








BUTLER HEAD

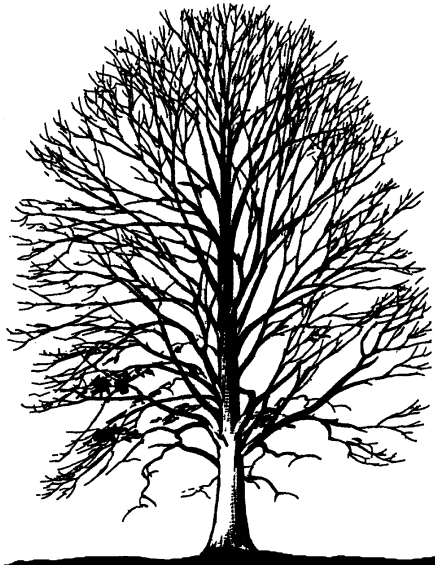
Butler Head Preserve

While you are enjoying your walk or ski through the Preserve, please respect the natural world that surrounds you. Please help us maintain the property by leaving no tracks or trace of your visit.

Motorized vehicles accelerate erosion of trails and other terrain and therefore are restricted to the gravel roads.

LEGEND

- Gravel road 
- Trail 
- Marsh 
- Field 
- Water 
- Private Property 
- Butler Head Preserve 



BUTLER HEAD

Welcome to Butler Head.

The Bath Community Forestry Committee hopes this brochure will encourage you to use the facilities of Butler Head Preserve. The property offers 133 acres of protected land jutting out into Merrymeeting Bay. The shores on the west are rocky and steep, with minimal development of a few summer cottages. Butler Cove and West Chops Point are to the east. The Preserve starts at the second left turn off Varney Mill Road, just before the West Chops Point development. The road leads to a marsh that opens out to Merrymeeting Bay. Butler Head Preserve contains wetlands, steep slopes and high ground, and it has been designated as highly significant for marine and wildlife habitats by the U.S. and State fisheries and wildlife services.

Here, in the company of ospreys, eagles and mallards, you can walk through fields and woods; enjoy wetlands and a tidal cove, and catch

a glimpse of the numerous species of animals and plants found in this natural area. Amongst the trees, towards the southwest area, a striking one hundred foot high rockfall is witness to the glaciers that formed Maine's coast thousands of years ago. High on this rock-fall are stone foundations and walls, possible evidence of the settlement of Butler Head by Europeans around 1714. These settlers were evidently driven off the land by the Abnaki Indians of the Merrymeeting Bay area. The mixed stand of softwoods and hardwoods was probably cleared at that time, but has since been left for regeneration.

Common overstory trees are white pine, paper, yellow and black birch, red maple, American beech, hemlock, red oak, white oak, big-toothed aspen, trembling aspen and arborvitae. Large white pines are more abundant along the western half of the peninsula.

The understory includes black cherry, balsam fir, moosewood, white oak, witch hazel, and various fern species and wildflowers. In the fall are found many species of fungi.

Butler Cove is ranked as a significant wildlife habitat. A 100 foot buffer strip with no habitat modifications or development has been recommended for protection by the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Service. This area includes a large wetland, harboring intertidal flats dominated by wild rice. The west side of Butler Head has also been recommended for protection with a 250 foot buffer strip, as an exceptional marine wildlife habitat. Extensive flats at the mouth of the Androscoggin River on the Bath-Brunswick border, at the extreme south end of the Preserve are dominated by wild rice and also recommended for protection.

Butler Head is a resource for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. It is monitored by The Bath Community Forestry Committee which is run by volunteers, and whose chief responsibility is to maintain a regularly updated inventory of the City's parks and trees. The Committee has developed a long range plan to provide for their planting and care, as well as encouraging public education and outreach. A sugarbush has been designated in a small portion of the preserve west of the field for use as an educational activity for area schoolchildren. Maple sap is collected and sent off the preserve for processing into syrup.

A map of the Preserve is included in this

brochure showing the natural features and trails. Please see our additional brochures listing known and recognized species of the flora and fauna of the Butler Head Preserve. This information, and any education programs dates and times, can be obtained by calling:

**The Bath Department of
Parks and Recreation at 443-8345,
or stopping at their office at
1 Oak Grove Avenue in Bath
The website is
www.bathforestry.com**

A non-profit trust fund has been established to provide support for activities managed by the Bath Community Forestry Committee, including the Butler Head Preserve. Contributions to this trust, as well as volunteer efforts, are welcomed by the Forestry Committee. To contribute or to volunteer, please contact the Parks and Recreation office as noted above.

Enjoy your visit.



3/10/11