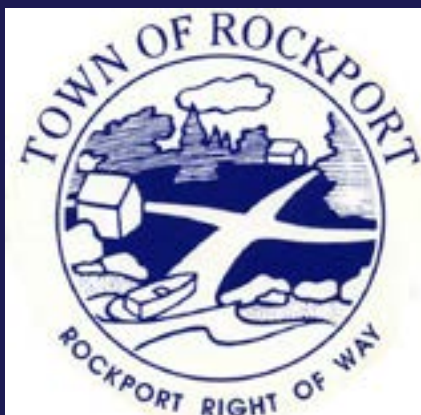


# **ROCKPORT GUIDE TO PUBLIC PATHS, BEACHES AND TOWN LANDINGS**

**Second Edition  
2021**

**Rockport  
Rights of Way Committee**

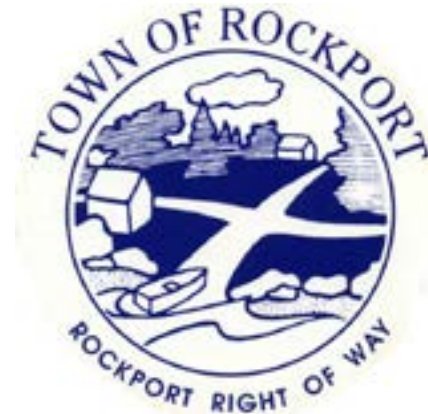


**Rockport,  
Massachusetts**

# **ROCKPORT GUIDE TO PUBLIC PATHS, BEACHES AND TOWN LANDINGS**

Second Edition  
2021

Rights of Way Committee



Rockport,  
Massachusetts

## FOREWORD

The Rockport Guide to Public Paths, Beaches and Town Landings has been compiled by the [Rockport Rights of Way Committee](#), a volunteer committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Our goal is to assist you in exploring Rockport and enjoying the natural beauty of our landscape and shores.

## DISCLAIMER

The Guide provides information on many publicly accessible footpaths and recreational areas, but is not intended to be all-inclusive. It does not constitute the opinion of the Town of Rockport as to the legal status of any properties listed. The Guide has not been authorized, reviewed or adopted by the Board of Selectmen or the Town Meeting as an official document of the Town, nor does it represent any official policy or position of the Town.

## CREDITS

The Rights of Way Committee wishes to acknowledge Committee members Mary Devaney, Monica Lawton and Lori Morrow; and Volunteers Heidi Meagher and Brian Claydon for their work in updating this Guide, which was first published in 1995. The Committee extends special thanks and appreciation to William Meagher of Rockport, who completed the graphic design and layout of the new Guide, both map and texts, as an Endicott College intern for the Rights of Way Committee in the fall of 2020.

## RESPECTFUL USE

Please treat our public walking areas and neighboring properties with respect.

**Leave No Trace Behind.  
Carry In / Carry Out.**

## **Welcome!**

Welcome to Rockport, a seaside town of exceptional beauty. With over 10 miles of coastline and large wooded areas, Rockport offers many public pathways and open spaces to explore. Most of the pathways, historic boat landings and recreational areas listed in the Guide are Town-owned land, with all rights of public access unless otherwise posted. Some pathways cross private land and grant only the right to “pass and re-pass”; picnicking, sun-bathing, or straying from the designated pathway are prohibited. Other privately-owned pathways along the shore permit public access to the intertidal zone only for “fishing, fowling and navigation.” Fowling, originally a hunting term, now includes bird-watching.

Some rights to pass and re-pass over private land are stated in deeds but the exact location of the path is not defined except by historic use. Other rights to pass and re-pass are not deeded rights and are obtained only by historic and continuous use by the public.

Most pathways are easily accessed and easily walked. Some may accommodate strollers or wheelchairs. Others cross loose boulders and ledge and can be challenging and sometimes treacherous. As with any outdoor activity, proper footwear and caution are required.

Enjoy these pathways but observe their limits and respect the privacy rights of adjacent property owners.

**Carry out what you carry in, and leave no trace behind.**

## CONTENTS

On the following pages, you will find detailed information on 24 different walking areas in Rockport. The sites are arranged from north to south, and are grouped into three Zones:

- ZONE 1: Pigeon Cove**
- ZONE 2: Downtown & Harbor**
- ZONE 3: South End**

Refer to the **Map of Rockport** on the next page for a list of all sites in each Zone; then go to the **Zone Maps** to locate individual sites, which are all numbered. After each Zone Map is descriptive information for each site, including access and parking, along with maps.

## MAP LEGEND

 Public Foot Path	 Scenic Vista	 Public Restrooms
 Challenging Public Foot Path	 Playground	 Public Parking
 Public Road	 Band Stand	 Resident Parking
 Highway 127	 Boat Launch	 Town Owned Land
 Highway 127A	 Kayak Launch	 Other Protected Land

### **ZONE 1: Pigeon Cove** (see map p. 9)

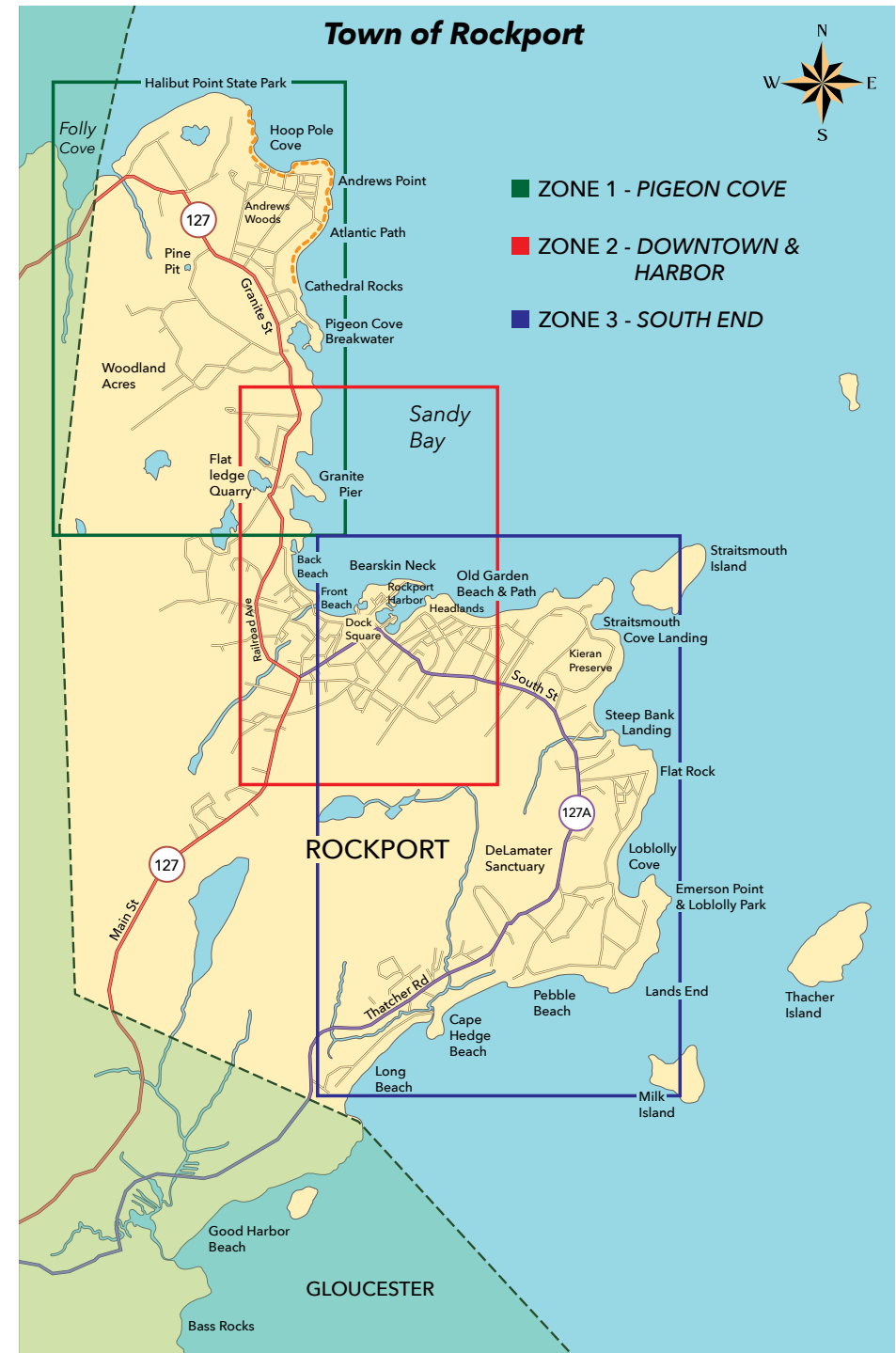
- Halibut Point State Park
- Atlantic Path
- Andrews Woods
- Pine Pit Conservation Area
- Woodland Acres
- Granite Pier
- Flat Ledge Quarry

### **ZONE 2: Downtown & Harbor** (see map p. 27)

- Back Beach
- Front Beach
- School House Landing
- Millbrook Meadow
- Downtown & Harbor
- The Headlands

### **ZONE 3: South End** (see map p. 41)

- Old Garden Beach and Davis Park
- Old Garden Path
- John Kieran Nature Preserve
- DeLamater Sanctuary and Waring Field
- Steep Bank Landing
- Flat Rock Point
- Emerson Point and Loblolly Cove
- Cogswell Farm Footpath/ Lands End
- Pebble Beach
- Cape Hedge Beach and Sandpiper Overlook
- Long Beach



## ZONE 1: Pigeon Cove

1. Halibut Point State Park
2. Atlantic Path
3. Andrews Woods
4. Pine Pit Conservation Area
5. Woodland Acres
6. Granite Pier
7. Flat Ledge Quarry



# 1) Halibut Point State Park

## OVERVIEW

- Halibut Point State Park is located in the Town of Rockport but is owned and managed by the state's [Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) (DCR) in cooperation with the nonprofit [Trustees of Reservations](#). The Trustees own the adjacent Halibut Point Reservation, also open to the public.
- The State Park is the site of the historic Babson Farm Granite Quarry and features easy walking trails, tidal pools, picnic areas and scenic views stretching to New Hampshire and Maine.
- Exhibits in the visitor center highlight the history of the granite industry and public programs cover the natural, geologic and cultural history of the area.
- Wildlife is abundant and it is a preferred spot for bird-watching, especially at times of seasonal migration.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/halibut-point-state-park>

## ACCESS and PARKING

The Park entrance is on Gott Ave., off Route 127 (Granite St.) at the northern tip of Rockport. Public parking in the Park's lot is available for a fee (free for members of The Trustees). Please be aware the lot fills quickly in good weather, at all times of year, and there are parking restrictions on nearby streets. See the [Park website](#) for more details.



## 2) Atlantic Path

### OVERVIEW

- Since the late 1800's, the Atlantic Path in Pigeon Cove has been enjoyed by walkers, fishermen, bird watchers, and naturalists. The Path and its connecting footpaths were established to ensure that the public would have access to the ocean and shore. Extending from Cathedral Rocks north to Halibut Point, the Atlantic Path provides uniquely beautiful vistas.
- Some of this 1.5 mile Path crosses over rights of way on privately-owned property. Please stay on the designated path and respect adjacent property.
- Most sections of the Path are on grassy uplands or wide, flat ledges and can be easily walked, but other sections are more uneven and challenging. The northern segment in particular, from Hoop Pole Cove to Halibut Point, crosses loose, storm-tossed boulders and can be treacherous.
- Check the weather and tides as the surf can be heavy and unpredictable all along the route.
- Be prepared for wet, muddy and slippery conditions at times. Proper footwear advised.

### ACCESS

Points of entry are listed below from south to north, beginning at Cathedral Ave., just above Pigeon Cove Harbor. Most access paths are Town-owned. The Pine Ave., Cove Ave., and Dawn Ave. access paths are private ways, but open to the public. All access paths are marked with public footpath signs.

### PARKING

Varies by resident status and area. No parking on any of the access footpaths. Please be mindful this is a residential area, and be respectful of neighboring private property.

#### Phillips Ave. area

Limited street parking on Breakwater Ave., Cathedral Ave., Green St., one side of Phillips Ave., Linwood Ave. (at Vine Ave.), and other nearby streets. Observe resident sticker and no-parking signs.

#### Long Branch Ave.

Resident sticker parking for several cars on the north side.



## 2) Atlantic Path, ACCESS POINTS

### Cathedral Ave.

1. From Cathedral Ave., next to Emerson Inn, walk to the bend in the road, where a sign and pillars mark the start of the Atlantic Path.
2. From Breakwater Ave., turn left to walk along the waterfront section of Cathedral Ave. to reach the sign and pillars at the bend in the road, marking the start of the Atlantic Path.

Note: From Breakwater Ave. walkers may also turn right to walk along the upper level of the Pigeon Cove Breakwater to enjoy sweeping views of the working harbor and shores of Sandy Bay.

### Phillips Ave., east branch

1. Reed's Lane Footpath
2. Unnamed Public Footpath between 49 and 51 Phillips Ave.
3. Bay Ave. Footpath

Note: The Atlantic Path in this area crosses private property. Please be respectful.

### Point de Chene Ave.

1. Pine Ave. Footpath (a private way but open to the public)
2. Linwood Ave. Footpath
3. Gale Ave. Footpath
4. Point DeChene Ave. continues as a public footpath down to the rocks at Andrews Point – a popular site for birdwatching.

Note: The Atlantic Path in this area crosses sea rocks that are Town owned (shaded on the map) as well as rocks that are privately owned (unshaded), but open to the public.

### Long Branch Ave. at Andrews Point

1. At the east end, Long Branch Ave. leads to Town-owned sea rocks.
2. At center, the Dawn Ave. Footpath crosses over private property and leads to broad, flat rocks and ledges that are also privately owned but open to the public.
3. At the west end, a marked footpath leads across Hoop Pole Cove (Town-owned) to the Atlantic Path north.

Note: Andrews Point is a popular spot for fishing and bird-watching.

### Phillips Ave., north branch

1. Cove Ave. Footpath (a private way but open to the public)
2. Cedar Ave. Footpath
3. Thornwood Ave. Footpath

**Note:** The Atlantic Path at Andrews Point crosses over rocks and ledges that are privately owned but open to the public. This is a popular spot for fishing and bird-watching. North of Thornwood Ave., the Path is mostly on Town land, with the exception of a short stretch at Andrews Hollow, which is private but open to the public. Most of the way is unmarked over loose boulders, and can be treacherous. Caution is advised.



### 3) Andrews Woods & Nearby Trails

#### OVERVIEW

- Andrews Woods, owned by the Town, includes 15 acres of scenic woodlands in a residential area, between Phillips and Haven Avenues. It features a winding network of easy walking trails that are never far from nearby streets, making it easy to explore without fear of getting lost.
- The trails are maintained by volunteers, including an active group of Friends of Andrews Woods.
- The woods have a rich variety of native trees and plants, as well as birds and other wildlife. Tree species include oak, flowering shad, black cherry, and pitch pine. Among the shrubs and other plants to be seen are anemone, trillium, low-bush blueberries, blackberries, huckleberries, pink lady slippers, winterberry, Solomon's seal, and Canadian mayflower.
- Across Haven Ave., the trails of Andrews Woods connect to three marked public footpaths across private land (the "California" trails) that join a cross trail leading to the Atlantic Path, which in turn connects with Andrews Point and Halibut Point State Park to the north and Pigeon Cove Harbor to the south. Andrews Woods is thus a vital link in a rare "woods to sea" trail network where walkers can experience the very different environments of mature woodlands and rugged seashore all within a short distance, without walking on roads.

For more information about Andrews Woods, visit: [andrewswoods.org](http://andrewswoods.org)

#### ACCESS

There is a marked trail entrance on Haven Ave. and another on Phillips Ave., along with several unmarked entrances on both roads. See the map.

#### PARKING

1. There is some street parking alongside the woods on both Phillips and Haven Avenues. Please remember these are residential streets; be respectful of neighboring properties.
2. Additional parking is available near the Emerson Inn at the start of the Atlantic Path; observe resident sticker and no-parking signs.
3. Halibut Point State Park also offers parking, for a fee, about a quarter mile from Andrews Woods.



## 4) Pine Pit Conservation Area

### OVERVIEW

- Pine Pit is a conservation area of 18 acres managed by the [Rockport Conservation Commission](#), in partnership with [Cape Ann Trail Stewards](#). It features a small quarry, filled with water, and a short but rugged narrow loop trail through the woods, which passes through land of [Mass Audubon](#).
- There is also a wide forested trail that leads from Pine Pit west along an old quarry railway track to several Gloucester quarries. The railway was used to transport granite from the quarries to Pigeon Cove Wharf in Rockport, where it was loaded onto ships. Today the tracks are gone, and the path is now a well-elevated trail through the woods (Bay State Rail Trail).
- From the rail trail there are two marked entrances to adjacent Woodland Acres, and hikers can explore many trail connections to other conserved areas nearby.
- Trails vary from easy to moderate. Hiking footwear advised.

### ACCESS and PARKING

The entrance to Pine Pit is off Curtis Street nearest its North entrance from Rt. 127 (Granite St.), between 64 and 72 Curtis. There is free public parking in a lot that can accommodate about 10 vehicles.



## 5) Woodland Acres

### OVERVIEW

- Woodland Acres is 47 acres of protected land in Pigeon Cove acquired by the Town of Rockport in 2017 with the help of [Essex County Greenbelt](#). It is managed by the [Rockport Conservation Commission](#) in partnership with [Cape Ann Trail Stewards](#).
- The woods still show remnants of the Massachusetts sheep industry that once thrived here, with numerous stone walls running through the woods. Signs of 1990s development, later abandoned, are also visible. Today the land continues to regenerate with a wide variety of native trees and vegetation.
- Vernal pools, regenerating pitch pine forest, and geological formations are just a few of the natural features to explore.
- Two trails form a one-mile loop through the heart of the woods, with connections to the Rail Trail and from there to Pine Pit, the Lanesville quarries and many other trails through the Rockport and Gloucester woods.
- Trails vary from easy to moderate. Hiking footwear advised.

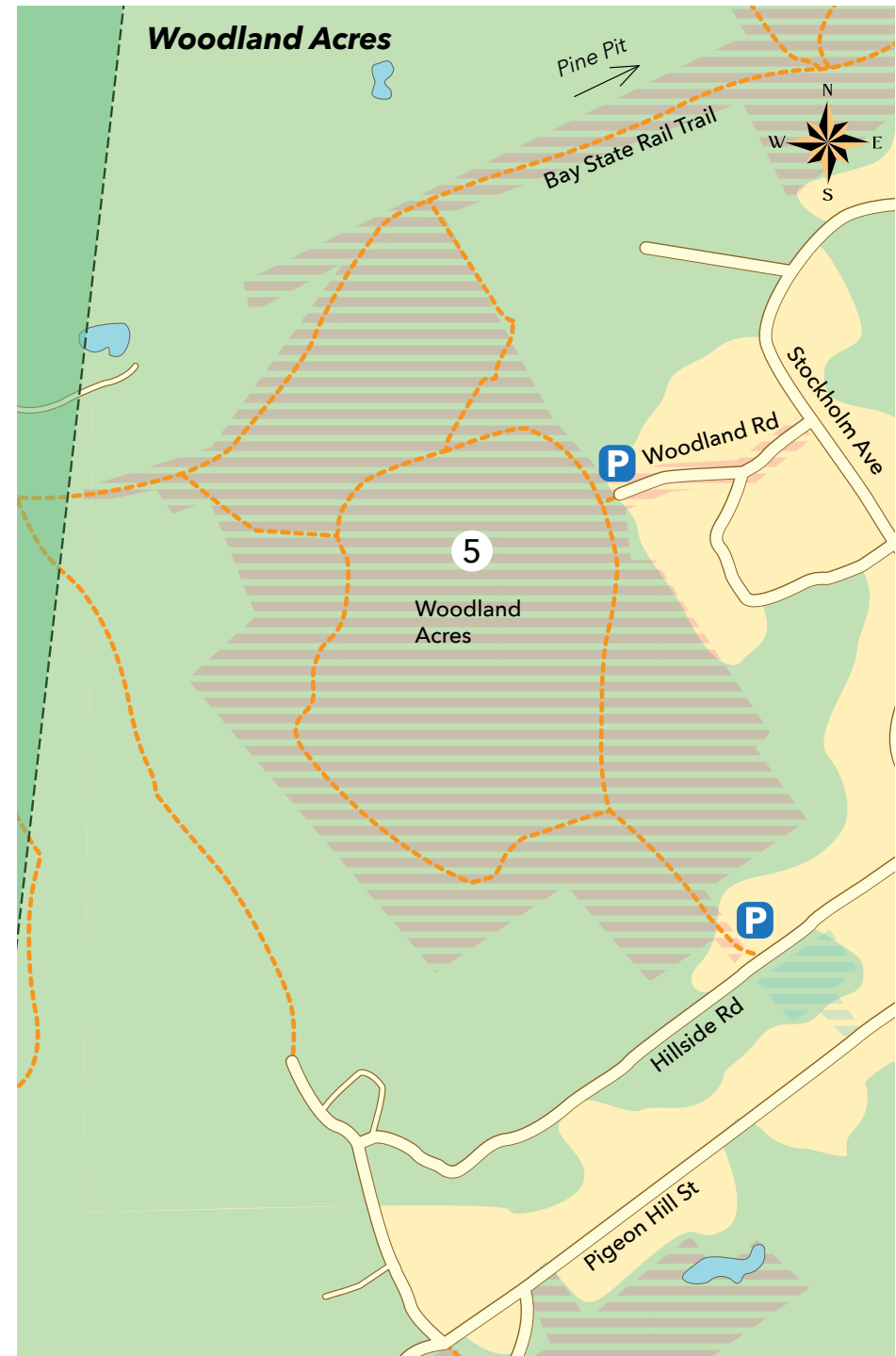
### ACCESS

The two main entrances are on Hillside St. and Woodland Rd. – both off Stockholm Ave. in Pigeon Cove. From the Pigeon Cove Post office (on Granite St.), go up Curtis Street and take first left onto Pigeon Hill Street, and second right onto Stockholm Ave.

1. Hillside Rd. is first left off Stockholm. Entrance is 1/10th mile up Hillside, on the right, adjacent to 10 Hillside.
2. Woodland Rd. is third left off Stockholm. Entrance is at the end.
3. There are also two marked footpaths to Woodland Acres from the Rail Trail.

### PARKING

1. At the Hillside Rd. entrance: spaces for five cars against the left shoulder.
2. On Woodland Rd.: spaces for two cars at the end of the road.
3. At Pine Pit: a large parking lot, for access to Woodland acres from the Rail Trail.



## 6) Granite Pier

### OVERVIEW

- This massive historic pier was used for loading granite from nearby quarries for shipment to destinations nationwide during the heyday of the granite industry in the late 19th century.
- It is now Town-owned and maintained, with floats, launching ramp and boat facility managed by an independent committee appointed by the Town.
- A boat launching ramp and trailer parking is available on the lower level, for a fee. Winter boat storage and repair areas are also available.
- The upper parking level provides spectacular views of Sandy Bay as well as commercial and pleasure boating in Granite Pier Harbor. A favorite spot for storm watching. Metal stairs connect upper and lower levels.

### ACCESS

Wharf Rd. off Route 127 (Granite St.), just beyond the old Keystone Bridge north bound.

### PARKING

Resident sticker and public fee parking on upper level only. See parking rules and payment procedures posted on the red shed at the boat ramp.



## 7) Flat Ledge Quarry

### OVERVIEW

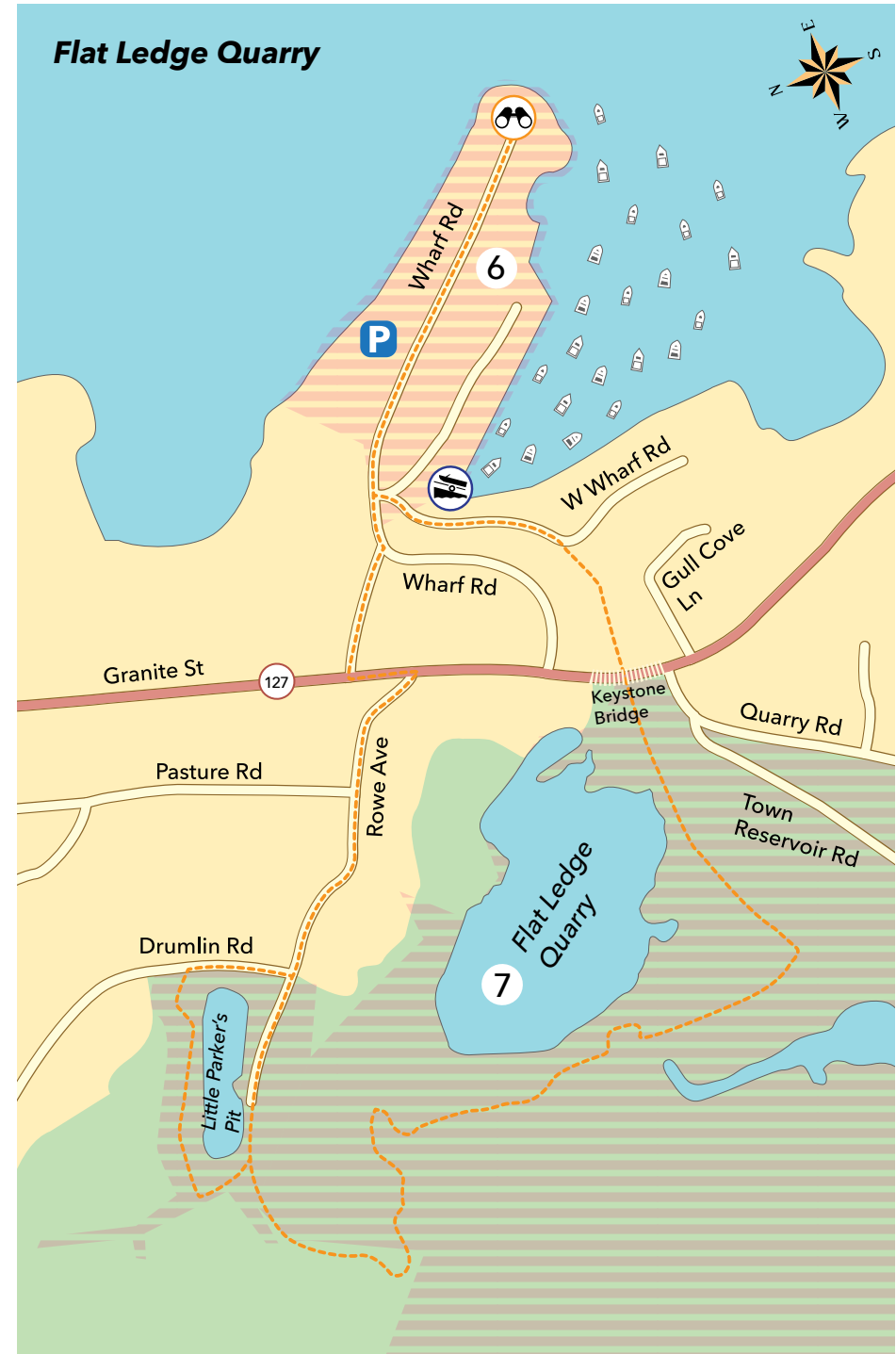
- Flat Ledge Quarry is adjacent to the Keystone Bridge on Route 127 (Granite St.), on the left heading north, and opposite the Granite Pier to the right.
- It was the first large-scale quarry operation on Cape Ann and supplied granite for many prominent projects, including Boston's Longfellow Bridge. Now filled with water, it is owned by the Town and part of Rockport's water supply system.
- A hiking trail of approximately 1.3 miles makes a loop from the Granite Pier around the quarry and back, with several scenic overlooks along the way.
- From the boat storage area of the Granite Pier, the trail leads under the arch of the Keystone Bridge, an engineering marvel built in just four months in 1872 to give the quarry railroad quick and easy access to the Granite Pier. Railroad tracks into the quarry are sometimes visible when water levels are low.
- A short distance beyond the keystone arch, a short path to the left leads to a small quarry. The main path branches right to follow the northern edge of Flat Ledge Quarry, overlooking the quarry and offering panoramic views of the Sandy Bay shoreline.
- At the northwest edge of the quarry the trail swings west and north to Rowe Ave. Turn right on Rowe Ave. to visit Little Parker's Pit, which is circled by a public footpath. Little Parker's was conserved for the Town with the help of [Essex County Greenbelt](#).
- Follow Rowe Ave. back to Route 127 and cross to Wharf Road to return to Granite Pier.
- This trail is unmarked and use of a cellphone trail app is recommended. Easy to moderate terrain. Hiking footwear advised.

### ACCESS

Same as for Granite Pier: Wharf Rd. off Route 127 (Granite St.), just beyond the old Keystone Bridge north bound.

### PARKING

Resident sticker and fee parking on upper level of Granite Pier. See parking rules and payment procedures posted on the red shed at the boat ramp.



## ZONE 2: Downtown & Harbor

- 8. Back Beach
- 9. Front Beach
- 10. School House Landing
- 11. Millbrook Meadow
- 12. Harbor Walk, Downtown
- 13. The Headlands



## 8) Back Beach

### OVERVIEW

- This is a Town-owned beach a short distance north of Front Beach and easily accessible from town center. It has a gentle sandy slope, with rocky peripheral along road. Popular for scuba classes and recreational divers.
- No lifeguards.
- Public restrooms available. (Seasonal; see [Rockport Public Restrooms](#)).
- Dogs prohibited on beach in summer, but allowed from September 15 to June 1.

### ACCESS

Beach is accessible from the road all along Beach St. from American Legion Hall and Bandstand to near Granite St. Metal footbridge at southern end of beach crosses over the rocks to the sand area.

### PARKING

Metered street parking along one side of Beach St. Resident sticker parking alongside American Legion Hall / Bandstand and at north end near Granite St.



## 9) Front Beach

### OVERVIEW

- This is a small, protected family beach, Town-owned, with gentle slope and good sandy cover. Offshore raft for swimmers.
- Seasonal lifeguard presence.
- Views of Sandy Bay, Bearskin Neck and visiting yachts anchored offshore.
- Public restrooms available. (Seasonal; see [Rockport Public Restrooms](#)).
- Dogs prohibited on beach in summer, but allowed from September 15 to June 1.

### ACCESS

Easy walking distance from town center. Three access points:

1. School House Landing stairway between 45 and 47 Main St., opposite Congregational Church.
2. Concrete ramp adjacent to Captain's Bounty Motel; wheelchair accessible.
3. Stairway opposite entrance to Millbrook Meadow.

### PARKING

Limited metered street parking. More metered parking one block away across from Back Beach. Private lot parking also available nearby, for a fee.

## 10) School House Landing

### OVERVIEW

- A paved Town-owned way leads to a set of granite steps that go down to beach level at the rocky south end of Front Beach.
- Footing is uneven over large rocks at bottom of stairway before reaching the sand at Front Beach. Use caution.
- Offers fine views of Front Beach, Sandy Bay, entrance to Old Harbor, and Pigeon Cove shoreline from the paved area at the top of the stairs.

### ACCESS and PARKING

Between 45 and 47 Main Street, opposite Jewett St. A paved way leads to a granite stairway. Wheelchair accessible to top of stairway.

Metered parking on Main St. and adjacent streets.



## 11) Millbrook Meadow

### OVERVIEW

- Millbrook Meadow is a four-acre park in downtown Rockport, across the road from Front Beach. Half of it is Mill Pond, a pristine habitat rich with aquatic plants and wildlife, including turtles, eels, fish, and otters, as well as ducks, kingfishers, and other birds. The remaining area is the Meadow, an open space with winding brook, frog pond, native shade garden, and playground for children.
- Benches placed throughout the Meadow provide a tranquil place for relaxing, and a 25-foot curved granite bench below the dam allows visitors to rest and enjoy a view out to sea. A large carved granite sculpture of “Millie the Whale” is popular with children.
- The Meadow recently completed a major multi-year restoration, and is carefully maintained by a team of volunteers from the [Millbrook Meadow Conservancy](#). Beautiful seasonal gardens are planted and maintained by the [Rockport Garden Club](#).

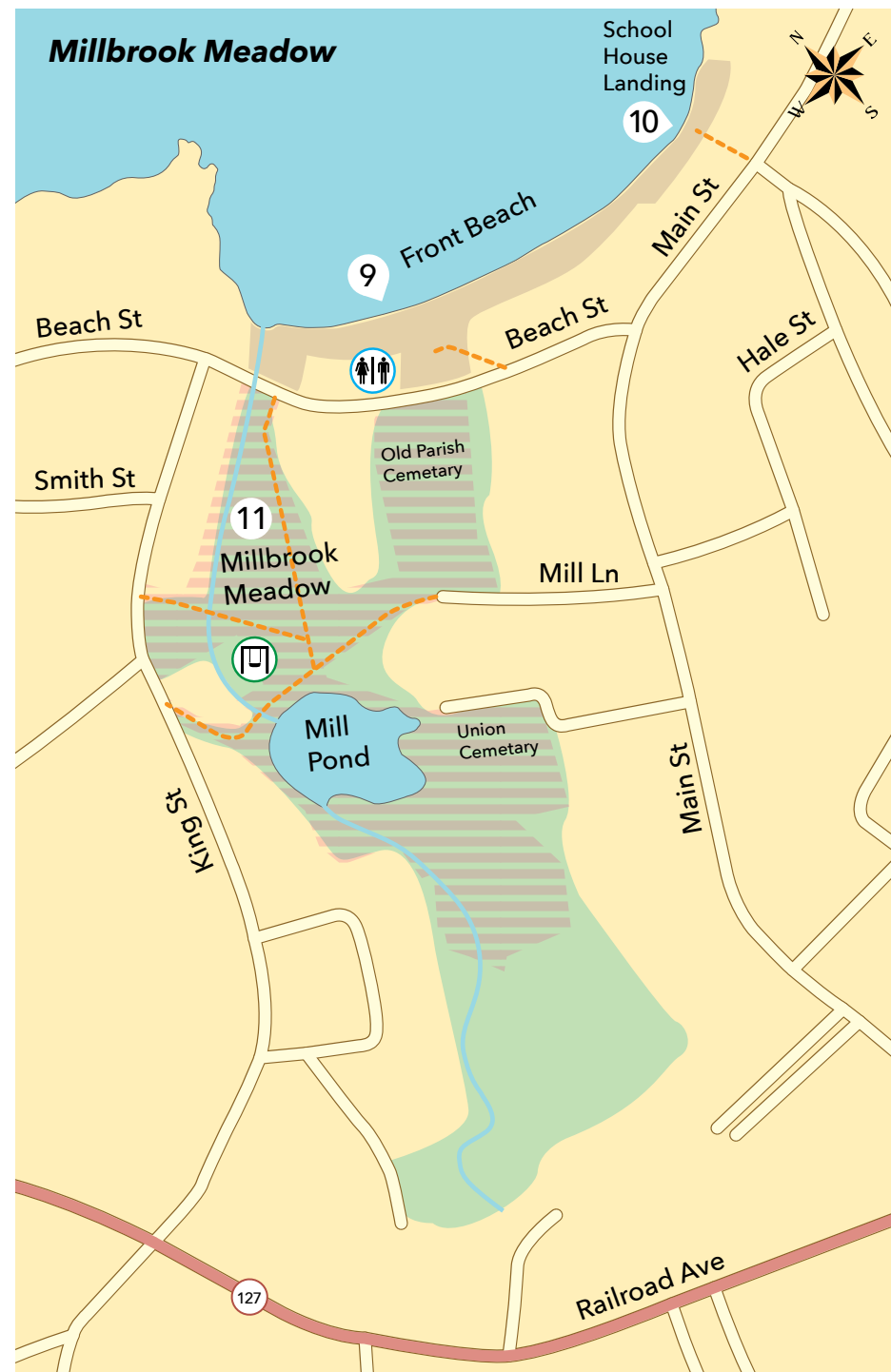
### ACCESS

There are several points of entry to the park on foot, but no vehicle access.

1. The main entrance is on Beach St., across from Front Beach and adjacent to The Cove at Rockport (inn). This entrance is wheelchair accessible.
2. There are two entrances on the west side: A granite staircase leads down to the frog pond and native shade garden between 7 and 17 King St., and a wide ramp leads to Mill Pond between 19 and 21 King St.
3. Mill Lane off Main Street leads directly into the park at the east side of Mill Pond.

### PARKING

Limited metered street parking along one side of Beach St. More metered parking available on downtown Main St., or a short distance further north at Back Beach.





### 12d) Old Boat Landing

Next to 7 Dock Square is this historic Town-owned boat ramp. Boat launching prohibited. Offers scenic views of Inner Harbor and Motif Number One. Metered street parking nearby.

### 12e) Rotary Park

This is a small Town-owned park and sitting area behind Dock Square shops, adjacent to T Wharf. Enjoy views of Inner Harbor, Bearskin Neck and Motif Number One. Access is from T Wharf or from the granite steps next to the Old Firehouse at 3 Dock Square. Limited unrestricted parking on T Wharf, or on-street metered parking in Dock Square.

### 12f) T Wharf

#### OVERVIEW

- This is a Town-owned commercial and recreational wharf, always busy with activity.
- Site of the Town Ramp and float for fishing boats and local cruise boats. Lobstermen and fishermen access anchored fishing boats from Town floats alongside wharf and unload their catches at the boatmen's hoist on the "T".
- Home to Sandy Bay Yacht Club (members only).
- A few public benches near Sandy Bay Yacht Club are a great place to watch harbor activity.
- Enjoy views of Rockport Harbor, Motif #1, Star Island Park, Bearskin Neck Breakwater and the Headlands.
- Public restrooms and Harbormaster's Office are located in brick building near the street end of the wharf.

#### ACCESS

Wharf is at the end of Broadway where it intersects Mt. Pleasant St.

#### PARKING

Limited unmetered parking on the Wharf, divided between resident sticker parking only (left side) and open parking (right side).

### 12g) Star Island Park

Adjacent to 11 Atlantic Ave. (left side). This is a small shaded park at street level with granite bench and old mooring stone. Steep banks make water level difficult to access. Views of harbor and Sandy Bay Yacht Club. Town-owned granite stairs on right side of 11 Atlantic Ave. lead to water and rocky "island" outcrop. Beware slippery rocks. On-street parking.



## 13) The Headlands

### OVERVIEW

- Features rugged granite headlands, scoured by glaciers and criss-crossed by paths winding through low vegetation. A small area on the harbor side is a historic Town Landing.
- Owned by the Town and maintained by volunteers.
- Offers spectacular views of the Town, Harbor, Bearskin Neck, breakwaters, sailing races, Dry Salvages and open ocean. Has several benches at prime viewing spots.
- A good place for picnicking (carry in / carry out), and watching fireworks.
- Terrain is uneven; proper footwear advised. Beware presence of poison ivy in some areas.

### ACCESS

Easy-walking distance from town center via Atlantic Ave., or from Old Garden Path. Three marked entrances:

1. Paved footpath at the sharp bend in Atlantic Ave.
2. Unpaved Town way near intersection of Atlantic Ave. and Norwood Ave.
3. Unpaved Town way at intersection of Old Garden Rd. and Norwood Ave. Beware wet and slippery conditions at times.

### PARKING

There is space for several cars (angle parking) along the Atlantic Ave. side of the Headlands.



## ZONE 3: South End

14. Old Garden Beach and Davis Park
15. Old Garden Path
16. John Kieran Nature Preserve
17. DeLamater Sanctuary and Waring Field
18. Steep Bank Landing
19. Flat Rock Point
20. Emerson Point and Loblolly Cove
21. Cogswell Farm Footpath/Lands End
22. Pebble Beach
23. Cape Hedge Beach and Sandpiper Overlook
24. Long Beach



## 14) Old Garden Beach & Davis Park

### OVERVIEW

- This is a small Town-owned beach, popular with family groups and scuba divers. Limited sand area at high tide.
- Seasonal lifeguard presence.
- Open park area with benches overlooks beach.
- Dogs are prohibited on beach in summer, but allowed from September 15 to June 1.

### ACCESS

1. Concrete ramp with handrail by Old Garden Park east of Harraden Ave. Wheelchair accessible.
2. Wooden stairway from the Old Garden Path, near the start of the Path at the hedgerow between 5 and 7 Old Garden Rd.

### PARKING

Resident sticker parking in lot. Summer restrictions on Old Garden Rd. Unrestricted parking permitted on some side streets.

### Davis Park

This is a small Town-owned park adjacent to Old Garden Beach parking area with pathways, native plantings, benches, and ocean views. Maintained by [Old Garden Beach Association](#) in collaboration with Town DPW. A major improvement project is underway and scheduled for completion in 2021.



## 15) Old Garden Path

### OVERVIEW

- This is a popular “cliff walk” atop the vegetated coastal bank, with spectacular views. Total length approx. one-half mile.
- Primarily Town-owned; formerly Essex County Way. At the southern end, the “Bay Ave.” stretch between Sandaba Rd. and Marmion Way is a private way but open to the public.
- Generally easy walking along a well-worn dirt path, with a few areas of uneven terrain. The “Bay Ave” section near Marmion Way is wheelchair accessible.
- Continue walking north on Old Garden Rd. to the intersection with Norwood Ave. for rear entrance to the Headlands overlooking Rockport Harbor.

### ACCESS

1. Bay Ave., a wide grassy path between 39 and 43 Marmion Way. This area is wheelchair accessible.
2. Sandaba Rd., off Old Garden Rd. near Marmion Way. Sandaba is a private way but open to the public.
3. At the hedgerow between 5 and 7 Old Garden Rd, opposite Dean Rd.
4. From Old Garden Beach via wooden stairway at the south end of the seawall.

### PARKING

Resident sticker parking at Old Garden Beach parking lot. Summer restrictions on Old Garden Rd. Parking permitted on some side streets and Marmion Way.



## 16) John Kieran Nature Preserve

### OVERVIEW

- The John Kieran Preserve includes 10.5 acres of mature woodlands and wetlands that is home to a wide variety of trees and plants, as well as birds and other wildlife.
- The land was gifted to the Town by John F. Kieran, a distinguished author and naturalist who summered in Rockport. It is managed by the [Rockport Conservation Commission](#), in partnership with [Cape Ann Trail Stewards](#).
- Trails entering from Marmion Way and Straitsmouth Way form a circular loop through the center of the Preserve, providing an easy  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile walk through varied terrain that has the feel of wilderness.
- Hiking footwear advised. Take precautions for insects and ticks.
- A short walk down Straitsmouth Way is **Gap Cove**, a Town-owned beach and landing open to the public and a popular spot for launching kayaks.

### ACCESS

The main entrance and Kieran marker stone is between 90 and 92 Marmion Way. A secondary marked entrance is on Straitsmouth Way.

### PARKING

Unrestricted parking is allowed along the east side of Marmion Way.



## 17) DeLamater Sanctuary & Waring Field

### OVERVIEW

- DeLamater Sanctuary includes 32 acres of [Rockport Conservation Commission](#) land that is preserved for public use and maintained in partnership with [Cape Ann Trail Stewards](#).
- It features natural woodlands with a mix of easy and moderate trails traversing varied terrain that includes vernal pools.
- Interior paths go south through the woods to the water tower and north to the Rockport Golf Club property.
- Appropriate hiking attire and footwear advised. Take precautions for insects and ticks.
- Waring Field is approximately 16 acres of conserved town land abutting the Sanctuary that is leased for agricultural purposes. It is wet meadowland, and a rich wildlife habitat.

### ACCESS

1. Primary access is from Thomas Rd., an unpaved path off South St. diagonally across from Briarstone Way. It runs alongside Waring Field and skirts Golf Club property en route to the Sanctuary.
2. At 112 South St., on the opposite side of the road between Oakes Lane and Meadow Rd., a cleared public footpath leads west through a shared driveway into the Sanctuary.

### PARKING

Along South St., in front of Waring Field, just south of Thomas Rd. There is no parking near the entrance at 112 South St.



## 18) Steep Bank Landing

### OVERVIEW

- This Town-owned rocky tableau is a well hidden but rewarding area for family exploration, with spectacular ocean views.
- Walking is easy on the long, grassy Town-owned way that leads to the site, but the Landing itself is rugged terrain and subject to storm damage and erosion. Take precautions for loose and slippery rocks, and beware poison ivy.
- The entire area is sensitive as it is surrounded by private properties and nearby houses. The privately maintained flag pole near the southeast boundary is entirely within the Town property but indicates the approach to private property.

### ACCESS

Pedestrian access begins at the foot of Whale Cove Lane, which is on the northeast side of South St. between Briarstone and Whale Cove Rds. From the Lane, a 16.5 foot wide Town right of way is marked by fences, a clear-cut path through wood growth, and stone bounds (old Essex County granite markers) at the edge of private lawns. The path crosses a brook via a wooden footbridge to reach the Landing itself.

### PARKING

1. Resident sticker parking for two or three cars at the end of Whale Cove Lane.
2. Parking also available along South St. in front of Waring Field.



## 19) Flat Rock Point

### OVERVIEW

- This Town-owned scenic site features wide flat rocks and ledges, with spectacular views of Thacher and Straitsmouth Islands.
- A great picnic area, when weather permits. Highly exposed; no protection from wind and sun.
- Boundaries with surrounding properties are not well defined. Observe signs and respect private property.

### ACCESS

At the elbow of Eden Rd. a marked and well-maintained access footpath leads to Flat Rock Point. The path crosses private land but is open to the public.

### PARKING

1. Nearest parking is on Eden Rd. within 400 feet of South St. (above 5 and 6 Eden Rd.). This is a quarter mile from Flat Rock Point. There is no parking on any other section of Eden Rd.
2. Further away, parking is available on South St. (west side) in front of Waring Field.



## 20) Emerson Point & Loblolly Cove

### OVERVIEW

- Loblolly Cove lies along Penzance Rd., just after the intersection with the end of Eden Rd., and is formed by Emerson Point, which juts out to the east from the coastline. There is a small rocky beach area at the Emerson Point end, often used for launching kayaks.
- The Town owns the rocky shoreline around the cove, including all of Emerson Point as well as wetlands on the opposite side of Penzance Rd. The roadsides here are popular with walkers and offer excellent bird-watching.
- The entrance to Emerson Point and Loblolly Park is from a parking lot at the end of Old Penzance Rd. A walking trail runs from the parking lot down to the small beach and kayak-launching area of Loblolly Cove. Other trails lead to Emerson Point and the Park area, offering spectacular views of the coastline, Thacher Island and Atlantic Ocean. Several picnic tables are available.
- Terrain is rough and rocky, with slight elevations; proper footwear advised.

### ACCESS

1. From the end of Eden Rd., turn left onto Penzance Rd. (the Cove is visible almost immediately); follow along until the road turns sharply to the right; make a sharp left turn onto the unpaved Old Penzance Rd., which leads to Emerson Point.
2. From Pebble Beach, follow the coastline on Penzance Rd.; when the road turns sharply to the left, continue straight ahead on the unpaved Old Penzance Rd. to Emerson Point and Loblolly Park.

### PARKING

1. Resident sticker parking lot at end of Old Penzance Rd. on Emerson Point. There is no parking on Penzance Rd. in this area.
2. Nearest general parking is at Pebble Beach, about one half-mile away; observe signs.



## 21) Cogswell Farm Footpath / Land's End

### OVERVIEW

This is a 6-foot wide, easy, shaded path on private land leading to a sheltered cove with beautiful views. The path is gated and access is restricted to Rockport residents. At the end of the path access continues across a private beach to the rocky point at left (Land's End) for "fishing, fowling and nature study" only; "fowling" includes bird-watching. No swimming or lingering on beach.

### ACCESS

On Penzance Rd. near bend in road halfway between Lozant Place and Ruthern Way. Pedestrian footpath is marked by signs on post and gate; restricted to Rockport residents only.

### PARKING

See Pebble Beach or Emerson Point.

## 22) Pebble Beach

### OVERVIEW

- This Town-owned beach has more pebbles than sand, and is less crowded than other nearby beaches. Popular for sun-bathing, surf-fishing and scuba diving. Also an excellent place for walking and bird-watching.
- No lifeguard.
- Dogs are prohibited on beach in summer, but allowed from September 15 to June 1.
- Town-owned Camborne Pond (also known as Henry's Pond) on opposite side of road is also a good place to observe birds and wildlife.

### ACCESS

1. Penzance Rd. east from South St. near Cape Hedge Beach (one way heading north).
2. Pedestrian access, only, from Penzance Rd. at north end of beach.

### PARKING

1. Parallel parking on right side of Penzance Rd. along beach. Signs designate areas for resident sticker and unrestricted parking.
2. See also the parking options for Cape Hedge Beach, within easy walking distance.



## 23) Cape Hedge Beach & Sandpiper Overlook

### OVERVIEW

- Cape Hedge is a popular family beach, Town-owned and secluded in a quiet residential area. Ideal for children, with its gentle slope and wide sandy area between tides.
- A high barrier of loose round beach stones (popples) makes walking difficult in places, especially at high tide when sandy beach area is restricted.
- Seasonal lifeguard presence.
- Subject to marine weather conditions and strong tides at times. Big waves make it a popular place for surfers after storms.
- Dogs are prohibited on beach in summer, but allowed from September 15 to June 1.
- Beach is adjacent to Town-owned protected wetlands surrounding Saw Mill Brook and Saratoga Creek / Salt Marsh.

### ACCESS

1. End of South St.: A concrete ramp leads onto east end of beach.
2. From Long Beach: A pedestrian bridge connects to west end of beach.
3. Seaview St. off Thatcher Rd.: A wooden boardwalk crosses from parking lot over high popple dune to beach.

### PARKING

1. End of South St.: Resident sticker parking on east side after Camborne Way to beach, plus one space facing beach for handicapped plates only.
2. Along South St. before Camborne Way: Unrestricted parking on east side.
3. End of Seaview St: Resident sticker parking lot.

## Sandpiper Overlook

Sandpiper Overlook is a small public park and sitting area at the end of South St., overlooking Cape Hedge Beach and offering spectacular views. It was acquired by the Rockport Conservation Commission in 2016, and is maintained by volunteer town committees and members of the South End Association. The area was damaged by storms in 2017 and is gradually being restored.

### ACCESS and PARKING

Same as for Cape Hedge Beach.



## 24) Long Beach

### OVERVIEW

- This is an expansive, three-quarter mile public beach located primarily in Rockport. Its wide, gently-sloping sand area makes it popular for walking and all forms of beach recreation.
- Seasonal lifeguard presence. Subject to marine weather conditions and strong tides.
- A public walkway along the concrete seawall is accessible by stairs at each end and via three marked public pathways / firebreaks from Old County Rd. The cottages are privately owned, on leased Town land. Unmarked footpaths between cottages are private.
- Dogs are prohibited on beach in summer, but allowed from September 15 to June 1.
- The salt marsh behind the beach, surrounding Saratoga Creek, is Town-owned protected wetlands and wildlife habitat, ideal for bird-watching.

### ACCESS and PARKING vary by season.

The main entrance to Long Beach at Glenmere Rd. provides pedestrian access year-round but parking is restricted to Long Beach residents only from April 1 to December 1, enforced by a toll booth in summer months. A Town-owned footbridge at the end of Salt Marsh Lane provides pedestrian access year-round. Another footbridge at the Seaview St. resident-only parking lot provides access from April 1 to December 1, as weather conditions permit. See below for more details.

### PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

There are three approaches on foot from Thatcher Rd.:

1. Glenmere Rd. to Old County Rd.: Leads to three public footpaths (also marked as firebreaks) which lead to the seawall and beach.
2. Town-owned Saratoga Footbridge at the end of Salt Marsh Lane: Crosses over Saratoga Creek and salt marsh to Old County Rd., to access the footpaths noted above. Salt Marsh Lane is a private way open to the public to access the footbridge.
3. Seaview St.: Leads to resident sticker parking behind Cape Hedge Beach and to a pedestrian bridge at south end (seasonal only) that crosses the creek directly onto Long Beach.

### PARKING

1. End of Seaview St.: Large resident sticker parking lot, open year round.
2. Briny Way, opposite Salt Marsh Lane: Five on-street resident sticker spaces. This is the nearest parking to Saratoga Footbridge.
3. Old County Rd., west side: Parallel parking from December 1 to April 1. Parking restricted to Long Beach residents April 1 to December 1.
4. Parking lot adjacent to Gloucester end of Long Beach: Available to the public for a fee.



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Guide, please contact the Rights of Way Committee at  
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