

Pine Bluffs Town Beach

Summary: A generally easy 30-minute walk along the edge of bluffs and through woods near Lake Boon. Some briefly steep sections.

Trailhead Location: The town beach parking lot is on the south side of Sudbury Road, just east of Queens Lane. The trail begins where the one-way loop drive meets the two-way beach access road along the back of the soccer fields. During July and August, a beach permit must be purchased.

History: "The Town Beach at Pine Bluffs was purchased in 1971 thanks to an anonymous donor who gave a large sum. The Town Beach inspired a tremendous amount of volunteer effort. There were a few cottages to be removed and it was necessary to clear and grade land. Finally, a small bath-house was built." (Source: History of Slow, Ethel B. Childs, 1983)

Suggested Route: From the parking lot junction, follow a narrow path toward the lake. The trail turns left to curve along the top of the bluffs toward the town beach. This portion of the trail includes some briefly steep sections.

After passing behind the fenced-in playground area, bear left along the top of the bluffs to the wide access road. Turn right and continue along the access road past the beach area to your right.

As you continue past a volleyball area, the wide dirt road shows traces of old pavement, remnants of Parker Road, which once connected Sudbury Road to Kingland. Just before the wide track reaches a dead end by private property, turn sharply left onto a narrower trail. After a couple of minutes, turn right at a T-junction, and continue straight on this main trail as several side trails head off to private property.

This trail leads to Kingland Road, a wide dirt road. If you turn left along Kingland, then right along Sudbury Road, you will find the **Marlborough-Sudbury State Forest** across the road to your left in about half a mile.

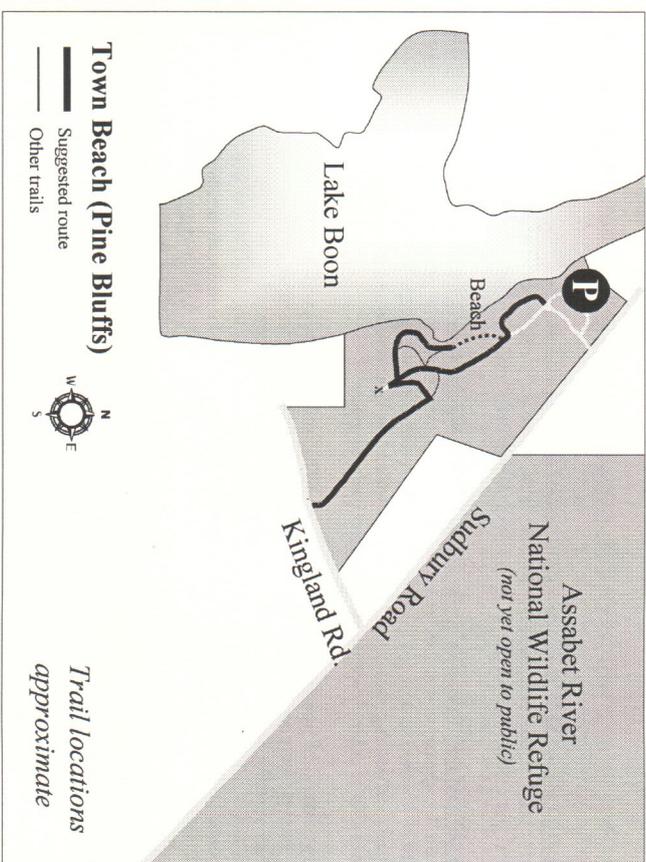
To return to the Pine Bluffs beach area, retrace your steps away from Kingland Road back to the T-junction and turn left to return to the wide beach access road. Take the next trail on your left and turn sharply downhill to the water's edge. After enjoying the view across Lake Boon, continue to your right to arrive at and cross the beach. Climb the steps back up to the access road, and turn left to return to your starting point.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,

The world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting –
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

Wild Geese – Mary Oliver



There is a pleasure in the pathless woods;
There is a rapture on the lonely shore;
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar:
I love not man the less, but Nature more.

Childe Harold's Pilgrimage – George Gordon Noel Byron,
Lord Byron (1788–1824)