

## *Walks in the Woods*

**These are just some of the conservation areas in Falmouth with trails and parking available. Most of these suggestions offer walks of about 40 minutes to an hour. Please see our website, [www.300committee.org](http://www.300committee.org), for trail maps and directions to other conservation parcels.**



Beebe Woods. These 387 acres of woods near downtown Falmouth have numerous well-traveled trails and two ponds: the Punchbowl, a large kettle hole, and Ice House Pond, at the western edge of the woods. Beebe Woods links to the 88-acre Peterson Farm, also at the western end. Parking is available in the Cape Cod Conservatory lot on Highfield Drive and in a dirt parking lot on the south side of Ter Heun Drive, beyond Falmouth Hospital and Gosnold.

Peterson Farm. 88 acres at the top of McCallum Drive, off Woods Hole Road. A llama named Scamp protects the sheep that keep the pastures of this centuries-old farm from reverting back to woods. Visitors can see newborn lambs in the early spring and, on many a morning, shepherd Sue Schoen working her border collies. Paths circle the pastures and lead into the woods at several points. A trail at the lower end of the main pasture leads to Ice House Pond.

Bourne Farm, Cardoza Farm and Wing Pond. Conservation land owned by the town and Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. offers a variety of habitat: open field, woods, stream, marsh, herring run and cranberry bog. Parking is available at Bourne Farm, the historic farm owned by Salt Pond on West Falmouth Highway, directly across from the Thomas Landers Road intersection. Beyond the field, walkers can cross the Shining Sea Bikeway extension or go under it through an old cattle tunnel. Trails to the north connect to town conservation land at Wing Pond and bogs operated by Handy Cranberry Trust. Farther south on the bike path is the town Cardoza Farm conservation area, which has a small network of trails on the west side and a field – a remnant of the former farm – on the east side. There is also parking by the field. Although the entrance is marked by a sign and engraved boulder, the most visible marker is the small sign stating “T3C Lot 5” posted high on a tree at the edge of the driveway.

Breivogel Ponds. Access to this 67-acre parcel is on Blacksmith Shop Road at the entrance to the town leaf and compost facility. Parking is available just off the road in a fenced area; a trail leads down to the former gravel pit that will soon be restored. Veer to your right, and head toward to two man-made ponds at the back of the property. The path circles the ponds and enters woods of tall pines, a dramatic contrast to the open, sandy expanse of the gravel pit. Walkers can take a short loop through the woods that goes to Shallow Pond or follow a longer path that travels south along the edge of the property.

Coonamessett Reservation. A plaque on a boulder near the parking area on Boxberry Hill Road commemorates the town’s purchase of the 212-acre reservation in 1986. A short trail follows the edge of the Cape Cod Country Club golf course down to a beach on Coonamessett Pond. Parking is also available nearby on both sides of Ranch Road, close to Route 151. Visitors can walk through the large field – where polo was once played – and along the utility easement on the west side or follow wooded trails on the east side. One of these trails follows another section of the golf course to Ashumet Road; another runs past Little Jenkins Pond and along a utility easement to Ashumet Road.

Donald Whelden Preserve. A quarter-mile down Davisville Road from the lights at East Falmouth Highway is a small conservation area with a meandering trail that gives the impression the area is much larger. An alley of cedar trees hugs the edge of the property and takes visitors into the woods to the edge of Green Pond. The entrance and small parking area are across Davisville Road from Rosa Lane.

Dupee and Matt Souza Conservation Areas. 86.6 acres off Hatchville Road. A kiosk and parking area are just west of Atamansit Road, a private road. Fishermen use the dirt road through Matt Souza to launch small boats in Coonamessett Pond. Hilly trails from the parking area wind through the woods of the Dupee parcel, which was a large dairy farm in the early 1900s. The foundation of the dairy barn still exists. Note: access to the east side of Dupee requires walkers to get back onto Hatchville Road to reach the trail head on the east side of Atamansit Road.

Long Pond. A 3.5-mile service road circles the long, narrow pond that has been a source of town drinking water since the late 1800s. The terrain is hilly. Although the pond is not accessible to the public, nearby Grews Pond in Goodwill Park has a public beach. The service road along the west side is part of the Falmouth Moraine Trail that continues north through a series of protected lands all the way to Route 151. Access to Long Pond is on Gifford Street, about a half-mile north of the Jones Road intersection, and at the entrance to the DPW pumping station on Palmer Avenue. (Pumping Station Road is just north of the entrance to Goodwill Park.)

Mock Moraine Trails and Eaton Preserve. 20.4 acres up the hill from Route 28A. Access is from Stagecoach Road (which looks like a private driveway), just north of the West Falmouth Market. Trails lead up and along the moraine ridge and, on the south side, down to a small area that was the first Friends cemetery in Falmouth. Visitors may also park at the West Falmouth ballfield on Blacksmith Shop Road, walk up the hill to Friends Way and access the woods from there. (No parking is allowed on Friends Way.)

Mares Pond Reservation. 152 acres protect the Mares Pond town well. The reservation fronts on Mares, Deer and Spectacle Ponds in Hatchville. Access is from Pinecrest Beach Drive, off Deepwood Drive, with a small area for parking opposite Owls Nest Road. Several trails meander through the woods, and a service road leads to the water tower in the middle of the reservation.

Sea Farms Marsh. Several town purchases of open space created this 87-acre conservation area bordering Bournes Pond. A small parking area is on Gayle Avenue, one mile south on Davisville Road from the lights at East Falmouth Highway. Trails lead through the woods, at one point cutting across a private paved road and past a large field. Two narrow paths open up to scenic views of two inlets of Bournes Pond: Black Duck Cove, where there is an osprey nesting platform, and Israel's Cove. Small boats and kayaks can be launched from Pacheco Path, a rough dirt road leading to the pond.

Quashnet River. A small parking area with a kiosk on Martin Road, off Route 28 in Waquoit, about a quarter-mile from the Mashpee town line, provides access to an old bog road through the woods along the Quashnet River. The trail extends for several miles into the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. This is state land managed jointly by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.