

To Mayor Jon Mitchell
From Marty Lipman, former member of the NB conservation commission.

RE: Flora B. Pierce Conservation Area and Trail on Old Plainville Road, opposite
Turner's Pond

Property just west of the Flora B. Pierce Nature Trail has a "for sale" sign on it and the city should consider acquiring it to protect the nature trail.

Many years ago the trail started just east of the river, which is several hundred feet west of the present trail. The trail crossed the river to the west and there was a pie shaped piece of property on the west side of the river that was used by cows coming to the river. The city was supposed to have acquired this piece of property because it was one of the few high spots in an otherwise swampy area. I do not know whether the city was successful in getting that property.

At present the nature area is invisible from the road and the parking area on the north side of the road has been blocked off and allowed to be overgrown. The area near the old mill race has become overgrown.

Leon Halle and I blazed and cut the original trail. It went along the river north to a pine grove and then east to an old cranberry bog. It seems that the trail has been reconfigured.

If you take an interest in the Flora B. Pierce area you could consider working with the Buzzard's Bay Coalition to eliminate the dams on the Paskamansett River. The dams are at Turner's Pond in New Bedford and Smith Mills and Russell Mills in Dartmouth. I have mentioned the removals to Dartmouth Selectman Mickelson. The removal of each one of them will be controversial and will have lots of opposition, but would be good for Buzzard's Bay and maybe create better recreational opportunities. The Buzzards Bay Coalition removed the dam at the Achushnet Saw Mill and made an improved natural area.

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I took a walk on part of the Flora B. Pierce trail and it was beautiful. I was very
impressed. The part that I walked on went east and north and did not approach the river.

Enclosed is the information on the property for sale.