

MID-COAST REGION

DIRECTIONS

Dodge Point is located on the western shore of the Damariscotta River 3.5 miles south of the Town of Newcastle.

Visitors arrive by boat from the public landing in Damariscotta or by vehicle on the River Road south of U.S. Route 1. Off-road parking is available at two locations: Old Farm Trailhead & River-Link Trailhead.



Lat 43.995170, Lon -69.567684

CONTACTS

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
Western Region Public Lands Office
P.O. Box 327 / 129 Main Street
Farmington, ME 04938
207-778-8231

www.maine.gov/dodgepoint

Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust
www.coastalrivers.org

- River Link Initiative and local Preserves & Trails.

Town of Newcastle
• Office (207) 563-3441 (for clamming information)
• Harbor Master (207) 563-3398

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Region: www.damariscottaregion.com
Maine: www.VisitMaine.com



SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Day use only.
- Natural Heritage Hike listing at www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/hikes/dodge_point_loop.pdf
- Pier with floats for boat docking. For a listing of statewide trailerable and hand-carry boat launches use the Online Sortable Boat Launch Listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches
- Access to sand and pebble pocket beaches; no lifeguards.



This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.

www.MaineTrailFinder.com

Get Map at www.avenzamaps.com

DODGE POINT PUBLIC LAND

GUIDE & MAP

Easy year-round trails, water views, sand & pebble beaches, an historic ice pond, and award-winning forest.



www.parksandlands.com

OVERVIEW

Dodge Point includes over 8,000 feet of frontage on the Damariscotta River with pocket sand and pebble beaches; vistas from the River's shore; a fresh water pond, beaver flowage and bog; and scenic, stream-cut ravines in the interior uplands. It offers recreational opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, skating, swimming and fishing; and educational opportunities associated with a well-managed forest that received the State of Maine Tree Farm of the Year Award in 1978 when owned and managed by the Freeman Family. Towering plantation red pine still dominate much of the forest and the State continues the longstanding tradition of careful timber harvest at regular intervals. The Bureau's forest practices are third-party certified by two independent standards: the Forest Stewardship Council® and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®.



Dodge Point boasts an extensive trail system and is the northeast terminus of the River-Link Trail*.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The State of Maine purchased Dodge Point in 1989, with help and funding from the:

- Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust
- Land for Maine's Future (LMF)
- Maine Coastal Program



*These organizations continue to partner and are collaborating on the River-Link Trail Initiative (of which Dodge Point is the northeast terminus) with the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (SVCA), Boothbay Region Land Trust (BRLT), Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), Town of Edgecomb, Town of Newcastle, Town of Boothbay, Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (MDACF), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and in 2014, with the addition of the Davidson Preserve, the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) as well. FMI:www.coastalrivers.org/preserves-trails/riverlink/

WHEN TO VISIT

Dodge Point Public Land is a year round destination.

- Spring** Wildflowers and migrating birds of the season greet the early hikers of the year.
- Summer** Anglers fish for striped bass, mackerel, and bluefish. Visit www.maine.gov/ifw for fishing license and season information. Clams are dug in the offshore tidal flats. Before digging contact the Newcastle Town Office for red tide warnings & regulations, 207-563-3441.
- Autumn** Fall foliage can be viewed from the water or trail. Typical view time is mid-September through first week in October. For foliage reports visit: MaineFoliage.com Wear blaze orange during hunting season.
- Winter** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers trek the gently rolling terrain while ice skaters enjoy the historic Ice Pond.



The Ice Pond in both spring and wintertime.



VISITOR RULES

- Use** Day-use only.
- Fires** Are not allowed.
- Pets** Must be attended and under control at all times. **Please:**
 - Always carry a leash and be prepared to leash your pet as requested.
 - Clean up their waste immediately.
- Trash** Carry out all trash.
- Fishing** All those fishing must have a valid license and review the State's open water fishing regulations. Anglers are asked to use lead-free sinkers and jigs to prevent metal poisoning of loons, eagles and other wildlife. www.maine.gov/ifw/
- Hunting** Although hunting is allowed in season, do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic or parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Hunting license and season information is available at www.maine.gov/ifw/

TRAILS

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. A 2.6 mile loop can be made by combining the Ravine and Old Farm Road Trails. This Natural Heritage Hike is online courtesy of the Maine Natural Areas Program at www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/hikes/dodge_point_loop.pdf

River-Link Trail & Spur

(moderate to strenuous, 0.6 miles)

This is the northeast terminus of the River-Link Trail, connecting Dodge Point trails to the McKay Road trailhead (4.5 mile hike) 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.

www.coastalrivers.org

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.

www.coastalrivers.org

