

Explore Conanicut Battery and Fort Wetherill State Park

By Tyler Will

Jamestown's historic Battery Park is located just off of Beavertail Road. You can take a scenic walk in the woods or learn about our colonial history. Several hiking trails weave through the woods, and signs along the paths provide information about the site from various periods of history.

The signs indicate Battery Park was used as early as about 1400 as a Native American settlement. Conanicut Battery was established in 1776 and used until 1783. Soldiers built a small earthenworks fortifications with shovels and picks, which protected cannons from enemy fire, according to trial signs. The cannons overlooked the bay, ready to shoot at enemy ships in the West Passage. The original earthenworks battery still stands today.

The area was used again during the World Wars and after the Korean War. Concrete observation batteries replaced the earthenworks. The batteries can be seen along the hiking trails and resemble cement platforms, because most of the structure is buried underground.

"It is so well labeled and it tells the history of the place," said one hiker, who was walking his two dogs. He said he has been going to Battery Park

since the 1960s, when he was a Boy Scout, and keeps coming back for the nature trails. "The history aspect, once you learn them, they are there," he said.

Battery Park is open daily from sunrise until sundown, with free admission.

On the other side of Conanicut Island is another old strategic fort. Fort Wetherill State Park, was used as a defense battery and training camp and was used as early as the American Revolution. Besides granite cliffs, there is a cement building about three stories high that house large cannon when it was garrisoned by the 243rd regiment. In 1945, it was used as a reeducation program for some German prisoners.

In addition to the large battery, Fort Wetherill has a number of ocean-side trails, and many people fish from the shoreline. Fort Wetherill is open daily from sunrise to sundown, with free admission.

Windmill

The Jamestown Windmill, a famous historic island landmark, stands on its original site on North Main Road in the middle of the island. The bucolic setting on the hill is relaxing, and the views of open

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Council is get anses
 The Council on the School Committee met on Monday afternoon to discuss the school committee's budget. The council will meet again on Monday, April 6, at 7 p.m. at the school committee meeting.

What place are 17?
 School officials will discuss the school committee's budget on Saturday.



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School Committee awaits federal stimulus numbers to finalize budget
 The school committee will meet on Monday, April 6, at 7 p.m. to discuss the school committee's budget. The committee will receive federal stimulus numbers from the state and will use them to finalize the budget.

RTBA must defend against class-action lawsuit
 The Real Estate Taxpayers' Association (RTBA) must defend against a class-action lawsuit filed by the state. The lawsuit alleges that RTBA's actions are discriminatory.

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Pilots in Training
 The school committee will meet on Monday, April 6, at 7 p.m. to discuss the school committee's budget.

Old bridge gets new life as art
 The old bridge will be repurposed as an art installation.

Legislation may zero hand
 The state legislature may pass legislation that will have a zero impact on the state budget.

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