



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Cape Cod
Canal
Bikeway**
Massachusetts



Cape Cod Canal Bikeway

Massachusetts

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What began as dirt roads on either side of the canal, the Cape Cod Canal Bikeway now boasts paved service roads running for 13.9 miles through Barnstable County. Although there is no easy off-road route to cross the canal, each side of the bikeway offers a unique experience for trail users.

About the Route

Leaving from the visitor center in Buzzards Bay on the north side of the canal, the trail passes by recreational areas, including access to a short stone-surface trail in an open space nature preserve. In 0.6 miles this figure eight trail also features playground equipment, including a zip line and parcourse. Located just before and just after the Bourne Bridge, 1.3 miles into the trail, are RV camps with

grills and recreational areas.

The trail offers scenic views of the canal and chances to watch native birds scouting for fish or spot rabbits hopping across the trail. After passing under the Sagamore Bridge, 4.7 miles into the trail, trail users will soon reach the northern trailhead at the Scusset Beach State Reservation (7.1 miles from the visitor center). Sand dunes and grasses waving in the breeze mark the way to the picnic area, swimming beach, and rocky peninsula for walking at the end of the trail. From the Tidal Flats Recreation Area in Bourne on the south side, trail users can head north through a parking lot and pass the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge on the left. Interpretive signage shares the story and purpose of the railroad bridge.

Canalside residential houses offer local charm on the right, while open views of the canal and Bourne Bridge (1.5 miles into the trail) dominate to the left. After the bridge, the trail leaves the residential neighborhoods behind and becomes abundant with trees and wildlife. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the path is its use as an access point for recreational fishing along the shore of the canal. Many bicyclists even have fishing pole carriers on their bicycles.

After passing under the Sagamore Bridge 4.7 miles into the trail, the trail parallels the Cape Cod Central Railroad; trail users can see the ties of the rail line to your right. Near the end of the trail (6.4 miles from the Tidal Flats Recreation Area in Bourne) is an industrial area with a power plant and pipelines on the right and industrial docks on the left. Not long after, trail users will reach Sandwich Marina Park, where the trail reaches its eastern end at 6.7 miles. Here, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains the Cape Cod Canal Visitor Center, where they can learn more about the history and natural area. The sprawling marina offers multiple dining options—perfect after a trail ride—and is a close bike ride into town if trail users want to explore Sandwich Marina Park further.



Cape Cod Canal Bikeway

Massachusetts

States: Massachusetts

Counties: Barnstable

Length: 13.9miles

Trail end points: Canal St. to Scusset Beach Rd.
(North Canal) to Old Monument Neck Rd. to
Freezer Rd. (South Canal)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Cape Cod Canal Bikeway runs between the Buzzards Bay Recreation Center and Scusset Beach Rd. on the northern side. On the south side, the Bikeway runs between the Tidal Flats Recreation Center and the Cape Cod Canal Visitor Center.

Parking is available on the northern side at:

- 404a Canal Service Rd. (Sagamore Beach)

Parking is available on the southern side at:

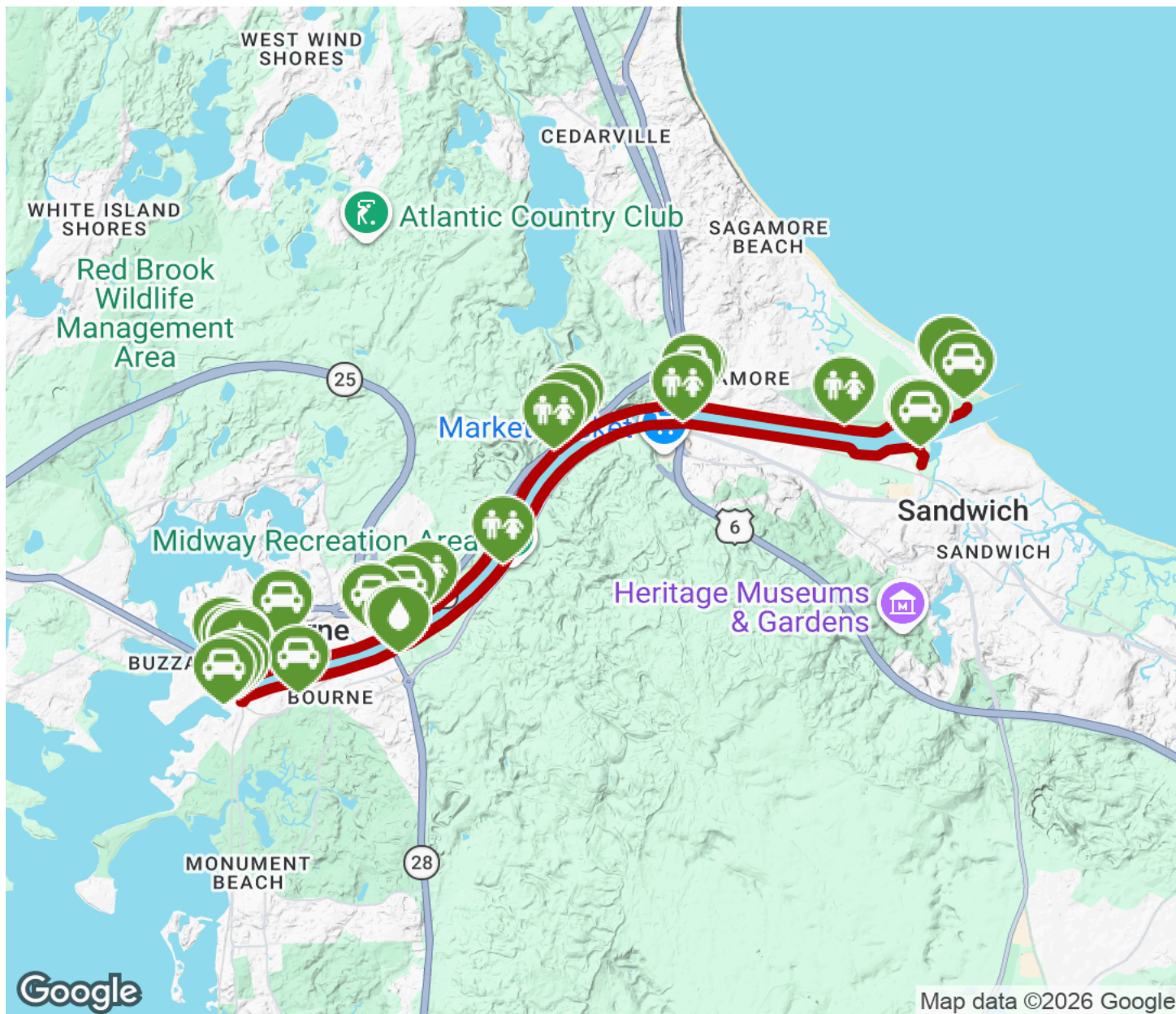
- 33 Canal Service Rd. (Bourne)
- 60 Ed Moffitt Dr. (Sandwich)

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Cape Cod Canal Bikeway

Massachusetts



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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