

## RIVULET TRAIL / OLD-GROWTH FOREST POINTS OF INTEREST

*This is a forest that was saved by chance and preserved for eternity by a poet, William Cullen Bryant*

### 1. PIONEER SUCCESSIONAL FOREST

An area once farmed and then abandoned around 1930

### 2. MATURE FOREST

Beech, maple, and hemlock trees dominate pine and birch trees

### 3. OLD-GROWTH FOREST

A forest not significantly disturbed by human actions. Characteristics include a wide spectrum in age distribution of its trees and a high percentage of trees that approach a maximum height for each species.

### 4. PIT AND MOUND TOPOGRAPHY

Undulating forest floor, characteristic of old-growth forests. Mounds result from organic matter accumulating over decaying tree trunks, stumps, and uplifted roots. Pits are cavities left by uplifted roots or empty spaces between fallen trees.

### 5. RIVULET STREAM & SURROUNDING HABITAT

The Rivulet supports a diversity of animals, insects, and plants.

### 6. EASTERN HEMLOCK (*TSUGA CANADENSIS*)

A shade-tolerant tree, characteristic of older forests. This one is about 300 years old.

### 7. WILD BLACK CHERRY

(*PRUNUS SEROTINA*)

This 102.4-foot black cherry is the second tallest of its species known in Massachusetts.

### 8. WHITE ASH

(*FRAXINUS AMERICANA*) White ash requires sunlight to regenerate. It usually does not live beyond 300 years.

### 9. STANDING DEAD TREES OR SNAGS

Snags provide a micro-habitat for fungi, mosses, and lichens, eventually attracting insects that provide food for birds and small mammals.

### 10. HEMLOCK-DOMINATED STAND

Ancient, giant hemlocks create a cathedral effect with an under story.

### 11. AMERICAN BEECH (*FAGUS GRANDIFOLIA*)

A shade tolerant tree retaining its characteristic thin, smooth, gray bark throughout its life and often dominant in mature forests.

### 12. SUGAR MAPLE (*ACER SACCHARUM*)

The maple thrives in shady forest undergrowth but shoots up when the forest canopy opens and allows sunlight to enter.

### 13. YELLOW BIRCH (*BETULA ALLEGHENIENSIS*)

A common member of the northern hardwood forests. Many have reached their maximum life expectancy of 300 years.

**14. OLD GROWTH HARDWOOD AREA**

Sugar maples, yellow birch, and white ash trees that range from 300 to 400 years old.

**15.a. PINE FOREST**

Although not old growth, this area boasts trees of 150 to 175 years old. Two pines in this area are 150 feet, among the tallest in the state.

**15.b. WHITE PINE (*PINUS STROBUS*)**

White pine seedlings outcompete many other tree species seedlings, frequently invading abandoned fields.

**16. IRONWOOD OR HORNBEAM (*OSTRYA VIRGINIANA*)**

A slow-growing, short-lived tree that is shade tolerant as a young seedling but requires increasing sunlight as it ages.

**17. DISTURBANCE AREA**

When trees fall, the forest canopy opens, allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor resulting in a dramatic increase of under story growth among herbaceous plants and small trees.

