



**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Trail of the Month
Great Pond Trail**

Town of Cape Elizabeth Trails

The Town of Cape Elizabeth owns over 1,000 acres of open space. Much of these lands are accessible to the public via 15 miles of greenbelt trails.

The trails have their individual “personalities,” but trail users can expect the following on town trails.

Multi-use. Almost all trails are open to all trail users. Trail users should be aware of possible conflicts when using the trail and be prepared to share and/or yield to other trail users as needed.

Rustic. Town Greenbelt trails are intended to be rustic, nature trails about 5’ wide. The trail surface is usually dirt or grass. A very few trails have wood chips or gravel surface.

Seasonally wet. Almost all greenbelt trails skirt or cross wetland areas. The trail surface is often wet in the spring and during inclement weather. Trail users should wear appropriate footwear. Trail users that are not on foot, such as mountain bikers and horseback riders, should not use the trails during wet conditions to avoid tearing up the trail surface.

Open Space awareness. Town greenbelt trails are located in natural areas and trail users should prepare accordingly. During tick season, trail users should take precautions such as minimizing exposed skin and applying insect repellent over clothing. During hunting season, trail users should wear blaze orange.

Greenbelt trail markers. Look for these Town greenbelt trail signs when using a trail.

Great Pond Trail

The Great Pond Trail is named after its most prominent feature, Great Pond. Great Pond is centrally located in the southern end of town and the trail runs along the northern side of the pond.

Public Access: The public can access the trail from the end of Fenway Rd, Vernon Rd, and Route 77 where it intersects Golden Ridge Lane.

Physical Description: The trail is mostly wooded, with stone steps leading down to the pond level and a boardwalk including 2 benches. The trail crosses Alewife Brook, and continues along mostly level ground and exposed tree roots. The Vernon Rd section includes a sandy meadow and small pond. The Great Pond boat racks are also located along this trail.

What's Special: Great Pond steals the show of this trail. Views from the boat launch area, through the shady trees, the dappled sunlight of the Alewife Cove outlet and overlooking the pond make this trail a town standout.



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