

East Braintree Waterfront

Braintree has 2 miles of walks along its waterfront, which is a relatively unknown resource for the town. Begin these walks by parking inside Watson Park, off Gordon Road, or from the MBTA's Weymouth Landing station in East Braintree.

Monatiquot River walk

1 MILE/20 MINUTE LOOP

- ① **Monatiquot River Basin** - From 1683 to 1854, shipbuilding dominated this small harbor, now with small industrial buildings fronting Allen Street. It is planned for renewal with a walking path along the water.
- ② **Monatiquot Bridge** - A short bridge on Shaw Street crosses the Monatiquot, a stream that extends through the town from here to South Braintree.
- ③ **Commercial Street** - A major route between Boston and Plymouth since 1640, this street retains buildings from its colonial shipbuilding past.
- ④ **Major Edmund Soper House** [170 Commercial St.] - An early Braintree house, built in 1772.
- ⑤ **Peleg Jordan/Edward Pratt house** [140 Commercial St.] - On a high perch above Commercial St., this 1805 house is designed in the Cape Cod architectural style.
- ⑥ **Deacon Josiah Vinton Jr. House** [135 Commercial St.] - This 1830 house has a veranda porch around 3 sides of the building plus attached buildings once used as barns.
- ⑦ **Braintree Union Congregational Church** - Built in 1811, the church has a high distinctive steeple that is visible all along the Braintree waterfront.
- ⑧ **Ezra Sampson/Alden/Bowditch House** [18 Quincy Ave.] - Built in 1798, this one-time elegant and still-dignified residence is enclosed by 20th c. businesses.

Fore River walk

2 MILES/40 MINUTE LOOP

- ⑨ **The Braintree Yacht Club** - A 2.5-acre town-owned property with finger slips, mooring spaces, public boat storage, a launching ramp and a clubhouse. Priority membership in the club is given to Braintree residents.

⑩ Watson Park - The site of the 1883 Fore River Ship & Engine Co. which moved to Quincy in 1904. Now it has been reclaimed as a 23-acre park with 8 fields for baseball/softball, and includes a path along the Weymouth Fore River for the full length of the park.

⑪ Francis Toland Walkway - This wooded path, parallel to the Fore River, connects Watson Park and Smith Beach.

⑫ Lt. G. Murray Smith Beach - A crescent of saltwater beach for Braintree citizens on the Weymouth Fore River.

⑬ Metropolitan Yacht Club - Formed in 1947, the club has 115 slips in the former Goodhue's boat yard. Note: beyond this spot there are no sidewalks.

⑭ Patty Whitehouse River Overview - A sign on Glenrose Avenue leads to a new [2009] monument and path honoring a local waterfront advocate. A spectacular view of tankers on the Fore River at its widest point has been provided by the Braintree Electric Light Department.

⑮ Audubon Avenue and Arthur Street - On the way back to Watson Park, these streets offer a roller-coaster walk on the hilly topography of East Braintree, or you can retrace your steps along the river.

East Side Neighborhood walk

1.75 MILES/35 MINUTE LOOP

Each street in East Braintree has its own character. It's worth while to walk and explore the varied parts of the neighborhood.

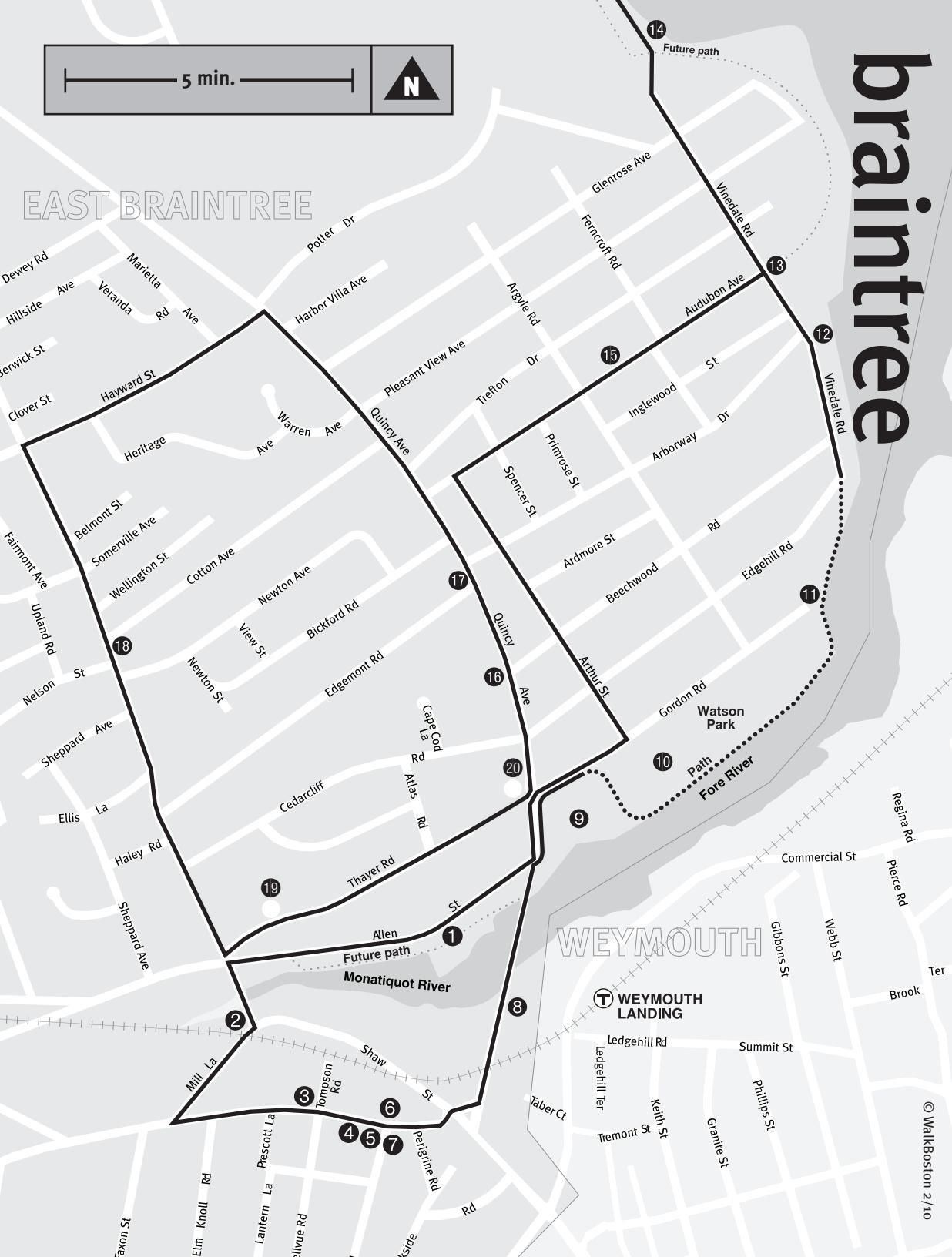
⑯ Quincy Avenue - A main thoroughfare connects to the former Quincy Naval Shipyard, employer of 50,000, people in WWII, including many residents of Braintree.

⑰ Retirement home of Thomas A. Watson - A site on Quincy Ave. housed Watson, the co-inventor of the telephone ["Mr. Watson, come here – I want to see you."], also founder of the Fore River Shipyard.

⑱ Shaw Street - Buildings on Shaw Street date back to 1850 [116 and 119 Shaw St. are good examples].

⑲ Thayer Road - The hilltop on Thayer Road is occupied by buildings dating mostly from the 1860-1900 era.

⑳ Thayer Steps - A stairway connects the end of Thayer Road to Quincy Avenue. Across the street is Gordon Road, which leads back to the parking lot.





South Braintree/Town Center

.75 MILES/15 MINUTES

Braintree's traditional town center has many small shops and attractions, with an MBTA Red Line station nearby. Here, several buildings are named for Sylvanus Thayer, once Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and founder of Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College. Born in Braintree, he funded the construction of the first public library in town as well as the Thayer Academy.

- ① Braintree Town Hall Memorial Mall - A green swath lined with monuments is the focus of public buildings.
- ② Old Thayer Public Library [1874]
- ③ Town Hall - Built in 1913 as space for town offices, it was also the first high school.
- ④ French's Common - The town's oldest park.
- ⑤ Braintree Historical Society Campus:
 - Asa French House [1699] - 766 Washington St. Named for a civil engineer who opened the town's first post office in 1825 and served as Postmaster for 17 years.
 - Dr. John J. Gallivan House - 776 Washington St. Built in 1931 as a wedding present. 3,500 babies were born in the first-floor medical offices.
 - General Sylvanus Thayer birthplace [1720] - 786 Washington St. Once the center of a 92-acre farm where Thayer was born in 1785.
- ⑥ New John Thayer Library [1999] - Adjoins the historic district, across from French's Common and Town Hall.
- ⑦ South Braintree Square is one of Braintree's principal shopping areas, with town buildings and small shops.
- ⑧ Sacco and Vanzetti site - A 1920 robbery and murder on Pearl St. led to the 1927 execution of two men, stirring worldwide protests. In 1977 it was declared unjust due to the judge's prejudice against their anarchist views.
- ⑨ Washington Park - The quaint traffic circle on Tenney Road is dominated by one of Braintree's oldest trees.
- ⑩ The Gilbert Bean Museum and Research Library - 32 Tenney Road. Houses the Braintree Historical Society.

Sunset Lake extension

1.5 MILES/30 MINUTE LOOP

- ⑪ Sunset Lake is a focus of recreational activities, such as boating, swimming, sailing and concerts.
- ⑫ Furlong Park faces the lake with a picnic area and resting place. Yoga is often practiced at the park.
- ⑬ Braintree High School [1972], home of the "Wamps" teams, named for American Indian chief Wampatuck whose name means "White Deer."

Thayer Academy walk

.75 MILES/15 MINUTES

Thayer Academy is a 34-acre, coed prep school for grades 6–12. It has 695 students and 8 buildings.

- ⑭ Pitkin House [1890] - On the north side of Union Street, was the residence of a popular math teacher.
- ⑮ Sylvanus Thayer House [c. 1790]
- ⑯ Thayer Center for the Arts [2008] - At Washington St. Includes an auditorium, music and dance rooms.
- ⑰ Frothingham Hall [1930] - Visual arts rooms known for stained glass windows, attached to the Arts Center.
- ⑱ Southworth Library [1965] - Behind Frothingham Hall.
- ⑲ Main Building [1877] - Faces Washington St. with its landmark tower and is still the heart of the campus.
- ⑳ Glover Building [1895] - Faces Frothingham Hall.
- ㉑ Sawyer Athletic Center/Cahill Campus Center [1997] - Directly behind the Main Building, these buildings are primarily for the upper school.
- ㉒ Thayer Academy Middle School building [1997]

Hollingsworth/West extension

1.5 MILES/30 MINUTE LOOP

- ㉓ Hollingsworth Avenue was laid out as a grand avenue with a grassy median strip lined with attractive residences of the 1940's and 1950's.
- ㉔ West Street with its varied architecture, was designated as a part of Route 128 before the expressways were built and was named by Boston Magazine as one of South Shore's best streets.

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