

\* learn more about the natural communities found in Wright Park by reading the management plan at [maltvt.org/wright-park](http://maltvt.org/wright-park)

# Wright Park Trail and Ecological Guide

## Our trails:

- \* Wright Park is a roughly 4 mile nature preserve with views of Otter Creek and Middlebury's natural landscape
- \* For a shorter walk: Try an out-and-back walk from the parking lot up the main TAM trail through the center of the park.
- \* For added distance: Those looking for a longer route can explore around the extensive network of side trails offered at Wright Park. Two main side trails, River Circle and White Triangle, intersect with the main TAM through short connector trails.

## Timeline of Land Use/Ownership

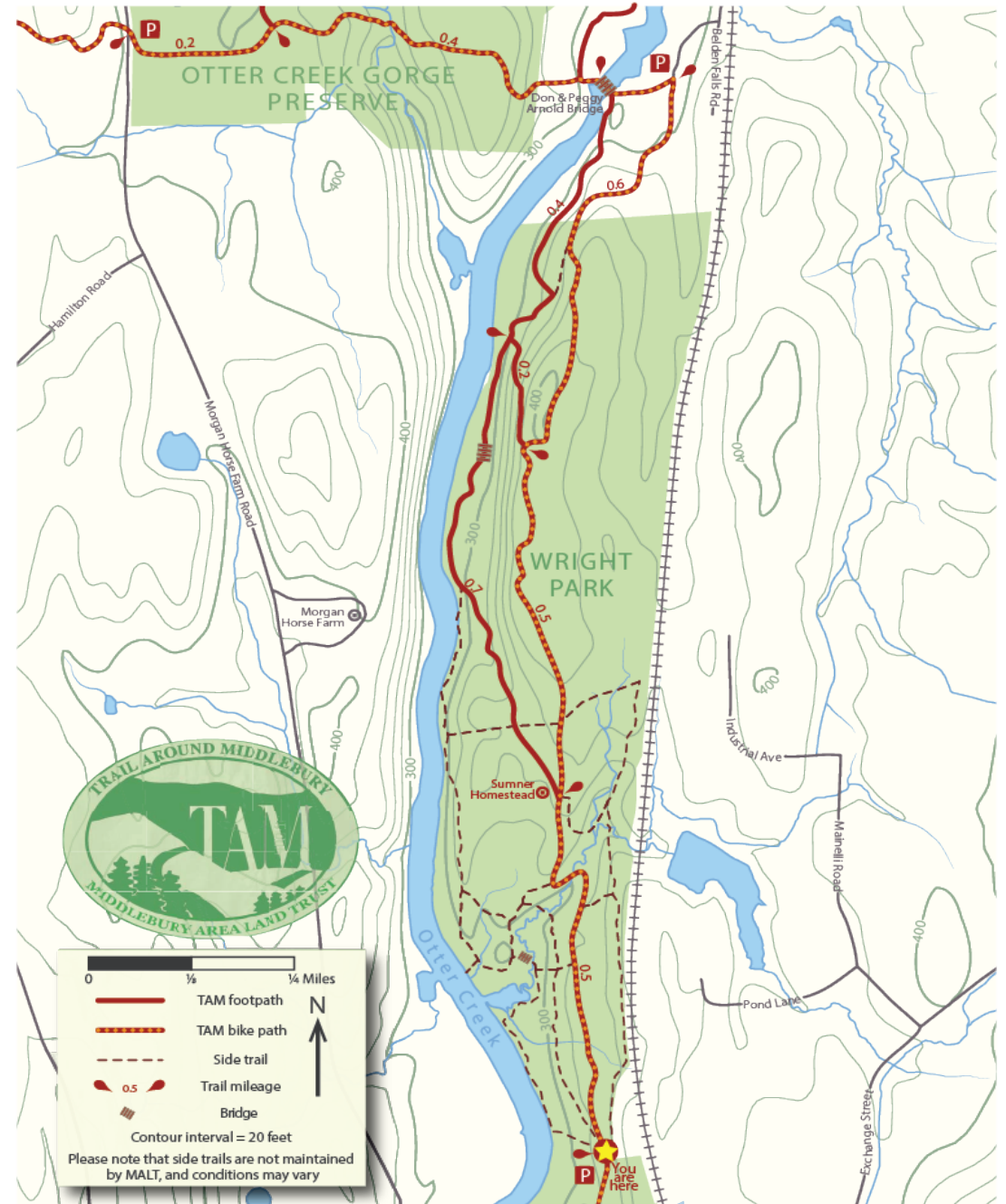
- 1786-1882: Sumner Homestead
- 1882-1916: Joseph Battel, donated to Middlebury College upon his death
- 1917-1941: College sold land to Erwin Piper for agricultural use
- 1941-1955: Sold land to Jane C. Nichols for agricultural use
- 1955-1971: Sold to Louis Bergevin for dairy farm pasture use
- 1971-1979: Sold to D. William Pratt
- 1979-1980/82: Land transferred from Pratt to Willard Jackson in three parcels
- 1980/82: Jackson donated land to Town of Middlebury in three separate parcels throughout the three years
  - Wright Park land specifically donated with intention of creating a park
- 2004: Land conserved by Middlebury Area Land Trust

## Ecological Value Along the Trail:

- \* Natural wetlands in the park's landscape help with water transport and erosion control
- \* Golden Warbler habitat is conserved in the main field of Wright Park

## Identification and learning more:

- \* Check out phone applications like iNaturalist and the Audubon Bird Guide to help you learn more about the species you encounter in the park.



## Find something interesting?

Message us your photos on instagram to @middleburyarealandtrust

## Wright Park's Namesake

When Willard Jackson donated this land to the town of Middlebury in 1982, he designated it as a place intended for public use and outdoor recreation. He also wanted the land to be named for his friend and classmate, Chuck Wright. Wright was an alumni of Middlebury College and worked for IBM, and on a business trip for the company, he was paralyzed from the neck down in a tragic plane crash. From that day forward, he lived his life with the most inspirational courage and happiness, raising a family with his wife and continuing to write to Jackson with a pencil in his mouth. Despite the odds, Chuck Wright lived a full and happy life full of love and hope, brushing his bright spirit off on everyone who knew him. We honor Wright's memory by keeping this park an open accessible area to enjoy and care for nature and while spending time with the ones we love.

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk

**Parking:** Public access via the Trail Around Middlebury begins at the end of Seymour Street Extension. There is also parking available at the North end of Wright Park at the Belden Falls picnic area.

**Directions:** Visit the trail by beginning at the parking area listed above, or travel on foot or bike from other parts of the Trail Around Middlebury. Wright Park can be accessed from the North end by hiking through or around the Otter Creek Gorge Preserve trails

### Recommended Activity:



watch  
wildlife



walk,  
run, hike  
and bike



bring pets  
(on leash)



family  
play



fish



winter  
use

Hunting, motorized vehicles, horses, fires and overnight camping are not permitted in the park.

## Come explore more MALT land!

The Middlebury Area Land Trust is a member-supported nonprofit conservation organization formed in 1987. MALT connects people with the lands we protect. MALT has helped conserve more than 4000 acres in Addison County.

### VISIT MALT'S WEBSITE

Scan the code below for more information, trail descriptions, and an online version of the map.



### Other popular trails:

**Trail Around Middlebury:** The "TAM" as it is known locally, is a major project of the Middlebury Area Land Trust. The TAM, a footpath over 18 miles long, encircles the village of Middlebury and links several hundred acres of town land, conserved properties, schools, the North Country Trail, and other local landmarks.

**Otter View Park:** a 0.6 mile lightly trafficked loop trail located at the Weybridge and Middlebury town line that features a boardwalk connecting to Otter Creek River and is good for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips, and bird watching.

**Otter Creek Gorge Preserve:** a 2.5 mile loop with views of Otter Creek and Middlebury's natural landscape at the North end of the TAM featuring shorter treks from the two Morgan Horse Farm Road parking areas and a longer hike to Wright Park. Walk along the river or through the conserved forest and enjoy the scenery and wildlife.

**Hurd Grasslands:** Newly preserved, this natural grassland with a 1 mile walking loop and a bird watching shed is located in Weybridge, VT past Otter View Park on Route 23 heading towards Weybridge. It's a local favorite spot for bird watchers!



Volunteers are always needed to keep these trails accessible and beautiful!  
[maltvt.org/volunteer](http://maltvt.org/volunteer)



Become a MALT Member:  
Your gift is our energy!  
[maltvt.org/donate](http://maltvt.org/donate)

# Welcome to Wright Park



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