

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH



Parks, Playgrounds and Beaches

The Town of Plymouth offers expansive recreational opportunities for its citizens and visitors. There are a wide range of parks, playgrounds, beaches and other facilities for all ages and interests. Activities at these facilities include youth and adult sport leagues for basketball, baseball, softball, football, soccer, playground equipment, salt and fresh water swimming and boating, fishing, tennis, skateboarding and rollerblading, bicycling, picnicking, and walking. One can be challenged by a sports activity, or enjoy the serenity and dynamics of a coastal beach or a quiet walk in a forested park.

We ask only that people enjoy these facilities to the fullest while respecting them in their use.

Additional information is available at the Parks and Forestry Division located at 159 Camelot Drive or the Recreation Division office at Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

Parks and Forestry Division 508-830-4162 x 6

Recreation Division 508-747-1620 x 13

Foreword

In 1890, with a population of approximately 7300 people living in an area of 103 square miles, Plymouth was quite rural in many ways. In 1901, a book was published locally that was entitled “A Souvenir of Plymouth Parks”. It was written by Nathaniel Morton, a Plymouthian whose commitment to public open space is legendary. At the time of that publication, there were only four public parks. Today, our population is approximately 60,000. There are presently over 40 public use areas consisting of parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities and coastal beaches that serve our community as well as those families visiting Plymouth.

Please refer to the Map for numbered location of each facility listed below. Also refer to the Quick Reference Guide for available activities at each facility.

Russell – Sawmill Ponds Conservation Area *Map Site #1*
At end of Bourne St., short gravel road on right.

This area is the largest tract of Town owned land in North Plymouth. The Town purchased the majority of the 64-acre parcel in 1969. Mature trees, a perennial stream, ponds and trails through the valleys and hills make for interesting hiking, picnicking and fishing. Gravel packed parking is on-site.

Veteran’s Memorial Field *Map Site #2*
Standish Ave., near Cherry St.

This two-acre playground was established in 1925 as a public playground to commemorate the Plymouth veterans of World War I.

Facilities include tennis, basketball and street hockey courts and a new play structure area. Parking is limited.

Siever Field *Map Site #3*

Entrances on Standish Ave. and Liberty St.

This field was named in memory of John A. Siever who was a veteran of World War I and also served as a Plymouth Park Commissioner from 1940 to 1955. He was instrumental in the acquisition and development of this four-acre facility as well as several other parks that were added during his tenure. A 90' baseball field, basketball court, playground equipment, and off-street parking are located at this site.

Nelson Memorial Park *Map Site #4*

Corner of Nelson and Water Streets

This very popular recreational area has a large play structure area, picnic tables, multi-use field, restrooms / concession facility, sandy beach area, parking lot, unimproved small boat launch area, and boasts a beautiful scenic view of Plymouth Harbor. A portion of this land was given in memory of the Nelson family.

West Plymouth Recreation Area *Map Site #5*

154 South Meadow Road

This facility was opened in 2000 and was one of three recreation areas built through a four million-dollar construction program. There are two soccer fields (one junior size and one senior size) and a junior league baseball field located here. A large play structure area will be installed during 2001.

Bates Park *Map Site #6*

Corner of Allerton and Vernon Streets

This small ornamental park was originally called “Waverly Square” and dedicated for public use by Moses Bates in 1856. In 1892 it became a public park and was named for him in recognition of his gift. The landscape firm of F. L. Olmstead did the park layout and included a new design concept that provided for a grass strip with trees between the sidewalk and the roadway.

Depot Park *Map Site #7* 9 North Park Avenue

This ornamental park was a gift from the Old Colony Railroad in 1924. It presented an impressive walk for visitors from the railroad depot to Court Street and a large nearby hotel. Although the trains, depot and hotel have long since gone, the park still offers a pleasant welcome to visitors today.

Allerton Street Playground *Map Site #8* Corner of Allerton and Sever Streets

This is a small neighborhood playground that has a new play structure area. There is also an open play field for small children. This site was formerly a water reservoir that supplied water to the downtown business district. Parking is limited.

Holmes Playground *Map Site #9* Corner of Summer and Newfield Streets

Holmes Playground was named in honor of Samuel W. Holmes who was Plymouth’s last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic in the Civil War. This playground has two very popular facilities, a basketball court and a skatepark. The walking path

along Town Brook passes this playground near the herring run and continues past the dam. This site was formerly part of the Robinson Iron Works, one of the first large industries to use water to power manufacturing machinery. Parking is limited.

Mabbett Park *Map Site #10*
115 Water Street

This small park offers one of the best scenic views of Plymouth Harbor. It is located on the waterfront across from Isaac's Restaurant. From this vantage point, one can see a large segment of Plymouth's fishing fleet, the Mayflower and Plymouth Long Beach. A nice place to sit and enjoy an ice cream cone.

Brewster Gardens (Elder Brewster Gardens) Map Site # 11
Entrance at corner of Water St. and Leyden St.

This pleasant and peaceful park was created during the early 1920's through the imagination, dedication and persistence of several Plymouth women. It encompasses the original garden plot that was granted to Elder William Brewster in 1620. The Pilgrims settled here because of the abundant availability of fresh water of Town Brook and the many springs as well as the thatch that grew along the edges that would provide necessary roofing material for houses. At the time of the landing of the Pilgrims, high course tides extended the harbor all the way to the Market Street Bridge area. Prior to the park's development, this area had become a pond (Barne's Mill Pond) that was overgrown, silted in and swamp-like with several dilapidated buildings around its edge. This area had supported the very earliest of industries that provided for the day to day needs of the small Plymouth village. Today, Brewster Gardens links the waterfront and the downtown business district and forms the beginning of the park lands and trails that follow Town Brook inland to its headwaters at Billington Sea in Morton Park. Located in the park is the Pilgrim Maiden, a bronze statue by H. H. Kitson. A

stainless steel sculpture by Barney Zeitz honoring Plymouth's immigrant settlers from 1700 to 2000 can also be seen in the park. Several summer events are located in Brewster Gardens, as well as it being a very popular setting for many wedding ceremonies.

Jenney Pond Park (site of the Jenney Grist Mill) *Map Site #12*
Spring Lane, off Summer St.

This park continues westerly from Brewster Gardens following Town Brook and features a replica of the original John Jenney Grist Mill (c. 1636). The large waterwheel still turns the grinding stone that produces flour at the mill. The earliest grinding mill on this site was the Stephen Dean Mill in 1632. The adjacent park that includes Jenney Pond (Alms House Pond) was the site of Plymouth's "poor house". There are benches, picnic tables and a wooden bridge from which to enjoy the park. In the spring, herring can be seen going up the fish ladder by the Grist Mill on their way to Billington Sea to spawn.

Town Brook Nature Trail *Map Site #13*
Begins at Holmes Playground, continuing up Billington St.

As one walks through Brewster Gardens, following Town Brook, past the Jenney Grist Mill and over the wooden bridge to Willard Place, a short path can be seen that leads to Newfield St. and the Samuel Holmes Playground. (Please refer to the listing of playgrounds for information on facilities located there.) Continuing past the playground on the left side is a path that follows the southerly side of Town Brook for about one-third of a mile. This trail was originally a portion of a Native American path (Namassakeeset Trail) that followed this bountiful stream. As it had been for the Native Americans, Town Brook became the life thread of the Pilgrims from the very earliest days of their arrival on the Mayflower. This dependence on Town Brook continued as the first industries in Plymouth were established during the 1700's. Several dams were

built along the brook's mile and one-half course to harness the water power to drive machines that produced anchors, tacks, nails, shovels, and textiles over a period of more than two hundred years. Fish ladders were built at every dam to allow the passage of herring to Billington Sea to spawn and then return to the ocean. These industries thrived until after the Civil War, slowly disappearing as waterpower could no longer meet the demand of industries. Old mill sites can be seen at several points along the brook. Town Brook continues further along Billington St. for a short distance until it passes under Route 3 and enters Morton Park.

Billington Street Park *Map Site #14*
20 Billington Street

This park area is a continuation of the nature trail that follows Town Brook westerly. This site had a succession of mills that produced anchors, tacks and nails from 1790 to 1960. There are plans to remove the earthen dam and defunct fish ladder for the restoration of this section of river to a more natural configuration. There are picnic tables and a covered footbridge located here.

Morton Park *Map Site #15*
Main Entrance – Summer St. Rear Entrance – Billington St.

This is Plymouth's largest park area encompassing approximately 200 acres of forest and shoreline on Little Pond (43 acres) and Billington Sea (269 acres). The park was created in 1889 through the generosity of several landowners including Dr. LeBaron Russell and the donations of Plymouth citizens. At that time, the idea of preserving land for a public park was most unusual. This effort was led by the foresight and dedication of Nathaniel Morton, who is considered the father of Plymouth's park system. Within Morton Park one will find swimming beaches, picnic areas, seasonal restroom and food concession facilities, approximately two and one-half miles of footpaths, and four miles of gravel roads to enjoy.

Each season brings its own beauty to the woods and waters of Morton Park.

Training Green *Map Site #16*
65 Sandwich Street

This ornamental park was designated as “a perpetual common or training place” in 1711. The local militia trained here for many years. The design for the walks and perimeter curbing was done in 1889 by the well-known landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead. The monument is dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of Plymouth who lost their lives in both the Civil War and the War of 1812.

Sirrico Memorial Playground *Map Site #17*
South Street (opposite 71 South Street)

This neighborhood playground was named in memory of Arthur Sirrico who was a member of the Park Commission and later became Superintendent of the Park Department from 1956 to 1977. There is also a memorial stone commemorating three Plymouth young men who gave their lives during World War II. Facilities here include a basketball court and a new play structure area. Parking is limited.

Uncle Thomas Jackson Park *Map Site #18*
End of Newfield Street

This “little grove of spruces now admired by all” was given to the Town in 1949 by Philip Jackson so that others might appreciate the quiet beauty of this one acre parcel. No parking available.

Burton Park *Map Site #19*

25 Whiting Street

Originally called "Jumping Hill", a portion of this park was donated by Nathaniel Morton. It was named in recognition of Charles Burton for his valued contribution to the community as a teacher and superintendent of the public schools. This small hillside park lies across the street from the Mt. Pleasant School.

Stephens Field *Map Site #20* 132R Sandwich Street

Located on Plymouth Harbor, this seven-acre facility includes a junior league/softball field, four tennis courts, basketball court, picnic tables, restroom/concession building, unimproved small boat launch area, and parking lot. Also, a large play structure has recently been installed adjacent to the picnic area. This site was named for the Stephens family, from whom the first parcels of land were acquired. Originally, much of this land was marsh, but was filled in between 1915 and 1927 to create the present day facility.

Avery Memorial Playground including Haskell Memorial Field *Map Site #21* 43 Nook Road

Alfred Avery gave this land to the Town as a memorial playground. The facilities at this field include a collegiate size basketball court and a junior league baseball field. The baseball field is named in memory of Walter B. Haskell, a Chairman of the

Park Commission for fourteen years and who was very active in the development of recreational facilities for the Town.

Plymouth Long Beach *Map Site #22*
State Rd. near Plimoth Plantation

Plymouth Long Beach is a barrier beach approximately three miles in length. It is a fragile dynamic environment that offers storm damage protection to our harbor, supports important wildlife habitat and provides a multitude of recreational opportunities. Most of Long Beach is owned by the town but there are several privately owned parcels of land and dwellings as well. Recreational activities include swimming, walking, picnicking, and fishing. During the early spring and summer season, portions of Long Beach are home to a wide variety of shorebirds, several species of which are protected as Endangered Species under state and federal law. Certain recreational activities are affected during the nesting season. Plymouth Long Beach offers the most beautiful yet fragile section of Plymouth's coastline. Facilities in season include restrooms, food concession and parking. Please refer to the Plymouth Long Beach Informational Booklet on the Environmental Management Web Page for more information.

Hauthaway Property

Russell Mill Pond Conservation Area *Map Site #23*

Long Pond Rd. between Boot Pond Rd. and Gunners Exchange Rd. The Town acquired this 130± acre property upon the death of the most recent owner, a member of the Hauthaway family. The land encompasses Sawmill Pond, a majority of the Russell Mill Pond, woodlands, and the headwaters of the Eel River. Although informal hiking now occurs, it is expected that more educational materials will be available.

Forges Field Recreation Area *Map Site #24*
83 Jordan Road

This site is the largest playing field facility in the Town's park system and opened in 2000. It was constructed at a cost of 3.25 million dollars with the help from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Urban Self Help Grant. Included are three senior size soccer fields, two 90' baseball fields, one lit, one lit adult softball field, one lit football practice field, one football game field, two junior league baseball fields, two youth softball fields, a large play structure area, and 1.5 miles of paved walking paths.

Cleft Rock Park *Map Site #25*
290 State Rd. (Rte 3A) at top of the Pine Hills

This small park area (8.7 acres) has a quite unique rock formation at its center. Its size is approximately 25' x 25' and from 12' to 14' tall. There is a cleft through its center 25" to 30" wide and about 25' in length. This passage is approximately 5' high and its "ceiling" is formed by another section of rock that sits on top. It is thought that this rock formation may have been used as a "lookout" spot by the Native Americans. From this vantage point one can see much of Cape Cod Bay and, on a clear day, the monument and shoreline of Provincetown. Although site amenities are few (picnic tables and a parking area), this park is noteworthy because of the unusual rock formation and view.

Little Island Pond Conservation Area *Map Site #26*
260 Beaver Dam Road, adjacent to Manomet Recycling Facility

The 120-acre property encompasses most of Little Island Pond. It was purchased in 1975 from the Briggs Family. The area has good hiking trails, varied wildlife and good fishing. Limited parking is available.

Emerson Field *Map Site #27*
48 White Horse Road

The land for this facility is under a long-term lease from Boston Edison and was built in 1976. The field was named in honor of four generations of the Emerson family who had devoted their lives to the Manomet community. Included at this site is a junior league baseball field.

White Horse and Taylor Ave. Beach *Map Site #28*
Taylor Ave.

Within this approximately three-quarter mile beach located in the Manomet section of Plymouth, can be found one of the nicest publicly owned clear sand beach areas along the town's coastline. Swimming, picnicking and walking are popular family activities here. Parking is on street quite limited. No restroom facilities are available.

Brook Road Playground *Map Site #29*
13 Brook Road

This playfield was originally the site of an elementary school. The building was razed and the recreation facilities were constructed in 1966. Included here are a basketball court, a junior league baseball field and a new play structure area. Parking is limited.

Bartlett Hall – Manomet Youth Center *Map Site #30*

659 State Road (corner of State and Bartlett Roads)

Activities and programs for Plymouth youngsters ages 8 thru 17. The Center has a small basketball court where basketball, floor hockey and indoor soccer programs are held and a large game room on the lower level. Open school days from 2:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Saturdays, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and during school vacations. Registration is twenty dollars. Additional information is available by contacting 508-747-1620 x 137.

Briggs Playground *Map Site #31*

838 State Road (opposite the Manomet Fire Station)

The land for this playground was originally leased from the Briggs family but was purchased by the Town in 1971. Facilities include a junior league baseball field, two tennis courts and a small play area with swings and a slide .

Fresh Pond Park *Map Site #32*

220 Bartlett Rd.

This small, quiet park, established in 1915, is located on the southern edge of Fresh Pond and is a popular spot for swimming and picnicking. Seasonal restroom facilities are available. There is a Native American burial site located within the park's boundaries that speaks to an earlier time in Plymouth's history.

Manomet Recreation Area *Map Site #33*

1197 State Road (next to the Indian Brook Elementary School)

This was the third recreation area built as a result of a 3.25 million-dollar construction program and Urban Self Help Grant through The Department of Conservation and Recreation and opened in 2000. This site is part of a large tract of land purchased by the Town in 1980. Facilities include three junior league baseball fields, a youth softball field and a large play structure area.

Elmer Raymond Park *Map Site #34*
1138 Long Pond Road

This recreation area was dedicated to Elmer Raymond who worked for several years to secure funding for its purchase and construction and passed away just before it opened in 1985. Facilities include a combination 90' and 60' baseball field, soccer field, two tennis courts, basketball court, play structure area, and nature trail.

Huntley Playground *Map Site #35*
97 Lake Drive

This small neighborhood playground has a newer play structure. The park was dedicated to the memory of Charles and Marion Huntley in 1980. Parking is limited.