



Take a bicycle ride around Jamestown

Sometimes, even in Jamestown, the hassles of life can press in on you. Has the traffic on Narragansett Avenue stopped you in your tracks one too many times? Have you circled downtown for what seemed like hours and still not found a parking spot? Have you arrived at Mackerel Cove's lot only to realize you had forgotten your cash? Or worse, no spots were left in that lot either?

Or are you just in the mood for a little adventure? Has the car become another symbol of your frenzied life? Do you ache for simplicity?

Whatever the question may be, I propose the answer is to indulge in the wonders of our island from the seat of your bike.

If you begin at the East Ferry parking lot, you will ride four miles to reach the Beavertail Lighthouse and the southernmost tip of the island. It is about five miles in the other direction from East Ferry to the northern end of the island. Though not level, these rides are completely accessible to most bicycle enthusiasts. The true adventure, however, is discovering the beautiful spots between the two extreme ends of our island.

Only a mile from East Ferry is a Jamestown jewel, Fort Wetherill. Formerly an active military installation, Fort Wetherill is now a state park offering numerous picnic tables, grassy spaces, great views and rocks to scramble over. Situated on over 50 acres, the park boasts both paved roads and dirt trails to explore. There are public restrooms on site.

Another of Jamestown's former military areas, Conanicut Battery, provides great potential for ex-

ploration and is located less than two miles from East Ferry. The earthworks of this Revolutionary War era fort remain and provoke the imaginations of children and adults alike. Plus, it is an amazing setting for a game of hide and seek or capture the flag.

If the beach is your preferred destination, your bike can get you to several in Jamestown. Closest to East Ferry and the village is, of course, the town beach. It is convenient to both bike racks and public restrooms. Mackerel Cove is only a mile from East Ferry and parking is free for bicycles. Farther down Beavertail Road, two miles from Mackerel Cove, is Hull Cove. The right of way path can be a bit mucky, but the beach feels private and the surfing is good. There is a parking area suitable for securing bikes.

Riding a mile north of East Ferry will land you at Potter Cove beach. Parking is available off Freebody Drive. You can also park up the road across from the Jamestown Waste Water Facility and walk out onto the rocks near Taylor Point. This is a great location for a picture with the Newport Bridge in the background.

For a west passage beach experience, Head's Beach is a three and a half mile ride from East Ferry. This ride takes you past several of Jamestown's historic sites including the Jamestown Museum, Friends Meeting House, Jamestown Windmill, and Watson Farm. You will also pass the Jamestown Philomenian Library, the town playground, Zeek's Creek, and Marsh Meadows with its osprey nest. All are well worth a visit.