

Most likely, if you stand at the trailhead and look to the East, particularly on a sunny day mid to high tide, beautiful Drummer Cove will toss gems of light at you and connect you to a sense of tranquility and gratitude for nature's beauty. The Drummer Cove Conservation area, protected by the Wellfleet Conservation Trust and the Town of Wellfleet through the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Commission, is an exemplar of important links that make experiencing this area possible and provide an opportunity for rich reflection. The area links groups of people, different habitats, and the present with the past and the future.

How was this land attained for conservation? Not in one fell swoop. Many people worked for years to acquire 14 lots and easements over two privately owned lots. The land acquired, 11.3 acres, enables a 1.1 mile looped trail system to be created along the shore and on some infrequently used dirt roads. Over 4,000 feet of the Cove shore line has been protected. The Conservation Area was completed on December 31, 2015 when the "Link Lot", the connector between Pond and Pine Avenues, was acquired. The Cove area has been a proud neighborhood of citizens and still provides a focus for residents. Although the Trust and Town now provide this public area, it was through the spirit, the land and easement contributions and financial support by Cove residents that we now enjoy this beautiful piece of Wellfleet. Linked land and effort.

The Drummer Cove Trail loop links two primary habitats, upland and lowland. Within the oak and pine forest a multitude of bird and plant species flourish. The lowland portion is flat and follows the wrack line along the marsh

edge. The tidal range of 9-11 feet leads to changing views, varying from a bright blue bay to an oozy flat. When the tide is low a mud flat emerges. Look and listen for foraging shorebirds, scurrying fiddler crabs, and an occasional horseshoe crab. This connection between wood land and sea contributes to making Wellfleet a very special place.

As you walk the trail, imagine light summer traffic on the old cart roads of the upland section. Picture children in the 1800s walking to Pond Hill School, many dropped off by fisherman parents at Pleasant Point. The school operated from 1857 until 1880. Over the years one saw neighbors walking to the building with covered dishes for pot luck dinners. The building is being restored by the South Wellfleet Neighborhood Association and Social Union to serve as a community hall. In the 19th century, one could spy duck hunters and larger fishing vessels in a winter safe haven. How did the cove get its name? One story is that early settlers heard Native Americans drumming along the shore. Another tells of the peddlers, or drummers, who sailed into the Cove to peddle their wares. Perhaps now that this land is in conservation you can imagine your children or grandchildren exploring these trails. The Drummer Cove Conservation Area links all of us to the past and to the future.

Please stay on the trails to protect fragile plants in the area and to respect private properties. Be vigilant about poison ivy and ticks!

Length & Extent of Trail: 1.1 miles; 11.3 acres plus easements

Prepared by the Wellfleet Conservation Trust and the Wellfleet Open Space Committee

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WELFLEET
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Drummer Cove Conservation Area and Trails

Area Description:

The Drummer Cove Conservation Area spans the spectrum from salt marsh, tidal flats, coastal bank and oak pine forest on its upland. The entire area is within the recharge area to Drummer Cove and as such falls into the Wellfleet Harbor Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The land is in State designated Priority Habitat for rare species. There are four benches which provide great overviews of the Cove.

Location:

The trail head is located at 170 Pond Ave in South Wellfleet.

Directions:

Exit Route 6 heading west for approximately 0.5 miles on Paine Hollow Road to the first stop sign. Turn left on Pleasant Point Road for approximately 0.25 miles. Turn left on to Pond Ave for 0.3 miles, the last part being a dirt road to a parking area at the trail head.

Drummer Cove Conservation Area and Trail



■ Pond Hill School

☆ Benches

Ⓟ Parking

— Drummer Cove Trail

Wellfleet Conservation Trust

WCT Conservation Restrictions

Conservation Commission

250 500 750 1,000
Feet

