



Website Manager at <website.gnba@gmail.com>

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## [Test] This Week at Giants Neck Beach

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# This Week at Giants Neck Beach

## August 12, 2024

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### [Upcoming Meetings/Events](#)

BINGO 8-14-24, 7:00 p.m.

Association Meeting, 8-17-24. 9:00 a.m.

Summer Fun Day, 8-17-24, 10:30 a.m.

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News

Court Hours

The multi-purpose court hours have been changed to 9 am to 7 pm. Signage will be updated shortly.

## Safety First!

Drivers...please pay attention to speed limits and stop signs within our community. Be aware of an increased number of children during the summer months!

Parents...please talk to your children about bike and scooter safety, especially around hills and curves!

Let's do our part to keep everyone safe in Giants Neck Beach!

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## [Giants Neck Beach - A Natural Beauty!](#)

Minks were spotted recently near the docks—how exciting! These sightings are significant as they indicate a healthy local ecosystem. I had seen them before and thought, “What are ferrets doing down there by the water?” But of course, it is the native ***Neovison vison***, an animal that typically avoids human contact. Minks weigh 2-4 pounds, similar to the size of their favorite prey, muskrats. They also eat fish, birds, rabbits, snakes, frogs, and chipmunks. Although they are solitary animals, the ones spotted on the log were in a group of 3. The one seen a few weeks later on lower Brockett Road was alone—but notice the still rabbit in the foreground, probably frozen in fear!

Minks enjoy the water and can dive to 16 feet and swim underwater (and even under ice in colder months and climates). Their fur is oily and waterproof, and their feet are partially webbed, which gives them a body perfect for the water.

I wondered what sets minks apart from looking like other animals, such as the river otter and the weasel. So, while looking it up, I discovered that, although they have dark brown to black fur, the mink has a bit of white on their chin or throat. Mink are also larger and darker than weasels. River Otters weigh closer to 12-25 pounds so that they would appear as much larger animals than those seen recently here. The mink picture on the log comes from a video; you can see the white spot on their throat, as seen in the close-up!

Minks, as part of the Mustelid family, possess anal scent glands. While they don't 'spray' like skunks, they can release their scent when threatened. This serves as a deterrent to potential predators like foxes, bobcats, and owls. Their ability to climb trees, coupled with their small size, provides them with a

formidable defense strategy, enabling them to escape into tight spaces. It's a testament to their survival skills!

Check out this website <http://wildlifeofct.com/mink.html>, a comprehensive guide to the local wildlife at GNB, and enjoy nature at GNB this week!

Thank you to Steve Colonis, Jim Horton & Sue Walters for the pictures.

Have a great week!

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visit us on the web

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**Our mailing address is:**

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