



Yarmouth Open Space Guide

October 2013

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Take a Walk with Us!

Yarmouth is a welcoming town, inviting residents and guests to enjoy and explore its diverse array of open spaces. Our goal is to be a walkable community, where streets, sidewalks, and trails provide connectivity by foot or bicycle to parks, open spaces and commercial areas which support healthy living, nature appreciation and environmental preservation.

Yarmouth offers a variety of open spaces, ranging from active recreation to pocket parks in the village to rustic and natural areas. Our parks and preserves vary in size from much less than an acre to over 220 acres. Many feature trails that wander through woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, and scenic overlooks along the water’s edge. Our Parks & Lands and Bicycle-Pedestrian Committees have been hard at work, creating new opportunities to describe in this 3rd edition of the Open Space Guide.

To get involved in preserving or improving the Town’s natural areas for generations to come, to report any special concerns or conditions, or for updated information, contact Yarmouth Community Services at **207-846-2406** or **info@yarmouthcommunityservices.org**.


The Village Improvement Society (VIS), yarmouthvis.org, is a century-old organization with a long-standing interest in the protection and improvement of the many natural, cultural and historic features of Yarmouth. Many thanks to the VIS for their generous donation towards the publication of this Guide.

Using this guide

The order that the properties and routes appear in this Guide is generally from north-west to southeast across the town. If you look at the townwide map on pages 14-15, this is roughly from top to bottom. Properties are listed in order of appearance on the Table of Contents, and in alphabetical order on the back cover summary table, along with acreage, trail mileage and amenities.

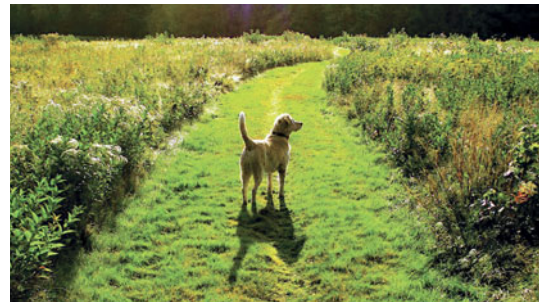
The Guide lists highlights of each property as well as detailed trail descriptions, driving directions and suggested activities. At the end of each property description is a locator number (e.g., **F4**) indicating its position on the townwide map. All of the larger properties have detailed maps showing the border, trails, vegetation, parking and points of interest.

Map Key

	Property Line & Open Field
	Trees; Shrubs
	Trail
	Stream
	River; Waterfall
	Marsh
	Bluff
	Road
	Railroad
	Parking
	Information Kiosk or Interpretive Sign
	Picnic Table
	Building
	Cemetery

Please ...

- **Leave no trace** Leave what you find, do not dig for artifacts, respect wildlife, be considerate of other visitors.
- **Tread lightly** Take only pictures, leave only footprints, stay on the trails.
- **Carry in-carry out** any trash or refuse.
- **Respect private land-owners'** property boundaries and privacy.
- **Leash or control your dog**, pick up after your pet and keep our parks healthy. Observe the Town's Dog Control Ordinance.
- **Watch for ticks**
Tuck long pants into socks and check yourself and your pet. Avoid Lyme disease by removing any ticks you find within 24 hours.
- **Wear blaze orange** during hunting season.



© Kristen Funkhouser Pierce

Join us on Yarmouth's many trails and parks!

Open Space Guide Committee

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Sweetsir Farm Preserve

The 30-acre Sweetsir Farm Preserve extends from the end of Old Field Road to the east bank of the Royal River. A narrow path passes through a variety of woods and wetlands to majestic mature oak and rich floodplain forest along the banks of the Royal River.

The pleasant half-mile trail has solid footing except for two drainages which are crossable with long strides and stepping stones. It merges with another trail coming in from the left before paralleling the river to a small bluff and then continuing north to a set of vernal pools which harbor spring breeding populations of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, green frogs and spring peepers. The bluff along the river is a scenic place to picnic; look for spring wildflowers and riverside birds.

Directions

From the intersection of North Road and Ledge Road go north a tenth of a mile to Concord Circle and turn left; go through the subdivision half way around the circle to Old Field Road. Cross the railroad tracks and proceed to a small parking area at the end of the road. The trail extends straight into the woods, approximately 0.3 mile to the river.

Special Notes

This site has a rare Maine plant called ramp, or wild garlic; please help us conserve this special plant. Stay on the trail and do not dig up any plants or artifacts from Town lands.

Like many mixed-woods habitats, this area has ticks. Hunting is allowed on this property by permit from Town Hall. Please wear blaze orange during hunting season. **B4**

Sligo Road Property

The nearly 35-acre Sligo Road parcel consists of old fields with a mix of juniper and white pine, and some lovely floodplain forest along the Royal River. A section next to the PanAm Railway track was conveyed to the Yarmouth Water District for their new headquarters, in exchange for what is now the Yarmouth History Center. The Town retained pedestrian access to the rear of the Water District parcel along the river bank. A trail takes you from the parking area to the river bank, and an unimproved trail extends through a beautiful forest along the river's natural levee. To the north the trail fades into a shrubby and forested wetland by the power lines.

Possible future developments include an improved hand carry boat launch and athletic fields. There is rewarding river scenery both up and downstream for canoeists and kayakers.

This property is a great place for birding in the shrub lands of the open fields and along the river banks. Also look for animal tracks such as otter and beaver along muddy banks and after winter snows.

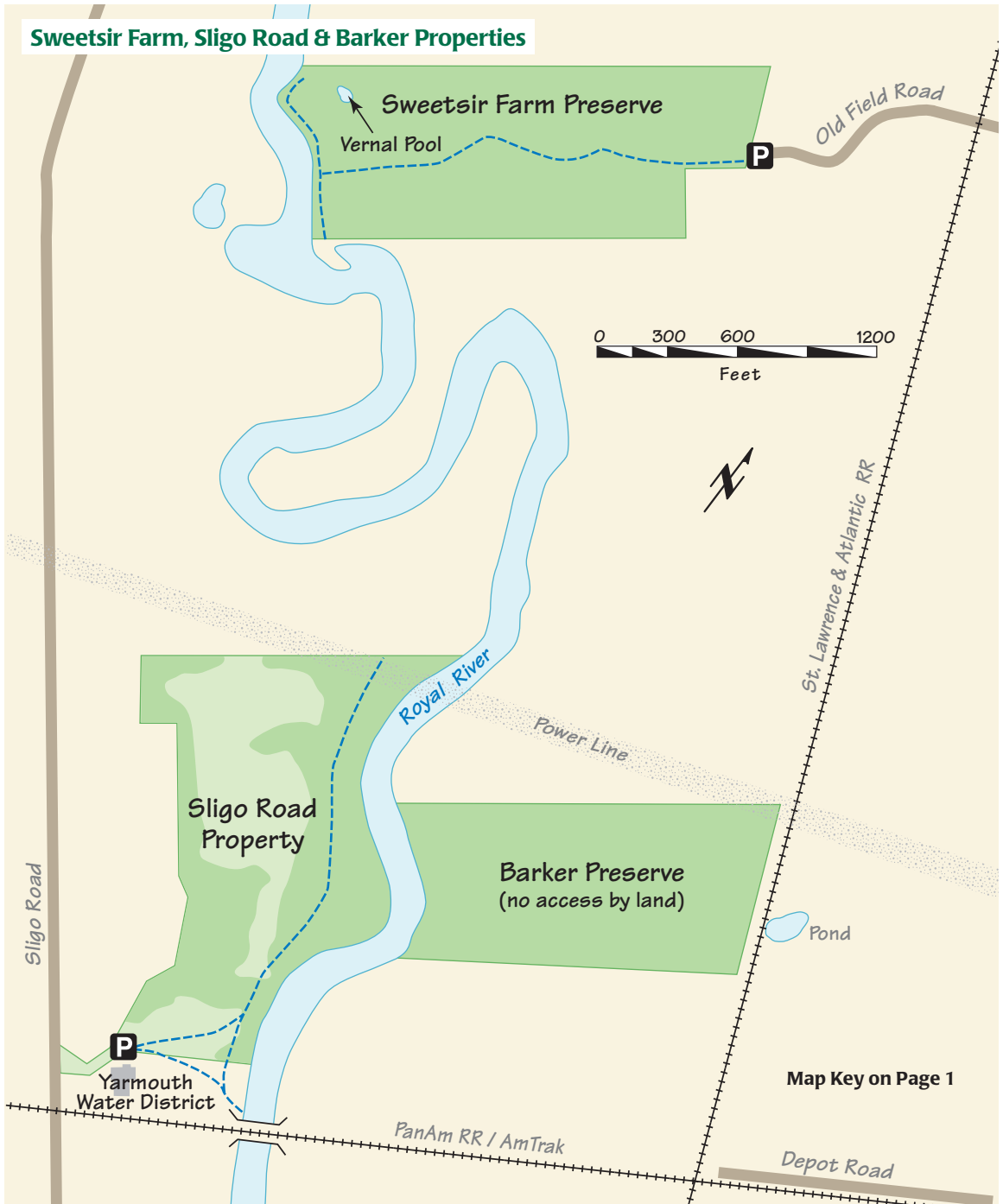
Directions

Head north on Main Street (Route 115) past the East Elm Street traffic light, turn right on Sligo Road. Go 0.4 mile to the Water District just beyond the railroad crossing. Park in the stub-ended turnaround to the left of the YWD parking lot. There is space for 2-3 cars.

Special Notes

Hunting is allowed on this property by permit from Town Hall. Please wear blaze orange during hunting season. **C4-D4**

Sweetsir Farm, Sligo Road & Barker Properties



Know Your Ticks!

Nymphal **Deer Ticks**, also known as black-legged ticks, are active from May–July and are most responsible for human cases of Lyme disease in New England. Adult deer ticks, also able to transmit infection, are active October–December and again from April–June. Adult females have black legs and reddish bodies with a dark spot behind the head.

Although deer ticks can occur statewide, they are most abundant along the southern coast of Maine.

Actual Size of the Deer Tick:

Nymph: 1/32"-1/16"

Adult: 1/8" **Engorged:** up to 1/2"

The **American Dog Tick** does not transmit Lyme disease. It is found from April to August. Adults are brown with white markings on their backs.



*Dog ticks
on the left.
Adult &
nymphal
deer ticks
on right.*

Photo: Jim Occi, www.lymenet.org/picture2.shtml

For more information:

Maine Medical Center Research Institute:
www.mmcri.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/lyme

Barker Preserve

This beautiful 23-acre property, formerly owned by Hilda Barker, has no trails, but it harbors a red maple swamp, a poplar forest remaining from a fire in 1957 and a patch of mature oak-red maple-hemlock forest along the banks of the Royal River. This property lies between the Royal River and the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad northwest of the end of Depot Road (Yarmouth Junction). It is also directly across the river from the Town's Sligo Road property.

Except for some beaver meadow, the property is completely forested, with a power-line right-of-way to the north and wet meadow and field to the south, and it is crisscrossed with bands of red maple swamp. Along the Royal River there is a natural levee some 3-6 feet above the high water mark with a beautiful, relatively open understory carpeted with ferns.

While there is no legal access directly by land, the property is accessible by canoe or kayak from the river. In the future this could be an important part of a trail extending along the river upstream to the Sweetsir Farm parcel.

Special Notes:

Because the river bank is steep in places, access from the river can be difficult; use caution. Please note that unauthorized use of a railroad right of way constitutes trespass, whether or not it is posted. Please consult the Yarmouth Community Services web page **yarmouthcommunityservices.org/spaces** for any updated information on access to the Preserve. *Refer to map on page 3.* **C4**

Beth Condon Pathway and Butterfly Garden

The Beth Condon Pathway is now part of the East Coast Greenway, a trail system of nearly 3,000 miles, extending from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida. The Beth Condon Pathway extends for over a mile along Route One, from Portland Street to Hannaford Plaza, with several connections to other pedestrian and cycling routes. Beth Condon was a Yarmouth High School student who was fatally struck by a car while walking along the shoulder of Route One. The Pathway was developed in her memory by family, friends and the Town, to provide a safe pathway for walkers and bikers.

Trail Highlights

Behind Town Hall, the Pathway has a resting stop with stone benches at the Butterfly Garden, surrounding the Beth Condon Memorial. Interpretive signs illustrate the habitat needs, life cycles, and descriptions of many of the butterflies that use these gardens during the growing season.

It crosses the Royal River Park east of the Rowe School tennis courts where the lighted, paved path descends through a deep hemlock grove to a scenic pedestrian bridge across the river (with a vista upriver to the Third Falls) and on to Hannaford Plaza.

Directions

Parking is available at many points along the Pathway: in front of businesses along Route One north of Portland Street, behind Town Hall near the Butterfly Garden, and at Rowe School. **Refer to maps on pages 7 & 14. F3-F5**

Royal River Restoration Project

Flowing 26 miles from its source in Sabbathday Lake and with more than 100 miles of tributaries, the Royal River has been central to the historical development of Yarmouth. Two town-owned dams on the river, the Bridge Street Dam and the East Elm Street Dam fragment the river's habitat and block hundreds of thousands of fish like American shad, blueback herring, Atlantic salmon, American eel and brown trout, from accessing habitat upstream. The town is evaluating options for fisheries and habitat restoration (including dam removal) as a follow-up to recommendations in the Royal River Corridor Master Plan, 2008.



© Andy Smith-Petersen

How the river might look without the dam.



© Terrence J. DeWan & Associates

Royal River Park

With a beautiful paved path running the length of the park along the river and parallel to the heart of the village, this is one of Yarmouth's most beloved parks. Highlights include views of three waterfalls, two at old dam sites and another at a historic mill site. There are picnic tables and open fields as well as floodplain forest and a 75- to 200-year-old stand of hemlock. Most of the park is built on former industrial and mill sites. The Middle (or Third, counting upstream from tidewater) Falls with its brick remnants and Factory Island was once completely spanned by the massive Forest Paper Company mill complex in the early 1900's.

Trails

The primary path through the park runs from East Elm Street, near the Upper (or Fourth) Falls, down along the river through open fields to the Third Falls overlook. It then descends by brick mill remnants and enters a stretch of basswood and locust floodplain forest, followed by hemlock and pine forest, before meeting the Beth Condon Pathway, where a pedestrian bridge crosses the river. It continues south under US Route



© Marcia Noyes

Autumn splendor at the Upper Falls.

One to the final dam and the Second Falls (the "Cotton Mill Falls") at Bridge Street. Historical interpretative signs are stationed alongside the path. There are several connections to Main Street from the path. A second path extends from East Elm Street and the upper dam along a small peninsula between the river and an old mill sluiceway. From here, you can look over to Gooch Island which you can also view from a pathway between Park Street and Forest Falls Drive.

Directions

The primary entrance and parking lot is across East Elm Street from the newly renovated Yarmouth History Center, about 0.3 mile east of the Main Street intersection. Park here if you are launching canoes from the History Center. There are additional entrances to the park from Mill Street, from the Beth Condon Pathway near the Rowe School, or the entrance of Forest Falls Drive (which connects to the Royal River path via a pedestrian bridge) and from Bridge Street.

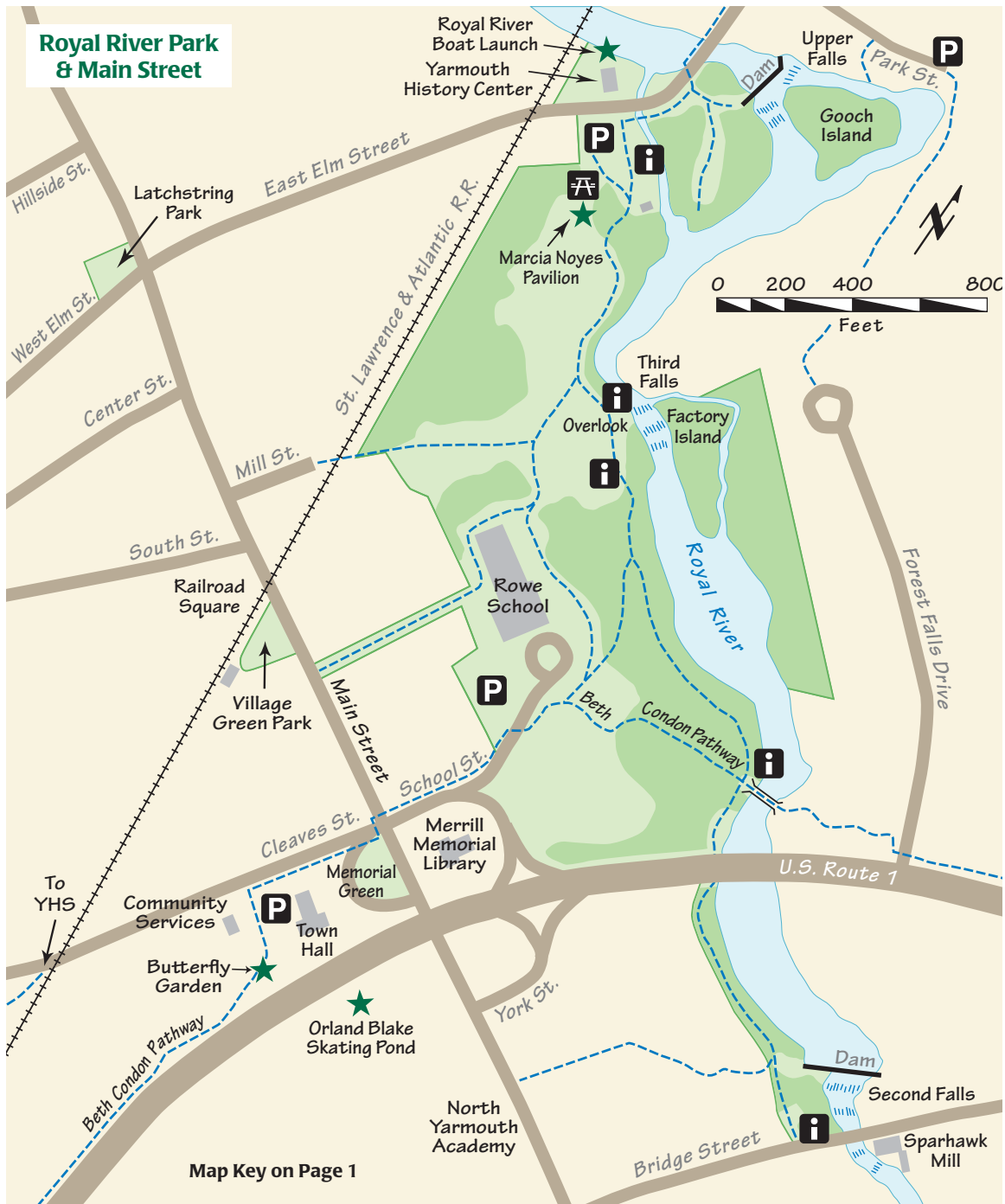
Special Notes

For more information on the history of the park, visit the Yarmouth History Center. **E4**



© Marcia Noyes

The Royal River Park is home to the annual Summer Arts Series which features outdoor performances throughout the summer months.



A Stroll Down Main Street

Not all of Yarmouth's open spaces are bucolic and teeming with wildlife. There are some very nice routes within the village which invite the casual, fitness or destination walker (or cyclist) to get outside, explore the day, see some friends, go to the library, or do some shopping. In addition, Yarmouth has many 'pocket' parks in the village, small places in pleasant locations, often with a bench or two. **Main Street** is sprinkled with such little gems, as well as many examples of well-preserved historic, residential and commercial architecture, which do so much to define the attractive character of the village.

So take a stroll down Main Street, starting at its intersection with Sligo Road. Note the historic preserved brick school buildings inside the intersection (**Brick School, District #4, ca. 1841**), now adapted for commercial and professional tenants, still serving as an active part of the fabric of the town. Next to the Brick Schools is the **Old Ledge Schoolhouse**, which was renovated in 1976. Continuing down Main Street to Hillside Street, the **Old Meeting House** (original structure, 1796) is up the hill, maintained by

the Village Improvement Society (VIS), and available for rental for weddings and other functions. Further along, at the intersection with West Elm Street, is **Latchstring Park**, (so named for the town motto, "Our Latchstring Always Out"), and the location of a granite marker naming the town's Latchstring Award recipients. Take note of the historic **cast iron mileage marker** at the corner, giving directions to outlying towns. Turning down East Elm Street, you come to the former Yarmouth Water District building (ca.1923), now the **Yarmouth History Center**, the new home of the Yarmouth Historical Society, and fittingly located at the head of **Royal River Park**. The canoe/kayak launching ramp next to the Center is open for public access to the upper reaches of the Royal River.

Going back on Main Street, past old storefronts still in use, stop for a moment at the shaded bench in the Center Street median, just past the **First Baptist Church**, designed by John Calvin Stevens. Up Center Street on the left you can find the **Firehouse Arts**, a recycling of an old firehouse (ca. 1904) into an arts learning center.

Further south on Main Street, see the imposing stone structure of **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**. Across the street is **317 Main Street**, the community music center, in the **Capt. Sylvanus Blanchard House** (ca. 1855). This is at the intersection with Mill Street, which provides another access to the **Royal River Park** at the end of the street.

After passing the intersection with South Street, note the old commercial buildings



© Bob Delaney/d2gallery.com

Architectural detail at the Old Meeting House.



© Bob Delaney/d2gallery.com

Yarmouth's historic train station was built in 1906.

around **Railroad Square**, with a newly constructed pavilion for **The Bickford Collection**, a display of restored vintage trucking, agricultural and industrial equipment collected by the late Erv Bickford, a prominent citizen of the town. Cross the tracks (with care) of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railway, formerly the Grand Trunk Railway. On the right, set back behind **Village Green Park**, the 1906 **Grand Trunk Railway passenger depot** has been preserved by the VIS, providing a historical context for the growth of a vibrant village center. Continuing down Main Street on the left, just past **Camp Hammond's** (ca. 1889-1890) entranceway, is another pathway to **Royal River Park**.

Coming down hill into what was known as **Brickyard Hollow**, Cleaves Street is on the right, with its trail to the high school. The **Beth Condon Pathway** crosses Main Street here, just before **Memorial Green**, with its shaded benches and semi-circular drive in the foreground of **Town Hall**. **Yarmouth Community Services** and the **Beth Condon Butterfly Garden** can be found behind Town Hall, along the Beth Condon Pathway. Along the Pathway a large 'cookie' sawed from

Herbie, a former New England Champion American Elm, is on display. On the other side of Main Street is the busy **Merrill Memorial Library**, ca.1904.

Opposite Cleaves Street is School Street leading to the **Rowe School** with its Bennett baseball field, and connections to **Royal River Park** along the Beth Condon Pathway. Passing under the Art Deco style Route One bridge, the **Log Cabin** (American Legion Anderson-Mayberry Post #91) is on the right, the site of many community meetings. The **Orland Blake skating pond** and **VIS warming hut**, located immediately behind it, offers winter ice skating. Opposite the Log Cabin is the old **Masonic Hall**, built in 1873, now used for commercial enterprises.



© Bob Delaney/d2gallery.com

Informal hockey is popular at the Orland Blake Pond

Uphill is the beautiful campus of **North Yarmouth Academy**, incorporated in 1814 and long a centerpiece of the village, with its historic architecture, inviting greens and shaded benches. The **Chamber of Commerce** offices are on the western edge of the campus. Bridge Street leads to **Royal River Park**, and the imposing red brick **Sparhawk Mill** (the former Royal River Manufacturing Company, rebuilt in 1855 after a fire).



© Mike Leonard

The Sparhawk Mill was home to the Royal River Manufacturing Company from 1857 to 1917.

Passing **First Parish Congregational Church**, the intersection with Portland Street, the **First Universalist Church** and several old but active storefronts, Main Street goes downhill toward the harbor, either curving to the left past attractive period dwellings or veering to the right onto Marina Road, heading for **Lower Falls Landing**. Staying on Main St., **Grist Mill Lane Field** is located at the bottom of the hill, adjoining the Royal River. Just before crossing the river is the historic **Craig Saw Mill building**, now housing a private business. **Grist Mill Park** across the river is the perfect location for viewing the First Falls. **D3 to F4**

For more information on many of the sites encountered, see the websites of the Yarmouth Historical Society, yarmouthmehistory.org, or the Yarmouth Village Improvement Society, yarmouthvis.org.

Gendall Memorial

There is a memorial to early settler Walter Gendall in a small park on the south side of Route 88, with an outlook to the Town Landing and harbor. There is parking for several cars. **F4**

Grist Mill Lane Field

Just above where the Royal River tumbles down into tidewater is a beautiful stretch of river. There is a high steep bank of oak and beech on the east shore, and along the west shore a trail meanders through a field (the 'Intervale'). North of the field is a stand of mature oaks and a large rocky overlook above a set of pools just downstream from the historic Sparhawk Mill (the "Cotton Mill"). The Intervale is accessed from a trail off of Grist Mill Lane, near the intersection of Main Street and Route 88. Please be thoughtful of the neighbors as you enter this trail. The trail extends a short distance through the field and then enters the woods, revealing a short spur leading out onto a large rock on the river bank, a great place for a rest, picnic or fishing. This outlook also gives you a forecast of what the river could look like upstream if dams were removed.

Directions

From Main Street, turn onto Grist Mill Lane near the bottom of the hill. Parking is available on the street. **F4**



© Marcia Noyes

Grist Mill Park offers relaxing river views.



Grist Mill Park

Below the Lower (“First”) Falls, on the east shore, there is a parking lot, a shaded lawn often used for picnic lunches, and a railed overlook built atop ancient granite cribwork constituting the remains of a water-powered mill. Note the impressive views of the First Falls just before the Royal River meets tidewater. This historic location looks downstream to old mill and shipyard sites and the location of many other early industrial and commercial endeavors. These falls were the first harnessed to power a mill site by early settlers. The park is the site of a former large saw and grist mill (the Casco Mill) which was begun in

1674, and then expanded in 1681 by Walter Gendall. After storms the falls can be very impressive! You can judge from the color and turbidity of the water the amount of topsoil erosion and runoff upstream. Consider its impact upon the harbor, estuary and Casco Bay.

Directions

From Main Street, take Route 88 eastbound over the Royal River bridge. Parking is on your left immediately after the bridge (on the east side of the river). A small path leads away from the parking area to a large rock on the river bank, a great place to get down to the water. Use caution at flood stage. **F4**

Pratt's Brook Park

At over 220 acres, this is Yarmouth's largest park, with over 6 miles of hiking and cross-country skiing trails. Multiple loops through piney woods and open meadows, with bridges and other crossings over the many tributaries of Pratt's Brook, offer great hiking, snowshoeing and exploring. Good bird watching sites include the open fields with bluebird boxes (North Road fields), stream-side overlooks, blueberry fields, and a beautiful rocky waterfall on the Otter Trail. With adequate snow there are groomed ski trails ranging from easy to moderately challenging with opportunities for wildlife observations, including a small active beaver pond, plentiful deer sign and barred and great horned owl calling at night. There is now a Disc Golf course located on the northwest side of the North Road parking lot.

The trail system is complex; maps can be printed from the Town's website and are posted at the North Road and Berryfield Road trail entrances and many trail intersections. Trails are occasionally muddy and in spring and fall are prone to frost heaving. Mountain biking and other activities that could further damage the trails are prohibited. If you notice soft mud or rutting, please find a different trail to walk on to avoid trail damage.

Directions

There are three entrances to Pratt's Brook Park:

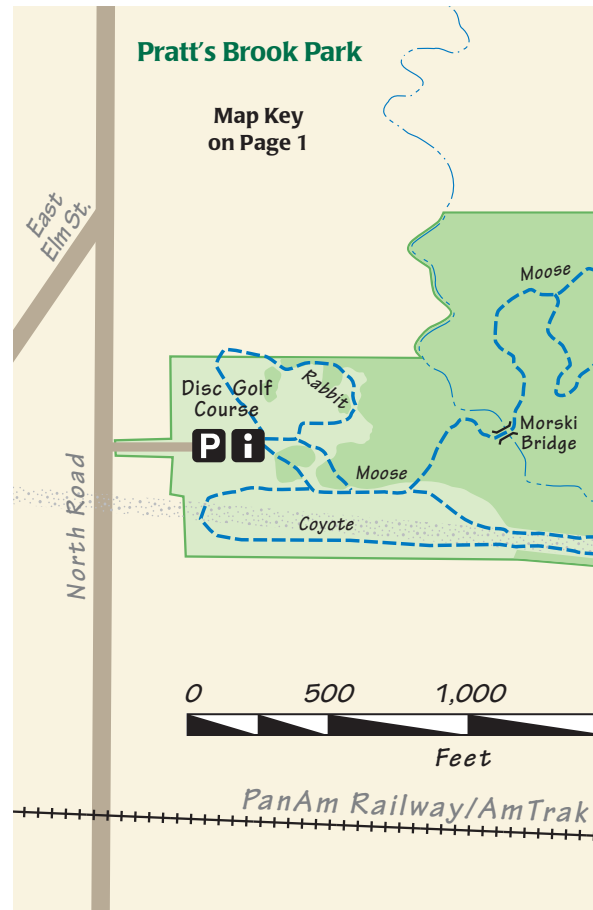
North Road, about 1.2 miles from East Main Street, on the right (or on the left, 0.1 mile south of the intersection of East Elm and North Road). This is a gated entrance with parking for about 30 cars.

Berryfield Road, a side road off Granite Street just over a mile from the 4-way intersection with East Main Street (east of Transfer Station), with parking for four cars at the end of the road on the right.

Ledge Road, about 1.2 miles from North Road or 0.4 mile from Granite Street, the entrance is about 150 feet east of Mountfort Road on the south side of the road, with parking on a wide soft shoulder for up to four cars.

Special Notes

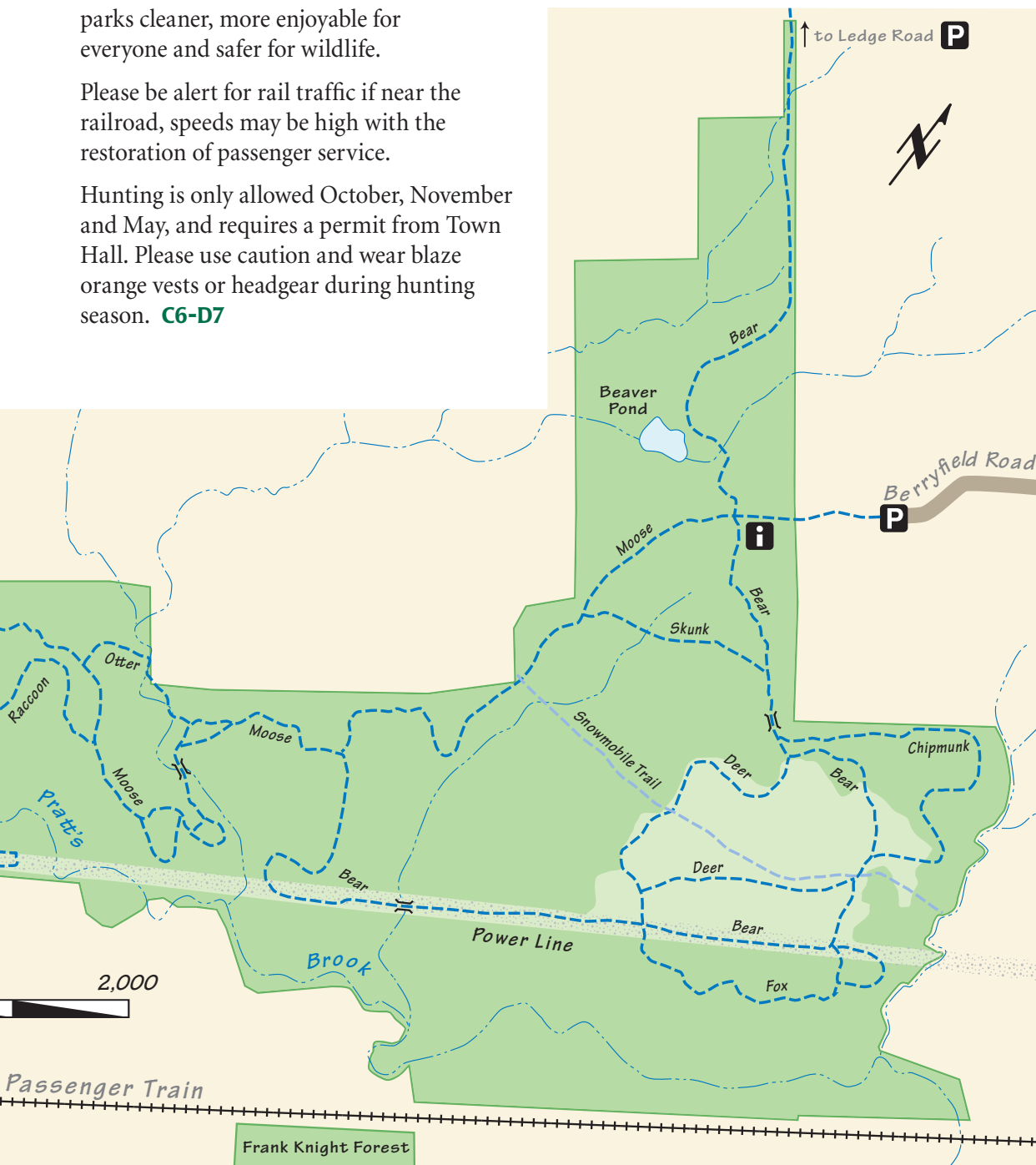
Yarmouth has a pet clean-up rule. Make sure that you are prepared to clean up after your pet, ESPECIALLY where people walk or ski, and where children play. With your help we can keep our



parks cleaner, more enjoyable for everyone and safer for wildlife.

Please be alert for rail traffic if near the railroad, speeds may be high with the restoration of passenger service.

Hunting is only allowed October, November and May, and requires a permit from Town Hall. Please use caution and wear blaze orange vests or headgear during hunting season. **C6-D7**



Yarmouth Parks, Preserves and Open Spaces





Map created by Josh Royte

Frank Knight Forest and the Community Garden

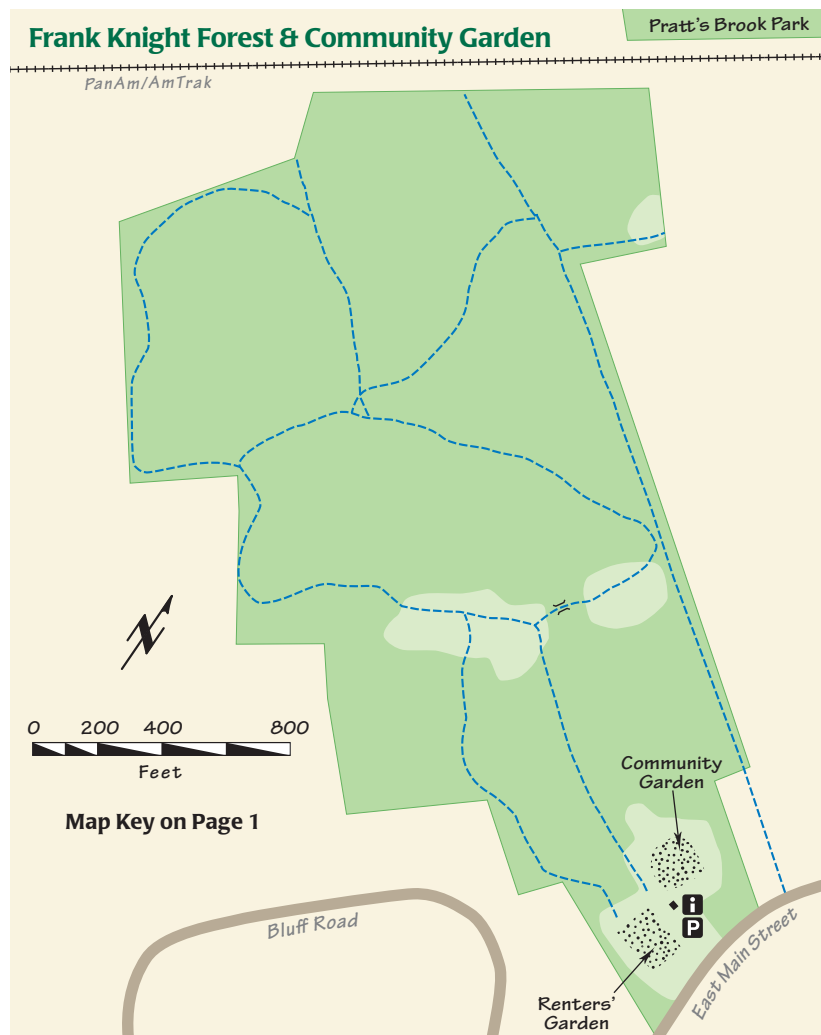
The Yarmouth Community Garden on East Main Street is the entryway into this wonderful 75-acre property which features several open meadows, mature woods with large pines and steep-sided, hemlock-draped ravines. This is a great place to explore a wide diversity of habitats.

Trails

Two trailheads start from the Community Garden; the main trail extends north from the garden's central lane and a second heads into the woods from the back of the Renters' Garden on the left of the entry lane. Both head into young and mature woods, around wetlands, ending up in the first of two lovely meadows. This first larger meadow has a

cluster of red maples with a stone bench dedicated to the park's first volunteer steward, Annie Simpson. Beyond this field trails extend in three directions, looping roughly 3 more miles through a second meadow, and some mixed pine woods, past glacial erratics and ancient hemlock, stately oak and spruce trees. There are several spur trails one of which slopes down a narrow ridge to one of the many tributary streams of Pratt's Brook. Another spur heads north to the PanAm/Amtrak rail line, where currently there is no legal access.

Thanks to numerous volunteers, several small bridges now keep users' feet (and paws) mud free, and a number of





© Josh Royte

The Annie Simpson commemorative bench offers a peaceful spot to take a break.

small wooden signs point the way. This trail system is still undergoing improvement, so consider carrying this map with you until you become familiar with the land. Please also respect the neighbor's No Trespassing signs, as the dirt road leading back to the railroad tracks may not be accessed from the Frank Knight Forest trail system.

Directions

Take East Main Street heading northeast. From the North Road intersection, the entrance is about 0.8 mile on the left just past the Community Garden sign. Park by the kiosk at the Community Garden.

Special Notes

Hunting is allowed on this property by permit from Town Hall. Please use caution and wear blaze orange during hunting season.

Be alert when near the railway, passenger service has been restored on this line, with increased traffic and operating speed.

D6-E7

About the Community Garden

Yarmouth's bountiful Community Garden is the brainchild of several Yarmouth citizens who envisioned a place where all residents would have the opportunity to grow their own organic produce, build community and share gardening advice. In May of 2003, the Town gave permission to establish the garden at the Frank Knight Forest. The project has been a great success. A volunteer group tends the community plot and the harvest is donated entirely to local charities and families in need. There is also a Children's Garden and educational program.

Individual plots may be rented for a modest fee. For more information visit: yarmouthcommunitygarden.org. **E7**



© Yarmouth Community Garden



North Road Back Woods

Behind the ball fields and playground on North Road are 15 acres of undeveloped woods and wetlands. There is an improved trail from Ryan Drive through the woods and into the back of the ballfield and the parking lot. The woods are a mix of large white pines, red maple, white ash and an invasive understory tree, smooth-leaved buckthorn. Wetlands cut across the property with stands of broad-leaved cattail and thickets of alder, winterberry and red-osier dogwood. Behind the AmVets Hall is an old dump site, so keep an eye out for glass and sharp metal if you are bushwhacking in that vicinity.

Directions

From East Main Street turn onto North Road. Go approximately 0.2 mile and park at the playground. The woods extend to the southwest behind the ball fields and the AmVets Hall. This parcel borders private properties on the other three sides, so please avoid trespassing while exploring. **E5**



Transfer Station salt marsh and lower Pratt's Brook.

Transfer Station Salt Marshes

Just downhill from the transfer station and the capped landfill area are Town lands that extend across the spectacular marshes of lower Pratt's Brook and open oak woodlands on a series of marsh-edge bluffs. Both the salt marshes and adjacent oak forests are well worth a visit, although there are no formal trails at this time. Walking on the marsh requires some care and can be wet and muddy.

Trails

There are a few parking spaces to the far left as you enter the transfer station.

There are no established trails on this property, but it is a short bushwhack down slope and into the woods from the parking area. Just across a small gully is an oak-covered ridge with a deer trail that heads down to the marsh edge. The open marshes are beautiful to walk through, but riddled with old drainage ditches. The key to avoiding these muddy moats are breaks in the marsh grasses, marking areas too deep and liquid for grasses to grow. Turning towards I-295, beautiful oak-covered and fairly open rolling bluffs provide views over the marsh. Note that there is no marked boundary at the edge of Town land, and to the south and southwest are private holdings that should be respected.

Directions

From the East Main Street/North Road intersection go 0.9 mile east

past the Community Garden/Frank Knight Forest. The Transfer Station is on the right. The gates are open Thursday through Monday, 8:30 am through 4:30 pm, excluding holidays.

Special Notes

Seasonal hunting is allowed on the marshes by permit from Town Hall. Please wear blaze orange during hunting season.

Avoid stepping onto bare mud on the tidal flats; it can be dangerously soft and deep.

E7-F7



Royal River Town Landing

This 8.6-acre parcel includes an approximately 0.6-acre park, with a public boat ramp, docks and parking for about 20 cars. There is a fee for launching watercraft.

There are also about 8 acres of marshy wetland impounded by an artificial dike for containing dredge spoils. The top edge of the dike can be hiked partway around the wetland edge, although common reed, a tall invasive grass that covers the wetland, often obscures parts of this route.

Upstream from the landing are the I-295 and Route 88 bridges and then the First Falls of the Royal River. Two miles downstream it opens to Casco Bay. Though once a deep harbor, this part of the river now has only a narrow navigable channel. The marshes and forest along the edges are beautiful and often harbor an abundance of wading birds, ducks, and kingfishers. If you paddle downstream, on the left bank you will pass the broad open marshes of the Spear Farm Estuary Preserve.

Directions

Take Bayview Street south from the intersection with Route 88, crossing over I-295, and take the next right onto Old Shipyard Road. **F5**



Yarmouth harbor at sunrise.

Spear Farm Estuary Preserve

The Spear Farm Estuary Preserve is a scenic 55-acre property with diverse habitats, ranging from stately oaks and pine forest to the open salt marshes of the Royal River estuary, and a small freshwater pond with a fringing marsh. There is an excellent picnic spot and overlook on the pond's northern shore. The property includes over two miles of trails perfect for walking, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. There are birding sites in the oak and pine stands, along the bluffs, the salt marsh edge, on the earthen dam, and the north end of the freshwater pond. Five interpretive signs stationed along the trail inform on aspects of the local ecology.



The point overlooking the pond offers a perfect spot to observe wildlife or enjoy a picnic.

Trails

Just beyond the information kiosk the trail forks. The right branch crosses a meadow before entering high-canopy forest which extends along the crest of a bluff and offers views of the Royal River and associated salt marshes. It then turns to the left and comes to a "T" intersection above the freshwater

pond. Bearing right leads to a clearing by the salt marsh and the pond's earthen dam, where you can often see painted turtles on logs. Across the dam the trail loops around the east side of the pond along an apple orchard, to the north end of the pond where trails split right uphill and back to the parking area, or left along the pond to the overlook

mentioned above. The open point is ideal for picnics, bird watching, or just peaceful contemplation. Although not maintained for ice skating, if the conditions are right it can make a pleasant afternoon.

If you go to the left at the "T" junction near the pond, the trail slowly descends across a small freshwater marsh before coming to

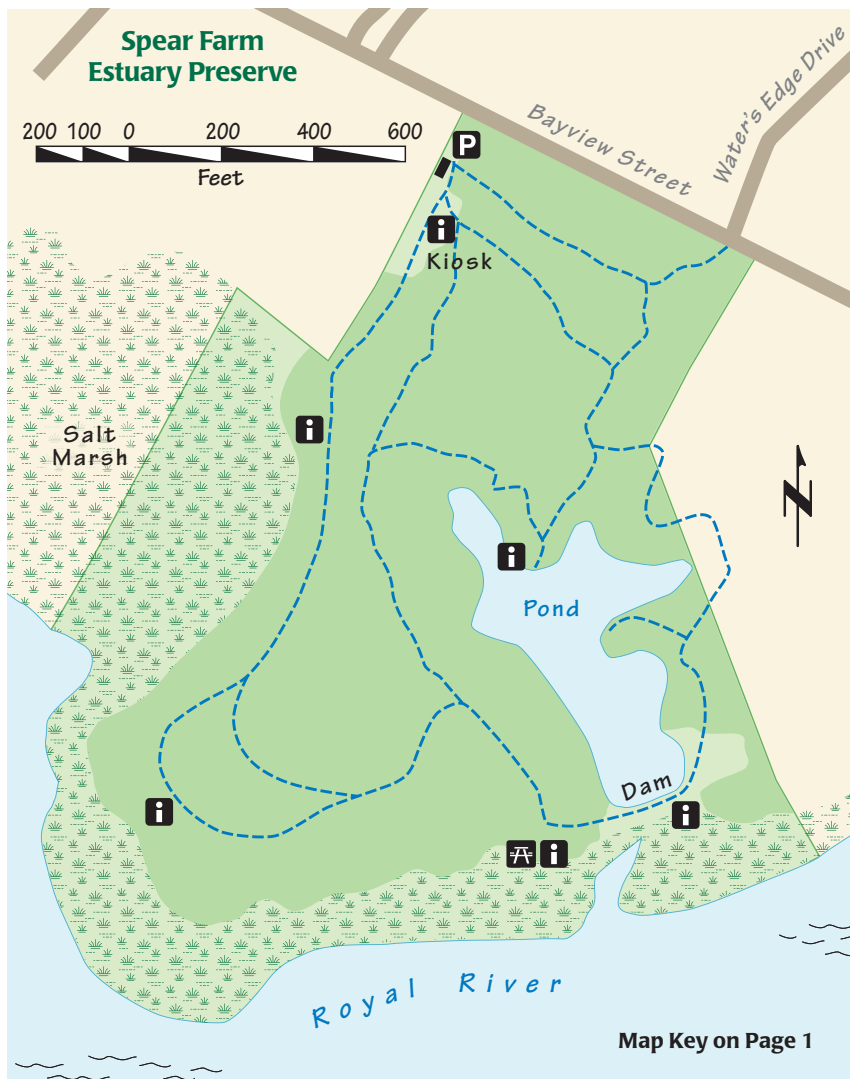
another trail junction. The trail to the right leads to the north end of the freshwater pond. If you head straight, the trail climbs uphill back to the parking area.

Directions

From Route 88 (Spring Street) turn southeast onto Bayview Street, cross the bridge over I-295, and go 0.9 mile to a small parking area on the right, set back from the road with a small barn and kiosk at the edge of the field.

Special Notes

Hunting is allowed by permit from Town Hall. No discharge of firearms is allowed within 300 feet of a home, road or trail. Wear blaze orange in season. **H5-H6**



Map Key on Page 1

Fels-Groves Farm Preserve

This 55-acre preserve of mature woods and scenic open fields flanks both sides of Gilman Road. Wildlife is abundant, including large and small mammals and a variety of birds. Foot trails in the southern parcel offer year-round use, and the entire Preserve is accessible with snowshoes in winter.

The property consists of 25 acres of fields and 30 acres of woodlands. Beyond the fields are steep ravines that drain south to the upper Broad Cove estuary and north to the Royal River.

The **southern parcel's** rear boundary is the CMP power line, the location of the new West Side Trail. Meadows of grasses, ferns and wildflowers border the road and are mowed annually to prevent them from turning into woodlands, with paths in the field mowed more often. A small woodlot west of the parking lot along Gilman Road has a handicapped accessible loop trail. The mature mixed-wood forest southeast of the fields contains a small stream and ravine amid a younger forest of black cherry, paper birch and numerous shrubs. The forest east of the ravine has stately, large red oaks. The ravine extends south to the upper reaches of Pittee

Creek and the Broad Cove estuary. There are loop trails around both the open fields and the woods. The West Side Trail Connector, running along the west edge of the field from the parking lot, is the only trail segment upon which mountain bikes are permitted.

The **northern parcel** (adjoining the privately owned historic brick farmhouse) has grassy pastures that slope gently to a series of steep ravines that drain north to Whitcomb's



Map Key on Page 1

Creek, a brackish tidal tributary to the Royal River. The ravines are forested with hemlock, American beech, red oak, red maple and white ash. The northern parcel has no developed trails at present, and is best explored in winter using snowshoes. Be mindful of the neighbors' privacy.

Directions

From the Village take Gilman Road towards Cousins Island. The fields of Fels-Groves Farm open up within a quarter mile on both sides of Gilman Road. Park in the parking lot on the right just past the treeline. **H4-I4**

Larrabee's Landing

This historic boat landing on the southwest bank of the Royal River estuary provides a pleasant outlook over the river. It is a nice way-stop for cyclists, birders or walkers from Burbank Lane, off Larrabee Landing Road and Gilman Road. Gilman Road was originally built by the early settlers to provide access to this landing. A mowed right of way alongside a split rail fence leads to water's edge.

Directions

Coming from the Village, take Gilman Road towards Cousins Island, turn left onto Larrabee Landing Road and then left onto Burbank Lane. Parking is on the street. **H5**

Sunset Point Overlook

This small parcel is a launch site for kayaks and canoes at any tide at the mouth of Broad Cove. At higher tides, small trailered boats can use the unimproved ramp. Enjoy birding and views of Casco Bay.

Directions

At the end of Princes Point Road, bear right at the fork and right again onto Sunset Point Road. There is no parking at the overlook, so pedestrian or bicycle access is best. Limited parking is nearby in a small public lot at Battery Point Lane. **J2**

Old Town Landing

This historic landing, with moorings for working and recreational boats, has a small shallow cove, prominent rock ledges, and is notable for its panoramic views. Wading birds and coastal waterfowl are seen seasonally. Tidal pools await exploration by youngsters of all ages. One can swim in the cove at high tide and launch hand-carried canoes or kayaks, or back a boat trailer down the road.

Directions

From its intersection with Princes Point Road and Morton Road, go 0.3 mile down Old Town Landing Road. There is very limited seasonal parking on the north side of the roadway on the hill. The end of the road floods at high tide. **J3**



Low tide at the Old Town Landing.

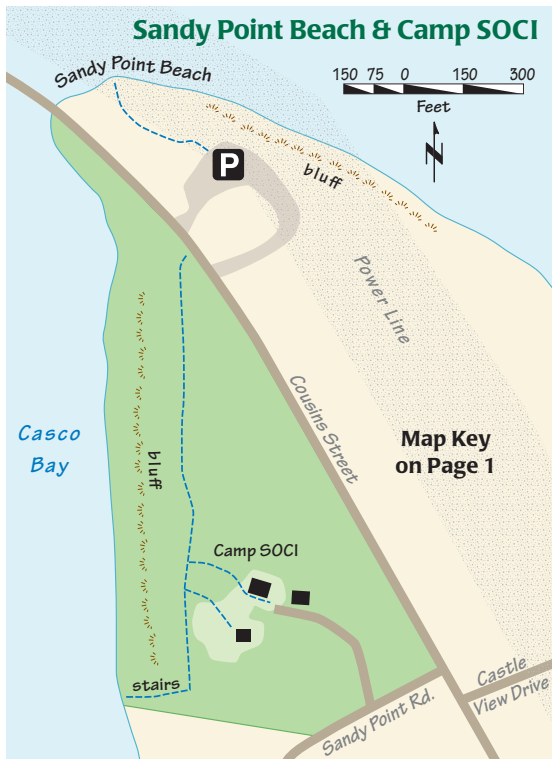
© Bob Delaney/d2gallery.com

Sandy Point Beach

This a favorite spot for swimming, especially for families with young children. At low tide, a long sand bar is exposed. It is also a popular kayak launching spot. Stay away from the sheer bluff faces which are subject to erosion and slides. Clamming is permitted with a license except when the mud flats are closed. Dogs are not permitted from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Directions

Sandy Point Beach is on the left after crossing the Snodgrass Bridge to Cousins Island. Park in the unpaved lot which also serves Camp SOCI across the street. This also serves as parking for use of the West Side Trail. **J5**



© Bob Delaney/d2gallery.com

Low tide reveals a sand bar at Sandy Point Beach.

Camp SOCI

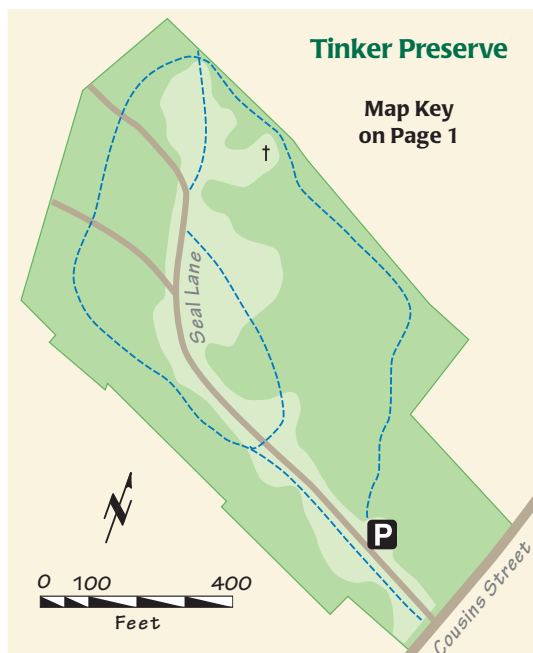
Across Cousins Street from the Sandy Point Beach parking lot entrance are steps and a path leading to Camp SOCI (Scouts Of Cousins Island), a small pleasant wooded parcel atop a high steep bluff. There is a grassy amphitheater in the center of the parcel (a good picnic spot) and a trail along the top edge of the high bluff overlooking the water. This trail runs through a mature red oak and pine stand, and looks across to the mainland at the former Homewood Inn site and Princes Point. There is a long, steep and narrow stairway leading down to the shore. At mid to low tide, it is possible to follow the shoreline north under the bridge to Sandy Point Beach. This property is recognized by birders as an important stopover for migratory songbirds. Please stay off the fragile, erodible bluff slopes. **K5**

Tinker Preserve

Katherine Tinker preserved this 15-acre property via a donation to The Nature Conservancy in 1970 with the direction that it be maintained as a sanctuary to protect

plant and animal species. The property offers natural beauty that residents frequently enjoy on short walks and picnics. A small cemetery at the far end of the property is maintained by the Cousins Island Cemetery Association.

A long narrow field is flanked by woods of oak, white pine and open shrub lands of staghorn sumac and invasive Morrow's honeysuckle. Old apple trees persist from the days when a home was located on the property. Eurasian bittersweet, an imported vine initially valued for its bright orange berries, began taking over forest, shrubs and fields alike. Park stewards continue to be vigilant in controlling this invasive plant. Among goldenrod and asters there is milkweed which supports monarch butterflies before their annual migration.



Directions

From the Cousins Island bridge go 0.8 mile and turn right onto Seal Lane. There is parking immediately on the right. **K4-L4**



A peaceful moment at Madeleine Point.

Madeleine Point

This small property abuts Wyman Station power plant land near the south end of Cousins Island. There are sweeping views stretching from the Cousins Island bridge across to Princes Point and the Cumberland and Falmouth shore. It provides access to a public commercial and recreational dock and mooring area. There is a small shingle beach next to “Contemplation Rock,” a scenic outlook point and popular picnic spot.

Directions

Follow Cousins Street to the Wharf Road intersection and turn right onto Madeleine Point Road. There is limited parking in designated areas along the roadway. **L3**

Littlejohn Island Preserve

At the north end of Littlejohn Island is a quiet 26-acre preserve owned and managed by the Royal River Conservation Trust. It features a shoreside trail with open views of Casco Bay, Chebeague Island, Cousins Island and other Yarmouth and Freeport islands. The Preserve is open to members of the public who commit to respect the solitude of the Preserve and the posted rules governing its use and management.

Trails

A one-mile loop trail includes a walk down a private gravel road onto a forested loop trail around the northern tip of the island, along rocky points and sheltered small coves. The trail has been improved in wet sections with small bridges and occasional boardwalk. These can be slippery in wet weather, and may not accommodate all hikers. No bicycles are permitted, but pets under control are welcome.

Directions

Parking is limited, and often all available parking spaces are filled during any period of the year. Pemasing Lane is a private road. Public road access is limited during mud season. Be prepared to visit another property when parking spaces are filled, or hike to this preserve from other locations. The extent and location of parking is expected to change in 2014. For driving directions and to stay up-to-date on parking and trail locations, check the Royal River Conservation Trust website: **RRCT.org**. **M6**



Littlejohn Narrows Overlook

There is Town land at both ends of the causeway to Littlejohn Island. A few hundred yards past the bridge on the right is a narrow strip leading to the shore. Both provide scenic views of the narrow tidal strait between Cousins and Littlejohn Islands. The bridge and causeway are great places to view kingfisher, osprey, eider and black ducks, herons, egrets, and flocks of resident and migrating shorebirds. With luck, you may occasionally see bald eagle, mink or otter. **M4**

Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT), rrct.org, is a non-profit regional land trust based in Yarmouth which holds



and monitors the conservation easements on several significant preserves in this Guide.

Littlejohn Town Dock

This small property features a large sturdy dock and a seasonal float. There are views across to Great Chebeague Island and Portland to the south. Around the dock are rocky outcrops that make for good tide pool exploration at mid to low tide. This is a popular fishing spot for stripers and bluefish.

Directions

From the Cousins Island bridge, go one mile and turn left on Talbot Road (just past the Community House) to Littlejohn Island. Park just before the causeway on the left or just over the bridge on the right. The public dock is half a mile from the bridge on Littlejohn Road. This is an active working dock, and the limited parking is in great demand. *Refer to map on page 26.* **M5**



© Marcia Noyes

Salt marshes are a rich ecological resource.

The Value of Salt Marshes

Food chain: Salt marshes are more productive than most terrestrial ecosystems, even agricultural fields and crops, and provide food well beyond their boundaries. They serve as incubators for life at the base of the food chain, nurseries for young fish, and provide shelter and food for finfish and shellfish, including many commercially significant species.

Maintaining water quality: Marsh vegetation slows the movement of water, causing suspended sediments (and attached contaminants) to be deposited, removing them from circulation.

Shoreline protection: Peat accumulates as sea level rises, building marsh elevations; the vegetation slows the movement of water. This buffers adjacent uplands against storm surges and the erosive action of big waves.

Habitat: Salt marshes provide habitat, food and a rest stop for a diverse community of many species, including wading birds and migratory waterfowl.

Recreational and aesthetic values: Marshes are popular for birding, hunting, fishing and environmental education. They provide scenic vistas and open space.

Financial value: Two-thirds of our commercial fish landings depend on coastal wetlands for nursery and breeding habitat, or on foods that breed there. Recreational activities also contribute significant economic value.

Our Worst Invasives

Invasives are non-native plants that take over and force native plants out of their own habitat, costing millions to control annually. Our worst offenders are:



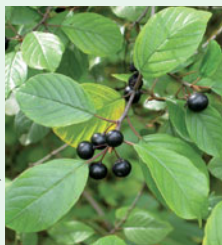
Bittersweet This twining vine chokes the crown of trees it climbs. Recognized in the fall by its red berries flanked by two orange casings.



Purple Loosestrife Although its flowering spikes are very attractive, Loosestrife can quickly take over the surrounding landscape.



Phragmites This reed found at the edge of marshlands spreads rapidly by roots and abundant seeds found in dense plumes at the top.



Glossy Buckthorn is identified by its glossy black berries, speckled bark and branches which grow at nearly 90° to the trunk.

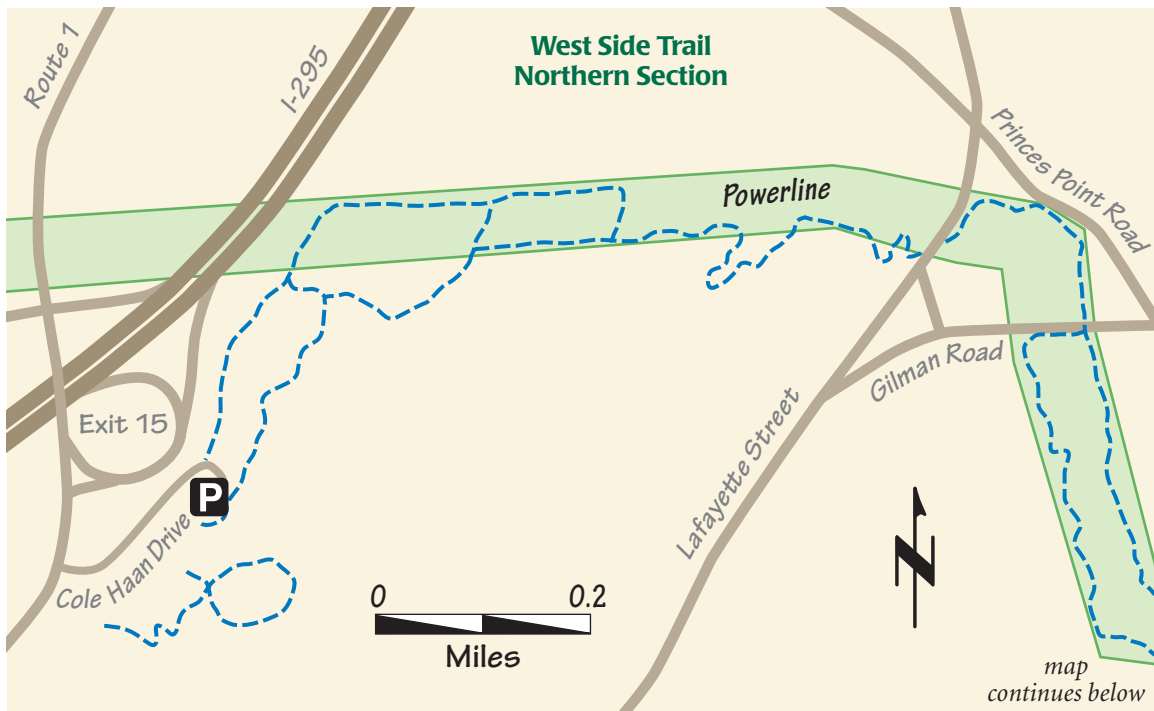
Photos © Cay Kendrick

West Side Trail

The West Side Trail is a new multi-use trail addition that brings off-road single track bicycling to Yarmouth. Offering multiple loops within each section, this multi-use walking/running/biking trail presently stretches from the Cousins Island (Snodgrass) Bridge to U.S. Route One in five sections, all within the CMP power line corridor. The trail will eventually extend the 6 miles (as the crow flies) from the Cousins Island power plant to the North Yarmouth town line, along Yarmouth's western border. Much of the trail is under the cover of the adjoining tree canopy, presenting a remarkably pleasant experience from what might otherwise be anticipated along a power line corridor. The trail can be accessed at any of the numerous road crossings (look for crosswalks and trail crossing signs) and parking is available at the Fels-Groves Farm Preserve on Gilman Road and at the Tyler Technologies upper parking lot on Cole Haan Drive. The Central Maine Power transmission corridor is depicted on the townwide map at the center of this Guide, and the West Side Trail is entirely within its boundaries. With dogs, walkers, mountain bikes and runners all frequenting this multi-use trail, caution and courtesy is required of everyone. Dog walkers must comply with the town's Dog Control Ordinance, which should be consulted for current requirements and information. **G2-J4**



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to view the town's Dog Control Ordinance.



For news about the West Side Trail visit: facebook.com/YarmouthTrails



Page No.	Yarmouth Open Space	Locator Map (pg. 14)	Acreage	Trail Mileage	Parking Spaces	Portable Restrooms	Accessibility*	T-table; S-shelter; B-bench	Boat Ramp	Hand Carry Boat Launch	Swimming	Fishing	X-XC Skiing; S-Snowshoe	Scenic Vistas	Birding	Hunting with permit	Mountain Biking
4	Barker Preserve	C4	23	N/A	none		N/A					✓		✓	✓		
5	Beth Condon Pathway	F3-F5	N/A	1.5	N/A		P.F.	B									✓
5	Butterfly Garden	F4	0.5	0.1	20		P.F.	BT									
24	Camp SOCI	K5	6	0.3	4		U.H.	TS				✓		✓	✓		
22	Fels-Groves Farm Preserve	H4-I4	55	1.5	5		U.F.	B					XS	✓	✓		**
16	Frank Knight Forest/Community Garden	D6-E7	75	2.5	10	✓	U.H.	TSB					XS	✓	✓	✓	
10	Gendall Memorial	F4	0.1	N/A	4		U.F.							✓			
10	Grist Mill Lane Field	F4	4	0.2	2		U.F.					✓	XS	✓	✓		
11	Grist Mill Park	F4	0.5	N/A	6		U.F.	TB				✓		✓	✓		
23	Larrabee's Landing	H5	0.6	0.2	4		U.H.	T		✓		✓	S	✓	✓		
26	Littlejohn Island Preserve	M6	26	1.0	5		U.H.	B			✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	
26	Littlejohn Narrows Overlook	M4	0.4	0.1	2		U.F.			✓		✓		✓	✓		
27	Littlejohn Town Dock	M5	0.5	N/A	4		P.H.			✓	✓	✓		✓			
25	Madeleine Point	L3	0.1	N/A	10	✓	U.H.	TB	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
8	Main Street Stroll	D3-F4			Street		P.F.	TB						✓	✓		
18	North Road Back Woods	E5	15	0.2	10	✓	U.F.						XS				✓
23	Old Town Landing	J3	0.5	N/A	2		P.H.		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
12	Pratt's Brook Park	C6-D7	225	6	4/4/30 [†]		U.H.	T					XS	✓	✓	✓	
6	Royal River Park	E4	22	1	20	✓	P.H.	TSB	✓	✓		✓	XS	✓	✓		
20	Royal River Town Landing	F5	8	N/A	20	✓	P.F.	T	✓	✓				✓	✓		
24	Sandy Point Beach	J5	3	0.1	15	✓	U.H.			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
2	Sligo Road Property	C4-D4	35	0.5	3		U.F.					✓	S	✓	✓	✓	
20	Spear Farm Estuary Preserve	H5-H6	55	2	5		U.H.	TSB				✓	XS	✓	✓	✓	
23	Sunset Point Overlook	J2	0.2	N/A	none		U.H.		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
2	Sweetsir Farm Preserve	B4	30	0.5	2		U.F.					✓	S		✓	✓	
24	Tinker Preserve	K4-L4	15	0.4	4		U.F.						XS		✓		
19	Transfer Station Salt Marshes	E7-F7	40	1.0	5		U.H.	TS				✓	S	✓	✓	✓	
28	West Side Trail	G2-J4	N/A	5	15		U.H.						XS	✓		✓	✓

*Accessibility: P.F. – paved and fairly flat; P.H. – paved and hilly; U.F.-- unpaved flat; U.H. – unpaved hilly and/or muddy.

[†]Parking at three locations: Berryfield Lane, Ledge Road, North Road. **West Side Trail Connector only.