

④ Sowams Woods, Barrington



Sowams Woods, the area around Echo Lake, is believed to be an area that was set aside hundreds of years ago by the indigenous population for

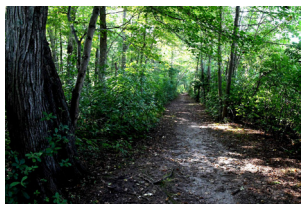
women and for childbirth, a place of peace.

In 2011, the Barrington Land Conservation Trust purchased the Sowams Woods, a pleasantly wooded property of 12 acres and home of the only nesting site in Rhode Island for the declining population of diamondback terrapins.

Sowams Woods features 800 feet of frontage on Echo Lake and is located near the PIC-WILL Nature Preserve, Big Mussachuck Creek salt marsh and Narragansett Bay.

If approaching by car, park on Tallwood Drive, Spinnaker Drive or Lighthouse Lane. On bicycle, use the East Bay Bicycle Path.

⑤ Hampden Meadows Greenbelt



The land between the two branches of the Sowams River (now known as the Palmer and Barrington Rivers), was known as Chachacust by the

Pokonoket Tribe and New Meadow Neck by the European settlers as early as 1653.

The appendage of “Hampden” to the New Meadow Neck name was given by the Rhode Island Historical Society in honor of John Hampden, the Plymouth colonist who visited the Massasoit Osamequin along with Edward Winslow in 1623.

The Greenbelt trail begins on Linden Road and runs half a mile north to the Kent Street Skating Pond which functions during the summer as a long-hydroperiod vernal pool. The Trail is open daily from dawn to dusk. Parking at the trail-head is limited.

⑥ Osamequin Nature Preserve



The Massasoit Osamequin of the Pokanoket tribe until 1661, lived in Sowams, an area that extended from what is today Providence to Bristol, RI.

The Osamequin Nature Preserve gives people today a chance to see what a portion of Sowams may have looked like 400 years ago, while appreciating the natural beauty of the area.

The Preserve lies along the northbound Wampanoag Trail, Route 114, that runs through Barrington and East Providence. The area was purchased in the 1960s through the Green Acres Program. It has an extensive trail system that leads to views of Hundred Acre Cove and nearby marshlands, with benches placed throughout.

The area was noted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be one of the 50 most important coastal marshes between Long Island and Cape Cod.

⑦ Hunt's Mills on the Ten-Mile River



The Ten Mile River flows for twenty-two miles from Plainville, MA, to East Providence and once provided water power to a series of mills built along its banks from 1643 to 1893.

The mills in the 1643 Rehoboth Purchase were first located along the Ten Mile River by Stephen Payne as early as 1645. In 1671 Israel Sabin and Payne were operating four mills on this site along the River.

Today, Hunt's Mills serves as the headquarters of the East Providence Historical Society at 65 Hunts Mill Road (off of Pleasant Street) and is open to the public from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the second Sunday every month except in the months of January and February for guided walks along a mile-long hiking trail that runs along the Ten Mile River.

⑧ Bridgham Farm & Newman Oak



A park is all that remains of the colonial era Bridgham Farm, the last sizable tract of undeveloped, pristine farmland, once part of the ancient Rehoboth

“Ring of the Green”, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The Farm can be accessed at a small parking lot near the intersection of Pleasant and Miller Street in East Providence. It is contiguous with a walking path which skirts the Turner Reservoir from Route 152 south to Pleasant Street.

This property serves as valuable protection for the adjoining Turner Reservoir, once the source of drinking water for East Providence.

The champion Newman Oak, at the southern edge of the Farm next to the Brigham Farm Road cul-de-sac entrance, is believed to be at least 400 years old.

⑨ Neutaconkanut Hill, Providence



A fabulous view of downtown Providence can be seen from the top of the 290 foot Neutaconakanut Hill, located along the western border of the City.

Hiking trails throughout the Park (see photo on the cover panel) lead to rocks that mark the location where American Aboriginal people gathered for meetings among the Narragansett, Nipmuc, Massachusetts and Pokanoket Tribes over 400 years ago,.

The Neutaconkanut Hill Park is open year round from dawn to dusk near the intersection of Killingly and Sunset Avenue in the Silver Lake District of Providence (Take Interstate Route 195 to Rte 6 West to the RI-128/Killingly Street exit and follow Killingly Street south to Sunset Avenue). Ample off-street parking is available.



Discover Open Spaces from 17th Century Rhode Island

Including:

King Philip's Seat at Mount Hope, Bristol
Waypoysset Preserve, Bristol
Jacobs Point, Warren
Sowams Woods, Barrington
Hampden Meadows Greenbelt, Barrington
Osamequin Nature Preserve, Barrington
Hunt's Mills on the Ten-Mile River, East Prov.
Bridgham Farm and Newman Oak, East Prov.
Neutaconkanut Hill, Providence

Visit nine unique places that are largely unchanged since the end of the 17th century.

Learn about dozens of other places from the 17th century in the East Bay and nearby Massachusetts on the Sowams Heritage Area website:



SowamsHeritageArea.org

Many people think that the 17th century is gone in East Bay Rhode Island. No buildings from that time survive undisturbed, and much of the land has been transformed or covered over with new buildings.

If you know where to look, however, you'll find evidence of that important time when this area was being settled by colonists who displaced most of the indigenous people who had lived here for over 10,000 years.

Locate the nine open spaces on the map in this brochure, and then travel to each one by to the land and water as it might have once looked.

Visit the www.SowamsHeritageArea.org website and find over fifty locations on-line that are part of the story of what happened in East Bay RI and nearby Massachusetts in the 17th century.

Support for this project was provided by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



① King Philip’s Seat, Mount Hope, Bristol



A hollow at the base of a large quartz outcropping on the Mount Hope property of Brown University in Bristol is known as King Philip’s “seat”

or “chair”.

Items found on the property confirm that the site was occupied by aboriginal people for thousands of years. King Philip is reported to have met with various councils and audiences at this site.

The Seat can be accessed by going to the office at Mount Hope Farm, 250 Metacom Avenue (Route 136) to request permission and directions to the site. On this property one can also find a marker at the site where Philip was killed on August 12, 1676 ending the King Philip War that began on June 24, 1675 in what is now Warren.

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② Waypoysset Preserve, Bristol



The Waypoysset Preserve is one of 45 land trusts in Rhode Island that have set aside land for preservation. This land that has remained

much as it was in the 17th century.

It runs just north of 45 Narrows Road in Bristol to the Bristol Narrows at the mouth of the Kickemuit River in Mount Hope Bay. There is ample parking at the narrows where the path to the Preserve can be accessed.

Trails can be accessed from the parking lot at the end of Narrows Road and run past a stream that runs through the woods. The preserve supports a variety of indigenous plants and animals within its boundaries.

③ Jacobs Point, Warren



While much of the shoreline in the Sowams Heritage Area has been privately acquired and built upon, several parcels in the Town of Warren have

been preserved essentially as they were 400 years ago by the Warren Land Conservation Trust.

Jacobs Point in South Warren runs between the East Bay Bicycle Path and Narragansett Bay and reveals a natural salt marsh environment reserved for the wildlife that inhabit the area. The Warren Land Conservation Trust has installed platforms for osprey as well as nesting bottles for purple martins who have returned to the area. Recently acquired land along the eastern shore of the Palmer River in North Warren has greatly expanded shoreline land and trails are currently being developed to access this area.