

Carl and Barbara Seegerstrom Preserve at Squam Creek

West Shore Drive (Upper)
Westport Island Maine



*Available to the public free of charge
Open daily from dawn until dusk*

92 Front Street, Bath, Maine 04530
P.O. Box 1128
(207) 442-8400
www.kennebecestuary.org
info@kennebecestuary.org

The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust's mission is to conserve, restore and instill appreciation of the land and water resources of the Kennebec Estuary to benefit today's communities and future generations.

Volunteer

KELT offers ongoing and one-time volunteer opportunities spanning a wide range of activities and interests.

- + trail work
- + preserve stewardship
- + events
- + water quality testing
- + alewife counting
- + fundraising
- + office help

Contact info@kennebecestuary.org to find out how you can help!

Join us!

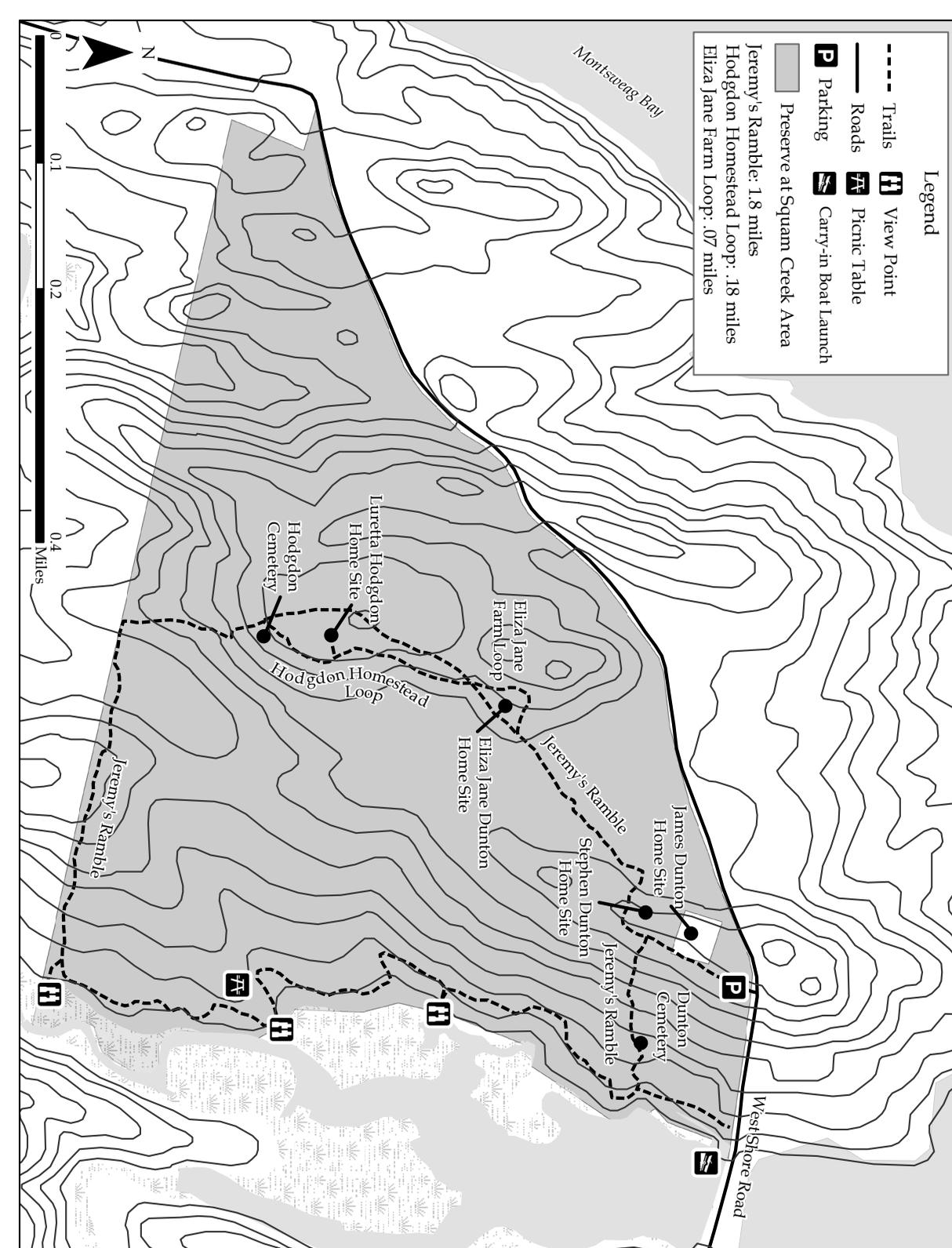
Support from our membership means KELT can maintain trails and steward public preserves from our very first conserved land to the newest properties. It enables KELT to collaborate with a variety of partners to protect farmlands, enhance water quality, provide educational programs, and serve as a resource for our local towns.

Become a member today.

Visit www.kennebecestuary.org to join!

Directions

Take Route 1 North from Bath for 6.8 miles and turn right onto Route 144. After 1 mile turn left to stay on Route 144 (Birch Point Road) and after another mile turn right to stay on 144. Follow for 6.5 miles then turn right onto West Shore Road (upper). Follow across the causeway and up the hill, the parking lot is on the left.



Carl and Barbara
Segerstrom Preserve
at
Squam Creek

This 159-acre preserve is managed for the protection of wildlife and for recreation. To protect wildlife and nesting birds please keep dogs on leash at all times.

Available Opportunities:



Please refrain from:



Don't Miss...

- * Excellent bird-watching from the field, forest and shore
- * Sightings of "Kevin" the ruffed grouse along the southern edge of the preserve
- * Historic cemeteries and cellar holes along the side trails

History

6000 years ago to 1700: Abenaki tribes inhabited seasonal camps in the rich fishing and clamming grounds of Montsweag Bay and Squam Creek. Sweet grass was harvested from the creek for basket makers, with a seasonal camp on Indian Island, now Harper Island, at the mouth of Squam Creek.

1607-1676: European settlements are established for fishing, lumber and fur trade along the shores of "Jeremysquam"-now Westport Island.

~1740: Timothy Dunton, one of the first permanent settlers, establishes his farm at Squam Creek, followed by John Hodgdon.

1810: Main Road (Rt. 144) is laid out to connect the island's mills.

1828: Captain Stephen Dunton inherits the family land, builds a new home around 1850 and raises 12 children.

1959: Carl and Barbara Segerstrom acquire an initial parcel including the old farmhouse. They continue to purchase abutting property through 1997. Portions of the land were used for farming, timber and gravel operations, a saw mill, and as a summer camp for girls.

2017: The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust acquires the land to create the Preserve.

Wildlife and Ecology

1. Tidal Inlet: Squam Creek's salt marsh supports wading birds such as snowy egret and great blue heron, as well as migrating shorebirds. Oysters grow in the brackish water and mud flats offer abundant crustacean and clam flats. Otters have been seen along the shore. Populated by salt-tolerant species, tidal marshes like those along Squam Creek are the most productive ecosystems in the world.

2. Mixed Mature Woods:

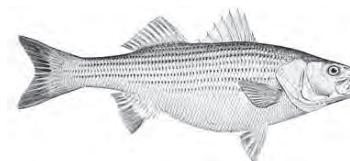
Oak, pine and hemlock forests provide habitat for white-tailed deer, fox, raccoon and mink. Famously, a Ruffed



Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) named Kevin has regularly visited trail volunteers along the stone wall at the southern boundary.

3. Fresh Water Marshes: Wetlands and vernal pools nurture amphibians, provide biodiversity hotspots and help to filter water.

4. Montsweag Bay: This section of the east coast flyway is essential for the survival of migrating birds, providing shelter and abundant food. Over 40 species of fish use these waters including striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*).



Geology

Westport Island is underlain by granite bedrock, covered for the most part with thin, relatively poor acidic soils, which developed from glacial sediment or "till". More than 13,000 years ago, the sheer weight of an ice sheet thousands of feet thick depressed the land surface, while the large quantities of water tied up in the ice lowered the surface of the sea by as much as 300 to 350 feet.

As the ice melted and its weight was removed, the land began to rebound and emerge from the sea. This emergence lasted from about 13,000 years ago to 10,000 years ago. Since that time, a slow submergence of the land has brought the sea up to its present level.

Thank You

The Preserve at Squam Creek was created with generous help from the Segerstrom family, local donors and foundations, the Town of Westport Island and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Many residents of Westport Island and surrounding towns donated generously to make this preserve possible. Thank you!