

Welcome to Dunn State Park

History

Dunn State Park is named after its benefactor, John Ainsworth Dunn (1831-1915) who had a lifelong career in the chair manufacturing industry, eventually founding the John A. Dunn Company with a large factory in Gardner and offices across the country. Dunn was seen by the people of Gardner as a man of strong personality who made the city known in the woodworking/chair industry. He was also very involved in the civic life of Gardner. In his will, Dunn gave this park property to the city of Gardner. At that time, a picnic area, 7-acre pond, field for baseball games, tennis courts and horseshoe pits were added. Over the years, Dunn Park grew to the current 120-acre day area that includes a 20-acre pond, playground, beach, picnic area and trails for us all to enjoy.

Natural Resources



Dunn State Park is a popular park, providing a wooded, lakeside experience close to an urban environment. There is a family picnic area, playground and beach all of which are universally accessible. At the beach, lifeguards are on duty daily from mid-June through early-September. The Pondhouse visitor center is open year-round with outdoor showers in summer, bathrooms, vending machines and, in the winter, a fire blazing in the fieldstone fireplace for cross country skiers and visitors to enjoy. The pond has a curving coastline with many interesting views of coves and an island. Ducks, gulls and turtles are often seen here and even the rare otter or moose! The pond is stocked yearly with trout, bass and other fish and has numerous fishing piers, two that are fully wheelchair accessible.

Woodland Trail Description



The Woodland Trail is designed for wheelchair accessibility and gives the user passage through the forested area adjacent to Dunn Pond. It features a compacted stone dust surface and is graded almost entirely under 8.5%. There are three steeper sections that do not exceed 14% which are marked clearly on the trail map. Total distance is approximately 1 mile.



The Woodland Trail is also one of the DCR's designated Healthy Heart trails. Healthy Heart Trails initiative to promote better health. Trails are the heart of our parks and DCR wants them to be the heart of a healthy lifestyle. Statewide, over 70 trails will be designated in the hope that Massachusetts residents will make them part of their regular exercise routine. Healthy Heart trails will be identified by a green heart symbol, will measure approximately 1.5 miles or less in length, and are easy to moderate in activity level. The program offers a great way to have fun and get exercise in a low cost way! To learn more about the Healthy Heart initiative, please visit:

www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/hht/index.htm

Dunn Pond Loop Trail Description



The main trail is 60" wide, and usually firm peat due to high use. Five steep sections reinforced with stairways provide the most challenging obstacles, especially because they have been subject to erosion. These railroad tie stairways are 5-6' wide with steps averaging 6" but as high as 17" and up to 7' apart. There are also 2 footbridges that are too narrow for wheelchair access. These items and grades are clearly marked on the trail map.



The most notable area of steepness occurs just beyond the Pond House and is not recommended for wheelchair use. From the back outdoor shower deck of the Pondhouse, the trail goes up over a knoll and down to the shore in the first 365' with a 26% grade and numerous stairs with irregular features. Side trails along the water are rugged in nature and not advisable for people who aren't surefooted.



The best section of this trail for wheelchair users who would like to get access to the pond other than the main Pondhouse area is off Betty Spring Road. Park at the Betty Spring road parking lot to access the UA fishing pier and to view the small cove inside the peninsula on the southwest shoreline. Total length 1 mile.

OTHER PARK INFORMATION



CARRY IN - CARRY OUT - PLEASE TAKE TRASH WITH YOU AND USE RECYCLE BINS FOR BOTTLES & CANS



UNIVERSAL ACCESS – Beach Wheelchair, UA Picnic sites and UA Bathrooms all available.



TRAIL MAP

Dunn State Park
289 Pearl St. (Rte. 101)
Gardner, MA 01440
(978) 632-7897



Dunn State Park Trail Map

Woodland Trail

Dunn Pond Loop Trail



Woodland Trail Information:

Fully wheelchair & stroller accessible

Trail Length: 1 mile

Trail Grade:
Average under 8.5%

Trail Width:
Minimum 60"

Surface:
Packed Stone Dust

Dunn Pond Loop Trail Information:

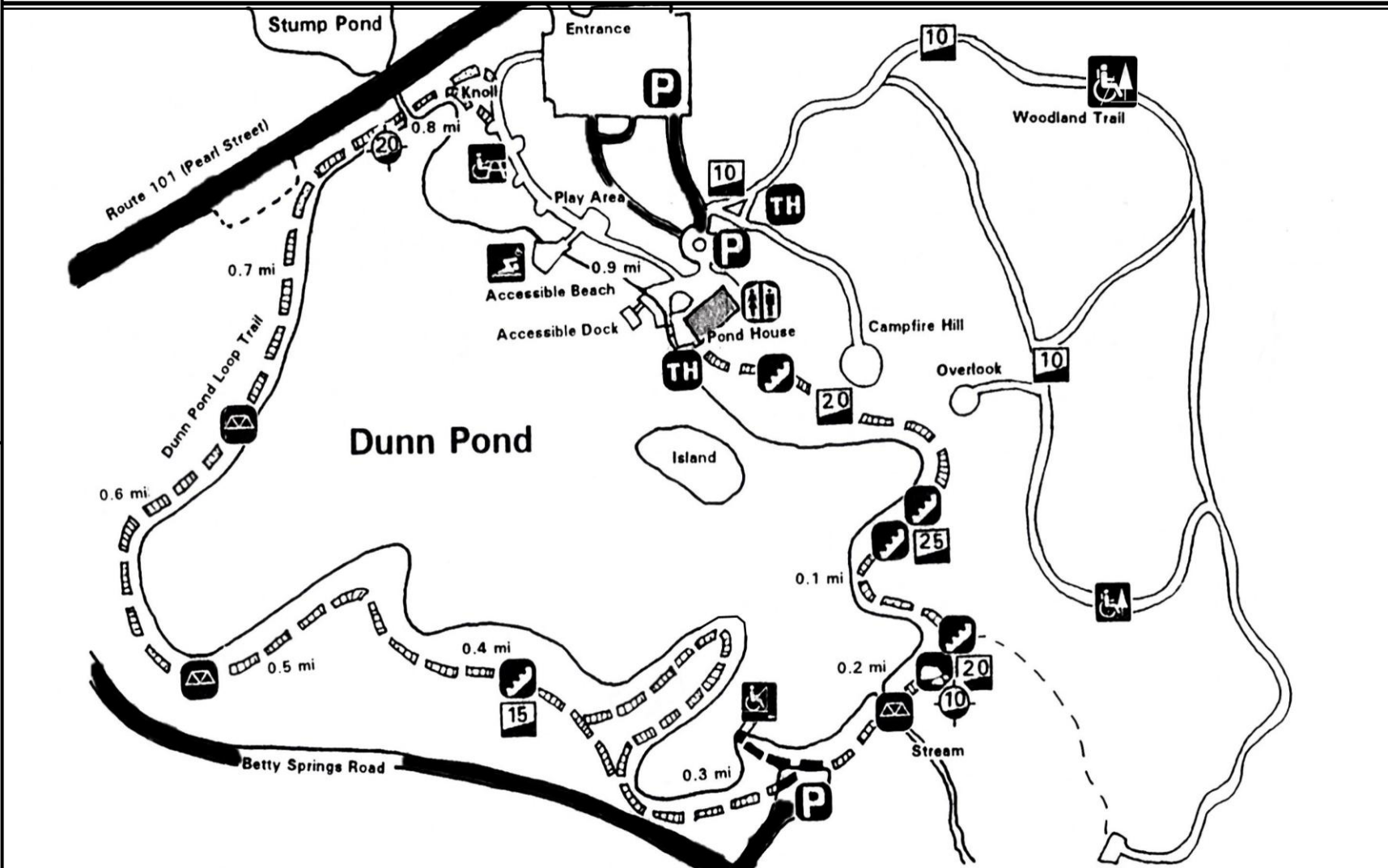
Healthy Heart Trail

Trail Length: 1 mile

Trail Grade:
Much of trail exceeds 8.3%. Five staircases
With steep risers.

Trail Width:
Main trail is 60" wide,
but footbridges are
narrower.

Surface:
Firm peat, leaves and
some rocks.



Legend

- Accessible Trails
- Assessed Trail **
- Paved Road
- Unassessed Trail
- Accessible Parking
- Trailhead
- Accessible Restrooms
- Grade exceeds 10%
- Cross slope exceeds 8%
- Rocks over 5" high
- Steps
- Accessible Picnic Area
- Accessible Fishing
- Accessible Trail

Trail Surfaces

- Paved
- StoneDust
- FirmPeat

Additional Information

Stairways are deep-set with railroad ties. Steps are often irregular in height due to erosion.
Trail conditions may have changed since trail was last assessed. ** Please ask park staff for updates on current trail conditions.