



P.O. Box 67
East Dennis, MA 02641

DCLT Walking Trail Guide 2021

Prepared by Emily Ray, AmeriCorps Cape Cod and DCLT



THE DENNIS
CONSERVATION
LAND TRUST



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Dennis Conservation Land Trust

The Dennis Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) is a non-profit organization with the mission to protect open space in Dennis and promote sound conservation practices while working with others who share common interests and values in preserving land and our shared quality of life.

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Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography

After walking these four trails on DCLT-owned properties, explore other trails in Dennis and across the Cape:

Appalachian Mountain Club: Cape Hiking Schedule: amcsem.org

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR): mass.gov/hiking-in-massachusetts-state-parks

Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries: massaudubon.org/get-outdoors

National Park Service Hiking Trails: nps.gov/caco

The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History Trails: ccmnh.org/Mission-Statement

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts: thecompact.net/members/

The Trustees of Reservations: thetrustees.org/places

Town of Dennis Conservation Land Trail Maps: town.dennis.ma.us/natural-resources

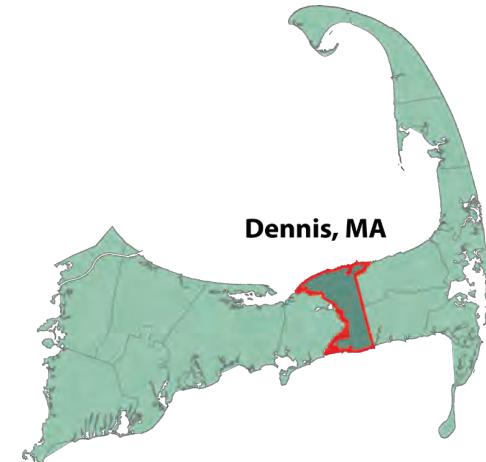


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Who We Are

The Dennis Conservation Land Trust was established in 1988 as a non-profit organization that strives to preserve open space in the town of Dennis, Massachusetts. Dennis is located in the center of Cape Cod, and spans the width of the peninsula, with Cape Cod Bay to the north, and Nantucket Sound to the south.

In December of 2020, the Trust achieved its long-time goal of protecting one square mile, or 640 acres of open space! The Dennis Conservation Land Trust owns 77 properties and holds conservation restrictions on 20 others. Conservation restrictions are legal agreements limiting development and other specified uses to protect natural features. The Trust owns and holds conservation restrictions on diverse land types throughout Dennis, including woodlands, marshes, swamps, ponds, and more.



The DCLT continues to encourage landowners in Dennis to preserve existing open space, and when possible, restore lands to natural function through a process called "undevelopment."

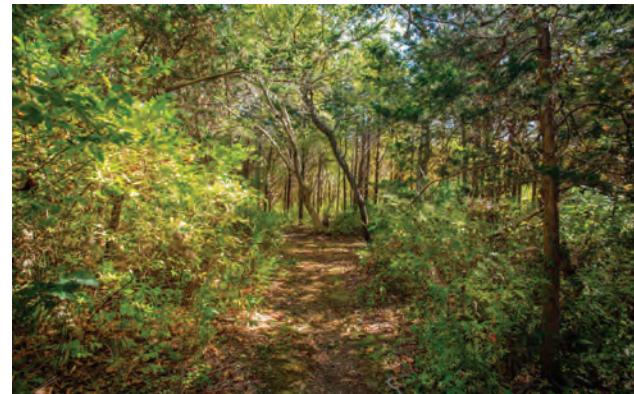


Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography

The DCLT partners with the Town of Dennis and other conservation organizations including The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts and the Native Land Conservancy in its work conserving, preserving, and restoring lands, waters, and cultural sites within the town of Dennis.

Some of the diverse land types in Dennis

Woodland: Pitch pine, white pine, and various types of oak - red, black, scrub, pin, and scarlet oak - are found in Dennis and are common throughout Cape Cod. Other tree species found scattered throughout the town include red pine, red maple, black cherry, sassafras, gray birch, tupelo, and American beech.



Salt marsh: Did you know that there are almost 1,150 acres of salt marsh in Dennis? Areas of salt marsh are mostly located along the northern coastline, although salt marsh can also be found along Swan Pond River and Bass River. Salt marshes provide precious habitat for wildlife, serving as nurseries for fish and shellfish. They offer nesting, feeding, and breeding habitat to a variety of animals. Salt marshes also store floodwaters and protect our shorelines. They even remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wetland soils. In Dennis, herring pass through salt marshes and travel through the Sesuit Creek and Quivet Creek systems to spawn in freshwater bodies.



Barrier beach: A barrier beach is a narrow strip of beach or coastal dunes situated parallel to the shoreline, providing a barrier between marine waters offshore and the mainland and adjacent wetland. Barrier beaches shield unique aquatic habitats and are the first line of defense against coastal storms and erosion. In Dennis, Chapin Beach is a barrier beach consisting of 134 acres of dune that protect the town's largest saltwater wetland, Chase Garden Creek, and its extensive salt marsh system.

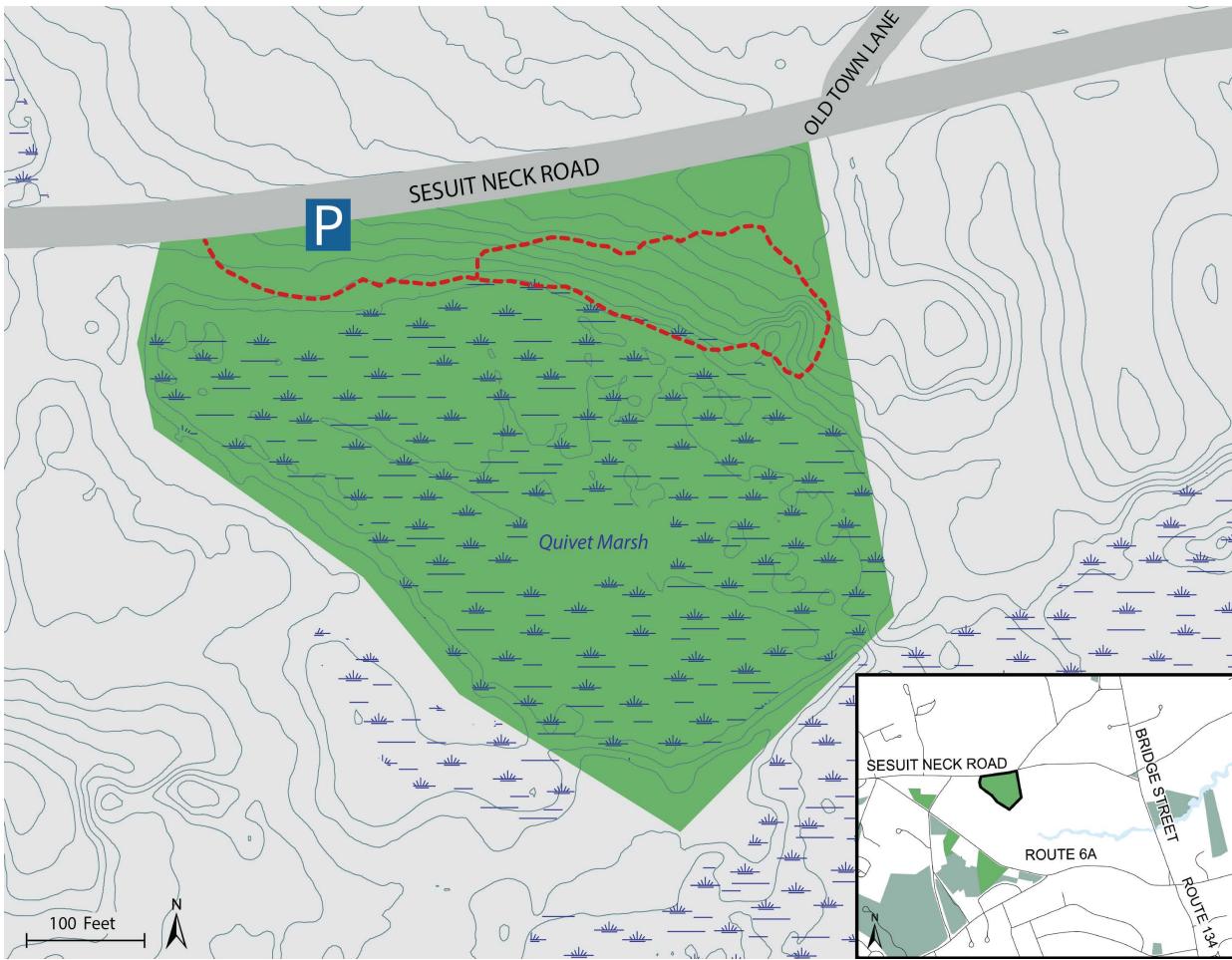


Freshwater pond: Have you heard of a "kettle pond"? Most of the ponds in Dennis are kettle hole ponds, formed as a consequence of glaciers leaving the region more than 15,000 years ago. As the glaciers melted, ice chunks left behind were surrounded by sediment and formed depressions in the land. These ponds are often isolated and are impacted significantly by snowmelt and precipitation. They reflect the fluctuation in the aquifer's water table. Coles Pond is one example of the many kettle hole ponds in Dennis.

Swan River Outlook



Sesuit Neck Road



Enjoy the trails and keep in mind:

- No fires, camping or vehicles
- No smoking or alcohol
- Carry out what you carry in
- Respect private property
- Do not disturb or remove plants or wildlife
- No hunting

| Trail | Length | Features | Address | Page |
|--------------------|------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|
| Coles Pond Bog | 0.35 miles | Boardwalk through bog | 82 Coles Pond Drive, East Dennis | 6 |
| Old Fort Field | 0.12 miles | View of Chase Garden Creek | 105 New Boston Rd, Dennis | 7 |
| Swan River Outlook | 0.11 miles | Bench overlooking Swan Pond River | 24 Swan River Rd, West Dennis | 8 |
| Sesuit Neck | 0.18 miles | Trail winds alongside Quivet Marsh | 89 Sesuit Neck Rd, East Dennis | 9 |

