

North Yarmouth



HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**Royal River
Conservation Trust**



Discover the Royal River in North Yarmouth: OLD TOWN HOUSE PARK

NORTH YARMOUTH'S 54-ACRE OLD TOWN HOUSE PARK, bordering on the Royal River, is a lovely combination of open meadow, woods, and freshwater wetlands. The park was conserved by the Town of North Yarmouth in 1998. There are two parking areas: one for trail access (sign across from Ansel Lane) and a smaller area, at the canoes/kayak put-in right adjacent to the river. As you walk here, consider this park's historic and geologic history.

The Old Town House, located at the Route 9 parking entrance, was built at the “geographic center of North Yarmouth” in 1853, a few years after the town of Yarmouth seceded from North Yarmouth. It was North Yarmouth's official town office; its location at this isolated spot was a compromise between the villages of East North Yarmouth (intersection of Route 9 and North Road) and Walnut Hill (intersection of Routes 9 and 115). After the town's offices were located permanently in Walnut Hill village, the little Old Town House was rescued in 1976 by North Yarmouth Historical Society, only weeks before the building was slated for destruction. Currently the building awaits relocation and restoration. For more information, please contact nyhs@maine.rr.com.

Discover an unusual piece of geologic history here at Old Town House Park! Where the Basin Loop meets the Lower Field Loop you will be hiking a **steep slope—an escarpment**. How did this slope come about? According to local legend the land dropped dramatically all at once at some date in the 1830s. We can't verify this, but it certainly could have happened. The land along the river consists of marine clay deposits left long ago, when North Yarmouth was sitting under a mile of ice and the ocean. These deposits are known collectively as the Presumscot Formation, which has been shown to be landslide-prone. In fact, a flyover study of area slopes reports 58 indications of landslides in Yarmouth/North Yarmouth. This is one of them.

As you walk, you will see several strategically-placed **bluebird houses** in locations throughout Old Town House Park. The bright-blue Eastern Bluebird is one of our most attractive and recognizable birds. For some time the Bluebird was in decline due to habitat loss. Thankfully that trend has been reversed—nesting boxes are one of the reasons. Properly placed boxes provide safe places to nest close to fields where the bluebirds hunt for insects. *(NOTE: avoid yellow-leafed, poison ivy along some trail areas!)*

Thanks for visiting Old Town House Park. For another adventure, don't miss the trails and museum at Skyline Farm at 95 The Lane, only two miles from here. **Enjoy all our beautiful town has to offer!**

FIND TWO SELFIE STATIONS! There's one close by to a bluebird house on the Lower Field Loop, and another at bench next to the river on the River Loop. *Snap selfies and send to info@rrct.org!*