



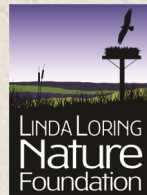
Welcome to the West End!

Today, nearly half of Nantucket is preserved as open space thanks to the combined efforts of several conservation organizations. Vast expanses of this land can be found on the west end of Nantucket.

This map is the result of collaboration between the Nantucket Land Bank, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, and Linda Loring Nature Foundation.

We hope this pamphlet will serve as a comprehensive guide to these properties and trails.

West End Trail Map



Linda Loring

The Linda Loring Nature Foundation is a scenic 275-acre preserve for conservation, education, and research that stretches between Eel Point and Madaket Roads bordering the north head of Long Pond.

The gently sloping loop trail crosses a magnificent coastal sandplain ecosystem including coastal shrublands, heathlands, and the globally rare sandplain grasslands. The trail takes visitors by one of three osprey poles on the property, has beautiful vistas of Long Pond as well as Nantucket Sound, and includes several benches along the way for quiet contemplation. There is a 20-point, self-guided experience (brochure available at www.llnf.org) which describes the surrounding flora and fauna.

The mile and a half trail is free and open to the public sun up to sun down, year-round. The trails are accessible via an ample parking lot located at 110 Eel Point Rd. Please note: as a wildlife preserve, there are no motorized vehicles, bikes, horses, or dogs allowed on the trails.



Trots Hills



Bisected by Madaket Road, Trots Hills property is owned to the north by the Nantucket Land Bank and to the south by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. This area is part of the rolling, hilly terrain that makes up the entire northern half of Nantucket. During the most recent glacial era, the ice sheet that covered most of New England reached its southernmost advance in this part of island. The weathered hills that are now found here are the remains of sand, gravel and cobble that was transported with the ice and deposited as the glacier began to melt and retreat to the north.

This area now contains a mosaic of open grasslands and heathlands interspersed with taller shrubs, which are maintained by periodic mowing. The Land Bank property is comprised of 95 acres of open space, and the Foundation's 77-acre property south of Madaket Road directly abuts the Land Bank's extensive holdings to the south, which in turn connect to Head of the Plains, Sanford Farm, Ram Pasture and the Woods. This area of the island now contains one of the largest, contiguous blocks of protected conservation land, second only to the Middle Moors.

Nantucket Land Bank

The Nantucket Land Bank (NLB) is a governmental body that was established in 1983 through a vote of Nantucket citizens. Through a 2% fee on all real estate transactions, the Land Bank is able to acquire land on Nantucket to provide waterfront access, preserve scenic views, protect ecological resources, promote local agriculture, and create outdoor recreational opportunities for all. The Land Bank was the nation's first program of its kind and continues to serve as a model for other communities today. Our properties range from vast expanses of undeveloped land to small scenic parks in the heart of downtown. The Land Bank is the proud owner of over 3,500 acres, all of which are dedicated to conservation, recreation, and agriculture. For more information, visit us at 22 Broad Street (508-228-7240) or www.nantucketlandbank.org.

Nantucket Conservation Foundation

The Nantucket Conservation Foundation (NCF) is a membership-supported, non-profit land trust founded in 1963 to permanently protect the island's fragile places for the enjoyment and education of its residents and visitors. Beginning with a single donation of less than one acre of land, the Foundation has since evolved to become the island's largest landowner, responsible for protecting, managing and maintaining approximately 30% of Nantucket, or over 9,000 acres of conservation land.

Head of the Plains

Head of the Plains is a vast region of conservation land, with more than 1,000 acres jointly owned by the Nantucket Land Bank and the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. It contains sandplain grasslands and heathlands, shrub thickets, wetlands, and woodland habitats. Abutting this land to the north and east are the Sanford Farm and Ram Pasture & the Woods properties. Between these properties, visitors can enjoy miles of hiking trails, beautiful views across Clark's Cove, and spectacular sunsets along the shoreline.



This area was part of the "common land" set aside by Nantucket's original shareholders for grazing sheep and cows and for farming. Once these practices ceased in the early 1900s, grasses, sedges, wild flowers, and low shrubs adapted to growing in disturbed soils became dominant. Some of the best examples of sandplain grassland on Nantucket are now found at Head of the Plains, due in part to its historic agricultural use.

This unique habitat provides nesting and hunting habitat for northern harriers, an endangered bird of prey. The area is also home to rare plant species such as New England blazing star, sandplain blue-eyed grass, and bushy rockrose.

To maintain these unique properties and fulfill its mission, the Foundation focuses on conservation and stewardship, scientific research, education and outreach, property experiences and public service to the community. Foundation properties are open to the public year-round from sunrise to sunset. For more information about the Foundation, please stop by our offices at 118 Cliff Road (508-228-2884) or visit our website at www.nantucketconservation.org.

Linda Loring Nature Foundation

The Linda Loring Nature Foundation (LLNF) is a conservation land trust and environmental education organization. LLNF promotes environmental literacy through research, education, and stewardship of their 275 acre property. The Foundation's property serves as a living laboratory for research and education advancing broad community support and environmental understanding.

For more information about LLNF's research and education initiatives and public programs, check us out at www.llnf.org or stop by our offices at 110 Eel Point Rd. Trails are free and open to the public sun up to sun down.



Sanford Meadows

Sanford Meadows is a scenic 165-acre property owned by the Nantucket Land Bank. Once part of a dairy farm (along with NCF's Sanford Farm), this area has a long history of grazing by sheep and cows, which removed much of the tall, woody vegetation. As a result, this property is now a rolling sandplain grassland, full of sedges, grasses, wildflowers, and a plethora of other herbaceous species.

Its two miles of trails are accessible via the parking lot at the intersection of Madaket and Barrett Farm Roads. As you walk the trails, you are sure to see a variety of rare and early successional species. Plants such as little bluestem, Pennsylvania sedge, goldenrod, dewberry, and various asters bring this meadow to life. To promote the growth of these unique species and maintain this ecosystem, the property is mowed every few years.

To the east this trail connects to NCF's Sanford Farm property, and to the west, the expansive Head of the Plains.



Natural History

Nantucket was formed by the Laurentide glacier, named for the St. Lawrence region of Canada where it originated. As the glacier advanced to the south, it carried rocks, sediments, and vegetation it encountered along the way. Around 21,000 years ago, the climate started to warm and the glacier began to melt, depositing the material it had carried south. These deposits are called moraines. As temperatures continued to increase nearly 6,000 years ago, sea levels rose between 300 - 400 feet and submerged a large expanse of land. The moraines which remained exposed are the places we know today as the Cape Cod Peninsula, Nantucket Island, and Martha's Vineyard.



Nantucket's topography is a direct result of these glacial processes. The Laurentide glacier had two lobes which formed Nantucket—the Cape Cod Bay Lobe (west) and the South Channel Lobe (east)—but their southern extent was only about mid-island. As a result, the northern half of Nantucket is hilly glacial moraine, while the southern half of the island is an outwash plain – an area comprised of sand and gravel deposited beyond an ice front by meltwater streams. The slow-moving nature of this process allowed for an even deposition of sediment, resulting in the flatter landscape that we see in the southern half of the island. Nantucket's great ponds were formed by remnant chunks of the glacier which melted inland.

Sanford Farm



Sanford Farm, owned by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, is one of the Island's most popular conservation properties on the island. The site's 134 acres contain coastal maritime shrublands, sandplain grasslands and heathlands, pitch pine woodlands and shrub swamps that provide habitat for a wide variety of animals and rare plants. Sanford Farm was an operating dairy farm up until the early 1920s. The remains of the silo can still be found on a small hill on the western side of the property.

The property is named for Mrs. Anne W. Sanford, who purchased the land in the 1930s. Mrs. Sanford was one of the Foundation's earliest and staunchest supporters. Sanford Farm, with the adjacent Ram Pasture and The Woods, contains more than 6.5 miles of walking trails with interpretive signs that identify and explain the different habitats and significant geologic, natural, and historic features found on the property.

Habitat Management



Much of Nantucket's open space on the West End consists of sandplain grasslands and coastal heathlands. These are globally rare ecosystems, which are home to many early successional plant species. Grasses, forbs, and several rare wildflowers are abundant in these habitats. Without frequent management, these grasslands would undergo succession and be taken over by competitive shrubs and trees. Because of this, conservation properties in this part of the island are managed through a combination of techniques including mowing and prescribed fire.

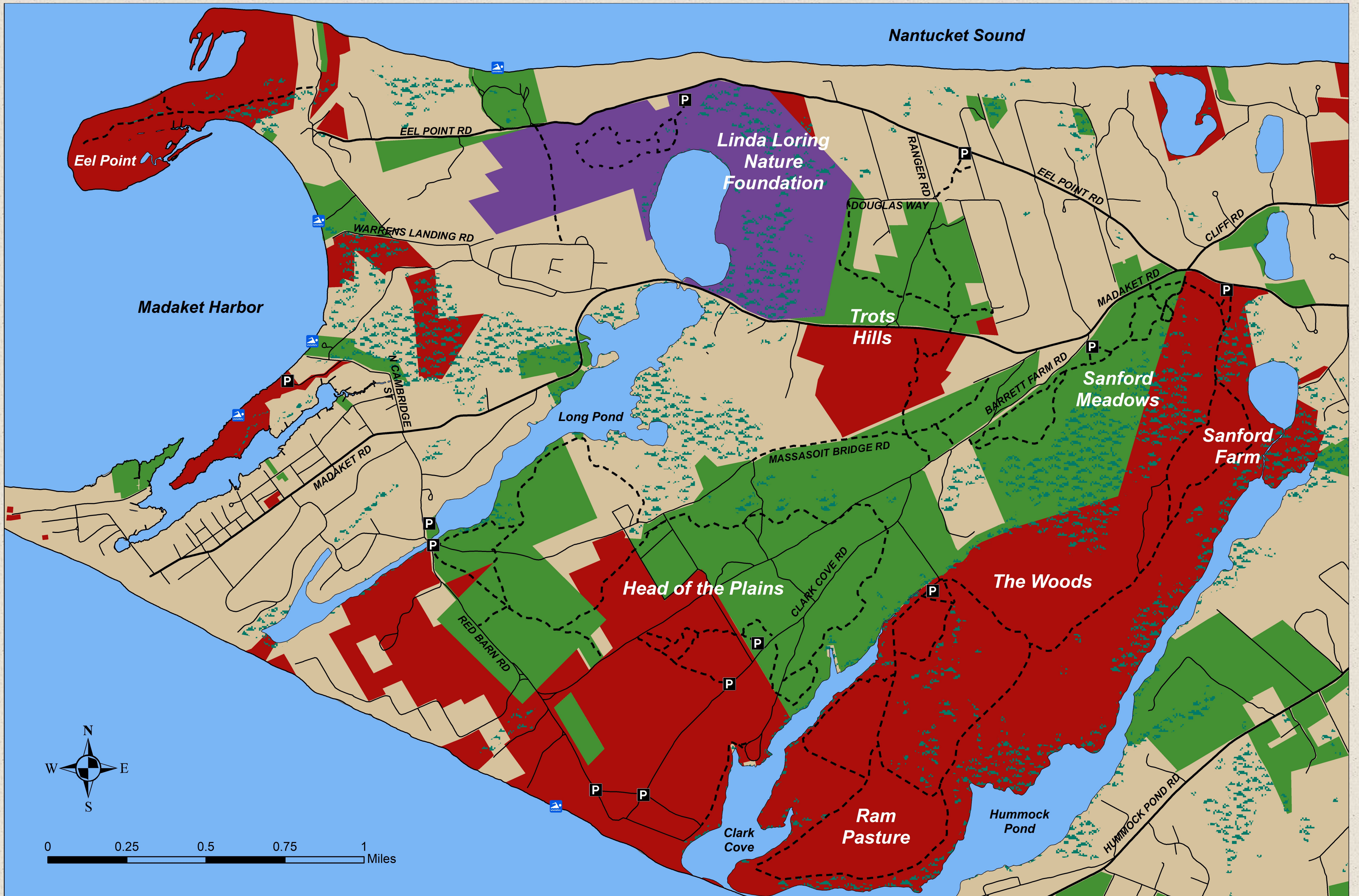


Ram Pasture & The Woods

Bordering Sanford Farm to the south are 656 acres of property collectively known as Ram Pasture and The Woods, owned by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. The majority of this land was purchased in 1971 and was the successful result of the Foundation's first fundraising campaign. The southern portion of this property contains a vast expanse of globally significant sandplain grassland habitat with many associated rare species.



Ram Pasture and The Woods, along with the adjacent Sanford Farm, contains more than 6.5 miles of walking trails. A popular walk starting at either the West Gate or Sanford Farm parking areas leads to the Ram Pasture Barn, located about two-thirds of the way to Nantucket's southern shoreline and one of the highest points on the property (elevation 46 feet). On a clear day, a beautiful panorama of the Atlantic Ocean stretching from Cisco Beach to Madaket can be observed from this site.



Map Key

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Parking | Wetlands |
| Beach Access | Nantucket Land Bank |
| Roads | Linda Loring Nature Foundation |
| Walking Trails | Nantucket Conservation Foundation |

Please Respect Our Open Lands:

- Protect the fragile plants on our dunes, grasslands, and heathlands
- Leave wildflowers for all to enjoy
- Prevent your dog from disturbing wildlife
- Keep vehicles and bikes on well-established roads
- Take your litter home
- Respect private property