

# **The Town of Phippsburg Public and Land Trust Hiking Trails**

## **GUIDELINES**

Please respect both private and preserve property by observing the following rules:

- \* Park only in designated parking areas.
- \* Stay on marked trails.
- \* Do not disturb local wildlife.
- \* Do not pick any vegetation.
- \* Carry out everything you bring in.
- \* Fires and camping are prohibited.

Hunting, in season, is permitted in portions of these areas. Be aware of hunting regulations.

## **THE TRAILS**

Maps and detailed, comprehensive field guides, covering the trails, history and ecology of Cooley, Spirit Pond and Ridgewell Preserves, are available from boxes located near the entrance of each area.

## **COOLEY PRESERVE**

The yellow trail to Beaver Pond begins from the parking area on Parker Head Road and offers 1.2 miles of easy walking with only one moderately steep incline to be negotiated. The blue trail to an old cellar hole and overlook of Center Pond branches off the yellow trail to the north. Near Beaver Pond outlet, the orange trail leaves the yellow trail and follows an old logging road south to Elbow Hill Road and back to Parker Head Road.

## **RIDGE WELL PRESERVE & TOWN FOREST**

The main trail starts from the Pride Rock Way pull-off and goes up a steep incline to the ridge where it is joined by a white trail that leads south to Dinosaur Rocks and a view of Seguin Island (The deep ravines and steep cliffs of these rocks may be dangerous for children.) The white trail continues south, through the Phippsburg Town Forest and Bates College property, to Route 209. Yet another trail (blue) follows the 2 mile boundary of the Town Forest.

## **SPIRIT POND AREA** **(State Land)**

A dirt road, on the south side of Route 209, about 1/4 mile west of the intersection of Route 209 and Parker Head Road, marks the head of this comfortable, two-mile trail. There is room for two cars on the dirt road in a small clearing on the right. Easy walking along the west side of Spirit Pond brings the walker views of an old mill dam, aged foundations, stone walls and the vast salt marshes along the Morse River. These marshes provide excellent birding. The return trip may be made in reverse, or walkers may follow a 0.7 mile dirt road back to Route 209.

**THE LONG TRAIL**  
**Center Pond to Spirit Pond**

For specific directions for traversing this 8 mile trail, please call Bill Emerson at 389-1322.

As they walk the Long Trail across private and public lands, hikers are made aware of the many ecosystems that contribute to the diversity and richness of Phippsburg Peninsula. This part of Maine lies in the transition area between the northern and boreal forests; thus, representative species from both ecosystems are to be found here. Some plants, like the pitch pine and the rare crowberry, are at the northern limits of their territories.

**PERKIN'S FARM TRAIL**  
**From Popham Beach to Fort Baldwin**

This trail begins on the left at the end of Perkin's Farm Lane, just before the maintenance buildings. It winds through quiet woods for about one mile and ends at Fort Baldwin. Hunting, in season, is allowed. Park at the Popham Beach State Park area.

**JAN BIJHOUWER EASEMENT**

To find this trail, go south on Devil's Highway from Stoney Brook Road. Just past the only house on the left, look for a **blue dot** on the east (left) side of the road. Park at the head of the dirt road there.

The trail itself is about a one-mile loop over fairly rough terrain. It first goes through the clearing that once contained an old house, continues through an area where mountain laurel, in its northernmost location, can be found, passes a small, seasonally intermittent waterfall and turns south to go by "Hundred Foot Rock". Finally, it crosses through the woods and past a second, somewhat larger, seasonal waterfall before returning to Devil's Highway.

**THE VETERANS' TRAIL**  
**At the Town Hall**

This short trail runs about one tenth of a mile along the shore of Center Pond from a picnic table at the base of the stairs behind the Fire Station to another picnic table behind Phippsburg Town Hall. It is a lovely, scenic spot to have a bite of lunch and a pleasant, easy walk. Two observation benches located along the trail offer restful views.

**THE NORTH CREEK TRAIL**  
**At Totman Cove**

**This preserve is restricted to Phippsburg taxpayers and their guests.** The parking lot is off West Point Road. Starting along the shoreline at the east end of the beach, the trail winds along the edge of North Creek for about one mile and loops back along an old logging road.