

KINGSTON, 1937
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GRAY'S BEACH PARK

One of Kingston's Best Loved Public Spaces
A Hidden Jewel in Rocky Nook

The 6.5 acre Gray's Beach Park offers shady and sunny open space, tennis courts and basketball hoops, and public access to the beach. The park occupies land owned in the 17th century by namesake Edward Gray, who arrived in the New World in 1643 and was one of the area's wealthiest men at his death in 1681. During Kingston's shipbuilding heyday in the 19th century, several wharves stood along the shoreline of Rocky Nook, ready to rig and outfit newly launched vessels. Only Delano's Wharf, now a private residence, remains.

In 1936, town officials began to look into ways to provide residents with access to the waterfront. In 1937, Town Meeting voted to purchase the property that became Gray's Beach Park. Over the next few years, WPA projects cleared the tangled poison ivy and brambles, drained the swampy spots, broke up a line of boulders blockading the shoreline, built an access road and parking area and covered the black mud with beach sand. By 1938, the park was open and residents flocked to their hometown beach. The town built a bath house in 1950 and added a concession stand not long after. The result of forward thinking decades ago, Gray's Beach remains a favorite for town residents and visitors alike.

Compliments of Register of Deeds, John R. Buckley, Jr. and
Susan Aprill, Archivist
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