

Natick 360

Honoring Our Past. Planning Our Future.



Best of Natick “Fun Poll”

How to showcase the best of Natick?

Where to take your guests to showcase the best that Natick has to offer?

Based on the frequency with which something was mentioned, a Saturday morning in the summertime that showcases the best that Natick has to offer might go something like this...

Start your morning with a hike through some of the 9 miles of hiking trails in the Broadmoor Audubon Sanctuary in South Natick. After working up an appetite from your hike, head on over to Natick Center and eat a picnic lunch on the Natick Common. Choose your food from the produce at the Farmer’s Market on the Common or get a couple of Casey’s “all-arounds” and some Park Street Ice Cream. In the afternoon, give your guests a choice from a menu of activities including canoeing/kayaking/boating on any of Natick’s many lakes, ponds, or the Charles River, swimming at Dug Pond, attending some excellent cultural programs at the Morse Institute or Bacon Free libraries, visiting the Natick Community Organic Farm, or shopping at the Natick Mall. Finally, in the evening, put a grand finale on your day with a show at TCAN.

Here are links to websites for some of the organizations listed above:

Broadmoor http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Broadmoor/index.php

Natick Center Associates <http://www.natickcenter.org/>

Morse Institute Library <http://www.morseinstitute.org/>

Bacon Free Library <http://www.baconfreelibrary.org/>

Natick Community Organic Farm <http://natickfarm.org/>

TCAN <http://www.natickart.org/>

Natick Mall <http://www.natickcollection.com/html/index16.asp>

The complete list of responses is included at the end of this document for you to review. There are many wonderful ideas in the list. It is very clear to us that people in Natick love their community.

Best of Natick

Natick 360 Fun Poll

You have guests visiting from out of town and you want to show them the best that Natick has to offer. Where do you go? What do you do?

That was the context for a Natick 360 “Fun Poll” and you shared many wonderful ideas about things that are special in our community.

This is not a scientific research study – it’s a “fun poll” so we don’t want to make too much of a fuss about the results. We hope you find the results interesting and that perhaps you get some ideas about what to do with your out-of-town guests the next time you have company.

Appendix A – Poll Responses

Natick Days

Visit the Children's section of the library. The staff is amazing - Ms. Champion, Mrs. Smith, Miss Ellen and every staff member are wonderful people who care about our children and engage them in the joy of discovering reading.

Attend a Natick High School football game.

Broadmoor

The grounds around the Historic Bacon Free Library and sitting near the falls at the Charles River.

Strong sense of Community

Family Day on the Common around the 4th of July

Visit Morse Institute Library and Bacon Free Library. Both have the charm of small town libraries combined with the most up to date materials and technology available. The staffs are the best anywhere.

Broadmoor

Walk in Broadmoor

Going to a Natick High School Varsity football game. They are so much fun and the crowd makes it even better!

Memorial Day Parade

Shop for gifts at Barber's on W. Central Street.

First on the list is the Morse INstitute Library in the heart of town. New and historical combine in an aesthetically pleasing structure to make browsing comfortable and easy. Many community activities to enjoy there.

Eating your favorite flavor of Park Street ice cream on the common.

Best of Natick 360 Until you have .used the nearby/handy transportation links (MassPike, Logan Express, neighborhood bus, RR)

The Morse Institute Library

Jordan's Furniture store complete with Kelley's Roast Beef and the Imax

Downtown area, including concerts and activities on the common

Sitting on a bench in the S. Natick park overlooking the Charles River quietly watching the ducks and sipping a cup of coffee

Storytime at the Morse Institute Library

Belkin Family Farm - picking fruits, eating the home made ice cream, etc

I would take a visitor down to South Natick to see the beautiful dam on the Charles and the quaint New England Elliot church and nearby old cementary.

Great use of town space such as the Concerts on the Common in the Summer and the focus on kids.

Natick is great in many ways, but the roads and sidewalks are awful in many places. More should be spent on rehabilitating basic infrastructure.

Had gelato at Lookout Farm

Natick Center

Natick Community Farm

Community Organic Farm. They offer classes for kids, Fall and Spring Festivals, Pancake Breakfast and the best part...a place to walk (for FREE!) with your family and see animals or explore nature paths.

4th of July Parade

A walk around Natick Center

Kayak the Charles River

the Natick Community Organic Farm

Bacon Street Library and Historical Society, South Natick Center

An early morning round of golf at Sassamon Trace

the friendliness of the Farmers' Market

Breakfast at Ed's!

Sit, sing, dance, play at a summer Concert on the Common

Fishing or boating on the Charles

Eaten a hot dog 'all around' at Casey's.

The Farms (Lookout, Natick Organic, Bacon Street, and Sunshine)

Summer evenings on the common (I can't remember exactly what they are called). There is no better way to spend a family evening on a nice summer night than listening to music and congregating with friends and town members...free. These are the kinds of things that creates Natick's community!!!

Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary

The opportunity to get involved with local government. Join a committee, seek election to Town Meeting (The Selectmen, Town Meeting, Town Administrator form of government.)Your participation can make a difference.

Boston Marathon, Rt 135, Patriots Day Front Row Seats (if you bring your own!)

Walk around the Natick Dam/Bacon Library area

great outdoor spaces

Morse Institute Library

The Natick Organic Farm. I was amazed when I moved here in 1990 that a suburban town had a functioning, educational farm.

The Natick Service Council. This non-profit provides for the un-met needs of Natick citizens who are most in need. In addition, Natick citizens and businesses can help by volunteering or contributing. What a great way to teach your kids about community service. Or just feel good about yourself while doing good for your community.

Morse Library

Visit Broadmoor reservation

Natick recycles.

Casey's Diner

walk through the common

Walk in Broadmoor. Every season there is something amazing to see in this slice of wilderness close to home.

Have lunch at the dam in South Natick.

Maxwell's 148 Restaurant

The Natick Community Organic Farm

Stong Commitment to Education

4th of July Parade (& fireworks when we had them)

Visit the Belkin Family Farm. Fun train rides to pick organic fruits, a wonderful market and garden shop and the gelato is well worth the trip.

TCAN

Canoe down the Charles River

Going to a TCAN concert or event... They are the best!!!

Living in the neighborhood below Pond, East of Speen, and West of Eastleigh

Hang out for a day at Memorial Beach. Listen to the lifeguards interact with the children. Buy a slush. Watch the sun set over a swim meet at the end of the day!

Casey's Diner for hot dogs - just a taste of old, crowded diners in New England.

Catching an Impulse Dance Center performance!

Until you have been welcomed by music and community at St Paul's

Broadmoor

Concerts on the Common in the summer

Dugpond in the summer with the kids

Walking along the Charles River at Elm Bank and visiting the various trial gardens

Walk through Elm Bank

Cochituate State Park

Audobon's Broadmore is a great destination in Natick and also a frequent place I would take visitors.

Sassamon Trace as place for kids to learn to golf

Pedestrian/bike path linking West Natick (near the Cole Center) with Route 9 shopping area. Great way to cut down on traffic and promote health!

Taken a canoe ride down the Charles in South Natick

South Natick waterfall

Audubon Broadmoor Sanctuary

TCAN. A place for adults to get out for a night and see a tremendous variety of performers and also has high-caliber classes for children.

NEF Spelling Bee

A show at TCAN

Hike Pagan Hill to see the city of Boston skyline

hiking in Broadmoor Sanctuary

Natick Organic Community Farm

Ice Cream from Park Street on an evening concert on the Natick Common

the friendliness of the family events on the Common

The Cole Center - Natick Family Network Center is a great place to meet Mom's if you have a small child.

Look beneath the surface for the spirit of community, everywhere

Maple sugaring at the NCOF

Attend The Framer's Market on Saturdays on the Common.

Broadmoore Audobon

Again, on the common - Natick Days. What fun to have a mini fair of our own, right here in Natick. People come from other towns to experience that, but we have the pride and feeling that it is OUR community!

Concerts on the Common

The Morse Institute Library & Bacon Free Library

Memorial Beach Swim Lessons and Resident Beach Stickers

Walk behind the Main St. shops and read the old painted signs, and look at the bricked up display windows

summer activities on the common

Dug Pond

South Natick Charles River Dam ! Quite impressive at all times of year, a wonderful place to just pull over and watch the water and have a sandwich.

The Natick Recreation Department. This town department provides dozens and dozens of educational, athletic, and social programs for citizens of all ages. The program booklet is a 'must see' because you'll absolutely find a program that you want to enroll in.

Town Center and ease of walking about town

Swim at Dug Pond

tcn

The Square in Natick Center

Morse Institute Public Library

See a show at TCAN. The variety of music, theater and dance will enable you to see something you will enjoy. Professional, nationally acclaimed artists along with local talent can be seen - right downtown!

Walk, jog, ride a bike, snowshoe through the Town Forest.

The park at Natick Common/downtown.

TCAN

Commitment to the sports and recreational activities

The Dolphin

The morning in downtown Natick a breakfast lovers dream - Bakery on the Common, Gourmet Decisions, Russ' Lunch and Java Jims. And if you're in South Natick - The Charles River Coffee House is the place to be.

Downtown

Attend a performance at TCAN

Hang out at the Natick Mall and do some shopping.

Dug Pond in the Summer, including swimming lessons

Attend the 4th of July Parade!

TCAN for the arts and to see how creative minds can turn an old firehouse into artistic entertainment.

Finding the perfect spot to cheer on the Boston Marathon runners on Patriot's Day.

Until you have .attended Library programs and concerts

Natick Days

Natick Fourth of July Parade

Football games

Visiting the Natick Organic Farm and watching the children react to the animals

Memorial Day Parade

Natick Center for the Arts

We go to Elm bank regularly alone or with guests at all times of the year...for the shows or for the trails to walk or snowshoe.

The annual Artist Open Studio event to see some of the hidden treasure being created in town.

Improve street lighting in busy areas with large pedestrian activity (like Boden Lane).

Enjoyed the eclectic collection at the Natick Historical Society

Broadmoor wildlife sanctuary

South Natick Dam and bridge and park

The Farmers Market on Saturdays. The freshest fruit and produce from local growers arrives on the town common every Saturday during the Summer and Fall.

Natick Days

Lunch at Casey's

Appreciate the historical uniformity of 19th Century and contemporary architecture of downtown
a performance at the Center for Arts in Natick (TCAN)

Natick Common

The Fourth of July Parade

the support so many businesses give to service organizations and the arts

Walking around downtown on the common.

Walk through a Natick neighborhood during a gentle late-night snowfall

Taking your kids to Natick Days or the 4th of July celebration on the square

Halloween in Natick Center: small streets, lots of neighbors out having fun.

Dug Pond

The Natick Center for Recreation (Cole Center) - all of the programs here are outstanding and priced so that families in Natick can take advantage of them...from the art classes, to Toddler classes, to the Father / Daughter dance to the Sunshine and Sargent Camps!!!

Town-wide celebrations, such as July 4th, Natick Days and Spooktacular

TCAN

Skating Rink Suburban Arena

Walk the trails at Snake Brook, Pegan Cove, Coolidge Hill, and the Hospital, all Boy Scout Eagle projects

Dug Pond swimming lessons

Caseys

The Common particularly during the summer for the concerts, a great place to run into friends, to get that daily walk in on well paved and cleared sidewalks.

Natick Days. On a warm, sunny day this event is the best around. Have a blast, meet neighbors, make new friends and find out what is happening in Natick.

Park St Ice Cream Shop

Sushi at Oga's

green with its shops and activities

Bakery on the Common

the mural at the natick center train station

Shop at Five Crows. Unique crafts and artwork make this stop one you cannot miss! Find jewelry, pottery, wall-hangings, paintings, knitted and crocheted pieces, sculpture and much more....all my local artisans!

Attend a performance at TCAN.

Lakes/ponds

Broadmore

Preservation of community (Land, buildings and cultural aspects)

Casey's Diner

Five Crows is a unique and welcoming store. Articles made by Natick artisans and crafts people.

South Natick dam

Attend a concert on the Common

Take a walk downtown. Possible have a bite to eat at Casey's. Take a tour of the Fire Department. Read a book at the Morse Library. Maybe even take a tour of Pegasus studio.

TCAN

Watch the Boston Marathon run through town on Patriot's Day. Go for your own run and learn why we're named the town of hills: 'Natick.'

South Natick - BAcon Library for history, the falls for New England nature, and the coffehouse across the street for exchanging political and literary ideas.

Taking advantage of all the resources, activities, programs and Exhibits at the Morse Institute Library.

Until you have .enjoyed the numerous activities on the common

Lake Cochituate

Lookout Farm

South Natick park along the Charles and the Bacon Library

Visiting Lookout Farm-especially apple picking and the farm shop, as well as looking at the various animals

Veterans Day Ceremony

Natick Organic Community Farm

The Natick common is a destination almost every time I have guests visiting. Maybe we go to the bakery on the common, or to the ice cream shop, or sometimes the farmer's market and then walk around the common because the downtown areas is so nice.

The Five Crows - A really interesting shop

Don't be anti-chain with Natick Center. Have one or two or more strategic chains that would fit in with the town character and also bring more foot traffic to support local businesses (like a Starbucks or Peets).

enjoyed the organic produce at Lookout Farm

Natick Mall

Historic Districts

Family Activities. From the concerts on the common during the summer to the Natick Family Network to Kids Connect to the Morse Institute Library to the Natick Cooperative Playgroup, to Broadmoor and countless others - Natick is a great place to raise little ones.

The Common

A walk in the Audobon

Have a brew @ Natick's townie places (not allowed IN Natick!!)@ The Happy Swallow (Framingham) or The Dudley Chateau (Wayland)

seen the mural at the train station in Natick center

Broadmoor/Audobon

Thanksgiving Football breakfast at the Natick Elks

eaten at Casey's and Russ' Diner

Great coffee at Bakery on the Common

Stop for a jug of milk, fresh produce, and a Christmas tree at Tilly's

Doing your saturday errands in a real downtown with no chain stores

The dam at South Natick and the old library. Great views!

Natick Common

Gymnastics Express - what a phenomenal program and so convenient for us...many people from sherborn, dover and wellesley!

Morse Institute Library

Sassamon Trace

Elm Bank

Attend a Town Meeting

friendly, attractive town center

Waterfall in S. Natick

TCAN where else besides THE CITY can you walk to a great performing arts venue

Natick's many youth sports organizations and the Natick Rec Dept. do a fantastic job of keeping it 'about the kids'. The fields and facilities are also well kept and good social venues.

Roche Bros Grocery

Concerts on the Common

the mall

Bird Sanctuary

Pizza Market on Rte. 27

Sit in the common, sip a cup of coffee from any of the downtown shops and people-watch! A typical New England common is the place to watch an elderly couple sitting on a bench enjoying a warm day, or watch a family play on the green. On Saturdays in the summer and fall there is a farmer's market with fresh, local produce. There are free concerts in the summer to be enjoyed on warm nights. Or, just sit and look up at the trees and the sky.

Attend the July 4th parade.

Neighborhoods

Skating on Lake Cochituate

Embracing and preserving a diverse socioeconomic demographic population

The Natick Mall

Tilly's in East Natick. To feel what it was like to grow up in Natick was to know Tilly's. Even if you grew up, as I did, in West Natick everyone went to Tilly's. To this day, we all make the trip as often as we can.

Dah Me

Watch the Marathon from the Common

Nature interspersed with the community (e.g. the ponds/lakes, NCOF, Broadmore, Town Forest)

Go sledding on Walnut Hill. (Close your eyes!)

the New Natick Mall - just to see where the revenue comes from!!

Taking part in one of many, many community volunteer opportunities.

Until you have .seen the many children enjoying sports

4th of July parade

Natick shopping area, in particular Natick Mall

Natick Mall

Visiting Broadmoor, walking the trails independently or lead by a wildlife specialist

Concerts on the Common

Notice that I didn't mention the mall. Why are we expanding this again? Do we really need more retail area?

I'd also say the T station is a great asset and destination in Natick because it makes our home an even nicer place for guests to visit because they can hop on the train and go visit Boston for a Red Sox game and never hassle with driving.

The Fourth of July Parade and events. A great show with a great MC.

There's been much focus on building smart-growth condos in/near Natick Center (which is AWESOME), but why not court more business? Maynard has done this and the result is workers during the day giving solid business to local restaurants and shops. For a town of 10,000 people, the downtown is happening and hip. Natick has so much more potential than Maynard in many ways (closer to Boston, the mbta, TCAN, incredible library, etc. etc.).

a visit at the Natick Community Farm

Whitney Place

Casey's Diner

The Downtown Shops. Coffee shops, artsy craft stores, jewelry stores, an Italian Market...it is a fun place to just go and walk around on a summer afternoon.

Tilly & Salvy's Bacon Street Farm

Golf at Sassamon Trace

Casey's Diner

the view of the Common from the Bakery windows

Marinos Farm (Belkin)

A picnic at the South Natick Falls

Ask a Natick resident for help... and then help someone else, yourself

Swimming at Dug Pond on a summer day

The 4th of July parade.

Natick Center

The Morse Institute Library - again, I am astounded by all the programs that this town has to offer, the community involvement, etc.

TCAN

Dug Pond and Recreation Programs

Natick Community Organic Farm

Wander through the Town Forest with a special friend

Youth soccer program

playground near walnut hill

Great downtown restaurants, near a train staTION, OUR faves, Dai Mae, The Gourmet Decision,

Natick's Town Forest and many walking trails are a great way to escape the cars and congestion, and get some exercise.

Lakes and Rivers in and around Natick

community

Charlestown River