

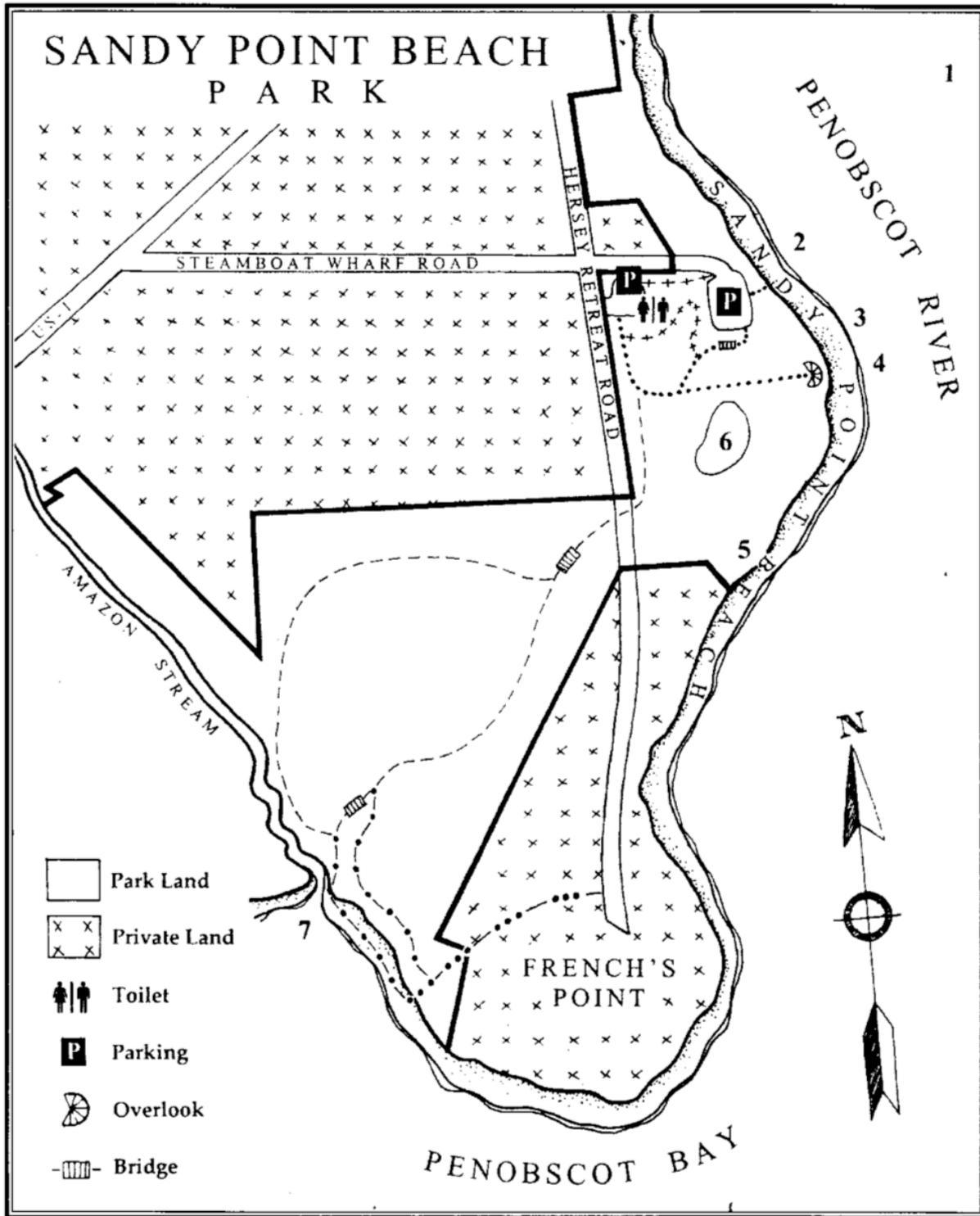
Sandy Point Beach Park and Trails



Stockton Springs Maine

Directions

If traveling south on US-1, turn left onto Sandy Point Rd., 2.5 miles from the Penobscot Narrows Bridge. After .7 miles, turn left on Hersey Retreat Rd. and continue to the park sign at Steamboat Wharf Rd. If traveling north on US-1, turn right on Steamboat Wharf Rd., 2.2 miles from the US-1/1A junction. The park is located at the end of Steamboat Wharf Rd. There are signs on Route 1 for both turns.



• • • • **Wheelchair Accessible Trail**

.3 miles. From the upper parking lot, this trail winds through woods, then follows the old railroad bed past the beaver pond to an overlook with an expansive view of the beach and the river. A second branch links the beach parking lot to the overlook.

- - - - **Amazon Trail** (blue blazes) 1.1 miles. North and South Leg. This woodland footpath loop has over 2000' of bog bridging and provides access to a second, more remote stretch of beach. Expect wet areas and many roots. Sturdy shoes are recommended, as well as good balance or a walking stick.

• — • — **Shore Loop Trail** (white blazes) .5 miles. Reached via the Amazon or Crystal Lynn Trail, this trail follows the bluff along the shore of a quiet cove and returns to the beach. At high tide, sections along the beach may not be passable.

• • • — • • • **Crystal Lynn Cove Trail** (red blazes) .3 miles. This trail provides stairs to the beach at the southern end of the Shore Loop and connects it to Hersey Retreat Rd. From the road, follow blazes along French's Point driveway and parking lot to signs for the trail entrance.

+ + + + **Bluff Trail** (yellow blazes) .3 miles. Running between the two wheelchair accessible trails, this footpath traverses woods and the bluff behind the beach.

+ + + + **Stairs** off Steamboat Wharf Road and a short trail connect the beach to the upper parking lot and toilet.

1. Seals on Odom's Ledge

Lying mid-channel looking northeast from the beach, Odom's Ledge is a favorite spot for seals to haul out at low tide.

2. Remains of Steamboat Wharf

The Boston-to-Bangor Packet, a passenger steamboat, stopped here in the early twentieth century.

3. Shipways

Parallel timbers embedded in the sand are the remains of shipways used to launch ships that were built here.

4. Osprey Nests

Each year ospreys nest on the remains of the fertilizer plant pier. They arrive in April, and can be observed as they build their nests and raise their young. Another osprey nest is located along the Crystal Lynn Trail.

Please give the nesting sites space and do not linger near them when they are occupied.

Other birds commonly sighted along the shore are eagles, cormorants, terns, seagulls, loons, eiders, and buffleheads.

5. Bluffs

The erosion of these bluffs, as well as those at French's Point, is what created and continues to feed the beach with sand and gravel.

6. Beaver Pond

Look for the old dam, stumps, and felled trees left by the beavers. Painted turtles, kingfishers, hooded mergansers, pileated woodpeckers, and perhaps a muskrat can be spotted here.

7. Mouth of Amazon Stream

Moose tracks and heron are often found here.

Welcome to Sandy Point Beach Park, a site once bustling with industry, now being reclaimed by nature. Located where the Penobscot River enters Penobscot Bay, this place has a long and rich history. Artifacts found along the shore indicate that this was a summering and trading spot for Paleolithic peoples. Archaeological evidence shows that native inhabitants fished for American shad as early as 8,000 years ago. The Abnakis were most likely the first inhabitants of the area, and then the Penobscot Indian Nation, who remain stewards of the river today.

In 1524, Verrazano passed by here as he sailed up the Penobscot River in search of the Northwest Passage. Other early explorers, hearing of a large settlement about 20 miles upriver, near present-day Bangor, also sailed by this spot looking for the golden city of Norumbega.

The Penobscot River became the dividing line between French and British territories in colonial North America. Fort Pownal on Cape Jellison, south of Sandy Point, was built to protect British interests, and the French built fortifications in Castine.

During the American Revolution, a major naval battle unfolded in these and nearby waters. Thirty-nine American vessels were lost, and the British controlled the river until the end of the war.

By the nineteenth century, shipbuilding had become a significant industry here. Several shipyards that built three-masted schooners lined the beach and a sawmill bordered its north end. During World War I, the U.S. War Department put up a shipyard on the south side of the beach and completed four vessels for the war effort.

Also during the early twentieth century, the Boston-to-Bangor Packet, a passenger steamboat line, made a stop at Sandy Point, and the remains of its wharf can be seen mid-beach at low tide. The more visible pilings toward the bay are from a second pier constructed mid-century for a fertilizer plant that operated into the early 1970's. A portion of the wheelchair accessible trail was built upon the Bangor and Aroostook railroad spur that ran to that plant.

After the fertilizer plant closed, Central Maine Power acquired this land with the intention of building a nuclear power plant. Fortunately, those plans never materialized. In 1987, local residents saw the increasing pressure of coastal development, and became determined to preserve this long stretch of beach and surrounding woods for the benefit of the larger community. The park was established in 1990 when 96 acres were purchased with Land for Maine's Future funds. Eight more acres were gifted in 2003.

Cement foundations, timbers, bricks, and rebar found along Sandy Point Beach remind us of the area's commercial heyday. But, remarkably, visitors today come to this spot for its natural beauty—to swim and picnic, to hike, and to experience its wildlife and stillness.

Park Guidelines

Sandy Point Beach Park is a state property, managed by the Town of Stockton Springs. It is for day use only. There are no lifeguards, and visitors swim at their own risk.

Fires are by Town Permit ONLY. Permits can be obtained at the Town Office Mon-Thurs, 207-567-3404, from the Fire Chief at 207-944-2060, or on-line at <http://www.burningpermit.com>. The permit must be on one's person. Fireworks are prohibited in public places by Maine State law.

- Trash is carry-in-carry-out. Please help us by picking up any litter that you find.
- Dogs should be leashed or otherwise under control at all times. Please be considerate: pick up after your dog.
- Respect wildlife, and leave plants for everyone to enjoy.
- Please dismantle any fire rings or "rock art" before you leave.
- Please do not climb up or down the bluffs and banks along the shore, as it will hasten erosion.
- The trails are for pedestrian and wheelchair use only. Please no ATV's, motorbikes, motorcycles, or bicycles.

This brochure can be downloaded <http://www.stocktonsprings.org/announcements>