

Town of Bowdoinham Recreational Trail Plan

Phases outlined in the Master Site Plan:

Phase 1:

- General site restoration
- Minimal shore stabilization
- Limited trails
- Hand carry boat parking, access, & racks
- Picnic area
- Car & boat trailer parking
- Access road
- Signage
- Crosswalk/ safety
- Landscape planting
- Connections to rail trail

KELT has put together the following recommendations to assist the Town of Bowdoinham with the **Trails** and **Signage** portion of **Phase 1** of their Master Site Plan.

Trail Improvements and Signage Recommendations:

The very first step in the project will be to improve the trail system that is already in place.

Clear the existing trail. Project duration: one or two people over a couple hours. See **Map 2.**

- Pick up sticks, and brush off other debris (can use the side of a shoe).
- Use a rake if some areas have collected a lot of leaf litter.
- Use hand snips or loppers to cut back branches or small shrubs growing into the trail. Avoid leaving any sharp projections or stumps; branches should be trimmed all the way back to the last branch or trunk, and stumps should be cut as close to the ground as possible.

Define the existing trail. Project duration: two people over a few hours. See **Map 3.**

- Place logs along the side of the trail where it is unclear or curves sharply, like this:



Note: the entire trail should not be lined. Only add definition where it is needed.

- Update faded blazes and add new blazes where they are needed.
 - You will need two small cans of paint, two 2" wide foam brushes, and two paint scrapers. Use the paint scraper to remove lichen or uneven bark. Dip the foam brush in the paint and outline a rectangle (2" wide by 6" tall), then fill in the outline with paint. The blaze should be roughly 5.5-6' from the ground. Each blaze should be visible from the previous blaze. Have one person stand at a blaze and guide the next person to the next location; "leapfrog" down the trail in this manner with two people blazing at the same time. Blaze all the way down the trail, then turn around and blaze all the way back.
- Install boundary signs where the trail approaches private land. Let visitors know that they should respect private landowners and should remain on the town trail.

Improve water crossings. Project duration: three or four people over a few hours. See **Map 4.**

- Finish adding stones to the three stream crossings.
- Decide if the wet areas need bridges. Follow the Bog Bridge Guide.

The next step will be to add signage.

Build a kiosk. Project duration: two or three people over two afternoons. If using concrete, wait 24 hours before standing the kiosk. Standing the kiosk may take three people.

- See Kiosk Guide or Squam Creek Kiosk Design for possible layouts.
- Add signage. Sign ideas: history of the park, rules and guidelines, dog policies, contact info for Bowdoinham Town Recreation, information about ticks, etc.

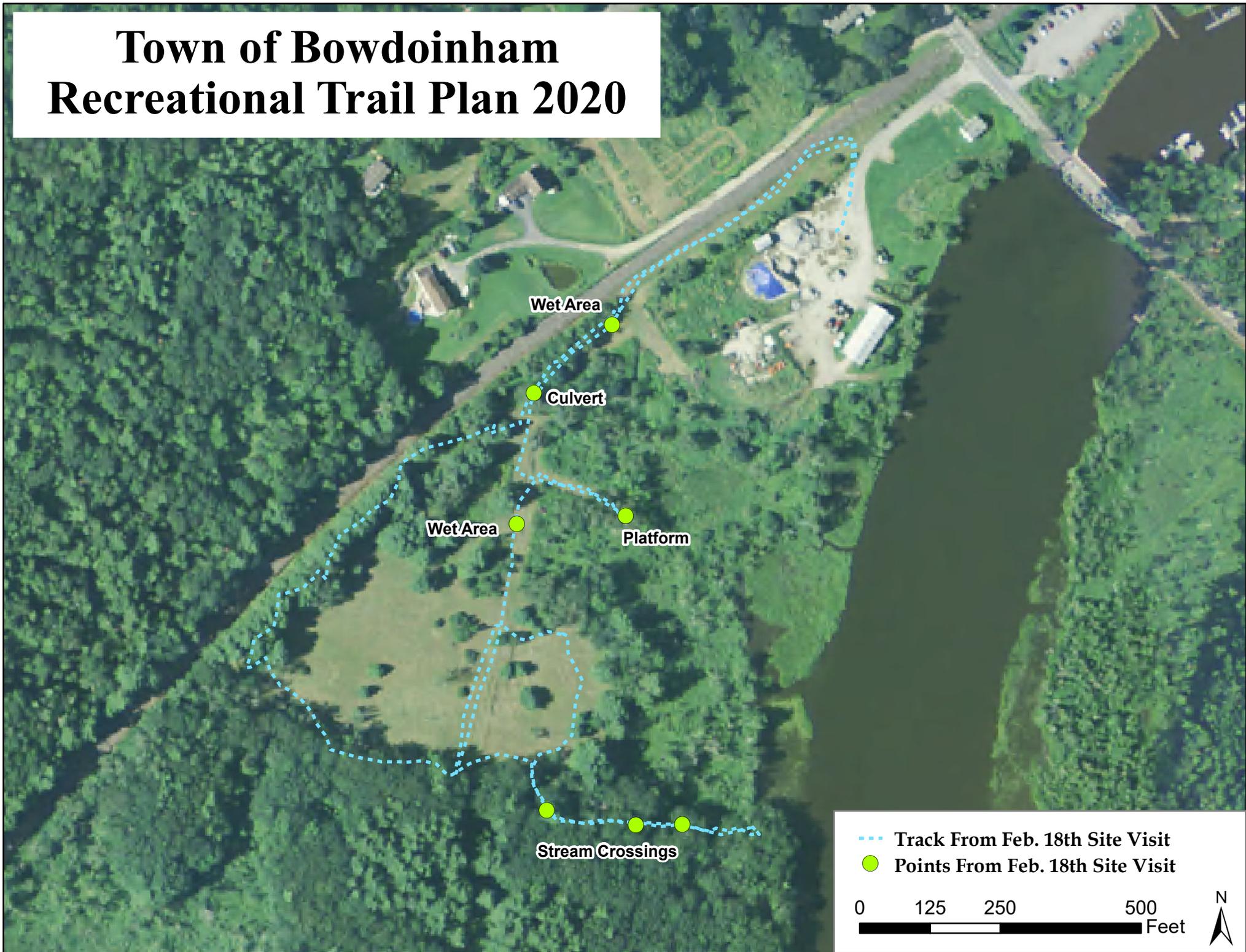
The next step is to begin long term projects.

Begin invasive species removal. Project duration: several people over several days. See **Map 5.**

- Begin removing invasive plants. Use the Invasive Species Quick Identification Guide for plant identification, and follow recommendations in the Invasive Species Factsheet.
 - Plan at least three work days over the summer. Advise people to wear close-toe shoes and long pants, and either provide or ask people to bring thick gloves, water, and snacks. Plan work days for about three hours (such as 9:00-12:00).
 - If the plants have started to produce seeds prior to the work day, bring large black contractor bags to fill with plants. This will ensure the seeds will not spread.
- Invasive species removal is a multi-year project. Continue to check for regrowth for at least five years.
- Plan to replant the area with native shrubs in future years.

Plan additional trails. During the February 18th walk, we were unable to assess additional trail possibilities due to the ground conditions. An additional walk at the property will be required before we can plan out the other trails on the Master Site Plan. We recommend late April or May for our second walk.

Town of Bowdoinham Recreational Trail Plan 2020



--- Track From Feb. 18th Site Visit
● Points From Feb. 18th Site Visit

0 125 250 500 Feet

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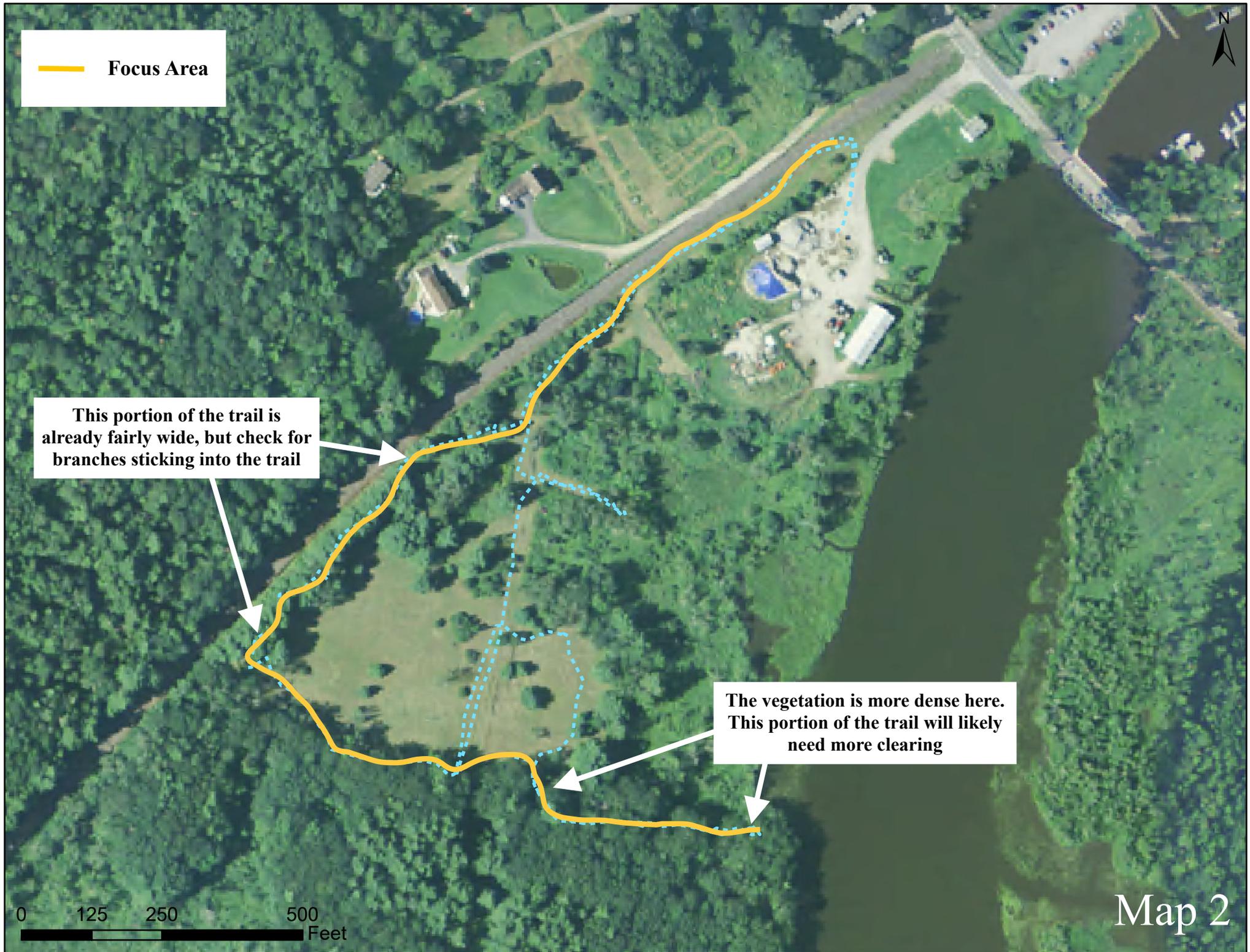
 **Focus Area**

This portion of the trail is already fairly wide, but check for branches sticking into the trail

The vegetation is more dense here. This portion of the trail will likely need more clearing

0 125 250 500 Feet

Map 2





 Focus Area

Blazes should be very easy to see as the trail enters the wooded area

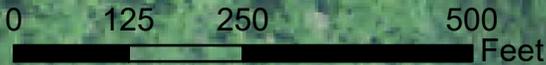
The northern portion of the trail is well-defined as a walking path and does not need blazes

Liner logs or more frequent blazes may be needed where the trail curves

The blazes here are faded and infrequent. The blazes should help direct people into the wooded area and keep them on the trail

Use liner logs to keep visitors on the trail as the trail approaches the property boundary

Add signage here to keep visitors from continuing onto the neighboring property



Map 3



 **Focus Area**

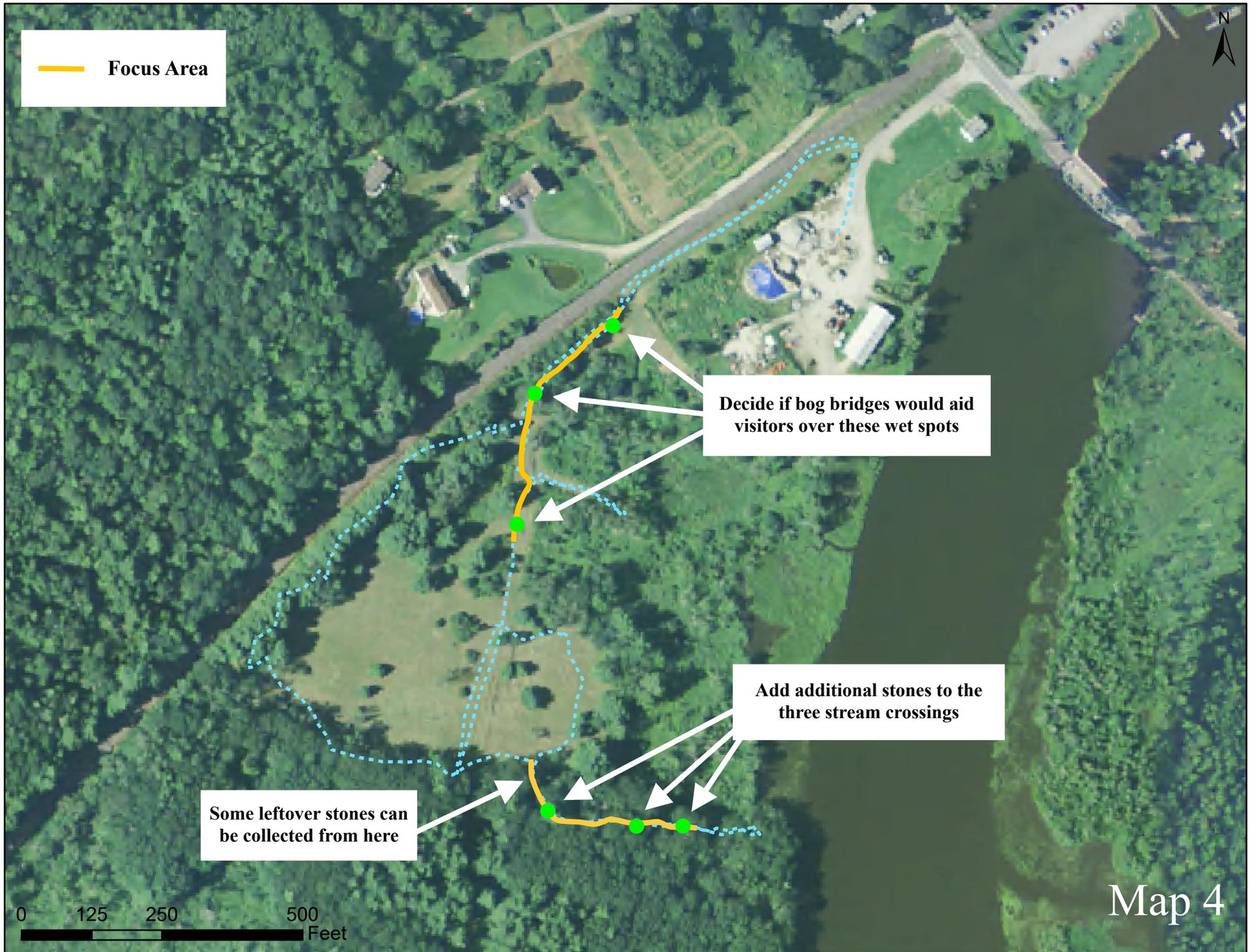
Decide if bog bridges would aid visitors over these wet spots

Add additional stones to the three stream crossings

Some leftover stones can be collected from here

0 125 250 500 Feet

Map 4





 **Focus Area**

Work in small groups to pull up invasive plant species

Be aware of the shoreline when pulling out roots. If close to the shore, consider cutting the plants and leaving the roots in the soil to avoid erosion

0 125 250 500 Feet

Map 5

