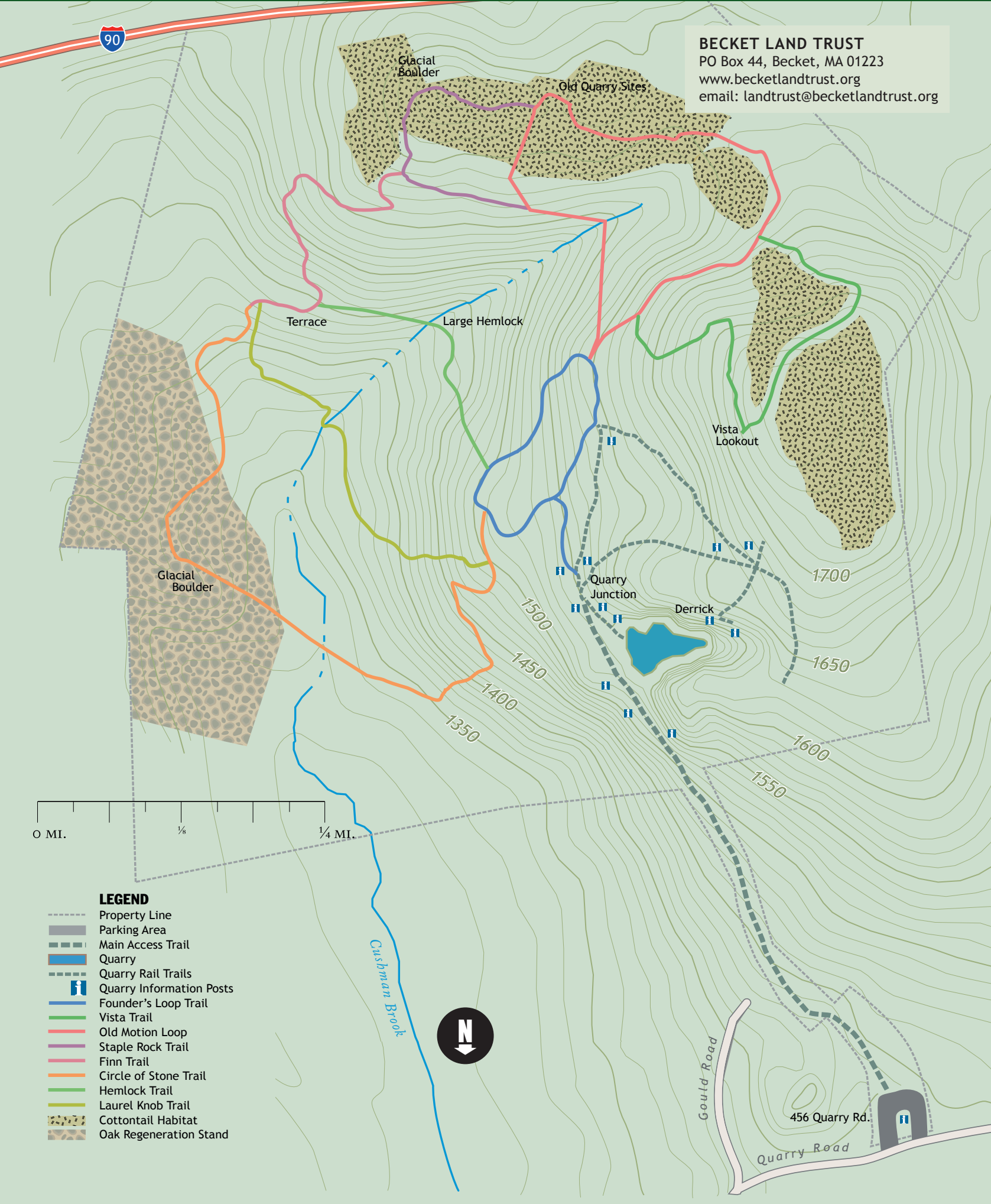




THE BECKET LAND TRUST HISTORIC QUARRY AND FOREST

TRAIL MAP





THE CAMPAIGN TO CONSERVE THE HISTORIC QUARRY AND FOREST

The Becket Land Trust was founded in 1990 by several Becket families. Ten years later, Becket Land Trust purchased the Becket Quarry property when the town's Board of Selectmen assigned their right of first refusal, under Chapter 61, to the trust. For those who were in town then, it was an exciting time for a major land conservation effort. Once again we find ourselves faced with a choice and another wonderful opportunity.

Back in 1999, if not for the Becket Land Trust, the quarry would have been acquired by a company planning to excavate millions of cubic yards of granite for the Big Dig in Boston. This would have been a massive disruption for the tranquil town of Becket.

The Trust was successful in raising over \$300,000 to purchase the quarry. The funding came from a community deeply concerned about having a major industrial operation in town with an estimated 20 loaded tractor trailers an hour rumbling down its rural roads.

The Land Trust opened the quarry to the public and built miles of hiking trails. Then something amazing happened: it became wildly popular as a spot for outdoor recreation. A YouTube sensation, even! And this is to say nothing of its New England Cottontail habitat reserve, and Oak regeneration forestry program.

Over the years since the acquisition, the Trust has received over \$250,000 in State, Federal, and private grants and donations to build the trails and a self-led informative Historic Hike focusing on 14 artifacts; these include a steam powered winch, and a 90-foot tall wood-masted guy derrick. These funds were also used for the two conservation projects, the habitat and forestry program.

In a typical year, the Quarry sees over 6,000 visitors, and this year, due to Covid19, we have had over 15,000 visitors to date. This is a huge challenge.

TO DONATE GO TO:

<https://BecketLandTrust.org>



Special thanks to:
The Trustees of Reservations
Berkshire Natural Resources Council

THE CAMPAIGN: A NEED AND A SOLUTION

In recent years the task of managing the Quarry has overwhelmed the all-volunteer Trust. Happily, there is a great solution. The Trustees of Reservations has agreed to take ownership of the Quarry and will bring 130 years of experience in conservation and managing outdoor recreation properties.

The Trustees of Reservations have the size and budget to properly handle many challenges posed by operating Becket Quarry. They have indicated a willingness to work with the Becket Land Trust to keep the property open to the public, to maintain and improve the recreational areas and manage the wildlife and forestry programs that are in place.

For Becket and the Quarry this is our best case scenario and will only increase the appeal for all to enjoy this significant natural and historic asset.

To enable the transfer, The Trustees of Reservations has requested that the Trust endow the Quarry with a \$200,000 Stewardship Fund. Knowing the challenges posed by owning the Quarry, this is a bargain. However, for the Becket Land Trust, it is still a significant task. A third organization, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, has joined the other two groups to assist with this campaign.

The fundraising started in March 2020 and as of October we received over \$50,000 in donations and pledges. The Trust is reaching out to Berkshire County organizations and residents, including you, who might be willing to help make this critical transition for this beloved property.

Successfully bringing the Trustees of Reservations to the Historic Quarry and Forest will permanently ensure its future as a unique and beautiful feature of the Berkshires.

With your help it can be done!

Let's talk!

Ken Smith, President
Becket Land Trust
info@becketlandtrust.org

Quarry Campaign Committee:

Heather Anello, Ann Morrissey, Don Morrissey, Andrea Nix, Jonathon Nix, Ann Smith, Ken Smith, Chris Swindlehurst