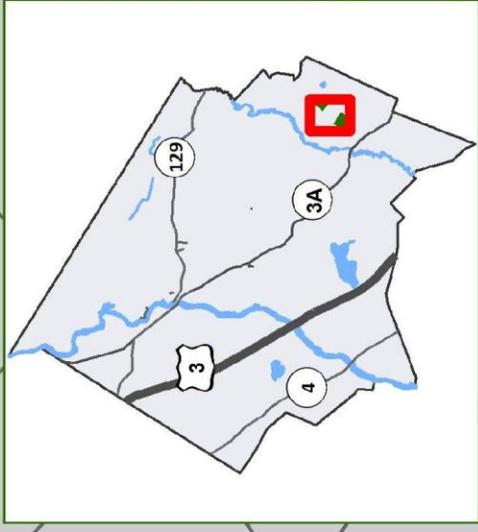


# Bicknell Town Forest & Ditson Elementary School



## Bicknell Town Forest

Bicknell Forest is a 15 acre town forest located in Pinehurst. It has a large dirt road leading to the power line easement, which splits into two trails frequently used by hikers and bikers.

A small brook surrounded by wetlands borders the forest on the western and southern sides. These wetlands are sensitive habitats for wildlife and should not be vigorously disturbed.

- Trails and Hiking
- Dog Walking & Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Cross Country Skiing and Snow Shoeing
- Nature Study and Photography
- Ditson Elementary School Fields
  - Softball Fields
  - Basketball Court
  - Playground

## Rules and Regulations

- No Smoking & Alcoholic Beverages
- No Littering: Carry in-Carry out property
- No Camping or Camp Fires
- Dogs must be leashed at all times

**\*\*\*Trails are open from dawn until dusk\*\*\***

## Directions

Bicknell Town Forest is located off of Bicknell Road in Eastern Billerica, within Pinehurst.

Ditson Elementary School  
39 Cook Street, Billerica



**Billerica Conservation Commission**  
365 Boston Road, Billerica, Mass.  
(978) 671- 0096  
[www.Town.Billerica.Ma.Us](http://www.Town.Billerica.Ma.Us)

## The Thomas Ditson Story

March 1775 - Thomas Ditson Jr., a young farmer eager to become a Minute Man for the Town of Billerica, traveled to Boston looking to purchase a firelock. According to Sergeant Clancy, Ditson got himself into quite a predicament when he allegedly offered "any sum of money" for Clancy to desert the army and join him in the country.

In order to expose and ridicule Ditson, the English Soldiers covered him in tar and feathers and wheeled him through town on a donkey cart as the fife and drums played the tune of Yankee Doodle. The soldiers sang an original verse attributed to Thomas Ditson:

*Yankee Doodle came to town,  
For to buy a firelock,  
We will tar and feather him,  
And so we will John Hancock.*

Thomas Ditson survived the ordeal in good health and joined the Minute Men in Billerica.

Since 1990 the town of Billerica has honored Thomas Ditson with the Yankee Doodle Homecoming. On the third weekend of September, the Billerica Colonial Minute Men reenact the tar and feathering of Thomas Ditson.



# Town of Billerica Conservation & Recreation Lands

Bicknell Town Forest  
Ditson Elementary School  
25 Acres

