

STORY OF THE LAND

WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE



Marsh River Preserve protects 5,500 feet of frontage along Marsh River. The trail meanders along beautiful salt marshes and offers stunning water views.

In 2003, as part of the Land for Maine's Future Program's River~Link project, the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (now part of Midcoast Conservancy) purchased the remaining lots of a failed subdivision on the Marsh River through a major fundraising effort. The preserve was created to protect the marsh and forested upland along the Marsh River from development.

At the eastern end of the trail, you can see that Marsh River splits into Deer Meadow Brook and the confluence of waters that flow into Sherman Marsh. In 2005, the salt marsh you see now was a freshwater lake of more than 200 acres. Sherman Lake, as it was called, was created in the 1930s when a dam was built to allow Route 1 to cross Marsh River. Even when the road was moved in the 1960s, the dam and lake remained in place, until a storm surge wiped out the dam in 2005 and completely drained the lake. Less than a year later, the Maine Department of Transportation allowed the drained area to return to its natural state, the salt marsh you see today.

Protected with assistance from Land for Maine's Future, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, North American Wetlands Act, Davis Foundation, Maine Wildlife Habitat Initiative, Fields Pond Foundation, Sears-Swetland Foundation, and the Land Trust Alliance.

The trail leads to exquisite views of the Marsh River where you may notice the **salt marshes**, one of the most important natural resources and most productive habitats on earth! Salt marshes are nature's filtration systems and act as giant sponges, cleaning the water and controlling flooding. They are great places to fish, boat and bird watch. Look for **great blue herons**, **Northern harriers**, **ospreys** and several species of **ducks** here.

Two-thirds of our commercial fish, shellfish and bait species (including striped bass, bluefish, clams, lobster and sandworms) depend on salt marshes at some point in their lifecycle.

Along the trail, notice how the forest changes from one area to the next. **Mature hemlocks** are dominant along the cooler north-facing slopes and seeps (wet areas on hillsides) of the main trail, while **beech** and other hardwoods are found along the smaller loop trails. You may see **witch hazel** in forest openings and **glacial erratics** in the cooler hemlock forest with **moss** and **ferns**. Also look for **pileated woodpeckers** and the **rattlesnake plantain** (a native orchid) found along the trails!

DURING YOUR VISIT

- Stay on trails
- Carry out what you carry in
- Keep dogs under control; please clean up after your pets
- Open during daylight hours
- Wear blaze orange during hunting season
- No fires



HOW TO GET THERE

From Wiscasset:

Take Rt.1 north. In 4.5 miles, left onto Osprey Point Road (at Split Rock Distillery sign). Left onto Eagle Point Road. Park at cul-de-sac.

From Damariscotta:

Take Rt. 1 south into Newcastle. Right onto Osprey Point Road (at Split Rock Distillery sign). Left onto Eagle Point Road. Park at cul-de-sac.

GET INVOLVED

Support from members and volunteers makes this preserve possible.

Join Today

Unlimited use of preserves without day use fees

Discounts on cabins, camp sites, events, classes and workshops

Special events for members

Keep Midcoast Maine a beautiful place for all

Be a member visit www.midcoastconservancy.org

Volunteer

You can help maintain trails and buildings, staff recreational events, lead guided walks, and more. You too can make a difference in your community!

Midcoast Conservancy

207-389-5150

midcoastconservancy.org

Marsh River Preserve

Newcastle, Maine



**MIDCOAST
CONSERVANCY**

WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME TRAIL

Marsh River Preserve

A gentle hike with glorious salt marsh views and short loop options.

Total Acres: 70
Total Trail Length: 1 mile



**MIDCOAST
CONSERVANCY**



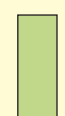
Map Key

--- Blue Trail

Trail Length: 1 Mile

Difficulty: Easy

Highlights: Marsh River Views



**Midcoast Conservancy
Property**



50-foot contour line



Interpretive Trail

Pamphlet available at the
preserve kiosk and at
www.midcoastconservancy.org



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through a partnership with Maine CDC

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