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Welcome To Swampscott!

New Resident Guide

A MESSAGE FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SEAN FITZGERALD

With four miles of coastline and eight beaches, expansive views of the Atlantic, top-performing schools, quaint shops and fine restaurants, Swampscott has much to offer packed into three square miles.



My pledge to serve the people of Swampscott as Town Administrator is

both sincere and heart-felt. My great grandparents and grandparents were newcomers here and made Swampscott their home. Every day I work to make Swampscott a welcoming place for all who arrive on its shores. This guide is part of my efforts to achieve that worthy goal.

Sean Fitzgerald

OUR COMMUNITY

Swampscott is a vibrant community that has a rich heritage and many accessible amenities. There are local shopping areas on Humphrey Street and at Vinnin Square and a commuter rail providing service between Boston and Newburyport.



Monument Square & Mall

There is so much to see and do in Swampscott.

Here are just a few sites

- Monument Area designed by famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted
- Swampscott Historic Fish House
- Swampscott Railroad Station
- Forest River Trail Head
- Rail Trail
- Beaches
- Farmers Market
- Town Pier

RESIDENT SERVICES

Town Hall, located at 22 Monument Avenue, is the home of Swampscott's town government and administration.

Town Hall is the historic home of Elihu Thomson, who was an English-born American engineer/inventor and one of the co-founders of what became General Electric.

At Town Hall you will be able to register to vote and do early voting, pay your

property taxes, license your dog, take out nomination papers to be a Town Meeting member, and check out the latest Historical Commission exhibit among other things.

In the following pages, you will find helpful information to answer many of the questions about our community and town government.

Information Inside

Stay Informed	Page 2
Snow Emergencies	Page 2
Boats & Moorings	Page 2
Online Bill Payments	Page 3
Transportation	Page 3
Library	Page 3
Voter Info	Page 4
Volunteer Info	Page 4
Schools	Page 4
Beaches & Parking	Page 5
Dog Park & Pet Rules	Page 5
Senior Center	Page 6
Trash & Recycling	Page 6
Parks & Recreation	Page 7
Veterans Services	Page 7
Town Contacts	Page 8



Another good source of up-to-date information is the Town website at www.swampscottma.gov.



Town Hall

Swampscott New Resident Guide

STAY INFORMED

It's easy to stay informed on what's happening in town. The most comprehensive and up-to-date information is the Town website swampscottma.gov.

There are numerous Facebook pages to follow:

[Town of Swampscott](#)
[Swampscott Police](#)
[Swampscott Recreation](#)

Other Sources of News:

Swampscott News— a monthly Town-issued newsletter with information on upcoming meetings and events, as well as other newsworthy community updates.

The Swampscott Council on Aging issues a monthly newsletter, **Compass**, with information about Senior Center activities and programs.

You can also get **Customized News**, alerts, meeting agendas or meeting minutes by signing up on the Town website.

Lastly, Swampscott offers a notification and alert system. This platform allows you to receive alerts by phone, text and/or email about events, announcements, emergencies, weather-related conditions, health updates, etc.

Sign-up for any of these other sources of news on the [Town website](#).

To catch up on local committee and board meetings check the [Town website](#) for recorded meetings (when available) and meeting minutes.

To stay informed of local news and events, Swampscott is also served by other media outlets, such as the *Lynn Daily Item*, *Swampscott Patch*, and the *Salem News*.

To report anything from a pothole to a street light out, use [SeeClick Fix](#).

SNOW EMERGENCIES

The Town notifies residents and visitors of a snow emergency through a number of methods: 1) blinking blue lights located throughout the town on street poles, 2) automated notification system of phone/email/text, and 3) official announcements made through major media outlets. The Town may remove any vehicle impeding snow removal in

accordance with the bylaws.

Town bylaws require residents to clear the sidewalks of snow and ice. Hardship waivers are available if due



to age, disability or special needs such that a resident is unable to hire someone else to complete the task. [Click here](#) for an application.

BOATS AND MOORINGS

Moorings and Guest Moorings are handled by the Harbormaster and Town Treasurer/Collector. More information is available on the [Town website](#).



Guest Moorings are reserved through a system called Dockwa [click here](#) for more information. There is also an annual lottery in the Spring for boat/kayak/paddleboard storage at Fisherman's Beach. For more information [click here](#).



Swampscott New Resident Guide

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Convenience to Boston and Logan airport is a great feature of Swampscott. Swampscott is served by both the MBTA commuter rail and the MBTA bus system, providing public transportation both to Boston and area communities north and south of Swampscott. The train ride to Boston's North Station is a speedy 30 minute ride.

Our train station is on the National Register of Historic Places and is an 1868 Stick Style structure. The train depot is a popular stop on the



commuter rail, providing service to Rockport and Newburyport to the north and North Station in Boston to the south.

Our bus lines main routes are along Paradise Road, Humphrey Street and Essex Street. Also nearby, in Revere is the Wonderland Blue Line subway stop which provides overnight parking, as well as subway service to Logan Airport and Boston.

In addition there are seasonal ferries running from Salem and Lynn to Boston.

For schedule information about MBTA services to and from Swampscott, [click here](#).

ONLINE RESIDENT TOOLS FOR BILL PAYMENTS

The Town of Swampscott seeks to make government easy and accessible to residents. There are many municipal bills that can be paid online through [City Hall Systems](#).

Here is a sample of some of the bills you can pay through City Hall Systems.

- Beach Sticker
- Birth Certificates
- Boat Excise Tax
- Bulk Item Stickers
- Mattress Recycling Stickers
- Death Certificates
- Dog Licenses / Pooch Passes

- Marriage Certificates
- Mooring Permit Fees
- Police Details Payments
- Swampscott Tree Fund Donations
- Tax Bills – Property and Excise
- Water & Sewer Bill

Resident Billing Schedule 2023

BILL TYPE	ISSUE DATE	DUE DATE *
Real Estate	December 31 March 31 June 30 September 30	February 1 May 1 August 1 November 1
Water/Sewer	February 15 May 15 August 15 November 15	March 15 June 15 September 15 December 15
Auto Excise	January 15	February 15
Mooring Application	February 15	March 15

**If the bill due date falls on a weekend, the bills will be due on the following business day*

SWAMPSCOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Offering ocean views from the reading room and a collection that began in the months after Swampscott first



Swampscott Public Library

separated from the City of Lynn and became its own town, the Swampscott Public Library is one of the town's most used and treasured resources. With a local library card, you can borrow books, magazines and museum passes, log into many online databases, use the library's publicly available computers or access the collection of North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE), a collective of North Shore libraries.

The library also offers many programs for all ages. For our younger residents in summer and all year round in the

new teen room there are movies, needle felting and anime clubs. For adults there are book clubs, author talks and craft clubs.

[Visit here](#) to find out more about the many resources the Swampscott Public Library offers to residents.



Swampscott New Resident Guide

VOTER INFORMATION

The town elections are overseen by the Town Clerk. Local elections are held annually and state elections are held bi-annually.

Depending on your home address, you will be in one of six voting precincts. To find out what precinct you are in [click here](#). Voting for all residents is held at Swampscott High School.

The Town Clerk's office is at Swampscott Town Hall. There's also a lot of great voter information on the

[Town website](#).

The town is committed to voter accessibility and offers early voting at Town Hall as well as voting by mail. Registered voters who wish to vote by mail may file an application [here](#).



THE SWAMPSCOTT DORY

This iconic boat, still used widely today, was invented by Swampscott fisherman Theophilus Brackett

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

It is easy to get involved with what is important to you.

Swampscott has a representative Town Meeting that decides the important matters of municipal government.

Check with the Town Clerk's office to get information about running for a seat in your precinct for Town Meeting.

The Town also has many Boards and Committees that need and welcome volunteers. There are additionally many community groups that would welcome your involvement ranging from PTOs and PTAs at the schools, Big Blue Bargains a thrift store run by community volunteers and the Anchor Food Pantry located at 86 Burrill Street.

SWAMPSCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The [Swampscott Public School](#) system is a highly rated, public school district. It has over 2000 students enrolled in grades Pre-K through grade 12.



At the Pre-K level, the Swampscott Integrated Preschool educates children from age three to five and is dedicated to educating children who have varying learning styles to prepare them for

Kindergarten and a lifetime of learning. Children who have varying abilities are educated alongside children who are typically developing.

There are currently three elementary schools with a new consolidated elementary school under construction and scheduled to open in late 2024.



Those elementary schools include Hadley and Clarke Schools along with the temporary Blaney Street School all for grades K-4.

Swampscott Middle School, located at 207 Forest Avenue, handles grades 5-8. Swampscott High School at 200 Essex Street, opened in 2007, educates students in grades 9-12.

The town mascot is Big Blue and a wide variety of athletics are available to all students.



Swampscott New Resident Guide

SWAMPSCOTT BEACHES AND PARKING



Swampscott has some amazing public beaches, including Fisherman's Beach - which may, arguably, be

America's first public beach and was established by public domain on April 17, 1896. From King's Beach, which borders Lynn, to Preston Beach, which borders Marblehead, Swampscott residents can find plenty of sand and sun along its shoreline.

Recreation beach parking stickers are for use by residents only. Resident Beach Stickers are needed by May 1st of each year. For more information see the [Town of Swampscott website](#).

Recreation parking stickers are required for anyone wishing to park at Preston, Phillips, Whales and Eisman's

Beaches. Parking for Whales and Eisman's beach is at the rear of the parking lot by the Blocksidge Park turf field. There is a footpath to Puritan Road and the beaches.

Stickers also allow for parking along one side of Columbia Street by the train station.

No sticker is needed for Fisherman's or King's Beach on Humphrey Street.



Swampscott Recreation Parking Sticker 2023

Recreation beach parking stickers are NOT VALID where "Resident Permit Parking Only" is allowed. There are discounts for resident seniors.

Residents may obtain stickers online at: [Swampscott Beach Parking Stickers](#).

Also, there are specific streets for parking at the beaches. Detailed information on beach parking can be found at the [Town website](#).



DOG PARK AND PET LICENSE RULES AND REGULATIONS

While dogs are very much welcome in Swampscott, town bylaws outline certain rules for dog owners so that people and pets can co-exist in harmony. For example, all dogs must be licensed annually and are always required to be on a leash in public. In addition, there are certain restrictions regarding dogs being on playing fields, school property and beaches.

However, recognizing that dogs enjoy being able to run off leash, Swampscott created a dog park behind the Swampscott Cemetery which offers 15,000 square feet of fenced-in space.

A yearly "Pooch Pass" can be obtained for a nominal fee which provides access to the dog park. Proceeds of the pass support general upkeep of the park.

Your pup's annual dog license, which requires proof of rabies vaccination and a fee, and an optional pooch pass can be obtained [online here](#), by mail with a check to the Town Clerk's office or in person at the Town Clerk's office.

For information about the licenses, pass and regulations as well as the applications to apply, [visit the Town website](#).



Swampscott New Resident Guide

SWAMPSCOTT SENIOR CENTER

The Swampscott Senior Center is the place to be for active aging and socialization!

Located at 200R Essex Street, behind the Swampscott High School, the Senior Center is a constant site of activity.

Check out their website at www.activeagingswampscott.com

Come on in for a tour and a cup of coffee. There is something for everybody.

- Card Games
- Mah Jong
- Bingo
- Knitting
- Quilting
- Bocce
- Art Classes
- Scrabble
- Weekly Movies
- Exercise Classes:
- Yoga
- Strong Bones
- Mindful Movement
- Balance Classes
- Walking Group
- Bingo Tuesdays & Fridays
- Transportation Services

Resources include:

- Social Work Services
- SHINE Counseling
- Social Day Program
- Memory Café
- Solo Senior Support Group/ Living Alone
- Lending Library
- Medical Equipment available to borrow
- Free Tax Assistance (seasonal)

Regular group activities:

- Lunch Bunch—Trips to restaurants
- Theater Trips
- Museum Trips
- Intergenerational Current Event Club
- Men's Club
- Book Club
- Tech Support
- Creative Writing

Special events:

- BBQ's
- Holiday Parties
- Wine Tasting
- Spaghetti Dinners
- Pot Luck Suppers
- Art Shows
- Chess Club

Volunteer opportunities:

- Kitchen Help
- Front Desk Help
- Bus Drivers



Senior Center Cookout

TRASH AND RECYCLING

As a community, Swampscott has a long history of trying to reduce, reuse and recycle trash in order to minimize waste, which is both fiscally and environmentally responsible.

Every household is issued a rolling bin for weekly curbside trash pick-up. Excess trash can be placed in overflow bags which are available at Town Hall or local retail stores. Collection of [bulk items](#) can also be arranged for a fee.

Each week, residents are also permitted unlimited curbside pickup of recyclables either in an open blue bin, available for purchase from the town, or from non-conventional bins labeled

with large "RECYCLE" stickers provided for free at Town Hall.

In addition, Swampscott provides periodic recycling services for yard waste, composting, metals, mattress, mercury, Styrofoam, electronics, appliances, batteries, construction debris and drug takeback. For more information [click here](#).



There are two composting locations for food waste and organics: by the Dog Park near the Swampscott Cemetery and by the Police Station parking lot at 531 Humphrey Street. In addition residents

can contact [Black Earth Compost](#) to arrange curbside pick-up for a fee.

The Police Station lobby is a prescription drug drop-off location to drop off unused medications for proper disposal.

Swampscott is committed to a 30% waste reduction target by 2030

Swampscott New Resident Guide

VETERANS SERVICES



Veterans Day Services at Swampscott Cemetery

At the gateway to Swampscott, our Monument Square and Mall area honors local veterans from the Civil War,

WWI, WWII, Korean conflict, Vietnam War and Desert Storm.

Beyond yearly town observances for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, there are daily resources for our veterans such as the VFW building located on Pine Street.

Veterans services for residents are provided by the Veterans Services Department of the City of Lynn. Swampscott has a VFW Post 1240 located at 8 Pine Street. Additional information can be found on their [Facebook Page](#).

RECREATION & PARKS

Swampscott is dedicated to offering residents and visitors alike a wide range of recreational opportunities, such as Harbor Festivals, Farmers Markets and summer concerts.

Our Recreation Department offers multiple opportunities for all ages. Summer Junior and Children Programs include sailing and standup paddleboarding. School-year programs for youth include tennis, soccer and basketball.

Adult programs include pickleball, Zumba and more.

In addition to sports, the Recreation Department offers our youth the chance to explore creative expression and build life skills through cooking classes, babysitter training, and art and literature programs.



- Juneteenth Jubilee
- Swamptoberfest
- Holiday Festival & Parades
- Humphrey Street Block Party
- Car Show
- Indigenous People's Day

Town-sponsored recreation programs can be found on the [Swampscott recreation website](#) and via the [Town website](#).



Annual Car Show

From seasonal festivals, holiday parades, movie nights and more, Swampscott residents enjoy multiple annual events including

- First Night Swampscott
- Pride Celebration
- Strawberry Festival

ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENTS



Summer Concert Series



4th of July Fireworks



Harborfest



Farmers Market

Swampscott New Resident Guide

RECREATION & PARKS

Beaches

- Eisman's, New Ocean House and Whale's Beach
- Fisherman's Beach
- King's Beach
- Preston Beach
- Sandy Beach/Cassidy Park
- Phillips Beach

Recreation Areas

- Abbott Park
- Hadley School Recreation Area
- Jackson Park (Upper/Lower)
- Middle School Recreation Area
- Stanley School Playground
- Superior Street Playground
- Windsor Park Playground

Parks & Open Spaces Areas

- Chaisson Park
- Driscoll Park
- Howland Park
- Linscott Park
- Metropolitan Park
- Monument Mall & Square
- Rail Trail
- Richard B. Johnson Park & Paul A. Polisson Park
- Swampscott Cemetery
- SPOT Dog Park
- Town Hall Lawn

Conservation Area

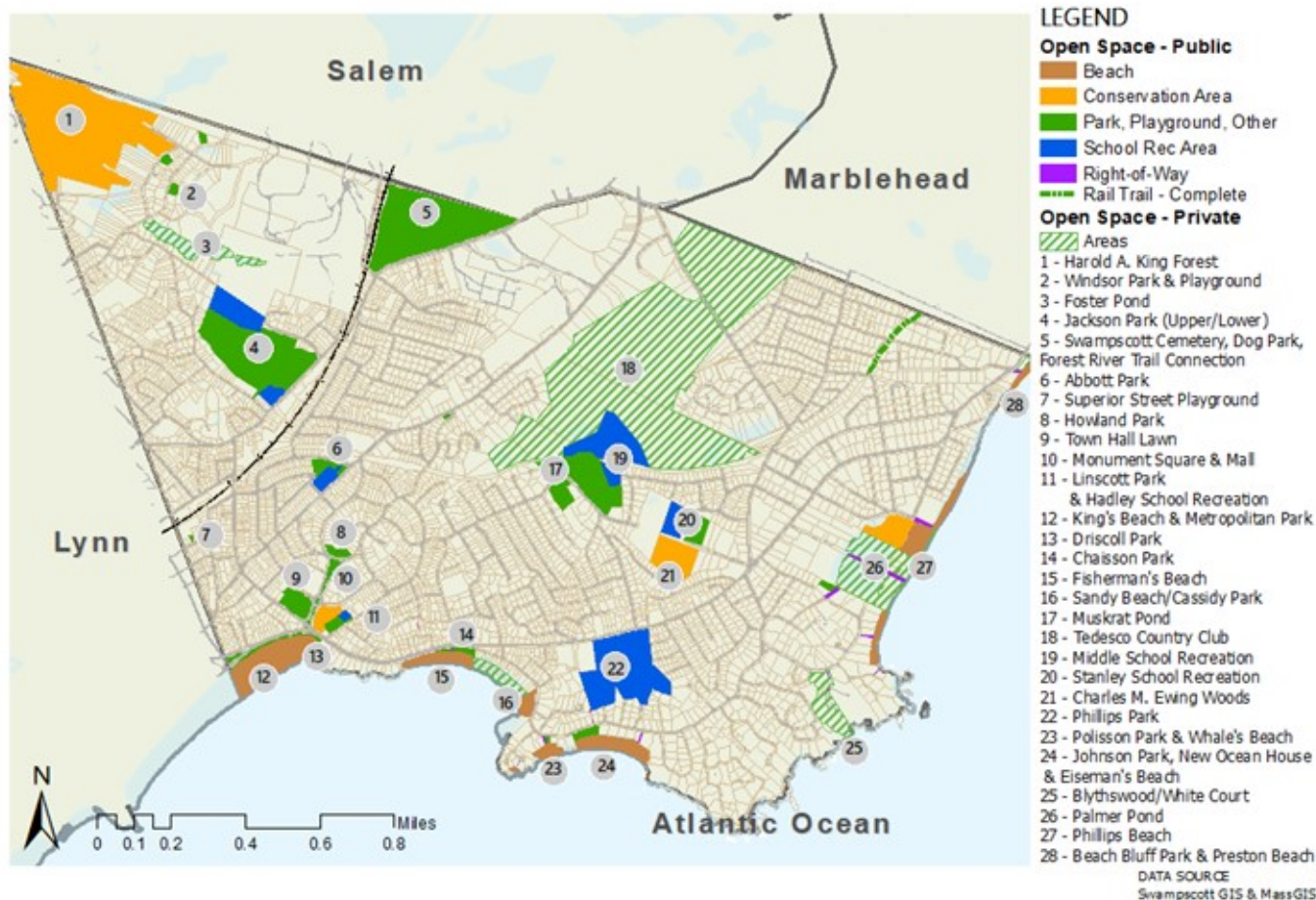
- Charles M. Ewing Woods
- Harold A. King Forest
- Harry D. Linscott Park
- Muskrat Pond
- Palmer Pond

Right of Ways and/or Easements

- Forty Steps
- Cliffside Park
- Little Point Road to Phillips Beach
- Martin Way
- New Ocean House Footpath
- White Court/Blythswood



Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2020 MAP 11 - OPEN SPACE INVENTORY



Swampscott New Resident Guide

TOWN OFFICIALS

Town Administrator

Sean Fitzgerald
sfitzgerald@swampscottma.gov

Select Board

David Grishman, Chair
dgrishman@swampscottma.gov

Katie Phelan, Vice Chair
kphelan@swampscottma.gov

Mary Ellen Fletcher, Board Member
mefletcher@swampscottma.gov

Danielle Leonard, Board Member
dleonard@swampscottma.gov

Doug Thompson, Board Member
dthompson@swampscottma.gov

School Committee

Suzanne Wright, Chair
wright@swampscott.k12.ma.us

John Giantis, Vice Chair
jgiantis@swampscott.k12.ma.us

Carin Marshall, Member
cmarshall@swampscott.k12.ma.us

Amy OConnor, Member
aoconnor@swampscott.k12.ma.us

Glenn Paster, Member
gpaster@swampscott.k12.ma.us

CONTACTS

CUSTOMER SERVICE	(781) 596-8850
ASSESSOR	(781) 596-8850
BUILDING	(781) 596-8857
COMMUNITY DEV.	(781) 596-8829
DPW	(781) 596-8860
FACILITIES	(781) 596-8850
FINANCE	(781) 596-8877
FIRE	(781) 595-4050 OR 911
HEALTH	(781) 596-8864
HUMAN RESOURCES	(781) 596-8810
LIBRARY	(781) 596-8867
POLICE	(781) 595-1111 OR 911
RECREATION	(781) 596-8854
RETIREMENT	(781) 596-8827
SENIOR SERVICES	(781) 596-8866
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	(781) 596-8850
TOWN CLERK	(781) 596-4167
VETERANS SERVICES	(781) 586-6911

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT SWAMPSCOTT



THE FIRST LOBSTER TRAP

Ebenezer Thorndike invented the first lobster trap in Swampscott in 1808



THE FIRST MARSHMALLOW FLUFF FACTORY

Marshmallow Fluff launched in 1920; the first factory was on Burrill Street next to the railroad bridge

TOWN WEBSITE:

WWW.SWAMPSCOTTMA.GOV

FACEBOOK:

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#)

INSTAGRAM:

[@SWAMPSCOTTMAS](#)

X (TWITTER):

[FOLLOW US ON X](#)