

## 12. Church's Field

A 32 - acre property owned by the Rochester Land Trust



**This property was purchased by the Rochester Land Trust in 2010 from George Church. The property consists of an open field, wet meadow, wooded uplands, hardwood swamps and a floodplain on the Mattapoissett River.**

This land was part of an original 1600s colonial grant from the King of England to Benjamin Church, one of the heroes of King Philip's War. Although Church settled in the Somerset area, his sons settled in Rochester. There is a cellar hole from one of their houses on the west side of the river. The family farmed and sold timber sawn at their mill to the thriving shipbuilding industry located in Mattapoissett Village.

Park near the Church's Field sign and cross the field, which will be maintained for optimum field bird habitat, and enter the woods through the opening in the stone wall. The trail passes through a mixed hardwood

forest and wetlands where frogs and diverse ferns and mosses grow. There is a pile of glacial erratics just before the river that may have been an Indian landmark. Tousand, one of Phillip's war chiefs, had his village across the road in Haskell (Bear) Swamp.

The trail finally comes to the Mattapoissett River where the benches at this peaceful site are perfect for private reflection.

Return by the same route or continue onto the woods road that is on the property of the Church Cultural and Historic Family Trust.

## Location



## Activities

### Walk

From the road through the field and then along the woods trail to the Mattapoissett River...be aware of State hunting seasons when walking the trails

### Watch

Various upland mammals, field and forest birds and riverine reptiles and amphibians. The summer wildflower display at the river is outstanding.

### Picnic

On the table in the field or on the benches near the Mattapoissett River. Please take any trash away with you.

### Fish

With a valid license.

### Ski

On the trails only. Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted.

# Church's Field



Legend 10 ft. Contour



Protected Land

Private Property

House/Buildings

Wetlands

Waterbodies

Cranberry Bogs

