

## Welcome to the Woods and Waters of Wolfe's Neck

Welcome to Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park. Opened in 1972, this park was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence M. C. Smith. Spanning a wooded peninsula, the "neck" of land between the Harraseeket River and Casco Bay, the park bears the name of Henry and Rachel Woolfe, who settled here in 1733, the first Europeans to do so permanently. They and their descendants cleared most of the peninsula for farms, but over time this part returned to forest. Now a state park, this 245-acre area welcomes about 60,000 visitors each year to enjoy the outdoors and learn about nature, as Mr. and Mrs. Smith had hoped.

### Enjoying the Park

Whether you seek exercise or relaxation, a festive gathering place or secluded picnic spot, a stimulating learning experience with a group or the chance to connect with nature in solitude, you are likely to find it at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park. With five miles of walking trails, including a wheelchair- and stroller-accessible path, the park invites people of all ages and abilities to explore the outdoors, but you can always find a place to yourself to rest, read, or picnic on the shore, in the mowed field, or at a picnic site. Amenities include charcoal grills, bath-rooms, a drinking fountain, and a picnic shelter seating 60 that is reservable for a fee. To enhance your enjoyment of the park, come join an osprey watch or other public nature program. We welcome group use and offer free guided programs for groups of all ages with reservations. To arrange for group use, please call the park at 865-4465 in season or 287-2499 in the off-season.

Each season brings special pleasures: ospreys, warblers, and wildflowers in spring; sea breezes and shady walks in summer; and brisk hikes under colorful leaves in fall. Even when the gate is closed in winter, you are welcome to walk in and enjoy the park during daylight hours year round.

### Keeping Safe

In case of emergency, call 911 with a cell phone, or contact park staff. Please inform park staff of any emergency. Be sure to lock your vehicle and do not leave valuables in it. Wear sturdy shoes on trails, which may be slippery. At your picnic site, do not leave food or fires unattended. On the shore and in the water, wear sneakers or water shoes, as the rocks may be slippery, and shells can cut bare feet. From mid-May to early July, browntail moth caterpillars may cause problems. Park staff will keep you informed.

### Rules - to ensure a safe & pleasant visit for everyone:

- Picnic on a carry-in, carry-out basis, and take refuse home to recycle.
- Do not use alcohol in the park.
- Build fires only in grills; use only charcoal.
- Keep pets on four-foot leashes at all times and clean up after them.
- Stay on trails or stairs to protect the land.
- Do not pick or remove anything.
- Ride bicycles only on the park road.
- Do not feed or disturb park animals.
- Stay away from Googins Island, the osprey sanctuary. Do view from the park's overlook.
- There is no camping in this day-use park.

*A complete list of rules is posted at various locations throughout the park. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know.*

### In the Area

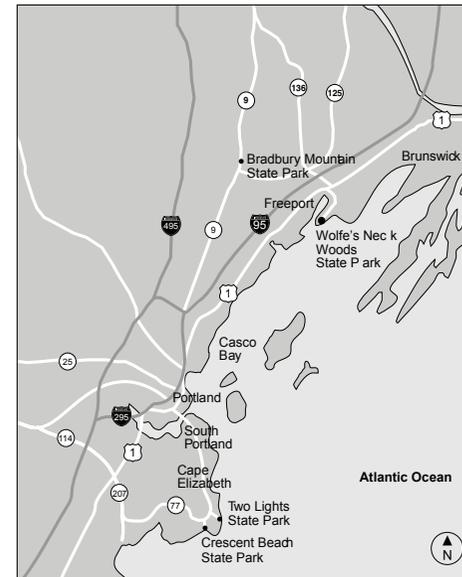
Among the many places to visit in the area are other state parks, including Bradbury Mountain, Range Ponds, Sebago Lake, Two Lights, and Crescent Beach. Also, Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park offers visitors the chance to combine the best of town and country in one trip, since it is located just 4.5 miles from Route 1 in the center of Freeport, via Bow Street and Wolf Neck Road. For more information about local businesses and attractions, please contact:

The Freeport Merchants Association  
1-800-865-1994 or 207-865-1212  
[www.freeportusa.com](http://www.freeportusa.com)

## For More Information

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park is officially open from 9:00 a.m. to sunset, Memorial Day through Labor Day, but park gates may be open for shorter days in the off-season, if park conditions and staffing permit. A fee is charged. To ask your questions, make reservations for groups, or volunteer to help at the park, please contact the park office:

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park  
426 Wolf Neck Road  
Freeport, ME 04032  
Tel. and Fax: (207) 865-4465



We also welcome your questions and comments at our regional office:

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands  
Southern Region Office  
107 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0107  
Tel.: (207) 624-6080  
Fax: (207) 624-6081  
TTY: (207) 287-2213  
[www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)  
[www.maine.gov/wolfesneckwoods](http://www.maine.gov/wolfesneckwoods)

This brochure is available in alternative formats.

## Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park



Osprey  
Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park  
Freeport, Maine



Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
Bureau of Parks and Lands

# Suggested Walks

## From the First Parking Lot

**Fastest Way to the Water** - 0.1 mile. Follow the path marked "To Shore". In 5 minutes you will be enjoying the beauty of the bay.

**Harraseeket Hike** - 1.8-mile loop with some steep and uneven terrain, 1.5 to 2 hours. Enter the woods on the trail to the right of the big wooden sign. Take your first right onto the Harraseeket Trail, and follow it through the woods across the Old Woods Road Trail, Power Line Trail, and Wolf Neck Road (dirt). After a gradual descent, the trail runs along the cliffs above the Harraseeket River with views of South Freeport before turning uphill and re-crossing the Wolf Neck Road (tar). Passing the southern ends of the Hemlock Ridge, Old Woods Road, and Ledge Trails, the Harraseeket Trail goes over two small hills and ends at the shore, where the Casco Bay Trail to the left leads back to the parking lot.

**Woods and Water, Your Way** - 1.0 to 1.5-mile loop with some uneven terrain. Enter the woods on the trail of your choice: Ledge Trail (shortest loop), Old Woods Road Trail (gentlest), or Hemlock Ridge Trail (longest loop). When your trail ends, turn left and follow the Harraseeket Trail to the rocky shore and gravel beach on Casco Bay. Then return on the Casco Bay Trail.

## Introducing...Your Environment!

Along the trails, numbered interpretive signs, listed below and shown on the map, introduce special features of the park.

- 1 White Pines
- 2 From Field to Forest
- 3 Life Between the Tides
- 4 Life in the Estuary
- 5 Osprey Nesting Area
- 6 The Rocky Shore
- 7 Animals of the Bay
- 8 Islands and Beyond
- 9 Dry Ledges and Wet Woods
- 10 Of Rocks and Hemlocks

## From the Second Parking Lot

**Osprey Tour** - 0.2 mile one way. Pass the accessible bathrooms, fountain, and picnic sites, as your path curves through the field to the White Pines Trail along the shore. Turn right and watch for birds in the woods and on the bay until you reach panel #4 about the estuary that supports the ospreys. Continue along the shore to the sign and benches opposite Googins Island, where you are likely to see osprey activity from May through August. (Walkers can take the stone steps to the rocky shore below.)

**Forest and Shore Tour** - 0.75 mile loop with benches for resting and enjoying the forest and shore. From the bend in the parking lot, take the White Pines Trail into the shady woods with wildflowers and birdsong in season. At the 4-way junction, turn right to stay on the accessible path toward the bay. Look for woodpecker holes in the trees and chipmunk holes near the trail. Along the bay, watch for ducks, gulls, and wading birds. At panel #5, watch for ospreys from May through August. (Steps lead walkers to the rocky shore and Casco Bay Trail.) To return to the parking lot, backtrack and take the path across the field.

**Casco Bay Walk** - 1.25 miles round trip. From the benches, pass the picnic shelter and cross the field to the White Pines Trail. Go left to panel #3 and down the stairs to see who lives in the salt marsh and mud flat. Backtrack along the White Pines Trail and go to panel #5 to look for ospreys. Down the stone stairway, the rocks have small tide pools to explore at lower tides. Go along the rocks to the right and take the trail beside the rocky shore panel up to the junction. Turn left and follow the Casco Bay Trail about 0.25 mile to panel #7 and stairs to the rocky shore. Go another 0.25 mile for island views and stairs to the rocky shore and the gravel beach, which is covered by the highest tides. Return on the same trail or by a trail through the forest.

