

Whistle Path Woods

Whistle Path Woods is a eight acre section of woodlands, that was acquired in 2000 and is comprised primarily of oaks and sassafras with a small wetland area. It serves as an important refuge and habitat for many of the plant and animal communities of the area, and is a vital link in the Provincetown Greenway-a corridor that allows species movement to occur.

Whistle Path Woods is named after an old cart lane used primarily for cranberry picking on the way to the "back shore", and for its proximity to the Old Colony Railway. The train would blow its whistle as it passed.

Whistle Path Woods is a passive recreational area open to the public as well as a link from the homes in the neighborhood to the Old Colony Nature Pathway. Whistle Path Woods also provides a natural wooded greenbelt along 342 feet of the old railroad bed. Hikers, bikers and cross country skiers use this informal trail and enjoy the solace of the woods bordering either side of the corridor.

Directions: It is accessible from Snail Road and Howland Street (primarily reached by walking along the Old Colony Nature Pathway) as well as by Thistlemore Road from Bradford Street. A well-maintained walking pathway extends from the railroad bed to Thistlemore Road. Parking is found along the entrance to the Old Colony Nature Path along Snail Road.



Whistle Path Woods was originally part of an 80 acre property owned by Max Bohm, the renowned Romantic Impressionist whose large oil painting "Study for Pilgrim Mural" can be seen in Town Hall.

Local naturalists have found bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), an uncommon flower, growing on the property. A member of the dogwood family, bunchberry is noted only in Mashpee and Provincetown on Cape Cod, according to Swenson and Pyle's *The Flora of Cape Cod* (1979).



Whistle Path Woods includes a, one-half acre red maple/tupelo swamp along its western edge. This wetland, formed in a blowout depression in the old dunes, has saturated soil owing to its intersection with the water table. The wetland provides important habitat diversity, a water source for wildlife, and absorbs stormwater runoff. Whistle Path Woods, like the rest of Provincetown, is composed of sands eroded off the Truro cliffs and reshaped by wind and waves over the past several thousand years. The coastal land forms closest to the Harbor, including the ridges on the Whistle Path Woods property, are older than the those closer to the Atlantic. They rise in dramatic steep ridges along the eastern perimeter of Whistle Path Woods. There is a pathway that runs through the property for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.





You are entering Whistle Path Woods, a seven acre section of precious Provincetown woodlands, comprised primarily of oaks and sassafras, and wetland areas. This serves as an important refuge and habitat for many of the plant and animal communities of the area, and is a vital link in the Provincetown Greenway, a corridor that allows species movement to occur. Whistle Path Woods is named after an old cart lane used primarily for cranberry picking on the way to the "back shore", and for its proximity to the Old Colony Railway. The train would blow its whistle as it passed.

Whistle Path Woods
 A conservation project between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Town of Provincetown and the Locke and Bohm families.
Est. 2001

LEGEND

P Parking

Trail

WHISTLE PATH WOODS CONSERVATION AREA TRAIL MAP
 Town of Provincetown and Provincetown Conservation Trust

0 300 Feet

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