

Take a stroll in one of the City's many Beautiful Parks



Fort Rodman/Taber Park

Located on S. Rodney French Blvd.

A 50-acre waterfront park that provides over a mile of ocean frontage located on scenic Clark's Point which projects into Buzzards Bay. The park incorporates historical landmarks, offers many amenities and various opportunities for passive and active recreation. The centerpiece of the park is the historic Fort Rodman, built between 1857 and 1871 as part of the nation's sea coast defense system. The fort features interpretive signage and a military museum. There is over one mile of walking, jogging or biking paths, natural areas, a beach for bathing, a pier for fishing, a playground, community boating, a youth summer camp, and picnic areas offering panoramic views. The park is handicap accessible. A large multi-purpose lawn allows for cultural programming, such as military reenactments and public concerts.



Hazelwood Park

Located on Brock Ave.

Hazelwood Park is a 23-acre park located on Clark's Point, overlooking scenic Clark's Cove. The park offers both passive and active recreation areas. There is a historic bowling green, tennis courts, basketball courts, a playground, picnic areas, and a gazebo. The park hosts many entertainment functions throughout the year. Public beaches and a historic bath-house and pavilion are located across the Boulevard at the bottom of the park. It contains groves, expansive lawns, and three historic structures, one of which has been rehabilitated for use as a Community Center. The park, the bath houses, and pavilion make up the Hazelwood Park National Historic Register District.



Buttonwood Park

Located on Rockdale Ave.

This 97 acre multi-use park was initially planned in the 1890's by Charles Eliot of the famous landscape architectural firm of Olmstead, Olmstead and Eliot. Comprised of both active and passive recreation areas; with forest, fields and a large pond, it is also home to one of the finest small zoos in the country. Retaining its historic landscapes, the park is a National Historic Register District, and has evolved to meet the needs of the community; with ball fields, tennis courts, a universal accessible playground, a Community Center, library, and walking paths. The brand new basketball courts are a major attraction.



Brooklawn Park

Located on Acushnet Ave.

This 85 acre park is a multi-use complex with baseball and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, a skate park, playground, splash-pad, and nature trails. In an effort to remove himself from the bustle of the city's center, the prominent New Bedford Quaker, Daniel Ricketson built a country estate in what is now Brooklawn Park. Literary greats, such as Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson, often visited Ricketson at his estate. Responding to the needs of a rapidly growing population due to the success of the textile industry, this land became a city park at the end of the 19th century.