

4. DENNIS POND CONSERVATION AREA

The Dennis Pond Conservation Area is one of the Town's most popular recreational areas, used for swimming, fishing, hiking, and nature-watching. The main trail is 0.8 miles from end to end and takes you along the southern shore of Dennis Pond just north of Route 6 between Summer Street and Willow Street. The trail runs along the shoreline with multiple access points to the water and is mostly flat, but watch for areas of exposed roots and some steep slopes to the water.

The dominant underbrush along the sides of the trail is sweet pepperbush, while the large open woodland area includes mixed oak and pine trees. The woodland area leads to an old cranberry bog which has become home to red maple trees as it has dried out over time. Many beech trees can be found on the high ridge on the north side of the pond, indicating a late successional forest that has escaped disturbance for a long period of time.

Dennis Pond is named after Robert Dennis, an early settler of Yarmouth who lived by the pond. The Dennis Pond Beach was donated to the town by Mabel S. Agassiz, with the intention of it being used by the children of Yarmouth. The public beach, with a marked swimming area, is located at the Summer Street end of the trail (sticker required). Lifeguards are on duty from May–September. Kayaks, canoes, and other small boats can be launched here. At the Willow Street end there is also access to the water down a short trail for launching kayaks and canoes.

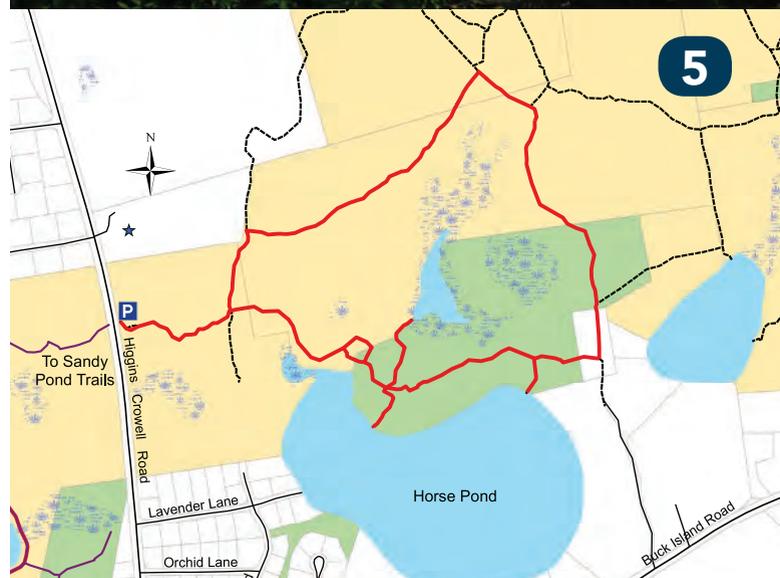
Deer and other animal tracks can be spotted in the wetland area at the old cranberry bog. Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails any time of year and on the beach between September 15 and March 15.

P **WILLOW ST PARKING:**
Pull-off for 1–3 vehicles next to Dennis Pond just north of the powerlines.

SUMMER ST PARKING:
Pull-off for 1–2 vehicles, south of the public beach.



5. HORSE POND CONSERVATION AREA



The Horse Pond Conservation Area trails are located within 400 acres of Town-owned land to the east of Higgins Crowell Road in West Yarmouth. The main trail runs along the northern perimeter of the pond with spurs, loops and connectors to other trail systems. Horse Pond itself covers an area of approximately 30 acres and is quite shallow with a maximum depth of around 10 feet.

Horse Pond exhibits large fluctuations in its shoreline due to neighboring public wells. Fluctuation in the water level provides a unique habitat for many rare and endangered plants within two wet meadows to the north of the pond. During high precipitation years there is standing water in this meadow and during low precipitation years, a diverse plant community consisting of grasses, sedges, sundews, and rushes prevails.

Connector trails link Horse Pond with Sandy Pond across Higgins Crowell Road; Basset's Lot Pond on the east side of the trail; the Larry/Bill/Ed Trails that loop around the northern end of the conservation area; and the Plashes Pond cranberry bogs across West Yarmouth Road.

Beaches along Horse Pond can be accessed from the walking trails. Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails any time of year.

P **HIGGINS CROWELL ROAD PARKING:**
Pull-off just south of the Yarmouth Police Department. 1–5 vehicles. Trail can also be accessed from the east end at pull-offs on West Yarmouth Road.