

Changing the Way You Think About the Earth Beneath Your Feet

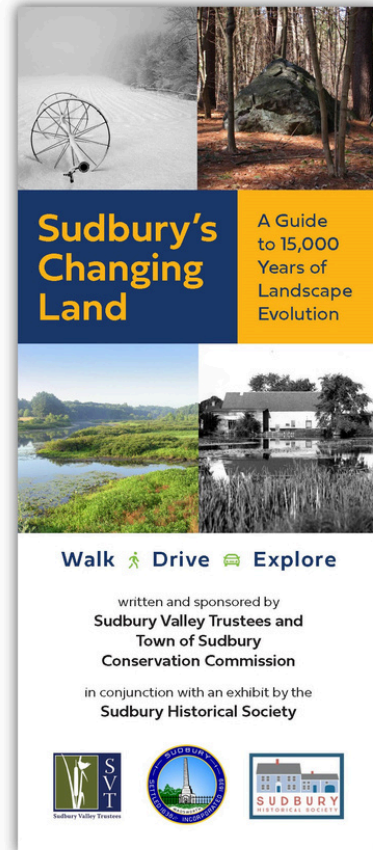
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The Conservation Department and Sudbury Valley Trustees have been hard at work over the last year to develop a self-guided driving and walking tour for people, to supplement the Sudbury Changing Landscape gallery at the Sudbury Historical Society. The goal is to cultivate a new appreciation for Sudbury's landscape by explaining how and why the Town has developed into what it is today.

This Guide takes the reader through seven eras that have transformed land and land use in Town. It begins with the Last Ice age, when glaciation formed our landscape and provided us with our rich fertile soils. From there, the impact of human habitation is considered. Both internal and external influences that have affected Sudbury's land such as early settlement and the removal of forests and damming of streams, transportation improvements, changes in water elevations stemming from industrial development elsewhere in the Sudbury River watershed, and the historic shift from agrarian to residential use of the land.

We challenge you to explore the landscape and take a more intimate look at the earth that comprises Sudbury. We encourage residents to get a better understanding of how the land and water shaped Sudbury's development, as well as the ecological impact imposed on the land by human activity and the shifting views of the human experience.

To accompany the guide, the Conservation Department has launched a webpage featuring narratives that explain each transformative era, as well as additional drives and walks that could not be accommodated in the brochure.



The site explains the unique land formations from the bottom of Glacial Lake Sudbury to the top of Tippling Rock. It explores the sociopolitical shift that each era presented. It encourages the reader to think more critically about how we got where we are and where we are going. It culminates with the Sudbury of today and the efforts to protect its land and create a resilient and sustainable Sudbury for future generations.

With the Mass-Central and Bruce Freeman Rail Trails nearing completion, a new era in Sudbury's landscape is coming into focus. These trails will provide ADA (Americans with Disabilities) access to many of the properties that are identified in the guide. Please take the time to explore the land beneath your feet.