

WOODWARD COVE

-  Preserve
-  Hiking Trails
-  Parking Area
-  Public Roads
- 
- 
- 

Marsh



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GURNET ROAD / ME ROUTE 24



BRUNSWICK-TOPSHAM
LANDTRUST

Woodward Cove

This 24-acre preserve has 1,500 feet of tidal frontage on Woodward Cove, which drains into the New Meadows River. Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust purchased the property from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick in 2016 to protect its ecological and recreational value and, most notably, to permanently preserve access to the productive mudflats for shellfish and baitworm harvesters. To this end, in 2019 William Robitzek and Barbara Raimondi donated a small strip of land adjacent to the original parcel where an informal access trail has been used by harvesters for years. Their generous donation enabled the continued use of this traditional trail that provides better access to the mudflats than if BTLT were to build a new trail in a less functional and ecologically stable location.

A short loop trail begins at the parking area and brings visitors to a ledge outcrop that provides views of Woodward Cove. The 600-foot water access trail also connects the parking area directly with the mudflats of Woodward Cove, and is used by harvesters and for hand carry boat access. The preserve is predominantly forested upland, with some narrow, gullied areas that support forested wetlands. Apple trees are frequent; most of the land appears to have once been an apple orchard or a combination of pasture and orchard land, and includes an old stone wall that runs through the property parallel to Gurnet Road.

The salt-hay saltmarsh community at the head of the cove is the third largest in Brunswick as mapped by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), and is known to support breeding saltmarsh sparrows (a species of special concern) and populations of rare saltmarsh false-foxglove and native wild honeysuckle. The marsh and mudflat habitat are within a mile of an active heron colony and bald eagle nest. Overall, Woodward Cove is known to provide habitat for 22 “Species of Special Concern in Maine” (as identified by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) and 33 “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” (as identified in Maine’s Wildlife Action Plan).



DIRECTIONS TO PROPERTY

From Maine Street in Brunswick, driving north, turn right just before the river and onto the Coastal Connector/US Route 1 N. Take the exit for Cooks Corner/Gurnet Rd/ME-24 S. Go straight at the light after the off ramp, staying on Gurnet Rd/ME-24 S. Continue south on Route 24 for 2.2 miles. Turn left into gravel parking area on the left side of the road.

TRAIL USE RESTRICTIONS

- Open dawn to dusk
- No off-road vehicles, bicycles, snowmobiles, or horses
- On-leash dogs permitted (dog waste removal required)
- No fires or camping, except with prior permission from BTLT
- Stay on marked trails
- Hunting by permission only
- Observe posted trail rules



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T R A I L S



Online maps available at www.btl.org/trailmap

OUR MISSION

To preserve, protect, and steward the cherished landscapes and rich natural resources of our communities, to provide access for recreation, and to support local agriculture and other traditional land uses, now and for generations to come.