About this Preserve

The Pemaquid Watershed Association (PWA) 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, 2.7 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.

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.

Pemaquid Watershed Association

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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!

La Verna Preserve features the Hoyt Trail (0.6 mi), which follows the right-of-way across the parking area, Main Trail (0.6 mi), Ellis Trail (0.8 mi), and Tibbitts Trail (0.7 mi). In addition, the entire rocky shoreline of the preserve is walkable at all tides and affords beautiful views of outer Muscongus Bay.

Except for the sedge meadows and shrub swamps along Meadow Brook, the preserve is almost entirely forested. Oak-Northern Hardwoods Forest is the most widespread natural community on the preserve. This mixed upland type is dominated by red oak, with red maple common, and varying amounts of red spruce, white birch and white pine.

The most conspicuous rock types along the preserve shore are thinly layered medium grey metamorphic rocks. Photo by Janet McMahon.