

# DCLT Walking Trail Guide 2021

Prepared by Emily Ray, AmeriCorps Cape Cod and DCLT

THE DENNIS  
CONSERVATION  
LAND TRUST



## Table of Contents

Who We Are.....	3
Diverse Land Types in Dennis.....	4
Legend and Trail Information.....	5
Coles Pond Bog.....	6
Old Fort Field.....	7
Swan River Outlook.....	8
Sesuit Neck Road.....	9
Find More Hikes.....	10
Board and Staff.....	11



## 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.

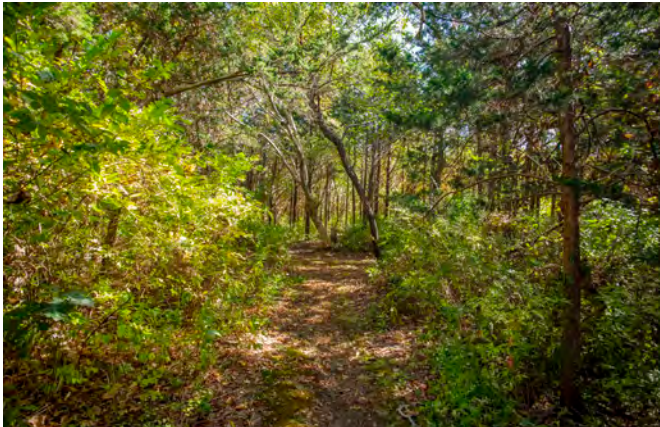
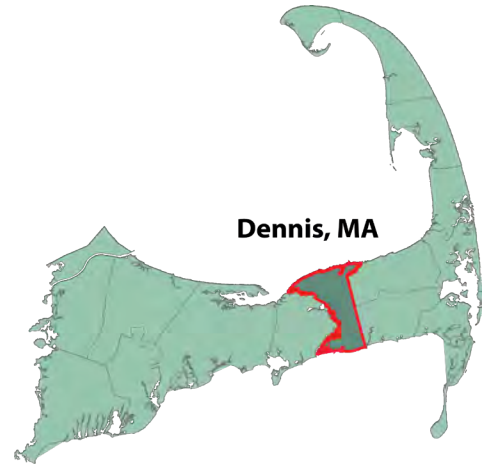


Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography

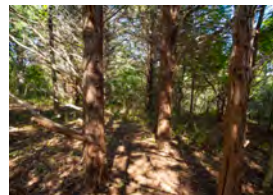
The DCLT continues to encourage landowners in Dennis to preserve existing open space, and when possible, restore lands to natural function through a process called “undevelopment.”

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.



## 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.











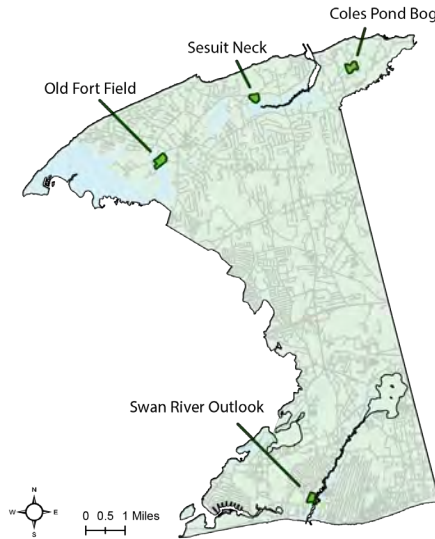
**Barrier beach:** A barrier beach is a narrow strip of beach or coastal dunes situated parallel to the shoreline, providing a barrier between marine waters offshore and the mainland and adjacent wetland. Barrier beaches shield unique aquatic habitats and are the first line of defense against coastal storms and erosion. In Dennis, Chapin Beach is a barrier beach consisting of 134 acres of dunes 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.

**Legend**

-  DCLT
-  Town of Dennis
-  Trail
-  Boardwalk
-  Wetland
-  Parking
-  Bench
-  Viewpoint

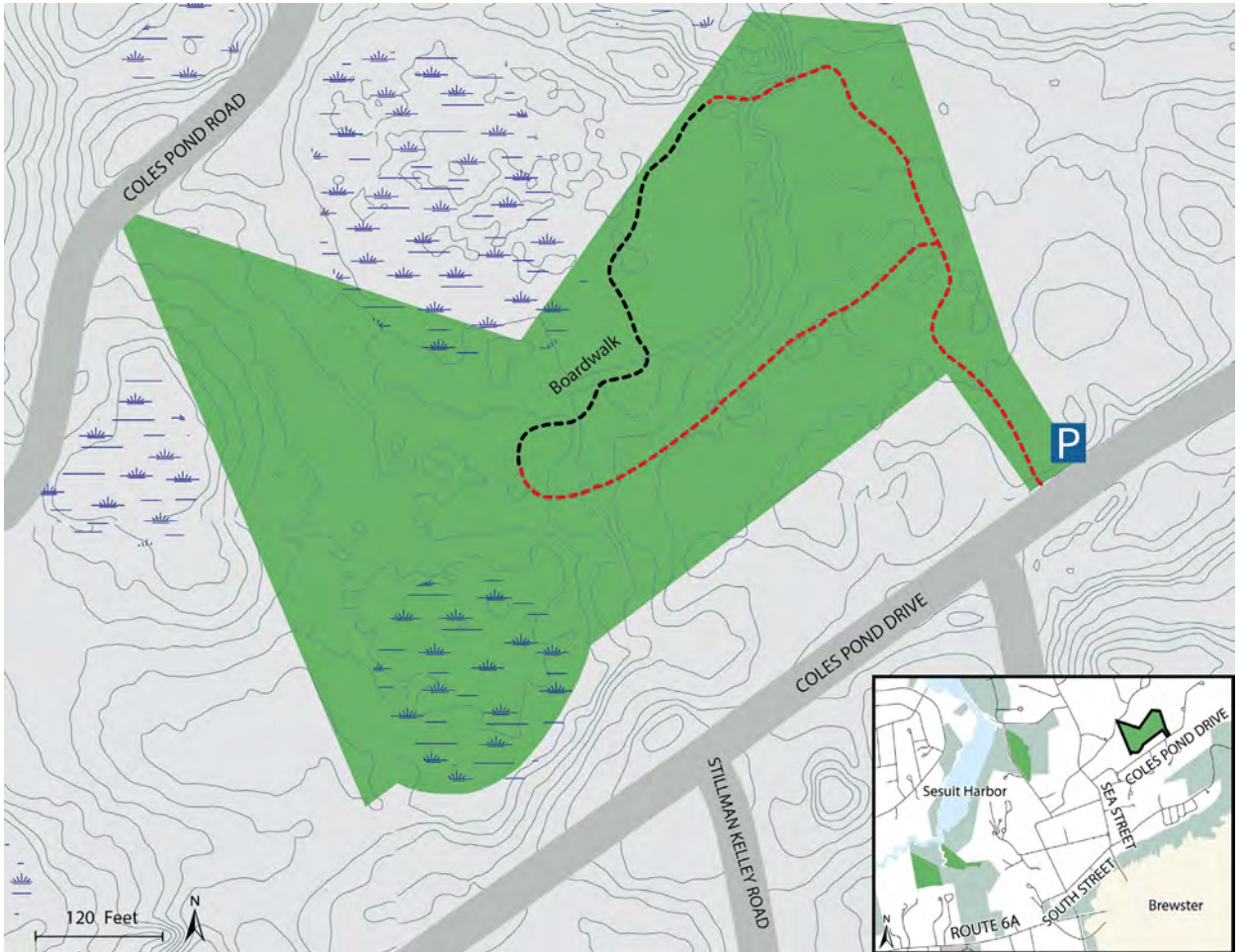


**Enjoy the trails and keep in mind:**

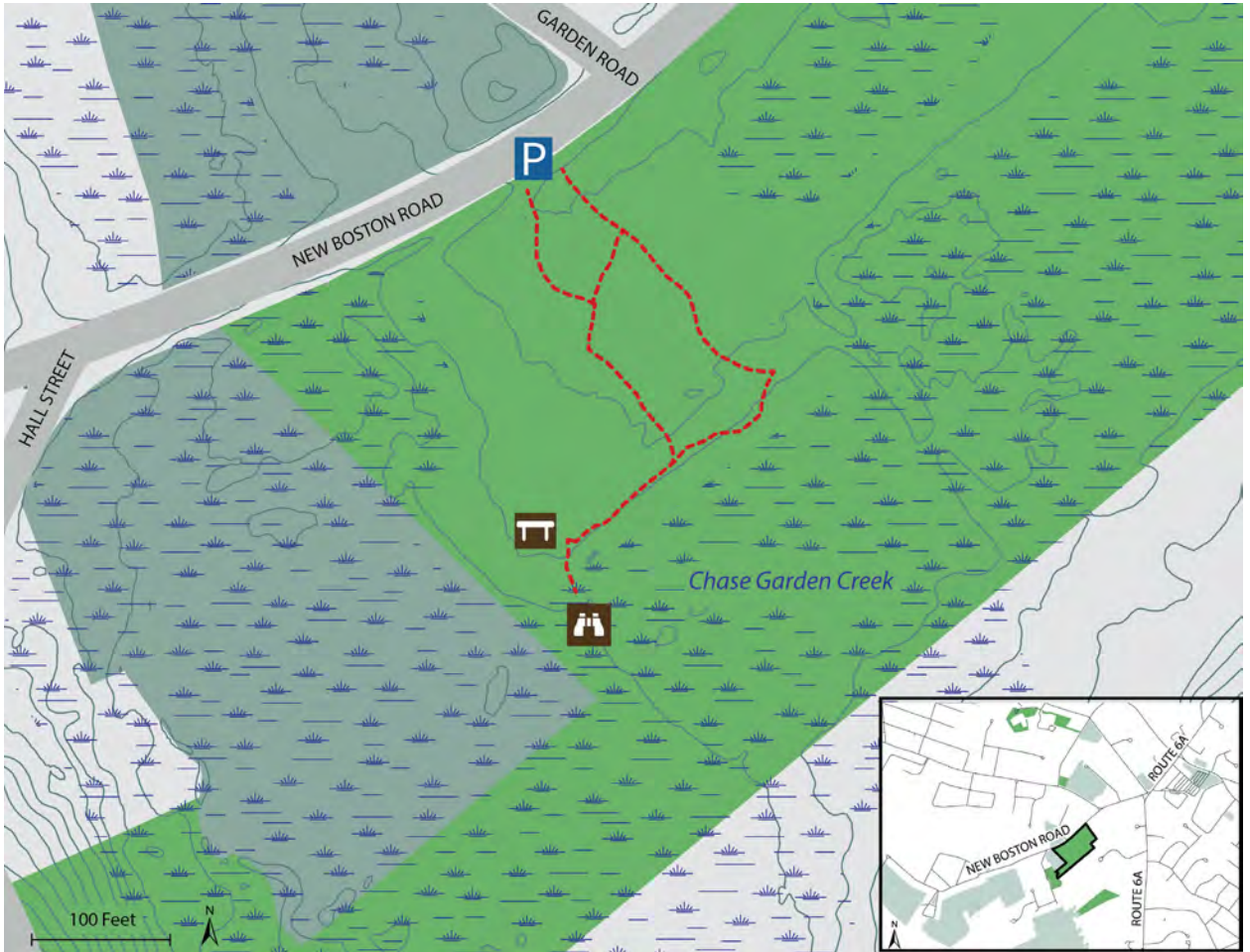
- No fires, camping or vehicles
- No smoking or alcohol
- Carry out what you carry in
- Respect private property
- Do not disturb or remove plants or wildlife
- No hunting

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

# Coles Pond Bog

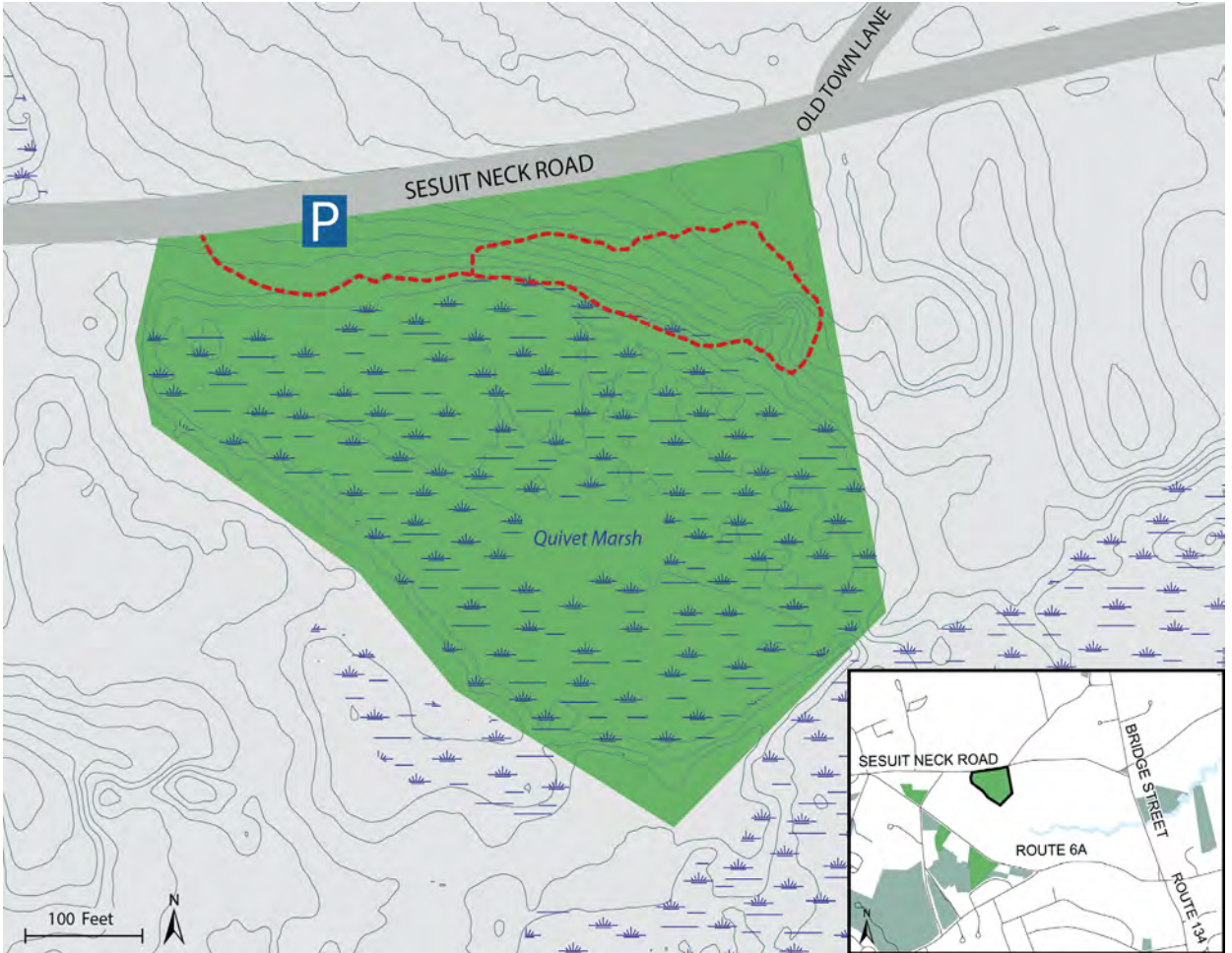


# Old Fort Field





# Sesuit Neck Road





# Swan River Outlook



**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](http://amcsem.org)

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

**Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries:** [massaudubon.org/get-outdoors](http://massaudubon.org/get-outdoors)

**National Park Service Hiking Trails:** [nps.gov/caco](http://nps.gov/caco)

**The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History Trails:** [ccmnh.org/Mission-Statement](http://ccmnh.org/Mission-Statement)

**The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts:** [thecompact.net/members](http://thecompact.net/members)

**The Trustees of Reservations:** [thetrustees.org/places](http://thetrustees.org/places)

**Town of Dennis Conservation Land Trail Maps:** [town.dennis.ma.us/natural-resources](http://town.dennis.ma.us/natural-resources)



## 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.

### Staff

Julie Early, Executive Director  
Janice Backus, Administrative Assistant  
Emily Ray, AmeriCorps Cape Cod

### Contact Us

P.O. Box 67  
East Dennis, MA 02641  
(508) 694-7812  
[dennisconservationallandtrust.org](http://dennisconservationallandtrust.org)

### Board of Trustees

Joseph Masse, President  
Carole Bell, Vice President  
Frank Dahlstrom, Treasurer  
Dianne Callan, Clerk  
Connie Bechard  
Katie Clancy  
Dorria DiManno  
Christopher Foley  
Kathleen Fowler  
Richard Johnston  
Bob Laufer  
Paul McCormick  
Paul Prue  
Norman Taupeka  
John Todd

### Trustees Emeritus

Beverley LeBlanc  
Edmond Nickerson  
Christopher Wadsworth  
James Wick

### Advisors

Brad Boyd  
David Berry  
Mark Burgess  
Thomas Dingman  
Peter Flood  
Dorria Marsh  
Connie Mooers  
Vicki Scaltsas

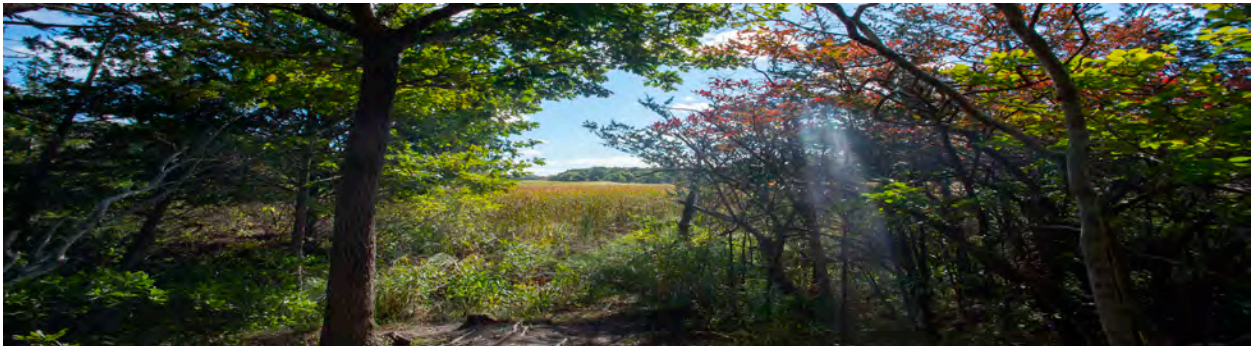


Photo by Fleeting Moments Photography



THE DENNIS  
CONSERVATION  
LAND TRUST



P.O. Box 67  
East Dennis, MA 02641