

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

In all, 5573 acres of land in Gloucester have been dedicated in some fashion to open space and recreation. The variety and character of Gloucester's open space and recreation areas contribute significantly to Gloucester's quality of life and it is critical to inventory those areas to better understand how to protect and improve them. Key types and functions of these areas include:

- Watershed lands that collect and store fresh, clean drinking water supplies used by most Gloucester residents;
- Salt marshes and wetlands that provide habitat to fish and fowl, help mitigate the impact of storms and that are harvested for shellfish;
- Fields and playgrounds that offer a wide variety of recreational activities to young and old alike;
- Beaches and public landings that allow residents to enjoy water recreation, provide fishermen access to water and attract tourists that help bolster the local economy;
- Forests that provide trails for hiking and mountain biking and
- Cemeteries that provide a final resting place for our ancestors and loved-ones.

Gloucester's faces two challenges when working to inventory and protect open space:

1. identifying privately-held, undeveloped land that provides or can provide significant open space or recreational value and developing strategies to protect those open spaces values or realize an area's recreational potential; and
2. understanding the extent and level of protection of open space and recreational land owned by the public and non-profits.

The level of protection open space and recreation areas have depends on the legal documents that describe the protection, the laws that validate those documents and the enforcement avenues legal stakeholders can take to enforce those legal documents and laws. Table 5-1 provides a description of the various levels of legal protection of open space and recreation land. The City has acquired its open space and recreation lands in a piecemeal manner over a long-period of time so a full and accurate inventory of the level of protection of existing City-owned land will require an extended effort to track down deeds and other historic information.

The highest level of protection covers land transferred with a deed that expressly states that land has been acquired for open space and recreational purposes including Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution (adopted in 1918 amended in 1972) or Massachusetts General Laws that allow government or private entities to hold conservation restrictions (see the Massachusetts Conservation Restriction Handbook, MA Division of

Conservation Services). Land that has traditionally been used for open space and recreation purposes also has a high degree of protection since Article 97 has been interpreted to cover these areas even in the absence express deed language. As with any restriction or regulation, the effectiveness of the protection also depends on the interest and ability of the legal stakeholder to follow or enforce the restriction. Wetland conservation restrictions can prove difficult for the City’s conservation commission to enforce due to the time-consuming nature of enforcement. As a result, the Commission prefers that restrictions be held by an active local land trust that focuses on open space protection.

Table 5-1: Strength of Legal Protection of Open Space and Recreation Lands

Level of Protection	Description
High-Highest	Non-profit, privately-owned or publicly-held land with a written, recorded and legally-enforceable conservation restriction or an express declaration of acquisition for Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution purposes.
High	Publicly-owned land that has long been primarily held as open space or used for recreation and is likely to be subject to protection under Article 97.
Moderate to High	Publicly-owned land with multiple uses that is covered by the City’s parks ordinance (e.g. school playgrounds and fields, play area behind Bayview Fire Station)
Moderate to High	Private parcels with resources that may be protected (e.g. wetlands or land within water supply overlay districts)
Low	Ancient ways or paths through private lands.
None	Private parcels without any deed or regulatory restrictions on development or public parcels purchased and used for purpose other than open space and recreation.

Most of Gloucester’s public land acquisitions occurred prior to the development of modern legal instruments to protect open space and recreational values such as conservation restrictions or express declarations of acquisition for open space and recreational purposes or the enactment of Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution that requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature to dedicate open space and recreational land to another use. For instance, in the late 19th century the City bought a private water company that built the local drinking water system along with the watershed lands around the reservoirs.

Other laws and regulations can protect the open space value of private parcels including wetland regulations and zoning overlay areas. The City has enacted zoning overlay district to restrict certain uses on the small number of private lands within the watershed of Gloucester's public water supplies. How effectively these regulations are implemented and enforced will determine whether they provide a moderate to high level of protection of open space. If approving boards approve projects with few conditions or waive key requirements, the permits may be difficult to enforce. Since potential violations of these regulations take place on private land where many uses are allowed, identifying and enforcing violations of these regulations and permits also requires staff or volunteers trained and willing to gather evidence to support enforcement actions

One particularly challenging area of protection relates to preserving traditional access across private open space. For instance, neighbors may have for years traditionally used a foot path or even an historic road to cross private land. Owners may try to exclude public access for a variety of reasons, they may be new to the area and want to use their land in a way that excludes public access or be long-established residents who seek to exclude others that damage the property, disrespect the owner or use the way in a non-traditional manner. Enforcing traditional public access across private land requires information on the duration and type of access that has been allowed in the past, evidence that's difficult to collect.

A. PRIVATE UNPROTECTED PARCELS

The Essex County Greenbelt Association (ECGA) recently did an inventory of parcels larger than five acres in Gloucester held by private individuals and organizations that lack conservation restrictions or other legal protection as open space (See Table 5-2). This subsection draws on the results of ECGA's inventory.

A.1. Agricultural Properties

Gloucester no longer has significant areas dedicated to farming. Three parcels totaling 57 acres were identified being used for orchards or nurseries. Two of these properties are near each other on Concord Street in West Gloucester.

In addition to those 57 acres identified by the ECGA inventory, Marshall's Farm Stand at 144 Concord Street in West Gloucester does a limited amount of vegetable gardening. A local nursery, Goose Cove Gardens, is located on Gee Avenue near Dogtown. White's Tree farm sits in West Gloucester.

A.2. Forested Land

The most significant areas of privately-owned forested land in private hands consist of tracts that abut conservation or water supply lands in West Gloucester and the Goose Cove Reservation area.

Six parcels totaling 164 acres have been designated as Chapter 61 Forest Lands. Two of these parcels are located along High Street above Dogtown. One parcel is off Dennison Street near the Goose Cove Reservoir. Three parcels are in West Gloucester, one off Concord Street and two abutting parcel near Mount Hunger on the Essex town line.

Other forested parcels include abutting and in-fill parcels associated primarily with Gloucester’s water supply areas including:

Dogtown: Numerous private undeveloped parcels exist north of the publicly owned lands in the Goose Cove watershed commonly referred to as Dogtown. A swath of 15 long and narrow “wood lots” sits north of this area. Twelve of these lots are owned by the City but are not designated conservation lands; the other three are in private ownership.

Norton Tree Farm: a 134-acre parcel owned by the New England Forestry Foundation sits to the north of the Dogtown woodlots and is protected. The Norton family continues to own an 8.8 acre lot in the middle of this reservation.

North Gloucester Woods/ Quarry Street: Immediately north of the Norton Tree Farm on the eastern ends of Quarry, High and Leverett streets sit a mix of protected Chapter 61 Forest Lands and large lots zoned for single family residential. Farther north lot sizes become smaller and include an increasing mix of single-family homes along Woodberry Street. A preliminary inventory of Dogtown and North Gloucester Woods parcels has been included in Appendix D.

Magnolia Woods and Gloucester Watershed Land: Three major in-fill parcels lie in the southern section of this area comprising 14.4 acres. The ownership of one parcel is unknown and the others have been inherited by heirs from the original owners.

Chapter 61 Protected Lands

Chapter 61, and related 61A and 61B, programs are designed to help landowners afford to maintain farms, natural areas, and working forests.

In order to qualify for the Chapter 61 program, a landowner must have 10 or more contiguous acres of forest land and a long-term commitment to improving the "quality and quantity" of timber on that land. Other values such as wildlife, aesthetics, and recreation can also be incorporated into the management goals of the property through the Forest Stewardship Program. An approved, forest management plan describing and mapping property resources and making management recommendations objectives is required to guide management of the property.

Taxes for those properties enrolled in Ch. 61/61A are determined based on the current use of the property (i.e., the productive potential of your land for growing trees), instead of the fair market or development value.

Ravenswood: A 100-acre stretch of privately-owned land to the east of Ravenswood Park has been identified for potential acquisition by the Trustees of Reservations and the City.

Old Salem Road: On the western edge of Ravenswood access is via Old Salem Road which runs between four privately-held parcels along Old Salem Road. More research must be done to establish the public rights to use this access.

West Gloucester Parcels: West Gloucester north of 128 has the largest concentration of parcels over five acres. This area was zoned for rural residential development as proposed by the 1998-2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan. As indicated in Section 4 G.6. Surface Water Pollution, this area lacks City sewer necessary to support dense residential development.

Downtown Gloucester: A partially developed 6.5-acre industrial lot southeast of Myrtle Square is known locally as the Emerald Forest. Community members have expressed interest in protecting this open space in the heart of Downtown Gloucester.

A.3. Water Supply Areas

67 parcels consisting of 140 acres of land are privately-owned parcels that are part of the watersheds for 8 primary water supply reservoirs. The City has adopted Water Supply protection zoning ordinances in those areas that place additional development controls and review in order to protect the water supply in those areas.

Ten in-fill parcels exist within Ravenswood Park and the Bond Hill Reservoir watershed. The City Assessor's office has not been able to identify ownership of eight of these parcels. One is privately held and one is owned by the City of Gloucester.

Twenty in-fill parcels exist in the Lily Pond Watershed Area south of 128 and north of the MBTA commuter line. Six of the parcels are city-owned or subject to a municipal lien, five have unknown ownership and nine are privately-owned, primarily by residents on New Lane. Eight in-fill parcels exist north of Route 128 including seven city-owned and one owned by New England Power. Between the watershed lands and the Lawrence Mountain Reservation is a 7.5 acre privately-owned parcel at 444R Essex Street.

A.4. Significant Habitat

The shores of the Annisquam River contain extensive stretches of salt marsh and uplands that provide important habitat for shore birds. Particularly large tracts of land lie between Route 128 and the Wingersheek Beach area. These areas warrant protection and could eventually be included in the Great Marsh ACEC that runs along Ipswich Bay.

Salt Island off of Good Harbor Beach provides five-acres of shoreline habitat.

The Stoney Cove Reservation is just south of Route 128 on the Little River inlet of the Annisquam River. Parcels abutting this reservation also provide habitat.

The rocky coast provides habitat to creatures that live in the inter-tidal zone. Opportunities to acquire these areas for conservation should be pursued when possible.

In-land parcels can also provide habitat for butterflies and may also include vernal pools even if they are less than five acres.

A.5. Less Than Fee Interest

An owner that retains all rights to transfer and develop their land is referred to as having “fee-simple” title to their land. Massachusetts law allows public and private entities to acquire legally-enforceable rights from owners who agree to limit development of their land. These rights are referred to as conservation restrictions and constitute a less than fee simple interest in a parcel of land.

Several tracts of parcels remain in private ownership with conservation restrictions including:

- Waterfront parcels along Bass Rocks, Eastern Point Annisquam owned by adjoining residential property owners or associations;
- Land held by smaller, neighborhood real estate trusts for the benefit of adjoining owners.

A.6. Private Recreation Lands

Significant tracts of private recreational lands include:

- Bass Rocks Golf Club, Bass Rocks Beach Club and the Elks Club in East Gloucester;
- Little River Campground and the Camp Ann Campsite in West Gloucester; and
- Cape Ann Sportsmen's Club near Dogtown

A.7. Estates

The Essex County Greenbelt inventory shows 210 residential parcels in Gloucester over five acres. Fifteen of those 210 parcels are multi-family housing units.

A.8. Major Institutional Holdings

Religious organizations hold five parcels over five acres listed in the ECGA inventory, including:

- a 14.3 acre parcel abutting the Thompson Street Reservation owned by Trinitarian Congregation of West Gloucester;
- 22.6 acres at the Eastern Point Retreat House owned by the Society of Jesus;
- The 25.5 acre grounds of the Calvary Cemetery on Eastern Avenue owned by the Roman Catholic Church;
- The Holy Spirit Association owns 12 acres of ocean front land off Western Avenue; and
- The Cape Ann Bible Church owns 5.6 acres of land off Thompson Street in West Gloucester that touches on the Thompson Street Reservation.

The Cape Ann YMCA owns the 47.8 acre Camp Spindrift off Atlantic Street in West Gloucester.

A.9. Other: Brownfields/Previously Developed Parcels

Since 1960 a parcel along Rogers Street known as I4C2 has sat vacant due to the inability of owners to develop a land-locked tideland parcel for marine industrial use and the restrictions on putting this parcel to use for other purposes. The City has been pursuing new zoning requirements for this lot that will allow a part to be used for additional supporting uses and has recently acquired this parcel.

Many private parcels sit along the downtown waterfront where the City plans to extend the existing Harborwalk. Public access can be provided through city, Chapter 91 permit requirements as uses change, negotiation of easements or acquisition.

B. PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT PARCELS

Gloucester has nearly 177 areas dedicated to open space and recreation areas including 74 areas conserved for water supply, habitat and other purposes, 14 passive recreation areas, 17 playgrounds, 16 athletic fields, 10 beaches and 28 public landings for water access. These areas range in size from a tenth of an acre at some school playgrounds to the 600-acre Ravenswood Park to the 300-acre Thompson Street Reservation. The attached list is an inventory of important areas to the City for their current open space and recreational value. Included in this directory are public as well as private sites. The inventory is divided into two categories based on protected and unprotected lands as designated by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services. These classifications are also displayed in Figure 20, Open Space Inventory.

In all, 5573 acres of land in Gloucester have been dedicated in some fashion to open space and recreation. Table 5-3 provides a breakdown of the types and acreage of these parcels. Historic and active cemeteries rest on just less than 100 acres of land. About 400 acres are developed for playgrounds, fields, schoolyards and other active recreation. Beaches and landings comprise 200 acres of the land used for both recreation and conservation while the remaining area consists of open space for passive recreation, habitat conservation or watershed protection. A parcel-by-parcel inventory is provided in Table 5-4.

Table 5-3: Open Space Area by Type

Type of Area	Number of Areas	Number of Parcels	Total Acreage
Cemetery	15	17	98.7
Conservation	64	150	1523.9
Marinas	2	2	13.2
Recreation	34	51	406.5
Recreation/Conservation	14	24	1058.6
Undesignated	38	38	364.1
Watersheds	10	177	2108.2
Total	177	459	5573.2

DCS Comment: Table that lists the city-owned properties needs to include management agency, current use, condition, recreational potential, type of grant used to purchase (if any) public access, zoning Chapter 61, conservation restrictions and ag restrictions should be listed.

B.1. Public Conservation and Recreation Resources

B.1.a. Watershed/Forest

Gloucester has 8 major watershed areas as listed in Table 2-5. These areas provide water to 8 reservoirs distributed through-out Gloucester. Lily Pond reservoir is currently an impaired waterbody that is neither a primary or secondary water supply area.

67 parcels in the primary water supply areas totaling 140 acres are privately-owned.

B.1.b. Active Recreation Areas: Playgrounds, Fields and Beaches

Gloucester has a rich mix of playgrounds, schoolyards, fields and beaches that offer residents opportunities for a wide variety of active recreation. The complete list of active recreation areas and uses is provided in Appendix E.

B.1.b.i. PLAYGROUNDS AND COURTS

Gloucester has 16 public playgrounds and one owned by a non-profit. Five of the public playgrounds are located at or near the five active elementary schools in Gloucester: Beeman, East Gloucester, Plum Cove, West Parish and Veterans. One other playground remains on the grounds the former Eastern Avenue School.

The schoolyard playgrounds at West Parish and East Gloucester Elementary have been updated with the support of Parent-Teacher Organizations and local businesses over the past few years. The Plum Cove PTO, volunteers and the DPW relocated play equipment from the Fuller School to the Plum Cove School when the Fuller School closed. Play equipment at Beeman School and at Mattos Field next to Veteran’s School are in good shape.



West Parish School “Science Park”

Local youngsters identified the playground at Stage Fort Park as one of their favorites during a survey taken at the local health fair in 2009. The Gloucester Rotary Club has been actively improving this play area over the past several years with new play equipment including play Twin Lighthouse Towers.

Gloucester Department of Public Works maintains the equipment at other playgrounds. Play structures are regularly maintained and have been replaced when necessary including those at the Babson, Ben Smith and Ciaramitaro/Gemellaro playgrounds. The play structures include the standard variety of swings, slides and steps to climb. A few of the playgrounds have short climbing walls. Wood chips are used as the primary surface below the play structures. The play surface at Palazola Playground (aka the Oval) has been worn down to the dirt and needs replacement.

A dense concentration of playgrounds exist in the Downtown area in and near the Environmental Justice neighborhoods including the Ben Smith, Palazola, Ciaramitaro/Gemellaro, Burnham’s Field, Babson, Middleton and Mattos playgrounds. Areas in the City that lack a central playground include Magnolia Village,

and West Gloucester north of Route 128 where residential areas with large lot sizes and large tracts of conservation.

Basketball courts exist at Ciaramitaro/Gemellaro Playground, Burnham’s Field, Stage Fort and Doucette Parks. Several rims have been broken off the basketball backboards at Burnham’s and are expected to be replaced soon. Outdoor basketball courts exist are present at five schools.

Seven tennis courts exist at Stage Fort Park and the high school. Bass Rocks Country Club has an additional three private courts. Tennis courts that had existed in the past at Swinson’s Field in East Gloucester may be converted for use for whiffle ball. Volleyball nets are set up at Good Harbor Beach and Stage Fort.



O'Maley Skate Park

A skate park is located next to O’Maley school and consists of concrete ramps.

Burnham’s Field and Playground has been a source of complaints from neighbors related to its condition. This park consists of a large field with a playground and basketball courts on one end. The field sits in a lowland area surrounded by a dense residential neighborhood. A gravel parking lot provides 20 spaces for vehicles, primarily for those using the ballfield. The basketball surface is in good shape but the hoops are broken. A dirt path provide access to either end of the park. The path does not allow handicap access nor does it allow the police the ability to patrol through the area in a police cruiser if necessary. The play equipment is covered in graffiti. The last time this park underwent major renovations was 1984 with the use of Urban Self-Help funds.



Burnham’s Field

B.1.b.ii. ATHLETIC FIELDS

The City has 16 locations with athletic fields. The fields range from the football field at Newell Stadium used by the Super Bowl Champion Gloucester High Fishermen to small fields used at recess or by neighborhood kids.

Gloucester has 10 baseball fields; seven of these fields are for younger Little League Players and three for teens and adults. The Gloucester Little League helps to maintain several of these fields for competitions including the Boudreau, Nate Ross and Wilson fields.

Thirteen fields accommodate various softball leagues, nine primarily for youth and four for teens and adults. The Gloucester Women’s Softball League helps maintain Mattos Field next to the Veteran’s Elementary School and multi-use fields for soccer, lacrosse, football and other sports using grass fields.

Magnolia Woods features six competition-ready soccer fields. School soccer teams also play at Newell Field. Brown’s Field and Kettle Cove Field provide space for soccer practice.

Newell Athletic Field and Stadium next to Gloucester High School serves as the primary football field in Gloucester. O’Maley Middle School also features a full-size football field with goalposts. These two fields also serve field hockey and lacrosse teams along with the Fuller School Field. Four other fields serve pee-wee and flag football leagues.



2009 Gloucester High Football Team Celebrates their Super Bowl Victory

B.1.b.iii. BEACHES

Gloucester has 10 public beaches that provide residents and tourist alike wonderful opportunities to enjoy warm summer days during the season as well as quieter enjoyment during other times of the year.

Good Harbor and Wingaersheek are the City’s largest and most popular beaches.

Good Harbor Beach is a beautiful barrier beach with lovely, white sand facing the Atlantic with an adjoining salt marsh. There is a concession stand, rest rooms, and showers. A parking lot accommodates 948 motor vehicles during the summer. A footbridge provides access from an adjoining neighborhood and there is limited bicycle parking. Visitors can play volleyball during the summer. Surfers come to Good Harbor when the waves kick up. Access to the beach is off Thatcher Road (State Route 127A). Traffic often backs up during the summer as the parking lot fills.





Wingaersheek Beach sits in West Gloucester along Ipswich Bay, a long barrier beach at the end of the Great Marsh and the mouth of the Annisquam River. There is a concession, rest rooms and showers. Access is via Concord and Atlantic streets, narrow roads with many curves that discourage access on foot or by bicycle. The parking lot accommodates 650 vehicles. Boats and kayaks can drop anchor to the east of the beach.

At both beaches, residents pay an annual fee for an unlimited use sticker. Non-residents pay \$20-\$25 a vehicle on summer days.

Crab, Cressy, Half Moon and Pavillion beaches stretch along Gloucester Harbor from Stage Fort Park towards the Gloucester Fisherman at the Wheel Statue. These beaches offer a mix of sand and stone. Parking is available in Stage Fort Park for a fee and for free along Stacy Boulevard. Stage Fort Park has bathrooms, and port-a-johns are located at the end of Stacy Boulevard.



Lanes Cove, Plum Cove and Magnolia beaches are smaller beaches near scenic villages that offer more intimate enjoyment. Niles Beach serves East Gloucester. Parking is available for residents only at these locations. Port-a-johns are available in season.

B.1.c. Community Gardens

Gloucester residents have developed several community gardens on their own initiative and the community is in the process of developing school yard gardens. One challenge will be to ensure that the gardens develop a self-sustaining core of gardens. A garden built at Magnolia Woods has become overgrown and needs to be re-adopted.

- RIVERDALE PARK (residents only)
- MAGNOLIA WOODS (inactive)
- YOUNG FARM (Lanesville area)

B.1.d. Public Landings

The City Water Access Board oversees the access to and improvement of 25 public landings and four beaches that provide access to the water for a variety of watercraft. A full inventory of these landings along with other landings that have or are being researched is provided in Appendix B.

B.1.e. Unprotected Public Lands

Numerous undesignated and potentially unprotected public lands abut open space and recreation areas within the city and would warrant further protection. Those properties are indicated in orange on Figure 20. Unprotected city-owned properties that warrant particular protection include the:

- i. Fuller School recreational fields
- ii. Land behind Bay view Fire Station, and
- iii. Properties south of Magnolia Woods.

The UMass Maritime Center along the Ipswich Bay is currently under utilized and could come up for alternative use in the future.

B.1.f. Summary of Unused Roads

Unused roads exist in the Dogtown Area including Dogtown Road and Common Road. A portion of Quarry Road north of Dogtown provides a nice hiking and running trail to the quarries on the Rockport line. In and near Ravenswood, Old Salem Path connects Western Avenue near Stage Fort Park to the Magnolia Woods recreation area.

B.1.g. Public Cemeteries in Gloucester

It is reasonable to include cemeteries in an inventory of Open Space. They have the highest degree of protection from change of use or development. They are of inestimable value for the historic record, and in whatever state of neglect and disrepair, remain quiet places for reflection and the appreciation of nature. There are 24 cemeteries in Gloucester, from a quarter acre to over 25 acres. More than half are owned by the city, including the earliest Burial Grounds, First and Second Parish, both of which are being documented and restored by an active committee. The latest addition, established in 1996, is Dolliver Memorial Cemetery.

No public cemeteries are gated and public access is allowed at all times. Crisscrossed by roads and paths, most are valued by local residents for exercise and dog walking. Seaside Cemetery, next to Rockport's Locust Grove, is particularly attractive for recreational use because it is surrounded by woods with paths in several locations down to the rocky shore. The prohibition of dogs and parking is regularly ignored, particularly on fine weekends in the summer months.

Table 5-3: Public Cemeteries, maintained by the DPW

Cemetery Name	Location	Parcel /Lot #	Size (acres)	Age/Status
BAYVIEW	903 Washington Street	138/40	1.15	ca. 1728 inactive
BEECHBROOK	389 &401 Essex Avenue	229/24	17.50	ca. 1879 inactive
BRAY STREET	379 Essex Avenue	229/32	0.25	w/ Beechbrook
BRIDGE STREET, Clarks Yd.	R122 Centennial Avenue	22/ 3	1.14	ca. 1855 behind First Par.
CHERRY HILL, Brown Cem.	Marsh Street to Hospital	86/1	2.86	1860s
DOLLIVER MEMORIAL	Lincoln Street, West Glou	237 63	7.45	1996
FIRST PARISH, Bridge Str.	Off Centennial Avenue	22/2	2.51	ca. 1643/4 Oldest
LANES COVE, Cove Hill	R1054 Washington Street	142/19	0.5	ca. 1720 locally maintained
LANGSFORD STREET	32-34 Langsford Street	144/1	0.79	ca. 1860
MAGNOLIA, Point	61-65 Magnolia Avenue	174/8	1.05	ca. 1871
OLD BEACHBROOK	Essex Avenue	228		Sign by Lawrence Mt. Road
SEASIDE	Langsford Street Lanesville	145A/1	10.10	ca. 1900
SECOND PARISH	Thompson Street	249/26	0.49	Overtaken by woodland
SUMNER STREET	42 Sumner Street	240/20	0.56	1800s – 1971

B.2. Protected Non-Profit Lands

B.2.a. *Audubon*

Eastern Point Wildlife Reservation

Total Acres:

Location: Eastern Point Boulevard



Description: Rocky shoreline, salt marsh, and wooded area. The Mass Audubon sanctuary is a hot spot for butterflies and seabirds at certain times of the year.

Norman's Woe Wildlife Sanctuary

Total Acres:

Location: Hesperus Avenue

Description:

Wooded area along rocky shore. Only available to public through special MAS programs. Limited street parking.

B.2.b. *Trustees of Reservations*

Ravenswood Park

Total Acres: 600 Year Conserved: 1889



Location: Rte. 127 between Gloucester and Magnolia

Description: Open from sunrise to sunset 7 days a week year round. The land was given to the city of Gloucester by Samuel E. Sawyer, a local philanthropist and founder of the city's library. Five miles of trail run through the Park. Some trails are easy to navigate while others are more difficult. Witch hazel trees, hemlock, moss, sweet bay and many other varieties of flora abound in the park. Old Salem Path runs through the Park. At one time this road connected Stage Fort Park to Salem.

Uses: Today, many use the Park for long walks year round and cross country skiers truly enjoy it in the winter.

Parking: Small lot for about 10 vehicles located next to the Visitor and Education Center located along Route 127 between Stage Fort Park and Magnolia.

*B.2.c. Essex Greenbelt***B.2.c.i. Carter Reservation**

Location: Goose Cove, turn right onto Dennison Street. Drive to the end of Dennison Street.

**Description**

The Carter Reservation is a great place to study glacial geology of New England. As part of the terminal moraine that comprises all of Cape Ann, this land is among the final resting places for rocky debris left behind by melting glaciers over 10,000 years ago. Today, many huge boulders, which were dragged south from as far away as Newfoundland, still look as if they have just dropped from the sky onto a foreign land. Ancient mounds of dirt and silt, known as drumlins, and winding ridges known as eskers can also be found throughout the area.

Activities

hiking, birding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing

Parking

Park at the Greenbelt sign at the end of Dennison Street. Parking is limited to three cars.

B.2.c.ii. Goose Cove Reservation

Total Acres: 29 Year Conserved: 1966

Description

Goose Cove Reservation was conserved by a group of concerned Gloucester residents who cherished the natural scenic beauty of this woodland as seen from Route 127. The property features wooded upland, rocky shoreline, and tidal mudflats. The scenery is some of the most beautiful and tranquil of all Greenbelt properties, and provides an opportunity to study varied plant and animal life. A variety of estuarine and marine plants and algae exist in unusual proximity along the shoreline. Geologic features include Cape Ann granite, horeblended granite, glacial erratics, glacial outwash, and moraine.

Activities

Hiking, birding & nature study, cross country skiing & snowshoeing, fishing, canoeing

Parking

Parking is limited to 5 cars. Park in the gravel parking lot.

Location: Washington Street, Route 127

B.2.c.iii. Seine Field

Total Acres: 16 Year Conserved: 1992

Location: Farrington Avenue, East Gloucester



Description

The ecosystem of Seine Field is a habitat type known as an "Open Heath" or "Relic Sandplain Grassland," which is characterized by arid, sandy soil and scarcity of humus-rich topsoil. This habitat type was once common along the Essex County coastline, but is now quite rare in New England. Only the unusual circumstances of the property's history have kept the Seine Field in this early succession stage of vegetative growth.

When the first wealthy Bostonians established their summer homes here in the early part of the 19th century, it is thought that they may have used the property as a small golf course; later in the 19th and throughout most of the 20th century, landowners allowed seine fisherman to repair and dry their large fishing nets on the field, the practice that gives the property its name. Today, if you visit the property on the right day in June you can still find one or two fisherman carrying out this tradition here.

Activities

Hiking, birding & nature study

Parking

Park at the entrance, but please do not block the gate. Parking is limited to three or four cars.

B.2.c.iv. Stoney Cove & Presson Reservation

Total Acres:53 Year Conserved: 1979

Location: Proceed 0.3 mile beyond the Concord Street, Gloucester exit #13



Description

Stoney Cove has been a crossroads connecting West Gloucester to Gloucester since the earliest colonial days. West Gloucester colonists had to walk across the marsh, then row across the Annisquam River, to attend compulsory church services at the Green near the site of the present day Chester Grant Circle. In 1694, an initial public route was established by means of a ferry over the river and a causeway built over the marsh to the mainland near the head of Stoney Cove. The current location of Route 128 is superimposed over the old causeway in the immediate Stoney Cove Area.

Activities

Hiking, birding & nature study, cross country skiing & snowshoeing, fishing, canoeing

Parking

Park in the pullout off Route 128 just before the stone pier

B.2.c.v. Thompson Reservation

Total Acres: 300 Sunset Rock: 4 acres □ *Year Conserved: 1993 & 1994.*
Located on Fernald Street in West Gloucester, off of Route 133

**Description**

The Thompson Street reservation features exposed bedrock, known as Cape Ann granite, vernal pools, woodland and swamp. There are traces of many trails that used to be wagon paths for early settlers to access their woodlots, but have since been overgrown with scrub growth due to numerous fires. The land consists mainly of young trees and shrub growth due to numerous fires, the most devastating occurring in 1947, and the most recent in the summer of 1993. Thompson Street, passable only as a foot trail, runs north and south through the property between Concord Street and Bray Street. Sunset Mountain, located near the cemetery in the southern end of the reservation, features a spectacular vista looking out over Cape Ann.

Activities

Horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, nature study, picnicking, snowshoeing

Parking

The parking area and main trailhead are located at Jacob Cemetery, on Fernald Street in West Gloucester. There is parking for 3-4 cars.

B.2.d. Private Cemeteries

Some of the private cemeteries in Gloucester have visiting hours and/or restricted access, including the largest, Calvary & Oak Grove, which are owned and managed by the Catholic Church.

Table 5-4: Private Cemeteries in Gloucester

Cemetery Name	Location	Parcel/ Lot#	Size (acres)	Owner
CALVARY	Eastern Avenue	160/5	25.50	Catholic Cemetery Assoc.
LOCUST GROVE	Langsford Street Lanesville	145A/2	27.80	Split 1840 to Rockport
MT. ADNAH, Jakes Hill	Leonard Street, Annisquam	122/4	5.12	Mt. Adnah Cemetery Assoc.
MT. JACOB	Fernald Street West Gluon	228/73	5.34	Temple Ahavat Achim
MT. PLEASANT	Mt. Pleasant Avenue	60/17	4.04	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Assoc
OAK GROVE	167 Washington Street	35/22	14.53	Oak Grove Cem. Mass Corp.
OAK HILL	Poplar Street	44/40	5.43	Catholic Cemetery Assoc.
PROCTOR FAMILY	488Essex Ave by Trinity Chr.	228/2	1.78	West Glos Trinitarian Church
UNITARIAN, Prospect St	18 Prospect St. at High St.	25/78	0.56	Maintained by AmVets
UNIVERSALIST, Pine Hi	R Pine & Church Streets.	15/68	0.60	Independent Christian Church
WASHINGTON	Western Ave. nr Stage Fort	216/110	0.45	Washington Cemetery Corp.
WESLEYAN	Wesley Street, Riverdale	102/41&2	1.88	Wesleyan Cemetery Corp.