Brewster Conservation Trust
36 Red Top Road
Brewster MA 02631

www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

Brewster Department of Natural Resources
1657 Main Street
Brewster MA 02631

www.brewster-ma.gov

3rd Edition

Brewster Walking Trails

Provided by

Brewster Conservation Trust
36 Red Top Road, Brewster MA 02631
www.brewsterconservationtrust.org

The Brewster Conservation Trust (BCT) was founded in 1983 to preserve open space, natural resources, and the rural character of Brewster and to promote a conservation ethic. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, BCT is supported by memberships, donations, and grants. Since its founding, BCT has helped protect more than 1,400 acres throughout Brewster. BCT is not affiliated with Town government, though it works closely with the Town on projects of joint interest, such as this Trail Guide. For more information about BCT or to become a member, visit the website.

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The Department of Natural Resources manages the town conservation lands, beaches and open space, including many of the properties in this guide. These lands include the more than 900 acres in the Punkhorn Parklands purchased to protect the Town's drinking water supply and the headwater ponds for the Stony Brook Herring Run.

Map & Brochure Design: © *MapWorks 2022*
Harwich MA 02645-6505
MAPSatWORK@aol.com

WELCOME TO THE WALKING TRAILS OF BREWSTER

Welcome to Brewster's walking trails! The Town's commitment to conservation over the years now provides Brewster residents and visitors with many opportunities for hiking through the diverse landscapes found in the Town: woodlands, marshes, bogs, beaches, and ponds. This guide presents trails on land owned by the Town of Brewster, the Brewster Conservation Trust, and the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

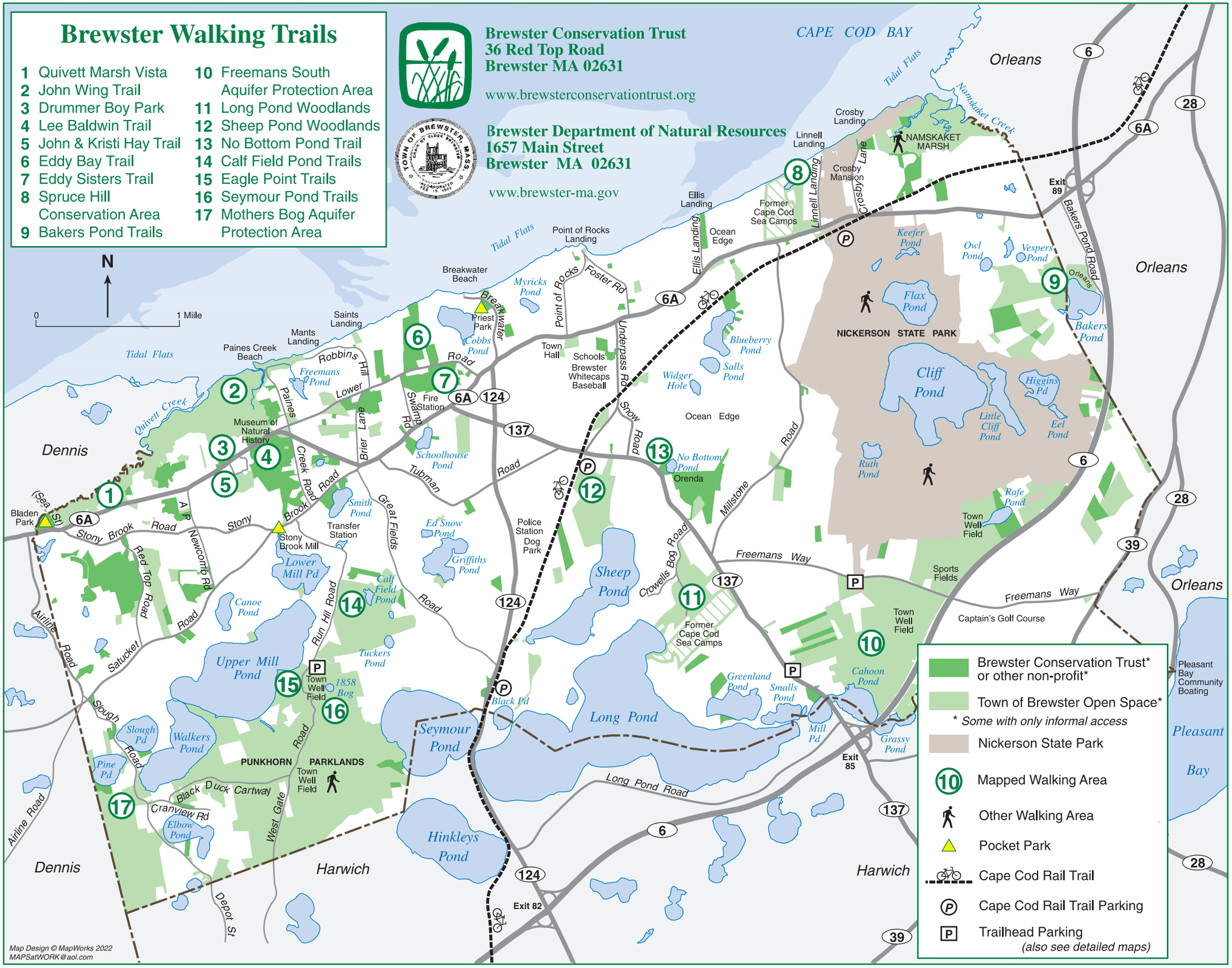
Enjoy these trails and
help us maintain Brewster's natural beauty:

- Stay on marked trails
- Carry out what you carry in
- Observe the rules for dog access
- Leash and pick up after your dog
- Respect private property

In addition to these walking trails on land owned by the Town and other local organizations, Nickerson State Park in east Brewster offers numerous trails through woodlands and around the Park's ponds. A map of the trails and camping sites can be obtained at the Park entrance.

Trail Map Legend

- Brewster Conservation Trust or other non-profit
- Town of Brewster Open Space
- State Land
- Trail (some are color-coded)
- Other Trail
- Bridge
- Bench
- Picnic Table
- Parking
- Accessible Platform
- Glacial Erratic, Large Boulder
- Rock Pile
- Stone Wall
- Open Water
- Wetland


Brewster Walking Trails
1 Quivett Marsh Vista
2 John Wing Trail
3 Drummer Boy Park
4 Lee Baldwin Trail
5 John & Kristi Hay Trail
6 Eddy Bay Trail
7 Eddy Sisters Trail
8 Spruce Hill Conservation Area
9 Bakers Pond Trails
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12 Sheep Pond Woodlands
13 No Bottom Pond Trail
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16 Seymour Pond Trails
17 Mothers Bog Aquifer Protection Area
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CAPE COD BAY
Orleans
Dennis
Harwich
Pleasant Bay
NICKERSON STATE PARK
PUNKHORN PARKLANDS
Brewster Conservation Trust* or other non-profit*
Town of Brewster Open Space*
* Some with only informal access
Nickerson State Park
Mapped Walking Area
Other Walking Area
Pocket Park
Cape Cod Rail Trail
Cape Cod Rail Trail Parking
Trailhead Parking
(also see detailed maps)
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Brewster Walking Trails

BREWSTER POCKET PARKS

Bladen Park

Walking down the abandoned section of Sea Street, you will find this small park on the left. It has a bench overlooking Quivett Creek Marsh. Sea Street leads across the marsh to another bench at Quivett Creek.
Directions: Located on the north side of Route 6A just before entering Dennis. There is a parking spot in front of a boulder that blocks abandoned Sea Street.

Priest Park

Once the site of the 1840 Captain Wetherbee House, this quiet grassy area with a bench, offers a glimpse of Cape Cod Bay.
Directions: Located on Breakwater Road, across from Breakwater Beach. Park at Breakwater Beach parking lot (beach parking permit required in season).

Stony Brook Grist Mill

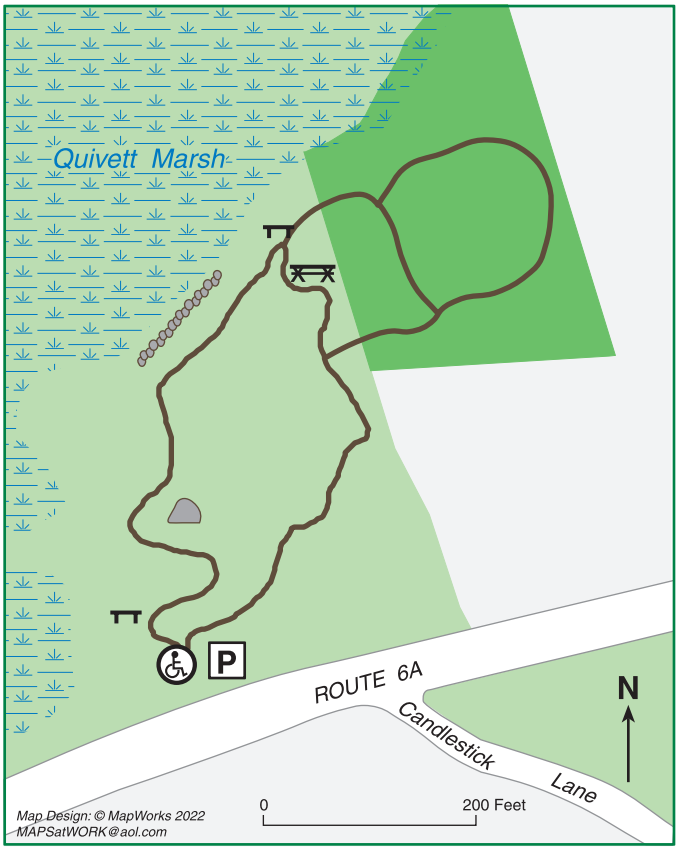
The 1800's Grist Mill is the only remaining structure from Brewster's Factory Village, which began operating in 1663. The restored mill is open every Saturday in the summer, with the water wheel in motion and fresh-ground corn meal for sale. In the spring, herring swim from Cape Cod Bay via Stony Brook to spawn in Brewster's freshwater ponds. Take a short walk to BCT's fishing rock where several large glacial erratics create a natural viewing platform on Lower Mill Pond.
Directions: Located near the intersection of Stony Brook Road and Satucket Road. There is a small parking lot across from the Mill.

1 Quivett Marsh Vista

Quivett Marsh Vista was formerly the site of the Skyline Motel (1953-1992). Having been shuttered for many years, the former owner tore down the motel to provide a view over Quivett Marsh and BCT arranged the sale to the Town. An additional two acres were later purchased by BCT to extend the trail. There is a handicap access platform adjacent to the parking lot and a short trail loop winds to the marsh. A picnic table at an overlook point provides a view of an active osprey nest and across to the Crowes Pasture Conservation Area in East Dennis.

Trail round trip: 0.3 miles

Directions: Traveling west on Route 6A, Quivett Marsh Vista entrance and parking is on the right, approximately 0.9 miles after Drummer Boy Park.



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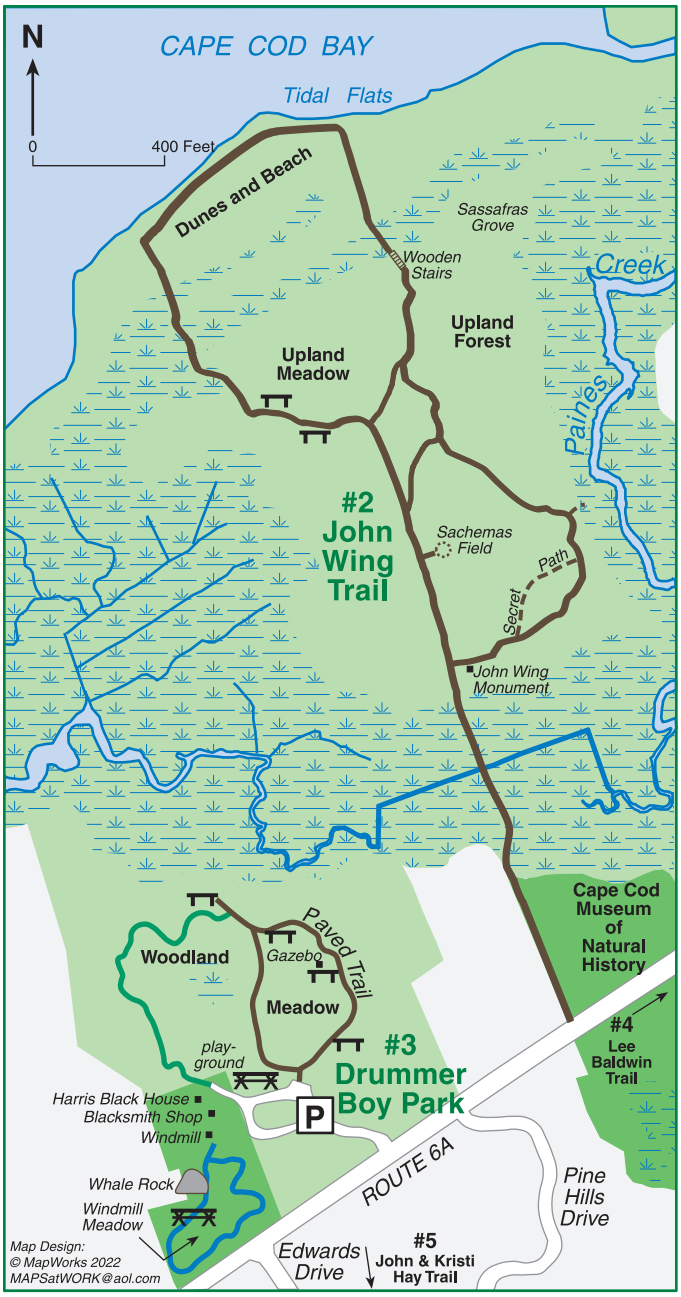
Brewster Walking Trails

2 John Wing Trail

The John Wing Trail, from Route 6A beside the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History to Wing Island, provides a view of the habitats that are typical of the Cape Cod Bay shore: upland forest, salt marsh, salt meadow, dunes, and mud flats. Wing Island provided a rich environment for Native Americans and settlers. The island was also the site of early salt works and salt hay harvesting. Paines Creek, to the east, leads to Brewster's famous Herring run into Lower Mill Pond. Wing Island is named after John Wing, Brewster's first colonial settler. Walkers are encouraged to visit the Museum of Natural History.

Trail round trip: 1.3 miles

Directions: Parking is available at Drummer Boy Park. The trailhead is approximately 0.3 miles east, adjacent to the Museum of Natural History.



3 Drummer Boy Park

The Town's Drummer Boy Park, once the home of the Drummer Boy Museum, is now a multi-use public park, which seasonally hosts fairs, music, and town events. The park has a large open meadow, playground, gazebo, paved walking loop, and a short woodland hiking trail. The Brewster Historical Society's Higgins Farm Windmill, Harris Black House, and the Henry Hopkins Blacksmith Shop provide a glimpse into late 1800s life. The Brewster Conservation Trust's Windmill Meadow trail starts just south of the Windmill and leads to the climbable "Whale Rock" and a sprawling cherry tree that shades a nearby picnic table.

Paved trail: 0.25 miles
Green trail: 0.25 miles
Blue trail: 0.25 miles

Directions: Located on Route 6A just west of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History and 1.5 miles east of the Dennis/Brewster town line.

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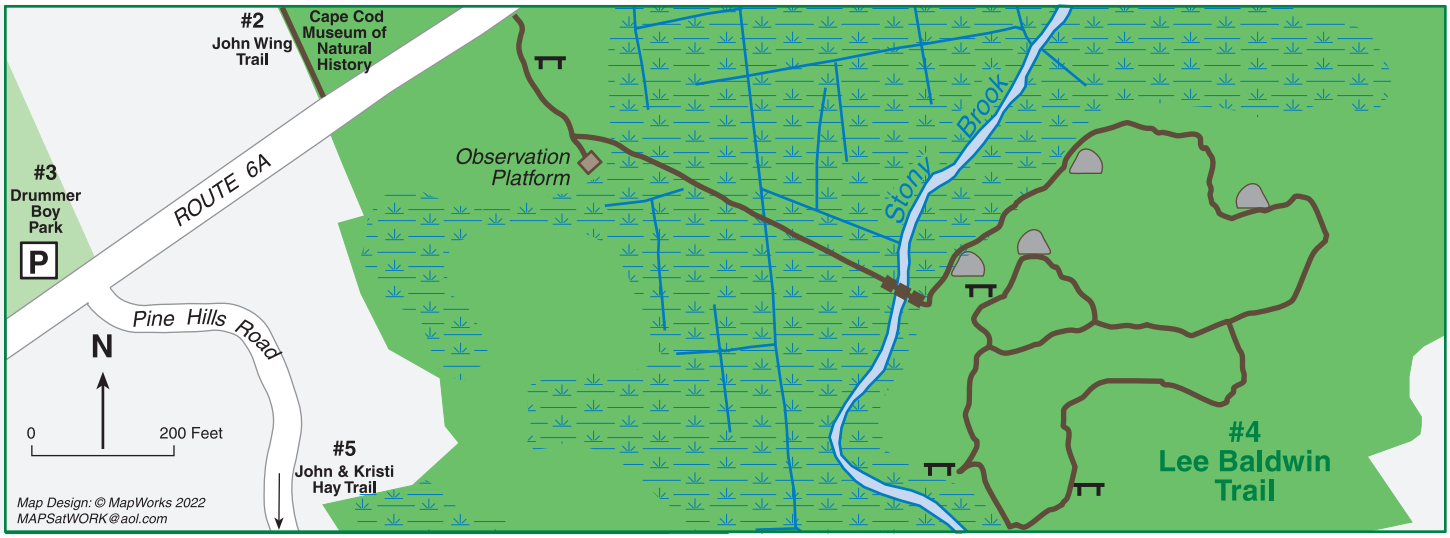


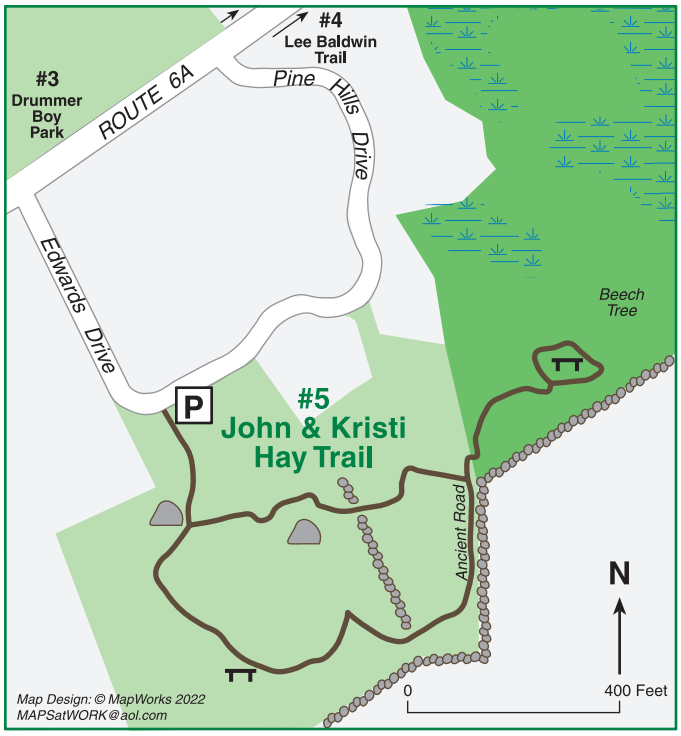
4 Lee Baldwin Trail (South Trail)

The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History South Trail honors the late Lee Baldwin, native Cape Cod naturalist and veteran walk leader. The trail crosses the Stony Brook Marsh and extends to upland groves of beech trees. The 2010 enlargement of the Route 6A culvert over Stony Brook has allowed greater tidal flow to restore the marsh to its original condition. The trail provides several stations for viewing life in the marsh. Dogs are not allowed.

Trail round trip: 1.0 miles

Directions: Parking is available at Drummer Boy Park. The trailhead is approximately 0.3 miles east, across Rt. 6A from the Museum of Natural History.

5 John & Kristi Hay Trail



The John and Kristi Hay trail is named after the famous naturalist and his wife who played a leading role in conservation in Brewster and in establishing the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Passing some of the largest glacial erratics in Brewster, the trail winds through typical Cape Cod pine-oak forest and provides a view to a dry kettle hole from a rustic bench. A segment of the trail follows an ancient road which was once the connection between the Stony Brook Valley 18th century factory village and Wing Island, where early settlers cut marsh hay and salt works flourished. The trail extends onto Museum property where a viewing bench looks onto an enormous beech tree and a view of the Stony Brook Valley.

Trail round trip: 0.6 miles

Directions: Parking is available at Drummer Boy Park. The trailhead, with limited parking, is located approximately 200 yards in from Route 6A on Edwards Drive, across from Drummer Boy Park.

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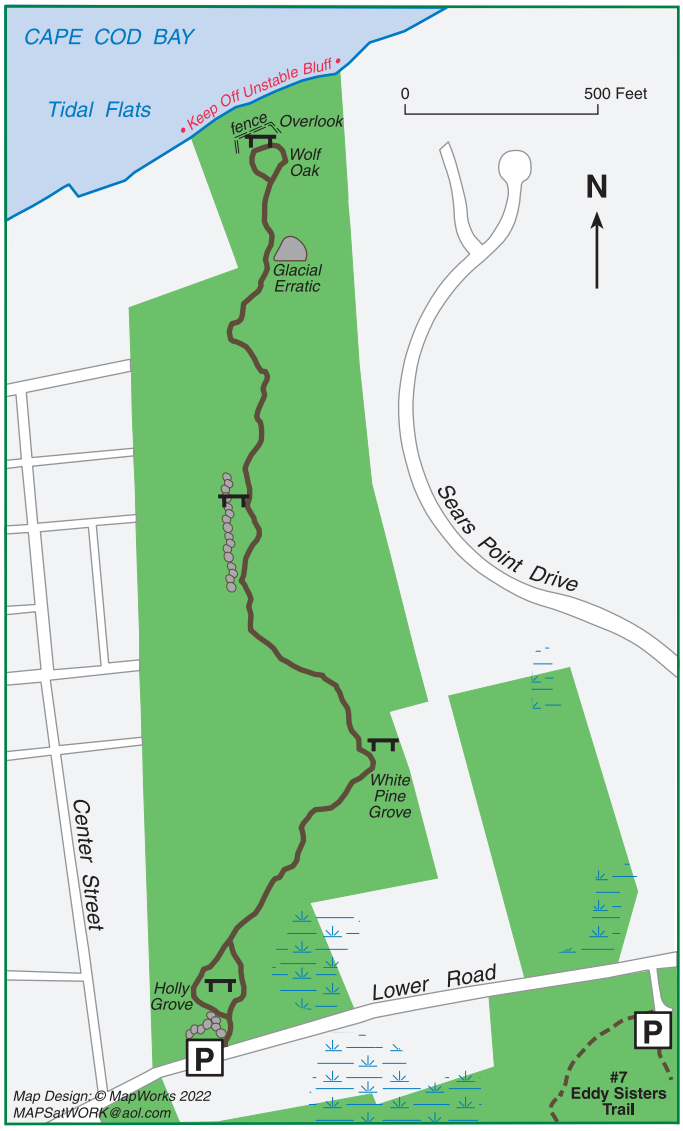
Brewster Walking Trails

6 Eddy Bay Trail

The trail is located on the site of the "planting fields" of the Saquatucket Sachemship and later divisions of farms for the colonists in the 1600s. The area later served as pasture and tillage for some of Brewster's leading farming families through the 1800s. From Lower Road, the path leads past 1870s barn and house foundations, through a grove of large holly trees, and then pine and oak woodland. The path ends at the highest bluff in Brewster overlooking Cape Cod Bay. There is no beach access.

Trail round trip: 1.0 miles

Directions: From Route 6A near the Brewster Store, take Lower Road west for 0.5 miles. The trail head is located on the northern (right) side of the road approximately 150 yards past the Community Garden and Eddy Sisters Trail entrance. There is limited parking at the trailhead, and additional space at the Eddy Sisters Trail.

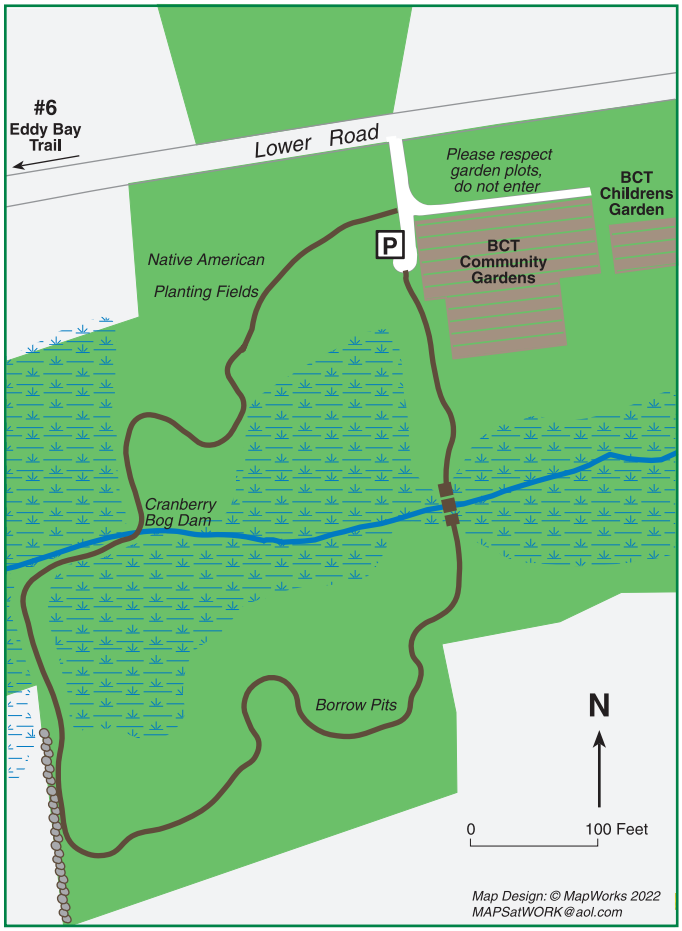


7 Eddy Sisters Trail

The Eddy Sisters Trail at the Community Garden runs through the woods and along the stone walls and former cranberry bogs of an old Cape Cod Farm. It follows a maple swamp, upland forest, dikes of old cranberry bogs, and farm fields from the 18th and 19th centuries. A brochure for a self-guided natural history tour is available at the entrance. The trail is named for Mary-Louise, Ruth, and Jean Eddy, whose grandfather Thorndike owned the farm. The sisters donated the land for the Community Garden and most of the trail.

Trail round trip: 0.5 miles

Directions: From Route 6A near the Brewster Store, turn onto Lower Road and head west for approximately 0.3 miles. The Community Garden and Eddy Sisters entrance are on the south (left) side of Lower Road. There is a parking lot at the trailhead.



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8 Spruce Hill Conservation Area

The Spruce Hill Conservation Area runs north from Route 6A to Cape Cod Bay. It is named after the grove of tall Norway Spruce trees. From the parking lot, a wide path runs beneath a canopy of oak and pine. Before the path crosses the dune to Cape Cod Bay, there is a low area with swamp azalea, viburnum, and a stand of black gum.

In 2021 the Town of Brewster purchased the adjacent 55-acre former Cape Cod Sea Camps property. Future public access and use is being planned.

Trail round trip: 0.8 miles

Directions: The parking area is located off Route 6A, 0.3 miles to the east of the former Cape Cod Sea Camps entrance.

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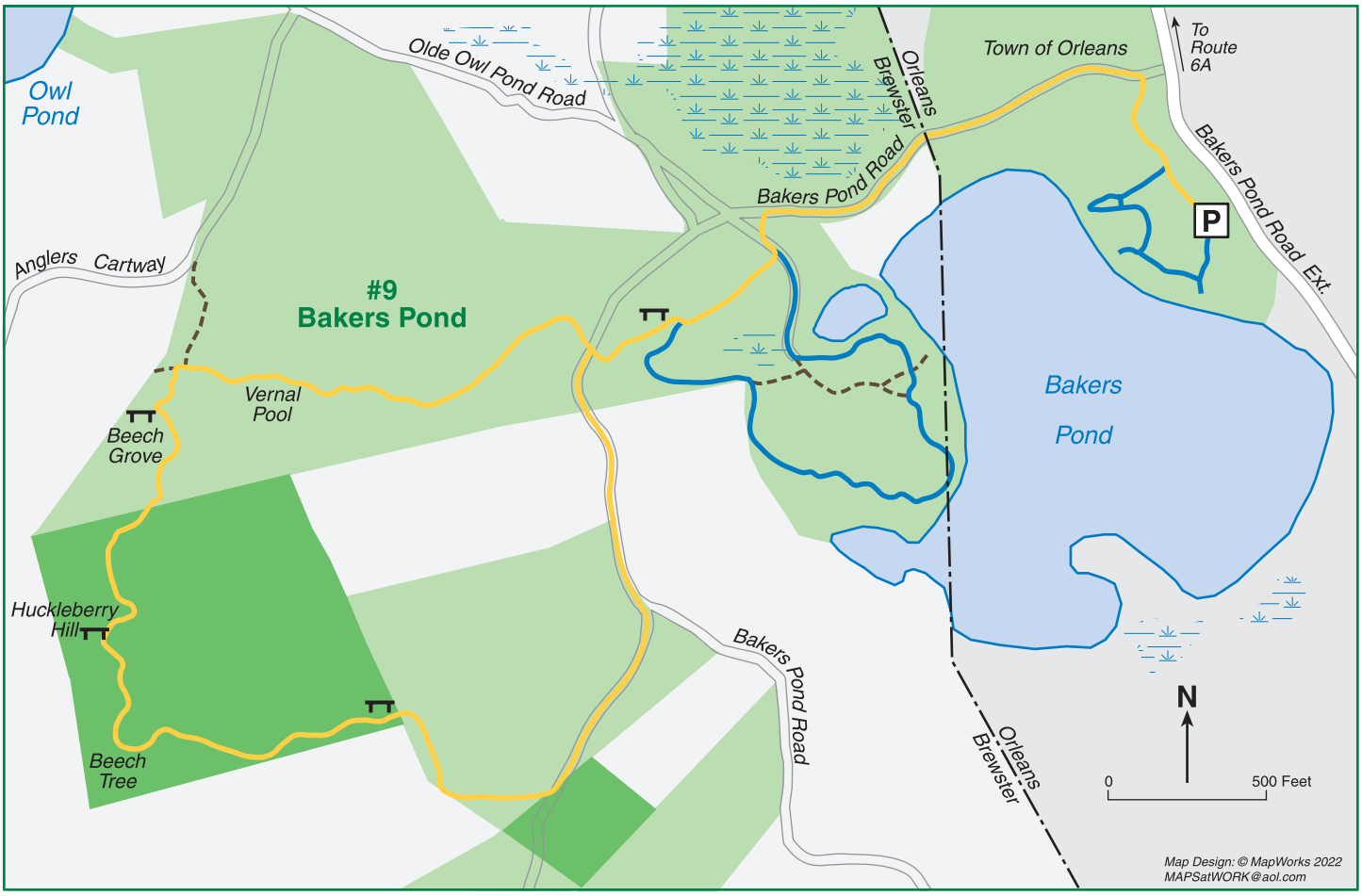
Brewster Walking Trails

9 Bakers Pond

Bakers Pond is on the boundary with Orleans, with some of its shoreline protected by each town. A short blue loop in Orleans and a longer one in Brewster provide good pond overlooks. Huckleberry Hill is located further west via the yellow trail. Cart paths and foot trails traverse a 90-acre assemblage of BCT and Town-owned conservation lands. In some places trails run close to unmarked private land, so please stay on color-coded trails. There is a peaceful valley with a vernal pool, and then a 120 foot climb up Huckleberry Hill. The mixed forest has some white pine, mockernut, sassafras, and a grove of American beech. In the autumn, the carpet of knee-high huckleberry shrubs turn wine-red.

Yellow trail round trip: 2.0 miles

Directions: Take Rt. 6A east to just after the Orleans town line, turn right on to Bakers Pond Road and travel 0.6 miles. The parking lot for Bakers Pond Conservation area is on the right. Color coded trails start at the parking lot; the Yellow Trailhead is at the right end of the lot and Orleans Blue Trailhead at the left.



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10 Freemans South Aquifer Protection Area

This area is a collection of lands purchased over time to protect the town's water supply. Originally planned for development, the properties contain cart paths and crisscrossing foot trails. The red trail winds through a hilly pitch pine and oak forest. There is a huckleberry understory and a scattering of beech trees. The blue trail cuts through an even-aged pine barren. Much of the blue trail follows what had been cleared for a road, providing for a flat and level walk. An overlook of Cahoon Pond is located at the southern most portion of the trail.

Red trail round trip: 1.75 miles
Blue trail round trip: 1.50 miles

Directions: Park in the lot on the north side of Route 137, or along the south side of Freemans Way.

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Brewster Walking Trails

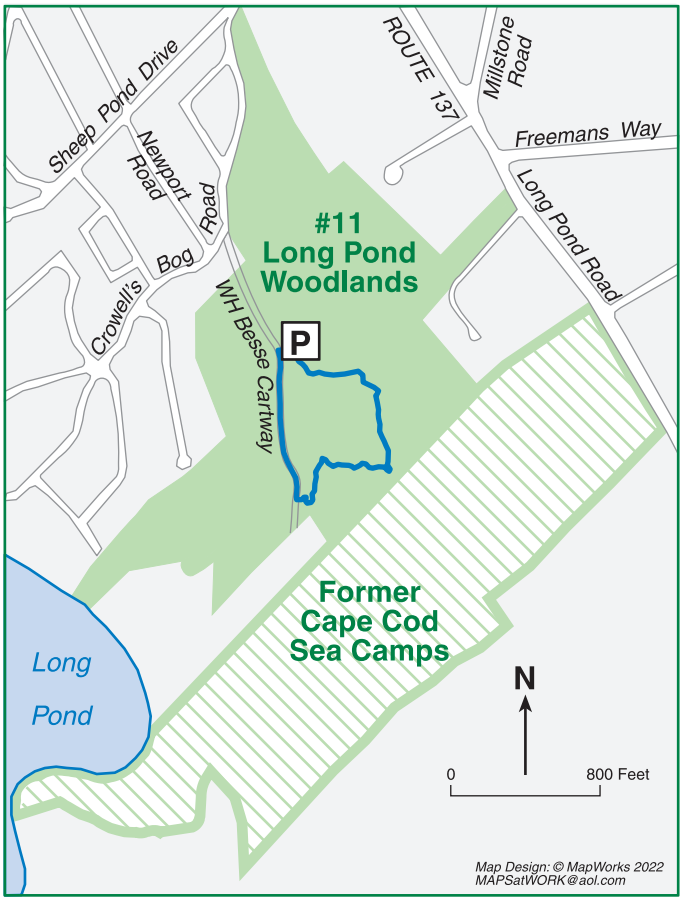
11 Long Pond Woodlands

Long Pond Woodlands is a 42-acre parcel that consists primarily of a pine-oak forest with small scattered groves of tupelo and beech. The half mile loop is a flat walk that meanders through the center of the property and offers a peaceful stroll amongst the pines and oaks. Although this property includes frontage on Long Pond, there is no access to the water.

In 2021 the Town of Brewster purchased the adjacent 66-acre former Cape Cod Sea Camps property. Future public access and use is being planned.

Blue trail round trip: 0.5 miles

Directions: From Route 137, turn south onto Crowell's Bog Road. In approximately 0.4 miles take a slight left onto WH Besse Cartway. The parking area is approximately 0.14 miles on the left.



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12 Sheep Pond Woodlands

The trail passes through 88 acres with mixed oak and pitch pine forest with occasional stands of white pine. At the southern end of the trail there is a kettle marsh and an abandoned cranberry bog (Captain Smalls Bog), which is connected to the pond by a pipe. Sheep Pond, one of Brewster's deepest (64 feet) ponds, has high water quality and is stocked with trout and salmon by the State.

Trail round trip: 1.3 miles

Directions: Parking for the Sheep Pond Trail is located at the intersection of Route 137 and Underpass Road, adjacent to the Cape Cod Rail Trail.

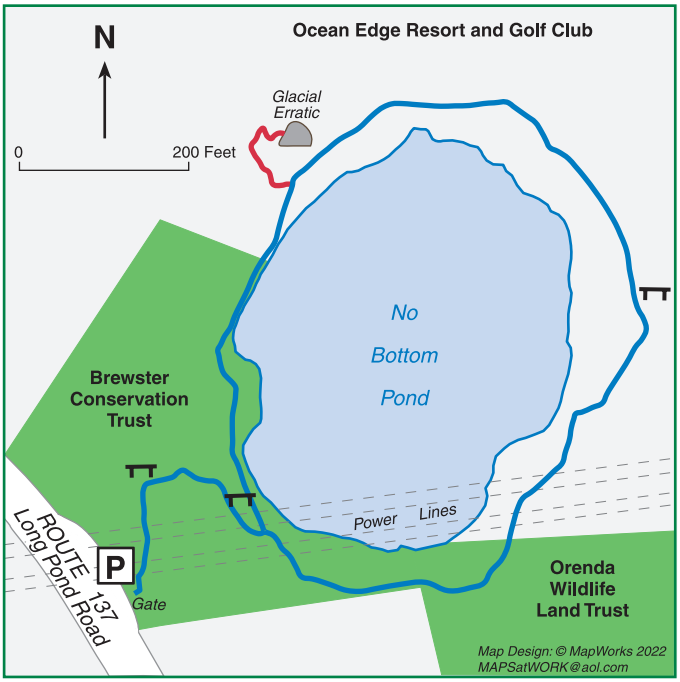
13 No Bottom Pond Trail

BCT created this trail in collaboration with the Orenda Wildlife Land Trust and Ocean Edge Resort. The trail encircles No Bottom Pond. The 3-acre, 30-foot deep, pond is one of the cleanest and steepest kettle hole ponds on Cape Cod. Kettle hole ponds were formed when large blocks of ice from retreating glaciers were buried by outwash sand and gravel. The eventual melting resulted in deep depressions and ponds. The glaciers left behind the many large boulders (glacial erratics) that are scattered along the slopes.

The trail descends down the steep slope and around the pond. Benches allow for rest and reflection. Portions of the trail are within state-designated habitat protection areas. Please do not disturb plants and animals.

Blue trail round trip: 0.75 miles

Directions: Roadside parking is located under the power lines on Route 137, Long Pond Road, between Snow and Millstone Roads.



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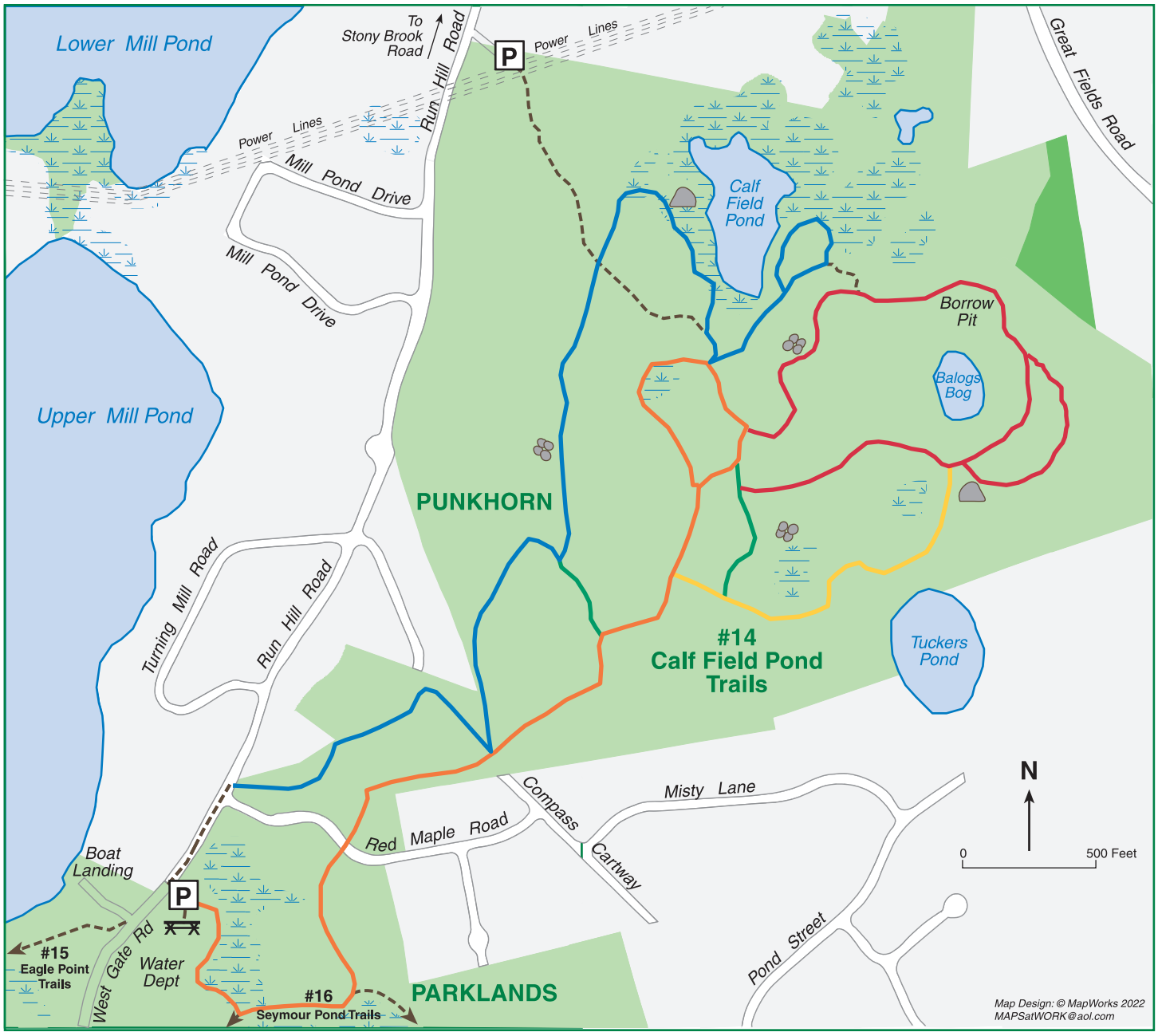
14 Calf Field Pond Trails

Calf Field Pond area is distinctly different from other areas in the Punkhorn Parklands. Geologically, it is hilly and rocky and full of kettle holes typical of high moraines. The trail system passes through beech groves, which are unusual on the Cape and by holes where large granite boulders (glacial erratics) were quarried in centuries past. Color-coded signs mark the network of trails, spurs, and loops through the Calf Field Pond area.

Outer loop round trip: 2.5 miles
(from south parking lot)
Inner loops provide for shorter walks

Directions: From Stony Brook Road, turn on to Run Hill Road and travel 1.2 miles to where it turns to gravel. There is a public parking lot on the left. There are two trailheads, one at the eastern side of the parking lot where the Seymour Pond Trail also starts, and the other approximately 50 yards back on Run Hill Road. The northern portion of the Calf Field Pond Trails can also be accessed from a dirt road and informal parking area off Run Hill Road just north of the power lines.



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15 Eagle Point Trails

Eagle Point is one of the most accessible paths in the Town's vast (over 900 acres) Punkhorn Parklands. The Town acquired the property for conservation in 1986 from the Carleton Francis family. There are several loop trails that include bluffs overlooking Upper Mill Pond, and a view of an old cranberry bog. The path crosses the dike separating the bog from the Pond, and stretches through beautiful woods of pine, oak, and huckleberry understory. The Punkhorn Parklands play a valuable role in protecting the Town's water supply.

Eagle Point round trip: 1.0 miles
(via Blue & Red outer loops)

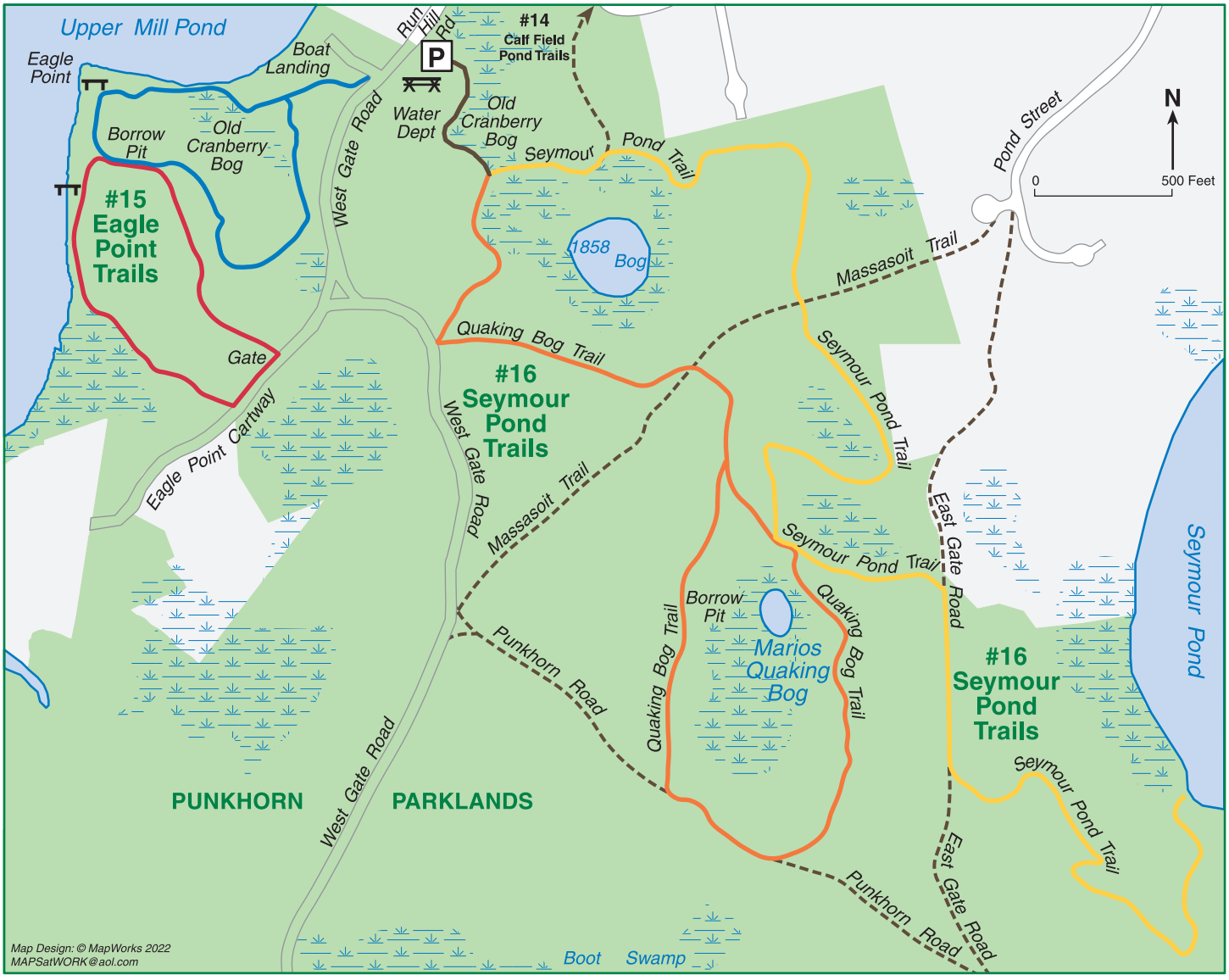
Directions: From Stony Brook Road, take Run Hill Road to where it turns to gravel and there is a public parking lot on the left. The Eagle Point Blue Trailhead is on the pond side of West Gate Road near the Boat Landing access road.

16 Seymour Pond Trails

Seymour Pond Trail network is in the heart of Brewster's vast Punkhorn Parklands and passes through many of Brewster's diverse habitats – abandoned cranberry bogs, red maple swamps, and upland mixed pitch pine and oak forest with huckleberry understory. Midway along the trail is Marios Quaking Bog, with its unstable floating vegetative layer. The trail ends at Seymour Pond where a high bluff provides a view over the pond. There is no beach access.

Yellow trail round trip: 2.65 miles
Orange trail round trip: 1.55 miles

Directions: From Stony Brook Road, take Run Hill Road to where it turns to gravel and there is a public parking lot on the left. The Seymour Pond Trailhead is at the rear of the parking lot.



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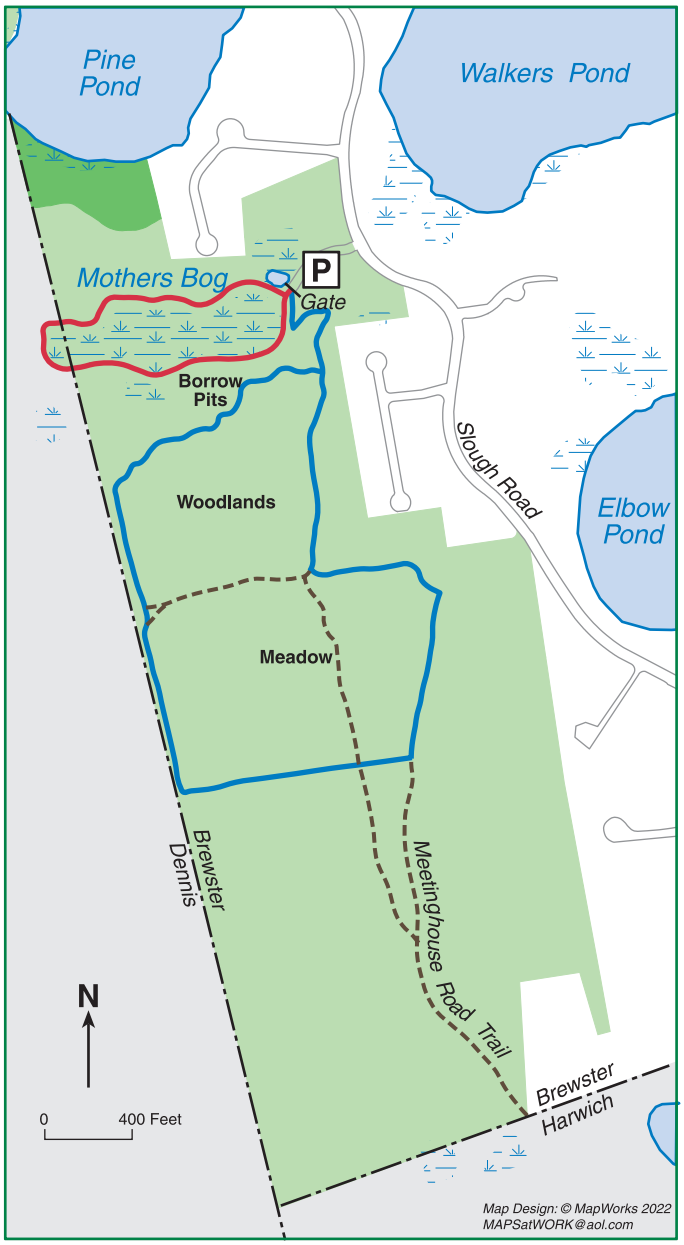
17 Mothers Bog Aquifer Protection Area

Mothers Bog is an 8-acre parcel that sits at the northern end of the 153-acre Mothers Bog Aquifer Protection Area. It is a great example of intermunicipal and non-profit cooperation to help preserve and protect land for conservation and watershed protection. The short bog loop navigates the perimeter of the bog, named after "Mother" Louise Crowell, whose family operated the bog for many years. The 8-acre bog saw its last commercial harvest in the fall of 2005, however small patches of productive plants can still be found scattered among juvenile pitch pines, soft rush, poison ivy and fir trees. The short loop navigates the perimeter of the bog with the western tip crossing into the Town of Dennis.

The Meeting House Road trail traverses a more diverse landscape of new growth pines, open meadow, and native hardwoods. A section of the trail follows the original cart path used by settlers from the south side of Harwich to attend church on the north side of Harwich, which became the Town of Brewster in 1803.

Red trail round trip: 0.5 miles
Blue trail round trip: 1.25 miles

Directions: Traveling west on Route 6A, take a slight left onto Stony Brook Road, followed by a slight left onto Satucket Road. Turn left onto Slough Road and travel approximately 0.8 miles. The turn off for the parking area is on the right.