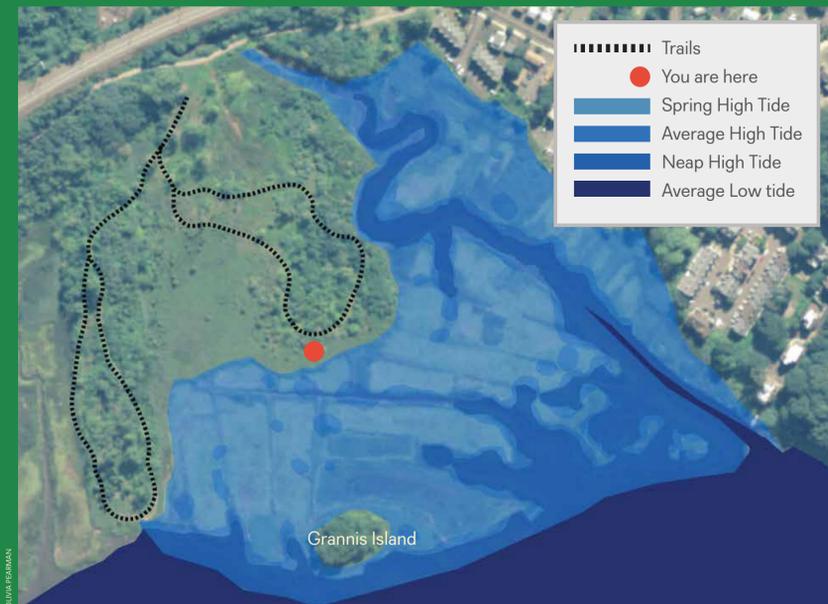




Only during the spring tides do the waters of the Quinnipiac rise enough to make Grannis Island an actual island. The image above shows what Grannis Island looks like normally, and the diagram below shows Grannis Island during the spring high tide.

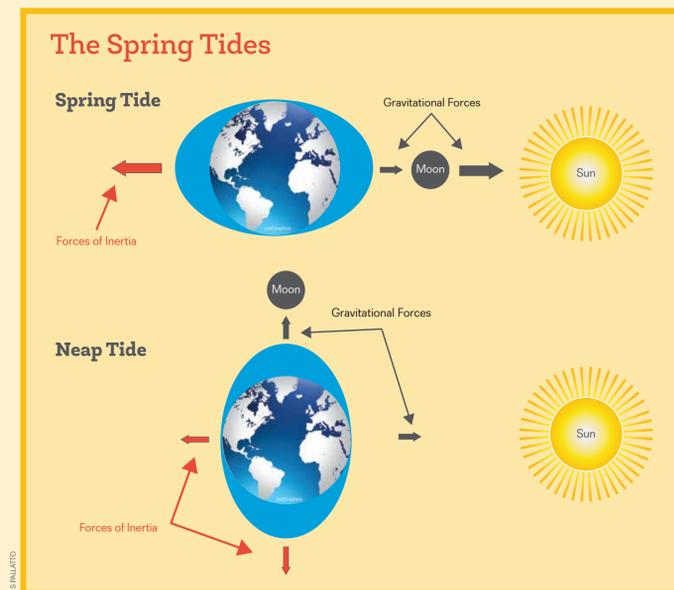


# Grannis Island



## Hidden Island

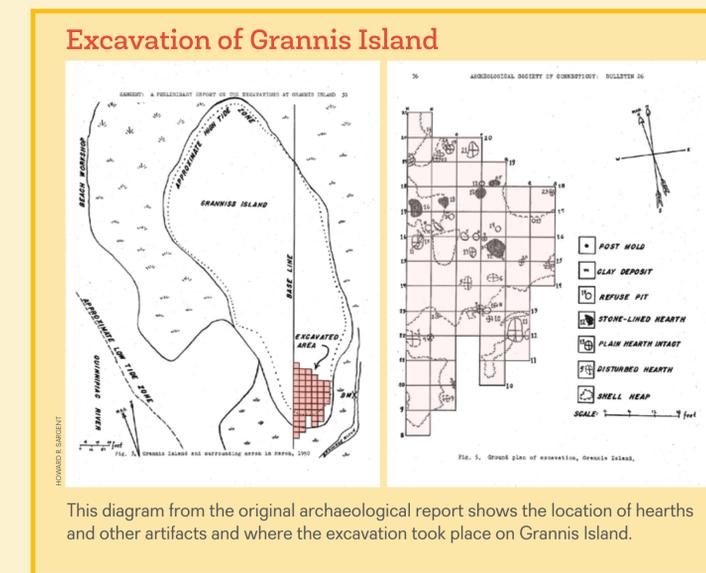
Is Grannis Island really an island? Sometimes! Most of the time, the two acres of elevated land you see across the marsh that compose Grannis Island are connected to the mainland. The tides rise twice daily to flood most of the surrounding salt marsh, but it is only twice a month during spring tides that water completely surrounds the land on all sides to form an island.



The term **spring tides** refers to the action of the seas 'spring'-ing out and back. During this time, the water rises to its highest level and then falls back to its lowest. Spring tides are due to an increased gravitational pull by the moon and sun when they are in alignment with the earth during the full moon and the new moon. Conversely, the tides are not as extreme when there is a half moon during the **neap tide**.

## A Native American Summer Oasis

Grannis Island was used as a summer oasis for the Quinnipiac Tribe and their ancestors for over 4,000 years! Evidence suggests that the island was visited during the summer so Native Americans could enjoy the abundant seasonal seafood harvest and hunting opportunities. In the 1940s, an archaeological excavation uncovered many fascinating Native American artifacts on the island. At least 26 different hearths were discovered, five of which were stone fire pits used for baking clams. A wide variety of animal bones were found along with an impressive variety of arrowheads, knives, and drill-like implements.



This diagram from the original archaeological report shows the location of hearths and other artifacts and where the excavation took place on Grannis Island.

The archeologists also found remains of dogs that had been buried lying on their sides and surrounded by artifacts, suggesting a ritual practice. Researchers believe that dogs were considered part of the community that helped with guarding the tribe and hunting. Dogs were spiritually important to many tribes. What significance do you think the dogs had to the Quinnipiac?

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