

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Rocky Lake is aptly named (with a maximum depth of 37 feet and mean depth of 14 feet): use caution boating and watch for submerged shoals.
- Although the largest islands are State property, several islands within Rocky Lake remain in private ownership. Please respect the privacy of those landowners.
- Don't count on your cell phone in an emergency as coverage may be spotty to non-existent.
- Take care traveling by car, foot, ATV, snowmobile or bicycle along area logging roads. Logging trucks weigh 100,000 pounds and travel faster than you might expect.
- Always give logging trucks the right of way: pull over and stop regardless of which direction they're headed. Avoid roads that are too narrow for two vehicles.
- Do not block side roads and never stop in the middle of the road, on a corner, on bridges or below the crest of a hill.

WHEN TO VISIT

The best times to visit (in terms of water levels and brook trout fishing) are in May and June, but that is also the height of black fly season. FMI: www.maine.gov/rockylake

NEARBY DESTINATIONS

The Rocky Lake Public Land lies within the Downeast-Acadia Region (www.downeastacadia.com) that encompasses Hancock and Washington Counties and represents the easternmost corner of the United States. Nearby destinations include:

- **Cutler Coast Public Land** offer 10 miles of trails with 4.5 miles of frontage along the dramatic "Bold Coast." FMI: www.maine.gov/cutlercoast
- **Roque Bluffs State Park** has a long pebble beach, hiking trails, picnic tables, playground and freshwater pond. FMI: www.maine.gov/roquebluffs
- **Fort O'Brien State Historic Site** guarded the mouth of the Machias River during the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War. FMI: www.maine.gov/fortobrien
- **Machias River Corridor** encompasses more than 60,000 acres along the river's shoreline, providing recreational access for a popular backcountry canoe route. FMI: www.maine.gov/machiasrivercorridor
- **Duck Lake Public Land** offers 29,000 acres of woods and lakefront for backcountry camping and fishing. FMI: www.maine.gov/ducklake

PROPERTY HISTORY

The State acquired most of these Public Lands in 1977 from International Paper (IP) and St. Regis Paper Company. The acreage at Patrick Lake was added in 1984, following a purchase from Baskahegan Corporation. The State purchased two additional parcels from IP in 2004, including a 59-acre island in Rocky Lake, and a 70-acre parcel abutting the East Machias River.



This area has a long history of timber harvesting and the East Machias River was used for log-driving in the 19th and early 20th century. Local residents also harvested marsh hay from around the lakes and rivers to feed their horses and oxen. During IP's ownership (spanning from the 1950s through 1977), there was a saw mill at the southern end of Second Lake.

The ecosystems around Rocky Lake have been shaped by both fire and insect infestations. There is some evidence that fire spread through these woods in the early 1900s, and small fires were periodically set in the 1960s through 1980s—in an attempt to create more deer habitat. Some of the property's young aspen stands date back to these fires.

Spruce budworm attacked many of the region's conifers in the late 1970s and early 1980s—leading to extensive salvage harvesting. The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands continues to manage the land for timber, as well as wildlife and recreation, outside of the designated Ecological Reserve.

DOWNEAST REGION DIRECTIONS

From the intersection of Routes 1 and 191 in East Machias, drive north on Route 191. **To reach South Bay** on Rocky Lake, go 7.5 miles and turn left on Diamond Match Road. Proceed 1.25 miles to the lakeside campsites and trailerable boat launch. **To reach Mud Landing**, proceed past Diamond Match Road just over a mile and turn left on Mud Landing Road, which ends at the trailerable boat launch and campsite by Northern Inlet, a feeder stream of Rocky Lake. **To reach Patrick Lake**, continue past Mud Landing Road 1.5 miles to where Route 86 intersects Route 191. Turn right onto Route 86 and travel approximately 1 mile to the picnic area pathway. Continue one more mile on Rte. 86 to reach the boat launch.



CONTACTS

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
Eastern Region Public Lands Office
106 Hogan Road, Suite 5
Bangor, ME 04401
207-941-4412

Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 606
Machias, ME 04654
207-255-4402
www.machiaschamber.org



State Travel Information: www.visitmaine.com
Region Travel Information: www.downeastacadia.com

SERVICES & FACILITIES

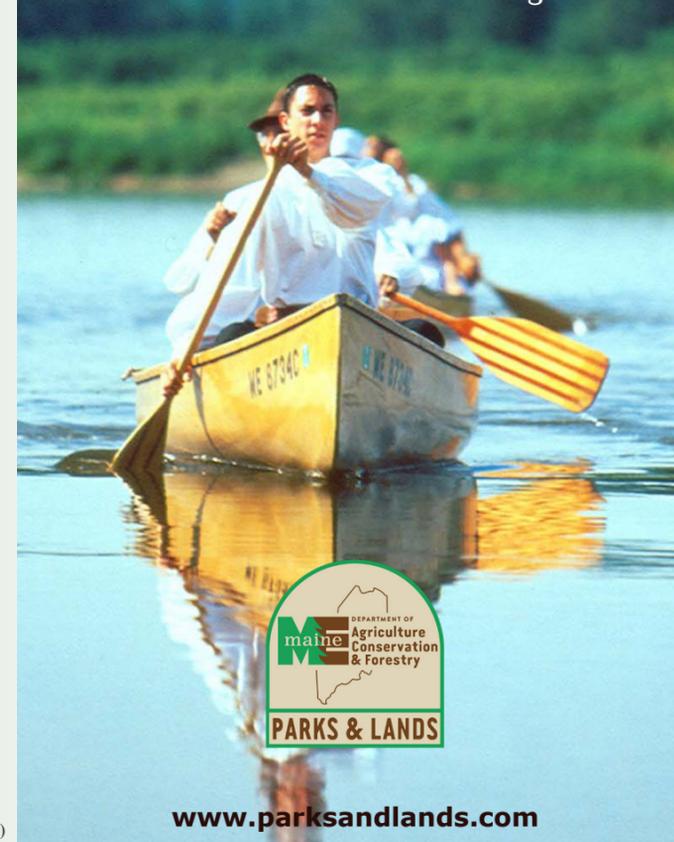
- Picnic area (for day use only) and privy at Patrick Lake
- Eleven primitive campsites. At South Bay on Rocky Lake, two sites can accommodate medium RVs and two are walk-in tent sites. Mud Landing has a walk-in campsite. Water-access sites include: Loose Rock (a lean-to), Eagle Ledge (on Second Lake); Lower Riffles (E. Machias River); West Beach, Piney Point, and Rocky Lake Island.
- Boat access points (hand-carry at South Bay; trailerable at Mud Landing; trailerable at Patrick Lake)
- Parking for 6 cars at South Bay, 2 cars at Mud Landing and 4 cars at Patrick Lake



ROCKY LAKE PUBLIC LAND

GUIDE & MAP

Camping and fishing in a wildlife-rich setting



www.parksandlands.com

OVERVIEW

With 11,000 acres of woodlands and wetlands bordering three lakes near East Machias, Rocky Lake Public Land provides opportunities for boating, camping and fishing in a wildlife-rich setting. Bald eagles nest in the area, 10 species of fish frequent the lakes and streams, and dense forests of young spruce and fir provide habitat for deer, snowshoe hare, bobcat, coyote, and even the occasional fisher, bear and moose. The property includes four miles along the upper reaches of the East Machias River, a popular paddling destination that supports sea-run Atlantic salmon.

The glacially sculpted landscape includes meandering streams and rivers, bordered by wetlands, and lakes that run north-south (the direction the glacier traveled), interspersed by low ridges of glacial till. The three lakes (1,555-acre Rocky Lake, 332-acre Second Lake, and 275-acre Patrick Lake) draw visitors to fish, canoe, camp, picnic and birdwatch during spring, summer and early fall. Late fall brings hunters, and in winter visitors come by snowmobile (as access roads are not plowed) to ice fish and trap.

While most of the property borders Rocky and Second Lakes, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands also manages 117 acres on Patrick Lake, three miles east of Rocky Lake. This property includes a gravel trailerable boat ramp, parking area, and footpath to a picnic area bordering the lake. When water levels drop during summer months, a small sandy beach appears—providing shallow water where children like to swim.

FMI Boat Launches: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches

Eleven primitive waterfront campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Both boat launch areas (Mud Landing and South Bay) have authorized camping sites, and six more are accessible only by water. In spring and summer, canoers can use Second Lake as a camping stopover on the 2- to 3-day trip down the East Machias River from Pocomoonshine Lake or Route 9 to East Machias (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.

State surveys of the warm-water fisheries have found small mouth bass, white perch, yellow perch, chain pickerel, alewife, American eel, white sucker, fallfish, and pumpkinseed sunfish, along with wild eastern brook trout in spring. Common loons and American bitterns thrive on the abundant fish, and waterfowl frequent the 2,000 acres of wetlands (which beaver help to create and sustain).

The State has designated 1,520 acres of the property bordering both sides of the East Machias River an Ecological Reserve, considering it an "exemplary stream shore ecosystem" with wildlife-rich marshes and an unusual silver maple floodplain forest. The Reserve designation helps maintain these ecosystems in their natural condition and allow for monitoring of ecological changes over time.

The property also contains two small sheep laurel-dwarf shrub bogs on the east side of Second Lake and a large wetland complex on the western shore of Rocky Lake that consists of spruce-larch wooded bogs and northern white cedar woodland fens.

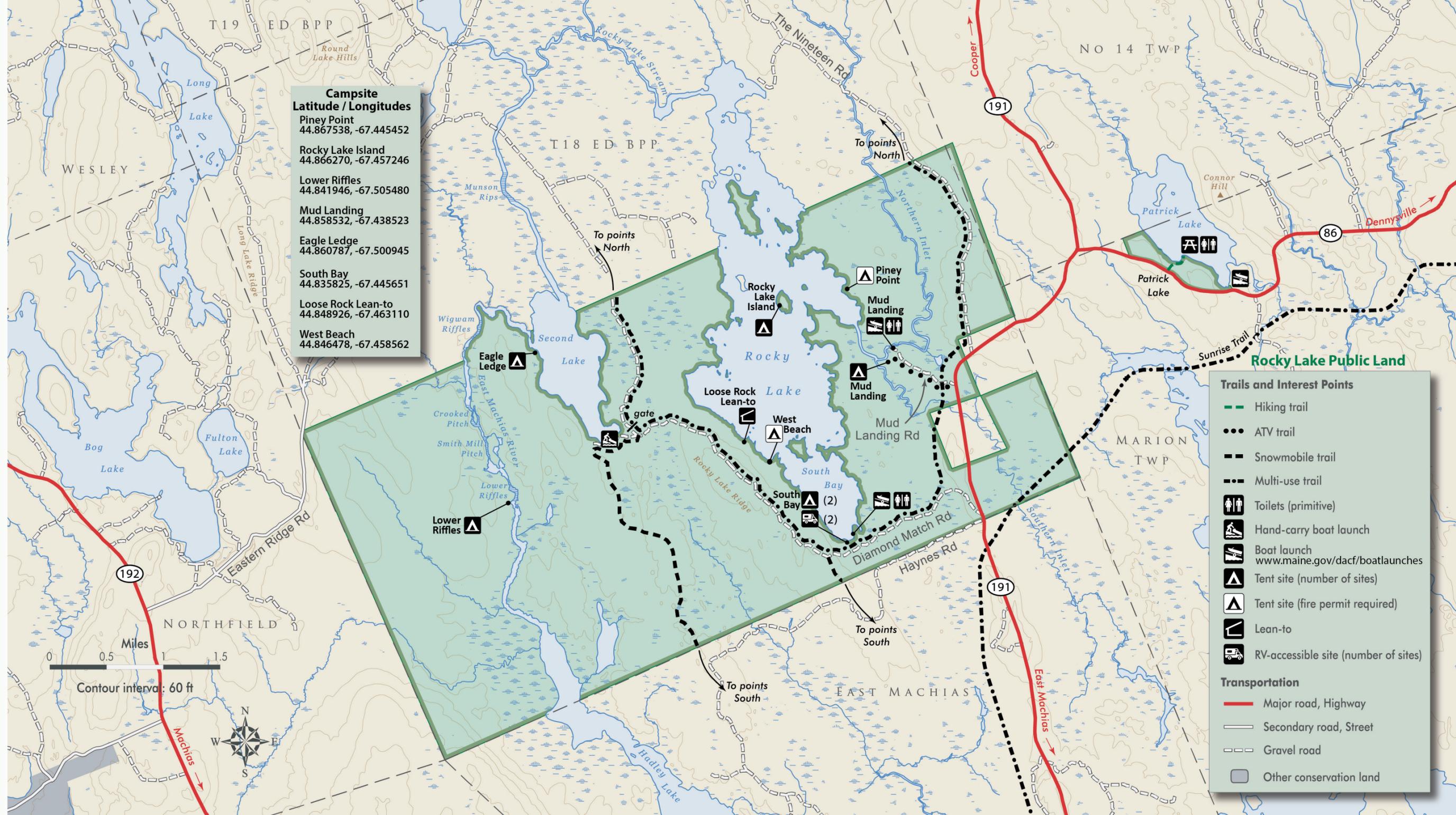


TRAILS

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.

Snowmobilers and ATV riders can enjoy 17 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 linked to a 700-mile ATV trail system on private lands nearby.

The Down East Sunrise Trail (www.sunrisetrail.org)—an 87-mile trail for use by pedestrians, bicycles, equestrians, mushers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers and ATV riders along the former Calais Branch rail line from Ellsworth to Pembroke (south of Calais)—connects to the property's southeastern corner.



VISITOR RULES

Camping & Limit of Stay Camp only at established sites. Campers may not exceed a 14-day stay in a 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.

Fires Kindle fires only at authorized campsites. Fire permits (from the Maine Forest Service at 207-827-1800) are required for all campsites, except the drive-to access sites. See map. Do not cut live vegetation.

Pets Must be under control at all times and on a leash at campsites.

Trash Carry out all trash.

Firearms & Hunting Do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails. Hunting FMI www.maine.gov/ifw

Fishing Valid fishing license required. Use lead-free sinkers and jigs to prevent metal poisoning of loons, eagles and other wildlife. www.maine.gov/ifw/

ATVs & Snowmobiles Snowmobiles are prohibited on plowed roads. ATVs are allowed only on marked ATV trails and signed Shared Use Roads.

Power Equipment Use no chainsaws or other power equipment around campsites.

Private Property Any structures that you see on the property are private camps on leased lots. Please respect their privacy and keep away from these areas.

Timber Harvests For your own safety, please stay clear of areas where timber is being harvested.