Rocky Lake Public Lands

Overview

With 10,000 acres of woodsland and secluded hardwood lakes near East Machias, the Rocky Lake Public Lands provide opportunities for boating, camping and fishing in a wildlife-rich setting. Bold waves on the lake spew spray, show fins of fish and feed the gulls. A hidden gem of a lake, Rocky Lake offers an escape from the ordinary; access by water only. In spring and summer, canoers can use Second Lake (6.8 miles), a popular trip of 30 to 45 miles with Class I-III whitewater. Paddlers can add in a side trip to Rocky Lake as well.

When to Visit

To reach Patrick Lake, go 7.5 miles and turn left on Mud Landing Road. That road ends at the trailerable boat launch and campsite by Northern Inlet, a hand-carry boat launch. Proceed 1.25 miles to Bangor, ME 04401.

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Below the easternmost corner of the United States. Nearby Region (www.downeastacadia.com) that encompasses the Machias River during the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War. Guarded the mouth of Fort O'Brien State Historic Site has a long pebble beach, hiking trails, picnic tables, playground and freshwater pond. Roque Bluffs State Park has 4.5 miles of frontage along the dramatic "Bold Coast."

Nearby Destinations

- Bangor, ME 04401
- Machias, ME 04659
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Services & Facilities

- Picnic area (for day use only) and privy at Patrick Lake
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Camping and fishing in a wildlife-rich setting

The ecosystems around Rocky Lake have been shaped by both fire and insect activities. There is some evidence that fire spread through these woods in the early 1800s, and small fires were periodically set in the 1860s through 1890s in an attempt to control moose habitat. Some of the property’s young spruce stands date from this period. Upland hardwoods stocked many of the region’s woods in the late 1800s and early 1900s—leading to extensive salvage burning in the 1950s and 1960s. The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands manages the area for timber, as well as wildlife and recreation, outside of the designated Ecological Reserve.

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Visitor Rules

- Cut no live vegetation and kindle fires only at authorized campsites. Fire permits (available from the Maine Forest Service at 207-827-6191) are required for the campsites on Second Lake (at Eagle Ledge) and the East Machias River (Lower Riffles).
- Carry out all trash.
- Keep pets under control at all times and on a leash (less than 4 feet) at campsites.
- No reservations or fees are required, but camping stays on Maine Public Lands are limited to 14 days in any 45-day period. Bureau of Parks and Lands staff may take custody of any personal property left unattended for more than 3 days (unless advance written permission is given).
- Although hunting is permitted, do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, posted trails or boat launch. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails.
- Snowmobiles are prohibited on plowed roads. ATVing is allowed only on marked ATV trails and signed Shared Use Roads.
- Any structures that you see on the property are private camps on leased lots. Please respect the privacy of lease holders and keep away from these areas.

Trails

Except for short footpaths at Patrick Lake (off Route 86) and at the southern end of Second Lake, there are no hiking trails on the Rocky Lake Public Lands.

Snowmobiles and ATV rides are enjoyed 12 miles of Shared Use Roads and approved motorized trails. The groomed snowmobile trail (maintained by Down East Trail Riders, P. O. Box 658, East Machias, Me, 04630) eventually connects to ITS 84, a major east-west trail in Washington County. The ATV trails are included in the property’s management system.

Trails and Interest Points

- Hiking trail
- AT V trail
- Snowmobile trail
- Multi-use trail
- Multi-use trail
- Net-sink trail
- Need-cape foot path
- Foot trail
- Trail side (number of miles)
- Trail side (no permit required)
- Trail side
- Road (number of miles)
- Road (no permit required)
- Road

Transportation

- Major road
- Highway
- Secondary road
- Street
- Other recreation trail

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