

STORY OF THE LAND

The 50-acre Martin Point Wildlife Reserve in Friendship, Maine is open to the public year-round for hiking, bird watching, and cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

The reserve features undeveloped forests as well as wetlands, and pond and ocean frontage. Crystal Pond – created in the 1800's to harvest ice, which was then shipped south on sailing ships which pulled up to the nearby shore – and Muscongus Bay bracket the forested reserve, with a rich interior filled with ferns, mosses, and interesting ledges.

The Martin Point Wildlife Reserve was opened to the public in 2013, when landowners Bob and Judy Zeitlin placed a conservation easement on their property. The Zeitlins asked the Land Trust to help maintain the network of trails they had established over the years and open them to the public. Thanks to their foresight in donating a conservation easement and trail access, along with a subsequent donation by an adjacent landowner, the Martin Point Wildlife Reserve will remain protected and open to the public in perpetuity

Photo: Jason Gilbert



WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE

The Martin Point Wildlife Reserve hosts a great diversity of habitat, from pond to wetlands to spruce forest to rocky coast. Reminiscent of offshore islands, moss carpeted **spruce-fir forest** covers most of the property, interspersed with **pine, hardwoods**, and small open areas where wild **blueberry, blackberry, bayberry, ferns** and other low lying vegetation are found; you may even spot some **rare orchids**.

“While it was the ocean and sailing that initially brought us to Friendship many years ago, we soon discovered the magical attraction of the forest area behind our home. We are happy to invite the public to share in the quiet beauty of this wonderfully diverse, pristine environment.”

–Bob Zeitlin

Along the eastern edge lies Crystal Pond, with **pickerelweed, water lilies, fish, frogs**, and other flora and fauna that thrive in a healthy pond environment, including an industrious beaver family. The interior of the property is home to **deer, fox**, and an occasional moose as well as many smaller mammals such as **chipmunks** and **red squirrels**. If you walk quietly, you may even see a fisher—a secretive member of the weasel family.

Rich in birdlife, a variety of warblers breed here, such as **northern parula, chestnut-sided, magnolia, yellow-rumped, black-throated green, black-and-white**, and others. During the breeding season, the haunting, flute-like song of the **hermit thrush** can be heard, as well as the remarkably long and complex song of the **winter wren**. In the pond you may see **great blue herons** and other wetland birds, and in the sky, **ospreys** and **bald eagles**.

The western extremity of the Reserve is bounded by the shore of Muscongus Bay. Rocky shoreline and pebble beach characterize this portion of the reserve. Please respect landowner privacy and remain on the path as the beach is not open to the public.

DURING YOUR VISIT

- Carry out what you carry in
- Keep dogs under control
- Please clean up after your pets
- Wear blaze orange during hunting season
- No motorized vehicles or bicycles of any kind are allowed



HOW TO GET THERE

From Rt. 220 in Waldoboro:

From the intersection of Main Street and Rt. 220, drive south approximately 9 miles then make a right turn onto Martin Point Road. Proceed for 2½ miles to the trailhead on the right.

From Rt. 97 in Friendship:

Turn right in Friendship Village onto Route 220 North. In approximately half a mile take a left onto Martin Point Road. Proceed for 2½ miles to the trailhead on the right.

GET INVOLVED

Support from members and volunteers makes this preserve possible.

Join Today

Keep Midcoast Maine a beautiful place for all

Special events for Members

Free professional advice on controlling erosion on your property

Member discounts on courses, workshops, events, cabins, and campsites

Biannual newsletter & bimonthly e-news

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

Martin Point Wildlife Reserve

Friendship, Maine



Photo: Marc Ouellette



**MIDCOAST
CONSERVANCY**

WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME TRAIL

Martin Point Wildlife Reserve

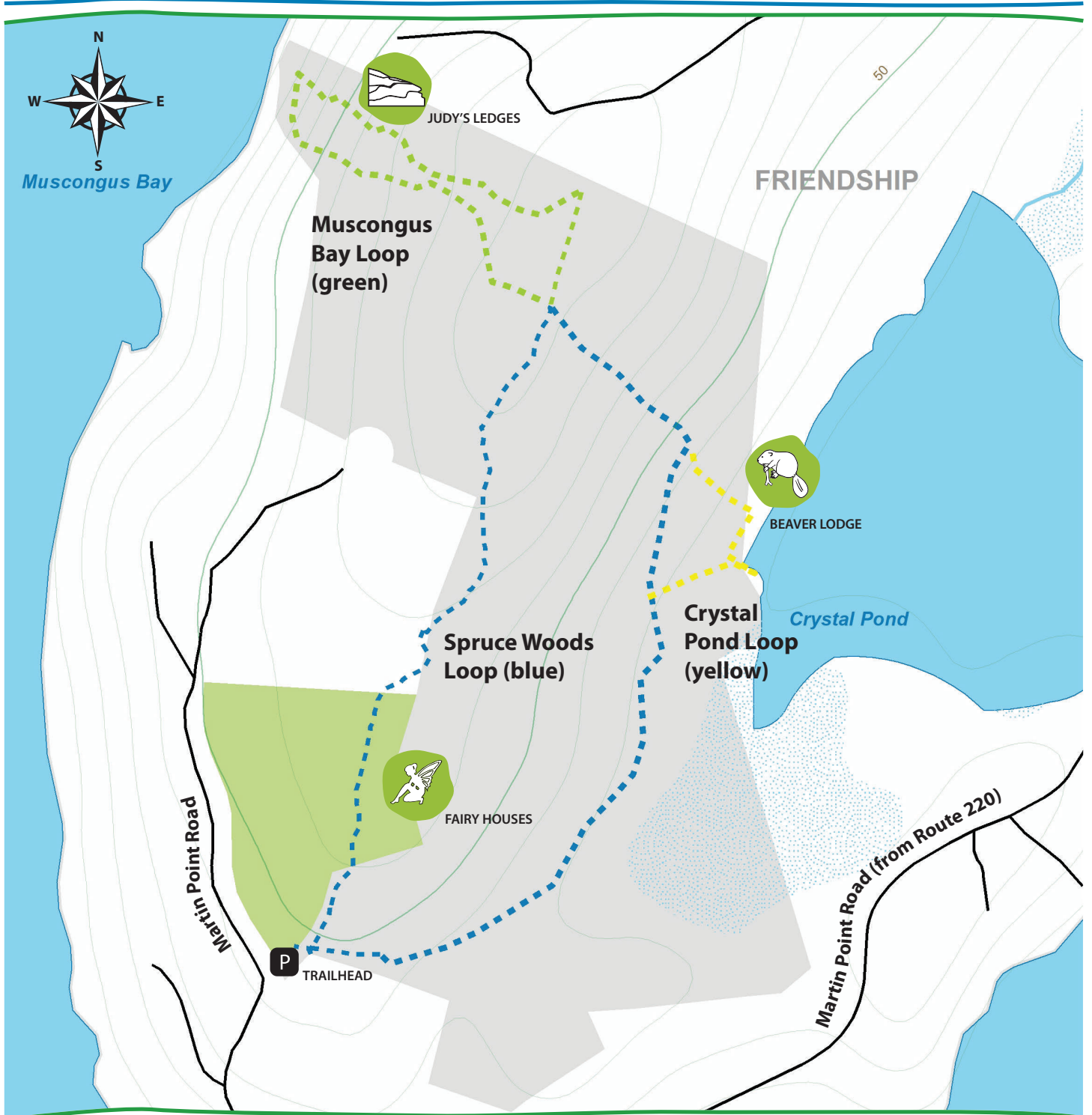
Wander these gentle narrow trails through coastal spruce forest, past fairy homes and dense moss.
Be prepared with boots in the wetter seasons.

Total Acres: 58

Total Trail Length: 1.5 mile



**MIDCOAST
CONSERVANCY**



Map Key



- - - **Muscongus Bay Loop**
 Trail Length: .5 Mile
 Difficulty: Easy
 Highlights: Ledges, Ocean views
- - - **Spruce Woods Loop**
 Trail Length: .8 Mile
 Difficulty: Easy
 Highlights: Fairy houses, Spruce forest
- - - **Crystal Pond Loop**
 Trail Length: .2 Mile
 Difficulty: Easy
 Highlights: Crystal pond, waterfowl, beaver dam

- Martin Point Wildlife Reserve**
- Midcoast Conservancy Property**
- ~ **50-foot contour line**