Mid-coast Region

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 vehicle parking is available at two locations: Old Farm Trailhead & River-Link Trailhead.

Careful timber harvest at regular intervals. The Bureau’s forest practices are third-party certified by two independent standards: the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and 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 (MRNCP) as well. FMI:www.coastalrivers.org/preserves-trails/riverlink/

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®.

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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


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.

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/angling.

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/
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, cormorants, 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