

WALKING TRAILS OF YARMOUTH

A Guide to Yarmouth's
Conservation Areas and Trails



Town of Yarmouth Conservation Division
bit.ly/yarmouthconservation

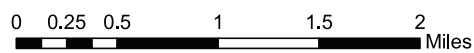
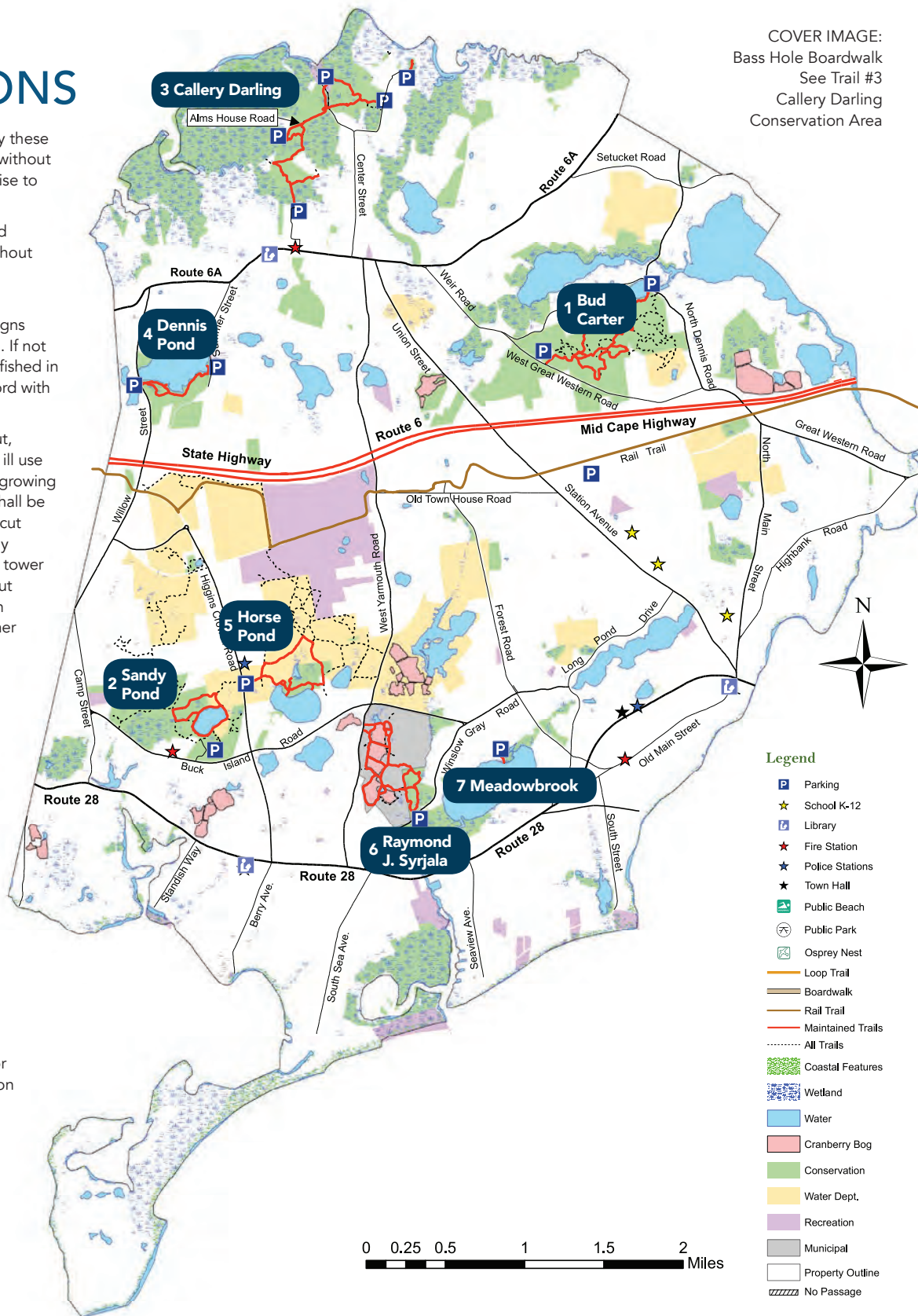
RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The public are welcome to enjoy these conservation areas of the Town without charge from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
2. No cars, trucks or other powered vehicles or tools are allowed without the consent of the Conservation Commission or their agent.
3. "No Hunting" or "No Fishing" signs will be posted if such is intended. If not posted, areas may be hunted or fished in season with a license and in accord with applicable law.
4. In these areas, no person shall cut, break, remove, deface, defile, or ill use any structure, fence, or sign. No growing trees, bushes, plants or flowers shall be defaced or cut nor shall trails be cut or marked, nor dams built nor any structure such as lean-to, bridge, tower or handrail be constructed without authorization of the Conservation Commission. No vegetation, either live or dead, shall be removed from these areas.
5. Soliciting, advertising and business activities are strictly prohibited within the areas.
6. The Conservation Commission cannot assume for the Town liability for injuries, damage to property or other loss to persons going on such areas, who assume all the risks involved.
7. Littering and/or dumping (leaves, brush, trash, etc.) within these areas is strictly prohibited.
8. Violations of these regulations may result in fines up to \$300 for each offense. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER
BEWARE OF POISON
IVY & SUMAC

ABOVE ALL, LET NATURE
MAKE ALL THE CHANGES

COVER IMAGE:
Bass Hole Boardwalk
See Trail #3
Callery Darling
Conservation Area



THE BUD CARTER
MEMORIAL TRAIL

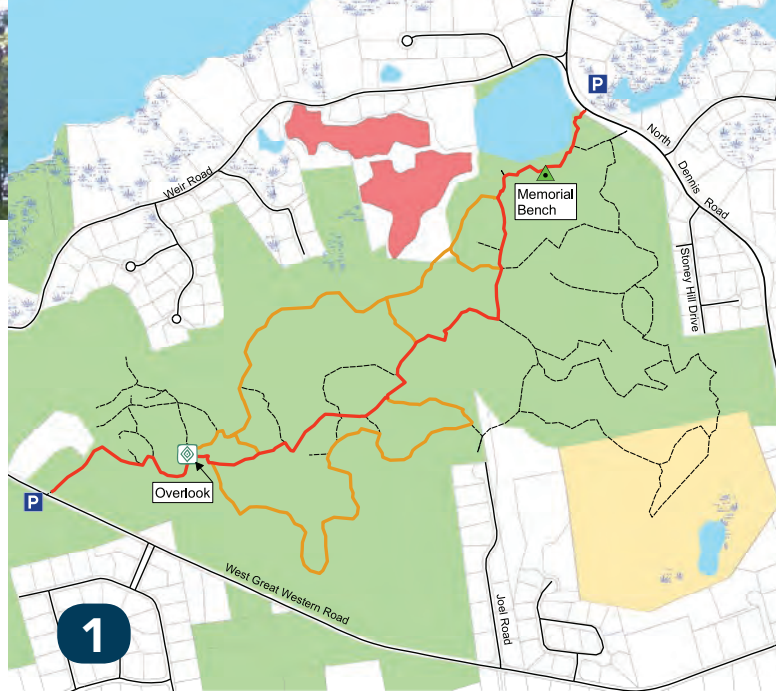
1. BUD CARTER CONSERVATION AREA

The Bud Carter Memorial Trail is located on 300 acres of conservation land bounded by North Dennis Road in the east and West Great Western Road in the west. These trails are considered moderately difficult due to the tough terrain of loose rocks, narrow paths, and side trails that are unmarked and unmaintained. The trail is open to the public for walking, hiking, and mountain biking, so please use caution while visiting. To assist with navigation the main trail has been marked with red trail markers, and loop trails to the north and south have been marked with orange markers.

The conservation area is home to the highest point in Yarmouth, 118 feet above sea level. On clear days, Manomet Point in Plymouth is visible from the sandpit overlook. The trail is situated on the Sandwich Moraine, a significant glacially formed accumulation of unconsolidated glacial debris left over from the last ice age 20,000 years ago. Many large granite rocks dot the landscape and a history of granite mining is evident by the drill holes made for blasting.

The trail was named in memory of Bud Carter who spent many years walking the area and volunteering for various conservation projects. A memorial bench is located approximately 600 feet from the North Dennis Road trailhead, overlooking Reservoir Pond.

Wildlife in this area include turtles, frogs, birds, squirrels, chipmunks, deer and other animals. Please be cautious of ticks and poison ivy on the trail, as well as fallen branches and trees. Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails.



N. DENNIS ROAD PARKING:

Pull-off for 1–2 vehicles at Reservoir Pond, just south of Weir Road.

W. GREAT WESTERN ROAD PARKING:

Pull-off for 1–2 vehicles 0.1 miles west of Deb's Way, on the right.

2. SANDY POND CONSERVATION AREA

Sandy Pond Conservation Area—off Buck Island Road between Camp Street and Higgins Crowell Road—is adjacent to the popular Sandy Pond Recreation Area. A walking trail around the pond connects to other trails to the north, west, and east, which go for miles and lead to Buck Island Road, the water tower, Horse Pond Conservation Area, Chandler Grey Cemetery, Mill Creek, the power lines, and Higgins Crowell Road. Most of the trail weaves through forest; many unmaintained side trails lead to private roads or homes.

Sandy Pond is a classic “kettle” pond (a depression left when glacial ice melted and filled with fresh water) with steep slopes; it covers approximately 12 acres. The maximum depth of the pond is about 35 feet. Town Brook originates at the northwest perimeter of the pond, winds its way through Robbins Swamp, and empties into Baxter Grist Mill Pond along Route 28 in West Yarmouth.

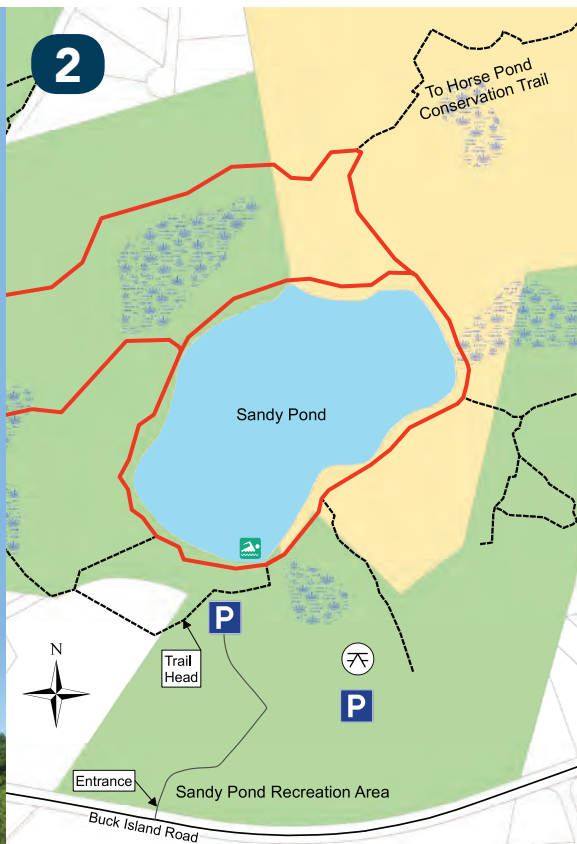
The conservation property was acquired by the Town in the early 1980s from the Braginton-Smith Family. Sandy Pond Recreation Area has something for everyone (no sticker or fee required), with features including playing courts and fields, a dog park, a playground, and a sandy beach at the pond, with a lifeguard on duty May to September.

Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails any time of year and on the beach between September 15 and March 15.



PARKING:

Parking is at the Sandy Pond Recreation Area. Access to the trailhead is through the recreation area.



3. CALLERY DARLING CONSERVATION AREA



The Callery Darling Conservation Area is located to the north of Route 6A in Yarmouth Port, stretching from Homers Dock Road on the east to the salt marshes west of Center Street. Parking is available at several locations providing easy access to various points along the trail system.

The Callery Darling Conservation Area delights visitors with its beautiful views and ecological diversity. The combination of salt and fresh water wetlands encourages a large variety of plant and animal species along the trails, and transitioning plant communities leave hints of the historical uses of the land. Soils are rich and deep with organics, indicating an aggressive farming history. Abandoned cranberry bogs now support large red maple swamps. Ancient salt water bogs are also present with the original dikes still intact, and mature pine and oak forests disguise large areas of historic sand mining for the bogs. The marshes and bogs support numerous bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile habitats. The salt marshes also play a crucial role in the overall food chain, providing a nursery for microscopic plants and animals.

The Bass Hole Boardwalk is one of the most popular attractions in the area. The 800 foot boardwalk offers a unique perspective of salt marshes. The boardwalk crosses small creeks and ponds and contains a sitting area at the seaward end. A fall sunset at the boardwalk after a full trail walk is the perfect ending to any day.

Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails any time of year and on the beach between September 15 and March 15.

Dogs are prohibited from the boardwalk year round.

86 ALMS HOUSE ROAD PARKING:

Dirt lot—up to 4 vehicles.

GRAYS BEACH PARKING (400 CENTER STREET):

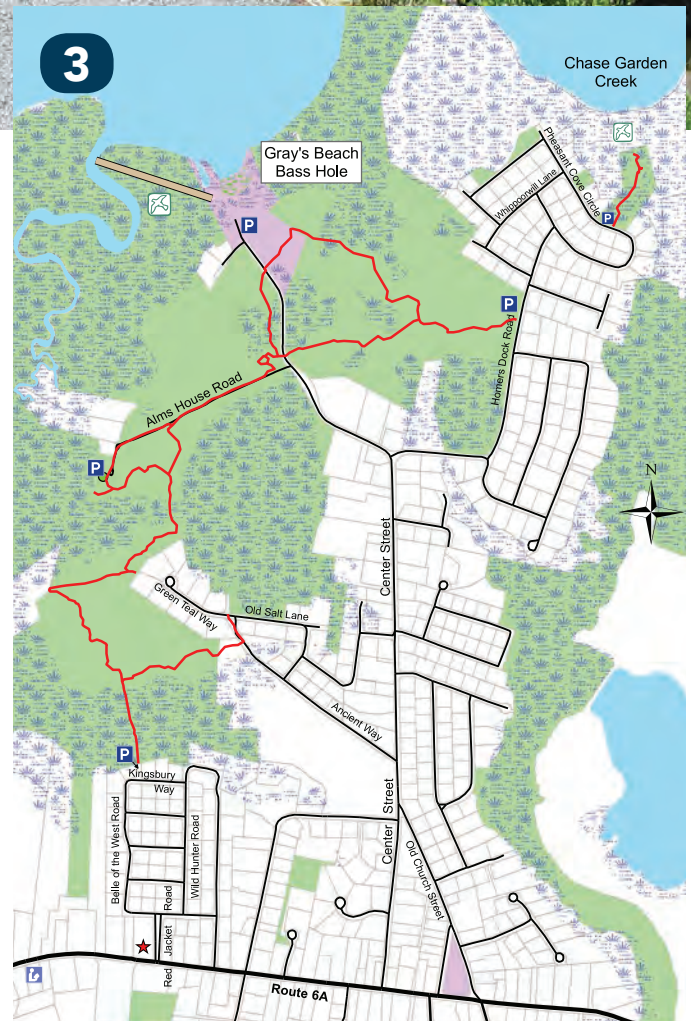
Trailhead behind the playground & pavilion.

HOMERS DOCK ROAD PARKING:

Pull off for 1–2 vehicles opposite Lookout Road.

KINGSBURY WAY PARKING

(OFF HOMESTEAD LANE): Limited parking at trailhead.



4. DENNIS POND CONSERVATION AREA

The Dennis Pond Conservation Area is one of the Town's most popular recreational areas, used for swimming, fishing, hiking, and nature-watching. The main trail is 0.8 miles from end to end and takes you along the southern shore of Dennis Pond just north of Route 6 between Summer Street and Willow Street. The trail runs along the shoreline with multiple access points to the water and is mostly flat, but watch for areas of exposed roots and some steep slopes to the water.

The dominant underbrush along the sides of the trail is sweet pepperbush, while the large open woodland area includes mixed oak and pine trees. The woodland area leads to an old cranberry bog which has become home to red maple trees as it has dried out over time. Many beech trees can be found on the high ridge on the north side of the pond, indicating a late successional forest that has escaped disturbance for a long period of time.

Dennis Pond is named after Robert Dennis, an early settler of Yarmouth who lived by the pond. The Dennis Pond Beach was donated to the town by Mabel S. Agassiz, with the intention of it being used by the children of Yarmouth. The public beach, with a marked swimming area, is located at the Summer Street end of the trail (sticker required). Lifeguards are on duty from May–September. Kayaks, canoes, and other small boats can be launched here. At the Willow Street end there is also access to the water down a short trail for launching kayaks and canoes.

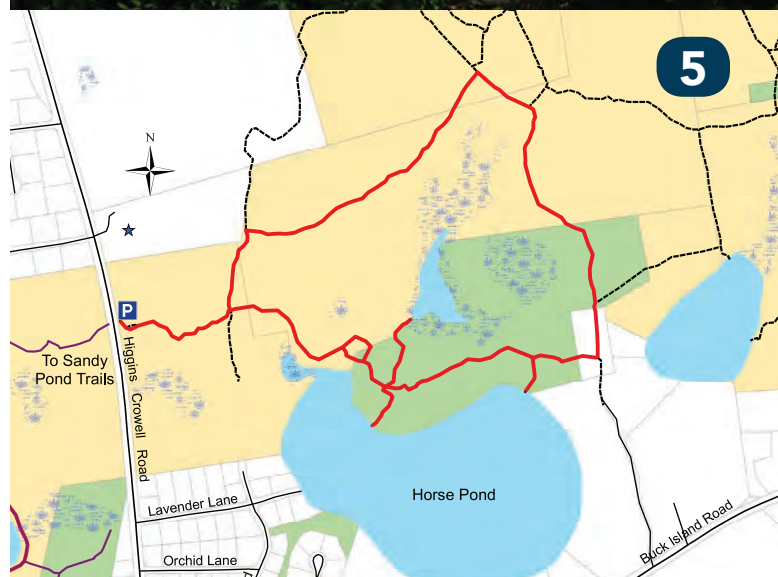
Deer and other animal tracks can be spotted in the wetland area at the old cranberry bog. Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails any time of year and on the beach between September 15 and March 15.

P **WILLOW ST PARKING:**
Pull-off for 1–3 vehicles next to Dennis Pond just north of the powerlines.

SUMMER ST PARKING:
Pull-off for 1–2 vehicles, south of the public beach.



5. HORSE POND CONSERVATION AREA



The Horse Pond Conservation Area trails are located within 400 acres of Town-owned land to the east of Higgins Crowell Road in West Yarmouth. The main trail runs along the northern perimeter of the pond with spurs, loops and connectors to other trail systems. Horse Pond itself covers an area of approximately 30 acres and is quite shallow with a maximum depth of around 10 feet.

Horse Pond exhibits large fluctuations in its shoreline due to neighboring public wells. Fluctuation in the water level provides a unique habitat for many rare and endangered plants within two wet meadows to the north of the pond. During high precipitation years there is standing water in this meadow and during low precipitation years, a diverse plant community consisting of grasses, sedges, sundews, and rushes prevails.

Connector trails link Horse Pond with Sandy Pond across Higgins Crowell Road; Basset's Lot Pond on the east side of the trail; the Larry/Bill/Ed Trails that loop around the northern end of the conservation area; and the Plashes Pond cranberry bogs across West Yarmouth Road.

Beaches along Horse Pond can be accessed from the walking trails. Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails any time of year.

P **HIGGINS CROWELL ROAD PARKING:**
Pull-off just south of the Yarmouth Police Department. 1–5 vehicles. Trail can also be accessed from the east end at pull-offs on West Yarmouth Road.

6. RAYMOND J. SYRJALA CONSERVATION AREA

The Raymond J. Syrjala Conservation Area is a 15-acre area located between Winslow Gray Road and West Yarmouth Road, just north of Route 28. The beginning of the trail follows along the bank of Plashes Brook into a thick wooded area, and then follows along a fence to an opening with the six cranberry bogs.

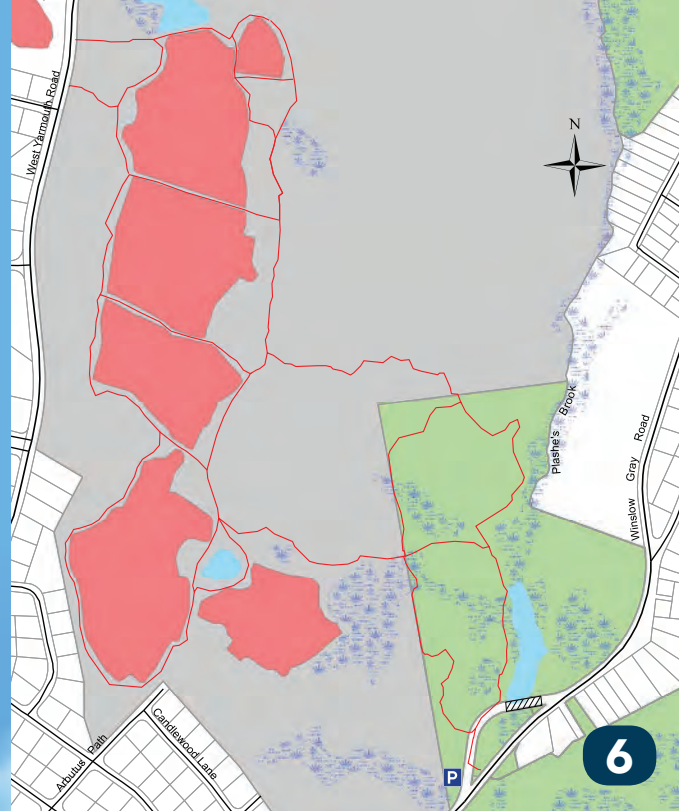
There is a small reservoir that is full of life on the north side of the conservation land. Black racer snakes, frogs, turtles, and great blue heron flourish in the area with lots of vegetation and waterlilies. Around the bogs and in the uplands many deer, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, opossums, rabbits, squirrels, and various songbirds can be seen. Raptors such as hawks and ospreys are often seen soaring high above the forest canopy and wood ducks can sometimes be spotted in the reservoir. Other vegetation includes highbush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, gray birch, tupelo, maleberry, sheep laurel, huckleberry, inkberry, and fetterbush. Greenbrier is also abundant and is an excellent food source for deer. Ground covers such as Canadian mayflower, teaberry, and starflower dot the herbaceous layer while bracken and cinnamon fern add greenery to the forest floor. For assistance identifying these plants and more in the field visit <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/>.

The area is named after one of the Yarmouth Conservation Commission's charter members, Raymond J. Syrjala. The land was owned and farmed by the Kittila family of West Yarmouth and was conveyed to the Town in 1981. Bug spray is suggested due to a large mosquito and tick population. Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails any time of year. Please respect workers on the bog.

PARKING:



There is pull-off parking for multiple cars on Winslow Gray Road. Entrances on the western side of the property lead to West Yarmouth Road and are for the use of bog workers only.





7. MEADOWBROOK CONSERVATION AREA

The Meadowbrook Conservation Area is located on the northern side of Swan (Seine) Pond at the end of Meadowbrook Road, off Winslow Gray Road. The area consists of brackish marsh, salt marsh, and relic Atlantic cedar swamp. A 310-foot boardwalk leads from the parking area to the shore of Swan Pond. A large expanse of phragmites yield to salt water cattails and eventually salt marsh grasses. The remnants of an ancient Atlantic white cedar stand can be seen to the east of the boardwalk. The cedars died off long ago when the ebb and flow of Swan Pond was changed due to the reconstruction of the Route 28 bridge at Parker's River.

The seaward end of the boardwalk offers a unique vista of the surrounding area. River herring and alewives enter the pond from Parker's River and eventually climb fish ladders into Long Pond to the east for spawning. The ospreys follow the migrating herring and nest near the pond. Striped bass and bluefish also follow the herring northward along the east coast into rivers and streams.

The changes of the seasons bring migratory waterfowl and birds to the area. One of the first signs of spring is the familiar squeal of the red-wing blackbirds who love to roost within the cattails. The first signs of fall appear when the tupelo trees along most of the pond's edge begin to turn crimson. The boardwalk is handicapped-accessible after a federal grant allowed the town to rebuild it in the late 1990s. Dogs are prohibited from the boardwalk year round.



PARKING:

Parking lot for 3 vehicles at the end of Meadowbrook Road off Winslow Gray Road.

