



# WELCOME TO BAY FARM



A Memorandum of Understanding between Duxbury, Kingston and the Mass. Department of Environmental Management provides for passive recreational use of Bay Farm that does not substantially alter or threaten the natural and cultural resources. Nature study, hiking, jogging, picnicking, fishing, and cross-country skiing are allowed. Special recreational activities consistent with the conservation values of Bay Farm are allowed with the consent of all parties to the Memorandum of Understanding.

- Dogs are not allowed unless on a leash or under the direct control of the handler.
- No horseback riding.
- No motorized vehicles.
- No hunting, trapping, firearms, overnight camping, or fires.
- Do not create any new trails.
- Report emergencies to the Duxbury Police Department 911 or 781-934-5656.
- Questions-Duxbury Conservation Commission 781-934-1104.

The property is open to all citizens of the Commonwealth.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

BAY FARM BROCHURE CONTRIBUTORS

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Whether you are a bird watcher, angler, dog walker, or covet a stroll through waving fields to spectacular water views, you will enjoy Bay Farm. On its 80 acres no other parcel of land offers more value per acre. You can explore short trails leading to a sandy beach, a rocky ledge with tidal pools, access to deep channel fishing, marshland, native American artifacts, and a rolling countryside grassland with an unparalleled view of the bay. The 42<sup>nd</sup> parallel runs through the Kingston side of Bay Farm.

Bay Farm is the southern terminus of the Bay Circuit Trail (BCT). The trail is the grand vision of a single urban planner. Charles Elliot II devised a concept in the late 1920s of a greenbelt ringing Boston from the north shore to the south shore. The 200-mile-long trail lies roughly between routes 95 (128) and 495 in a semicircle around metropolitan Boston. The Bay Circuit Trail forms a chain linking 79 areas of green space in an Emerald Necklace from Plum Island in Newburyport to Bay Farm in Duxbury.

## WELCOME

## A FARM STORY

Discovery of artifacts at Bay Farm tells us this picturesque land at the edge of Kingston Bay was occupied by Native Americans long before 1627 when Duxbury landowners from the Plymouth Colony began to farm the rolling fields. Almost three centuries later, Atherton Loring and two partners incorporated the land into a huge tract stretching from Tremont Street (Route 3A) to Kingston Bay where, in 1904, they established the Bay Farm Company, an early version of today's agribusiness. Though it was primarily a dairy enterprise, livestock, including cows, bulls, heifers, horses, hogs, roosters, pullets, and chickens were also raised. The Lorings were partial to their cows often naming each for her unique appearance or personality, such as *Dollface* and *Petunia*.

The farm consisted of two main buildings, the dairy and stable with several outbuildings. The stable accommodated 75 cows.

In the late 1940s, sometime after the White Brothers had taken over the farm, the barn and several outbuildings were bought by the Duxbury Playhouse. The Duxbury Playhouse, run by a budding group of thespians, was converted into a theater with a revolving stage where plays were produced until 1950.



View from Bay Farm

## BAY FARM TODAY

In the 1960s, after Route 3 was opened, Duxbury's population rose at an alarming rate. That unprecedented growth, from 4727 residents in 1960, to approximately 7000 residents in 1968, prompted the Conservation Commission to mount a vigorous effort to conserve Duxbury open space.

On December 28, 1967, the Conservation Commission met with the owners of Bay Farm who agreed to sell the property of about 44.1 acres to the town for the purpose of conservation. It was not until January 10, 1973, that the 44 acres was officially sold to the town. The land is now held under the protection of the Duxbury Board of Selectmen. In 1989, another strip of wooded Bay

farm land, consisting of 29.4 acres was bought by the town of Kingston Conservation Commission and a third strip of land of 7.75 acres was bought by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. An incentive for the purchase of the remaining land was a grant opportunity from the state's Self-Help Program, providing reimbursement to Kingston for a portion of the land to ensure it would be preserved as open space. This once 44-acre site was now expanded to more than 80 acres, which straddle the Duxbury-Kingston border. The site is managed under a combined agreement called a Memorandum of Understanding among the three owners. Even the 80 acres of preserved land is only a portion of the total farm that was once here.

It was agreed that the area be set aside for recreation. It has become a popular area for dog walkers, cross-country skiers, hikers, joggers, and birders who enjoy the large open, grassy field. Fishermen frequent the large granite rocky outcrop known as *Cedar Rocks* for bluefish and striped bass.

# BAY FARM TRAILS



dlaxton 08/2004

## BAY FARM

A majority of Bay Farm is open field covered in the summertime with wildflowers and singing birds. This open field attracts a variety of wildlife. From the delightful chorus of the bobolink singing from the tops of the long grass to the long cries of raptors such as red-tailed hawks, birds are probably the most plentiful. The field is also utilized by fox and coyote for hunting, the grazing of white-tailed deer and in the warm evenings of June, you can see a laser light show of fireflies.

Bay Farm is an excellent example of forest regeneration. About 1900, there were few trees remaining in Duxbury. The trees were harvested for building ships, housing, firewood, and other wood products. Because one-half of Bay Farm is mowed every year, it is not given the chance to grow back to forest. However, the Kingston portion of the land has been allowed to regenerate. As you are walking through the Cedar grove, you can see what has grown in the last 30 years.