

WELCOME

We hope you will enjoy this Town of Bourne Open Space, purchased with Community Preservation Funds derived from a surcharge on local real estate transactions and matching state funds.

GOALS FOR OPEN SPACE

The Town of Bourne has a citizen mandate to preserve open space to protect the town's rural character, scenic amenities, and ecological integrity. Specifically, the Town of Bourne Local Comprehensive Plan (2008) outlines these open space goals:

- preserve at least half of the remaining undeveloped land as open space for recreation, natural resource protection, plant and wildlife habitat, and for groundwater recharge
- maintain the beauty and character of the community
- limit and mitigate the visual, fiscal and ecological impacts of overdevelopment

THE BOURNE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Town of Bourne established the Open Space Committee (OSC) in July 1999. This committee is composed of local residents and town officials. The OSC works closely with town departments, other committees, community organizations, and the public to identify potential land purchases for open space. We welcome town residents to upcoming meetings of the OSC. Please refer to the town website for times and dates of OSC meetings:

<http://www.townofbourne.com/BoardsCommittees/OpenSpaceCommittee/tabid/266/Default.aspx>

Please feel free to contact the OSC to provide suggestions for purchasing land.

LITTLE BUTTERMILK BAY WOODS

This open space land is rich in geologic and human history. As the last Laurentide ice sheet retreated 18,000 years ago, large chunks of ice were left behind on Cape Cod, eventually forming kettle ponds, vernal pools, and cedar swamps (most of which have now been converted to cranberry bogs). Little Buttermilk Bay is believed to be the remnant of a large kettle pond that has now been inundated by the sea.

The native people called this area Waquonscott, which means "end of the marsh." Many generations of Native Americans spent their summers at the end of the marsh engaged in fishing, shellfishing, and escaping the summertime heat further inland, the same reasons people still summer along the coast. A major Indian trail was established around the bay, which later became Head of the Bay Road, a major route to the Cape during Colonial and more recent times. Now this parcel of land, purchased in 2007 by the Town of Bourne, will remain in public ownership for perpetuity.

The Waquonscott Loop Trail accesses an observation deck (under construction) that overlooks Little Buttermilk Bay and its fringing marshes, while the Ridge Trail accesses uplands dominated by white pine, pitch pine, and several oak species. The first part of the loop trail passes by a former cranberry bog (to the south), now a marsh dominated by the non-native and invasive Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The Town of Bourne recently purchased this former bog and plans to restore salt marsh there by removing the berm where the creek enters Little Buttermilk Bay.

TRAIL MAP

LITTLE BUTTERMILK BAY WOODS



10.86 ACRES

WALKING TRAILS TO
LITTLE BUTTERMILK BAY

SALT WATER AND FRESH WATER HABITATS
PARKING LOT AT 295 HEAD OF THE BAY ROAD
VILLAGE OF BUZZARD'S BAY
TOWN OF BOURNE

PLEASE
No motorized vehicles
Take your trash with you
Open dawn to dusk







Bourne Open Space Little Buttermilk Bay Woods Trail Map

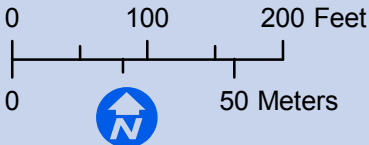


Little Buttermilk Bay



Walking Trails

-  Loop Trail (0.45 miles)
-  Ridge Trail (0.15 miles)
-  Shore Trail (0.20 miles)
-  Marsh/Bog
-  Property Boundary
-  10 ft Contours



Data Source: Town of Bourne, MassGIS