

Bordering Penobscot Bay in Brooksville, Holbrook Island Sanctuary protects many different ecosystems, which visitors can explore and enjoy.

From the beaches, mud flats, and rocky coast to the tops of steep hills that are actually old volcanoes, the sanctuary hosts a great diversity of plant and animal life. Stands of spruce-fir, pine, and mixed hardwoods, together with wetlands and meadows, encourage a multitude of colorful wildflowers that bloom from early spring until late fall. Down through these forests and old fields and around the marshes and ponds, alert visitors can see abundant signs of deer, fox, muskrat, beaver, otter, porcupine, bobcat, and coyote. This variety of habitats also offers excellent birding, especially during spring and fall migrations. Visitors can see great blue herons and ospreys nesting around the pond and estuary and may even spot bald eagles and peregrine falcons flying over the sanctuary. A bird list is available at the sanctuary headquarters.

Wishing to preserve this special environment and to encourage its use by other lovers of nature, Anita Harris, a long-time area resident, began acquiring land in Brooksville for a sanctuary in the 1960's. In 1971, she donated 1,230 acres to the State of Maine, in order "to preserve for the future a piece of the unspoiled Maine that I used to know."

Today, Holbrook Island Sanctuary has a unique place in the state park system. In keeping with Anita Harris' vision, the sanctuary will not be altered by modern park facilities and management techniques. Instead, a network of old roads, paths, and animal trails leads visitors to explore the shoreline, marshes, ponds, and forests. In each of these diverse ecosystems, visitors have a rare opportunity to experience a natural environment whose future is being shaped by natural forces rather than human hands.

To help maintain the beauty of this natural area, please observe the following rules:

- Stay on designated trails. Trails are for walking only.
- Do not pick wildflowers, cut trees or shrubbery, or harass wildlife.
- Pets must be kept on a leash not more than 4 feet long.
- Use only charcoal for fires and build fires only in grills provided. Fires are not permitted on beaches.
- Camping is not permitted.
- Rules and regulations are posted on the park bulletin board.

Holbrook Island Sanctuary is open daily from 9 a.m. to sunset year-round. Special arrangements for groups may be made by calling the Sanctuary office at (207) 326-4012 or by writing to: Holbrook Island Sanctuary, PO Box 35, Brooksville ME 04617.

Holbrook Island Sanctuary's trails can also be enjoyed by cross-country skiers. Parking areas are maintained during the winter for skiers' convenience.



Cover art: This drawing, done by author/illustrator John W. Brainerd of West Brooksville, shows the many habitats of Holbrook Island Sanctuary.

HOLBROOK ISLAND SANCTUARY



BROOKSVILLE, MAINE



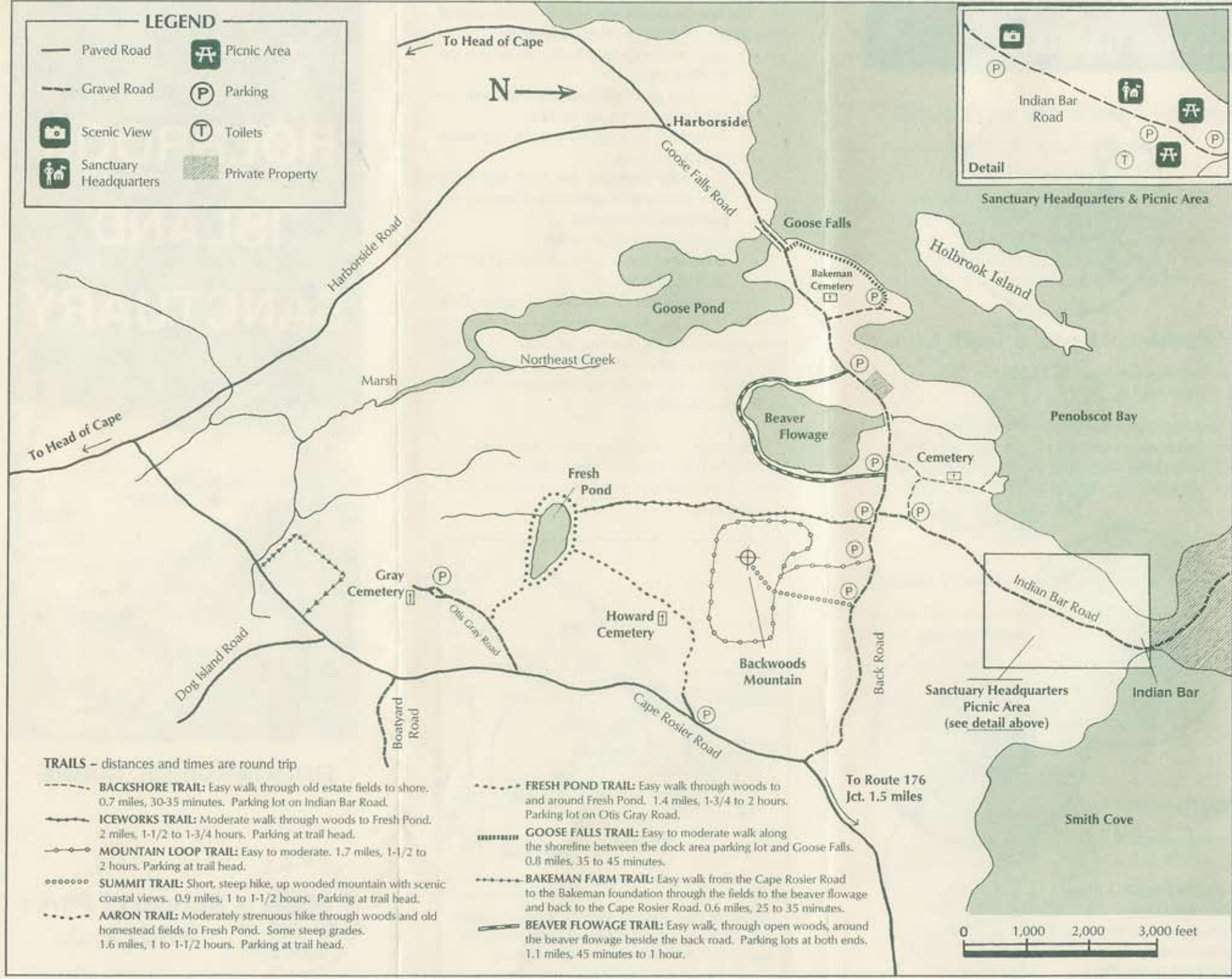
**Bureau of Parks
and Lands**

LEGEND

-  Paved Road
-  Gravel Road
-  Scenic View
-  Sanctuary Headquarters
-  Picnic Area
-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Private Property



Sanctuary Headquarters & Picnic Area



TRAILS - distances and times are round trip

-  **BACKSHORE TRAIL:** Easy walk through old estate fields to shore. 0.7 miles, 30-35 minutes. Parking lot on Indian Bar Road.
-  **ICEWORKS TRAIL:** Moderate walk through woods to Fresh Pond. 2 miles, 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 hours. Parking at trail head.
-  **MOUNTAIN LOOP TRAIL:** Easy to moderate. 1.7 miles, 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Parking at trail head.
-  **SUMMIT TRAIL:** Short, steep hike, up wooded mountain with scenic coastal views. 0.9 miles, 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Parking at trail head.
-  **AARON TRAIL:** Moderately strenuous hike through woods and old homestead fields to Fresh Pond. Some steep grades. 1.6 miles, 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Parking at trail head.
-  **FRESH POND TRAIL:** Easy walk through woods to and around Fresh Pond. 1.4 miles, 1-3/4 to 2 hours. Parking lot on Otis Gray Road.
-  **GOOSE FALLS TRAIL:** Easy to moderate walk along the shoreline between the dock area parking lot and Goose Falls. 0.8 miles, 35 to 45 minutes.
-  **BAKEMAN FARM TRAIL:** Easy walk from the Cape Rosier Road to the Bakeman foundation through the fields to the beaver flowage and back to the Cape Rosier Road. 0.6 miles, 25 to 35 minutes.
-  **BEAVER FLOWAGE TRAIL:** Easy walk, through open woods, around the beaver flowage beside the back road. Parking lots at both ends. 1.1 miles, 45 minutes to 1 hour.

