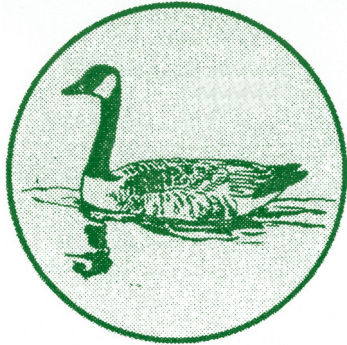


Exploring the Sanctuary's Habitats

Goose Pond Estuary and Salt Marsh

Access: Along Back Road near Harborside. Also by canoe.

Look For: Ledges made of volcanic ash rock and a “mountain” created by the copper mining operation formerly located here; great blue herons, goldeneyes, herring gulls, black ducks, kingfishers, and teal; *Spartina* grass and sea lavender.



Shores of Penobscot Bay and Smith Cove

Access: Back Road to Indian Bar Road to Back Shore Trail or Indian Bar picnic area. Also by boat.

Look For: Bald eagles and ospreys fishing; shells of sand dollars, sea urchins, and horseshoe crabs on the beaches; clams and mussels on the mud flats; seals on the ledges; gulls, cormorants, and bay ducks; seaside goldenrod.

Beaver Flowage and Fresh Pond

Access: Back Road to Beaver Flowage; Ice Works, Aaron, and Fresh Pond Trails to Fresh Pond.

Look For: Beaver dams and lodges made of sticks; muskrat lodges made of cattails; deer and raccoon tracks; great blue herons, ospreys, and their nests; forget-me-nots; yellow, white, and pink water lilies in the pond.



Wooded Uplands

Access: Along both roads through the Sanctuary and along all trails.

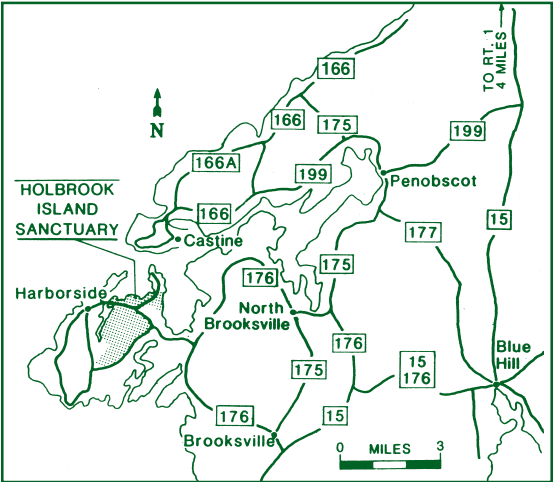
Look For: Panoramic views from the summit of Bakeman Mountain; apple trees, lilacs, and other signs of old house sites; woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, and ruffed grouse; squirrels and porcupines; twinflower, shinleaf, and pink lady's-slipper.

Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park is open daily from 9 a.m. to sunset year-round. Special arrangements for groups may be made by calling or writing the Park office.

To help maintain the beauty of this natural area, please observe the following rules:

- Stay on designated trails. Trails are for walking only.
- Do not pick wildflowers, cut trees or shrubbery, or harass wildlife.
- Pets must be kept on a leash.
- Use only charcoal for fires and build fires only in grills provided. Fires are not permitted on beaches.
- Camping is not permitted.
- Rules and regulations are posted on the park bulletin board.

Holbrook Island Sanctuary's parking areas are maintained throughout the winter for your convenience. Please come and enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating or hiking.



Cover art: This drawing, done by author/illustrator John W. Brainerd of West Brooksville, shows the many habitats of Holbrook Island Sanctuary.

P.O. Box 35
Brooksville, ME 04617
207-326-4012
friendsofholbrookisland.org

Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park



Maine Bureau of
Parks and Lands

TRAILS

distances and times are round trip

BAKEMAN FARM TRAIL: Easy walk from the Cape Rosier Road to the Bakeman foundation through the fields to the beaver flowage and back to the Cape Rosier Road. 0.6 miles, 25 to 35 minutes.

FRESH POND TRAIL: Easy walk through woods to and around Fresh Pond. 1.4 miles, 1-3/4 to 2 hours. Parking lot on Otis Gray Road.

AARON TRAIL: Moderately strenuous hike through woods and old homestead fields to Fresh Pond. Some steep grades. 1.8 miles, 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Parking and trail head at top of Cape Rosier Road.

SUMMIT TRAIL: Short, steep hike, up wooded mountain with scenic coastal views. Trail continues southeast to re-join Mountain Loop near Connector junction. 1.1 miles, 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Parking at trail head.

NORTHEAST CREEK TRAIL: Proposed connection from Fresh Pond to Beaver Flowage Trails.

GOOSE FALLS TRAIL: Easy to moderate walk along the shoreline between the dock area parking lot and Goose Falls. 1 mile, 35 to 45 minutes. Pass Bakeman Cemetery dating to 1800.

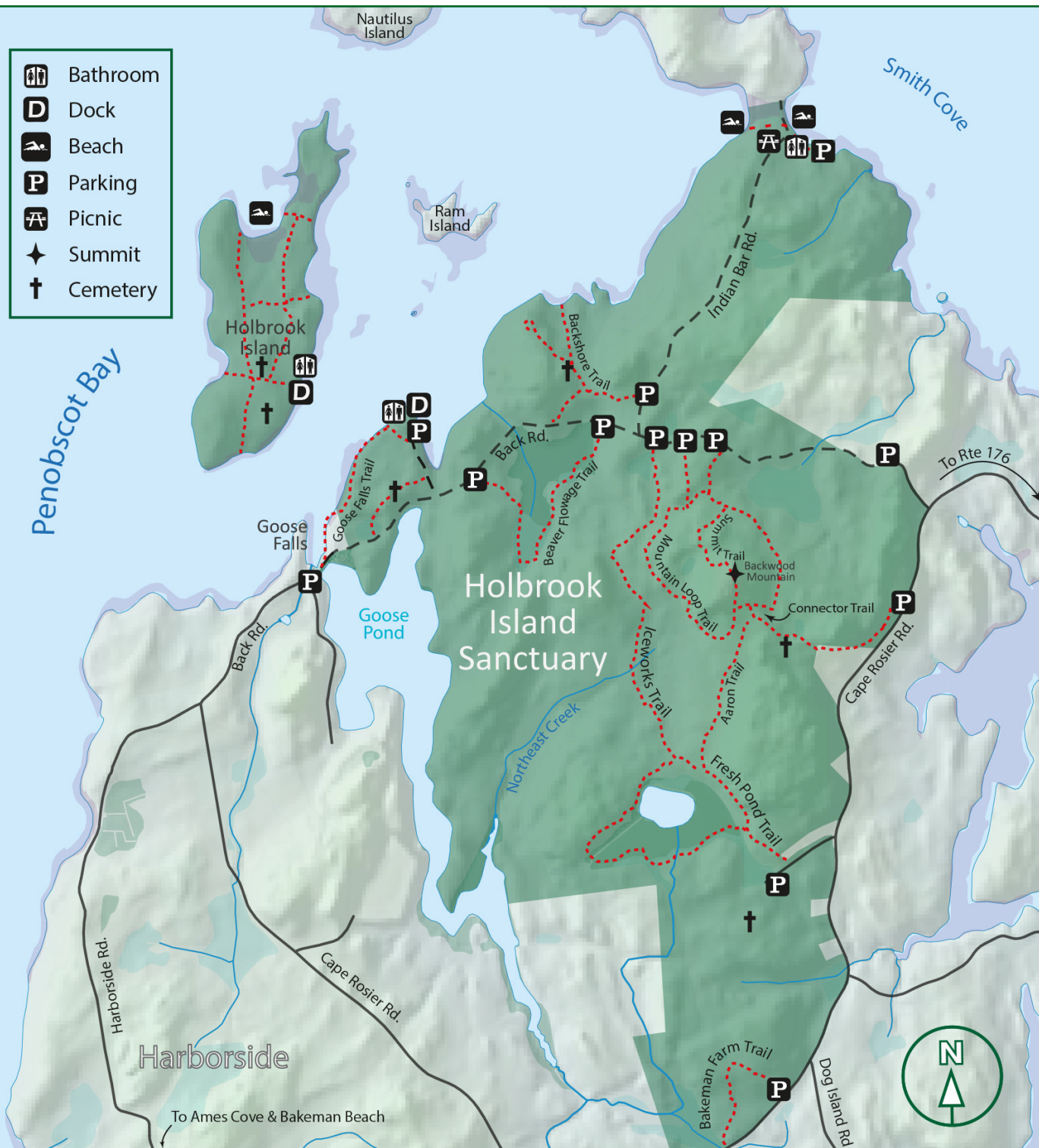
BEAVER FLOWAGE TRAIL: Easy walk, through open woods, around the beaver flowage, along the Back Road. Parking lots at both ends. 1.5 miles, 45 minutes to 1 hour.

BACK SHORE TRAIL: Easy walk through old estate fields to shore spur to location of Hutchins estate ruins 0.7 miles, 30-35 minutes. Parking lot on Indian Bar Road.

ICEWORKS TRAIL: Moderate walk through woods to Fresh Pond. 2 miles, 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 hours. Parking at trail head.

MOUNTAIN LOOP TRAIL: Easy to moderate. 1.7 miles, 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Parking at trail head.

Map courtesy of Hans Carlson, BHHT, 2021



Bordering Penobscot Bay in Brooksville, Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park protects many different ecosystems, which visitors can explore and enjoy.

From the beaches, mud flats, and rocky coast to the tops of steep hills that are actually old volcanoes, the Sanctuary hosts a great diversity of plant and animal life. Stands of spruce, fir, pine, and mixed hardwoods, together with wetlands and meadows, encourage a multitude of colorful wildflowers that bloom from early spring until late fall. Down through these forests and old fields and around the marshes and ponds, alert visitors can see abundant signs of deer, fox, muskrat, beaver, otter, porcupine, bobcat, and coyote. This variety of habitats also offers excellent birding, especially during spring and fall migrations. Visitors can see great blue herons and ospreys nesting around the pond and estuary, and may even spot bald eagles and peregrine falcons flying over the Sanctuary. A bird list is available at Park Headquarters and in some information boxes.

Wishing to preserve this special environment and to encourage its use by other lovers of nature, Anita Harris, a long-time area resident, began acquiring land in Brooksville for a Sanctuary in the 1960's. In 1971, she donated 1,230 acres to the State of Maine, in order "to preserve for the future a piece of the unspoiled Maine that I used to know."

Today, Holbrook Island Sanctuary has a unique place in the state park system. In keeping with Anita Harris' vision, the Sanctuary will not be altered by modern park facilities and management techniques. Instead, a network of old roads, paths, and animal trails leads visitors to explore the shoreline, marshes, ponds, and forests. In each of these diverse ecosystems, visitors have a rare opportunity to experience a natural environment whose future is being shaped by natural forces rather than by human hands.