

Sanctuaries

Open to the Public



Founded in 1959, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is the local land trust for the island of Martha's Vineyard. Our mission is to conserve the natural, beautiful, rural landscape and character of Martha's Vineyard for present and future generations. The Foundation was created by Henry Beetle Hough and Elizabeth Bowie Hough to save a small, Edgartown property known as the "Sheriff's Meadow." Since our founding, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has grown considerably. We now own 2,075 acres of conservation land

and protect an additional 825 acres with conservation restrictions. Sheriff's Meadow is a nonprofit, charitable organization supported by contributions.

We are your local land trust, and we invite you to enjoy visiting the sanctuaries described in this guide and to become involved. To find property-specific trail maps and to learn more about Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, please visit our website, found at www.sheriffsmeadow.org.

Conserving the natural, beautiful, rural landscape and character of Martha's Vineyard for present and future generations.

Please send me information on the following:

- ☐ Volunteer Opportunities, in the field and in the office
- ☐ Guided Walks and Outings
- ☐ Employment Opportunities
- ☐ Donating Land or Conservation Restrictions
- ☐ Making an Endowment Gift
- ☐ Stock Donations
- ☐ Planned Giving and Bequests

Enclosed please find my gift of:

\$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Founded by Henry Beetle Hough and Elizabeth Bowie Hough in 1959.

A MARTHA'S VINEYARD LAND TRUST

Cover photo: Stephen Chapman

Sanctuary Guide

Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary

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Bittersweet Hill

Bittersweet Hill commands a view of Edgartown Harbor, Katama Bay, and all of Water Street in Edgartown. Trails connect to nearby Town and Land Bank conservation lands.

No parking available onsite. Park in Edgartown and walk over via the Gardner property, or park on Chappy at the Land Bank's Chappy Point Beach parking lot and walk over via the Gardner property.
- 2

Brightwood Park

The 8.8-acre Brightwood Park directly abuts the Land Bank's Ramble Trail Preserve. Cloven by a steep ravine, these neighboring properties are linked together by a trail. Swamp azalea, beetlebung and highbush blueberry grow in the wetland.

From State Road in Vineyard Haven, take the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road 0.4 mile to Winyah Lane. Turn right after 0.6 mile onto Weaver Lane. The trailhead is on the right at the end of Weaver Lane.
- 3

Brookside Ridge Preserve

The 43-acre Brookside Ridge Preserve offers a path through a magnificent grove of American beeches. The Preserve's main trail is dedicated to Steve Crampton, President of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation from 2006 to 2008.

From the West Tisbury town line, take Middle Road 0.2 mile into Chilmark and park at the Land Bank trailhead for Tiasquam Valley Reservation. Walk up-island on Middle Road to Sarah Brown Lane, on the left, and follow trail signs to the Preserve.
- 4

Caroline Tuthill Preserve

With 150 acres of woods, salt marsh, meadows and kettlehole ponds, Caroline Tuthill Preserve is one of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's largest sanctuaries.

From the Triangle in Edgartown, travel 0.4 mile west on the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road to roadside parking and a kiosk.
- 5

Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary

Waves beat against boulders, grasses bend in the breeze, water tumbles down rocky stream beds. One finds such scenes at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary. Enjoy rugged trails crossing 400 acres of forests, bluffs, beaches and bogs.

From State Road, take Indian Hill Road 1.3 miles and turn right onto the Obed Daggett Road. Following the "Sanctuary" signs, take Obed Daggett Road one mile to the trailhead.

- 6

Eastman and Knapp Preserves

The Eastman and Knapp Preserves offer a lovely trail that descends to the shore of Menemsha Pond, with breathtaking views of Menemsha Pond and Prospect Hill on the way.

From State Road in Aquinnah, turn onto East Pasture Road. Follow signs to parking.
- 7

Goethals Family Trail

Some 9.5 acres of sand dunes, coastal heath, streams and woodlands are protected by a conservation restriction on land that is owned by the Town of West Tisbury. In the off-season months, the public is invited to enjoy the Goethals Family Trail.

Follow the Lambert's Cove Road to the parking lot for Lambert's Cove Beach. Public parking is available in the off-season months.
- 8

Little Beach

Little Beach consists of 20 acres of sandy beach along Nantucket Sound and the marshes surrounding much of Eel Pond. Rare birds breed here, including terns and piping plovers.

Little Beach may be reached via Fuller Street Beach.
- 9

Huckleberry Barrens

Huckleberry Barrens is a 17-acre swath of the Katama Plain. A loop trail explores barrens of huckleberry, thickets of scrub oak and groves of cedars and bayberries.

Head south on the Katama Road and turn left onto Edgartown Bay Road. Trailhead is located on the right.
- 10

Middle Road Sanctuary

A forest of black, white and scarlet oaks grows here on the rugged glacial moraine of Chilmark. Trails loop across Middle Road Sanctuary, and the King's Highway and other trails create connections to other conservation lands.

Heading up-island, take Middle Road past Meetinghouse Road and find the trailhead 0.4 mile ahead on the left. Heading down-island from Beetlebung Corner, pass Tabor House Road and find trailhead 0.2 mile up on the right.
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Nat's Farm

Along Old County Road in West Tisbury lies Nat's Farm, a 56-acre expanse of field, meadow, woods and pasture. Trails run the perimeter of the land and offer connections to the State Forest.

Located off Old County Road, approximately 1/2 mile north of Scotchman's Bridge Lane and 1/2 mile south of the West Tisbury School.

- 12

Ox Pond Meadow

Open meadow, blueberries and a bit of woods make up Ox Pond Meadow. A path crosses the meadow and offers a lovely view of Nantucket Sound.

One may reach Ox Pond Meadow via Braley's Way and Orr Lane. No parking is available onsite.
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Packard Preserve

The Packard Preserve trail leads from Pocha Road to a grand, scenic overlook atop Katama Bay.

Parking is available across Pocha Road from the Packard Preserve, at the Land Bank's old Poucha Pond Reservation trailhead, 3.8 miles from the ferry landing.
- 14

Phillips Preserve

The Phillips Preserve is a 69-acre oak and pine forest on the west side of Lake Tashmoo. The Margaret Lindsay Memorial Trail offers a loop walk leading to Aunt Rhoda's Pond.

From the entrance to Lambert's Cove Road at the lower end, follow Lambert's Cove Road to Northern Pines Road. Take a right onto Northern Pines Road, and then turn left onto the one-way Army Road. The trailhead is on the left. To exit, take a left onto Army Road, turn sharply left onto the one-way Road to Chappaquonsett, and right onto Northern Pines Road.
- 15

Quansoo Farm

On the outwash plain of Chilmark, Quansoo Farm's fields, meadows and forest of sculpted oaks stretch to the shores of Black Point Pond and Tisbury Great Pond. The Land Bank trail easement runs the perimeter of the property.

From the Chilmark/West Tisbury town line, take South Road up-island 0.5 mile to the unmarked Quansoo Road. Turn left onto Quansoo Road, and follow Quansoo Road 1.4 miles to trailhead, bearing left at the Quenames fork and the Black Point Road fork.
- 16

Roth Woodlands

Along North Road and Old Farm Road in Chilmark, Roth Woodlands holds the headwaters of the Mill Brook and is a good place to observe warblers during migration.

Park along the North Road near its junction with the Old Farm Road. Walk down the Old Farm Road to the trail entrance on the right.

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Hal & Olive Tilghman Preserve

The Hal & Olive Tilghman Trail travels beneath stately hickories and connects to the Landing Place Road, by which one may travel to the Landing Place beach on Edgartown Outer Harbor.

The trail is located on the Chappaquiddick Road approximately 1.4 miles from the ferry landing. The nearest available parking is at the Chappy Community Center.
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Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary

The Foundation's namesake property, Sheriff's Meadow Sanctuary was the first property given to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. The *Ruth and Ed Brooks Trail* offers a loop walk and views of John Butler's Mudhole, Eel Pond and Nantucket Sound.

Approaching downtown Edgartown on Main Street, turn left onto Pease's Point Way. Continue straight onto Plantingfield Way. Proceed 0.2 mile to the kiosk on the right.
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Vineyard Golf Club Trail

View the frostbottom and connect to Dr. Fisher's Road and many ancient ways along this trail on the western edge of the Vineyard Golf Club conservation area.

Access the trail via the Edgartown-West Tisbury Road, just east of Metcalf Drive, or via the Dr. Fisher Road Ancient Way. No parking available onsite.
- 20

Wallen, Preston & Shands Preserve

Atop the Gay Head Cliffs and high above Moshup beach, these 5.6 rolling acres offer panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Nomans Land. The loop trail connects to the Aquinnah Cultural Center and Moshup Beach.

Near the circle by the Gay Head Cliffs, park at the Land Bank trailhead or in the Town of Aquinnah parking lot.
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West Chop Woods

The 90 forested acres of West Chop Woods are found less than a mile and a half from downtown Vineyard Haven. The old Lighthouse Road and other trails offer loops of varying lengths.

Entrances on Main Street and on Franklin Street.
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Woodger Trail

This beautiful path skirts the edge of the Chappy Golf Course and connects to the Cove Meadow conservation area.

Hike or bike to the trail from North Neck Road. Parking is available at North Neck Highlands Preserve.