

Stump Pond Trail



Trail Guide

Walking time: 30 to 60 minutes

Parking: 10–12 spaces

Ideal for: children, dog walkers, experienced mountain bikers, hikers, and bird watchers

This sheltered woodland trail connects two ponds at either end. One is a man-made coastal plain pond created to mitigate wetland intrusion from the Polpis Road bicycle path constructed in the past ten years. The other is Almanac Pond, a natural kettle hole created by the glacier that formed Nantucket nearly 20,000 years ago. This trail connects with the Conservation Foundation trails at Windswept Cranberry Bog and the sand roads of the eastern moors. Some interesting features of this rather hilly, protected walk include a narrow foot bridge over a slow moving feeder brook, a pathway through a stand of arrow-straight tupelos growing on a gentle hill side, and a gradual climb to a cleared hilltop with blue-sky views of Sankaty and the harbor. Hikers can follow the green and white Nantucket Land Bank arrows in a one hour, rambling, wooded four-mile loop that is ideal for hiking and a bona fide challenge for experience mountain bikers. A larger 90-minute loop completely around Stump pond is also possible via almanac pond road and the windswept cranberry bogs.

Directions: Drive east on the Polpis Road past the Quidnet turn-off and look for a small parking area beyond the bike path on the right. Another parking area, maintained by the Conservation Foundation is located on the opposite side of the property less than a mile away along Almanac Pond Road which is located off of the Polpis Road near the Wauwinet turn-off.
Note: This road can sometimes be difficult to travel in any vehicle with low ground clearance and two-wheel drive.

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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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