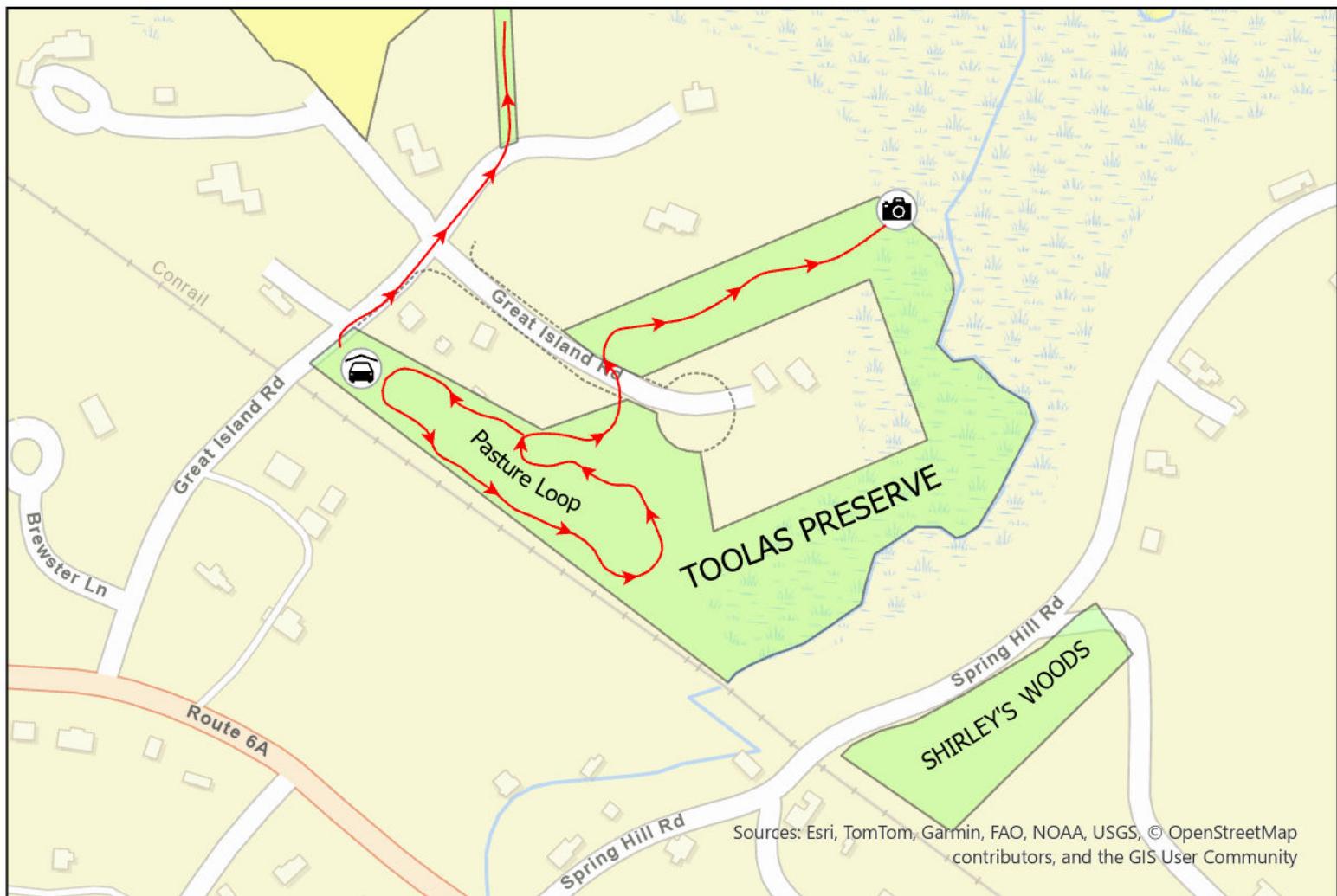


Browse Field and Stream at the Toolas Preserve



The 6.5 acre Toolas Preserve located along the railroad corridor in East Sandwich was granted to Sandwich Conservation Trust in 1997 by William and Francis Toolas and Mary Funk. The site features a remnant pasture, approximately 1.5 acres of which is managed by the Trust in its open state by periodic mowing.

The field was once a part of the Toolas Dairy Farm and was most recently used to cultivate vegetables, strawberries, raspberries, and for forage by cows and horses. Well before that it was used by native Wampanoags as a summer encampment. Chipping debris noted for the production of stone tools and points were discovered as a result of agricultural activity conducted during the 1970s.

The Preserve also includes wooded upland composed primarily of black birch, pitch pine, and scarlet oak, with a relatively open understory of black huckleberry and blueberry. Because the forested areas border on the the pasture and salt marsh associated with Spring Hill Creek, they provide excellent habitat for hawks and other birds of prey.

Suggested use of the site is for walking and light recreation. Visits to this area often start at Toolas Preserve, but can serve as a basecamp for excursions out to the Great Island Preserve (GIP) via a causeway at the north end of Great Island Road. Parking is available across from a private driveway. Pets are permitted on leash but please leave them home if venturing out to the GIP.

