

Digby Area • Trails, Lighthouses and Open Spaces

Collector Road

Ramp

Highway

Unpaved Local Road

Local Road

Contour Line

Lake

Mi'kmaq Reserve Bear River First Nation

Trailhead

Park or Protected Area

Lookout

Visitor Centre

Highway Exit

Arterial Road

Wind Turbine Tower

Wetlands

River

Ferry

Track or Dryweather Rd

Hiking Trail

Lighthouse

Canoe Launch

Museum

Rocky Beach

Sand Beach

Park

Whale Watching

Ferry

Gas Station

Hospital

Washroom / Outhouse

1

Point Prim Lighthouse

2

Van Tassel Lake Trails

3

Digby Pines Trail

4

Admiral's Walk

5

Bear River Gulch

6

Cherry Brook Trail

7

Acacia Valley Trail

8

Digby Railbed Trail

9

Sissiboo Story Book Trail

10

Gulliver's Cove Trails

12

Boar's Head Light and Trails

13

Bear Cove

14

Balancing Rock Trail

15

Central Grove Trail

16

Fundy View Trail

17

Seal Cove Trail

18

Brier Island Coastal Trail

19

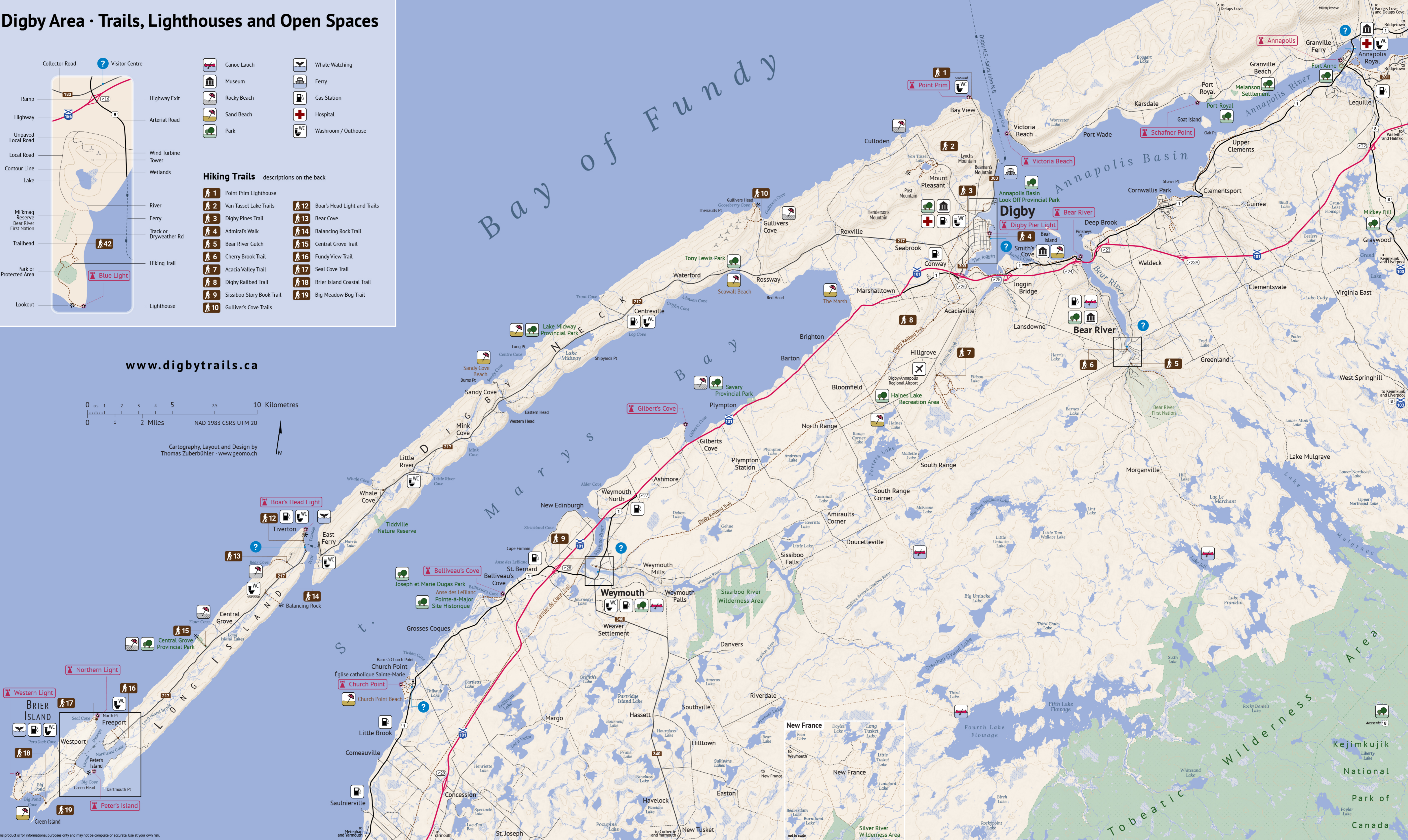
Big Meadow Bog Trail

descriptions on the back

www.digbytrails.ca



Cartography, Layout and Design by Thomas Zuberbühler • www.geomo.ch



Tobeatic Wilderness Area

Kejimikujik National Park of Canada



## Bear River



## Weymouth



## Westport · Freeport



## 1



## Point Prim Lighthouse

Point Prim, jutting out into the Bay of Fundy at the mouth of the Digby Gut, offers spectacular views of the sea and shore.

Starting at the roomy gravelled parking lot, 200 metres of crusher dust trail lead to viewing points, benches, picnic tables and offer access to the rocky shore ledges.

You'll see crashing surf; lots of birds and other wildlife; you can watch fishing boats coming, going and hauling lobster traps and see the Fundy Rose ferry to New Brunswick steaming in and out of Digby Gut.

Seals regularly hang out here, occasionally porpoise swim by and, if you're really lucky, whales will put on a show you can watch from shore.

Point Prim is also just a great place to sit and relax and enjoy the refreshing sea breezes and listen to the waves.

The grounds around the lighthouse include a small park with a roomy parking lot, short trails leading to the best vantage points, interpretation signs, picnic table and benches.

## 2

The Van Tassel Lake Trails are situated on 550 acres of woodlands belonging to the Town of Digby, part of the Van Tassel Lake Watershed Area.

The town's gravel parking lot at 859 Culloden Road in Mount Pleasant serves as a convenient trailhead complete with a map of and information about the hiking trails.

The trail network consists of a combination of the town's access roads and wilderness walking trails. The wide gravelled access roads, open for walking and cycling only, lead to the bigger Van Tassel Lake, a smaller reservoir and dam downhill from the main lake, as well as to wind turbines operated by the Municipality of the District of Digby.

The association of volunteers has also cleared and marked 6 km of hiking trails, including 2.8 km of single track hiking trail around the lake. The trail system also includes a 1 km spur leading to a look off with a view of nearby woodlands and through a gap in the hills to Conway, Smith's Cove and Marshalltown. Another 900 m spur loop leads to the Cascades, where a small stream tumbles over exposed basalt rock.

## 3

The Digby Pines Resort has 3 kilometres of trails winding through pine forest at the back of their property. All are welcome to make use of these needle-covered trails; all they ask is that you please respect their grounds. You can walk to a nice little look-off point overlooking the Annapolis Basin, or follow the trail along the exercise stations and get a great outdoor workout in at the same time.

## 4

The Admiral's Walk stretches along the waterfront in Digby with beautiful views of the busy wharf and our colourful scallop fleet – not to mention the fiery sunrises over the Annapolis Basin. Various memorials and plaques give a glimpse into the area's Maritime history. This is an ideal place to observe the difference 6 hours can make in the height of the tide. Or take a postcard worthy picture of you and your family beside Digby's downtown lighthouse.

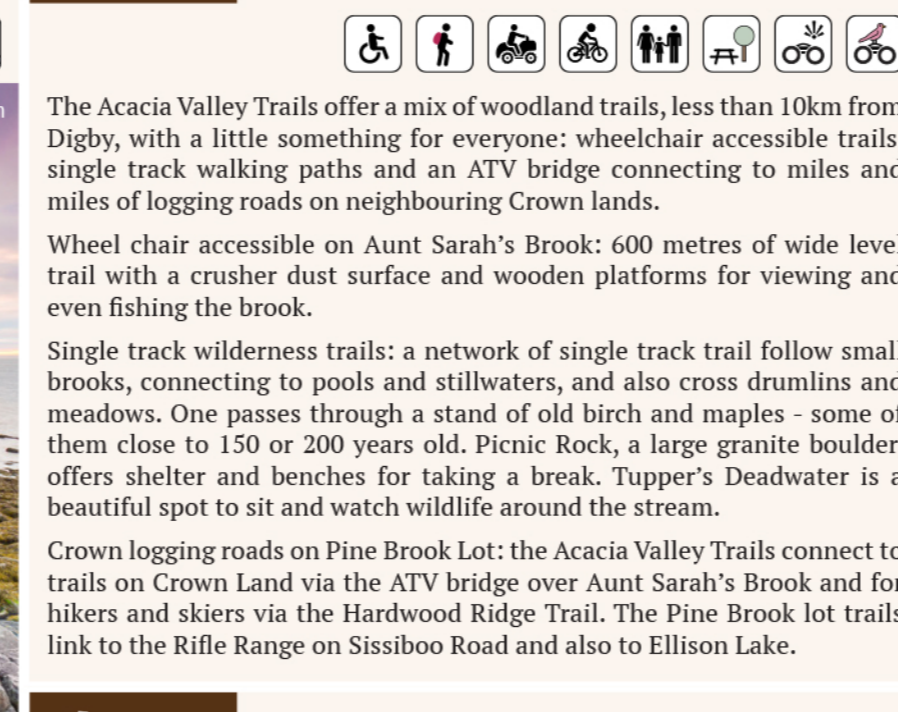
## 5

Find peace and quiet on this beautiful walk along the East Branch of the Bear River on a mostly abandoned and unmaintained service road. The 3km trail passes through various forest habitat and leads to the first dam on the East Branch.

## 6

With a trailhead in downtown Bear River across from the firehall, this short trail quickly transports you into a deep and wild ravine. Escape the summer heat under the canopy of tall maples and ash on this shady streamside path – a secret sanctuary hidden in the middle of the village.

## 7



## 8

The Digby Railbed Trail offers 40 km of wide gravel trail connecting Smith's Cove, Digby and Weymouth. Heading east out of Digby, it's 11km with great views of the Annapolis Basin and Digby Gut to the Bear River Lighthouse, where the trail ends.

Heading west out of Digby, it's 30 km to Weymouth mostly through woods and meadows. In Weymouth, hikers, cyclists and ATVs can cross through the village of Weymouth to the start of the Sentier de Clare Trail which runs all the way to Yarmouth.

## 9

Once upon a time, the whole family enjoyed a walk in the park! The Story Book Trail is a linear park in the Village of Weymouth with 500 metres of wide, level and well-groomed trail leading to a scenic look off above the Sissiboo River.

The trail presents stories of the area's five founding cultures on interpretive panels reminiscent of open story books. There are five "story books" sharing tales of the Mi'kmaq, the Black Loyalists, the United Empire Loyalists, the New France Settlers and the Acadians.

Further park amenities include play and exercise equipment, benches, picnic tables and a gazebo overlooking the river. The trail is lined with wide grassy areas and woods offering space with or without shade to run and play, picnic or just relax.

Parking is available at the trailhead just off Hwy 1, which serves as Weymouth's main street. The village boasts several restaurants, grocery stores, a hardware store and more shops, a gas bar, a library, liquor store, post office and Sissiboo Landing, a cultural interpretive centre with cultural and tourist information and local arts and crafts.

## 10

The Gulliver's Cove High Cliffs trail is a short (800-metre) stroll through fields and small woods. The rest area at the end has benches and a picnic table offering a fantastic view of the 80-metre cliffs where peregrine falcons nest in season. Offshore from here, lobster and scallop boats are often going back and forth, and gannets can be observed diving after a meal. Seals are frequent visitors and the sharp eyed might see porpoise swimming by.

The rest of the trail system is atop the hills above. Walking up the steep gravel road from the main road is a bit of work out but the views are incredible.

The Gulliver's Head Loop passes the Peregrine Roost look off with stunning views of the cove and the wild coast of Digby Neck.

The trail continues down to sea level and out to Gulliver's Head where you will feel like you're in the middle of the Bay of Fundy.

Another set of cliff top look offs offer more views out to sea, down into Gooseberry Cove and west along the Digby Neck shore.

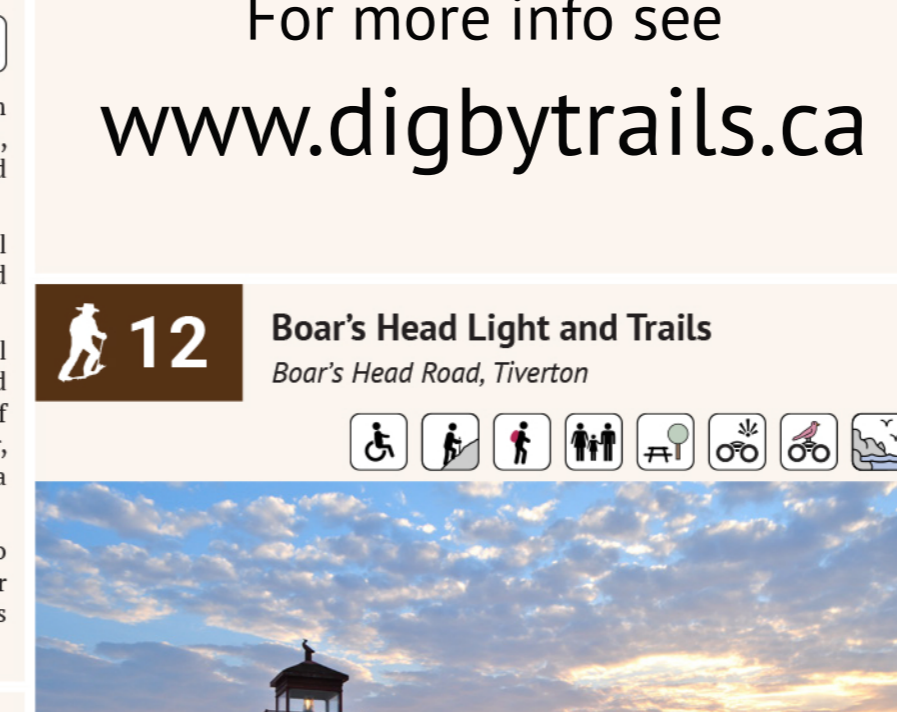
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## 11



## 12

Boar's Head juts out into the Bay of Fundy at the northeastern end of Long Island – you can see the lighthouse as you're lining up for the crossing from East Ferry.

It is a wild place of bare rock and twisted spruce trees battered by wind and weather from all points of the compass. Below the headland, tides rush through Petite Passage colliding with the Fundy currents, forming a large chaotic mess of waves.

A Sunday stroll to the lighthouse up the Old Lighthouse Road has been a Long Island tradition since the earliest days of Boar's Head Light, now echoed in the steady flow of visitors from away seeking lungfuls of salt air and the rugged beauty of the Digby Neck and Islands seascapes.

With a little exploring just off the main road to the lighthouse, the more adventurous can visit a series of panoramic look offs with spectacular views. These are great vantage points for watching for whales, seals, and migratory birds.

## 13

A quiet cobble beach on the Bay of Fundy; a great place for a picnic or just to sit and watch the seabirds or sunset or simply daydream.

The Municipality looks after about 10 acres of land with 180 metres of beachfront.

From a rough parking spot by the old quarry, it's a 700 m walk on a rocky trail down to the shore. Watch for hidden folk art along the road.

## 14

How is it balanced there? 20 tonnes or more of volcanic rock balanced precariously on a ledge above the waves of St. Mary's Bay.

The 1.7 km Balancing Rock Trail leads visitors from the parking lot, just off Highway 217 outside Tiverton, through woods and bog to the southern shore of Long Island.

At the end of the trail, a series of 253 wooden steps provide access to a cliffside viewing platform overlooking the 20-foot high finger of basalt.

Along the trail, learn about the unique flora and fauna of the area including Skunk Cabbage and the carnivorous Sundew plants.

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## 15



## 16

A short grassy trail over the ridge offering great views of Freeport and more spectacularly, the Bay of Fundy, Grand Passage and the north end of Brier Island.

The 1.3-km long trail leads right over to the shore of the Bay of Fundy and connects to trails that follow the shore to Beautiful Cove and also Fisherman's Point.

The wide grassy trail narrows and twists its way down the hill to the shore. Along the way, there are wooden viewing platforms, benches, bridges and stairways to make the walking easier.

It might take 20 minutes to take in the views from the viewing platforms or you could easily use an hour to walk to the shore and head east into Beautiful Cove.

Washroom facilities are available at the museum from June to mid-September.

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## 18

The Brier Island Coastal Trail crosses 4 km of gently rolling seaside meadows and wide open beach within the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Brier Island Nature Reserve.

One end of the trail starts at the picturesque red and white striped Western Light at Western Point – aptly named when you consider it the most westerly point of land in Nova Scotia.

The trail offers spectacular coastal scenery, lots of wildflowers and fantastic bird watching in season. Seals are a regular sight along this shore and whales can often be seen spouting in the distance.

The beach at Little Pond Cove is pebbly rock and Big Pond Cove is fine white sand.

The NCC established the Brier Island Nature Reserve in 1988 and in total protects 1,200 acres (485 hectares) along the western side of Brier Island. The island is located on the Atlantic Flyway and more than 500 species of birds have been recorded here. NCC and local groups hold regular beach cleanups to keep the reserve clean of marine debris that might harm shorebirds.

The beach at Little Pond Cove is pebbly rock and Big Pond Cove is fine white sand.

The volunteer committee has about 400m of trail currently open through the salt marsh to freshwater ponds. Development plans include more boardwalks passing through the middle of this unique 60-hectare wetland – the trail's boardwalks, smooth gravelled paths, and platforms will allow visitors an up-close view of a part of the island normally difficult to reach and sensitive to unrestricted trampling.

The trailhead and parking lot for the Big Meadow Bog are conveniently located on Water Street in Westport, just south of the main shops and services, with a great view in all directions – the harbour and Grand Passage on one side, and the Big Meadow Bog on the other.



## 19



## 20

The Big Meadow Bog Trail will showcase the Eastern Mountain Aves, the most endangered plant in Canada, known in only two places in the world: the mountains of New Hampshire and the bogs of the Digby Neck and Islands.

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