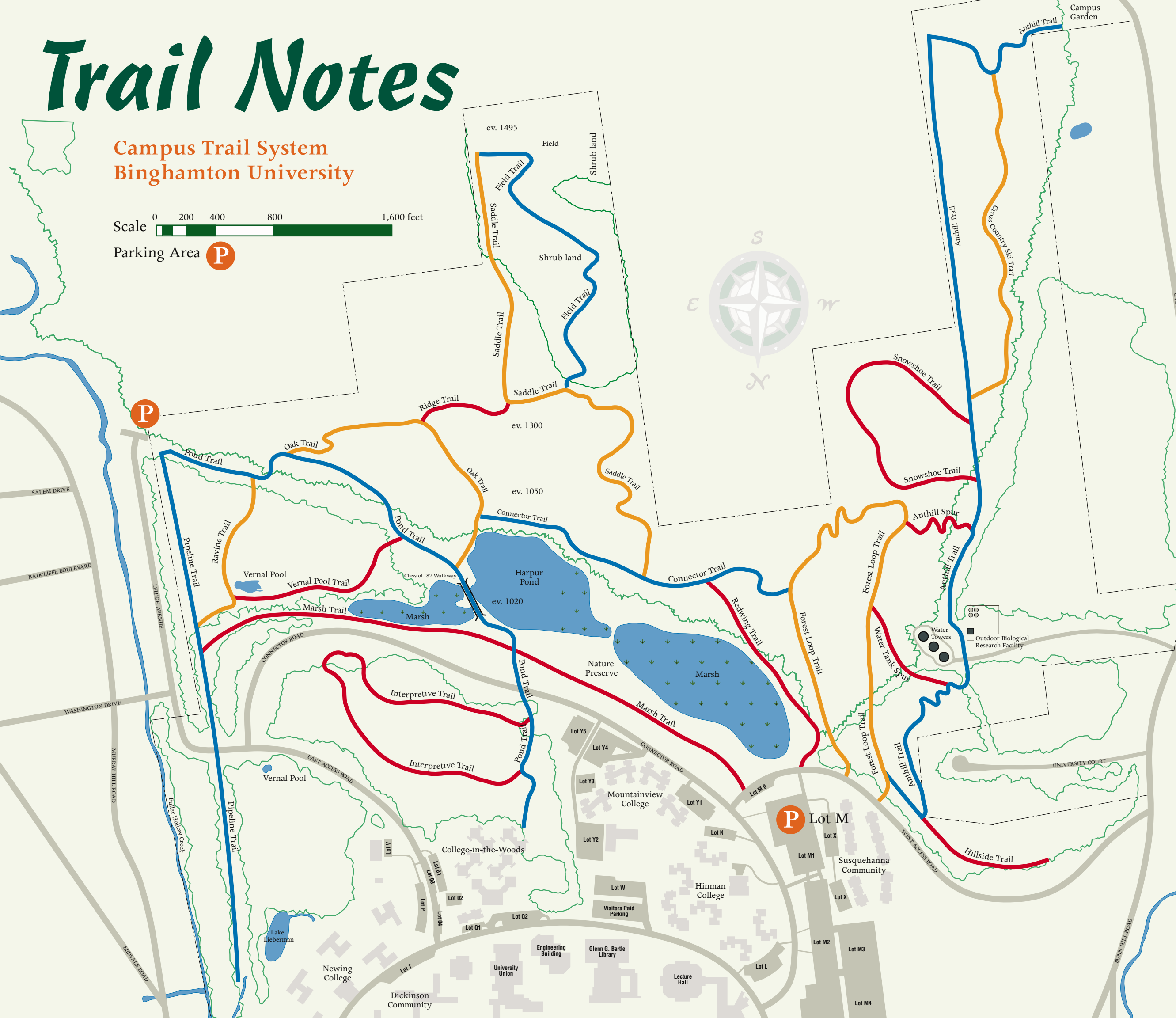


Trail Notes

Campus Trail System Binghamton University

Scale 0 200 400 800 1,600 feet

Parking Area **P**



Anthill Trail (blue) starts along the boundary of the preserve and cuts uphill to an abandoned utility right-of-way that often provides good birding. It passes spectacular anthills designed to face south and maximize solar heating.

Connector Road (gray) offers easy walks, biking or roller-blading. Spring can be dramatic, with dozens of salamanders and frogs leaving the College-in-the-Woods area, heading to the pond to breed. Salamander ramps on the road allow migrating spotted salamanders, which are up to eight inches long, to cross the road unharmed.

Connector Trail (blue) passes through young forest used as pasture until 1937. The many exposed rocks and numerous eroded stream channels attest to overgrazing. White pines, red maple, white ash and black cherry occupy the western part of the trail.

Snowshoe Trail (red) and **Cross-Country Ski Trail (yellow)** are seasonal and not maintained for hiking. Birders come here in the morning, and cross-country skiers enjoy them during winter.

Field Trail (blue) passes through land that was plowed and planted until the 1950s, with some kept for pasture and hay until the 1980s. The shrubs and small trees that have invaded are ideal for wildlife that require temporary habitats. A Friends of the Nature Preserve program maintains this habitat through mowing and selective tree removal.

Forest Loop Trail (yellow) begins and ends near the Susquehanna Community and climbs surrounding hills. It's a favorite place to catch the spring bird migration.

Interpretive Trail (red) is relatively flat, with numbered stations keyed to a printed guide about the area's natural and land-use history. Contact the Department of Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies for the guide.

Marsh Trail (red) is wide, flat and mowed; runs the width of the preserve; and is easy to walk and access from the top of Lot M. Habitat consists of brushy second growth, meadow-like areas and marshes, highlighted by migrating spring warblers, summer insects and fall wildflowers.

Oak Trail (yellow) climbs steeply, showing dramatic change in the vegetation patterns, from beech, maple and ash trees in deeper soils at the base, to oaks at the top, where the soils are thinner.

Pond Trail (blue) starts on the top of the service road behind College-in-the-Woods and crosses the boardwalk, the preserve's centerpiece that hosts beaver dams and a variety of wildlife such as muskrats, basking turtles, snakes, frogs, dragonflies and birds.

Redwing Trail (red) skirts the southwestern edge of the westernmost wetland, with several good vantage points where its namesake, red-winged blackbirds, can usually be seen from March through October.

Saddle Trail (yellow) runs south and uphill from the Connector Trail to arrive at the "saddle" between two hills. After the first switchback, it passes along the east edge of a hemlock-shaded ravine. Owls and porcupines occupy this area.

Vernal Pool Trail (red) passes a large pool which hosts mating wood frogs, spring peepers and spotted salamanders in early spring. Usually temporary, vernal pools last long enough for the young to develop and breed. Always wet and muddy, the trail is not maintained for dry feet.