



Trail descriptions and things to look for

The **Beach Loop Trail** (1.3 miles) encircles the rocky shore and the pond's southern saltmarsh edge. From either the edge of the bay or the Field Station and butterfly garden, head for the shore and meander among the rocks to the top of the ledges overlooking Little Beach Bay. Along the beach and before our boundary with the neighbors, choose one of two marked crossover points to cross to the pond-side, being careful to avoid the rare New England Blazing Star and noxious poison ivy. Return via the access road and hay fields. Listen for brown thrasher in June, mockingbirds in September, snow buntings in December, and piping plovers in March.

The **Quansett Trail** (2 miles) starts at the Field Station and heads north around the pond to the junction with Zylfee Brook Trail. Highlights include a 200' boardwalk with viewing platform, the salt marsh, fresh marshes and pond, vernal pools, forested brooks, outcrops, oak-hickory uplands, beech groves, and views of the salt pond from several vantage points. The rough foot path meanders among the diverse habitats and joins periodically with old carriage trails. Look for sign of otter in the piles of fish scales near the fresh pond in the winter; listen for American redstarts in the spring; observe the delicate flowers of the fall-blooming witch hazel shrub.

Continue onto the **Zylfee Brook Trail** (1.25 miles) across the stone bridge down to Reuben's Point at the marsh edge, passing chattering kingfishers at the mouth of the stream. Weave through highbush blueberry tangles and feel the multi-textured surface of "puddingstone" erratics left by ancient glaciers. Witness the beauty of the salt pond from high overlooks.

Take the **Allens Neck Trails** (1.5 combined) to wander through rich wetlands, across old pastureland and among giant boulders. If you pass the vernal pools at the right time of year, you may see (or hear) the wood frogs and spotted salamanders that use these pools for breeding. At the overlook, you could see migrating waterfowl or hear the burble of bobolinks on the grassland down below.

Directions to Trailheads and Field Station

From Interstate 195, in Westport, take Exit 10 (Rt 88 South). Follow Route 88 to its end, passing Horseneck Beach on the way. Turn left at the ocean-side stop sign onto East Beach Road and follow the road east along the shoreline. As it makes an obvious, 90 degree bend to the left, turning north and away from shoreline, look for Sanctuary signs at the corner and right. This **BEACH LOOP** entrance is marked with Massachusetts Audubon Society logo signs. There is only limited parking on the town road (along Horseneck Road going north).

To start at the trailhead of the **QUANSETT TRAIL SYSTEM** and visit the **Field Station**, continue 0.25 mile north away from beach to the Bayside Restaurant parking lot on your left. Trail entrance is immediately across the street as marked. Find the Field Station (with sign and logo on the side of the building) and Butterfly Garden at #1280 Horseneck Road. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Bayside Restaurant for serving as a temporary parking facility until our own is completed.

To reach the **ALLENS NECK TRAIL SYSTEM** of the Sanctuary, continue north on Horseneck Road for approximately 1.7 miles. Take the first right (also Horseneck Road but now entering Dartmouth). Proceed for 1 mile and take a right onto Allens Neck Road (can be difficult to see). At the sharp bend, continue straight, through the single white gate, and park immediately on your right. Massachusetts Audubon Society logo signs are posted.

Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

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