

About this Preserve

Crooked Farm Preserve was established in 2002 as a result of a community partnership between the Crook family, The Carpenter's Boat Shop, Pemaquid Watershed Association (PWA), and Damariscotta River Association (DRA), along with the financial support of the local community and funding from the Land for Maine's Future Program with the Maine Department of Conservation. The preserve is owned by PWA and is held in conservation easement by and co-managed with DRA.

Crooked Farm Preserve is open to the public for walking, boating, hunting and fishing with nearly 130 acres of forest, wetlands, and open fields - complete with high knolls and ravines. The preserve features almost 1.25 miles of shore frontage on the Pemaquid River. Extensive wetlands along the river provide prime habitat for wading birds and ducks as well as the edge habitat favored by moose, white-tailed deer, mink, raccoon, fox, and otter.



Please follow these policies & enjoy your visit:

Preserve open only during daylight hours for hiking & other low-impact uses

Sign the visitors log at the kiosk

No motorized recreational vehicles

Well behaved dogs on leash are permitted

No overnight camping or fires

Fishing is allowed in season

Hunting is allowed during season & hikers should be aware of hunting seasons and wear blaze orange for safety

Stay on trails & respect private property; do not go beyond preserve boundary markers

Leave No Trace: carry out what you bring in

Join PWA with a supporting membership or donation. Thank you!

CROOKED FARM PRESERVE

Bristol, Maine

Trail Guide



Photo by Michael Richards

This preserve is co-managed by Damariscotta River Association & Pemaquid Watershed Association

Both land trusts are membership-supported 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organizations



Member Supported ♦ Volunteer Driven

PWA
PO Box 552
584 Main Street
Damariscotta, ME 04543
(207) 563-2196
pemaquidwatershed.org

DRA
PO Box 333
110 Belvedere Road
Damariscotta, ME 04543
(207) 563-1393
damariscottariver.org

The Trails

The preserve trail system was designed to give the maximum amount of appreciation of the natural, *forever-wild* setting with minimal impact from human use. Hikers may see a wide variety of wildlife as they enjoy the diverse habitats across Crooked Farm Preserve.

The Crook Trail provides a 2.4-mile loop through the preserve and is marked with blue diamonds. From the kiosk you pass down the access trail into an open field; kept open to maintain habitat for grassland species and provide edge habitat favored by many species of birds and mammals. After crossing the field, you can continue straight and enter the pine woods to the upland area passing through a variety of woodland habitats as the trail climbs and descends a series of knolls and ravines. The trail frequently crosses old stone walls that attest to the preserve's former life as a farm with open fields.

After passing the high point of the preserve, the descent to the river brings you to the junction of the Boyd Pond Trail, identified with red trail markers. You are encouraged to take a 10-minute (0.15 mile) side trip to the shore of the pond where flat rocks and a bench provide an expansive view and resting point. This point also provides access to the preserve for kayakers.

The Crook Trail continues along the river, skirting the expansive marshes that reach inland for as much as 100 yards. Rich mosses and a variety of ferns attest to the constant dampness of this area. Bridging crosses the wettest sections, protecting both the hiker and the fragile terrain. Groves of ferns and birches are noteworthy. As the trail nears the river, ducks, great blue herons, eagles, beavers or even a family of otters may be spotted.

The recently established Cross Trail, identified with green markers, provides a loop of 1.4 miles for those wishing a shorter walk. The Cross Trail follows along a small stream under the steep bluffs of the high ground before ascending to the upland portion of the Crook Trail.

Please be sure to sign in and share the highlights of your walk on return to the kiosk.

