

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 17, 2025

Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairman Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:00pm.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

Present: Sam Ashburner, Lawrence Mendies, Maureen Parrott, Dave Teich, Michael Ticktin, Kathleen Murphy

Absent: Ben Johnson, Arielle Debira

ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, by notices published in the Asbury Park Press and the Times of Trenton on January 30, 2025 and posted on the bulletin boards in the Borough Hall and at the Roosevelt Post Office.

Environmental Commission Mission Statement

1. To protect, preserve, and enhance the natural environment within our jurisdiction.
2. To promote sustainable practices and responsible resource management for the benefit of present and future generations.
3. To Advocate for environmental justice, ensuring equitable access to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for all communities.

Goals: Short term goals for the next 18 months approved (approved by EC on 11/15/23)

Environmental Education and Outreach of these subjects:

1. Forever Chemicals are PFAS chemicals that disrupt the immune system and are carcinogenic.
2. Investigate Community Solar or other programs that allow households to use renewable energy without installing solar panels on their homes. Learn more about Clean Choice energy which allows a resident to select renewable energy as the source of energy for their home. Present results at a community meeting.
3. Advocate for safe and responsible waste management practices. Partnering with the Recycle Coordinator to get more information out on what is recyclable. Also encourage use of eco-friendly products

Land and People Acknowledgement

Sam Ashburner reads: The land and waterways upon which the residents of the Borough of Roosevelt gather and live are the ancestral and unceded Lenapehoking territory of the Lenni-Lenape nation. We honor the contributions of their ancestors, those now in the diaspora, and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Ramapough Lenape and Powhatan Renape who continue to live in the areas we call New Jersey. We honor this ancestral land of the Lenni-Lenape Nation. May we live in harmony, caring for this sacred land.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Kathleen Murphy to approve the agenda and second was made by Dave Teich. Agenda was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:

Chairman Ticktin opens the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:02pm.

No Public Comment

Chairman Ticktin closes the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:02pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 16, 2025 – Kathleen Murphy made a motion to approve the July 16, 2025, minutes with a second from Sam Ashburner. Minutes were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest, July 16, 2025
2. **NJ DEP** – UHI Grant Funding Opportunity
3. **NJ DEP** – Natural Climate Solutions Grant
4. **ANJEC** – Nominations 2025 Environmental Achievement Award & 2025 Municipal Leadership Award
5. **Email from Michael Harland** – Asking if Roosevelt would be interested in growing Pawpaw from Locally foraged seed
6. **ANJEC** – Clean Water, Clean Communities – A lunch and learn program, Wednesday, August 13 at Noon via Zoom
7. **ANJEC** – Hour of Action: NJPACT REAL, Wednesday, August 20 at noon via Zoom
8. **NJ DEP** – NJUCF News & Updates, 8/1/25
9. **ANJEC** – 52nd Annual Environmental Congress, Friday, October 10 from 9am-4pm at New Brunswick Theological Seminary
10. **Sustainable Jersey** – Listing of municipalities that submitted applications for the final Sustainable Jersey certification
11. **ANJEC** – 52nd Environmental Congress, Friday, October 10, 2025 from 9am-4pm at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary
12. **Sustainable Jersey** – Stories and Energy Outreach Technical Assistance
13. **ANJEC** – Environmental Achievement Awards & Municipal Leadership Awards, Apply Now Deadline: September 5, 2025
14. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest August 18, 2025
15. **NJDEP** – NJ RGGI Funding Plan Update
16. **ANJEC** – Voices for Justice, Tuesday, September 16 5:30pm Via Zoom Webinar
17. **ANJEC** – September Monthly Digest
18. **State of NJ** – NJ Updates: Events, Deadlines, Programs, Guidance and More
19. **The Watershed Institute** – Watershed Professionals Newsletter

Chairman Ticktin asks if anyone is interested in growing Pawpaw- it is a locally forged seed, (correspondence #3)? This will be added to the October 15, 2025 meeting.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON- Lawrence Mendies reports that the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan was presented by Andy Thomas. Mr. Hartley has proposed to do a presentation about Farmland setbacks – there will be an in person meeting on October 29, 2025

at 6:00pm. They encourage all farmers to attend. JCP&L will be there doing a presentation about replacing the high tension wires within Roosevelt, the question about the bats from the past has never been answered. Also the arrowheads that have been found in the past. They plan to enlarge the easement that runs through Roosevelt from 75 feet to approximately 150 feet. The commission has a lengthy conversation regarding JCP&L and their proposal.

Maureen Parrott states we should be opposed to taking down of trees, and hope this body would formally oppose it. We need to ask our attorney for legal advice in writing on what the criteria are.

Maureen Parrott makes a motion requesting a written opinion from the Borough Attorney, what is the regarding criteria JCP&L's power to taking down trees and is there any limitation, with a second from Michael Ticktin, the motion passes unanimously. The secretary is asked to email this to the Municipal Clerk as soon as possible and also copy to C/Warnick. Ask Municipal Clerk to send to the Borough Attorney as soon as possible.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:

C/Warnick states the following:

Budget has passed

Audit is complete

Tax bills went out late and the grace period has been extended till September 29, 2025.

Animal Control Officer did a presentation at the September 15, 2025 meeting regarding TNR program.

SHPO has approved the new plans for the Amphitheater and the Funds For Roosevelt have set up a pledge page for donations to help with the costs, as of today they have received pledge's up to \$172,000.

End of Summer Concert – Saturday, September 20 from 5pm – 7pm at the Roosevelt Amphitheater

Bulk Pick-Up – October 6, 2025 – Branch Pick-Up – October 13, 2025 – additional information on the Borough website.

North Valley Road is almost complete.

Lake Drive work has been approved.

Funding for the Trickling Filters has been approved.

SHPO has approved the revised Amphitheater plans.

- Administrative – No report at this time.
- Forest Management – Sam Ashburner states 2-3 months ago we approved a sand paint solution for the new puncheon decking school trail, Michael Merritt recommended a sandpaper type paint. Request to complete that project for \$150 for supplies and Michael will follow up with getting volunteers from the Green Team. Sam Ashburner makes a motion for \$150 in supplies with a second from Kathleen Murphy, the motion passes unanimously.
- Invasive Plant Species – No Report at this time.
- Stream Monitoring – No Report at this time.
- Sustainable Jersey – Hilary Wilder states in February 2026 we will submit our report for the next cycle of re-certification. Hilary will need to Community Forest Management

Plan and the Accreditation – Sam Ashburner will get for Hilary. Also the end of year report from the Environmental Commission. Some things the ERI or NRI has expired – which we not be able to use. Hopefully the Tree Inventory and the Tree Hazard Report from last year we will be able to use. A request from the Borough Council is I the past the Borough Council has passed a Sustainable Land Use Pledge and ask for one for this year. Mayor has signed it in the past and Hilary will forward last year’s copy to Maria to forward to the Mayor.

- Goals Committee – No report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Stormwater Permit Renewal – Stream Monitoring – We should follow up with Mary Tulloss.
- Cost for School Trail Fix, Re: Traction – Has been approved for \$150.00.
- Discussion on Achievement Award – Sam Ashburner states the deadline has passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Ticktin opens the public comment at: 7:51pm.

Tim Hartley, 29 Farm Lane: Outline of BLD “presentation” to the Environmental Commission on 9/17/25

1. (American) Beech trees vs (Sweet) Birch trees (handout #1)
2. American beech vs. European, aka “Copper” beech (handout #2)
3. Beech Leaf Disease – caused by microscopic nematodes (worms, e.g., heartworm, ringworm)
4. Damages leaves (handouts #3, paper & real sample). Trees will die in 2-5 years (think Dutch Elm Disease, millions of these in the US, once common, were killed, by fungus, not nematodes)
5. Roosevelt’s Beech trees: private property vs. Borough woodland vs Assunpink land
6. Location and age of largest Beeches in town (trail map & photos)
Size vs age: 10” = 60 years, 24” = 140 years
7. What can be done to save trees? Fungicide for present, while research continues (Rutgers, et al)
 - a. Spraying canopy of trees < 8” diameter (3 or 4 times each season, starting in June)
 - b. Injection of trees > 8” diameter (once every other season, also done in the Spring)Both need to be done by a licensed arborist
8. Cost of treating trees? \$240-700 annually for spraying, \$400 to \$1,000 bi-annually for injection

9. Does the EC believe steps should be taken to save our largest beeches?
10. Does EC have discretionary funding for this or need to request funds from Borough Council?
11. Would the EC consider requesting Assunpink to treat the largest trees on their land along the Woodland Trail?

Tim Hartley's Presentation on Beech Leaf Disease is at the end of these minutes.

Chairman Ticktin closes the public comment at: 8:17pm.

Maureen Parrot states that the ANJEC 52 Annual Conference is coming and possibly would like to attend, cost is \$115.00. Dave Teich makes a motion to approve \$115 for Maureen Parrott to attend the conference, with a second from Sam Ashburner. Motion passes unanimously

ADJOURNMENT: Kathleen Murphy motioned to adjourn, Lawrence Mendies offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary

Beech Leaf Disease Study

Roosevelt Environmental Commission
September 2025

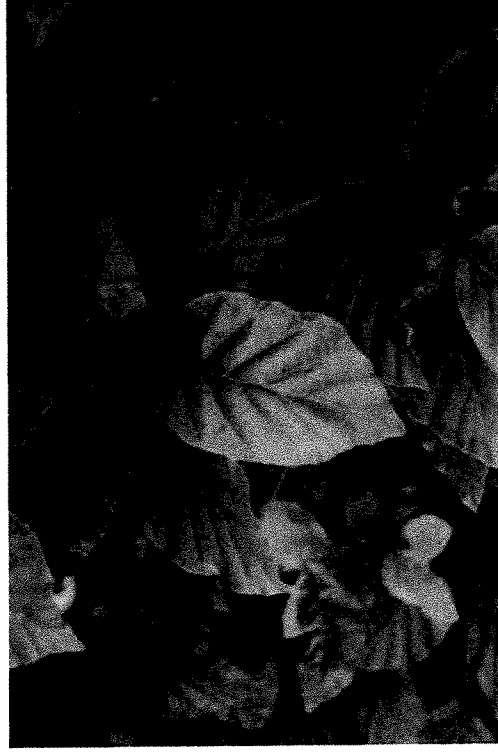
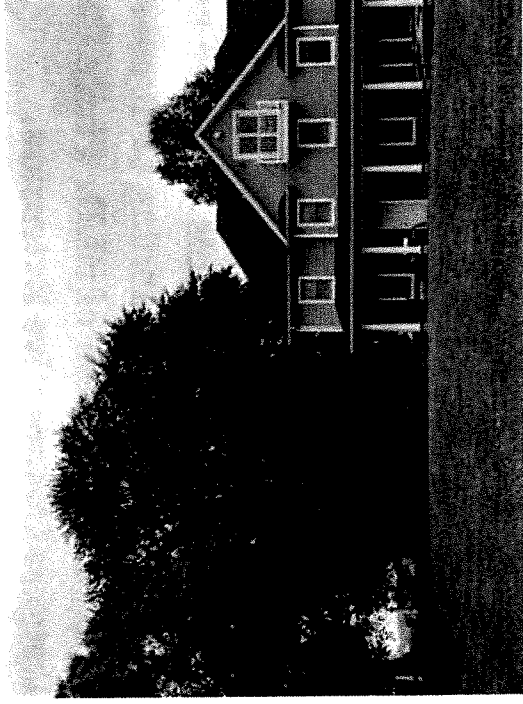
American beech
(*Fagus grandifolia*)



Sweet birch
(*Betula lenta*)



European beech
(*Fagus sylvatica*)

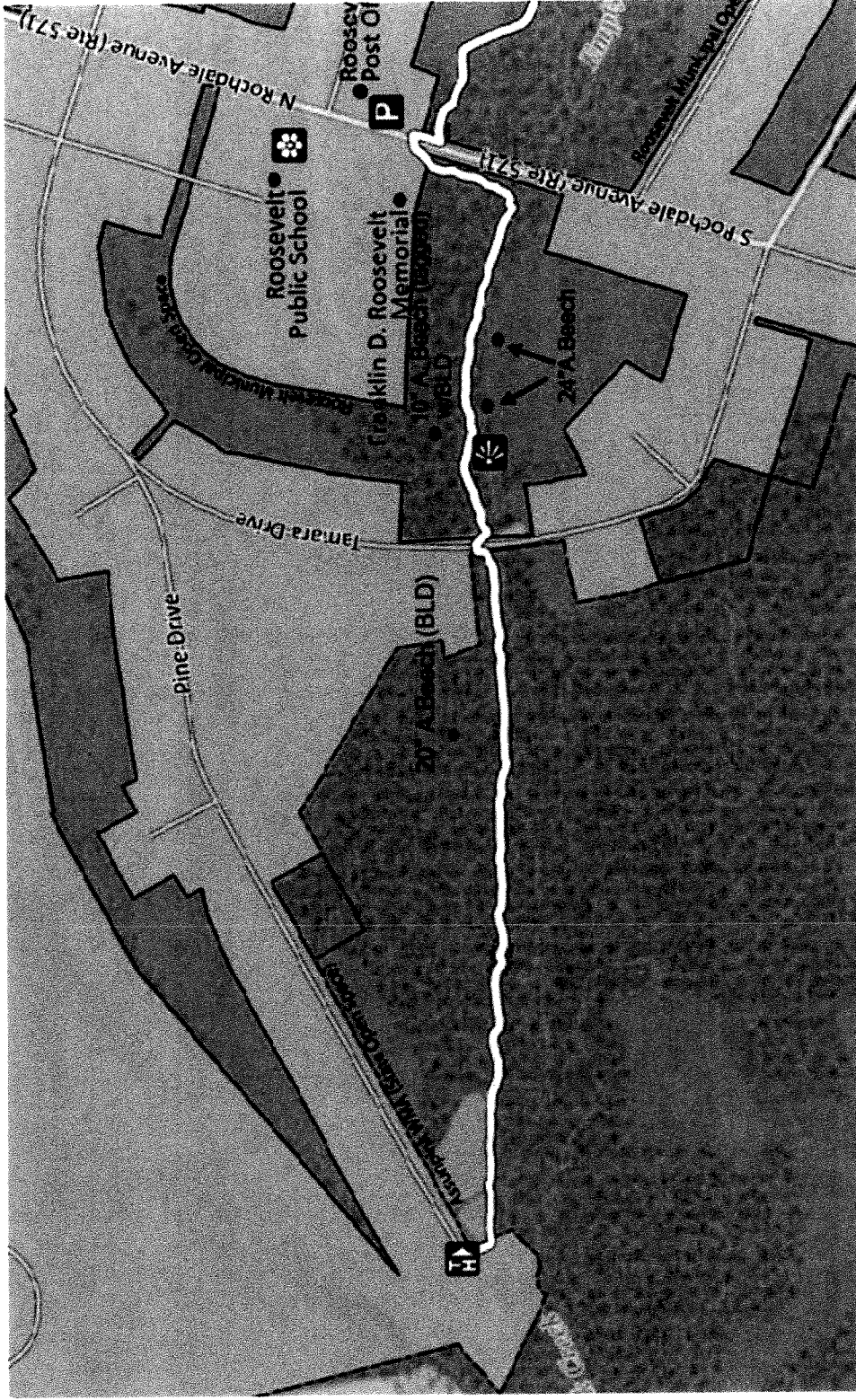


Beech Leaf Disease

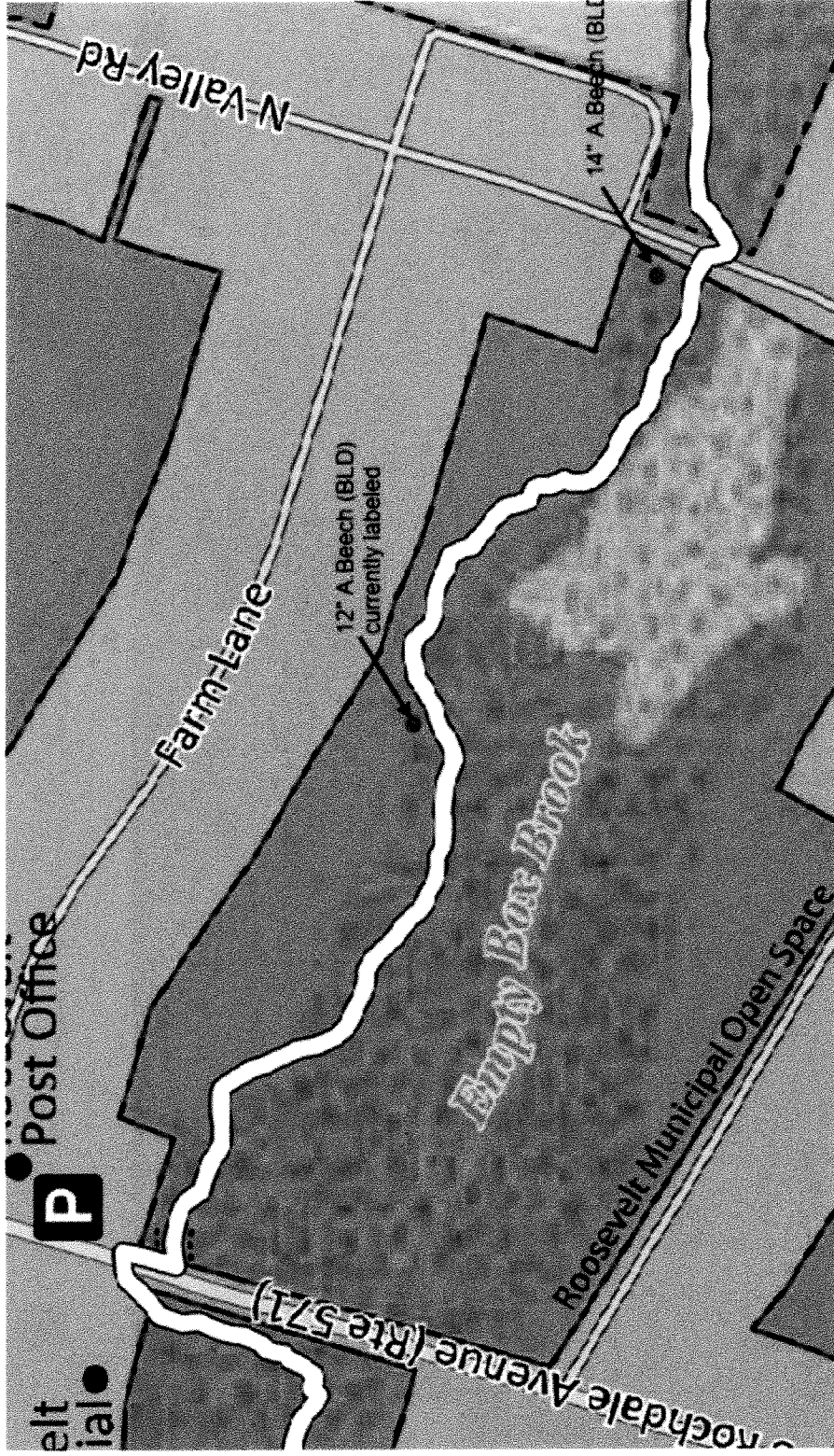


Figure 2. Symptomatic beech leaves afflicted with beech leaf disease. These photos are taken against the light sky to show the opaque banding of diseased leaf tissue, an indicative symptom of BLD. Photo Credit: Jean Epiphany, Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

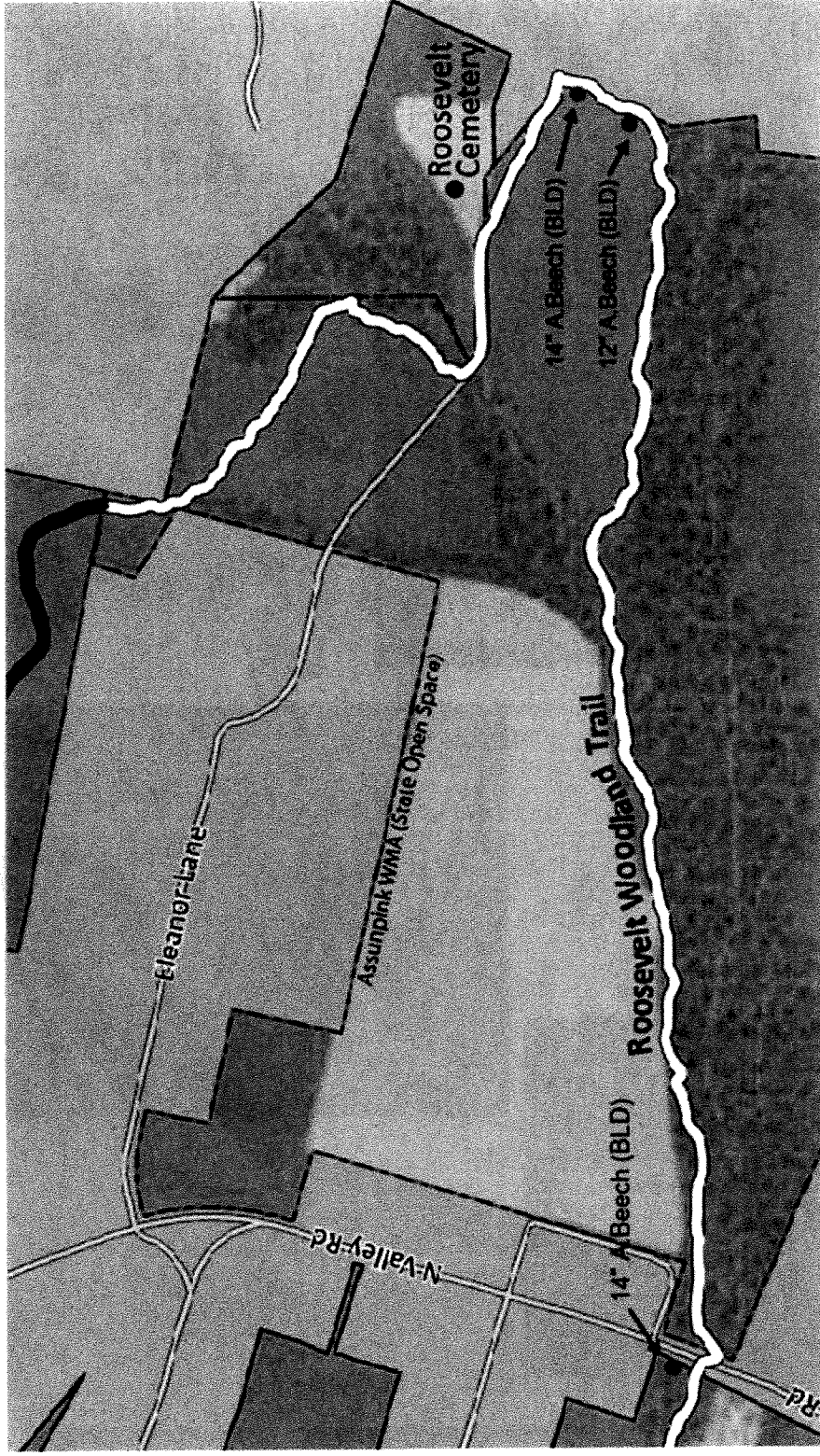
Woodland Trail Sections A + B



Woodland Trail Section C



Woodland Trail Section D



Woodland Trail American Beech Photos

