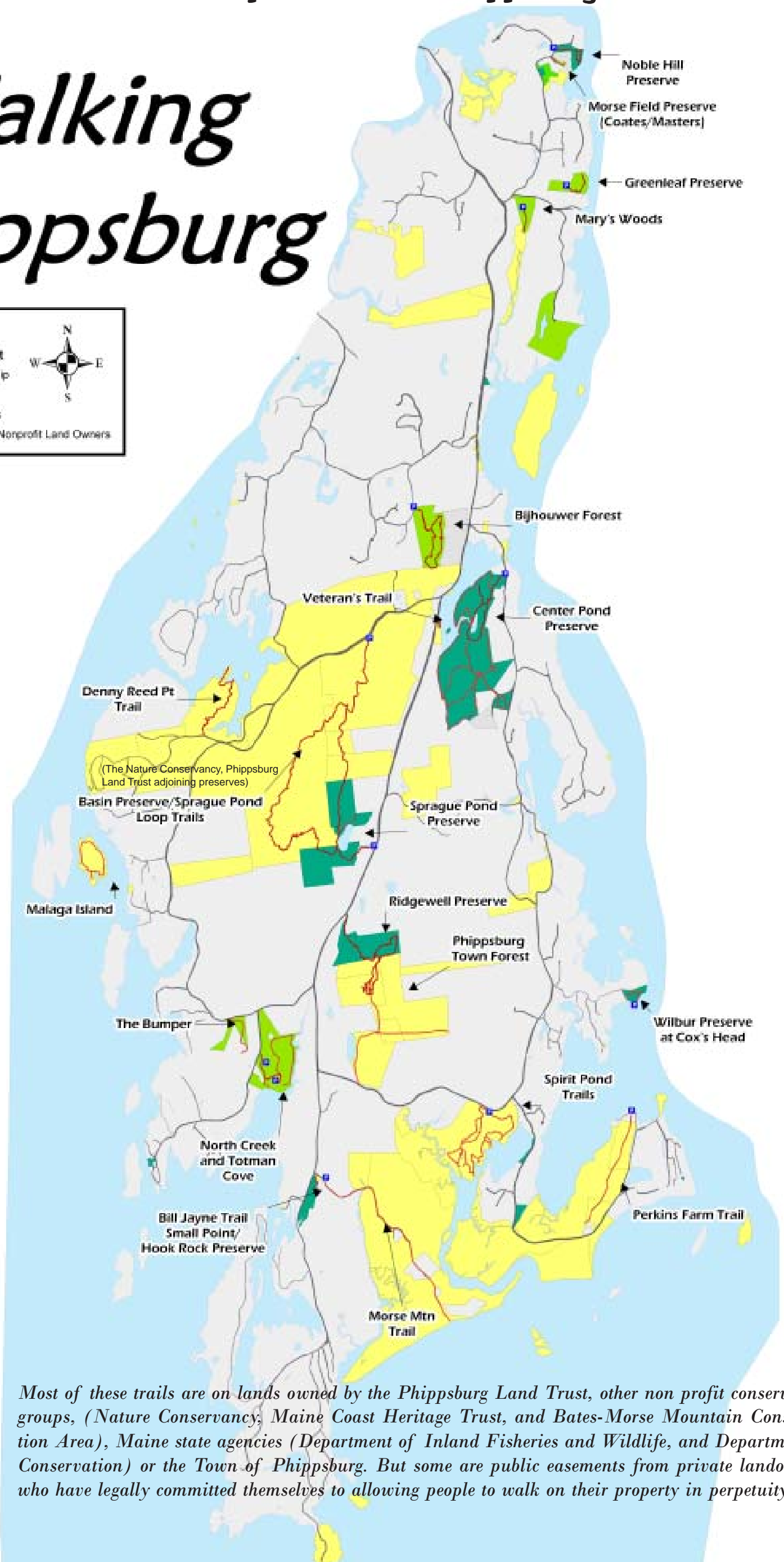


The Phippsburg Land Trust guide to the more than 31 miles of public hiking trails and scenic footpaths on the Phippsburg Peninsula

Walking Phippsburg



Phippsburg protected lands and hiking trails

This Phippsburg Land Trust publication shows the locations of protected lands in Phippsburg and the estimated 31 miles of hiking trails located on these lands.

More detailed maps of the more complex trail networks can usually be found in map boxes located at the parking areas of the Center Pond, Sprague Pond, Ridgewell and Spirit Pond Preserves.

Not shown are the numerous abandoned roads, beaches, and walking paths on private lands, which add many miles to the hiking opportunities of our small peninsula community.

Twenty two miles of these trails were constructed by and are maintained by the Phippsburg Land Trust. This is a major and expensive effort for a small, volunteer group with no fulltime employees.

On the back page of this guide is a form suggesting how you might help. Your support is important.

Most of these trails are on lands owned by the Phippsburg Land Trust, other non profit conservation groups, (Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area), Maine state agencies (Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Department of Conservation) or the Town of Phippsburg. But some are public easements from private landowners who have legally committed themselves to allowing people to walk on their property in perpetuity.

Please treat these gifts with respect. Leave only footprints. Take only pictures.

Many miles of trails can be found on protected lands in Phippsburg

Noble Hill Preserve

This 20 acre preserve was donated to the Phippsburg Land Trust by Rob Cunningham of Lincoln, MA before he sold the large farmhouse that had been his family's summer residence. A one mile trail follows the north line to the shore of the Kennebec River, turns southerly for about 1,500 feet along the river front, and finally loops through woodlands and fields back to the beginning.

A second, shorter, trail begins just north of Blaisdell Drive. It runs easterly to a jumble of boulders in a horse pasture. The rocks are believed to be what remains of the foundation of 1734 Fort Noble.

Nearby is a seven acre meadow on which an easement has been granted to the Land Trust by Steve and Sherry Masters. The easement allows for low impact public use, and prevents further development.

Directions:

- **Take the Fiddlers Reach road until you come to the end of the public road.**
- **Turn left onto the private subdivision road. A sign and a small parking area will be a few hundred yards on your right.**
- **Please do not park in the road or on the shoulder of the road.**

Mary's Woods at Cutting Creek

This short but very beautiful walk leads to the uppermost reaches of the Cutting Creek salt marsh. The marsh is now owned by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Autumn is an especially lovely time to visit Mary's Woods, but the views are always wonderful, regardless of the season.

Directions:

- **Follow Route 209 north from Town Hall 3.6 miles (or south from Winnegance 1.3 miles) to Fiddlers Reach Road.**
- **Follow Fiddlers Reach Road 0.1 miles to Old Ferry Road.**
- **Look for the first driveway on the right on Old Ferry Road. Proceed slowly down the driveway and park where indicated.**
- **Both the parking area and the trailhead are in the owner's door yard, so please respect the privilege offered to us.**

Greenleaf Easement

A one mile trail leads through a delightful woodland and down a steep hill to a Kennebec River salt marsh. Please stay on the trail and respect the rights of the private owners.

Directions:

- **Take Fiddlers Reach Road 0.3 miles to Atwood Lane on right. Parking (marked with sign) and trailhead are near the end of Atwood Lane.**
- **Trail begins across from parking area.**

Denny Reed Point

This is one of two Nature Conservancy walking trails on the Basin Preserve, on land donated by a long time Phippsburg land owner. This pretty trail runs about a mile or so to the shore of the Basin.

Directions:

- **Take the second right beyond the "Green Piece" on the Basin Road. Continue to bear right. Until a new entrance is completed and a trail sign installed, the trail can be found on the right at a white "no dumping" sign.**

Center Pond Preserve

A variety of features are found on this 263 acre preserve, including vernal pools, high ledges, mixed woods, small streams, and a vast beaver flowage. Birding is excellent and wildflowers are numerous.

The School House Trail, and a short trail with views of a salt marsh on 10 acres recently donated to the land trust can most easily be reached via the Elbow Hill Road. (parking strictly prohibited on private property on the west side of Elbow Hill). These trails are also accessible via trails from a parking lot on the Parker Head Road.

To reach the Elbow Hill trail from the parking area follow the northern portion of the Perimeter Trail for a short distance and turn left (east) on to the School House Trail.

The School House Trail runs from the Elbow Hill Road to the Drummond Loop Trail

Another Drummond Loop spur goes 0.2 miles to an old farm foundation, one of three that can be found in the preserve.

The Drummond Loop Trail circles a pretty beaver flowage, though the dam recently washed away in heavy rains. The trail provides a 1.4 mile walk from the parking lot and back.

The Perimeter Trail follows the border of the preserve and along the pond shoreline. 4.8 miles.

The Middle Trail runs from the south end of the preserve through woodlands to a connection with the Drummond Loop Trail.

Directions:

- **Take Route 209 north from Town Hall to Parker Head Road (0.9 miles).**
- **Proceed 0.4 miles to the preserve parking lot on right (2nd driveway after passing the Center Pond dam/spillway).**
- **Trail guides are available at the trailhead.**

Veteran's Trail

This short contemplative trail can be found at the Phippsburg Town Office.

Bijhouwer Forest

This 73 acre forest is beautifully maintained and includes one of the northernmost stands of mountain laurel in New England. The laurel blooms in late June and early July. The forest also includes lovely seasonal waterfalls and "Hundred Foot Rock," a huge bolder covered with leatherleaf lichen. Wildflowers, some rare, are found on this easement.

Directions:

- **Follow Route 209 north from Town Hall to Stoney Brook Road (1.7 miles).**
- **Take Stoney Brook Road to Devil's Highway (0.6 miles) and proceed on Devil's Highway (carefully!) for 0.4 miles.**
- **Parking area and trailhead are on left.**

Sprague Pond Preserve

This 110 acre preserve is located off Route 209 in the Ashdale section of town. It includes lovely woods and shoreline on a nearly 10 acre spring-fed pond which is deep and cold—a real hidden jewel. A trail winds past a beaver pond and dam on North Creek, and ascends through woods to Sprague Pond. It continues along the west shoreline of the pond. A side trail to the right (east) continues on to the north end of the pond and beyond.

The main trail continues past a seasonal waterfall and over a stream to a Nature Conservancy trail on the Basin Preserve. Follow this blue-blazed trail to the "Green Piece," an overgrown open field, on the Basin Road. A new Nature Conservancy side trail loops southerly from Burnt Ledge back to the pond, making about a 5 mile loop. Watch carefully for blazes as the treadway of this side trail (of moderate difficulty) is not yet well worn.

Directions:

- **The Land Trust trail to the pond (white blazes) begins at a small parking lot on the west (right) side of Route 209, 1.9 miles south of Town Hall. Beyond the pond, the main trails (on Nature Conservancy lands) are blue blazed.**
- **Trail guides are available at the trailhead.**



Falls at the Sprague Pond Preserve.

Explore these trails made possible by public and non profit agencies

Cox's Head Trail

This short but spectacular trail runs from near the shore on Atkins Bay to the summit of historic Cox's Head, site of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 fortifications. The trail is a scramble over granite ledges with steep drop offs. Young children should be closely supervised. The Wilbur Preserve at Cox's Head was donated to the land trust in 2010 by the Rankin family.

Directions:

- **Follow the Parker Head Road to the intersection of the Cox's Head Road. Follow the Cox's Head Road to the intersection of the Green Point Road. Follow the Green Point Road (right) to the shore. A grassy parking area can be found on the northern side of the road.**

Morse Mountain

This 2 mile trail summits the 200 foot high "mountain" on the way to Seawall Beach. The Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area was created more than 30 years ago as a scientific and educational facility. Use of the hard surfaced trail is restricted to pedestrians, except for the needs of the institution, abutters, and tenants.

Directions:

- **Take Route 209 to Route 116. Turn east on Morse Mountain Road. Parking is on the left, and is limited.**

Bill Jayne Trail

This short but very pretty woodland trail was constructed with the help of the Jayne family in memory of Bill Jayne. It intersects the Morse Mountain Road, between Route 116 and the Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation area parking lot. It leads several hundred yards through the woods to a bench that overlooks the land trust's Small Point marsh.

Directions:

- **Park in the parking lot and walk back to the trail.**



Totman Cove

The Phippsburg Land Trust holds an easement on this 88 acre preserve, which is owned by the town. The jewel of the preserve is 1,000 feet of undeveloped beach, reached by road or by parking in the first lot and taking a short trail to the west end of the beach.

North Creek Trail, a one mile loop, begins at the east end of the beach near the parking area. Bird life, many giant trees, wild mushrooms, and other flora abound in this preserve. Use is restricted to Phippsburg property owners and guests. Guest permits are available at the Phippsburg town office.

Directions:

- **Follow Route 209 to the Sebasco Road. Then turn left onto the West Point Road. The preserve road is located on the left.**

Spirit Pond Preserve

The Phippsburg Land Trust acts as the steward for this state-owned preserve along the shores of Spirit Pond, a tidal embayment near Popham Beach. The preserve includes an old mill dam, many old stone walls, and beautiful views of the tidal pond and the Morse River salt marshes.

Directions:

- **The small parking area is a dirt road on the south side of Route 209, about 5.3 miles from the Town Hall and about 0.3 miles west of the Parker Head Road/Route 209 (Popham Rd.) intersection.**
- **Trail guides are available at the trail head.**

Perkins Farm Trail

This trail winds through quiet woods and hills with views of the ocean, from near the Popham Beach parking lot to Fort Baldwin.

Directions:

- **Go left on Perkins Farm Road, just beyond the park entrance. If driving, park at the State Park, or at Fort Baldwin.**

Ridgewell Preserve

The trails for this 50 acre preserve begin at Pride Rock Way, off Route 209. The main trail passes a bog that is part of North Creek before ascending through woodlands to a ridge. From the ridgetop, there are a variety of trails that lead through land trust, town, and other protected property. The main trail (white blazed) leads through a large pitch pine stand, through a Town Forest, and through Bates College lands to Route 209 (the Popham Road). Side trails go through "Dinosaur Rocks" and by an old foundation. Trail maps are available at the trailhead.

Directions:

- **Follow Route 209 south from Town Hall to Pride Rock Way (2.5 miles). Please park carefully to keep Pride Rock Way open for residents.**

Malaga Island

Maine Coast Heritage Trust owns this 42 acre island at the mouth of the New Meadows River in the Sebasco area of Phippsburg. A spruce-fir forest covers much of the land. A small overgrown meadow is on the north, where the mile long trail through the interior of the preserve begins. On the south is a brackish pond and salt marsh. The shoreline is mostly rocky and rugged, except for a few small beaches and patches of marsh. A spur trail leads to scenic ledges. The shell-filled beach on the north is the best landing spot for small boats. Malaga, an 1800s fishing settlement, continues to be used by nearby lobster fishermen for storing traps and fishing gear.

Directions:

- **The landing on Malaga is undeveloped and is only suitable for small boats. At high tides, canoers and kayakers who are Phippsburg taxpayers or guests can reach the water from the town's "Acre Lot." Malaga is just northerly. At all tides, a canoe or kayak could launch from Round Cove near the Rock Garden Inn, which abuts Sebasco Harbor Resort. Other public access points to the New Meadows are found in West Bath, Phippsburg, Brunswick and Harpswell.**



*Left: Bog bridge construction, Sprague Pond.
Above: The view from the new Wilbur Preserve at Cox's Head.*



Above: Trout lily, Sprague Pond. Periwinkle or myrtle, Greenleaf Preserve. Right: Land Trust Director Mickey Varian helps improve a Ridgewell Preserve trail.

Questions? Ask any director

- Gloria Barnes**, 39 Clifford Road, Phippsburg, 04562, 442-8509
Larry Barnes, 179 Beechnut Hill Rd, Wiscasset, 04578, 882-4282
William F. Carney, PO Box 237, Sebasco Estates, 04565, 389-1047
Brenda Cummings, 64 Pearl St, Bath, 04530, 443-5993
Bob Cummings, 616 Main Road, Phippsburg, 04562, 443-2925
Carol W. Doughty, 51 Ridley's Landing, Phippsburg, 04562, 389-1946
Dan Dowd, 87 Cox's Head Road, Phippsburg, 04562, 389-2689
Becky Halbrook, 90 Newbury Point, Phippsburg, 04562, 389-2286
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Steve Masters, 241 Fiddler's Reach Rd, Phippsburg, 04562, 386-0345
Gary Read, 160 Clifford Rd., Phippsburg, 04562, 389-2383
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Phippsburg Land Trust

A non-profit organization chartered in 1974 and dedicated to preserving the wild, scenic, and historic beauty of this unique peninsula

Yes! I want to help. Enclosed is my/our contribution.

- \$20 Individual \$30 Family \$100 Steward \$500 Conservator
 \$1,000 Benefactor \$10,000 Conservationist Other \$ _____

In addition I/we contribute to the:

Land Trust General Fund \$ _____

Jack White Stewardship Fund \$ _____

I have/wish to include(d) the Phippsburg Land Trust in my estate planning.

The Phippsburg Land Trust is qualified to accept charitable donations under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Gifts/dues are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Name _____

Address _____

Municipality _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address: _____

Phippsburg summer address if different from above: _____

- Contact me regarding volunteer opportunities with the Phippsburg Land Trust. I'm interested in: (please check all that apply) ___ Being a trail monitor. ___ Helping with maintenance. ___ Committee work. ___ Protecting more land. ___ Other _____

Phippsburg Land Trust
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