



# Goose Cove Reservation

Gloucester, Massachusetts

26 Acres

Protected in 1966

Special Feature!  
Property Profile

The rocky shoreline of Goose Cove harbors habitat for snails, hermit crabs and other estuarine and marine wildlife. *Spartina* grasses of the saltmarsh can be seen in areas closest to the shoreline. The grasses support other types of marine wildlife that have adapted to the subtle changes in the tide. The effects of erosion can be clearly seen on the rocks of this shore. Odd hollows, grooves and mounds along the rocky shore demonstrate the ocean's impact on softer sections of rock. Basalt boulders rest along the shore—slate gray rocks with some flecking of white, and a fine texture. These are remnants of volcanic activity, formed as lava quickly cooled from its molten state. Later, these boulders were carried here by glacial action. The rocky shore offers many great picnicking spots along the water, with views looking out toward the Annisquam River and Wingersheek Beach. The woodland along the shoreline offers a quiet sanctuary to a variety of wildlife. Look closely for mammal tracks and scat. Fishers and otters both use this area.

Goose Cove Reservation is nestled off Route 127, and surrounded on two sides by water, and houses on the other. If it weren't for a group of 500 concerned Gloucester residents, and the late Dr. Frederic Breed, Goose Cove Reservation would not be the home to fishers, otters and birds, but waterfront properties dotting the landscape. Fortunately, the residents united and purchased the land for conservation. Now, the natural scenic beauty of this woodland can be seen forever from the Goose Cove causeway off Route 127.



## A Walk



The gravelly openness around the parking area of Goose Cove is the result of a developer bulldozing a temporary road into the property before it was permanently protected. Scraggly black locust trees, gray birch and sweet fern maintain a fragile foothold in the exposed mineral soil. From the northeast corner of the parking area, a trail will lead you to the water's edge. Coral lichen, a flesh-pink colored encrustment that grows on poor soil, covers the ground as you begin this trail. The building to your left is a pumping station, constructed as part of the sewer system of North Gloucester. Continuing down to the shoreline, watch for mammal tracks and scat. Follow the path along the shore, watching closely for Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets, Black Ducks, and Ring-Billed and Herring Gulls. After exploring the shore, continue to the point of land, where you can look out over all of Goose Cove, toward the Annisquam River and Wingersheek Beach. If the east wind should intrude on your serenity, you can find shelter behind a rock and let the sun warm your face while you eat a picnic lunch and watch the gulls reel in the currents above. There is a loop trail that circles this point and will lead you back through the upland forest to the main trail and the parking area.

## Directions

From 128, at Grant Circle in Gloucester: Drive north on Washington Street, Route 127, toward Lanesville for 1.9 miles. Landmarks you will pass are: the hospital on your left, the Ralph O'Malley Middle School on your right, you will drive over a causeway, and pass The Grange on your right, and a sign for the Beeman School. The Goose Cove parking area is a quarter mile past Willow Rest on the right. This is a blind right turn that could be easy to miss. If you pass a small brick municipal building on the right, you have gone too far. Park in the dirt lot. Parking is limited to 5 cars.

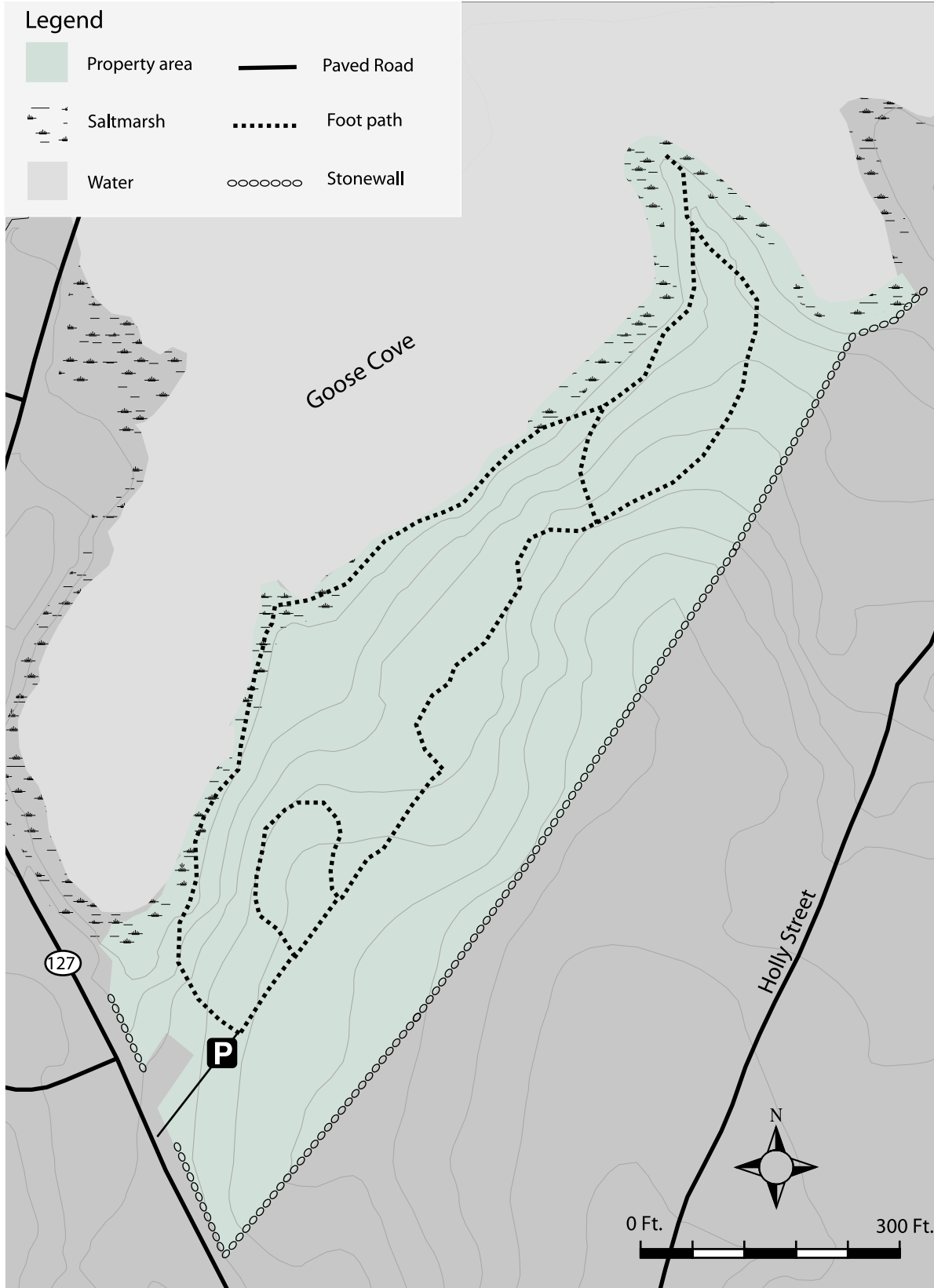




# GOOSE COVE RESERVATION - 26 acres

## GLOUCESTER, MA

### A PROPERTY OF ESSEX COUNTY GREENBELT



Map produced by Essex County Greenbelt Association. Source data obtained from 1:5,000 3-meter interval contour lines from Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, survey plans and Global Positioning System (GPS). Boundary lines and trail locations are approximate. March 2005.