

Darling Marine Center

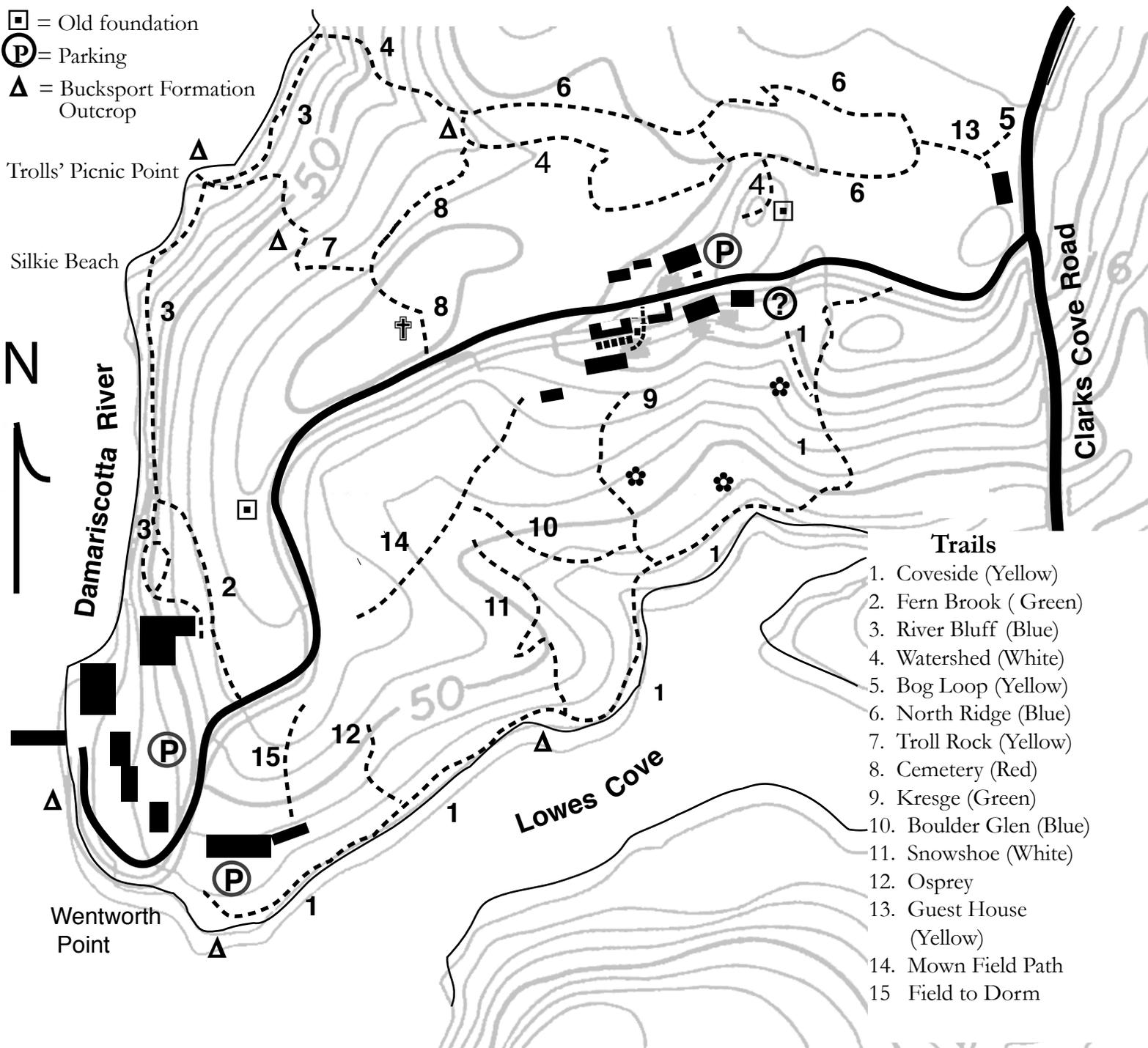
Walking Trails

The public is welcome to walk our trails.
 Please sign our guestbook in the Horse Barn lobby.
 This is a smoke free campus.
 Keep dogs leashed.
 Enjoy!

Scale: 10 inches to a mile

Symbols:

- † = Cemetery
- ⓧ = Information Kiosk
- ♣ = Labeled Nature Trail
- ◻ = Old foundation
- Ⓟ = Parking
- △ = Bucksport Formation Outcrop



Trails

1. Coveside (Yellow)
2. Fern Brook (Green)
3. River Bluff (Blue)
4. Watershed (White)
5. Bog Loop (Yellow)
6. North Ridge (Blue)
7. Troll Rock (Yellow)
8. Cemetery (Red)
9. Kresge (Green)
10. Boulder Glen (Blue)
11. Snowshoe (White)
12. Osprey
13. Guest House (Yellow)
14. Mown Field Path
15. Field to Dorm

All trails require the agility to cover natural, rough, and uneven terrain including exposed roots, rocks, branches, and occasional steep sections. The Darling Center does not patrol the trails, and visitors walking them do so at their own risk.
 Caution: Trails can be slippery when wet! During hunting season wearing blaze orange is advised.



Walking Trails at the Darling Marine Center



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Cemetery Trail

Red markings

10 minutes

Easy

Walk downhill on the DMC Drive less than 1/4 mile past the first Center Buildings to the trail sign on the right. Enter the woods and walk to a nineteenth century cemetery. Some stones may predate 1800, though the oldest marked stones date from 1815. From the cemetery, the trail curves right to follow the edge of a tree plantation until it curves left into the woods just before joining the Watershed Trail and the North Ridge Trail at the stream crossing Flat Rock.

Coveside Trail

Yellow markings

25 minutes

Moderate (some steep sections)

The Coveside trail begins behind the first DMC building to the left of the trailhead kiosk. It leads through the woods, at first following the marked Merriam Nature Trail, down to Lowes Cove. When the Nature Trail follows the Kresge trail back towards the parking lot, the Coveside Trail continues to follow the shore all the way to the lower DMC campus. At a number of points there are options to walk out to the rocks and grass along the cove's edge. Walkers will meet a number of descents and climbs crossing small, but fairly steep ravines.

Kresge Trail

Green Markings

5 minutes

Easy

The Kresge Trail heads south into the woods just behind the DMC Library. Follow the paved path just beyond the third building on the left marked "Dining Hall" until you see the trail signs. The trail intersects first with Boulder Glen, which leads back to the DMC field, and then with the Coveside Trail just east of the fourth ravine along that trail.

North Ridge Trail

Blue markings

20 minutes

Moderate

Start off with the first segment of the Watershed Trail beginning at the corner of the lawn across the drive from the trailhead kiosk (white markings). At the bottom of the knoll, follow sign to the right going east around a small marshy area (blue markings) and then into a stand of tall trees. Continue across a stone wall and a stream. Soon the trail loops around a beautiful rocky ledge. Watch out for the cliff, especially with children. Next the trail crosses a log bridge and heads south. In about 1/2 mile the North Ridge trail crosses a stream at Flat Rock and joins the Watershed Trail, following the stream on its way to the river. At that point you can enjoy the rest stop at the river's edge or continue back to the DMC Drive heading south along the River Bluff Trail.

River Bluff Trail

Blue markings

15 minutes

Moderate (some steep sections)

The River Bluff Trail begins where the Watershed Trail meets the Damariscotta River. It continues south along the edge of the river to Fern Brook Trail on the left, which leads back to the DMC driveway just north of the Flowing Seawater Lab. There are several particularly nice places to get off the trail and enjoy the river; e.g., Troll Picnic Point, Silky Beach, and River View Rest at its northern end.

Troll Rock Trail

Yellow Markings

10 minutes

Easy

Troll Rock Trail leads off the Cemetery Trail just northwest of the cemetery. Very soon the trail turns right on its way to Troll Rock. It winds around the rock and heads downhill to intersect River Bluff Trail just above Trolls' Picnic Point. When time is short this route offers a perfect opportunity to get down to the river for a short moment of solitude.

Watershed Trail

White markings

20 minutes

Moderate
(Some slippery rock surfaces near the river)

The Watershed Trail goes through a variety of habitats, beginning at the corner of the lawn across the drive from the trailhead kiosk. Notice the 18th century foundation of an early settler's house just in from the trail head on the right. The trail leads over a knoll and down to a small marshy area where North Ridge Trail heads to the right and Watershed Trail heads left. From there the trail follows a small intermittent brook and then crosses the edge of an alder swamp before leading to an old tree plantation. The section of the trail before the alder swamp goes through an ideal habitat for a variety of native trees. You can admire one of the largest tamaracks in Maine as well as numerous other impressive hemlocks, pines, and yellow birches. Just beyond the alder swamp, a short trail diversion leads to a massive oak whose spreading branches prove it first grew in an open pasture. After the tree plantation the trail turns right over a stone wall and follows a stream bed down to the River Bluff Trail.

Three Connector trails lead from the DMC field to Lowes Cove. **Boulder Glen** is steep, but often lush and green. The **Snowshoe Trail** is not as pretty, but it's wide enough for classes or even cross-country skiing. The **Osprey Trail** goes to a great viewpoint on Lowes Cove by way of a short trail starting behind the boat storage area southeast of the field.

The **foundation of the oldest European dwelling** on the DMC peninsula is on the north side of the DMC drive opposite this same boat storage area.