

I am my maternal grandparents' oldest grandchild, and they have played a big part in my life since I was born. In 2018, when I was 10 years old, they moved to a house on Northville Beach. In the process, my summers switched from being spent at crowded, popular beaches, to at my grandparents' house, on a much less populated beach, with only my family. You don't realize how nice a quiet beach is until you're on one. I was in elementary school at the time, and that beach and house have watched me graduate from elementary, middle, and high school, and become an adult. It has met two of my family's dogs. When I had knee surgery, even though I couldn't get down to the beach, it was still on my mind. Now, I'm going away to college, and I won't be able to see the beach, or, more importantly, my grandparents, as often, and I'm looking back and reflecting on my time here. I've learned a few things through the 8 years I've been visiting this beach. First, the concept of the beach is universal. Deer, birds, dogs, people, bugs, any animal that can reach the beach enjoys it. I didn't really consider that deer could find a beach relaxing, but I like that everybody, human or not, can enjoy the gift that this beautiful beach is. I've also learned how to spot sea glass from my Grandma, and that a really good beach glass find is one of the most rewarding feelings you can experience. I've learned that the beach takes care of you, so you should take care of it too. I go on a lot of long walks down the beach, and I pick up as much garbage as I can carry. If you're looking for sea glass you'll probably find it anyway, so it's kind of killing two birds with one stone. It doesn't take much extra effort, and it benefits the environment as well as the look of the beach! However, probably the biggest lesson I've learned here is that quality time with your friends and family is one of the most important things in life. The time I've spent with my family at this beach is irreplaceable, and so are the bonds that were strengthened through that time spent. Being on the beach with people tends to make you talk to each other about anything and everything, and I have had some of my best conversations with people on Northville beach. The time that I've spent with my grandparents, parents, sister, aunts, uncles, cousins, and even dogs on that beach is the most important thing that I have gotten out of this house, and I know that I have to continue to prioritize it in my life. It's one of the things I will miss the most about it while I am gone. Like I said: I've taken care of the beach, and the beach has taken care of me.