

Cape Cod Pathways

Vision

Cape Cod Pathways is a project created in 1993 to link the Cape's conservation areas and protected lands through a walking trail network. The long-term vision of the project is to create a system of linked trails from one end of the Cape to the other.

The project has worked toward realizing this vision through the development of local Pathways plans, conservation of land, creation of easements, and promotion of walking events to improve public access to walking trails.

Current Initiatives

Pathways relies on limited county staff time, and a lot of volunteer effort. Current initiatives include:

- ◆ Working with staff and volunteers from the County's 15 towns to improve and promote Pathways
- ◆ Expanding our outreach effort to broaden participation and diversity at Pathways events
- ◆ Creating a new and improved website with resources for both walkers and walk leaders
- ◆ Expanding the **Friends of Pathways**, a growing group of volunteers interested in supporting and promoting the Pathways vision.

Events

Cape Cod Pathways sponsors two types of events. The longest-running event, **Walking Weekend**, occurs every fall over Columbus Day weekend, and biennially in the spring. Cape Cod Pathways sponsors and promotes walks offered by volunteer leaders over the course of four days. These walks range in length and difficulty, and are held all over Cape Cod, from Scusset Beach in Bourne to the Provincelands in Provincetown. This year Spring Walking Weekend occurs April 19 - 21, 2013, and Fall Walking Weekend, October 11 - 14, 2013.

The second event, epitomizing the long-term vision of the project, is **Cape Walk**. This event occurs over the course of 9 days and involves walking the length of Cape Cod, a distance of approximately 105 miles. Participants may walk for one day or many, but must plan on walking at least 12 miles during the course of a day. Participants disperse to their homes or hotels at the end of each hike, to reconvene the following day for the next segment. Some years the walk starts in Provincetown and proceeds west, other years it may start in Bourne or Falmouth and proceed east to Provincetown.

The next Cape Walk takes place in **June, 2014**.



Get Involved!

There are many ways to support Pathways.

- ◆ A few Cape Cod towns have Pathways committees focused on creating and maintaining trail linkages. If your town doesn't have a Pathways or Land Stewardship committee, consider approaching your town to start one.
- ◆ Become a member of one of the many private Conservation Trusts which actively work to protect land, create trails, and sponsor volunteer-led walks through conservation areas.
- ◆ Join the **Friends of Pathways** to support and advance the Pathways vision.

Contact Heather McElroy for more information about these or other opportunities.

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or 508-362-3828



For More Information...

We are in the process of developing a friendlier, easier to access, and more useful website. In the meantime, please visit the current Cape Cod Pathways website for information about:

- ◆ Events,
- ◆ An interactive Google map showing walking trails around Cape Cod,
- ◆ Links to conservation organizations on the Cape,
- ◆ Other walking information.

Go to www.capecodcommission.org; at the bottom of the page do a **Site Search** for **Pathways**, and follow the link.



Cape Cod Pathways is a partnership of three Barnstable County departments: the Cape Cod Commission, Barnstable County Human Services, and AmeriCorps Cape Cod.



Cape Cod Pathways:
A Project of Barnstable County