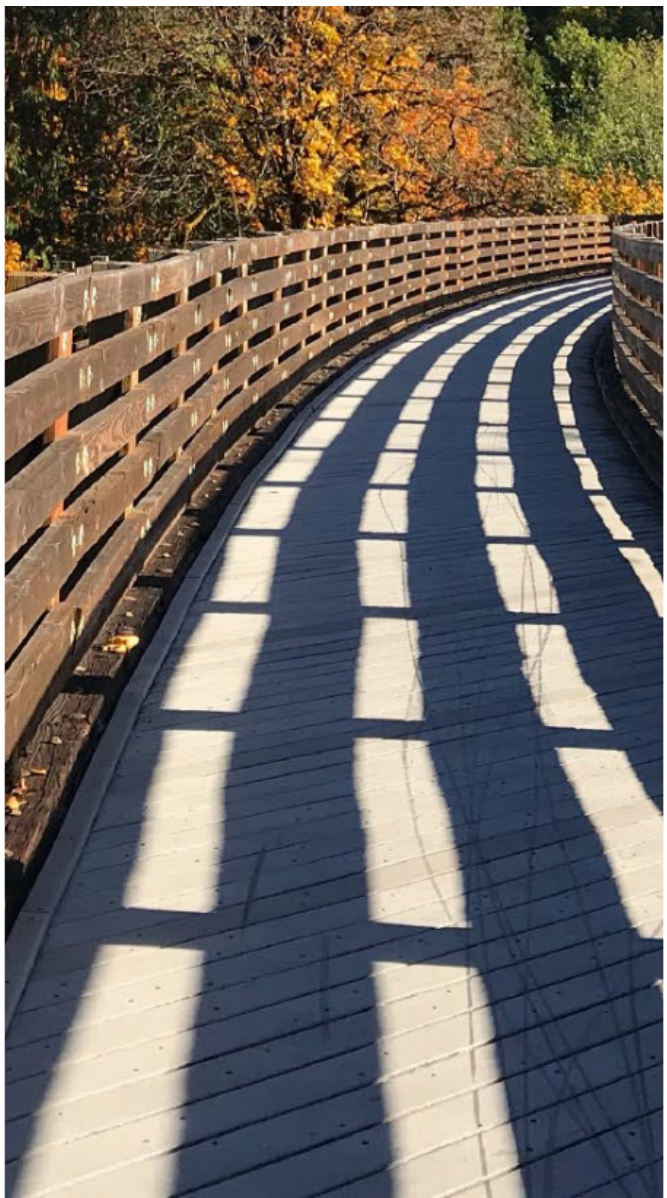
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Shining Sea Bikeway

Massachusetts

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The 10.7-mile Shining Sea Bikeway—the only bikeway on Cape Cod to feature a seaside section—boasts beautiful vistas of marshes, rivers, and the sea. It's no wonder that the bikeway was named after the lyrics to "America the Beautiful," written by Falmouth native Katharine Lee Bates.

About the Route

When starting your journey at the northernmost Depot Road trailhead along County Road in Falmouth, the scenic payoff for your efforts is located at the southern endpoint in Woods Hole. Turn left out of the parking lot on Depot Road (across from Pine Street), and use the sidewalk to travel 150 feet before using the crosswalk to enter the trail on the opposite side.

Along this stretch of trail, railroad ties can be seen to your left—a nod to the trail's railroad history. After crossing Winslow Road in 0.6 mile, the path enters a wooded area and goes through an underpass decorated with bike-themed murals from the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program.

About 4 miles in, the trail reaches the Great Sippewissett Marsh on either side of the trail. The saltwater marsh is an important ecosystem habitat for the local flora and fauna. The Little Sippewissett Marsh is 1.3 miles farther ahead, and a connection to the Sippewissett Campground for backpackers is located on the left. The word Sippewissett, meaning "little river," comes from the Wampanoag tribe, the original inhabitants of the area.

The trail continues through a wooded area, with trailside businesses dotting the landscape. In 2 miles, as the trail nears Depot Avenue/Highfield Drive in Falmouth, there is plentiful parking available in multiple lots. The bikeway then passes a bus station on your left before crossing the road to enter another trailside parking lot. The trail continues into another wooded area (Beebe Woods), occasionally intersecting streets with light traffic.

At 8.5 miles into the trail, trail users will be rewarded with stunning vistas of the Atlantic Ocean to the left as the trail passes by Surf Drive Beach. This makes for a perfect stopping point to rest and admire the ocean—or even take a dip in the water, as the swimming beach is fully accessible to visitors.

After leaving the unforgettable views of the ocean, the trail passes through a final wooded section that belies its suburban neighborhood with the sound of cars passing on nearby roads and houses located on the left side of the trail. As the path crosses a short bridge and pass through a long, linear parking lot, take care, as from here to the end. trail users may encounter cars along their route.

After crossing the Church Street overpass toward the end of

Shining Sea Bikeway

Massachusetts

States: Massachusetts
Counties: Barnstable
Length: 10.7miles
Trail end points: CR 151 (Falmouth) to Steamship Authority, Crane St. (Woods Hole)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Wheelchair Accessible,Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The trail runs between County Road 151 (Falmouth) and Steamship Authority, Crane St. (Woods Hole), with parking available at the southern end.

Parking is also available at:

- 23 Old Dock Rd. (Falmouth)
- 81 Depot Ave. (Falmouth)

NOTE: Parking at the southernmost end of the trail at the Steamship Authority in Woods Hole can get extremely congested and is not recommended during the tourist season. If you are starting from the southern endpoint, in the event of congestion, please plan to park at one of the additional parking lots that dot the trail as you head north. The parking lot near the bus station halfway through the trail and the parking lot at the northern terminus are your best bets.

See TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.

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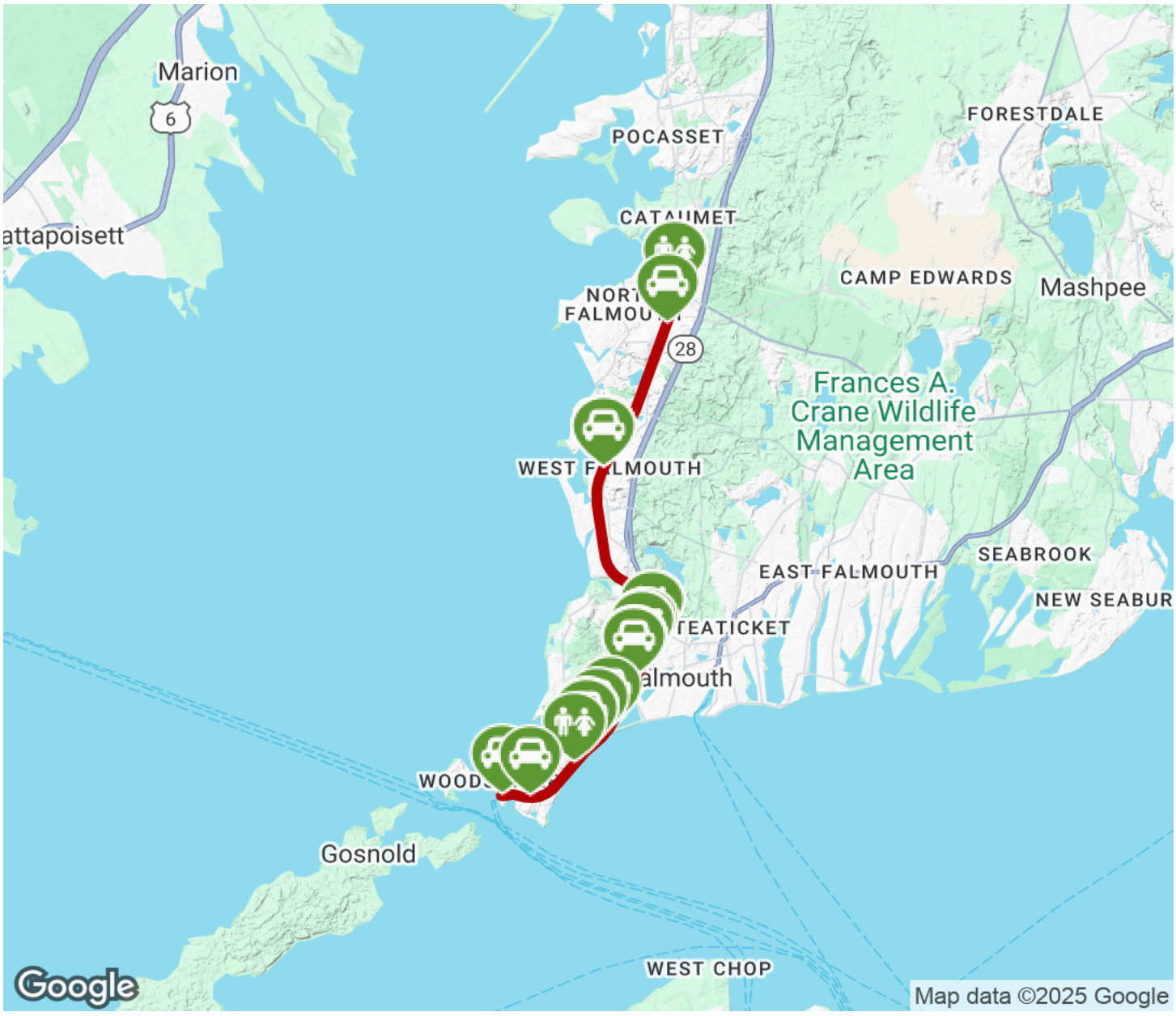

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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