THACHER SHORE CONSERVATION AREA

Located on Thacher Shore Road in Yarmouth Port, the Thacher Shore Conservation Area consists of mostly salt marsh with a short trail through a wooded thicket. The marsh end of the trail boasts commanding scenic views of the salt marshes and island thickets. Sandy Neck is also visible to the west. The Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown can be seen to the north on an exceptionally clear day.

The Thacher name comes from one of Yarmouth’s first inhabitants; Anthony Thacher, who first settled in the area in the early 1600’s. Short Wharf Creek ebbs and flows from Cape Cod Bay to the north. The mouth of Short Wharf Creek was once a bustling seaport for the north side of the Cape. “Central Wharf” as it was called hosted many of the historic “Packet” vessels that passed between Boston and Providence and eventually New York.

Small island type landforms are visible from the trail. They provide unique habitat for deer, fox and other animals that depend upon the marshes for forage. Remnants of old hunting camps can be found on the islands. Waterfowl hunting was and still is very popular along the northern portions of the Cape. The area also provides excellent bird-watching opportunities. Birds of prey such as hawks, owls, ospreys and falcons are common as well as wading birds, ducks, geese and numerous shore birds. It’s not uncommon to find local Cape artists capturing the natural beauty of the sea and marsh within the area.