



Osprey on the salt marsh nest. Photo by Jim Knox.

## WHEN TO VISIT

Open year-round, 9:00 a.m. to sunset, unless otherwise signed at the gate.

**Spring** Feathers over Freeport, an annual birdwatching festival, is held each spring. FMI: [www.maine.gov/feathersoverfreeport](http://www.maine.gov/feathersoverfreeport) Osprey arrive and start nesting. Birders can enjoy the park year-round. Wildflowers, such as mayflowers and lady slippers emerge in woods and meadow. Nature programs are offered on weekends at 2:00 p.m., weather permitting.

**Summer** Daily nature programs at 2:00 p.m. from mid-June through Labor Day, weather permitting. Enjoy sea breezes and shady walks or a family picnic. A group picnic shelter is available for rental.

**Autumn** Fall colors vary from year-to-year in both intensity and timing. Visit [MaineFoliage.com](http://MaineFoliage.com) for peak color updates throughout Maine. Nature programs are offered on weekends at 2:00 p.m., weather permitting.

**Winter** Snowshoers take advantage of the park's gentle trails. Nature programs are offered on Sundays at 2:00 p.m., weather permitting.



Lady Slippers. Photo by Michael Frey.

## OSPREY

One of the great delights of visiting Wolfe's Neck Woods is watching osprey raise their young. An interpretive panel on the White Pines Trail explains the life cycle of this majestic, graceful bird. A nesting pair summers on the island and makes their annual trek to South America each fall. To view and learn more about osprey:

- View nesting osprey at the Googins Island overlook on the White Pines Trail.
- Join park naturalists for an osprey observation program.
- Participate in *Feathers over Freeport*, an annual birdwatching festival for all ages and abilities.



Osprey watching. Photo by Rex Turner.

## REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

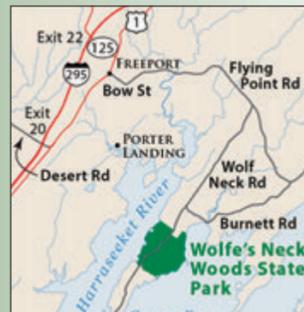
Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park lies within the Greater Portland & Casco Bay Region. Other destinations within this and adjacent regions include:

- **Bradbury Mountain State Park** offers camping, hiking, biking and picnicking on 800 acres of forested land. Located on Route 9 just north of the intersection with Elmwood Rd. FMI: [www.maine.gov/bradburymountain](http://www.maine.gov/bradburymountain)
- **Eagle Island State Historic Site** is a National Historic Landmark and the former summer home of North Pole explorer Adm. Robert E. Peary. The island is located about 3 miles off the coast of Harpswell and is accessible only by boat. FMI: [www.maine.gov/eagleisland](http://www.maine.gov/eagleisland)
- **Crescent Beach State Park** offers bathing in the surf or the sun at one of Maine's finest beaches. The park is located about 8 miles south of Portland on Route 77 in Cape Elizabeth. Two Lights State Park is right next door. FMI: [www.maine.gov/crescentbeach](http://www.maine.gov/crescentbeach) or [/twolights](http://twolights.com).
- **Sebago Lake State Park**, in Maine's Lakes & Mountains Region, features hiking trails, sand beaches, picnic areas, boat ramp, and campground. Off Route 302 in Casco & Naples. FMI: [www.maine.gov/sebagolake](http://www.maine.gov/sebagolake)

## THE GREATER PORTLAND & CASCO BAY REGION

### DIRECTIONS

From downtown Freeport on U.S. Route 1 turn onto Bow Street (just across from L. L. Bean) and continue to follow the road as it heads southeast and becomes Flying Point Rd. Turn right onto Wolf Neck Rd. and follow for approximately 2 miles. Park entrance is on the east (left) side of Wolf Neck Rd.



Lat 43.825823 / Lon -70.08557

### FEES & HOURS

- Park Fees are payable at the entrance booth, or self-service container when the staff are not at the booth.
- Open year-round; 9:00 a.m. to sunset daily unless otherwise signed at gate.
- View online information for all Parks and Lands locations at [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)

### CONTACTS

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park  
426 Wolf Neck Road  
Freeport, ME 04032  
(207) 865-4465  
[www.maine.gov/wolfesneckwoods](http://www.maine.gov/wolfesneckwoods)

**Local businesses & attractions information:**  
The Freeport Merchants Association  
1-800-865-1994 or 207-865-1212  
[www.freeportusa.com](http://www.freeportusa.com)

### SERVICES & FACILITIES

- Accessible trails and facilities.
- Group picnic shelter; may be reserved by calling the park.
- Osprey observation site & interpretive trails.
- Public nature programs offered year-round.
- Group nature programs offered year-round by reservation.

 Wolfe's Neck Woods is an official Maine State Parks Geocache site: [www.maine.gov/dacf/geotour](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/geotour)



2016

# WOLFE'S NECK WOODS STATE PARK

## GUIDE & MAP

Natural beauty just minutes from downtown Freeport.



[www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)



Casco Bay Trail. Photo by Rex Turner.

## OVERVIEW

Welcome to Wolfe's Neck Woods State 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, restrooms, a drinking fountain, and a picnic shelter seating 60 that may be reserved 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 (207) 865-4465.

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



Education program. BPL file photo.

## PROPERTY HISTORY

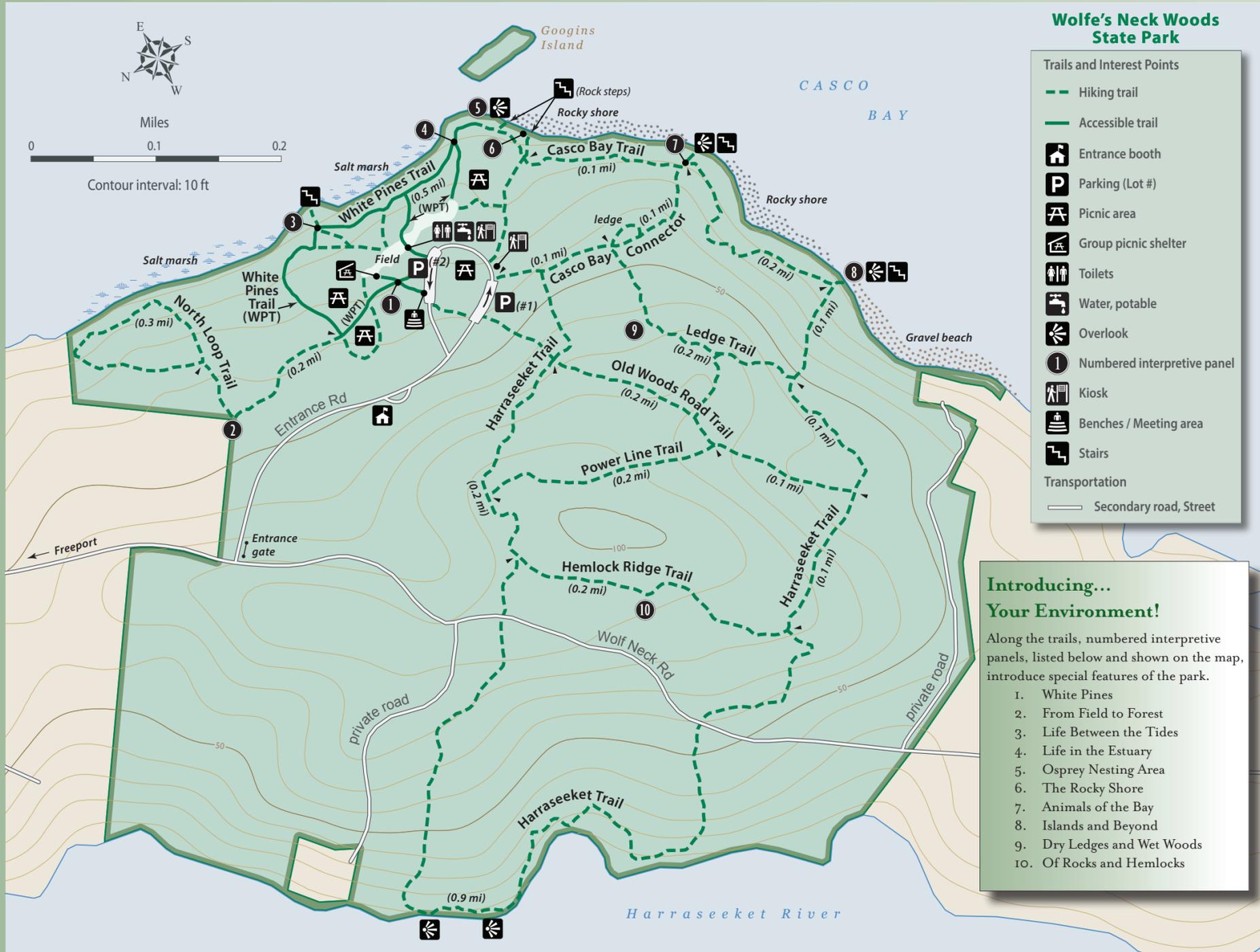
Opened in 1972, this park was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence M. C. Smith of Freeport. They gave over 200 acres of varied ecosystems to the State, including climax white pine and hemlock forests, a salt marsh estuary, and the rocky shorelines of Casco Bay and the Harraseeket River. Spanning a wooded 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 70,000 visitors each year to enjoy the outdoors and learn about nature, as Mr. and Mrs. Smith had hoped.



Strolling along Casco Bay. Photo by Michael Frey.

## PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

- AmeriCorps Maine Conservation Corps members are stationed at the park, for as long as ten months per year, and have assisted with trail maintenance, educational programs, and special events.
- This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Maine 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 & Casco Bay". In 5 minutes you will be enjoying the beauty of the bay.

**Harraseeket Hike** - 1.8-mile loop with some steep and uneven terrain. Enter the woods on the trail to the right of the kiosk at the end of the 1st parking lot. 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 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 (most level), 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.

### 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 second parking lot, take the White Pines Trail into the shady woods with wildflowers and birdsong in season. At the 4-way junction with the North Loop Trail, 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.

From the Second Parking Lot - continued

**Casco Bay Walk** - 1.25 miles round trip. From the second parking lot, take the White Pines Trail to the 4-way junction with the North Loop Trail. Turn right and stay on the accessible path toward the bay. Follow the trail to panel #3 and down the stairs to see who lives in the salt marsh and mud flat. Continue along the White Pines Trail to panel #4, and to panel #5 to look for ospreys. To observe the tide pools during low tide you may walk down the stone steps. Walk along the rocks to the right. At the rocky shore panel (#6) take the rocky steps up to the junction with the Casco Bay Trail. Turn left and follow the Casco Bay Trail about 0.25 mile to panel #7. Go another 0.25 mile to panel #8, island views, and for access to the rocky shore and the gravel beach during low tide. Return on the same trail or by a trail through the forest.

### HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE TRAIL

**White Pines Trail** - visitors in wheelchairs, with strollers, or wanting more level footing will find this an accessible trail that provides access to the osprey overlook and interpretive panels #1 and 3-5. A looping hike can be made by taking the trail from the end of the 2nd parking lot and following it northward before looping eastward toward the shoreline.



Googins Island in Winter. BPL file photo.



Birdwatching. Photo by Rex Turner.



Rocky shore and tide pools. Photo by Jenn Clark.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### 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.

## VISITOR RULES

To ensure a safe & pleasant visit for everyone:

- Picnic** On a carry-in, carry out basis, and take refuse home to recycle.
  - Fires** May be built only in grills; use only charcoal.
  - Pets** Must be leashed, attended and under control at all times. Clean up their waste.
  - Trash** Carry out all trash.
  - Leave No Trace** Stay on trails or stairs to protect the land, and please do not pick or remove anything or disturb ground cover.
  - Wildlife** Do not feed or disturb park animals. Stay away from Googins Island, the osprey sanctuary. Do view the osprey from the park's overlook.
  - No Camping** There is no camping in this day-use park. For State Park camping locations visit [www.campwithme.com](http://www.campwithme.com)
  - Bicycles** May be ridden only on the park road.
- A complete list of rules is posted at various locations throughout the park. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know.



Group picnic shelter. Photo by Michael Frey.