



The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust’s mission is to conserve, restore and instill appreciation of the land and water resources of the Kennebec Estuary to benefit today’s communities and future generations.

Volunteer

KELT offers many volunteer opportunities to support a wide range of activities and interests including:

- + trail work
- + public preserve stewardship
- + events
- + water quality testing
- + phytoplankton sampling
- + alewife counting
- + bird monitoring
- + fundraising
- + office help

Contact info@kennebecestuary.org to find out how you can help!

Join us!

Support from our members means KELT can maintain trails and public preserves across our conserved properties. It enables KELT to collaborate with a variety of partners to protect farmlands, enhance water quality, provide educational programs, and serve as a resource for our local towns.

Become a member today.
Visit www.kennebecestuary.org to join!

Directions

Take High Street north from Bath. Turn left on Whiskeag Road. Make a right into parking area at the base of hill. The parking area has a kiosk and marked trails.

Last updated Mar. 2023

Sewall Woods Preserve

This 99-acre nature preserve is located on Whiskeag Road in Bath, Maine



Available to the public free of charge
 Open daily from dawn until dusk

872 Washington Street, P.O. Box 1128
 Bath, Maine 04530
 (207) 442-8400
www.kennebecestuary.org
info@kennebecestuary.org

Available Opportunities:



Please refrain from:



Don't Miss...

- + Educational opportunities associated with the Demonstration Forest project.
- + Stone walls and former fields show the prior agricultural history.
- + Viewpoints of the patch cuts.

Demonstration Forest

In addition to its role as a center for recreation and conservation, Sewall Woods also serves as a Demonstration Forest. This project, initiated in 2016, aims to raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable forestry. Over the long-term, carefully planned timber harvests will occur designed to improve the health of the forest and provide richer habitat for its native species.

KELT will hold a variety of educational events, tours, and talks in conjunction with these practices to provide the wider community with a genuine insight into sustainable forestry. As you walk, keep an eye out for informational signs on various forestry topics.

History

6000 BC: People gather wild rice and fish in estuary creeks known as Whizzgigg, rapidly-running water.

1660: Deed to Reverend Robert Gutch, first settler, for the chief part of Bath, 3800 acres running from the Kennebec to the New Meadows River between Truffant Creek and present day Harward Street.

1775: Dummer Sewall leads 50 patriots to King Spar Dock at the foot of Harward St to demand British workmen suspend work, Bath's only Revolutionary War encounter.

1783: Part of Glutch allotment goes to Simeon Turner who builds a house at King's Dock.

1797: John Peterson's lot includes the John Tarp house, afterward the Stone House Farm.

1812: William King erects the Stone House Farm. One of Bath's first shipbuilders, he plants 500 apple trees and acres of potatoes to supply his ships.

1821: Mill is rebuilt on Whiskeag Creek by Samuel Rogers.

1823: William D. Sewall launches the brig, *Diana*, laying the cornerstone of the shipbuilding and operating empire of the Sewall family.

1933: Bridge over Whiskeag Creek replaces with culvert and fill. Site is a prime elver station for fisherman. Eels are a catadromous species that inhabit the estuary for up to 40 years before departing to spawn in the Sargasso Sea.

1979: William D. Sewall takes possession of his father's property, a working dairy farm.

2004: William D. Sewall, with the encouragement of family, leaves the woodlot to KELT. A viewshed easement of the field west of the house is included.

2006: Twenty-six adjacent acres are added to the preserve from the Bath Housing Authority lot.

2016: Sewall Woods Preserve is transformed into a Demonstration Forest.

2022: An eight acre parcel is added to the preserve in close collaboration with the Bath Housing Development Corporation

Wildlife

Tidal Waterfront

Whiskeag Creek is a brackish tidal marsh, a rare habitat for many species of birds, fish, and plants, including 10 species of listed rare plants whose presence in Maine is only in these tidal, low-salinity mudflats.

The creek ecosystem is the basis of the food chain for the highly productive Kennebec estuary, providing nutrients for finfish and a nursery ground for estuary-dependent fish such as sturgeon, stripers, and baitfish. The marsh also provides food, shelter, and nesting sites for water birds and shore birds, and it is frequented by bald eagles and osprey.

Ecology

Woodland

The forest is 80% softwood and serves as an upland water pollution buffer, preserving the water purity necessary for wildlife survival. The woodlands and adjacent protected fields provide habitat for diverse wildlife including white tailed deer, red & gray squirrel, fox, coyote, pileated woodpecker, owl, grouse, and small songbirds. Numerous amphibians are also native to the area.



Pileated Woodpecker
(*Hylatus pileatus*)



White pine
(*Pinus strobus*)