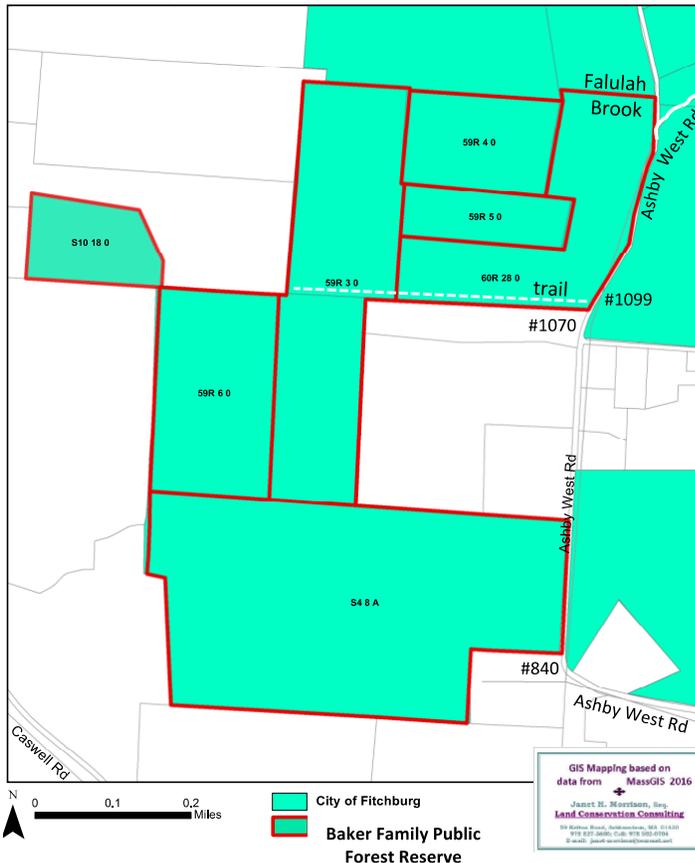


## BAKER FAMILY PUBLIC FOREST RESERVE – FACT SHEET

The **Baker Family Public Forest Reserve** is a 205-acre forest located in the northwestern corner of Fitchburg, MA. The entirety of the City of Fitchburg's ~2,000 acres of northern drinking supply watershed lands is managed by the City's Department of Public Works, Division of Water Supply, and is protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR) conveyed by the City to the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) in 2009.\* The CR precludes development but permits timber harvesting. Under the terms of a registered Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into in 2017, the 205-acre portion of the Northern Watershed lands designated by the City as "The Baker Family Public Forest Reserve" is **protected from timber harvesting** for 30 years (through 2047). The MOU includes a provision whereby this protection can be renewed under similar terms in the future. This forest reserve, while not old growth, is a mixed-age, biodiverse northern hardwood/white pine forest with many mature trees. It includes a large wooded swamp, occupies the highest elevation land (>1,000 ft above sea level) within the Northern Watershed lands, and is accessible to the public via an informal, unmarked trail (see map). It is a beautiful public asset!

MOU City of Fitchburg & Baker - Exhibit B



Protection of the Forest Reserve fosters biodiversity and sequesters carbon to help mitigate climate change, while at the same time being compatible with the Division of Water Supply's mission of protecting Fitchburg's public water supply, providing wildlife habitat, and enabling public access.

The Baker Family Public Forest Reserve has been recognized as a Community Forest by the Old Growth Forest Network, <http://www.oldgrowthforest.net/community-forests>.

Come enjoy the forest!

Note: Parking is limited to the roadside, so please use caution when parking. Motorized access to the entire northern drinking water supply is prohibited.

\*More information, including Rules and Regulations concerning the Conservation Restriction held by MassWildlife can be found at <http://www.ci.fitchburg.ma.us/DocumentCenter/View/2258>, or by contacting the Fitchburg DPW, Div. of Water Supply, 1200 Rindge Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420, 978-345-9616.