Visit EssexHeritage.org
Go! Experience Essex Heritage!

The Great Outdoors of the Essex National Heritage Area are rich, varied and help to define the character of this region. These treasured resources surround us and are often not too far off the beaten path, and definitely worth exploring. From historic routes, to wooded landscapes, the Essex National Heritage Area has no shortage of unique and pristine outdoor places to visit for an adventure. This guide will lead you and your family to it all.

Spot any number of rare birds and other wildlife that make the Essex National Heritage Area their home. Follow wooded paths and boardwalks that will lead you to inspiring scenic vistas and surprising secluded spots. Step back in time through the heritage landscapes that lie here. No matter what the season, take the time to get outside and discover this region’s natural resources. Please enjoy, appreciate and protect the valuable outdoor places that contribute so much to the Essex National Heritage Area!

Covering 500 square miles just north of Boston, the Essex National Heritage Area encompasses 34 cities and towns within Essex County, MA. From the first wave of European immigrants and the first contact with native Americans in the 17th century, to the rise of the international maritime trade in the 18th and 19th centuries, to the leather, textile and shoe entrepreneurs that initiated the industrial revolution in the 19th century, the Essex National Heritage Area illuminates almost 400 years of our nation’s history. One of 40 heritage partnership parks of the National Park Service (NPS), the Area is managed by the non-profit Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) who, in collaboration with the NPS, promotes partnerships and develops and implements programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources found within the Area. For more information, visit www.EssexHeritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.
Walks & Rambles

Ready to Ramble? Go ahead! Take a walk on the wild side. Here are three totally unique outings for adults and children alike, each offering wandering paths with remarkable points of interest and inspiration along the way. Who would think such diverse topography could all be found in the Essex National Heritage Area? Go explore! Bring along a camera, note book, picnic lunch and spend the day outdoors! Here are some of our top choices for the best rambles around…

1. Dogtown Common
Cherry Street
(divided between the city of Gloucester, MA 01930 and town of Rockport, MA 01966)

Originally settled in 1693 because its rocky, inland location offered protection from pirates and enemy natives, this abandoned settlement called Dogtown is one of the Essex National Heritage Area’s hidden gems. Dogtown is known for its charming woods, giant boulders and rock formations left behind when the last glaciers melted. It was formerly called “The Commons,” but as legend has it, Dogtown earned its strange name from the dogs that women kept while their husbands were fighting in the American Revolution. Falling into decline as settlers moved towards the harbor, Dogtown has been hauntingly abandoned since 1830.

Today Dogtown offers miles of criss-crossing trails and abandoned roads that traverse nearly 3,600 acres. Pathways are dotted with 3 dozen boulders into which unemployed Finnish quarry workers carved inspiring sayings during the Great Depression. This progressive public art work was commissioned by Gloucester philanthropist and founder of Babson College, Roger Babson. Notice that numbered cellar holes of original settlers are also visible, marking former homes. Explore these mysterious and inspiring pathways of the Heritage Area’s forgotten town and see how many “Babson Boulders” you can spot along your path.

Visitor Info: Consider picking up a copy of the Dogtown Common Trail Map available at the Gloucester Office of Tourism located on 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930, (978) 282-4101. Biking, hiking, walking and cross-country skiing.

Directions: From the North Take Route 128 south to exit 11.

Visit EssexHeritage.org
From Grant Circle, take Route 127 north. Within one mile, take a right on either Dr. Osman Babson Road or Reynard Road. Take a left on Cherry Street and look for Dogtown Road (on the right). Drive up the paved road to the parking area, and walk to the end of the paved area, past the rifle club and public works area. Follow the unpaved Dogtown Road to Dogtown Square, and then bear right on Babson Boulder Trail, on the right after a short distance.

Property Steward: City of Gloucester and Town of Rockport.

Appleton Farms
Grass Rides
219 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Located next to the historic Appleton Farms, one of the oldest operating farms in the country, are the Appleton Farms Grass Rides (grass covered avenues) which were established by the Appleton family as horseback riding trails. These former carriage paths cover over five miles, and are tightly woven with abounding and beautiful woods.

From an aerial perspective, these picturesque grass rides fan out in the shape of a wagon wheel, with five paths converging at a single point, the “Round Point.” To the south of the Grass Rides is the “Great Pasture,” 133 lush acres of pastureland and home to flocks of songbirds called Bobolinks. As you walk through these tranquil tree tunneled “rides” listen for their gleeful song.

Visitor Info: Open year-round, every day from sunrise to sunset. Admission is free to members of The Trustees of the Reservation (TTOR). $3 daily use fee for non-members. Green Dogs permit required to walk dogs. Mountain biking is permitted only on designated trails May 1 - February 28 and closed to mountain bikes.
March 1 - April 30 to preserve trails during the muddy season. Horseback riding is not permitted.

**Directions:** Take Route 128 to exit 20N and follow Route 1A north for 4.5 miles. Turn left onto Cutler Road and follow for 2.2 miles. At the intersection with Highland Street, turn right. Parking area (20 cars) immediately on right. The Highland Street parking area provides access to Appleton Farms as well.

**Property Steward:** The Trustees of Reservations www.ttor.org.

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**3 Old Town Hill**

Newman Road
Newbury, MA 01951

With a commanding view of three states from its peak, Old Town Hill provides a beautiful vista of marshes and tidal creeks that make up The Great Marsh (more on The Great Marsh on page 20), New England’s largest salt marsh. The town’s first meeting house was built on the Lower Green in 1634, and cleared areas on Great Hill served as pasture for nearly 12,000 cows and 3,000 sheep. The surrounding marshes were once hayed, first by hand and then by horse drawn mowing machines.

Old Town Hill is a marvelous bird watching spot as it serves as home to both ground nesting and predatory birds, including hawks and owls. Be on the lookout for a glimpse of the graceful Egrets and Great Blue Herons that can be spotted in the marshes and feeding in the tidal creeks. This stunning location is a source of inspiration for many artists, so go ahead and satisfy your creative yearnings and bring along a sketch book and pen. Get inspired! Old Town Hill is also part of the Bay Circuit Trail (www.baycircuit.org).

**Visitor Info:** Printed trail maps are distributed free from the bulletin board in the parking area and can also be downloaded in advance at www.thetrustees.org.

**Hiking, walking, fishing, bird watching, cross-country skiing and kayaking.**

**Directions:** Take Interstate 95 to exit 54 and follow Route 133 east to Route 1. Turn left at lights and follow for 4.8 miles to Boston Road (yellow flasher). Turn right, then bear right .3 miles onto Hay Street, follow Hay Street for 1 mile, turning right on Newman Road. Parking is .5 miles on right (10 cars).

**Property Steward:** The Trustees of Reservations www.ttor.org.
Bring the Kids

Run! Jump! Climb! These outings provide great fresh air adventures and inspiration for kids and adults alike.

4 Ravenswood Park

Western Avenue (Route 127)
Gloucester, MA 01930

One of Gloucester residents’ most beloved parks, Ravenswood Park captures the perfect atmosphere for a tranquil wooded walk, an afternoon jog, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing along almost ten miles of trails and carriage pathways. Visitors love the view overlooking Gloucester Harbor and the hike through Great Magnolia Swamp to see a thick forest of native Sweetbay Magnolias.

For kids however, Ravenswood Park tells a completely different story! The fastest-growing family recreational adventure on this side of the Atlantic comes to Ravenswood Park! “The Hermit’s Haven Quest” is a treasure hunt through the trails—following the clues reveals the Hermit’s tales. The Quest brochure is available at the parking lot bulletin board, but we recommend that you download a copy at www.ttor.org. This will give you a chance to look it over before you arrive. FREE to all.

Allow two hours. Recommended for families (ages 8 and up).

Visitor Info: For a trail map visit: www.thetrustees.org. Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Mountain biking permitted only on designated trails May 1 - February 28. Trails are closed March 1 - April 30 during the muddy season. Hiking, Walking, biking and cross-country skiing.

Perfect Picnic Places

37. Sawyer’s Island
Rowley, MA 01969
Located in the marshes of Plum Island Sound, Sawyer’s Island provides spectacular views. The stands of oak and hickory provide a perfect spot for a picnic.

38. Veasey Memorial Park
Groveland, MA 01834
Sit atop the glacial drumlin and enjoy views of Johnson Pond. The surrounding meadow, forest and marsh provides habitat for a variety of wildlife.

39. Rafe’s Chasm Reservation
Magnolia, MA 01930
Off Hesperus Avenue, walk through the path in the woods that leads to the massive rocky cliffs, made famous by Fitz Henry Lane. Rafe’s Chasm itself, is located in front of private property, and public access is not allowed.

For a trail map visit: www.thetrustees.org. Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Mountain biking permitted only on designated trails May 1 - February 28. Trails are closed March 1 - April 30 during the muddy season. Hiking, Walking, biking and cross-country skiing.
Directions: Take Route 128 to exit 14 (Route 133) and follow east towards Gloucester for 3 miles until it dead ends into Route 127. Turn right onto Route 127 and follow for 2 miles to park entrance and parking area (12 cars) on right. The Hermit’s Haven Quest begins at the parking area. Use the clues and map to find the hidden treasure and story that unravels at Ravenswood Park.


5 Bradley Palmer State Park
Asbury Street
Topsfield, MA 01938

Bradley Palmer State Park is a great place for adults and kids alike. Near the south gate, there are picnic tables, a wading pool, a paved bikeway and hiking trails that allow you to spend either a full day or just an afternoon filled with family activities. Forty miles of trails, beautiful views of the Ipswich River, a wading pool and self-guided nature trail are just some of the compelling reasons to visit. In addition, the 720-acre park has many popular equestrian trails, so please share the path with our four-legged friends.

The property was the former estate of distinguished attorney Bradley Palmer, who donated the land in the 1940s.

Moon Hill and Blueberry Hill are just some of the popular spots in the park that includes pine knolls, wetlands, swamps, ponds and streams. A famous rhododendron-lined carriage road frames the approach to Palmer’s newly restored Arts and Crafts mansion, Willowdale, which serves as a reminder of a bygone era.

Visitor Info: Canoeing, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

Directions: From the South
Take Route 1 to Topsfield, turn right on Ipswich Road. Follow Ipswich Road 1.2 miles then take a right on Asbury Street. The park entrance is located approximately .25 mile on the left.

From the North
Take Route 1 south to Topsfield. Turn left onto Ipswich/Topsfield Road at set of lights. Follow Ipswich Road 1.2 miles then make a right onto Asbury Street. The main park entrance is located approximately .25 mile on the left.

Property Steward: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation www.mass.gov/dcr.
Wildlife Preserves

Aspiring naturalists!
Get your binoculars and field guides ready; these sites are bursting with the best of our region's wildlife...

6 Boxford State Forest and Bald Hill Reservation
Middleton Road
Boxford, MA 01921

This secluded and pristine network of heavily wooded trails winds through forest, swamps and ponds, providing habitat for deer, beaver, otter, red fox, weasel and a host of birds. Wild turkeys, hawks, owls, woodpeckers and various migratory birds can be found in these protected acres. The forests and swamps are also home to abundant wildflowers, including violets, lady slippers and swamp azalea. Explore the fascinating overlap of diverse ecosystems and their interactions with each other in this gorgeous state forest. And for a little added adventure, go ahead and climb the steep trail that leads you to majestic Bald Hill, which is the highest natural point in Boxford with its peak at 243 feet. Bald Hill Reservation and the John Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary abut Boxford State Forest, stretching across Boxford, North Andover and Middleton.

Insider's tip: Autumn’s bare branches allow you to see the tops of the skyscrapers in Boston from the very top of the hill!

Visitor Info: For a trail map visit www.ecga.org/properties/baldhill.html. Hiking, cross-country skiing, climbing, birding, nature study, snowshoeing, horseback riding and fishing. Mountain biking on designated trails only.

Directions: From the South
Take Interstate 95 to exit 51, Endicott Street. Head towards Middleton and take the first right onto Middleton Road, Boxford. Parking areas are located on the left just beyond Moonpenny Drive.

Buzzing meadows, tranquil wetlands and striking forests await your exploration at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. Get your binoculars and field guides ready because this site offers a great variety of wildlife. The forest is home to owls, wild turkeys, woodpeckers, hummingbirds and warblers. On your canoe ride to Perkins Island notice that aquatic and migratory birds are especially abundant, as well as painted turtles basking in the sun. As you walk along the gorgeous boardwalk that weaves through the lily-pad-laden wetlands, the sound of bull frogs and gently rushing water will soothe your senses. On a hot summer’s day the Rockery is a great place to rest in between hiking as the temperature cools drastically.

Insider’s tip: Be sure to look carefully into the water below the Rockery. It is home to several large snapping turtles that frequently poke out for air and to see who is watching. Visitors can enjoy more than 10 miles of trails and 8 miles of the Ipswich River that traverse the sanctuary’s 2,200 acres.

Visitor Info: Open sunrise to sunset, Tuesday - Sunday and Monday holidays. $4 for non-member adults; $3 for non-member children (3-12) and seniors. Canoes available for rental to members. Hiking, walking, cross-country skiing and canoeing.

Directions: From Boston and points south. Take Interstate 95 north to exit 50 and follow Route 1 north. At the junction of Route 1 and Route 97, turn right onto Route 97 south (toward Beverly and Danvers). Follow Route 97 south and take the third left onto Perkins Row. Follow Perkins Row for 1 mile, and the Sanctuary is on the right. From the North Take Interstate 95 south to exit 53A and follow Route 97 south. At the junction of Route 1 and Route 97 in Topsfield, stay on Route 97 south and take the third left onto Perkins Row. Follow Perkins Row for 1 mile, and the Sanctuary is on the right.

Property Steward: Mass Audubon www.massaudubon.org
8 Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (PRNWR)
6 Plum Island Turnpike
Newburyport, MA 01950
(Address is for visitor center)

One of this country’s premier birding sites, the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge attracts more than 350 species of birds. Species of note include piping plovers, purple martins, egrets, warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, tree swallows and snowy owls. Covering 4,662 acres, the refuge occupies the southern tip of Plum Island including 6.5 miles of broad sandy beaches, and roughly 3,000 acres of salt marsh, part of The Great Marsh (page 20). Several miles of self-guided trails amble through dune, thicket, shrub and marsh. Sweeping vistas of the refuge and the surrounding marshlands can be found from observation towers and platforms. The site is also a renowned hot-spot for wildlife photographers, so be sure to bring a camera!

Visitor Info: Walking, biking, bird watching, along marked boardwalks and roadways, canoeing and kayaking. To reduce disturbance to wildlife, refuge beaches are closed April 1 - mid-summer. Public use is restricted to designated areas where there is plenty to see and do. Be sure to visit the refuge headquarters and visitor center at 6 Plum Island Turnpike for more information.

Directions: Take Interstate 95 to exit 57 and travel east on Route 113 continuing straight onto Route 1A south to the intersection with Rolfe’s Lane. Turn left onto Rolfe’s Lane. Turn right onto the Plum Island Turnpike and travel 2.0 miles crossing the Sgt. Donald Wilkinson Bridge to Plum Island. Take your first right onto Sunset Drive to the refuge entrance.

Historic Routes

Meander down pathways that tell secret stories of our heritage...

9 Goldsmith Woodlands
491 South Main Street
Between South Main Street (Route 28) and Foster's Pond
North Andover, MA 01845

Goldsmith Woodlands features avenues of black pines, marshes of cattails, pitcher plants and beautiful views of Foster's Pond. Named after the Goldsmith family, these woods became a favorite summer retreat for urban residents in the early 20th century.

Bessie Goldsmith, a dedicated conservationist and eccentric figure, donated these woods in the 1970s. Stories about Bessie’s behavior in her devotion to protecting her woodlands are legendary. She lived in a rustic cabin on a knoll overlooking Foster’s Pond on what is now called Bessie’s Point. Many of the trees, rhododendrons, mountain laurel and other plant species were planted by Bessie herself.

Lady slippers abound here in late spring and other plants rarely seen elsewhere are visited by Harvard University botanists. Foster’s Pond was most likely named for Andrew Foster, an early settler of Andover. His wife, Ann Foster, was accused of witchcraft in 1692 and died in confinement in Salem.

Insider’s tip: Be on the lookout for cellar holes and swing hinges on trees still visible today; reminders of what this land once was.

Visitor Info: For a map visit www.fosterspond.com/goldsmith.htm. Hiking, birding, walking and cross-country skiing.

Directions: Take Interstate 93 north. Merge onto Interstate 495 north via exit 44A toward Lawrence. Take the Mass Avenue exit, exit 43, toward North Andover. Turn slight right onto Mass Avenue, left onto Waverly Road and then turn right onto Main Street.

Parking: 491 South Main Street, diagonally in the front yard.


10 Choate Island (Hog Island)
Essex River Estuary
Essex, MA 01929

As part of the Crane Wildlife Refuge, Choate Island is the largest of the Refuge’s islands spanning 135 acres of marvelous natural delights and is one of
seven such islands in the Essex River Estuary, providing stunning panoramas of marsh, estuary and ocean. Gulls, sanderlings and sandpipers feed along the island’s shore, while Choate Island’s grasslands provide critical habitat for bobolinks and Savannah sparrows. Some of the island's distinguishing features are the dark spruce forest, planted in the 1930s, which can easily be seen by boat, and attracts Golden Crown Kinglets and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Native Americans established a semi-permanent village on Choate Island and gathered shellfish in the estuary. When settlers arrived, Choate Island and Long Island were connected by a causeway, becoming successful farming communities through the 19th century. The Choate House, built around 1730 by the Choate family, is an architectural wonder, and has stayed virtually intact for more than 250 years!

**Visitor Info:** For a trail map visit [www.ttor.org](http://www.ttor.org). Open year-round, daily, 8 AM to 4 PM. Access is by private boat, sea kayak or on guided tours. Water craft may not be launched from The Trustees’ private dock. The boat dock on Long Island offers limited public access; private boats may not tie up on the front side of this dock. Seasonal hunting permitted.

**Directions:** Access is by private boat, sea kayak or on guided tours. From the South Merge onto Interstate 93 north and then onto Interstate 95 north/Route 128 north via exit 37A toward Peabody. Keep left to take Route 128 north via exit 45 toward Gloucester. Take the exit for School Street, exit 15. Off the ramp head north toward Essex. School Street becomes Southern Avenue. Turn left on Route 133 west, take a right onto Northgate Road and right onto Argilla Road to the Trustees dock.

**Property Steward:** The Trustees of Reservations [www.ttor.org](http://www.ttor.org).

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**Hamlin Reservation**

Argilla Road

Ipswich, MA 01983

Open rolling fields and marsh meadows surround Eagle Island, connected to the mainland by a dike, once used to steer cattle to pasture on the island. Historically used as farm land, old stone walls still stand on the outskirts of the island, a reminder of the land’s rich agricultural past. Forests now blanket the island and provide a tremendous wealth of scenery and wildlife. Part of the Great Marsh (page 20), Hamlin Reservation’s salt marsh is a popular feeding ground and habitat for birds. Bring your cameras and binoculars!
**Visitor Info:** For a trail map visit www.ttor.org. Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Hiking, cross-country skiing, birding, no dogs allowed. Seasonal hunting permitted.

**Directions:** From the South
From Route 128 (exit 20A), follow Route 1A north for 8 miles to Ipswich. Turn right onto Route 133 east and follow for 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Northgate Road and follow for 0.5 miles. Turn left onto Argilla Road and follow for 0.2 miles to entrance and parking (10 cars) on right.

**Property Steward:** The Trustees of Reservations www.ttor.org.

### Hunt's Photo & Video Hot Spots...Bring your camera & take the perfect picture!

8. Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
    Newburyport, MA 01950
13. Appleton Farms
    Ipswich, MA 01938
15. Halibut Point State Park
    Rockport, MA 01966
17. Ward Reservation
    Andover, MA 01810
18. Maudslay State Park
    Newburyport, MA 01950
20. Crane Beach
    Ipswich, MA 01938
21. Cox Reservation
    Essex, MA 01929
40. Fort Sewall
    Marblehead, MA 01945
41. Eastern Point
    Gloucester, MA 01930
42. Salem Woods and Forest River Conservation Area
    Salem, MA 01970
43. Crowninshield Island
    Marblehead, MA 01945
44. Goose Cove Reservation
    Gloucester, MA 01930
Scenic Farms

Wander through open meadows and old farm roads and experience the Essex National Heritage Area’s agricultural history...

12 Woodsom Farm
222 Lion’s Mouth Road
Amesbury, MA 01913

This site was farmed as early as 1790, and at one time, was the largest dairy farm in Essex County. Hayfields, wetlands, woods, marshes and drumlins stretch across these 370 acres, bordered by the Powow River. Woodsom Farm is home to a diverse population of birds, including bobolinks, barn swallows, rock doves and meadowlarks.

Visitor Info: Open year round, dawn to dusk. The barn and farmhouse are privately owned. Walking, hiking, cross-country skiing and biking.

Directions: From Interstate 495, take Amesbury Route 150 exit (#54). Follow Route 150 north or west through the intersection of Route 150 and 110. At blinking yellow light take a left onto Highland Street. At T-intersection, take a left onto Lion’s Mouth Road. Continue on Lion’s Mouth Road for 1 mile and the farm will be on your left.

Property Steward: The Town of Amesbury.

13 Appleton Farms
219 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Appleton Farms is one of the oldest continuously operating farms in the country. In 1638, a land grant was given to Samuel Appleton, and nine generations of the family have farmed the land since. On the property you will find old stone walls, rolling grassland, open pastures and farm roads. Today, the Trustees of Reservations maintains the agricultural heritage of this property, operating a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program as well as livestock and dairy programs. Appleton Farms is also part of the Bay Circuit Trail (baycircuit.org).

Visitor Info: Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Fee for non-members. Cross-country skiing, walking, and hiking. Dogs and mountain biking are not permitted. Please stay on marked trails, respect restricted-access areas, and do not open gates, disturb livestock, or interrupt farm operations.
Directions: To Waldingfield Road parking area: From Route 128, take exit 20N and follow Route 1A north for about 7 miles. Turn left onto Waldingfield Road and look for entrance immediately on left at corner.

To Highland Street parking area: From Route 128, take exit 20N and follow Route 1A north for 4.5 miles. Turn left onto Cutler Road and follow for 2.2 miles. At intersection with Highland Street, turn right. Parking area immediately on right. This parking area provides access to Appleton Farms Grass Rides as well. Parking areas can accommodate 20 cars each; horse trailers are not permitted in either parking area. It is illegal to park along Route 1A at the property’s historic entrance.


Visitor Info: Open daily, from sunrise to sunset. Please stay to public access paths only. Walking, hiking and cross-country skiing.

Directions: From Interstate 495, take Exit 50 (Route 97 South toward Haverhill/Groveland). Then turn left onto Broadway/Route 97. After 0.2 miles, turn left onto Monument Street. After another 0.2 miles, turn left onto North Broadway. Tattersall Farm is 1.1 miles ahead on the left.

Property Steward: The City of Haverhill www.ci.haverhill.ma.us.

14 Tattersall Farm
542 North Broadway
Haverhill, MA 01830

Mary Alice Tattersall bequeathed The Tattersall Farm to the City of Haverhill, imposing restrictions to maintain open space, conservation and agricultural activities. Trails meander through historic farm buildings, beautiful wooded landscapes, scenic hayfields and rolling meadows in this 150 acre property.
Vistas

Catch a glimpse of some of the most breathtaking views in the Essex National Heritage Area…

15 Halibut Point State Park
Gott Avenue, Pigeon Cove
Rockport, MA 01966

With spectacular views of the coast, one can see Crane Beach, the Merrimack River, the Isle of Shoals in New Hampshire and Mount Agamenticus in Maine. These towering granite bluffs offer miles of uninterrupted and dramatic coastline. This site was originally called “Haul-About Point,” a reference to the shifting gales that forced mariners to “haul-about” or tack their sails to round Cape Ann. Halibut Point also serves as a popular place to observe migratory seabirds.

An adjacent property, Sea Rocks, is open for public use. Here you can explore the park’s trails and tide pools, picnic on its rocky ledges, enjoy its sweeping views and learn about Cape Ann’s historic granite industry which was vital to the area during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Just think, granite quarried here paved thousands of city streets and built bridges,
tunnels, monuments, warehouses and buildings, such as Boston’s Custom House Tower!

Insider’s tip: Bring along a camera. The quarry walls reflect gorgeous light that illuminate hidden colors within the rock formations.

Visitor Info: The park is open from 8 AM to 8 PM daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. From Labor Day to Memorial Day the park is open from sunrise to sunset. A parking fee is charged.

Directions: From the South and West take Interstate 95/128 north to Route 128 north toward Gloucester and Rockport. After crossing the Annisquam River Bridge, go three quarters around the first rotary, following signs for Route 127 north (Annisquam and Pigeon Cove). After approximately 6 miles, turn left at the park sign and the Old Farm Inn onto Gott Avenue.


Lynn Shores & Nahant Beach Reservation
Lynn Shore Drive/Nahant Beach Boulevard, Lynn MA 01905

Stroll along this two mile stretch of promenade that offers uninterrupted views of Lynn Harbor and Nahant Bay. Four beaches extend along this ocean side avenue, Kings Beach, Lynn Beach, Nahant Beach and Long Beach. Year round activities such as walking, jogging and bicycling are available to the public along the promenade. Vast areas of hard-packed sand are exposed at low tide which can be accessed at King’s Beach and Long Beach on Nahant Bay as well as near the boat launching area on Lynn Harbor. Other interesting natural features include a mile-long system of fragile sand dunes parallel to Long Beach, and tide pools at Red Rock Park that are often filled with colorful marine plants and animals.

Interpretive programs and beach-related recreational events are offered periodically, including school programming with topics such as marine biology and natural history.

Visitor Info: Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Biking, hiking, kayaking and swimming.
Directions: Lynnway (Route 1A) to Carroll Parkway to Nahant Rotary and either Nahant Causeway to boat launch and Long Beach at Nahant Beach Reservation, or, Lynn Shore Drive to Red Rock Park and King’s Beach at Lynn Shore Reservation.

Property Steward: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation www.mass.gov/dcr.

**17 Ward Reservation**
Prospect Road
Andover, MA 01810 & North Andover, MA 01845

Holt Hill, the highest point in Essex County, offers breathtaking views of Boston’s skyline. From this summit, the people of Andover watched the burning of Charlestown on June 17, 1775 and could hear the cannon at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Ward Reservation is comprised of former farm and pasture lands, and contains more than 17 miles of stone walls. The reservation includes 13 miles of trails, segments of which are part of the Bay Circuit Trail (baycircuit.org), and Pine Hole Bog, a rare quaking bog characterized by rings of distinct vegetation, each characterized by different growing conditions. Visitors may enjoy exploring the bog with an interpretive booklet that follows numbered stations along a nature trail and 700-foot boardwalk.

Visitor Info: For a trail map visit www.ttor.org. Moderate Hiking, cross-country skiing, biking and walking.

Directions: Take Interstate 93 to the exit for Route 125. Continue north on Route 125 for 5 miles. Turn right onto Prospect Road and follow for 0.3 miles to entrance and parking area on right.

Take a walk in the woods.
Reinvigorate your spirit.

Maudslay State Park
Curzon Mill Road
Newburyport, MA 01950

The stands of white pines along the bluffs of the Merrimack River appear to have never been logged, and today, serve as nesting sites for bald eagles. One of the largest naturally occurring stands of mountain laurel in Massachusetts thrives on the forest floor.

Formerly the Frederick Strong Moseley estate, this landscape was designed by Martha Brooks Hutcheson, one of the earliest female members of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Maudslay features meadows, beautiful ornamental gardens and a stunning array of lush azaleas and rhododendrons.

Cultural events are also a big part of the site’s diverse flavor. The Maudslay Arts Center offers a wonderful summer concert series that, combined with the gorgeous landscape, will truly reinvigorate your spirit. Visit www.calmvalley.org/.

Visitor Info: For a trail map visit www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/maud.htm.

Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and walking. During the winter a portion of the park is off limits due to roosting bald eagles, but the remainder provides excellent cross-country skiing and winter walks.

Directions: From North and South take Interstate 95, exit 57 to Route 113 east. Follow 113 east for half a mile and turn left on Noble Street. At stop sign turn left onto Ferry Road, bear left at fork and follow signs.

From the West
Take Interstate 495 exit 55 to Route 110 east. Continue 1 mile to Merrill Street, turn right at second light. Continue on Merrill Street/Spofford Street for 1.5 miles. Turn right before stop sign onto Ferry Road, follow signs.

The parking fee at Maudslay State Park is $2.00. Annual passes are available for purchase.

Property Steward: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation www.mass.gov/dcr.
Harold Parker State Forest
1951 Turnpike Street/Route 114
North Andover, MA 01845

This State Forest, which weaves through Andover, North Andover, North Reading and Middleton, encompasses over 3,000 acres of hardwood-hemlock-white pine forest and also includes rolling hills and rocky outcrops. Eleven ponds are scattered throughout the forest, offering canoeing, fishing, kayaking and more.

Active abolitionist William Jenkins lived on Jenkins Road, adjacent to the forest. He hosted several noted activists including Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. It is believed that this home, and many others within the forest were active stops on the Underground Railroad. The Jenkins home still stands and secret doors and chambers can be found in local homes.

Visitor Info: For a trail map visit www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/harp.htm. Hiking, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding and swimming. Non-motorized boating is allowed on any of the 11 ponds.

Directions: Take Interstate 93 to exit 41, follow Route 125 north (toward Andover), for about 4 miles to the State Police Barracks (on right). Turn right on Harold Parker Road to Jenkins Road. Turn left on Jenkins Road, right onto Salem Road, headquarters is approximately 1-1 ½ miles on the left.

From Lawrence
Take Interstate 495, exit 42, travel east on Route 114 for 6 miles. Take a right at brown Harold Parker State Forest sign, follow to the end of the road then take a left to the headquarters.

Property Steward: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation www.mass.gov/dcr.
The Great Marsh, coastal Essex County

The Great Marsh is the largest salt marsh in New England and includes over 20,000 acres of marsh, barrier beach, tidal river, estuary, mudflat and upland islands along coastal Essex County. The network of waterways, beaches, parks and wildlife refuges in the Great Marsh make it an outstanding destination to enjoy boating, fishing, bird watching, hiking and beach activities throughout the cities and towns of Gloucester, Essex, Ipswich, Rowley, Newbury, Newburyport and Salisbury. The Great Marsh is one of the most exceptional natural resources in the Essex National Heritage Area and you will find references and access points to it throughout this guide, including following site numbers 3, 8, 10, 11, 20 & 37. Visit www.greatmarsh.org.

Beaches & Marshes

Get lost in boundless horizons and sandy landscapes that stretch as far as the eye can see...

20 Crane Wildlife Refuge and Crane Beach

Argilla Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Crane Wildlife Refuge, Crane Beach and Castle Hill comprise more than 1,200 acres of beach, maritime forest and dunes. Five miles of trails wind through dunes and beachfront, offering sweeping views of Ipswich Bay, the Essex River Estuary, and Castle Neck Peninsula. This area supports diverse wildlife, and Crane Beach is also one of the world’s most significant nesting sites for the threatened Piping Plover, and has been nationally recognized for its successful shorebird protection program and is part of The Great Marsh (page 20).

Look out for information on Crane Beach’s annual sand sculpture competition Sandblast! It’s a really fun summer event to attend with friends and family.

Visitor Info: Every car receives a free introductory pamphlet to Crane Beach upon entering the property.
Open year-round, daily, 8AM to sunset. Do not enter fenced wildlife management or dune areas. Please check the Trustees of Reservations website for update information regarding fees for Crane Beach.

Directions: Take Route 128 north (towards Gloucester), take exit 20A (Route 1A north) and follow for 8 miles to Ipswich. Turn right onto Route 133 east and follow for 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Northgate Road and follow for .5 miles. Turn right onto Argilla Road and follow for 2.5 miles to Crane Beach gatehouse at end of paved road. Designated parking area surfaced for year-round use (1,400 cars). From October 1 - March 31, horse trailer parking is located in The Trustees’ main parking area.


Cox Reservation
82 Eastern Avenue, Route 133
Essex, MA 01929

Headquarters of Essex County Greenbelt Association, Cox Reservation encompasses 27 acres of expansive salt marsh, upland and farmland. Historically a colonial salt marsh farm, the Cox Reservation offers gorgeous views of the Essex River, salt marsh, Crane Beach, Castle Hill and Choate Island. As the former home of renowned muralist Allen Cox, this property still serves as an inspiration to artists. Throughout the year Greenbelt hosts events on the property, including Art in the Barn in mid-June.

The beautiful buildings on the property complement their scenic surroundings. The Cox House, built in 1806, serves as Greenbelt’s office, The Studio Barn dates from the 1840’s, and the Bill Faissler Stewardship Barn was completed in 2003. In 2006, the Cox house was completely renovated to meet the growing needs of Greenbelt and during the renovation efforts were made to make the building “green,” incorporating features like a solar panel and a water recapture system.

Visitor Info: For a trail map visit www.ecga.org. Hiking, cross-country skiing and walking.

Directions: Take Route 128 north to exit 15, School Street. Head 3 miles north. School Street becomes Southern Avenue and leads into Essex center. At the intersection of Southern Avenue and Eastern Avenue, turn right onto Eastern Avenue/Route 133 toward Gloucester, 0.5 miles. You will pass the South Essex Center mall on the right, and then...
Visitors can make an immediate left turn at 82 Eastern Avenue, marked by a Greenbelt sign. If you reach Farnham’s Clams you have gone too far.


Greenwood Farm
Jeffrey’s Neck Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Greenwood Farm is located on a peninsula on the Ipswich River Estuary. Its landscape includes woodlands, pastures, meadow, salt marsh and three tidal islands: Widow’s, Homestead and Diamond Stage. As you meander through an upland field before opening onto an expansive meadow, you’ll see the Paine House sitting right at the edge of the marsh. This is a pristine example of a First Period farm house built circa 1702 by Robert Paine. The Reservation takes its name from Thomas S. Greenwood, a member of the Paine family.

Numerous birds, shellfish and mammals can be seen at Greenwood Farm, which serves as abundant feeding and breeding grounds. Soaring egrets, great blue herons, swallows, bobolinks and red fox can often be spotted in the marsh.

Visitor Info: For a trail map visit: www.ttor.org. Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. Trail to islands in salt marsh is temporarily closed to visitors. Seasonal hunting is permitted. Hiking, walking and cross-country skiing.

Directions: Take Route 1A north to the Ipswich Town Green, continue straight onto County Road (turns into East Street). Follow for 0.9 miles, bear left onto Jeffrey’s Neck Road, and follow for 0.7 miles to entrance on right.

From 1A north
Take Route 1A/133 south at Lord’s Square in Ipswich, continue straight onto High Street and turn left onto East Street at stop sign. Follow for 0.4 miles and bear left onto Jeffrey’s Neck Road. Continue as above. Drive halfway down driveway to designated parking area on left (10 cars).

Urban Parks & Reservations

Check out these escapes nestled in and amongst our busy urban centers...

23 Lynn Woods
Pennybrook Road
Lynn, MA 01905

Founded in 1881, Lynn Woods Reservation is the second largest municipal park in the United States. With 30 miles of trails through diverse forest, wetlands, ponds and streams, Lynn Woods has served an important role in Lynn for centuries. Lynn Woods has many famous landmarks, including the Wolf Pits, an underground tunnel called Dungeon Rock, and the famous Stone Tower. Constructed in 1936 for fire observation, it is the highest point in Lynn, and has commanding views of Lynn’s waterfront, Boston, and beyond. According to legend, pirate treasure was buried at Dungeon Rock in the 17th century. Many have tried to locate the treasure in the 135-foot-deep cave, but to this day, its whereabouts remain a mystery.

Don’t miss Burrill Hill, with the highest elevation in the greater Lynn area (285’), and Mt. Gilead (272’). Both offer beautiful panoramas over the Woods, south to the Blue Hills and north to New Hampshire.

Enjoy a picnic lunch or a stroll in the Lynn Woods Rose Garden created in the 1920s by Lynn Park Superintendent John P. Morrissey. It is by far one of the most charming public gardens in the City of Lynn.

Visitor Info: Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Biking is only allowed on marked trails. Mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, cross country skiing, walking and horseback riding.

Directions: Interstate 95 to exit 44B, Route 1 North/Lynn. At the rotary, take the second exit for Lynnfield Street. Follow Lynnfield Street for 4 miles until you see a sign for Lynn Woods on the right (Great Woods Road). Take that right to the Great Woods parking lot at the end.

From Route 1 North, turn right onto Salem Street. At the rotary, take the first right onto Lynnfield Street and follow directions above.

Property Steward: City of Lynn www.ci.lynn.ma.us.

24 Breakheart Reservation
177 Forest Street
Saugus, MA 01906
The name “breakheart” can be traced back to the Civil War era, when soldiers training at this isolated location found it so lonely, it broke their hearts. The state of Massachusetts acquired this land during the Great Depression as a camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Reservation consists of 640 acres of hardwood forest, and with numerous hills, the highest measuring over 200 feet high. The reservation offers views of Boston, central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. Extensive trails wind through the reservation, which also contains two freshwater lakes which attract fishermen and swimmers alike. This is one of the few fresh water swimming spots north of Boston. Rangers conduct year-round programs that interpret the plant and animal life as well as the reservation’s past. In the summer, most programs begin at the Pearce Lake swimming area and are suitable for children.

**Visitor Info:** For a trail map visit [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/breakhrt.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/breakhrt.htm). Biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and swimming.

**Directions:** Take Route 1 to Lynn Fells Parkway exit, follow Lynn Fells Parkway a short distance, and take a right onto Forest Street. Park entrance is after Kasabuski Rink.

**Property Steward:** Department of Conservation and Recreation [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr).

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**25 Den Rock Park**

Route 114
Lawrence, MA 01840

Originally purchased as land for a cemetery in 1877, the land was officially designated as a park in 1896. Today, the 120 acre park serves as one of the most popular places in Essex County for outdoor rock climbing. Set in the densely developed and historic City of Lawrence the park contains scenic rocky outcroppings and a diverse wooded setting that are home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, coyotes, fox, beaver, red tail hawks, great blue herons and king fishers.


**Directions:** From the South Take Interstate 495 to exit 42A, Route 114 towards Middleton. The park will be on your right.

**Property Steward:** Friends of Den Rock Park, City of Lawrence and Groundwork Lawrence.
Lakes, Ponds & Rivers

Explore the natural life that abounds near the lakes, ponds and rivers of these gorgeous sites throughout the Essex National Heritage Area...

26 Deer Jump Reservation
River Road
Andover, MA 01810

High bluffs stretch along the Merrimack River, offering beautiful views to visitors. Hemlock groves, a stand of silver birches, maple, ash, beech, white pines and American elm trees traverse through the reservation lands. Oceans of wildflowers grow throughout Deer Jump, including jack-in-the-pulpit, lady slippers, wild oats, trout lilies, and hollow-stemmed horsetails, which early settlers used to scour dishes. Deer, red fox and wild turkeys are often spotted in the reservation.

Penacook Indians hunted and fished along the Merrimack River, and evidence of both a Penacook village on Pine Island and burial ground on the riverbanks have been found at the site.

Visitor Info: For a trail map visit: www.avisandover.org/deer_jump.html. Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Hiking, walking and cross-country skiing.

Directions: Take Interstate 93 to exit 45, River Road. At the bottom of the ramp, turn left onto River Road. Continue straight to stay on River Road. Turn right at Furnari Farm Lane.


27 Weir Hill
Stevens Street
North Andover, MA 01845

Historically pronounced “wire hill,” and named for the submerged fish weirs or nets that Native Americans used to catch fish, this reservation offers trails that trace along Lake Cochichewick. Both Native Americans and 17th century settlers routinely cleared and burned this land for agriculture and livestock grazing purposes for generations. This practice has fostered a beautiful patchwork landscape that supports ten different types of plant communities, from a 60-acre oak-hickory forest to hillside seeps, intermittent streams, and wet meadows. Several threatened state-listed and watch-listed species can be found on Weir Hill, including the white bog orchid (Habenaria dilatata), violet bush
clover (Lespedeza violacea) and butternut trees (Juglans nigra).

Visitor Info: For trail maps visit www.thetrustees.org. Open year round, 8AM to sunset. Lake Cochichewick is part of the Town of North Andover’s public drinking water supply; public access is not permitted. Due to the dry condition of the woodlands, wild fires are not uncommon. Please do not drop cigarette butts or use fire in any form. Hiking, biking, walking and cross-country skiing.

Directions: From Interstate 93 take 125 (Andover By-pass) north 7.3 miles. At traffic lights, merge left onto Route 114 west. At traffic lights opposite Merrimack College (on left), turn right onto Andover Street (remains Route 125) and follow for 0.2 miles. Turn right at traffic lights (remains Andover Street) and follow for 0.6 miles (past The Stevens-Coolidge Place). Bear right at fork and continue 0.2 miles to intersection at Old North Andover Center. Go straight over for 0.1 miles and then left onto Stevens Street. Continue for 0.8 miles to entrance on right. Limited roadside parking only.


Hood Pond
Willowdale State Forest
Linebrook Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Hood Pond is an expansive 100-acre pond, nestled in and amongst lush woodlands, wetlands and rushing streams. White cedar grows in the swamp that surrounds the pond, a rare phenomenon, due to the felling of these trees for use as fence posts in the colonial era. A rare species of butterfly nests in the tops of the white cedars, and bog lemmings can sometimes be found in the swamps. The most common forest trees include oaks, shagbark hickory, red and sugar maples, white birch, white pine and hemlock. The forest floor is carpeted with club mosses, lady’s slippers, starflower, partridgeberry, Canada mayflower and violets. Hood Pond is located within Willowdale State Forest, which offers more than 40 miles
of trails.

**Visitor Info:** For a trail map visit [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/wild.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/wild.htm). Open year round, sunrise to sunset. Hiking, cross-country skiing and biking. Fishing and non-motorized boating allowed on Hood Pond. Dogs are allowed if leashed. Be aware that hunting in season is permitted and that you share these woods with hunters in November and December.

**Directions:** Take Interstate 95 to exit 50 to Route 1. Take Route 1 north towards Topsfield. Travel 4 miles to Ipswich Road. Take a right onto Ipswich Road. Follow Ipswich Road for approximately 2 miles. Ipswich Road will turn into Topsfield Road once you are in Ipswich. There will be two turn outs on the right hand side for parking.

**Property Steward:** Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr).

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**Paddling Points... Kayaking and Canoeing Drop Spots**

8. Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (Across from Lot 1) Newbury, MA 01951

29. Lake Attitash State Boat Ramp Kimball Road Amesbury, MA 01913

30. Essex Town Landing Main Street Essex, MA 01929

31. Pavilion Beach Western Avenue Gloucester, MA 01930

32. Ipswich Town Landing Bay Road on Great Neck Ipswich, MA 01938

33. North End of Plum Island off Northern Blvd. Newburyport, MA 01950

34. Granite Pier End of Wharf Road Rockport, MA 01966

35. Rowley Town Ramp End of Ocean Avenue Rowley, MA 01969

36. Salisbury Beach State Reservation ramp Salisbury, MA 01952

The Great Marsh, a must paddle spot! (page 20)
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