

explore Sharon

Linking history, linking nature

"A nice place to live because it's naturally beautiful," says a welcome sign in Post Office Square. Sharon's natural beauty coupled with its rich history and easy access makes it a true gem. From hiking and biking trails to beautiful lakes and streams, conservation and wildlife areas, Sharon has been successful in preserving open space and historical sites for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Sharon is located halfway between Boston and Providence, Rhode Island and is easily accessible to Routes 95, 1 and 27. The MBTA's Commuter Rail Providence/Stoughton line serves the town with a station on Depot Street.

Nourishment

Ward's Berry Farm

614 South Main Street
781-784-3600
Pick-Your-Own, farmers market, CSA, bakery, sandwiches, smoothies, hayrides.

Crescent Ridge Dairy

355 Bay Road
781-784-7237
Fresh local milk, world-famous ice cream, and seasonal farmers market.

Angel's Café

3 Post Office Square
781-784-8184
Coffee, tea, bakery, sandwiches.

Pizzigando Cafe

1 Pond Street
781-784-8161
Pizzeria and Grill

Alice's Mandarin Taste

37 Pond Street
781-784-7377
Szechuan and Mandarin Cuisines

Carriage House Pizzeria

21 South Main Street
781-784-2700
Pizza, subs, salads, Italian fare.

Coriander Bistro

5 Post Office Square
781-784-2300
Indian and Nepali food.



TOWN OF WALPOLE
To Francis William Bird Park

TOWN OF CANTON
to Canton Aqueduct and Reservoir Pond

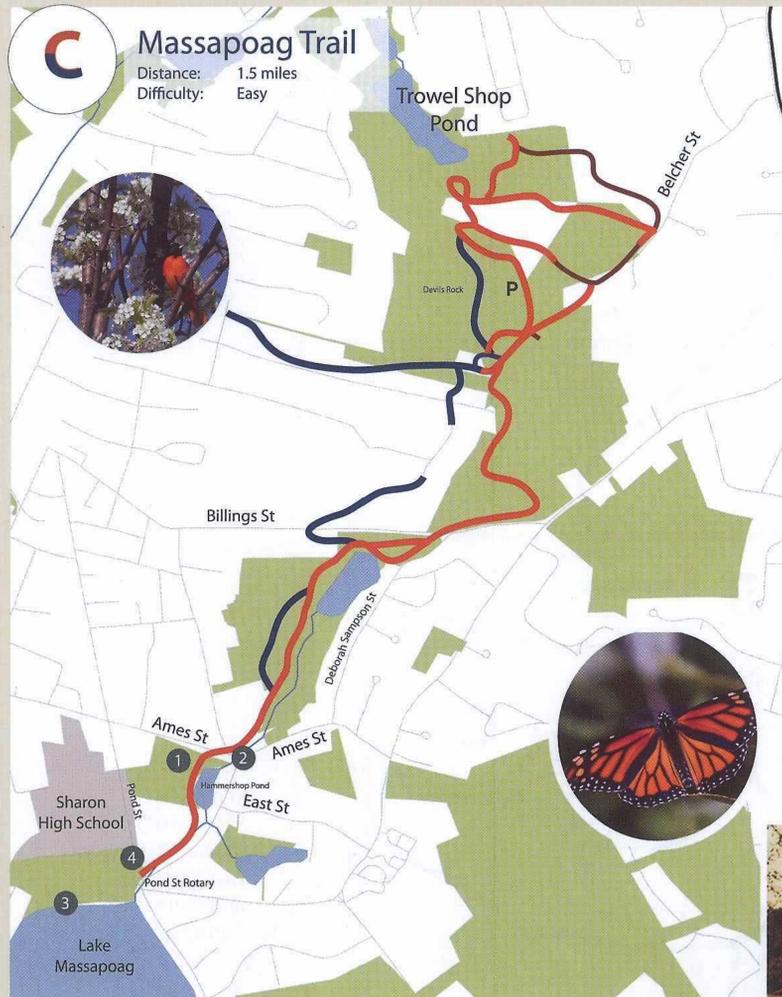
TOWN OF STOUGHTON
to Mary Baker Eddy
Historic House
and Bird Street
Conservation Area

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH
to Gillette Stadium
and F. Gilbert Hils
State Forest

TOWN OF EASTON
to Children's Museum and
Ames Estate



Photos, clockwise from top
American Robin Eggs, Ann-Marie Ford; Crescent Ridge, Heidi Heway Lane;
Ward Berry Farm, Ann-Marie Ford; Corriander Restaurant, Ann-Marie Ford



Massapoag Trails

- Blue Blaze
- Orange Blaze
- Private

1 Walter Griffin Playground 2 Hammershop Pond Dam
3 Memorial Park Beach (residents only) 4 Beech Tree Park

Sharon's Industrial Past: The Six Privileges

Massapoag Brook and Beaver Brook, both fed by Lake Massapoag, were the engines of Sharon's industries between the 18th and 19th centuries. Along Massapoag Brook were six established "privileges", which gave owners the right to construct dams and use water power to operate mills. Five of six of these privileges still exist; vestiges of many former mills are evident today.

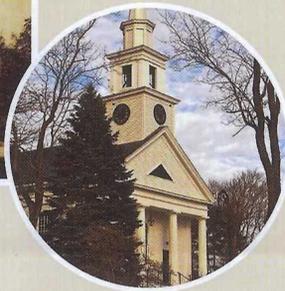
Hammershop Pond: Knives and farming tools; firearms; saw and grist mills; textile mill. At one time the knife factory turned out 30,000 shoe and butcher knives. The dam and spillway are still intact.

Knife Works Pond: The former site of textile mills and knife factories. Several houses on the north side of Ames Street were homes of knife factory workers.

Mann's Pond: The water rights originally belonged to Paul Revere's son, Joseph Warren Revere, who sold it to George H. Mann in 1831. The Mann family manufactured cotton duck sailcloth and delivered an average of 3,000 pounds of product a week. The mill ceased operations in 1900 due to competition from cotton mills in the south and the building was destroyed by fire in 1919. Several houses on Mann's Hill Road were built for workers.

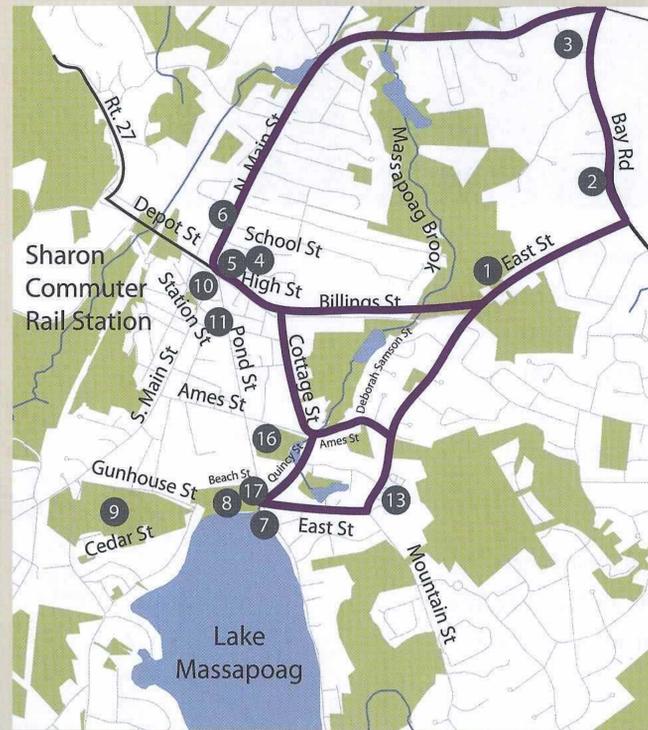
Trowel Shop Pond: Remnants of past industrial activity no longer exist, but Trowel Shop Pond used to be the site of a cotton mill then a knife and trowel factory, hence the name.

Although Lake Massapoag did not provide any water power, the great pond's bed was rich in bog ore, which was used to make household and farming tools and most famously, cannon and cannon balls for the Revolutionary War.



B Historic Bike Trail

Distance: 3 miles
Difficulty: Easy



1 Deborah Sampson Gannett House 2 Crescent Ridge Dairy 3 Cobbs Tavern 4 Sharon Historical Society 5 Sharon Public Library 6 Police & Fire Museum 7 Massapoag Trailhead 8 Memorial Park Beach (residents only) 9 Sharon Dog Park 10 Pizzigando's 11 Alice's Mandarin Taste 12 Coriander Bistro 13 Rock Ridge Cemetery 14 Sharon Community Center/Rec Dept. 15 Community Center Beach (public) 16 Walter Griffin Playground 17 Beech Tree Park

Local Distinguished People

Job Swift, elected in 1765, is one of the first Selectmen in the Town of Sharon, when it was still known as Stoughtonham. Swift was a true patriot; serving as a delegate to the Provincial Congress in 1774 and often referred to as the "Paul Revere of Sharon." He was among the first responders in alarming Sharon of British military movement in April of 1778, during the first phase of the American Revolutionary War.

Job Swift's former home is located at 291 Mountain Street which is currently a private residence and not open to the public. He is buried in Rock Ridge Cemetery.

Sanford Billings was a well-known Sharon citizen who was active in local politics and a staunch advocate for education. Billings established the Stoughtonham Institute in 1861 and served as its principal for 15 years. A high school replaced the Institute in 1877, where Billings again served as principal for another 14 years.

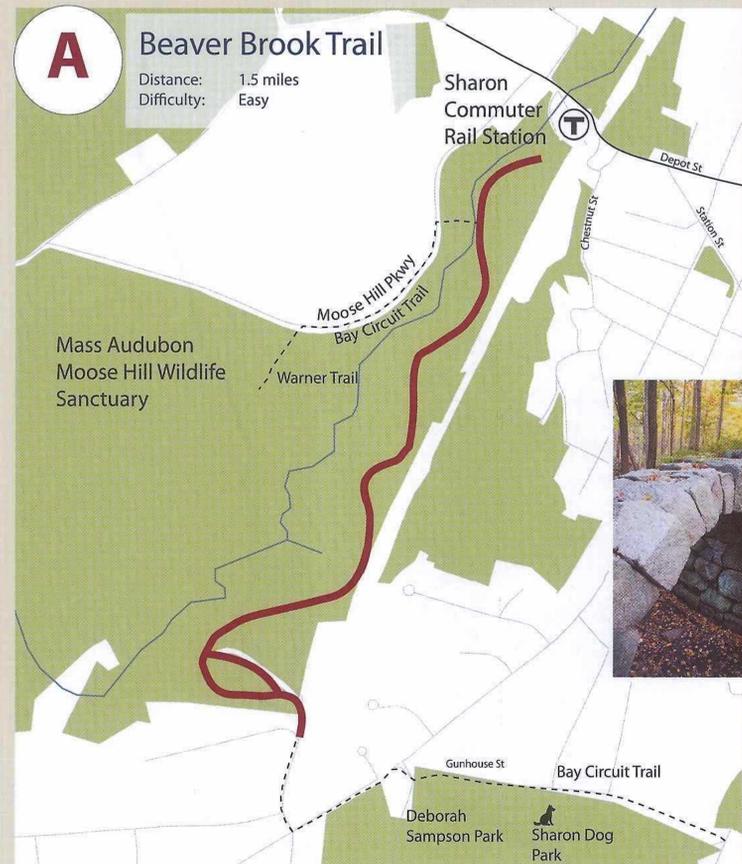
Billings was instrumental in passing state legislation that authorized towns to take ownership of books purchased by local school committees, which could be loaned to children. Sharon was the first town in Massachusetts to take advantage of this act.

Deborah Sampson was born in Plymouth, MA in 1760 and known as Massachusetts' State Heroine. She disguised herself as a man and fought in the Revolutionary War for 17 months between 1782 and 1783 with the 4th Massachusetts Regiment. Deborah was wounded during her first battle, taking two musket balls in her thigh and a large gash on her forehead.

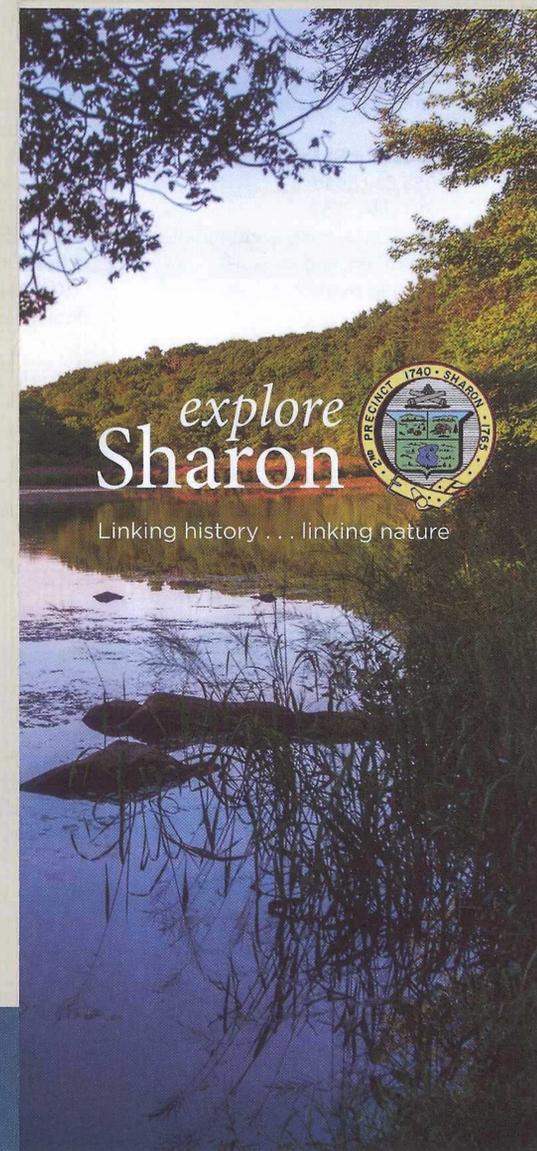
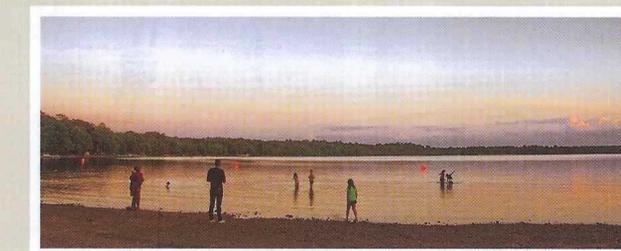


In the fall of 1783, Deborah Sampson recovered from her illness and returned home to Massachusetts and was awarded an honorable discharge. In the following spring, she married Benjamin Gannett, a farmer from Sharon.

The Deborah Sampson Gannett house at 300 East Street is where Deborah Sampson lived with her husband, Benjamin Gannett, and her three children until her death in 1827. The house is currently a private residence and the grounds of a working farm. A commemorating statue of Sampson is erected in the front of the Sharon Public Library. Sampson is buried in Rock Ridge Cemetery.



1 King Philip's Rock 2 King Philip's Cave



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