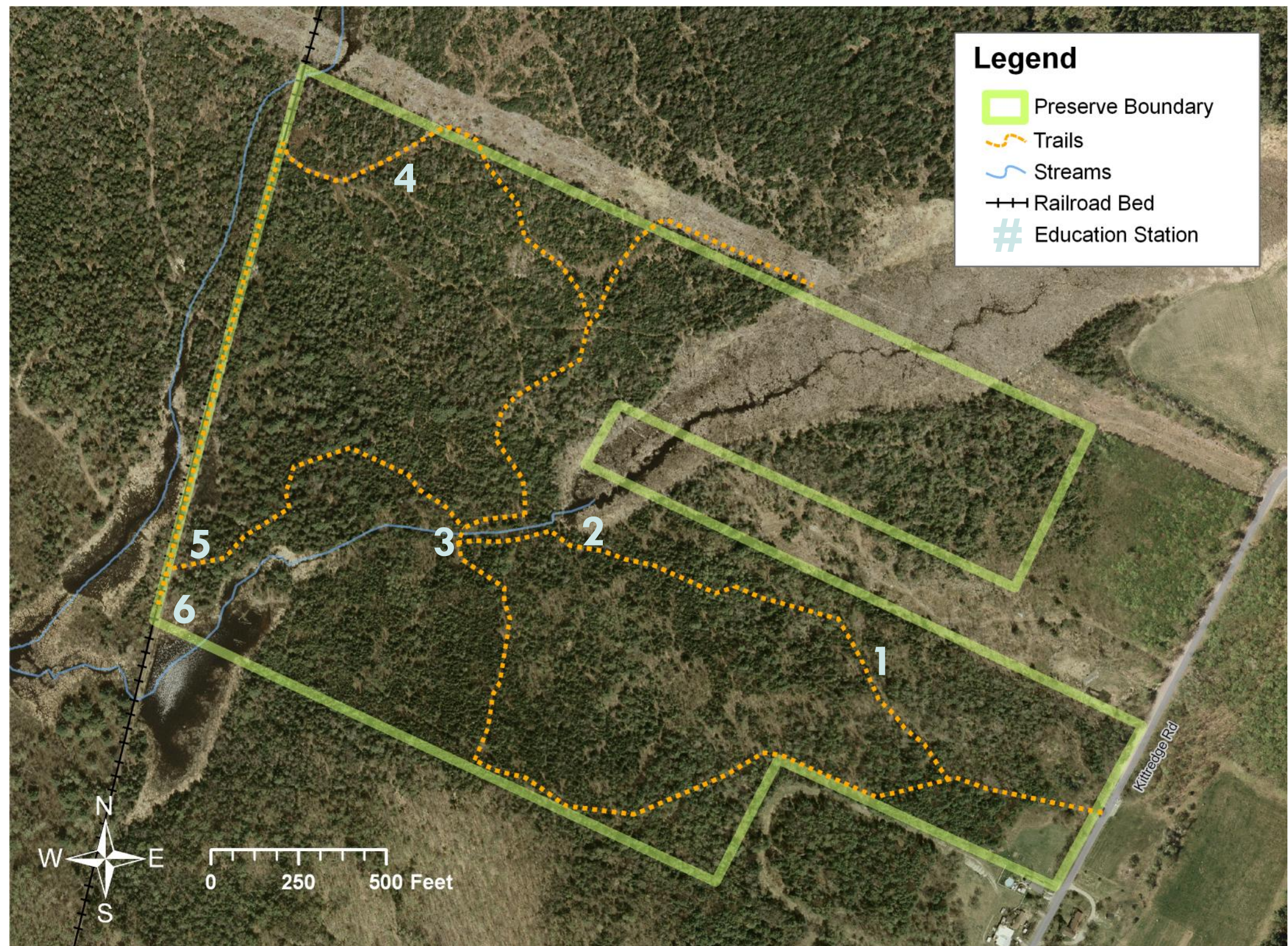


Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve

Guided Tour of Natural Communities



Welcome to Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve! Along the trails, you will see numbered signs indicating education stations that correspond with the map and descriptions below. Please take the time to take in your surroundings, and we hope you enjoy your visit!



1 Red Oak - Northern Hardwood - White Pine Forest

State Rank: S4, Apparently Secure

This upland forest type is common in Maine and is an important home to many wildlife species. The forest composition may range from entirely deciduous to mixtures of deciduous and coniferous trees. Here red oak, red maple, and balsam fir are common. This forest type provides nesting habitat for many songbirds as well as some animals considered rare in Maine such as whip-poor-wills, northern goshawks, and Cooper's hawk. Fishers, barred owls, and redback salamanders also make their homes in this type of habitat.



Barred Owl
Strix varia

2 Cattail Marsh

State Rank: S5, Demonstrably Secure

The Cattail Marsh is a common type of wetland found in Maine. This marsh is dominated by cattails and deciduous shrubs such as winterberry and meadowsweet. The Cattail Marsh also provides important foraging and nesting habitat for many species of wading birds and waterfowl such as the American bittern and mallard. You may also see Virginia rails and red-winged blackbirds. A potential threat to the ecology of the marsh is the invasive plant, purple loosestrife, which can out-compete native species leading to a loss of plant and wildlife diversity. (For an even better view of the marsh, follow trails to the powerline overlook.)



Mallard
Anas platyrhynchos

3 Riparian Forest

State Rank: n/a

Riparian forests form the transition between land and water environments. This upland forest borders a small first order stream that flows into the Penjajawoc Marsh. This stream has a rocky bottom, is well shaded, and is home to fish. The forest here is especially important because it provides shade (which keeps the water cool), stabilizes the bank which prevents erosion, and provides habitat for wildlife.



Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

4 Aspen-Birch Woodland Forest Complex

State Rank: S5, Demonstrably Secure

This is an early successional natural community that is ubiquitous in Maine. The forest is composed of predominantly deciduous trees such as quaking and big tooth aspen, gray and paper birch, and red maple. This community typically results from a disturbance, such as fire or heavy harvesting. Within a relatively short time, less than 100 years, this community will evolve into mixed, coniferous or deciduous forest. It is home to wildlife such as snowshoe hare, beaver, and ruffed grouse and may also be used by woodcock for feeding and brood cover.



Snowshoe Hare
Lepus americanus

5 Vernal Pool

State Rank: n/a

Vernal pools are shallow depressions in the forest floor that contain water part of the year. They often begin to fill in the fall and winter as the water table rises, and are filled by snowmelt and rainwater in the spring. Typically, vernal pools dry out by mid- to late-summer.

Vernal pools provide important habitat for certain amphibians (known as "vernal pool indicator species") such as wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and blue-spotted salamanders. A few vernal pools are also home to fairy shrimp. Vernal pools are incredibly important as they provide a safe habitat for vernal pool species to reproduce and lay their eggs. Predators such as fish cannot survive in vernal pools, as the pools dry out and refill every year.



Blue-Spotted Salamander
Ambystoma laterale

6 Mixed Graminoid-Shrub Marsh

State Rank: S5, Demonstrably Secure

This is a common wetland community type in Maine with a diverse assemblage of herbs and shrubs. This type of marsh varies considerably in species composition across the state. It provides important wildlife habitat and that functions as a breeding ground for amphibians, provides nesting habitat for wading birds, and may be home to rare reptiles such as the spotted turtle. This particular marsh is the northeast tip of the larger Penjajawoc Marsh, a wetland of significance by state guidelines.



Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias

"Leave No Trace" to Help Us Preserve Our Preserve

Leave No Trace principles can be summed up by the phrase, "take only pictures, leave only footprints." Please follow these simple Leave No Trace guidelines to help us protect our preserve:

Pack it in, pack it out. If you bring any food or drink on the trails, please make sure to bring any trash, left over food, and litter out with you when you leave.

Stay on marked trails. This helps to keep natural areas natural by preventing soil erosion and compaction, and the disturbance of the forest-floor vegetation.

Respect wildlife. Observe wildlife from a distance; never attempt to follow or approach them.

Never feed animals, as this can damage their health, and alter natural behaviors.

Keep dogs on a leash and only on designated trails, in order to protect ground nesting birds and other wildlife.

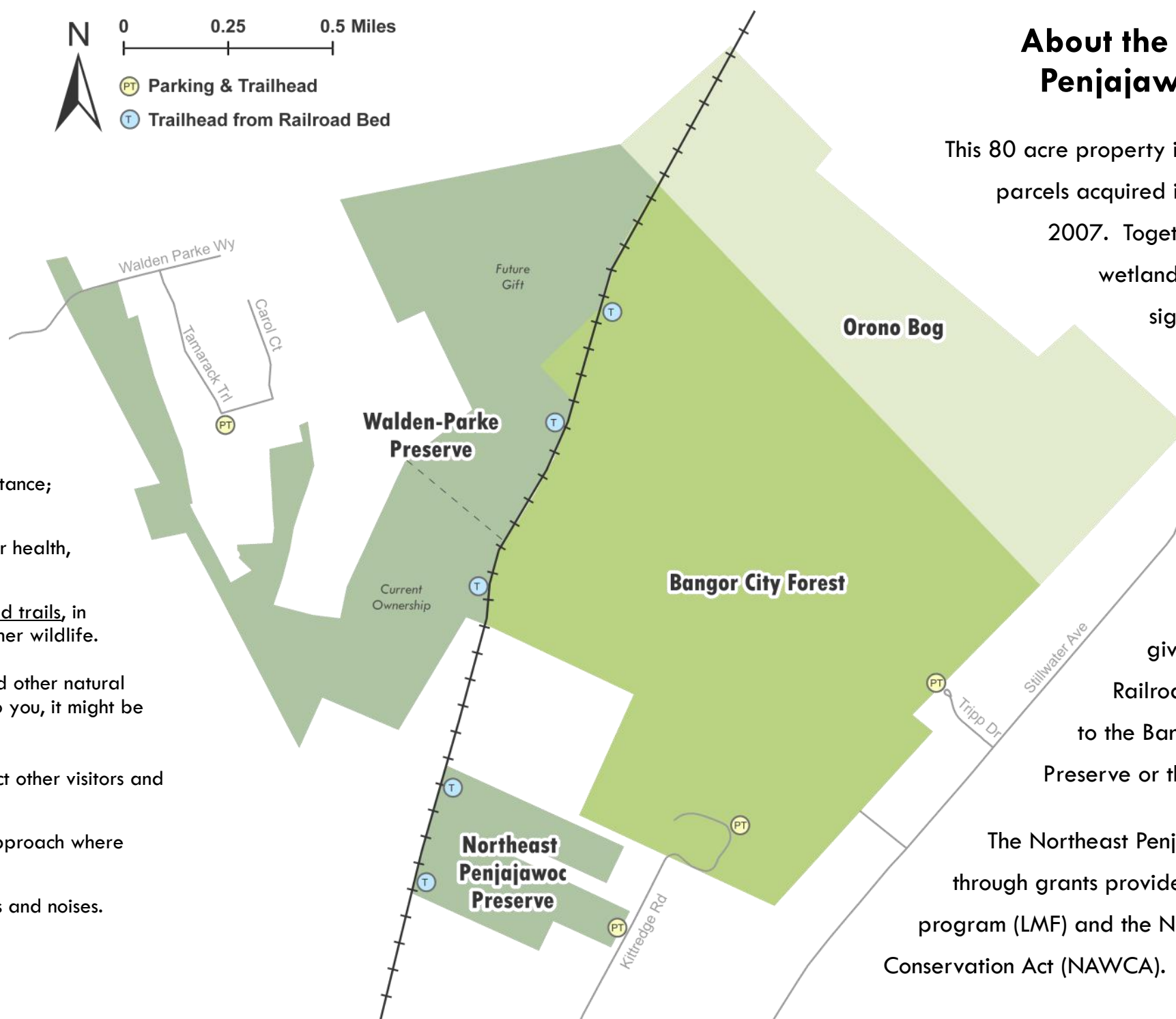
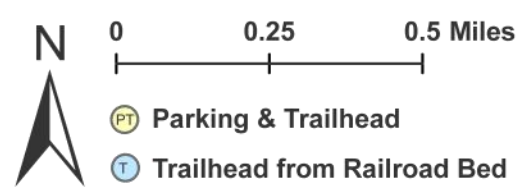
Leave what you find. Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them. If it is interesting to you, it might be interesting to the next visitor too!

Be considerate of other visitors. Please respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

If on a bike, yield to hikers, or signal your approach where appropriate.

Let nature's sounds prevail; avoid loud voices and noises.

Thank You!



About the Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve

This 80 acre property is actually two neighboring parcels acquired in November 2006 and February 2007. Together they offer 18.4 acres of wetlands, including three of state significance: the northeast tip of the Penjajawoc Marsh, a vernal pool, and a tributary marsh. Along with its forested uplands, this property provides valuable habitat for a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. It also gives access to the Old Veazie Railroad bed, where you can then walk to the Bangor Land Trust's Walden-Parke Preserve or the Bangor City Forest.

The Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve was acquired through grants provided by the Land for Maine's Future program (LMF) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve
Educational Trail Map
A Guided Tour of Natural Communities



What is a Natural Community?

A Natural Community is a recurring group of plants and animals found to naturally occur together within a particular physical environment. In Maine, biologists have classified and distinguished 98 different natural community types that collectively cover the state's landscape. These include habitats as diverse as floodplain forests, coastal bogs, and alpine summits, among many others.

Each natural community in Maine is ranked according to its rarity: from S1 being very rare, to S5 being demonstrably secure, which means that the community is relatively common and not threatened in the state. All of the natural communities at the Northeast Penjajawoc preserve are ranked as S4 or S5.

Natural Community State Ranks

- S1 - Critically imperiled in Maine (<5 occurrences)
- S2 - Imperiled in Maine (6-20 occurrences)
- S3 - Rare in Maine (20-100 occurrences)
- S4 - Apparently secure in Maine
- S5 - Demonstrably secure in Maine

Classifying and identifying natural communities help biologists, conservation groups, and land-use planners to understand the ecological value of land. It helps us to answer questions such as, "What bird species are likely to nest here?" or, "Could this land be used as habitat for any endangered or threatened species?" Natural community classification also helps us think of land as not only *the land*, but as a complex ecological system. It helps us to consider how our activities and management decisions will affect the environment and other life around us.



On the Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve, there are four distinct natural communities: (1) Red Oak - Northern Hardwoods - White Pine Forest, (2) Aspen - Birch Woodland/Forest Complex, (3) Cattail Marsh, and (4) Mixed Graminoid - Shrub Marsh. Follow the guided natural community tour on the reverse side to learn more about these natural communities and other interesting natural features on this preserve.

For more information on natural communities in Maine and the northeastern U.S.:

Gawler, S. C., Cutco, A. R. 2004. Natural Landscapes of Maine: A Classification of Vegetated Natural Communities and Ecosystems. Maine Natural Areas Program, Department of Conservation, Augusta. 349 pp. (Fact Sheets available online at: www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/features/commsheets.htm)

Bryan, R.R. 2004. Focus Species Forestry: A Guide to Integrating Timber and Biodiversity Management in Maine. Maine Audubon, Falmouth. 92pp.

Kricher, J.C. 1998. Eastern Forests: A field guide to birds, mammals, trees, flowers, and more. Peterson Field Guides, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY. 488pp.

A Note About Dogs . . .

Dogs and their human companions are welcome. To preserve the enjoyment of all visitors and to protect wildlife, please remember to stay on designated pathways, keep your dog on a leash at all times, and remove your dog's waste from the trail.

There are many strongly held opinions about whether or not dogs should be allowed in parks and preserves. On one hand, dog owners enjoy having their four-legged family member along for a stroll through the woods (not to mention that dogs love it too!). On the other hand, some visitors feel threatened by loose dogs, and research has shown that the presence of dogs in nature preserves can adversely affect the wildlife that they are intended to protect. Additionally, wild animals such as porcupines, black bears, and coyotes can injure free-roaming dogs.

At BLT, we hope that our preserves can be used to protect natural areas and the wildlife that live within them, while providing recreational and educational opportunities for our visitors. While we believe that it would be best for the wildlife (and those who wish to view it) not to allow dogs in our preserves at all, we recognize that such a strict policy would take away significant value from the many dog owners who wish to bring their pets along.

As an experiment, we have decided to allow dogs in our preserves, with the understanding that they should be kept on a leash at all times, should remain on designated trails, and that owners should pick up their pet's waste. We sincerely hope that these simple guidelines will be followed, so we can continue to allow dogs in the preserve.

With your cooperation, we can ensure that wildlife is protected, and that all visitors (both two- and four-legged) can enjoy this natural space.

Thank You!



Please see our trail head kiosk for the most up-to-date information on our trails and policies!

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The Bangor Land Trust was founded in 2001 to help preserve wild lands within the City of Bangor. Our Mission is to: (1) Protect in perpetuity for public benefit significant lands and waters and their natural, agricultural, scenic, and traditional values and characteristics; (2) Promote general and scientific understanding of the region's natural resources and the need for their preservation; and, (3) Collaborate with organizations having related missions.