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Long Pond Loop



Trail Guide

Walking time: 25 to 45 minutes

Parking: 6–8 spaces

Ideal for: children, dog walkers, horseback riders, and experienced mountain bikers

This trail will surprise the hiker who is visiting it for the first time. It begins at the southern gate and heads over a small rise, but soon the trail narrows and the flora rises above the trail. This gives hikers an opportunity to take in the surrounding vegetation—wild iris, marsh grass, bayberry and scrub oak—at close range. But not too close, because you'll also find plenty of poison ivy here as well. The trail, at some points during the spring and summer resembles a hedge maze with vegetation completely obscuring the view of Long Pond, but soon, the trail spills out onto a wider path and the view opens up as well. During warmer months, you'll find an osprey nest here. The birds will begin to call out when you approach and may even leave their nest to get a better look at you. (Please keep your distance from the nest in season.) The Long Pond Trail loops around onto town land and then back onto a small portion of Land Bank property that borders a narrow portion of Long Pond. As you continue, you'll walk back onto town land and then along a dirt trail/road before re-entering Land Bank property on your return.

Directions: Drive west on the Madaket Road and take a left in Madaket at the Tristram's Landing sign. Follow South Cambridge Street to the end and drive over the narrow bridge to the left. The parking area and gate are on the left.

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Enjoying Nantucket Safely

The Nantucket Land Bank accepts no liability due to injury resulting from use of this map or its properties. In other words, you use these trails and recreational areas at your own risk. Follow these tips in order to ensure your use of Land Bank properties is safe and enjoyable:

Dress Appropriately

On trails, wear hiking shoes or boots. In the summer, employ light clothing that provides protection from the sun. In the winter, multiple layers that wick moisture will keep you warm and dry.

Check for Ticks

Nantucket has one of the highest rates of tick-borne diseases in the world. So follow these simple tips. Stay on the trail and avoid tall grasses, shrubs and hanging branches. Wear boots with socks and long pants when possible (tucking your pants into your socks may look geeky, but it will keep ticks from reaching your skin.) Check your family for ticks daily. Be advised that a deer tick nymph is often only the size of a crumb.

Avoid Poison Ivy

Learn to identify and avoid the three shiny leaves and white berries associated with poison ivy. It is one of the most pervasive plants on Nantucket, found near beaches, on wooded trails, near wetlands and moors.

Use Sunscreen

Wear sunscreen and protective clothing to keep from being burned by the powerful summer sun. Some Land Bank trails are rather long and provide little shade, so plan accordingly.

Hydrate Properly

It's often surprising how quickly one can become dehydrated when walking in the moors or on the beach. So bring water with you and drink often.

Hunting Season

Most Land Bank properties are open to hunting in season. Hikers are encouraged to wear bright clothing and keep pets on a leash. The best time to enjoy Land Bank properties during hunting season is on Sundays when hunting is not allowed. Hikers are asked to report any hunting remains that are not properly disposed of to the Land Bank office.

Vehicle Access

Please note that not all of the dirt roads and passable trails are maintained on a regular basis and some may only be traversable with four-wheel drive vehicles. Even with four-wheel drive, you may need to reduce tire pressure on particularly sandy patches. A sticker is required for driving on beaches.

Cell Phones

Bring a cell phone in case you get lost.

Pack In, Pack Out

In most cases, there are no trash receptacles provided at these properties, so please help keep our beaches clean by taking everything that you brought to the beach with you when you leave.

Pet Owners

Keeping our properties and beaches clean by cleaning up after your pet is greatly appreciated.

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