

# 2013

## ***Lexington Newcomers Club Summer Guide***



Tina

Lexington Newcomers Club

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## Live Music, Outdoor Concerts and Movies

### Lexington Summer Concert Series on the Green

Fridays, July 12 -Aug. 30, 2013 (6:30 pm to dusk) sponsored by the Lexington Chamber of Commerce  
Concerts are held in front of the Visitors Center and here is a complete schedule for 2013:

[http://lexingtonchamberofcommerce.vpweb.com/upload/2013\\_SummerConcertLineUp.pdf](http://lexingtonchamberofcommerce.vpweb.com/upload/2013_SummerConcertLineUp.pdf)

- July 12 Boston Black Thorne - Traditional Irish Music
- July 19 Ben Rudnick & Friends - Lively Music for Families
- July 26 TheTim Gartland Group - Classic Rhythm & Blues
- Aug. 2. The Blue Dogs - Popular Rock & Roll/Blues
- Aug. 9 Matuto Latin/Salsa - World Music
- Aug. 16 Soft Touch - Big Band Brass
- Aug. 23 Jumpin' Juba - Boogie Woogie & New Orleans Roots
- Aug. 30 Arl----Lex 5 & Dime - Bluegrass, Gospel & Country

### Lexington Concerts in the Park Series



Starting on July 11 through the last week in July at the Bandstand at Hastings Park, there are free concerts (weather permitting) **every Thursday at 7:30 pm** by The Metropolitan Wind Symphony. Hastings Park is located on the corner of Worthen and Massachusetts Avenue, across from the Town Pool and Hayden Recreation Ice Rink.

Bring a blanket or chair, a few snacks and bug repellent. See you there! You can find info about the symphony and date listings: <http://www.mws-boston.org/events/>

### Town of Bedford Summer Concerts on the Common

Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. (exception July 4, concert begins at 5:00 p.m.)

- JULY 4—DAN CLARK, SINGING TROOPER (This concert will begin at 5:00p.m.)  
National Anthems, Military Tributes, Patriotic and Broadway Tunes, Opera, Elvis and more!  
[www.thesingingtrooper.com](http://www.thesingingtrooper.com)
- JULY 11—TIM GARTLAND  
Contemporary Blues featuring Bedford's own harmonica player, vocalist, songwriter Tim Gartland.  
[www.timgartland.com](http://www.timgartland.com)

- JULY 18—MIKE TARARA BAND  
Eclectic mix of covers ranging from the 60's to today and thoughtful original music with rock, country and alternative influences. [www.miketarara.com](http://www.miketarara.com)
- JULY 25—SOUL OF BOSTON  
Hot R&B for your soul featuring Bedford's own Dave Ellis. [www.soulofboston.com](http://www.soulofboston.com)
- AUGUST 1—THE SHANA STACK BAND  
Top 40 Country and original music featuring multi-national award winning vocalist Shana Stack. [www.shanastack.com](http://www.shanastack.com)

All concerts held on the Bedford Town Common. Rain cancellations or postponements will be posted on the Recreation Department's website ([www.bedfordrecreation.org](http://www.bedfordrecreation.org))

## Town of Burlington Summer Shows

For more details, see page 26 of

[http://www.burlington.org/burlington/community\\_development/recreation/uploads/SUMMER13/Summer\\_2013\\_COLOR.pdf](http://www.burlington.org/burlington/community_development/recreation/uploads/SUMMER13/Summer_2013_COLOR.pdf)

### Children's Shows

- Monday June 24, 6:30 pm at the Town Common - Toe Jam Puppet Band – Musician
- Monday, July 1, 6:30 pm at the Town Common - Tom "T-Bone" Stankus – Musician
- Monday, July 8, 6:30 pm at the Town Common - I am not a Clown – Balloon Twisting & Storytelling
- Thursday, July 11, 1:00 pm at Simond's Park - Bryson Lang – Juggler
- Monday, July 15, 6:30 pm at the Town Common - Scott Jameson - Magician
- Monday, July 22, 6:30 pm at the Town Common - Ben Rudnick – Musician
- Thursday, July 25, 1:00 pm at Simond's Park - Johnny the K – Musician
- Monday, July 29, 6:30 pm at the Town Common - Lucky Bob – Variety Performer
- Monday, August 5, 6:30 pm at the Town Common - Les Julian – Musician
- Thursday, August 8, 1:00 pm at Simond's Park - Vanessa Trien & The Jumping Monkeys - Musician
- Performers are subject to change. Please look for up-to-date information in June!
- In the event of rain, the performance may be held indoors. Please call the Recreation Department at 781-270-1695

### Family Movies on the Burlington Common

Wednesday Nights on the Burlington Town Common

- June 26
- July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- August 7

Rain Dates: August 14 & 21

All ages, movies start at dusk. In the event of rain, we will postpone the movie to the first available rain date. Please call the Recreation Department cancellation line or check out our Facebook page for up-to-date cancellation information.

### **2013 Summer Concerts**

Tuesday Nights on the Town Common

Concerts begin at 6:30 pm

- Tuesday, June 18 - Cactus Gang (Country)
- Tuesday, June 25 - Jumpin' Juba (American Blues)
- Tuesday, July 2 - "The Singing Trooper" Sgt. Dan Clark
- Tuesday, July 9 - The Corvairs (50's Band)
- Tuesday, July 16 - The Full Turn Band (Classic Rock)
- Tuesday, July 23 - Jump N Jive Review (Dance Band)
- Tuesday, July 30 - The Reminisants (Oldies)
- Tuesday, August 6 - Rampage Trio (Boogie Rock)

*Policies for Burlington Town Common Events Parking: Please park only in areas designated for parking. Parking is allowed in marked spaces on the Town Hall side of Center Street. Police will enforce "no parking" on the Town Common side of Center Street.*

### **Burlington Town Day with Fireworks**

All ages, Saturday, August 3 (Rain date: August 4), Town Common & Simonds Park. A fun-filled, action-packed day for the whole family.

Carnival and Games on the Common 11 am – 4 pm

Concert on the Common 7 – 9 pm

Fireworks! 9 pm

Fire Engine Rides, Remote Car Racing, Pony Rides, Dunk Tank, Climbing Wall, Giant Water Slide, Trackless Train Ride, Wrecking Ball, Giveaways, Pizza Chef, Games of Chance, Entertainment, Food...And Much More!! For more details, see page 27 of [Burlington's Summer booklet](#)

### **Summer Concerts at the Hatch Shell (Storrow Drive, Boston, MA)**

For a complete list see: <http://www.hatchshell.com/events.php>

## FUNusual Activities

*(Out of the ordinary but fun activities for the whole family and kids of all ages)*

### Whole Family Adventures

- **Kimball Farm, Westford, MA**

During one of those warm summer days when you want great ice cream, great food, and fun activities for everyone in the family, try [Kimball Farm in Westford](#). Generous portions of their delicious ice cream (40 flavors to choose from!) are available at all their locations, but the Westford location also offers many activities for everyone in the family including [mini-golf](#), [bumper boats](#), [driving range](#), [batting cages](#), etc.



- **Sunset Tiki Bar, Westford, MA**

If you don't feel like cooking dinner one afternoon and need a fun break, try the [Sunset Tiki Bar](#) in Westford, MA. Relax on the sand and have sip on cocktails while your kids take a dip in the pond or play beach volleyball. [Monday nights 5 – 9 pm are Family Nights](#) while Tuesdays are Karaoke time. The bar turns 21+ only after 9 pm.



- **5-Wits Interactive Maze Adventures: [Espionage](#) and [20,000 Leagues](#).**

A 5 Wits adventure will fully immerse you in an interactive, physical world (maze) that's unlike anything you've ever experienced before. You'll have to solve puzzles, explore new spaces and discover the details of your unique story in order to progress. Every show has multiple rooms, with several unique puzzles to discover as you travel through them. In [Espionage](#), you'll be trained as spies, infiltrating and taking down an evil corporation determined to stop you at every turn. In [20,000 Leagues](#), you'll get caught up in the riddle of Captain Nemo's lost ship when your "tour group"



accidentally discovers the Nautilus. A trained cast member accompanies each expedition so you always have help if needed. For further details including cost, hours, and directions check their website:

<http://www.5-wits.com/shows.aspx>



- **Boston Harbor Islands for hiking, camping.**

The Boston Harbor Islands make up a fabulous string of 22 National Park Islands to visit within minutes of Boston. You can explore historic sites, watch wildlife, hike, kayak, picnic, fish, swim, camp, and much more. The main island, [Georges Island](#), offers vintage baseball games and concerts. The island is dominated by historic Fort Warren, a Civil War-era fort. Meanwhile, [Spectacle Island](#), visible from Boston, includes two sandy beaches, a visitor center with a broad wrap-around porch and a large tented area where you can watch a spectacular sunset over Boston's skyline. The island also holds Island yoga, jazz concerts, beach, and picnic areas.

Four of the islands also offer camping —Grape and Bumpkin Island each have 10 individual camp sites while Peddocks and Lovells each have 6 individual sites. [Boston Best Cruises](#) offers scheduled ferries to take you there. Take a ferry to get there or sail your own boat. For more details, check their website: <http://www.bostonharborislands.org/>

- **Sailing, Canoeing, Paddleboarding, Rowboating, and Kayaking**

- [Paddle Boston](#) has kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards available to rent and use as well as for sale in five different locations around Boston. They offer [lessons for adults](#) and [lessons for kids](#)
- [Boating in Boston](#) also has 5 locations in various lakes, Boating in Boston offers membership based on hourly rentals of their rowboats, canoes, pedal boats, and kayaks. They also offer [kids' sailing camps](#) in two of their locations: Hopkinton State Park and Spot Pond in Stoneham.
- [Community Boating](#) on the Charles in Boston



- Boston Sailing Center
- Courageous Sailing

- **Amesbury Sports Park**

Are you a thrill-seeker or have family members who are? Try Zorbing or Summer Tubing? You can do both of those at [Amesbury Sports Park](http://www.amesburysportspark.net/).



Photo credit: Amesbury Sports Park website.

Amesbury Sports Park is located in the northeastern part of Massachusetts, near Newburyport (MA), Seabrook (NH). Easily accessible from I-95, exit 58 and I-495, exit 54.

<http://www.amesburysportspark.net/>

Amesbury Sports Park, 12 South Hunt Road, Amesbury, MA 01913. Ph: 978-388-5788

- **Trapeze School**

Do you love the circus? Ever wonder how it would feel to soar through the air like those amazing trapeze artists? Well, now you can find out. Visit the [Trapeze School](#) at [Jordan's Furniture in Reading](#) and try it. You can take [trial swings](#) or sign-up for [classes](#) for a more in-depth experience. And if that's not enough entertainment, also on-site are a [3D IMAX theater](#), a [Fuddruckers](#) where you can design your own burger, and [Richardson's ice-cream](#).

- **Pick Your Own Fruits**

Summertime is a great time to visit the many farms and pick your own fruits. In June, many of the farms offer pick-your-own berries while late summer brings peaches. For a few options, check <http://boston.cbslocal.com/guide/guide-to-strawberry-picking/> and <http://www.pickyourown.org/mass.htm>. Another fun trip is to visit [one of the local fruit festivals](#). One of my favorites is the fruit festivals at [Verrill Farm](#) or [Smolak Farms](#).

- **Skyzone Trampoline Park**

Rainy summer day or too hot outside? That's ok, because you can still burn excess energy at the [Skyzone Trampoline Park](#). There are four locations in Massachusetts: [Everett](#) (closest to Lexington out of all the options), [Boston/Jamaica Plain](#), [Westborough](#), and North Andover (just announced).

- **Gondola Tours on the Charles**





For something completely different, have a romantic ride on Boston's only authentic Venetian gondolas, which were built and shipped from Venice, Italy along the Charles River.

<http://bostongondolas.com/>

## Museums

In the summer, Highland Street Foundation has generously funded 60 museums & cultural venues to open for free on Fridays all summer. Six venues are open for free each week. Check the full listing on [Highland Street's website for Free Fun Fridays](#).

Are you or someone in your family into cars? A visit to the [Larz Anderson Museum](#), home to "America's oldest car collection" can be a lot of fun, especially during one of their Lawn Events.

The waterfront contemporary art museum, [ICA](#) is amazing to visit in the summer. They have many [summer events](#) and [family events](#) that appeal to kids and adults alike. For an adult evening out, go on one of their [First Fridays](#).

For more museum ideas, check Mass Vacation's Website: <http://www.massvacation.com/arts/art-museums.php>

## Other Resources

[New England Summer Food Festivals](#)  
[25 Free things to do on Cape Cod](#).

<http://www.bostonusa.com/>  
<http://www.massvacation.com/>  
<http://www.boston.com/travel/explorene/>

## July 4 Events

### In Lexington

#### **Annual July 4 Carnival**

Every year, the Lexington Lions Club sponsors a Carnival and Youth Games.

More information can be found here: <http://www.lexingtonlions.org/4thofJulyCarnival.cfm>

### Boston

#### **Boston HarborFest 2013**

<http://www.bostonharborfest.com/index.html>

A six-day festival to showcase the colonial and maritime history of Boston running from July 2 to July 7, 2013.

#### **Special events include:**

- **Chowderfest on Sunday, July 7, 2012 from 11 am - 6 pm at the City Hall.**

<http://www.bostonharborfest.com/chowderfest.html>

- **Children's Day on Tuesday, July 3, 2013 from 10 am – 3 pm**

<http://www.bostonharborfest.com/childrensday.html>

A free day of fun, games, and entertainment for children of all ages.

#### **Pops on the Fourth**

<http://www.july4th.org/>

The Renowned Boston Pops July 4th Concerts at the Hatch Shell in Boston. Please note that people will start arriving and grabbing seating well in advance of the stated seating times (usually, people start lining up at dawn to grab). Bring picnic blankets, beach chairs, drinks and snacks. There are food carts around, but they can get very crowded. This is televised if you don't want to head into the city, but I highly recommend doing this at least once.

<b>Jul 03</b>	<b>Boston Pops Preview Concert - No Fireworks</b> Seating begins: 4:00pm Boston Pops: 8:30pm	<b>8:30pm-10:00pm</b>
<b>Jul 04</b>	<b>July 4th Concert – Guest Artist TBD</b> Seating begins: 9:00am Boston Pops: 8:00pm Fireworks: 10:30pm	<b>8:00pm-11:00pm</b>

## Summer Festivals



### **Festival by the Lake at Lake Quannapowitt, Wakefield.**

June 8, 2013. 10 am - 4 pm

Crafters, artists, local organizations, live music, and great food comprise the day. The Festival has thrived for over twenty-five years. The Festival is organized by the WCNA as a fundraiser for its many community projects. There are children's activities, games, face painting, and food vendors.

<http://www.wcna.org/Festival/index.html>

### **Lowell Folk Festival**

<http://www.lowellfolkfestival.org/>

July 26-28, 2013

The performances and activities within the Festival are FREE. Food, beverage, and merchandise sales are available throughout the Festival. There is also a family activity area where youngsters of all ages can stop by and enjoy hands-on games during the Festival. Box-hockey, bean bag toss, and much more will be offered by the City of Lowell's Parks & Recreation.



### **Phantom Gourmet BBQ Beach Party**

Like BBQ? Running June 21 - 23, this festival features barbecue teams from around the world from Australia to Texas to Virginia, with your favorite summer foods, beer gardens, sand, and music. This year, this will be held at the City Hall Plaza in Boston. <http://bbq.phantomgourmet.com/>

### **Beantown Jazz Festival**

<http://www.beantownjazz.org/>

Berklee College of Music has supported the festival since its start, and in 2007 Berklee inherited production of the festival to make it a permanent part of Boston's cultural calendar. The Berklee BeanTown Jazz Festival has delighted tens of thousands with a host of jazz, Latin, blues, and groove acts. Our communities come out in

force—with attendance swelling to 70,000 strong at its height—to enjoy world-class music on three stages, great eats, and good times stretching six blocks in Boston’s historic South End. Families are entertained with face painting, inflatables, photos, and an instrument petting zoo.

## Sports

Going to a Red Sox game is a classic summer activity, but here I am going to a few wallet and family-friendly alternatives.

### **Polo Matches at Myopia Polo in Hamilton, MA**



<http://www.myopiapolo.org/calendar.html>

Bring a picnic or hold a tailgate party while you spend a Sunday afternoon watching teams battle each other in this royal sport. Match time is 3 p.m. on Sundays and gates open 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person, with children under 12 free.

### **New England Revolution (Soccer)**

<http://www.revolutionsoccer.net/>

Check for family 4 pack ticket packages or special AAA Member discount in Preferred Seating for select home games.

### **Minor League - Lowell Spinners**

<http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t558>

Going to see [the Spinners](#) with the family is a lot of FUN. The more intimate setting means you (and your kids more importantly) really get to see the actions, and the stadium has a large section reserved for kids filled with games and activities. Tickets are inexpensive. <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t558>.



Photo credit: from Lowell Spinners website

### **Minor League - Pawtucket Red Sox**

If you or your kids like baseball, a [Pawtucket Red Sox](#) game is also a great minor league baseball game to take them to. AAA has discounted tickets you can purchase/order. <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t533>

### **Patriots Training Camp - Gillette Stadium, Foxboro**

If you love football, [The Patriots training camp](#) is a fun, inexpensive way to entertain the family. The team practices at their practice facility in Gillette Stadium and practices are open to the public for free. Check their updated [training camp schedule](#) in July.



## Cold Refreshments: Ice cream and FroYo

In town, everyone knows the options: Rancatore's, Fruitee Yogurt, Orange Leaf, Friendly's, etc. But if you're on the hunt for variety or something a little bit out of the ordinary, there are plenty of good reasons to explore our surrounding towns:

### **Reasons to be Cheerful, Concord. (<http://www.cheerful-reasons.com/>)**



Photo credit: <http://cheerfulmusings.com/>

This dessert cafe serves homemade ice cream, locally roasted Karma Coffee, steaming cups of cocoa, fresh pastries, ice cream cakes, and made-to-order crêpes. They were recently written up by the Boston Globe: [http://www.boston.com/yourtown/concord/gallery/new\\_ice\\_cream\\_shop/](http://www.boston.com/yourtown/concord/gallery/new_ice_cream_shop/)  
110 Commonwealth Avenue, West Concord, MA

### **Yeh! Frozen Yogurt and Crepes, Burlington.**

Its self-serve model is so much fun. All their offering. In addition, they also sell cookie dough.

Yeh! is located next to Chipotle, in the same strip as: B.Good (all natural burgers and fries), Starbucks, and Pearle Vision. This is Montreal based Yeh!'s first U.S location.

106 Mall Road, Burlington, MA 01803

<http://www.yehyogourt.com/>

### **Bedford Farms, Bedford.**

This classic New England Ice Cream stand has been a local favorite since the 1880s with locations in Bedford and Concord, MA.

18 North Road # 1 Bedford, MA 01730

68 Thoreau Road, Concord, MA

<http://www.bedfordfarmsicecream.com/>

### **Kimball Farm, Westford.**

Kimball Farm's ice cream was voted the best ice cream in Massachusetts in 2010 by USA Today. It's been open since 1939 and currently has 40 flavors; ice cream is Kimball Farm's claim to fame. More than just a simple ice cream stand, the Westford location also has adventure style mini-golf, bumper boats, batting cages, and driving range/pitch-putt.



Photo credit: all from Kimball Farm website <http://www.kimballfarm.com/>

400 Littleton Road (Rt. 110), Westford, MA 01886. (978) 486-3891. <http://www.kimballfarm.com/westford.shtml>

# Water Fun: Pools and Beaches!

## Pools and Ponds:



- **Irving H. Mabee Town Pool in Lexington (season pass available or day pass purchase)**

A local favorite and a very inexpensive option, this pool complex is easy to get to. Located on Worthen Road, right across the street from Hastings Park and Hayden Ice Rink. You can get swim tag/pass for the whole season or purchase day passes. In general the **public swim hours are weekdays 12:45 - 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 - 8:45 p.m.**

For more info and programs check

<http://www.lexingtonma.gov/recreation/aquatics.cfm> .

There's also a variety of programs including American Red Cross Swim Classes, Adult Lap Swim, Diving Lessons, Adult Aqua Aerobics, and Swim Team. Photo credit: Town of Lexington Recreation homepage

- **Town Beach: The Old Res in Lexington (season pass available or day pass purchase)**



The Old Res is a freshwater man-made pond with a sandy beach.

Fishing available. For more info, check <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/recreation/aquatics.cfm> Photo credit: Town of Lexington Recreation homepage

- **Springs Brook Park, Bedford, MA (season pass available or day pass purchase)**

181 Springs Road, Bedford MA 01730

A very fun park, Springs Brook Park is located on Springs Road in Bedford, MA just before the V.A. Hospital. It is a man-made, filtered swimming facility surrounded by a sandy beach, grassy picnic area and wooded areas.



There are lap swim lanes, charcoal grills, shaded picnic areas, Red Cross swim lessons, a playground, a spray park, a volleyball court, concession stand, water slide, a basketball court, and full bathhouse facilities. There are also children's entertainments on certain dates/nights. Look in [the brochure](#) for more details.



Photo credit: Town of Bedford Recreation homepage

Click on "Springs Brook Park" on the left column to download the brochure and look up directions:  
<http://www.bedfordma.gov/index.php/departments/recreation>

#### HOURS OF OPERATION 2013:

June 13 - Aug 11 10:00 AM - 7:30 PM gate closes

August 12 - August 24 (tentative)\* 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM gate closes \*Closing date subject to staff availability.

DAILY ADMISSION: Mon - Fri: \$7/person age 1 and up; Sat & Sun and July 4: \$10 per person ages 1 & up. Max. \$25/family weekdays only. AFTER 4:30 P.M.: \$3/person. \*\*\* No charge for children under age 1\*\*\* NO FEE AFTER 5:30 pm.

#### One Stop Fun (Daily Pass and Membership offered) in Westford, MA



[One Stop Fun](#) is an interactive activity center that offers a pool, a rock climbing wall, and an indoor playground. [Membership](#) is not required but it is offered if you plan to go often.

- **Boston Sports Club (Membership required)** on Rt. 4/225 - Bedford Road, Lexington. Outdoor and Indoor Pool
- **Lexington Christian Academy Community Swim and Tennis Club (Membership required)**  
Website: <http://www.lca.edu/page.cfm?p=458>  
LCA's Community Swim & Tennis Club memberships are available for families who want to enjoy

recreational activities on the LCA campus. Two tennis courts and a large outdoor pool set in the back of the building provide a quiet, safe place for fun. There are gas grills and outdoor furniture available for use. The Club is open in the late afternoons during the week and all day on the weekends and holidays each summer. Members may also bring guests for a minimal fee. Membership is limited so early application is recommended.

## Neighborhood Pools

(Typically, memberships are prioritized for families who reside in the neighborhood, and they maintain a waiting list for those who do not. Waiting lists seem to be 2 - 5 year long depending on the pool)

- **Sun Valley Swim and Tennis Club (Membership required)**

More info: <https://sites.google.com/site/sunvalleyswim/>

Pool phone: 781-862-3122

Street address: 14 Fairlawn Lane, Lexington MA

Email: [sunvalleyswimclub@gmail.com](mailto:sunvalleyswimclub@gmail.com)

From the website: We currently have a waiting list that is approximately 2-3 years long.

- **Moon Hill Neighborhood Pool (Membership required)**

Six Moon Hill, Lexington, MA 02421.

Moon Hill Pool. The heated pool is 55' x 30' with a diving board, and a wading pool for toddlers. The pool has lounge chairs and a changing room, and has a life guard from 10AM to 6PM. The pool is open to members from 7AM to 10PM during the summer. There are about 40 families who are members, about half who live on Moon Hill Road, and half who are "summer members" and live nearby. There is a 1-2 yr waiting list. Contact: Tucker Taft at [tucker@yaletaft.com](mailto:tucker@yaletaft.com), Moon Hill Pool Committee

- **Paint Rock Pool (Membership required)**

More info: <http://www.paintrockpool.org/>

13 Partridge Road Lexington, MA

Pool Phone Number: 781-862-7452

Email: [poolinfo@paintrockpool.org](mailto:poolinfo@paintrockpool.org)

Neighborhood memberships are granted to the households located in our neighborhood (Grimes Road, Turning Mill Road, Partridge Road, Mountain Road, Demar Road, Dewey Road, Jeffrey Terrace and Gould Road). Membership places *not* taken up by households in the neighborhood are open to Lexington households from outside the neighborhood. Demand for these summer memberships is high and the Membership Secretary maintains a waiting list. Expect a three to five year wait for a summer membership.

- **Mason Street Pool (Membership required)**

Contact: Kathie Longo at [klongo@verizon.net](mailto:klongo@verizon.net)



## The Ocean

Massachusetts has a number of state beaches that are great to visit. [These public state beaches usually have parking areas that are inexpensive or free to park, and free to visit.](#) For a complete listing of public state beaches (managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, click here: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/oceanSwim.htm>.

- **Salisbury Beach**

[Salisbury Beach](#) is one of the most popular beaches with the locals. This 521-acre park offers swimming, boating, fishing, and [camping](#), and is very popular with trailer campers. Facilities include a 484-site campground, parking lot, comfort stations for the beach- going public with boardwalks over the dunes, a new playground, and a pavilion area.

- **Nantasket Beach in Hull**

Nantasket Beach has been a popular summer destination for city dwellers since the middle of the 19th century. The reservation encompasses 26 acres along one and a third miles of oceanfront. Also located on Nantasket Beach is the historic [Paragon Carousel](#). Today, the antique Paragon Carousel is one of the last of the vintage mechanical carousels of its kind, the last vestige of Paragon Park and is a lasting reminder of the "Golden Age" of Hull, when the town was teeming with thousands of visitors each day in the summer for decades. <http://www.paragoncarousel.com>



Band concerts and public dance lessons are popular summertime events.

- **[Carson and M Street Beach](#). Also [Castle Island](#) and [Fort Independence](#). [Kennedy Library](#) nearby.** These beaches are located in South Boston. [Fort Independence](#), a pentagonal five-bastioned, granite fort built between 1834 and 1851, is the dominating feature of [Castle Island](#). This 22-acre urban park is connected to the mainland by both pedestrian and vehicular causeways. Pleasure Bay, the [M Street Beach and Carson Beach](#) form a three mile segment of parkland and beach along the South Boston shoreline of Dorchester Bay. Carson Beach offers some beautiful views and great public amenities: a rehabilitated Mothers' Rest, public restrooms, exhibit space, first aid and lifeguard functions, while the outdoor courtyards allow space for passive recreation. Carson Beach also features a walkway which allows one to walk, bike, or run along the water's edge from Castle Island to the [Kennedy Library](#). Also a must visit if you're coming here is [Sullivan's](#) on Castle Island, one of the longest continuously



operating restaurant that opened back in 1951. They serve fish n chips, lobster rolls, clam strips, ice cream, etc. at extremely reasonable prices.

There are also a few other beaches that I would recommend, some of which are managed by the Trustees of Reservation.

- **Crane Beach by the Crane Estate in Ipswich**

This gorgeous stretch of land on the North Shore features fine powdery sand, clear ocean water, and some impressively clean changing and food facilities. The short walk across the parking lot boardwalk to the beach provides beachgoers with a variety of sights, from the plentiful mounds of sand dunes to the immaculate view of one of the state's most beloved summer spots. Parking is \$25 per car on weekends – but spots near the beach are normally available if you get there early enough. And since the beach stretches for miles, you're likely to have an easy time landing a spot close to the water even on the most crowded summer days. For more info, check their site:

<http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/northeast-ma/crane-beach-on-the-crane.html>



Also nearby in Ipswich is Appleton Farms, one of the oldest operating farm and a beautiful, bucolic place to hike.



- **Wingaersheek Beach**

This beach is notorious for its **kid-friendly waters**. The ocean, which is relatively warm for the North Shore, is always still. From its setting on Ipswich Bay, it offers a protected, gently sloping beach with a **separate wading area at low tide**. At low tide the beach extends out for hundreds of yards and a long sandbar is exposed that makes for a great place to walk. I used to take my children here when they

were toddlers.

Situated in the western part of Gloucester at the end of Atlantic Street off Rte. 133 and Concord Street, this beautiful beach runs along the Annisquam River and Ipswich Bay. Lifeguards are on duty Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day from 9:00am to 5:00pm daily. Parking is available during the week at a rate of \$20 per vehicle, and on the weekends and holidays at \$25 per vehicle. Located in charming Cape Ann, more info can be found on these sites:

<http://gloucester-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=299> or

<http://www.capeannvacations.com/Beaches.cfm?id=9540>

## Thrills and Amusement Parks

- **Six Flags and Hurricane Harbor Water Park, Agawam, MA**

Part of the Six Flags franchise, this amusement park also includes a very fun water park that the whole family can really enjoy on hot days. Check with the local AAA office (Burlington or Waltham) for discounted tickets.

For events and promotions, check <http://www.sixflags.com/newEngland/index.aspx>

- **Canobie Lake Park, NH**

A local favorite in nearby New Hampshire, Canobie Lake Park has been a family activity destination since the early 1900 and has transformed from a small botanical garden-like park to the amusement park of today. For more info: <http://www.canobie.com/>

- **Water Country Water Park, Portsmouth, NH**

Water Country is a waterpark located in Portsmouth, NH, less than an hour drive from Boston.

<http://www.watercountry.com/>

- **Amesbury Sports Park, Amesbury, MA**

Want to go Zorbing? Summer Tubing? You can do both of those at Amesbury Sports Park.



Photo credit: Amesbury Sports Park website.

Amesbury Sports Park is located in the northeastern part of Massachusetts, near Newburyport (MA), Seabrook (NH). Easily accessible from I-95, exit 58 and I-495, exit 54.

<http://www.amesburysportspark.net/>

Amesbury Sports Park, 12 South Hunt Road, Amesbury, MA 01913. Ph: 978-388-5788

- If you have younger kids and are willing to drive a little further away, [StoryLand](#) and [Santa's Village](#) in New Hampshire's [White Mountains](#) make wonderful family trips on a summer weekend.

# Seafood on the Waterfront

## **Boston Waterfront**

There are lots of options for great waterfront restaurants in Boston. My personal favorites include the [Barking Crab](#) (very casual but so much fun. Basically next door to the Children's Museum and walking distance to the ICA), Legal Seafood at [Legal Harborside](#), [Strega Waterfront](#), [Miel's](#) outdoor patio and [RumBa on the Waterfront](#) at the Boston Intercontinental hotel. For a complete listing, check <http://www.bostonsnewwaterfront.com/eat-stay-play-shop/restaurants/>

## **Waterfront Outside Boston**

- [The Lobster Pool](#) on 329 Granite Street, Rockport, MA

My personal favorite, this place serves awesome seafood platters, is very casual and you can eat inside or on picnic tables outside. They have amazing water views. They even invite you to [bring your own favorite alcoholic beverages](#) with no surcharge or corking fee and they also have seashells to paint for the kids.



Photo credit: taken from

<http://www.hiddenboston.com/LobsterPool.html>

- **Woodmans** (claims to have invented the original Fried Clams in 1916) 121 Main Street, Essex, MA 01929, Route 133, MA.  
Just like The Lobster Pool, this casual eatery is very popular and lines can get very long. Eat inside or on picnic tables outside. More info here: <http://www.woodmans.com/>
- **Ipswich's Clam Box** (also famous for their Fried Clams). 246 High Street Ipswich, MA 01938. (978) 356-9707.  
Small, casual, and also very popular. <http://www.ipswichma.com/clambox/> Same as the above two, eat inside or on their deck.

- **Jake's Seafood** (Nantasket Beach, Hull)

Jake's Seafood have been named Best of Boston and have been the reigning Best of South Shore dining from 2009 to 2011. Menus, hours, and directions are here: <http://www.jakesseafoods.com/>



1Photo credit: Jake's Seafood website

Closer to Boston are the romantic and fun waterfront restaurants at the **Marina Bay** in Quincy such as [Siro's](#), [305 Port](#), and the [Waterclub](#).



2Photo credit: the Waterclub website.

If you like dance/electronic music then check out the shows at a cool entertainment complex called the Ocean Club at Marina Bay (<http://oceanclubatmarinabay.com/experience/>) complete with seaside cabanas and a concert venue.

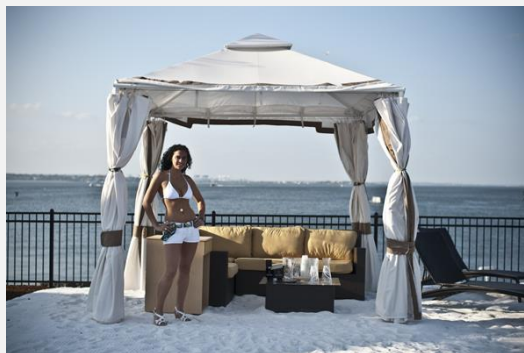


Photo credit: Ocean Club at Marina Bay website.

Similar to Marina Bay and also gorgeous is [The Launch at Hingham Shipyard](#), a Marina, living and shopping complex, home of [Alma Nove](#) and the [Wahlburgers](#) (restaurants owned by the Wahlbergs family, of the NKOTB and Marky Mark fame. Remember the New Kids on the Block?) Alma Nove also has an outdoor seating area with a gorgeous outdoor fireplace with water views.





3Photo Credit: Alma Nove Hingham

The Launch is an outdoor shopping mall that also includes a movie theatre, Red Mango, and kids' play areas including a playground, mini golf and a bocce court.

## **Day or Weekend Trip Ideas**

- **Whale Watching**

- Trips from [Cape Ann](#) are offered by companies such as [7 Seas Whale Watch](#) and [Captain Bill & Sons](#), among a few others.
- Trips from Boston leaves by the Aquarium and offered by [Boston Harbor Cruises](#) company.

- **North:**

- [Newburyport](#) and [Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island](#)
- [Cape Ann: Gloucester and Rockport](#)

Stroll along the pedestrian friendly streets of Rockport village to peruse art galleries, shops, and the charming boutiques. Also in Rockport and great for hiking and picnicking is [Halibut Point State Park](#), formerly a granite quarry. Adjacent to the old granite quarry is a rock beach with beautiful large flat rocks that are fun to climb and sit on.

- **South:**

- [Cape Cod](#)

There are so many things to do on [Cape Cod](#) and many different places to visit. One of the unique things to do there is you can watch [how the Cape Cod Chips make their famously delicious chips](#) in person during their [factory tours](#). How to get there: drive or take the train <http://capeflyer.com/>



- **Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket**

Martha's Vineyard is quicker to get to; you can drive to Woods Hole in the early morning and take the ferry to the island. I personally have visited it for a day trip (though I don't recommend this if you have younger kids). Once you get to the island, there are plenty of places where you can rent bicycles and other vehicles.

Transportation options to the island include: <http://www.islandqueen.com/> , <https://hylinecruises.com/> or <http://www.steamshipauthority.com>

- **West of Boston:**

- **The Berkshires:** <http://berkshires.org/>

What to do in the Berkshires:

- [Tanglewood](#) (Boston Symphony Orchestra)
- [Norman Rockwell Museum](#)
- [Basketball Hall of Fame](#)
- [Mass MoCa \(contemporary art museum\)](#)
- [Eric Carle Museum](#)
- [Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden](#)
- [Jiminy Peak Summer Mountain Adventure](#)

- **Rhode Island:**

- **Providence:**

- [WaterFire](#)
- [Federal Hill](#): the little Italy of Providence. Incredibly charming and romantic. Also, many have been known to drive an hour from Boston just to get [the gorgeous fruit tarts](#) from the [Pastiche bakery](#).
- [Roger Williams Park Zoo](#)

- **Newport:**

- [Kite Festival](#)
- [The Newport Mansions](#)
- [International Tennis Hall of Fame](#)
- Like to sail? Make sure to add these regattas to your calendar:
  - [The Newport Regatta](#)
  - [The Bucket Regatta](#)