

Lilly Pond Community Forest

This 146-acre nature preserve is located on High Street in Bath, Maine



Available to the public free of charge
Open daily from dawn until dusk

92 Front Street, Bath, Maine 04530
P.O. Box 1128
(207) 442-8400
www.kennebecestuary.org
info@kennebecestuary.org

The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust's mission is to conserve, restore and instill appreciation of the land and water resources of the Kennebec Estuary to benefit today's communities and future generations.

Volunteer

KELT offers many volunteer opportunities to support a wide range of activities and interests including:

- + trail work
- + public preserve stewardship
- + events
- + water quality testing
- + phytoplankton sampling
- + alewife counting
- + bird monitoring
- + fundraising
- + office help

Contact info@kennebecestuary.org to find out how you can help!

Join us!

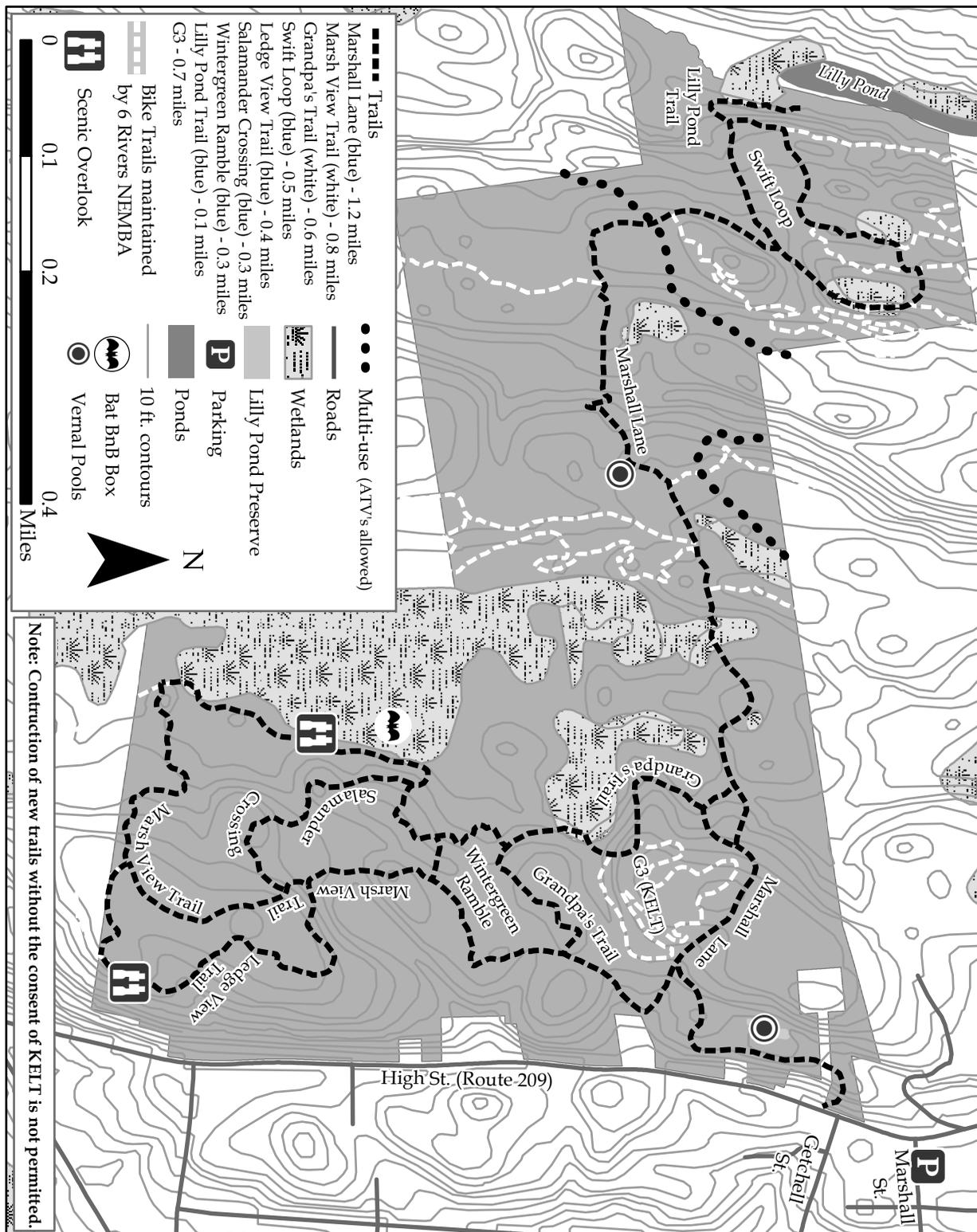
Support from our members means KELT can maintain trails and public preserves across our conserved properties. It enables KELT to collaborate with a variety of partners to protect farmlands, enhance water quality, provide educational programs, and serve as a resource for our local towns.

Become a member today.
Visit www.kennebecestuary.org to join!

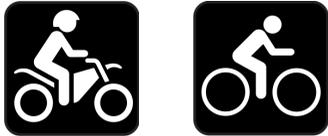
Directions

Take High Street south from Rt. 1 about 1 mile. Turn left onto Marshall Street, where parking is available at Goddard Park on the left. Then walk south on High Street approximately 500 feet, just past Getchell Street, to the preserve entrance at the wooden stairs on the right.

Last updated Jan. 2021



Available Opportunities:



(On multi-use trail only)

Please refrain from:



Don't Miss...

- + Forested view of Lilly Pond at the end of the Swift Loop.
- + Bases of two historic watch towers, large cement- and- rock structures, which are rumored to have been used to view traffic on the river.
- + Vernal pools located at two points along the trail.

History

1640: Christopher Lawson, an agent from Boston, purchases a piece of land and becomes the first known settler of the future city of Bath, Maine. This property includes Lines Island and the shoreline from the Chops to Little Whiskeag Creek. Around the same time, William Cock purchases land from the Indians but the deed goes unrecorded.

1659: The land owned by William Cock, which occupies the western shore of Winnegance Creek, is sold to shipwright John Layton.

1660: Many land purchases are made by the new settlers from the Indians.

1740s: Four pioneer husbandmen come into possession of most of the area's land-including William Marshall who manages it as undeveloped farmland. These "south end" farms provide the growing town of Bath with woodlots for housing, fuels, furniture and hunting; pasture for cattle, pigs and sheep (food, milk, leather, fleece); fields for hay; tillage for vegetable gardens; and water for humans and animals alike. Due to the rocky ridges under the preserve, it is likely the area was used as apasture or woodlots.

2000: The Krejsa Family Trust purchases the land for conservation.

2013: KELT purchases the property from The Krejsa Family Trust.

2014: KELT opens the preserve to the public.

Geology

The bedrock on the west side of Lilly Pond is Ordovician - Precambrian Z Cape Elizabeth Formation, which is metamorphic rock composed mostly of slate, with some quartz and schist. On the east side of the property, the bedrock is Devonian granite, which is an unmetamorphosed biotite granite. In some areas of the property, the bedrock is covered by till, which can be very heterogeneous in mineral composition. In other areas, the bedrock is at the surface.

Wildlife

The variety of habitats on the property, including wooded areas, wetlands and an abutting body of water, provides natural resources for many different species. The wetlands provide an ideal habitat for many waterfowl. The inhabitants of the wetlands include ducks, herons, and several species of warbler. Within the wooded area, whitetail deer and snowshoe hare can be found. Lilly Pond itself is home to yellow perch, eel, minnows, golden shiner, chain pickerel, hornpout, and pumpkinseed sunfish. The steep shore of Lilly Pond prevents access to the water, but visitors can overlook the habitat from the trail.

Ecology

Lilly Pond Community Forest includes diverse woodlands that change elevation throughout. This leads to a number of microclimates supporting a wide range of bird, mammal, and amphibian species.

Ecologists call this a "heterogeneous landscape", where the best habitat for a damp-loving salamander might lie very close to the very dry conditions of a pitch pine ridge. The diversity of habitats leads to a diversity of plant and animal species.

Forests

On the dry heights of land, lowbush blueberry and pine trees are common. Pockets between hills become damp swales with vernal pools and wooded wetlands. Patches of dark hemlock forest create havens for songbirds and squirrels. Hillsides are populated with spruce, fir, maple and oak.

Invasive Plants

Unwelcome newcomers to the preserve's flora include several invasive plant species, among them Japanese Barberry and Asiatic bittersweet vine. KELT is watching these species, mapping their locations, and designing control efforts so that the native forest remains an excellent habitat for the species depending on it.

Vernal Pools

For a brief time in the spring, the three vernal pools at Lilly Pond Community Forest become a hotspot of amphibian action. Listen for frog calls and watch for salamanders in April and early May and enjoy the views of these temporary pools before they dry out again in



Lowbush Blueberry
(*Vaccinium angustifolium*)



American Black Duck
(*Anas rubripes*)