

C. Recreation Facilities

Town and Public Facilities - Water Oriented

MASHPEE POND / WAKEBY POND - Two contiguous freshwater ponds, with a combined area of 729 acres, located in the northern section of Mashpee. Both ponds are almost entirely within the Town of Mashpee, with only a small portion of shoreline in the Town of Sandwich.

The ponds are stocked by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, which also manages, through the Public Access Board, a ***public landing*** at the southeastern corner of Mashpee Pond. The landing is located on a 33.2 acre parcel with 820 feet of waterfront, and abuts Town-owned Attaquin Park. It is now operated on the weekends during the warmer months by the Leisure Services Department, in conjunction with Attaquin park, in cooperation with the Harbormaster and Mass DFW.

Attaquin Park, an 8.4 acre recreation area with 200 feet of sandy beach, is operated by the Mashpee Leisure Services Department, which provides lifeguards and parking lot attendants. During the summer season it is open only to Town residents with Town beach stickers and to members of the Wampanoag tribe. Within this park there exist the following:

- 2 portable toilets (seasonal)
- designated swimming area
- 3 barbeque grills
- 5 picnic tables
- 1 basketball hoop
- a multi-station playground set, along with separate swings
- parking lot (60 car capacity)

Lowell Holly Reservation, located on Conaunet Neck (the peninsula which divides the two ponds) is a 135.13 acre tract owned and managed by The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR). 45.2 acres of the reservation are located within Mashpee on the neck itself. (This land is isolated from the rest of the town by intervening portions of the Town of Sandwich.) The Reservation has an unguarded swimming area, picnic tables and 1.5 miles of walking trails, with access via a parking area on South Sandwich Road and another seasonal parking area on Conaunet Neck accessed from South Sandwich Road. A small fee is charged during peak summer season, except for members of TTOR.

Also on the shore of Mashpee Pond is ***4H Farley Outdoor Education Center***, a summer youth camp operated by the Cape Cod 4H Corporation.

JOHN'S POND - A 323 acre freshwater pond, located in the western section of town. The pond is stocked by the Div. of Fisheries & Wildlife which also maintains a ***public landing*** on one-half acre of land located on the west side of the pond on Hoopole Road.

John's Pond Park Conservation Area, on the northern end of the pond, is managed by the Conservation Commission. Its 308.02 acres also surround Moody Pond (17 acres) and include a 30 acre cranberry bog which is currently out of production due to contamination from a fuel spill groundwater plume originating on the Massachusetts Military Reservation, although the bog continues to be maintained under contract. A “pump and treat” groundwater decontamination system, including a carbon filtration plant, has been constructed adjacent to the bogs by the military and is likely to remain in operation for another 15-20 years, until the plume has been cleaned. The Park also has extensive pine / oak woodlands, a fish ladder at the head of the Quashnet River and a 1200 foot sandy beach. The beach, which was originally developed for use by residents of the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR), is open to Town residents with beach stickers and MMR residents with ID, and to other residents of the state by fee. Life guards and parking lot attendants are provided by the Leisure Services Department. Free guided nature walks and other outdoor programs are offered by the Conservation Commission on the Park's four miles of walking trails and wood roads. The area, particularly a series of sand pits north of Moody Pond, suffers from severe problems with illegal ATV, dirt bike and four wheel drive vehicle use. Facilities currently located on the site include:

- 2 portable toilets (seasonal)
- designated swimming area
- 8 picnic (recycled plastic) tables
- 3 barbeque grills and 1 open fire pit
- 1 volleyball court
- 1 storage shed
- 2 swing sets
- parking lot (130 car capacity)

The **Alper Conservation Area** is a 33.28 acre parcel with 1100+ feet of frontage on the west side of the pond. Access is from Hoopole Road. There are no developed facilities on the site, but free guided nature tours are occasionally provided by the Conservation Commission.

SANTUIT POND, located in the northeast portion of Mashpee, is a shallow 167 acre freshwater pond. On the west side of the pond is an unpaved **Town landing** accessed via Timberlane Drive. The pond is a popular warm water fishery that has yielded state record fish, although it is increasingly plagued by excessive amounts of algae due to over-nutrifcation. 9400 feet of the pond frontage is publicly-owned, including the 16.17 ac. **Santuit Pond Conservation Area**, the 27.2 ac. **Sachem's Field Conservation Area**, the 3.5 ac. **Bickerstaffe Conservation Area** and the **Santuit Pond Preserve**, of which 185.89 acres on the south and east sides of Santuit Pond lie in Mashpee (with another 100 acres of adjacent land in Barnstable).

The **Santuit Pond Preserve** is jointly-owned with the Town of Barnstable and subject to a Conservation Restriction held by Mass. DFW, and is supervised by a Management Committee consisting of one representative from each of the three parties. Although there are no developed facilities on these properties (other than a storage building formerly used by cranberry growers), an extensive system of trails and cranberry bog access roads provides access to most of their 3000 foot waterfront, as well as to the Santuit River.

VINEYARD SOUND is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean located between the island of Martha's Vineyard and South Cape Beach in Mashpee. *South Cape Beach State Park* includes 474 acres of saltwater beach, salt marsh, and uplands acquired by the State Department of Environmental Management in 1983 and 1995. At one time the state proposed a \$4.5 million development project for the Park, including a visitor center, bike trails, bathhouse, 400 car parking facility and road access improvements. That project was not completed due to funding constraints and other issues. However, a new parking area, access road and beachfront facilities were completed in 1995. Those facilities were intended to serve as a new Town Beach as part of a land trade with the Town, but Town Meeting did not approve the trade. Current facilities at the site include the following:

- 4 portable toilets (seasonal)
- handicapped-accessible boardwalk and viewing platform
- lifeguard stands
- contact station
- parking lot (200 car capacity)
- a one mile self-guided nature trail

A 10 acre portion of the northwest corner of the State Park adjacent to Great River and Waquoit Bay was recently deeded to the Town of Mashpee for potential salt water access on Great River and Waquoit Bay. Access improvements, including upgrading of Wills Work Road and a small parking area are currently proposed by the Town.

South Cape Town Beach includes 19.3 acres of oceanfront dunes and salt marsh on Vineyard Sound. It is the only Town-owned saltwater beach. It is surrounded by South Cape Beach State Park and has 1500 feet of beach frontage. Facilities include the following:

- 4 portable toilets (seasonal)
- 3 lifeguard stands
- storage shed
- parking lot (166 car capacity)

The Town Beach parking lot, which lies directly adjacent to the beachfront, has been subject to significant damage during coastal storms and may lose parking capacity in the future due to regulatory constraints on reconstruction after storms and to further erosion of the coastline.

Town landings with access to salt water include:

- One on Great River, an arm of Waquoit Bay with access from Great Oak Road,
- One on Ockway Bay with access from Great Neck Road South,
- One on Popponesset Bay, located at the end of Mashpee Neck Road.

MASHPEE RIVER - The 5.8 miles of the Mashpee River from Mashpee/Wakeby Pond to Popponesset Bay is largely undeveloped. About 50% of this land, particularly along the upper half of the river, is conservation land held by the Trustees of Reservations (231 acres) and the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (56.78 acres). Most of the lower half, approximately 405 acres

below Route 28, was acquired by the Town in the 1980s with assistance from the Commonwealth's Self-Help Program and the Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund.

The *Mashpee River Woodlands Conservation Area*, which consists of the 15.22 acre Lopez Property and the 11.2 acre Fitch Property north of Route 28, and the 391.41 acre Mashpee River Woodlands proper and 13.7 acre Desrosiers memorial area south of Route 28, for a current total of 431.53 acres, provides more than 9 miles of maintained walking trails and woods roads accessed via parking areas located on Meetinghouse Road (2 areas, Lopez and Fitch), Quinaquisset Avenue, Mashpee Neck Road, River Road and Great Neck Road South (Desrosiers). With cool pine forests, salt and fresh water marshes and abandoned cranberry bogs, this area is popular for hiking, fishing, canoeing and birding. Acquisition of an additional 1.09 acre parcel near the Lopez Property and adjacent to Mass DFW land is currently proposed by the Conservation Commission.

The Trustees of Reservations' *Mashpee River Reservation* spans most of the middle section of the river between Route 28 and Great Neck Road North as well as 19 acres at "Farley's Camp", below Route 28. The latter provides an ideal canoe launch area accessed via a dirt road from Route 28, although the parking area at Farley's Camp has been closed due to difficulties with maintenance and trash collection. Aside from a mile of walking trails south of Farley's Camp, there are no other developed facilities.

The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife areas along the upper Mashpee River, particularly at Washburn Pond, are ideal for fishing and bird watching, although trails along the river (partly on private lands), and the river itself, have become heavily overgrown in recent years.

The *Mill Pond Fish Ladder* and the *Mashpee Indian Museum* were deeded from the Town to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council in the mid-90s. Located on the south side of Route 130 opposite Mill Pond, they provide an opportunity to study the Town's Wampanoag history and enjoy the spring herring run which was an important part of that history. The Museum is currently closed for renovations but is scheduled to reopen in the Summer of 2008. A parking area formerly maintained by the Town on the north side of Route 130 adjacent to a portion of the Mill Pond fish ladder was removed and revegetated in the mid 1990s. This property is one of nine in Mashpee that are being taken into federal trust status as part of the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Reservation.

QUASHNET RIVER - This stream flows approximately 5 miles from John's Pond to Waquoit Bay. Much of the adjacent land is undeveloped, except for several abandoned cranberry bogs which have become part of a golf course development. This river is a very popular trout fishery which was restored as trout habitat, after having been dammed and converted into what was reputedly the longest cranberry bog in the world, by members of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited.

384.23 acres along the river south of Route 151 are owned by Mass. DCR and DFW. 116.61 acres of adjacent Town conservation land, 54 acres of the Town's high school site which are covered by a the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service conservation restriction and 133.6 acres owned by the Mashpee Water District about the state properties. While there are no developed facilities,

there is an extensive network of woods roads and trails along the river, which provide excellent access for fishing and birding.

CHILDS RIVER - The original natural outlet of John's Pond, this small stream has been extensively diked, ditched and piped for cranberry cultivation. The 37.8 acre *Childs River Conservation Area* borders the river south of Old Barnstable Road. Although there are no developed facilities, the Conservation Commission offers free guided tours of the stream and the Town's cranberry bogs via dirt roads through the property.

SANTUIT RIVER - The Santuit River flows south out of Santuit Pond into the Shoestring Bay arm of Popponessett Bay. It was formerly stocked with brown trout, a practice which has been discontinued in order to promote the river's native sea-run brook trout population. The river also serves as a herring run. In addition to the *Santuit Pond Preserve* at the head of the river adjacent to the Pond, public access is provided at the *Santuit River Conservation Area*, located off Quinaquisset Avenue. Consisting of 35 parcels acquired by the Town between 1999 and 2005, primarily with Land Bank funds, the 38.15 acre area offers limited hiking trails and 1300+ ft. of frontage along the tidal portion of the river and its extensive marshes. The lands are interspersed with 37 small Town tax-taking parcels (7.29 acres) which have been proposed for transfer to the Conservation Commission. An additional 0.86 acre Conservation parcel lies just south of Route 28 on the west side of the river, but is not accessible.

JEHU POND / GREAT RIVER - This salt / brackish water pond lies at the head of Great River and is a part of the Waquoit Bay estuarine system. In March, 1997, the Town purchased 47.1 acres of the "Bufflehead Bay" property, the remaining 280 acres of which was bought by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as part of the *Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge*. The Town purchase was added to an existing 30 acre Town parcel to create the *Jehu Pond Conservation Area*, later expanded to 109.5 acres with two subsequent purchases, including frontage on Abigail's Brook. All of the parcels purchased benefited from Self-Help Program grants. In 2003, the Mass. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation also purchased 35.22 acres adjacent to the federal lands. The Town Conservation Area includes cedar swamps, extensive white pine groves and an island in Jehu Pond connected to the mainland by an extensive area of salt marshes. Walking trails and dirt roads provide an interconnected trail system with the adjacent federal and state lands. The Conservation Commission's adopted management plan for the area includes eventual development of a carry-in boat launch area and dock with limited parking facilities at the northeastern corner of Jehu Pond.

Other Town and Public Facilities

Heritage Memorial Park is the Town's largest active recreation area, encompassing 27.3 acres of fields and woodland. Located in the northwest corner of the Town on Route 130, it is used extensively for Little League, Farm League baseball, and youth soccer during the fall. Facilities include the following:

- The Chamber of Commerce offices and visitor center.
- Basketball court, dedicated in July 1985, is a full-length court.

- Pocknett Field, had been a full-size baseball diamond but was recently changed to a softball sized field, with a backstop, 2 small sets of bleachers and two team benches.
- 2 regulation little league diamonds with backstops, bleachers, team benches, dugouts, and portable toilets (seasonal).
- concession stand with 2 rest rooms (used seasonally)
- soccer/football Field, located in the outfield area of Pocknett Field, used by the Mashpee Youth Soccer league, which provides 4 soccer nets
- A Playground area with multiple stations for pre-school and school-aged children dedicated to “Tiger” Long and built by donations from his family.

Mashpee Town Hall - behind the Town Hall is located a large playfield once used as a Little League Field. This field is non-regulation and is usually used as a practice area for T-Ball.

Mashpee High School - Located at Route 151 and Old Barnstable Road, the Town’s first high school opened in September, 1996. It has extensive recreational and community facilities which are open to the general public through a cooperative agreement between the School Department and the Leisure Services Department. Currently developed facilities include:

Outdoor facilities:

- 6 tennis courts (lighted)
- 2 basketball courts (lighted)
- 2 regulation baseball fields
- 2 softball fields
- 2 soccer / field hockey fields (in baseball outfields)
- football field/stadium with bleachers
- track
- (expansion space for additional baseball / soccer field)

Indoor facilities:

- double gymnasium
- basketball court with seating for 1000 (converts to 4 half courts)
- second full basketball court
- 600 seat auditorium with theatrical stage
- weight training room
- aerobic training room
- Leisure Services Department office
- computer training center
- various meeting rooms
- other classrooms and facilities suitable for community education

Mashpee Community Park / Veterans Garden - Located opposite Town Hall and surrounding the Mashpee Archives building at the corner of Great Neck Road North and Main Street (Route 130). The park has a circular memorial garden dedicated to Mashpee’s war veterans, a small outdoor stage and attractive lawns and shade trees. It was previously known as the Collins Lot and was used as the site of the Annual Wampanoag Pow Wow. The historic South Mashpee one

room school house is scheduled to be moved to the Park from the Indian Cemetery property in 2008, using Community Preservation Act funds.

Quashnet School / Kenneth C. Coombs School - Located on Old Barnstable Road, these two adjacent schools have a number of facilities to which non-school users have limited access.

Outdoor facilities:

- 1 softball diamond
- 1 small baseball diamond
- 1 regulation baseball diamond
- 1 soccer/football field
- 2 playgrounds with 16 swings and 3 jungle gyms.

Indoor facilities:

- 2 gymnasias
- 2 combination cafeteria and auditorium with theatrical stage
- various classrooms and meeting spaces

Kids Klub Childcare Center - Operated by Mashpee Leisure Services, the center was formerly the Carol Jacobson Senior Center and is located on Great Neck Road North. It has 1 large oversized classroom, 2 medium classrooms on the top floor, a kitchen and classroom downstairs, offices and storage space. There is also a fenced-in playground area designed for pre-school aged children.

Gamefield Walking Course - Dedicated in October of 1982, this is a one-half mile exercise trail located in the woods behind the Kids Klub Childcare Center. It has 14 exercise stations with apparatus and instructional signs.

Senior Citizens Center - Operated by the Council on Aging, the center was opened in 2005 and is located adjacent to the Fire/Police Dept. complex on Frank Hicks Drive off Route 151. It has 1 large meeting room, with multiple smaller divisible meeting rooms, a kitchen and large divisible dining hall / meeting room, a lounge / meeting room, offices and storage space. There is also a picnic / patio area to the rear of the building.

Semi-Public / Private Association Facilities

Within Mashpee's many subdivision and condominium developments are numerous "semi-public" recreational facilities, which are legally open only to residents of the development and their guests. The following is a listing of such recreational facilities:

Bayview Condominiums, a luxury waterfront townhouse condominium on Jehu Pond, has 2 tennis courts and a community dock.

Briarwood is a moderately priced small lot subdivision with 1 beach / playground on John's Pond with 1 volleyball court, 1 slide, and several picnic tables, as well as several undeveloped playground lots.

Cape Cod Holiday Estates, an interval-ownership single-family (timeshare) resort, has an indoor swimming pool.

Clipper Ship Village is a moderately priced single-family subdivision, mostly with year-round families, which has a playground with a climber, 3 horse swings, 1 picnic table, 1 slide, 5 seesaws, 2 swings, and 4 benches.

Cotuit Bay Condominium has a pool and 2 tennis courts.

Deer Crossing Condominium has a clubhouse, outdoor pool and 2 tennis courts.

Greenwood Estates, a cluster subdivision, has 1 outdoor pool and 2 tennis courts.

Johns Pond Estates, a single-family subdivision, has 3 small fresh water beaches.

Mashpee Shores subdivision has a private beach on Mashpee Pond.

Mashpee Village is a low-income housing project with both single family and apartment units. Facilities include a basketball court, volleyball court, playground with two swings, and a community building.

New Seabury - The largest development in Mashpee, it has approximately 2,000 year-round residents with as many as 6,500 in the summer. The development is an exclusive and expensive resort community with the following recreational facilities, some of which are open to the public on a fee basis:

- country club and 2 championship 18-hole golf courses
- 18 outdoor tennis courts (2 near marina not in use)
- private beach and Cabana Club
- marina
- driving range
- Nautilus facility
- swimming pool
- exercise jogging trail
- several miles of rough bicycle and horseback riding trails
- miniature golf course at Popponesset Marketplace.

Oak Hollow Condominium has an outdoor pool and tennis court.

Otis Trailer Village / Johns Pond Campground, a mobile home community and summer campground near Otis Air National Guard Base, has 1 playground, 1 basketball court and a beach on John's Pond.

Pheasant Run Condominium has an outdoor pool and 1 tennis court.

Pirates Cove subdivision has 3 small beaches on Popponesset Bay.

Popponesset Beach Association, which includes a number of old seaside seasonal subdivisions, has a ball field, community building and salt-water beach.

Punkhorn Point subdivision has 1 tennis court and a community dock.

Quashnet Valley Country Club Estates is a condominium / single family development which offers an 18 hole golf course, driving range and country club, as well as 4 tennis courts. The golf course and country club are open to the public on a fee basis.

Santuit Pond Estates, a single-family subdivision, has a beach, tennis court, basketball court and ball field.

Seabrook Village is an upper middle class single-family subdivision with 2 tennis courts and 1 practice backboard.

Sea Mist Resort, an interval-ownership (timeshare) condominium, has an Olympic size indoor pool, an outdoor pool, miniature golf course and 2 tennis courts.

Sea Oaks Condominiums has a swimming pool and one (1) tennis court.

South Cape Resort & Club, an interval-ownership (timeshare) condominium resort, has an indoor swimming pool, an indoor and 3 outdoor tennis courts. These facilities are open to the public for a fee.

Southport Retirement Condominium has a nine-hole par 28 golf course, golf and tennis clubhouse, 2 tennis courts, 32,000 square foot activity center, indoor and outdoor heated swimming pools, 600 seat ballroom with stage and professional sound and lighting, fitness center, billiards and table tennis, arts and crafts room, woodworking shop, shuffleboard courts and bocce ball courts.

Stratford Ponds Condominium has a clubhouse, outdoor pool and 2 tennis courts.

Summerwood Condominium has one outdoor pool and one tennis court.

Willowbend is a very exclusive luxury golf resort community in the eastern portion of the town. All facilities are open only to residents and members or their guests. Until recently, Willowbend hosted a PGA pro-am charity golf tournament and a senior professional tennis tournament. Existing facilities include:

- country club, driving range and championship 27-hole golf course
- fitness center
- outdoor pool

- 6 tennis courts
- basketball court

Windchime Point Condominium has a clubhouse, outdoor pool and tennis court.

In addition to the private residential facilities, *Christ the King Church* has developed a small playground and bocce courts.

Commercial and Club Facilities

Mashpee has very limited commercial recreational opportunities. There is a World Gym fitness center located at the Mashpee Business Center on Route 28. There are six movie theatres at Mashpee Commons. Mashpee residents must travel to neighboring Falmouth or Hyannis for other commercial recreation activities.

There are two private outdoorsmen's clubs that have facilities in Mashpee. These are the Wampanoag *Rod & Gun Club*, which owns 33 acres off South Sandwich Road that include a clubhouse and 2 firing ranges, and the *Falmouth Rod & Gun Club*, which owns 64 acres in Mashpee, although its clubhouse facilities and skeet range are located across the town line off Carriage Shop Road in Falmouth.