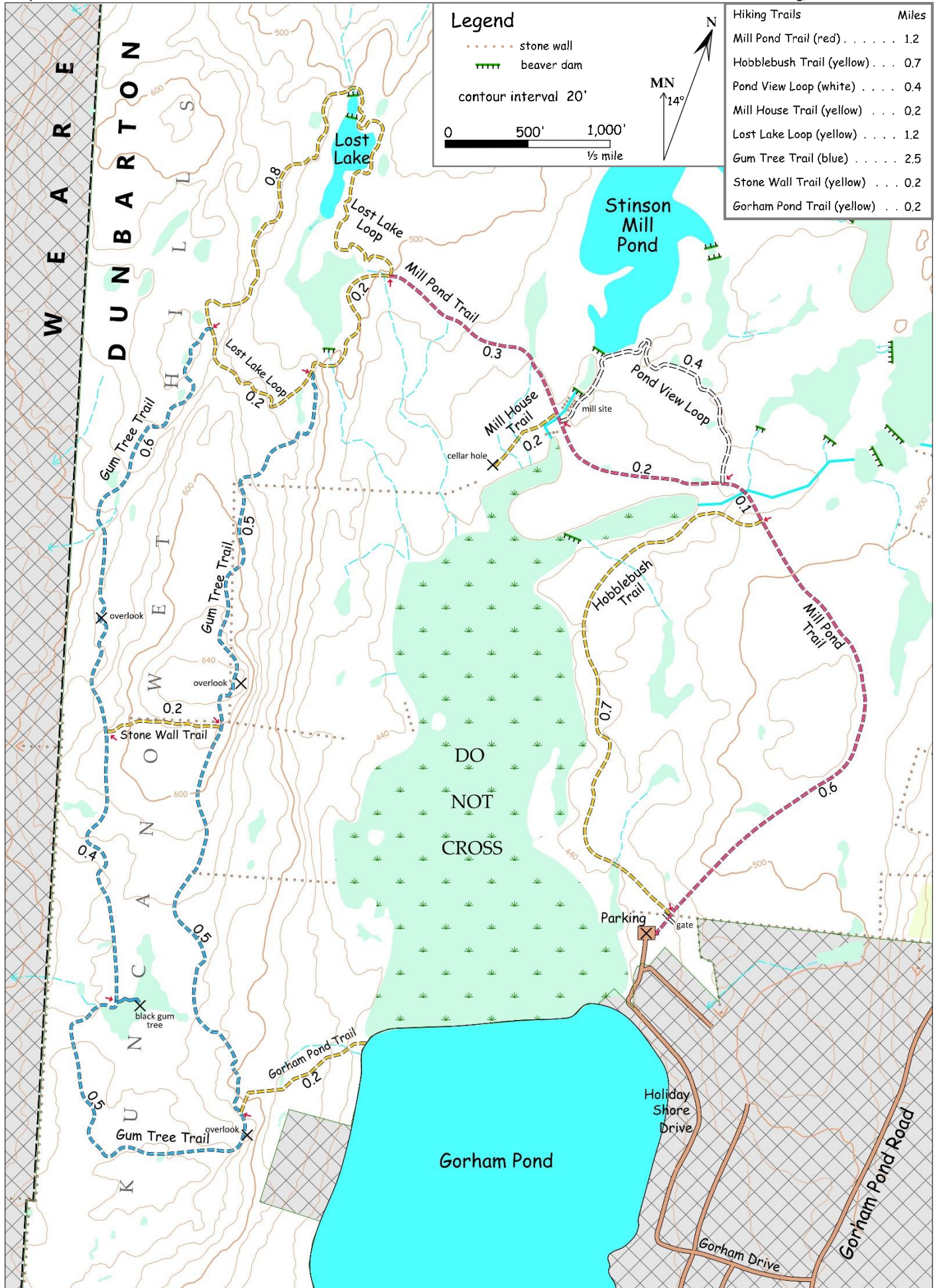


Kuncanowet Town Forest and Conservation Area

July 2022

www.dunbartonconservation.org/kuncanowetforest



KUNCANOWET TOWN FOREST AND CONSERVATION AREA (KTFCA)

The Kuncanowet Town Forest and Conservation Area derives its name from its dominant feature, the Kuncanowet Hills. It is an approximately one thousand acre protected expanse of forest and wetlands which begins south of Gorham Pond and continues north about 2½ miles along the Weare and Dunbarton Town line. It is almost 1½ miles at its widest. A network of hiking trails has been constructed for non-motorized recreation. The varied terrain within the system supports a diverse plant and animal population. Moose, bear, beaver and deer are no strangers to the Kuncanowet.

MILL POND TRAIL (blazed red – 1.3 miles) is an old logging and access road to the mills. It serves as the main trail from which a host of other trails branch. It heads northerly from the trailhead gate and leads past the site of the two Stinson mills, one a shingle mill and the other an up and down saw mill. The mills’ stone foundations can be seen from the footbridge below it. The trail crosses Stinson Brook at the footbridge and ends at Lost Lake Loop.

HOBBLEBUSH TRAIL (blazed yellow – 0.7 miles) Named for the hobblebush that grows there, this trail begins on the left just beyond the gate. It wanders near the Gorham Pond marsh and Stinson Brook, and then rejoins Mill Pond Trail. The hobblebush is named because its reclining branches often root at the tips, which provides a snare to trip, or hobble, an inattentive hiker.

POND VIEW LOOP (blazed white – 0.4 miles) Beginning 0.7 miles from the start of Mill Pond Trail, soon after the brook crossing, the trail leaves right, following an old logging road for about 400 feet, then veers to the left onto a winding wooded trail which leads directly to the Stinson Mill Pond. After a sharp left turn, it follows the pond, then the mill stream until it ends near the bridge on Mill Pond Trail.

MILL HOUSE TRAIL (blazed yellow – 0.2 miles) This short trail leaves the Mill Pond Trail on the left, just after the Stinson Brook footbridge. It briefly borders the brook, then winds through a stand of red pines to a small stone cellar hole which may be the remains of a residence for mill workers.

LOST LAKE LOOP (blazed yellow – 1.2 miles) Lost Lake Loop is a right branch near the end of Mill Pond Trail and provides scenic views of a unique beaver pond with dams at its north and south ends. Rock formations and a variety of altitudes make this one of the most scenic and challenging trails.

GUM TREE TRAIL (blazed blue – 2.5 miles) Gum Tree Trail is accessible from Lost Lake Loop on the north and Gorham Pond Trail on its southeastern corner. The trail is named for the one-time State record black gum tree (a tupelo variety) located on the trail’s southwest side. The trail winds past other large trees as well as two or three spots with limited views.

STONE WALL TRAIL (blazed yellow – 0.2 miles) Stone Wall Trail parallels a stone wall for some of its length and connects the east and west legs of Gum Tree Trail.

GORHAM POND TRAIL (blazed yellow – 0.2 miles) This trail starts near the southeast corner of Gum Tree Trail and winds its way down to Gorham Pond. It is not advisable to try to bushwhack around the north end of the pond from here in an attempt to shortcut to the parking area. The terrain is wet and marshy.

An enjoyable 1.3 mile loop hike starts on the Mill Pond Trail and returns on the Hobblebush Trail, with Hobblebush being the slightly longer of the two but having less elevation change.

Help maintain your trail system by carrying out all trash, removing sticks and other debris from the paths and being careful not to dislodge signage or blazes. Fires and camping are not allowed. Thank you for your continued support.

Trail distances (in miles)	
Mill Pond Trail (red)	1.2
Hobblebush Trail (yellow)	0.7
Pond View Loop (white)	0.4
Mill House Trail (yellow)	0.2
Lost Lake Loop (yellow)	1.2
Gum Tree Trail (blue)	2.5
Stone Wall Trail (yellow)	0.2
Gorham Pond Trail (yellow)	0.2

Combined hikes, starting and ending at Gorham Pond parking lot	
Mill Pond Trail + Hobblebush Trail	1.3
Mill Pond Trail + Pond View Loop	2.0
Mill Pond Trail to Lost Lake viewpoint and return	2.7
Mill Pond Trail + entire Lost Lake Loop	3.6
Mill Pond Trail + Gum Tree Trail with Stone Wall Trail cutoff	4.3
Mill Pond Trail + entire Gum Tree Trail	5.5
“red line” (all trails, one continuous hike, some sections repeated)	7.4