

About this Preserve

The Pemaquid Watershed Association accepted the formal transfer from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of the 120-acre La Verna Preserve in the village of Chamberlain in Bristol, Maine, in 2009. This expansive preserve features some 3,600 feet of shoreline, 2.5 miles of trails, and a diverse array of wildlife habitat, including mixed hardwoods, coniferous forests, forested wetlands, freshwater marsh, and gently sloping overgrown farmland.

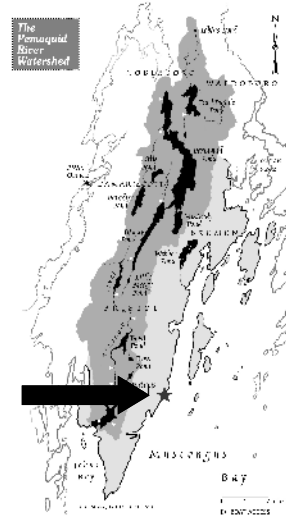
The preserve was acquired in three parcels from 1965 through 1973. Dr. Elizabeth Hoyt and her sister, Mrs. Anna Mavor, donated a 30-acre parcel; their family trust, the La Verna Foundation, donated a 55-acre parcel; and The Nature Conservancy purchased the remaining 34-acre parcel at the southwest end of the preserve.



Photo by Rebecca Bell

Directions

Take Route 32 south from Round Pond. Go 3.5 miles south of the Round Pond Post Office (which is the same as 3 miles north of New Harbor Center). Notice Ocean Hill cemetery on your right. Soon after the cemetery, there is a parking area for the preserve on the right (west side of road). Preserve access is gained by following a trail located directly across Route 32 from the parking lot.



The Pemaquid Watershed Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the Pemaquid Peninsula of Maine through land and water stewardship and education.

Est. 1966

☞ Member Supported ☞

☞ Volunteer Driven ☞



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Pemaquid Watershed Association

Conserving the natural resources of the Pemaquid Peninsula of Maine.
Est. 1966



LA VERNA NATURE PRESERVE

Bristol, Maine



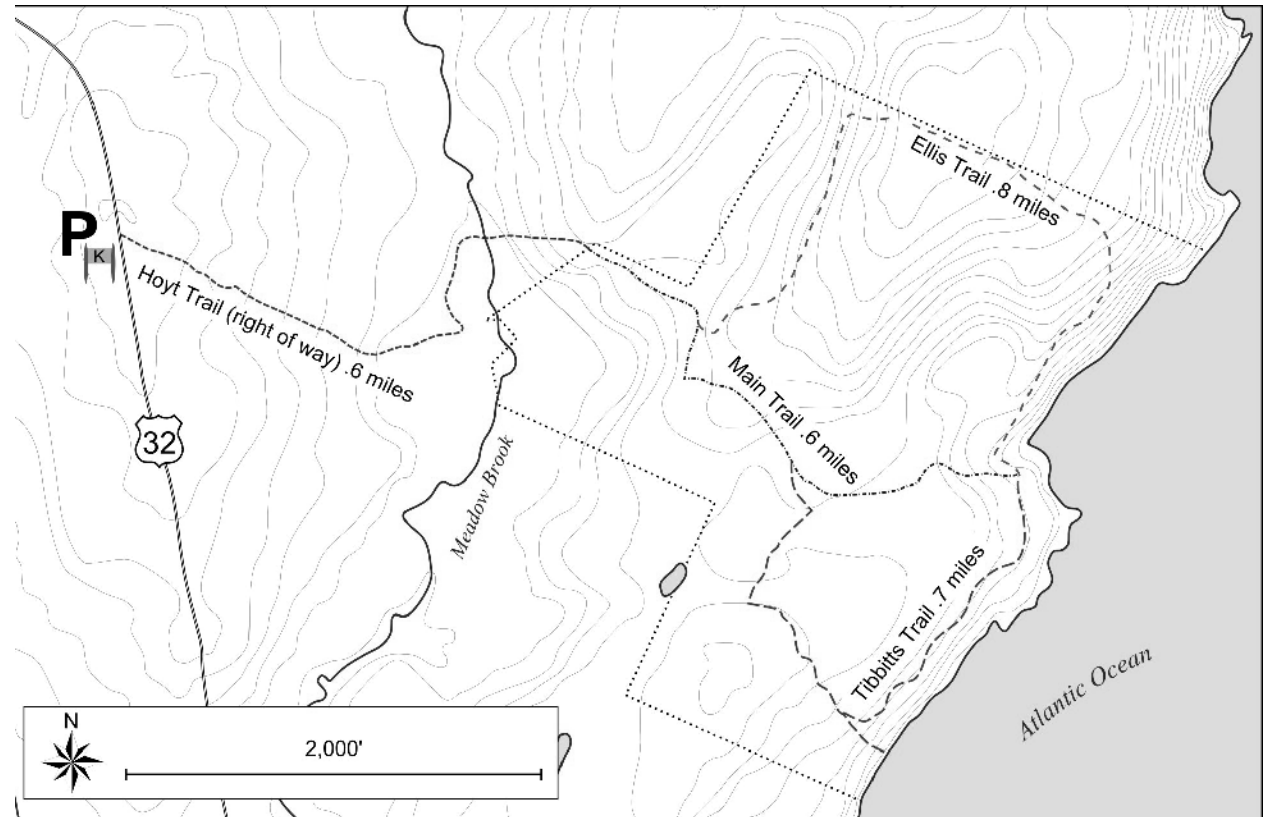
Photo by Paula Roberts

Enjoy Your Visit!

- ✓ Visitors are welcome to enjoy this preserve during daylight hours for hiking, skiing, and other low impact uses.
- ✓ Please sign in at the kiosk.
- ✓ Well behaved dogs on leash are permitted.
- ✓ Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- ✓ Please stay on preserve property – Do not go beyond preserve boundary markers.
- ✓ **Leave No Trace:** carry out what you bring in.
- ✓ Return this brochure to the kiosk so someone else can use it.
- ✓ Pick up a PWA brochure at the kiosk and join us!



Masters Machine Company sponsors the La Verna Preserve as part of PWA's Adopt-a-Trail Program.



The northern portion of the preserve is thickly wooded with red oak, white birch, red and white spruce, and white pine as dominant species. The understory includes striped maple, blueberry, sheeplaurel, starflower, and various ferns and mosses.

The southern portion is dominated by dense stands of white and red spruce approximately 60- to 100-years old. As little light seeps through the lush canopy, there is only patchy groundcover except in the few areas of blowdowns.

By contrast, the center portion of this preserve reflects more of the land's human history. Stone walls, cellar holes, and stone piles bear witness to earlier settlement by the Russell family and others. Abandoned long ago, the land is filling in with highbush blueberry, red raspberry, white pine, sweet fern, bracken fern, and huckleberry.

The shoreline ranges from the steeply sloping ledges near the southern tip of Brown's Head to the beach at Leighton's Cove. The variation found in rock texture and form is impressive; layered, folded rocks are frequently intruded by granitic dikes and sills. Waves alternately surge and ebb among the rocks, creating an environment of constant erosion and deposition. Small springs and freshwater seepages also exist along the shore, sustaining communities of cranberry, sundew, and mountain sandwort, and, at one point, give rise to a small "pond" frequented by shorebirds.