



SCITUATE

Plymouth County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Scituate is a small to mid-sized seacoast community located equidistant between Boston and Plymouth. In the 375 years since its incorporation, it has evolved from a summer colony to a residential community but has managed to retain some of the flavor of its past. Ocean-related recreational activities make it a very desirable place in which to live and to raise families.

Its Town Pier accommodates a working fishing fleet and that, coupled with three business areas, represents commercial interests in the town. Scituate also has a strong sense of its history and commemorates its founding in August each year via the celebration of "Heritage Days". Historic points of interest include: Scituate Lighthouse, The Old Oaken Bucket Homestead and Well, The Lawson Tower, Stockbridge Mill and the Cudworth House as well as the Little Red School House which is the home of the Scituate Historical Society.

Residents pride themselves on the strength of their school system and on the achievements of the great percentage of students (85%) who go on to higher education from Scituate Public Schools. The Town of Scituate is a delightful mix of rural, suburban and seaside lifestyles within a 25 mile ride to the City of Boston.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

EasternFINANCE AND ECachusetts, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the east and north, Marshfield on the south, Norwell on the southwest, Hingham on the west, and Cohasset on the northwest. Scituate is 18 miles northeast of Brockton, 23 miles southeast of Boston, and 227 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 31.79 sq. miles

Land Area: 17.18 sq. miles

Population: 16,786

Density: 977 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Hingham Station)

Normal temperature in January.....27.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.7"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Cohasset, Scituate, Nantasket

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 545-8700

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1636

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	11,948		
Democrats	3,697	30.9	%
Republicans	2,264	18.9	%
Other parties	3	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	5,984	50.1	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Scituate town, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	17,863	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	17,863	100.0
Male.....	8,523	47.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	148	0.8
Female.....	9,340	52.3	Mexican.....	18	0.1
Under 5 years.....	1,295	6.9	Puerto Rican.....	28	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	1,353	7.6	Cuban.....	17	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,322	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	85	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	1,096	5.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	17,715	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	458	2.6	White alone.....	17,182	96.2
25 to 34 years.....	1,666	9.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	3,275	18.3	Total population.....	17,863	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,862	16.0	In households.....	17,693	99.0
55 to 59 years.....	1,059	5.9	Householder.....	6,694	37.5
60 to 64 years.....	871	4.9	Spouse.....	4,187	23.4
65 to 74 years.....	1,508	8.4	Child.....	5,765	32.3
75 to 84 years.....	907	5.1	Own child under 18 years.....	4,439	24.9
85 years and over.....	311	1.7	Other relatives.....	525	2.9
Median age (years).....	40.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	183	1.0
18 years and over.....	13,203	73.9	Nonrelatives.....	522	2.9
Male.....	6,178	34.6	Unmarried partner.....	223	1.2
Female.....	7,025	39.3	In group quarters.....	170	1.0
21 years and over.....	12,817	71.8	Institutionalized population.....	163	0.9
62 years and over.....	3,238	18.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	7	-
65 years and over.....	2,726	15.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,142	6.4	Total households.....	6,694	100.0
Female.....	1,584	8.9	Family households (families).....	4,921	73.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,302	34.4
One race.....	17,683	99.0	Married-couple family.....	4,187	62.5
White.....	17,276	96.7	With own children under 18 years.....	1,982	29.6
Black or African American.....	88	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	549	8.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	6	-	With own children under 18 years.....	250	3.7
Asian.....	80	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	1,773	26.5
Asian Indian.....	10	0.1	Householder living alone.....	1,488	22.2
Chinese.....	33	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	694	10.4
Filipino.....	12	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,437	36.4
Japanese.....	5	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,887	28.2
Korean.....	15	0.1	Average household size.....	2.64	(X)
Vietnamese.....	3	-	Average family size.....	3.13	(X)
Other Asian ¹	2	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	7,685	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	6,694	87.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	991	12.9
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	2	-	occasional use.....	816	10.6
Some other race.....	231	1.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	180	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.2	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	6,694	100.0
White.....	17,431	97.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	5,559	83.0
Black or African American.....	140	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,135	17.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	55	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.78	(X)
Asian.....	118	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.97	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	-			
Some other race.....	305	1.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 165

Conventional Federal: 51

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 11

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Scituate is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 3A and State Route 123, which connects up with the Southeast Expressway (State Route 3) in the nearby town of Hanover.

Rail

Commuter rail service from Boston to Scituate is currently under consideration. The MBTA Red Line is accessible in Braintree and Quincy. Travel time from Braintree Station to Park Street: 25 min., 1,228 MBTA parking spaces.

Bus

Scituate is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). The Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company provides commuter service from Scituate and North Scituate to Boston.

Other

The Marshfield Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,999'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Boston Harbor Commuter Services and Mass Bay Lines provide commuter boat service to Rowes Wharf, Boston from Hingham.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Scituate Historical Society
Laidlaw Historical Center
Cudworth Road
((781) 545-1083

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Cardigan Nursing Home

Scituate Ocean Manor N.H.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.