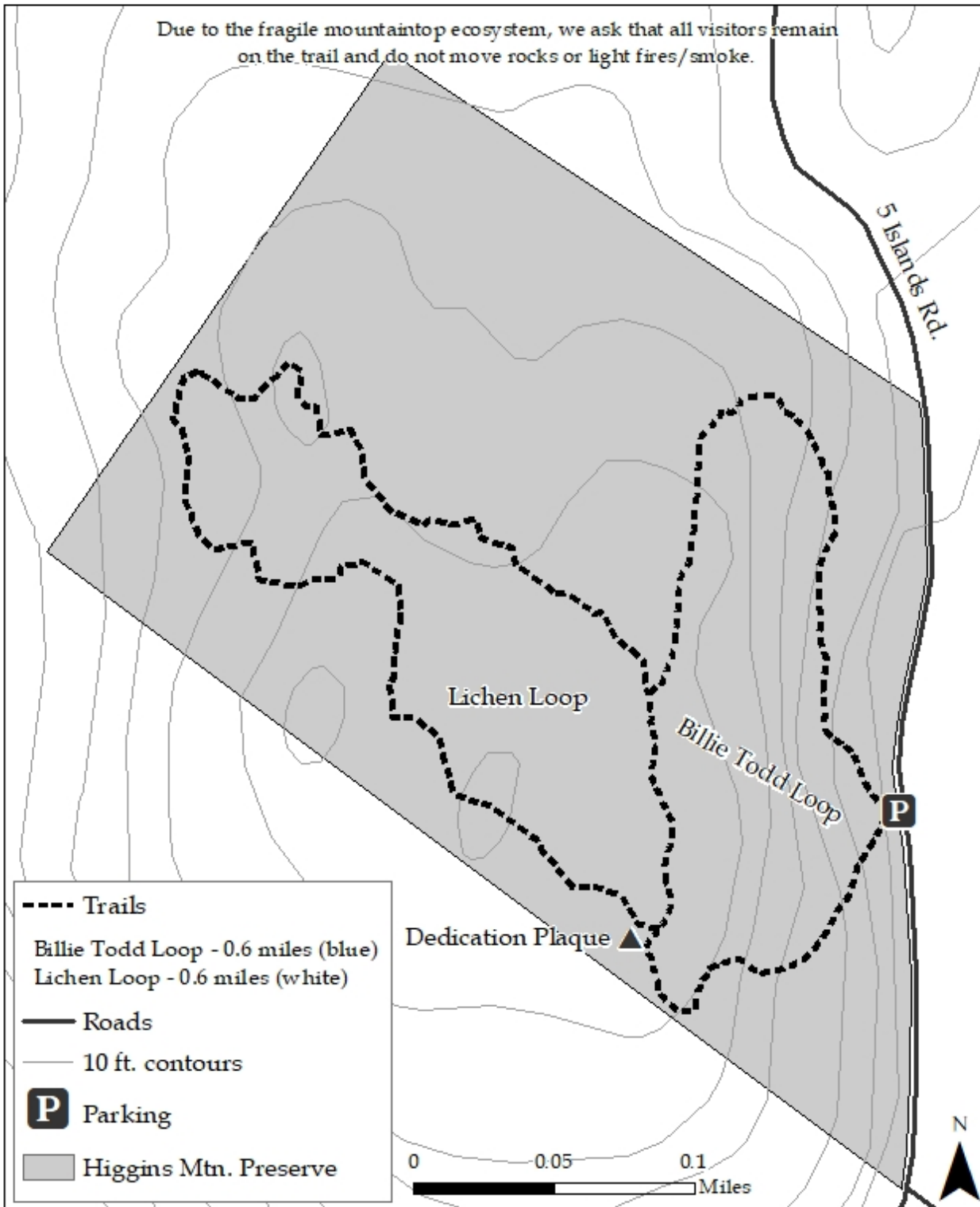


Due to the fragile mountaintop ecosystem, we ask that all visitors remain on the trail and do not move rocks or light fires/smoke.



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 Rt. 127 south from Rt. 1. Go 7.6 miles. Roadside parking & kiosk for the preserve are on the right.

Last updated Jan. 2019

Higgins Mountain Preserve

This 41-acre nature preserve is located on Five Islands Road (Rt. 127) in Georgetown, Maine



LAND TRUST

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

92 Front Street, Bath, Maine 04530

P.O. Box 1128

(207) 442-8400

www.kennebecestuary.org

info@kennebecestuary.org

Available Opportunities:



Please refrain from:



Don't Miss...

- + Watch for interesting rock formations along the trails
- + Views and scenic surroundings at the top of the ridge
- + The new half-mile Lichen Loop trail completed in 2018 by local Boy Scout, Thomas Trundy, for his Eagle Scout project (Please protect the fragile mountaintop, visitors must stay on the trail.)

History

1650: Georgetown Island was acquired by early European settlers from the Abenaki Sagamore Robin Hood.

1650s to 1750s: The Island experienced cyclical settlement and abandonment during the Native American-European conflicts on the Maine coast. Georgetown's villages grew around maritime industries: fishing, boat building, navigating the Kennebec River, and coastal and ocean trade. Pre-Revolution settlements on Georgetown Island were along the Kennebec and Back Rivers and at Robinhood Cove, west and east of the Preserve.

1759: The Kennebec Proprietors' map shows the Higgins Mountain area as part of a large tract owned by Mathew McKinney, a cobbler who emigrated from Scotland around 1730.

1849: After being passed through several generations of male McKinneys, the land was given to Jane McKinney Higgins "in consideration of kind and faithful services" to her father. Her farmhouse was nearby along the town road. For many years, the view from the summit of Higgins Mountain was of fields and pastures in many directions, since much of Georgetown was open farmland. Sheep on the Higgins farm and the adjacent Williams farm may have been pastured on the mountain.

1986: After remaining in the Higgins family for many years, the Higgins Mountain area was acquired by Warren Todd.

2000: After his death, Higgins Mountain was donated to KELT by Billie Todd (Mrs. Warren Todd).

Geology

The preserve is located in the geologic domain known as the Avalon Terrane, which contains the remnants of volcanic and sedimentary rocks. The Terrane was divided between North America and parts of western Europe and north Africa during the Acadian mountain building even ~400-350 million years ago.

The summit is made of granite intruded into a prominently layered metamorphic rock that includes amphibolite, granofels, gneiss, and schist, of Ordovician age (~ 500-450 million years ago).

Erosion-resistant layers in the metamorphic rock, oriented in a north-south direction and steeply inclined, form ridges and vertical outcroppings.

Ecology

Higgins Mountain, with an elevation of 259 feet above sea level, is the highest point on Georgetown Island. The preserve offers views from the summit east and south to Monhegan Island, Seguin Island and the Gulf of Maine.

Deer, fox and raccoon forage on the land, and hidden vernal pools support amphibians.

The preserve is predominantly second and third growth woodland. Parts of the mountain have been logged repeatedly, most recently in the 1950s. Red oak, maple and birch dominate the lower slopes of the mountain and create a habitat favored by warblers, woodpeckers and owls.

Pitch pine and blueberry grow on the upper slopes. One of the region's finest displays of crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*, and the rare *Corema conradii*) are found on the summit. These plants are very sensitive to foot traffic, so please stay on the trail.

Higgins Mountain was burned over in the Great Georgetown Fire of 1908 and has experienced smaller fires since then. Recovery from a 2004 fire on the summit is underway and can be observed from the trail.

Visitors can protect this landscape by refraining from smoking or lighting fires of any kind.



Red Oak
(*Quercus rubra*)



Broom Crowberry
(*Corema conradii*)