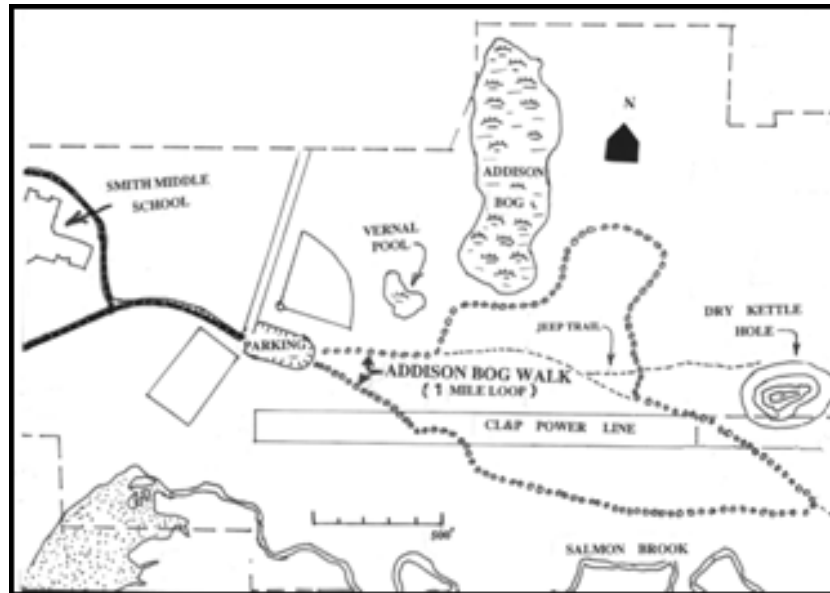


## Addison Bog Walk



Park at the end of the access road to Smith Middle School, which is off Addison Road. A portable toilet is available adjacent to the ball field spring through fall.

This trail is named for one of the interesting features along the way. The 5.5 acre Addison Bog along its northern section is said to be the only Black Spruce Bog in central Connecticut. Core samples show the bog to be over 17 feet deep in places, and filled with water-saturated peat. This is a highly acidic (4.25 pH) and nutrient poor environment resulting in stunted growth. The bog started as a glacial kettle hole about 8000 years ago and has been accumulating decaying vegetation ever since. Many of the plants in the bog are unusual this far south, including black spruce, larch trees (AKA tamaracks), and insect eating pitcher plants. The black spruce are slow growing. One specimen of 1.75 inch diameter was found to be 48 years old. Along its southern section, the trail overlooks the Salmon Brook valley, which is also owned by the town as open space. In total the town owns 250 contiguous acres in this area. Eventually parts of this property may be developed for other public uses, but meanwhile we can enjoy the land as it exists today.