



# Guide to Greenwich PEI National Park



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# Welcome to Greenwich, Prince Edward Island National Park!

Centuries of wind and waves have built some of the island's most impressive sand dunes at Greenwich, and its dynamic barriers have sheltered human settlements for at least 12,000 years. Part of Prince Edward Island National Park since 1998, this place of shifting sands and sparkling waters has many stories to share.

## Rich in Culture

The bounty of St Peters Bay has sustained people at Greenwich since the last glaciation. The Mi'kmaq named it *Puku'samkek* (the place with plenty of clams). Some of the island's first Acadians fished cod here from small Chaloupes. Scottish settlers farmed the fertile soil between the dunes and the bay. You can still see the outlines of the fields and modern fishers still carry on the shellfish harvest today.

## Naturally beautiful

Among the most spectacular features to be protected here is the unusually large horseshoe-shaped dune system. Known as parabolic dunes, their presence is a very rare phenomenon in North America. These towering sandy mountains topped with waving grasses guard the stretches of sparkling wetlands, creating a rich habitat for rare plant species and truly breathtaking panoramas. The wildlife of Prince Edward Island also love Greenwich, and watchful eyes will catch glimpses of red foxes, bald eagles, redwing blackbirds, dragonflies, and more.



Bald Eagle

## Exploring Greenwich takes longer than you think!

The Greenwich section of Prince Edward Island National Park is larger than it appears, and many visitors underestimate the time needed to explore it fully. Visitors should be prepared to spend at least a couple of hours if they wish to walk one or more of the trails, and longer if they plan to visit the Interpretation Centre exhibits.

## Mi'kmaq Language

Indigenous peoples' long-standing relationships with, and sacred responsibilities for, the lands, waters and ice have shaped their identities and influenced their cultures and languages for millennia. Many Indigenous place names were replaced by colonial names over the years. Parks Canada is committed to taking meaningful steps toward reconciliation and has worked closely with the Mi'kmaq community to develop and implement trilingual (English, French, and Mi'kmaq) media throughout places administered by Parks Canada on PEI. We have included the Mi'kmaq names for the locations found at Greenwich. A phonetic pronunciation guide and lexicon is included for your reference.



# Greenwich Site Map



Greenwich Trail

Greenwich Beach Complex

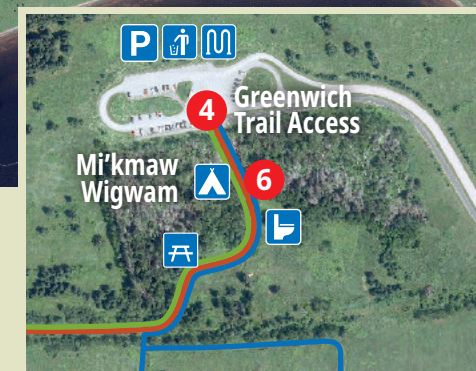


Piping Plover



## Legend

- |  |                     |  |                      |  |                |  |                  |  |                    |  |                   |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------------|--|----------------|--|------------------|--|--------------------|--|-------------------|
|  | EV Chargers         |  | Information          |  | Outdoor Shower |  | Red Chairs       |  | Unsupervised Beach |  | Wheelchair Access |
|  | Bike Rack           |  | Kitchen Shelter      |  | Parking        |  | Supervised Beach |  | Washrooms          |  | Wigwam            |
|  | Change Rooms        |  | Lookout/Birdwatching |  | Picnic Area    |  | Trash Can        |  | Water              |  |                   |
|  | Gift Shop           |  |                      |  |                |  |                  |  |                    |  |                   |
|  | Hiking/Biking Trail |  |                      |  |                |  |                  |  |                    |  |                   |



# Highlights

## 1 Greenwich Interpretation Centre



Features over 20 exhibits to help you learn and appreciate the amazing natural and cultural history of Greenwich. Fully wheelchair accessible and includes a multipurpose room, washrooms, and Parks Canada Shop.

## 2 Greenwich Beach



Stunning stretch of sandy shoreline along the Greenwich peninsula. Daily surf guard supervision offered in summer. Access via Greenwich Dunes Trail or the beach facility.

## 3 Beach Complex



Constructed using a sustainable design concept with solar-powered energy and composting toilets. Includes washrooms, change rooms, exterior showers, large picnic shelter, and boardwalk to the beach. Note: No ramp access.

## 4 Trail Access



Parking for all trails.

## 5 Parks Canada Red Chairs



Adirondack chairs featured at Parks Canada-administered locations across Canada; these are usually found in locations with spectacular views that are not to be missed!

## 6 Mi'kmaw Wigwam

Constructed using traditional methods and materials, the birchbark wigwam is located adjacent to the Greenwich Dunes Trail, approximately 50m from the trailhead.



Trail Access



## Mi'kmaw Pronunciation Guide and Lexicon

| ENGLISH                            | MI'KMAW  | PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION   | MEANING   |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Greenwich                          | Puku'samkek  | Boog-oo-sum-geg  | The place with many clams                             |
| Greenwich Dunes Trail              | Elmamketik awit'j                                      | El-mum-ged out-eej   | The place from which the sand extends                 |
| Havre Saint Pierre Trail           | Puku'samkek awti'j                                     | Boog-oo-sum-geg out-eej  | The place where there are plenty of clams in the sand |
| Prince Edward Island National Park | Kanata Aqq Epekwitkewey Tepkistek Maqamikew Anko'tasik | Gun-ah-duh aḡ ebb-eg-wit-gay-way teb-gis-teg muḡ-um-ig-oh Unk-oh-duss-ig |   |
| Tlaqatik Trail                     | Tlaqatik awti'j  | Tluḡ-ud-ig out-eej   | The place where people gather, the gathering place    |

Red Foxes



# Trails

## Greenwich Dunes | Elmamketik awit'j (4.6km, return)

Breathtaking in any season, this is most famous of the trails at Greenwich. Packed gravel trail passes through wooded areas and over a floating boardwalk over Bowley Pond toward towering sand dunes. A rope ladder takes you up and over the dune to a wooden staircase down to the beach. (Note: Tensor matting over the dune can be slippery.)

## Tlaqatik | Tlaqatik awti'j (4.7km, loop)

Tlaqatik follows the same path as Greenwich Dunes for the first kilometre and then takes the left branch at the junction. Composed of packed gravel pathways, Tlaqatik makes a loop through grasslands and some wooded areas and offers beautiful views of St Peters Bay. Note: There is beach access near the midpoint, down a slight bank just off the main trail.

## Havre Saint Pierre | Puku'samkek awti'j (1.1km, loop)

Lovely grassy trail of just over a kilometre in length, this is a good choice if you're short on time or seeking a less vigorous hike. Relatively flat with some gentle slopes, Havre Saint Pierre does a loop near the edges of the sparkling waters of St Peters Bay.



Red-winged Blackbird

## Important notes for visitors, especially trail users:

### Be prepared.

- Dress for the weather; there is little to no shelter on the trails or at the beach.
- Sunscreen and bug repellent are highly recommended.
- Washrooms and water are located at the Interpretation Centre. Trail washrooms are near the beginning of the trail only. Plan ahead!

### Respect nature.

- Don't approach or feed the wildlife. It is illegal and fines are significant.
- Stay out of all dune areas and respect areas of closure.

### Leashed pets are welcome on trails.

- Pets are prohibited from the beach from April to October.
- Ensure you have adequate water and supplies and always clean up after your pets.

### Special notes about trail conditions:

Trails and other facilities at PEI National Park are not maintained between Thanksgiving and Victoria Day each year. Visitors are still welcome to use the trails, but **please note there will be limited emergency service provided by Parks Canada during this period.**

### Special notes for cyclists:

- Helmets are mandatory for all ages.
- Yield to those on foot.
- Bikes are not permitted on the floating boardwalk. Please leave them at the bike rack at the trail junction.

### Accessibility and the Greenwich Trails

A rugged all-terrain wheelchair is available to borrow to facilitate trail use by those with mobility needs. Bookings are usually by reservation at least 24 hours in advance and are on a "first come, first served" basis. For more information or to make a reservation, call **902-566-7050** or email **pnipe-peinp@pc.gc.ca**.

If you are on-site already and think an all-terrain wheelchair would be helpful for your visit, please inquire at the Greenwich Interpretation Centre. If one is available, we'd be happy to accommodate you!



All-terrain Wheelchair

# Parks Canada App

Enhance your next visit by scanning the QR code and downloading the official Parks Canada App. Get on-the-go access to the essentials, easy to use navigation, and exclusive access to self-guided tours on your mobile device.



Greenwich Beach

**Epekwitk (PEI)** is unceded Mi'kmaw territory, covered by the historic Treaties of Peace and Friendship, and Parks Canada is committed to working toward meaningful reconciliation with the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq (Mi'kmaq of PEI).

## Greenwich Interpretation Centre

59 Wild Rose Road,  
Greenwich, PE C0A 2A0

**Mailing Address**  
2 Palmers Lane  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 5V8

**General Information**  
902-566-7050  
pnipe-peinp@pc.gc.ca  
parks.canada.ca/greenwich



**Emergency Services**  
Police/Fire/Ambulance: 911  
Parks Canada  
Emergency Dispatch:  
(wildlife/forest fire/safety)  
1-877-852-3100