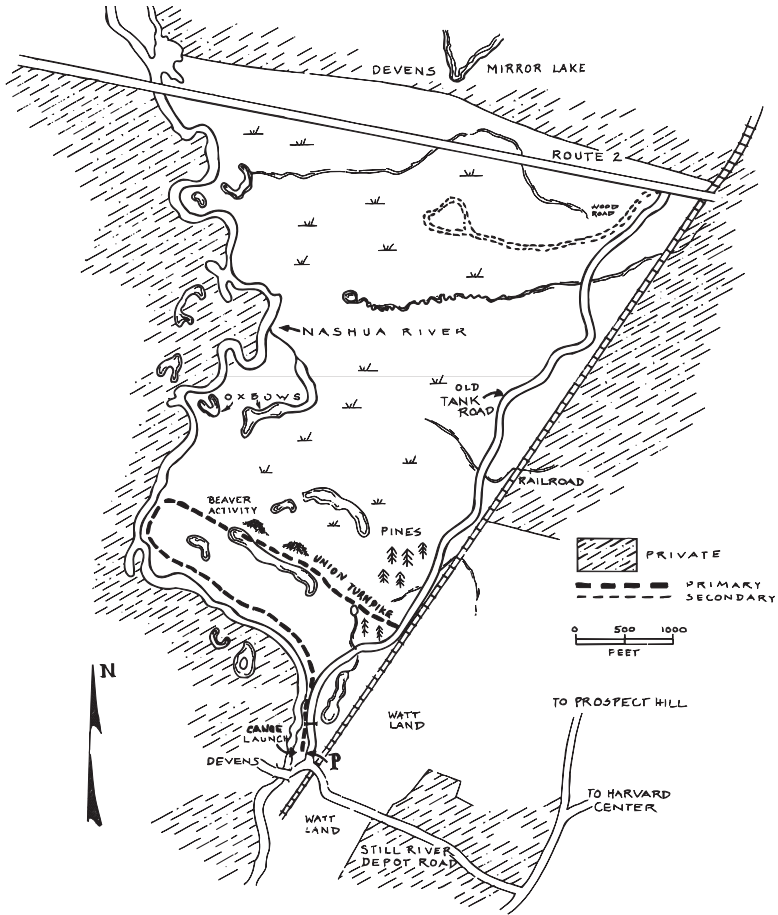


# OXBOW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



The Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1974 by transfer from the Department of Defense. In 1994 the Army transferred additional lands to the Department of the Interior for a current total of 1,547 acres. Approximately 123 acres of former Watt dairy farm land was purchased by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2001. The Town, the Harvard Conservation Trust and the Trust for Public Lands played an active part in protecting this land until federal funding could be secured.

The refuge, located along the Nashua River, consists primarily of marsh and oxbows of the Nashua River, wooded swamps and upland habitat. The Watt land addition provides critical upland and grassland habitat for wildlife and migratory birds. The refuge offers excellent birding, wildlife observation, photography, hiking and cross-country skiing. Hunting is permitted in season.

The trail starts at the canoe launch area, parallels the Nashua River for a distance, and turns back toward the railroad tracks passing oxbows and beaver activity. The trail ends at the old tank road which leads back to the parking area.