

Carter Beal Conservation Area



20 Bournedale Rd. Bourne, MA 02532

Trying to avoid crowds and metal railings but hoping to see the herring? Right across from the Herring Run on the Canal Scenic Highway, around the corner from the Butterfly Museum, is a small park that is less trafficked but still has great views this time of year.

The fish ladder at Carter Beal Conservation Area is a less busy spot to see river herring migrating upstream. The presence of all the small fish attracts many other species. Look for birds like ospreys and herons along the Herring River's swampy shores, searching for their next meal. Keep an eye on the water, and you may spy the head of an otter or mink cruising past!

There's more to explore beyond the fish ladder - there's a mile-and-a-half loop trail which begins at the small parking area on Bournedale Road. Take the path to the right to begin along the Herring River.

If you're looking for more of an adventure, head left from the parking area to hike up the steep ridge of the moraine. Although the trail is very hilly, you'll be rewarded at the top of the ridge with views of Buzzards Bay.

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