

TRAILS

Interpretive Trail Loop (easy, 1.5 mile loop): Begins at the intersection of the Shore and Old Farm Road Trails and proceeds eastward along the Old Farm Trail with two options for dropping down to the Shore Trail - at 0.1 miles and 0.4 miles. The first option halves the total loop distance to 0.8 miles.

Old Farm Road Trail (easy, 2 mile loop): Beginning and ending at the parking lot, this is an easy hike along old farm roads of the 1800's that were used in more recent times by loggers. The trail rolls gently as it passes old stone walls, the remnants of farmers' property boundaries, a mixed growth forest and winds through an extensive stand of red pine that was planted between 1928 and 1940. An historic ice pond can be viewed from a short trail spur. Ice was cut by locals during the winter to fill their ice houses and in turn ice boxes for cold food storage prior to the introduction of electricity and refrigerators. A popular winter trail for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, and skaters enjoy the pond.

Ravine Trail (moderate, 1.2 miles): Meanders the central portion of the property offering visitors steeper trail sections, and a more challenging hike. An easy, 2.6 mile loop can be made by combining the Ravine and Old Farm Road Trails. View this Natural Heritage Hike at www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/hikes/dodge_point_loop.pdf

River-Link Trail & Spur (moderate, 0.6 miles): This is the northeast terminus of the River-Link Trail, connecting the Dodge Point trails to the McKay Road trailhead in Boothbay. River-Link is a collaborative land conservation initiative among state, municipal and non-profit partners to create a trail and wildlife corridor connecting the Damariscotta and Marsh Rivers and running down the spine of the Boothbay Peninsula. FMI: www.coastalrivers.org/preserves-trails/riverlink/

Shore Trail (easy, 1.5 miles): Spurs off the Old Farm Road to follow the shore of the Damariscotta River. Hikers can access both sand and pebble beaches for swimming. Picnicking on the river bank provides quiet birdwatching time to observe shore birds such as egrets, ospreys, herons, and eagles. Anglers can fish for striped bass, mackerel, and bluefish or dig for clams in the offshore tidal flats. Please check with the Newcastle Town Office prior to digging clams for red tide warnings and other regulations.

Timber Trail (easy, 0.8 miles): Meanders by stone walls and a mixed growth forest. The River-Link Trail spurs off to access other trails that are not on this preserve, but that are open to the public.

