The Chatham Conservation Foundation preserves land for the benefit of the people, plants, animals, and ecosystems of Chatham. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the purpose of acquiring land, by gift or purchase, to be preserved in its natural state in perpetuity.

The Eldredge Public Library was a gift to the people of Chatham in 1896 from one of its natives, Marcellus Eldredge. The Library’s mission is to enhance the quality of life in Chatham by providing residents and visitors with the library services they need and want: informational and recreational materials and programs, cultural enrichment, intellectual stimulation, academic support, social interaction, and a neutral setting for public discourse.

A WALK WITH WORDS
Promoting literacy, learning and a deeper appreciation of and connection with the natural world.

Historically, man has attempted to describe and define the natural world — its diverse landscapes, its changing seasons, and its remarkable inhabitants — through poetry.

The Poetry Walk is a collaboration between the Eldredge Public Library, the Chatham Conservation Foundation, and Monomoy Regional High School.
The Valley Farm Trail

The Valley Farm Trail is steeped in history and is home to a variety of flora and fauna. The .75-mile woodland loop with salt marsh views abuts the Harding House/Valley Farm, which dates back to 1849. The farmhouse and adjacent land, known as Valley Farm, were originally owned by the Harding family whose members were among the earliest Chatham settlers. The house and barn are still surrounded by meadow and open field, providing a glimpse of early Chatham farm life.

To access the trail, take Barn Hill Road (off Route 28 at the new traffic circle) and then turn left onto Valley Farm Road. Parking is available at the trailhead.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.
~ Rachel Carson

The Poems

Each poem on the Poetry Walk has been selected to highlight the site. We hope you enjoy your time on the Valley Farm Trail!

~11~
By Emily Dickinson
Mysteries
By Joyce Sidman

Afternoon on a Hill
By Edna St.Vincent Millay
The Best Paths
By Kristine O’Connell George

Blackberries for Amelia
By Richard Wilbur
Berries
By Lillian Moore

The Holly
By Walter de la Mare
Give Me Holly
By Christina Rossetti

“Hope” is a thing with Feathers
By Emily Dickinson
If You Find a Little Feather
By Beatrice Schenk de Regniers

Itch
By Sean Rackley
Warning
By Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

Marshlands
By Emily Pauline Johnson
Song of the Seashore
By Daphne Lister

Mountain Laurel
By Louisa May Alcott
Annie’s Garden
By Eliza Lee Follen

The Pasture
By Robert Frost
The Giving Farm
By Vicki Witcher

Petit, the Poet
By Edgar Lee Masters
How to Build a Poem
By Charles Ghigna

A Summer Morning
By Rachel Field
Summer
By Walter Dean Myers

Trees
By Joyce Kilmer
There is a Tree
By Karla Kuskin