



Harpowell Heritage Land Trust is a nonprofit conservation organization working to protect Harpswell's natural and cultural heritage for current and future generations. We depend on contributions from our members to meet the expense of managing and monitoring these properties in perpetuity. We need your help to continue our work – please become a member!

You may contact the Trust directly at, telephone 207 833-5566 or at PO Box 259, Harpswell, ME 04079, or via email at [info@hhltmaine.org](mailto:info@hhltmaine.org) or visit our web site at [www.hhltmaine.org](http://www.hhltmaine.org)

## The Preserve

Long Reach Preserve is located on Route 24 adjacent to the Trufant-Summerton Ballfield on Great Island. The preserve is 93 acres in size and includes upland forest, freshwater and coastal wetlands, and extensive frontage on the tidal waters of Long Reach. Located immediately south of 213 acres of private land that the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT) protects through a permanent conservation easement and another 220 acres owned and managed as a demonstration forest by the Baxter State Park Authority, the Long Reach Preserve is part of Harpswell's largest area of protected land. The Long Reach Preserve was purchased in 2000 with a major private donation and a grant from the Land for Maine's Future Program.

## Harpowell Heritage Land Trust

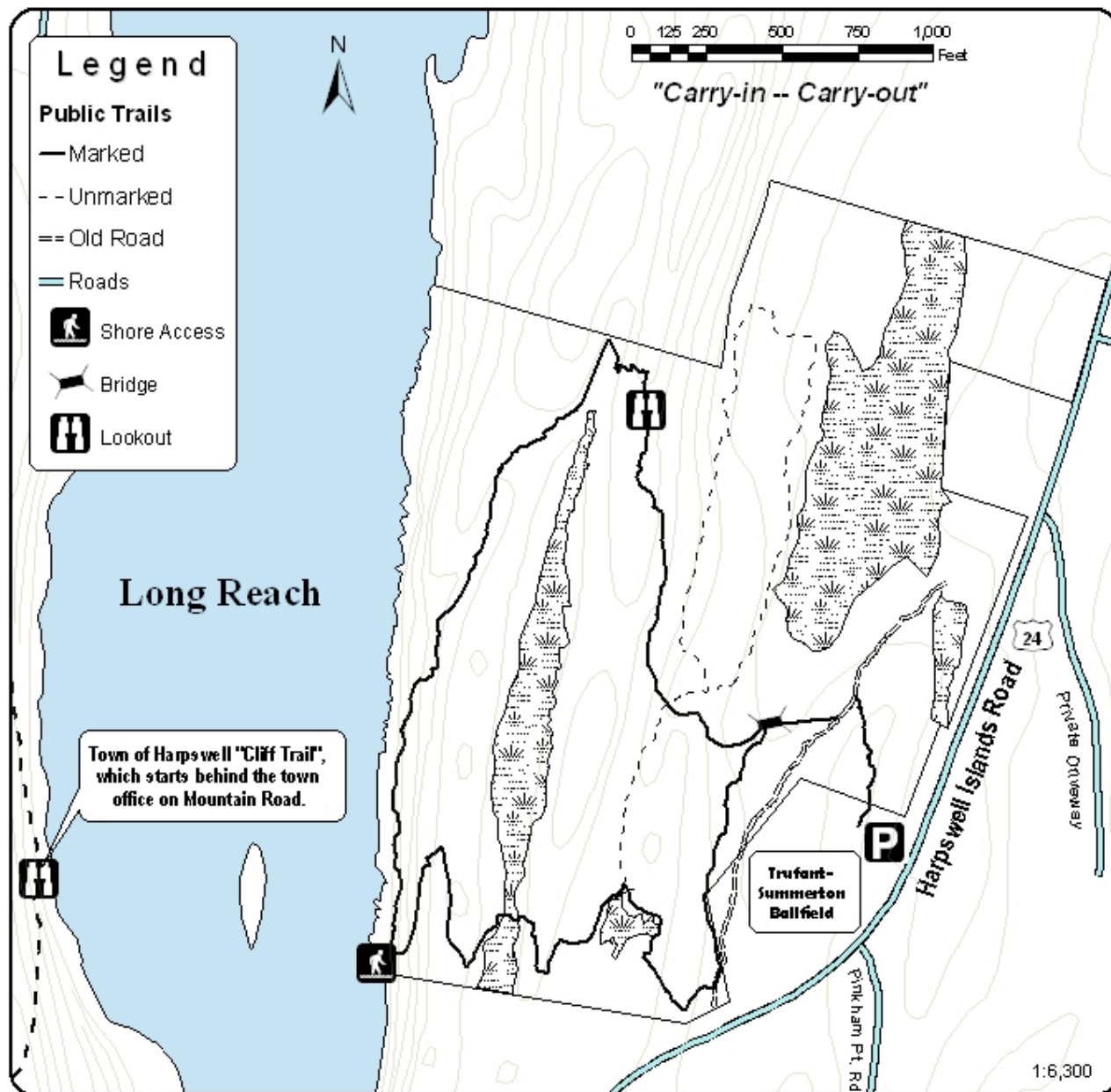
# Long Reach Preserve



Drawings by  
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## Long Reach Trail

The Long Reach Trail, which starts at the ballfield and runs to Long Reach, is a good way to see all that the Preserve offers.

You will start out in a stand of white pine that was probably a pasture in the past and then follow the old county road for a short distance before heading west toward the reach. The trail winds past rock ledges covered with rock polypody ferns and over the high ridge with views of Quahog Bay to the east before skirting a small bog that has wild cranberries and orchids. You'll then pass through a beautiful conifer forest before the trail descends gently to the shore of Long Reach. The trail has some short steep sections and is moderately difficult.

The Long Reach Trail is the only trail that has been improved and blazed to date, but the map shows other unmarked trails that you may follow.

## Natural History

The Preserve is a classic example of Harpswell's folded bedrock topography. Two steep bedrock ridges separated by peat-filled wetlands run north-south along the property. Long Reach itself is another flooded valley that is now tidal mudflats. The town of Harpswell's Cliff Trail runs along the high cliffs on the west side of the Reach, which can be seen from the end of the preserve's Long Reach Trail.

During the 1800's most of the Long Reach Preserve was open pasture and woodlot that was used to supply lumber and firewood. Stumps on the property indicate that harvesting occurred as recently as 40 years ago. Even so, the forest is maturing and includes some natural stands of large hemlock, white pine, and red spruce, especially on the shallow ridge soils. Red pine grows in patches near the shoreline and on some of the high ridges. Red maple, red oak, paper birch, yellow birch and beech are more common where the soil is deeper. A variety of forest and wetland wildlife are found on the preserve, and osprey, waterfowl, and eagles may be seen over Long Reach.

### As you hike observe the flora and fauna around you

