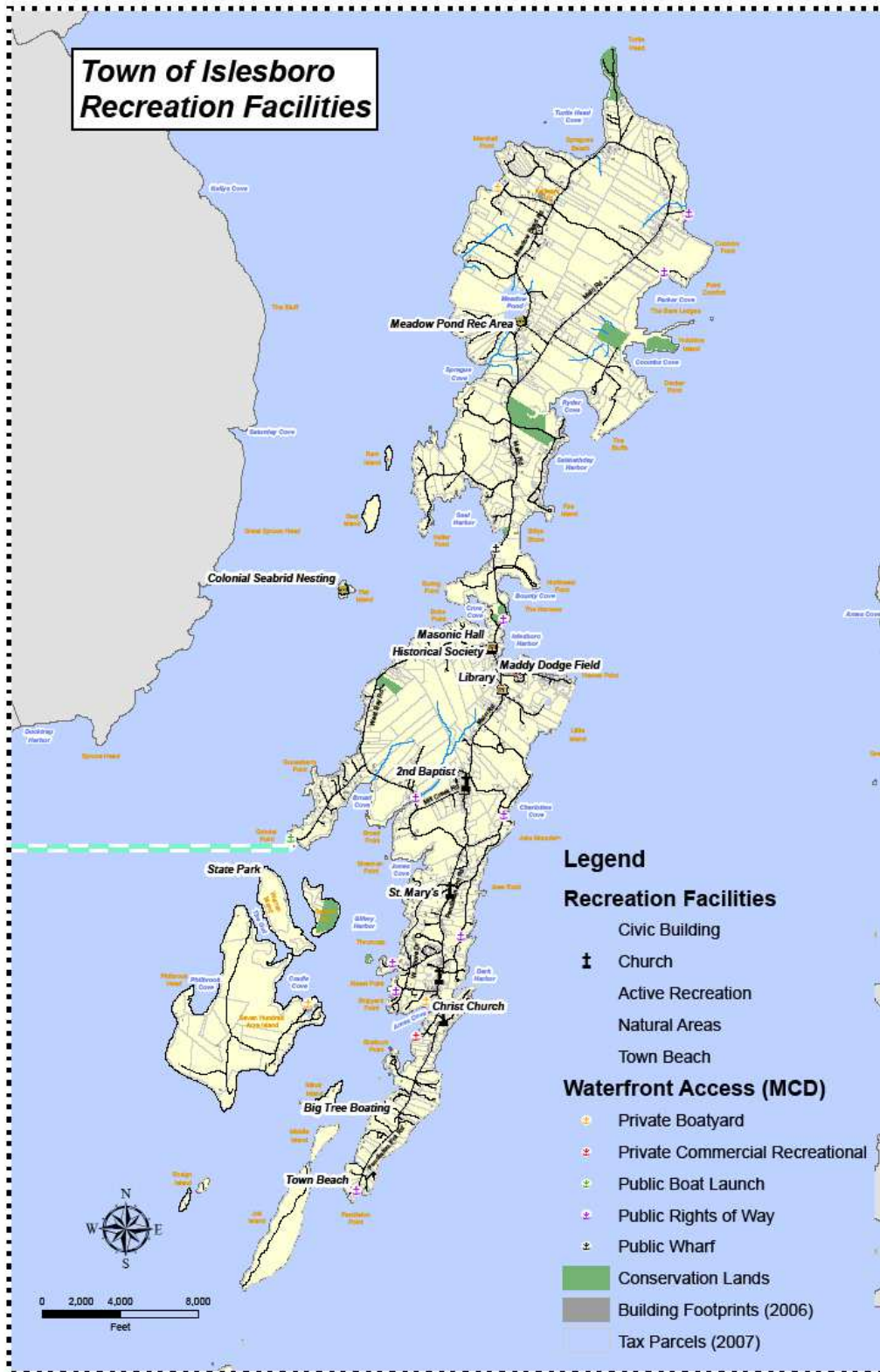


## **Section V.F.**

# **Recreation Resources**



Section

This inventory chapter updates and builds on data in similar chapters in the 1987 Islesboro Growth Management Action Plan, 1994 Town of Islesboro Comprehensive Plan, and 2002 Islesboro Comprehensive Plan and are adopted herein by reference.

## **I. Town Beach Recreation Area**

The approximately 5.4 acre Town Beach Recreation Area off Pendleton Point Road has been owned and operated by the town since 1970. It includes a beach, seven picnic tables, two fixed grills, two-stall vault privy, access road, and two primary turnarounds/parking areas that can accommodate 20-30 cars. Public Works maintains the building and grounds and removes trash. The town spends roughly \$1,000 annually on the facility, mainly for pumping out the vault privies. The condition of the facility is good, though blow-down clean-up may be needed periodically.

The Town Beach Recreation Area adequately meets current and anticipated demand and may, in fact, be underutilized as it is an un-advertised facility. People have placed trash in the vault privy tanks which makes pumping difficult. Camping is not allowed on public property anywhere in the community. Complaints about noise and attended fires have been filed. There are no existing plans for improvement of facility, equipment or staff.

## **II. Meadow Pond Recreation Area**

One of the town's newest recreation areas, the approximately 3.7 acre Meadow Pond Recreation Area has been owned and operated by the town since 2000. It includes a picnic area with trail access to the pond and a small float. Public Works maintains the facility. The condition of the facility is good, though blow-down clean-up may be needed periodically.

This facility has only recently been developed for public use, so trends in usage are difficult to evaluate. Some of the same concerns observed for the Town Beach Recreation Area may be pertinent to this site as well. In addition, the lack of parking, except along the nearby road, may become an issue. However, at this point, no anticipated needs have been identified and there are no existing plans for improvement of facility, equipment or staff.

### **III. Maddie Dodge Field**

Maddie Dodge field is located on approximately 5 acres on Hewes Point Road. Named after a long time resident of Islesboro who died in a house fire, the field includes public tennis courts, a new playground that was funded by private donations, and monies from returnable containers collected at the Transfer Station, a soccer field, and a small parking area. Public Works is responsible for trash collection and mowing in the summer months. The soccer field has a history of being too wet and uneven. The entire area is surrounded by wetlands. The town and school, as the principal users, have no plans to remedy the problem as the cost of either raising the field by the addition of topsoil or digging up and installing gravel and drainage pipes would be considerable. The Town allocated \$42,105 in the FY18 Budget for a Recreation Director, summer camp program, and maintenance of the facility.

### **IV. Alice L. Pendleton Library**

The Alice L. Pendleton Library is located at 309 Main Road. The 2,329 square foot historic structure was built in approximately 1902 and includes a 1993 addition. According to the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Committee, the Library is not adequate to meet current and future needs for large room activities and internet usage. Additional parking was added in 2016.

The Library is currently staffed with one full-time librarian, one full-time assistant, and 32 volunteers. Library operations are overseen by a Board of Trustees and the Board of Selectmen. The town provided \$72,694 in funding through the FY 2018 Budget. Additional funding is provided by Friends of the Alice Pendleton Library.

### **V. Community Center**

The Community Center, located at the intersection of Mill Creek and Main roads, was established to “support and nurture the sustainability of the Islesboro community.” The focus of the Center is to provide health and fitness programs; year-round educational,

recreational, and social programs for residents of all ages; access to the arts; and free connection to wireless technology.

To assist the Community Center with carrying out its mission, the Island's original centrally-located community hall building is underwrent renovation and expansion and opened in 2010. The completed facility is be 11,500 square feet and can accommodate 180 people. The Community Center includes a fitness center, consultation room for a physical therapy, meeting space, The Zone (a space for children and teens) a gift shop, café, a catering kitchen and the Great Hall which is used for large community events, performances, dinners, movie screenings, and can comfortably seat up to 150 people.

## **VI. Moorings and Boat Launches**

### **A. Grindle Point**

Grindle Point is one of the town's three regulated mooring areas. Currently the town has no mooring or float fees. Recently the Harbor Ordinance was changed to require that owners provide evidence their moorings are maintained in good working order to address liability concerns. The Town does not currently have a waiting list for mooring space; but increased growth and requests for moorings may change that situation.

Town monies spent at Grindle Point are spread over several budget lines. Operations are overseen by the Harbor Committee, Parking Committee, and Museum Committee.

### **B. Seal Harbor**

The Town-owned pier at Seal Harbor is situated on approximately 1.3 acres. This parcel of land and the existing pier and float were donated to the town by the Mosley family, who owned Seal Island. The town added a second float for loading and unloading and a series of finger floats for dinghies. The area also includes a two public parking areas, one on the water side and one across Main Road, each of which can which accommodates approximately 20 vehicles. This second mooring area is also home to Big Tree Boating, a privately funded and managed sailing school. The town budgeted a

total of \$73,400 for Recreation/Harbor Facilities in FY18, \$52,500 of those monies will be used for bank stabilization and pier and float repairs.

### **C. Warren's Landing aka Pripet**

The town's third mooring field is located on 1.58 acres at Warren's Landing aka Pripet on Lime Kiln Road. This is the site of the town's first steamboat landing, with stone rip rap from the old pier still in place. A small limestone quarry was filled in a number of years ago and an oil storage tank was removed. The area was graded to include a small turn around and picnic area. There are no plans for further development at Warren's Landing aka Pripet, although at one time, there was discussion about installing a boat launching ramp.

## **VII. Islesboro Churches, Sewing Circle, and Community Meals**

### **A. Christ Church and Cemetery**

Christ Church is a summer parish used mainly by summer residents for Episcopal services that are held in July and August. The church was built of Islesboro wood and stone in 1902 for \$14,840. It contains 4,661 square feet and is located on 4.03 acres off Pendleton Point Road, south of Dark Harbor Village. The Christ Church Rectory is located on the same land to the north of the church. The rectory was given to the church in 1956. Also located on the church property is the Christ Church cemetery. A new cemetery is currently being developed adjacent to the old one.

### **B. Free Will Baptist Church and Greenwood Cemetery**

Residents of North Islesboro organized a Free Will Baptist Church in 1821. The congregation met in home, school houses, and the Town Meetinghouse until 1843 when they built the present church on 1.74 acres on Church Turn Road. The Greenwood Cemetery Corporation was formed in 1887. A vestry was dedicated in January, 1894.

After the Church lost its active congregation, it was preserved by the dedicated women of the Sewing Circle and later by the Society for the Preservation of the Free Will Baptist Church, formed in 1983 mainly through the efforts of Pauline Byrd and Midge Welldon.

The property is now owned by the Free Will Baptist Church Trust. The interior of the church has old fashion pews, each labeled for an original family member of the church. A map of pew holders is available on page 69 of the book, History of Islesborough Maine by J. P. Farrow. The interior ceiling and walls are original decorations which have been restored. The cemetery has some of the oldest tombstones, many for original island families. Traditional burial and cremation plots are available for purchase.

The church building is in good condition, except for the steeple, which is planned to be restored when funds become available.

The Trust maintains the church and vestry, including the murals that decorate the walls. Each summer, the society hosts a concert series and is home to the weekly Islesboro Forum series. Weddings, memorial services, educational activities, a summer fair, and other events requested by island residents are held at the church during the summer months. The church has the capacity for approximately 200 people.

Thanks to the generosity of Day and Catherine Brigham, the vestry now contains an exhibit showing the history of the church and the Sewing Circle. The Trust also Expenses for the Free Will Baptist Church and Greenwood Cemetery are covered through donations, event fees, and sale of cemetery plots.

### **C. St. Mary's of the Isles Catholic Church**

St. Mary's of the Isles Catholic Church was built in 1901 for \$3,100 on 0.78 acres of land purchased from James H. Howes for \$450. The church building contains 2,368 square feet and is located on Pendleton Point Road, north of Dark Harbor Village. The church is a summer parish and mission chapel of the Belfast parish, St. Francis of Assisi.

The front section of the church was winterized in recent years and electric heat installed, so that the church can hold services in the winter months.

#### **D. Second Baptist Church**

Originally called the South Islesboro Baptist Church and built in 1845, the Second Baptist Church and Parsonage is located on approximately 1.36 acres on Main Road. It is currently the only year round church on the island and has operated under the auspices of the Maine Seacoast Missionary Society and the American Baptist Churches of Maine since 1978.

The Fellowship Hall, located at the rear of the church, serves the community as well as the church in a variety of ways – as a meeting room, function hall, and dining area. For the last few years the church’s Mission Committee, working with a large number of volunteers, has provided a luncheon on Thursdays at the Hall, serving upwards of 35 people in the winter months and as many as 70 during the summer. Additional meals are prepared and delivered to those who cannot attend the luncheon, with these numbers varying as well.

Several years ago when the steeple was being repaired and painted, the church allowed the installation of an antennae that provides high speed internet access for a number of households and businesses in the area including the Town Office.

The Second Baptist Church Sewing Circle was formed in 1859 by the first minister’s wife. It was comprised of a few women who sewed items for the church and “spread the word of God”. Now Sewing Circle members meet in the former Dark Harbor School on Pendleton Point Road. The building contains 1,772 square feet on the 0.59 acre lot. The building was remodeled in 2005 when a weaving room was added, donated by Landon Thomas in memory of his wife.

The Sewing Circle makes goods that are sold at fairs in the summer and winter. Proceeds are used to support the Second Baptist Church. In addition, the Sewing Circle donates generously to needy projects and non-profit organizations in the community.



## **VIII. Islesboro Sporting Club**

The Islesboro Sporting Club is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "...provide an opportunity for outdoor sports enthusiasts to socialize and to band together in those activities that a majority of members support for the purpose of enhancing and preserving the sporting environment of Islesboro and its surrounding islands and waters for the benefit of those people who choose to make Islesboro their home." Activities may include the teaching of hunter safety, preservation of wildlife habitat, the teaching of hunting arts, fellowship, fishing, archery, community support in times of need, and other related outdoor activities.

The Sporting Club's 2,720 square foot building is located on Meadow Pond Road and is supported by donations and membership fees.

## **IX. Historical Society**

The Islesboro Historical Society, which was constructed in 1892, is located on approximately 0.7 acres on the Main Road. In past years, it has served the town as a school, community auditorium, and town office.

The building includes three floors. The first floor has an auditorium with a stage and service kitchen. The second floor includes a museum of historical artifacts from the island. The third floor is made up of offices, filing and artifact storage areas, and a meeting room. The third floor was recently redone to add the additional administrative space. The condition of the building is generally good and is adequate to meet current and anticipated demands.

The building is open during the summer months, with the museum open four days during the week. The main floor auditorium is used for summer art and craft shows, talent shows, and is also available to rent for weddings and other private functions.

The Historical Society is staffed by volunteers who serve as archivists and museum docents, as well as providing general maintenance.

Funds to support the Society and maintain the building are raised through donations, sales commission on summer art and craft shows, entrance fees for special events (like talent shows), and rental fees for private island resident events. Funds are being collected to replace the roof.

## **X. Grindle Point Museum**

The Grindle Point Lighthouse and Sailors Memorial Museum, located on Grindle Point next to the docks and ferry ramp, are the symbol of Islesboro and certainly is the most photographed site in the community. The Keepers, a welcoming committee and source of island information, act like a mini tourist bureau. Over 3,000 visitors from around the world visit the lighthouse each year. It is a pleasant boat ride to the Island and one of the few lighthouses that permit visitors in the tower.

The main building consists of the lighthouse tower, connecting passageway, and the keeper's house. The 196 square foot tower is made of brick with a metal lantern. The 756 square foot connecting passageway is about one-third concrete and brick, with the balance being wood construction. It is built on the foundation of the original, all wood, lighthouse. The 704 square foot keeper's house, made of wood, houses the Sailors Memorial Museum on the first floor. The museum continues into the passage way corridor. Other buildings on the site include the 306 square foot wooden boat house and the fuel storage building, which has a concrete floor, brick walls, and slate roof. The boat house is next to the keeper's house, facing Penobscot Bay. It is currently used by the town for general storage. The fuel storage building, located at the far end of the property near the Ferry Terminal, is empty and not in use. The fuel storage building was located distant from the lighthouse and constructed of nonflammable materials to protect the lighthouse in the event that the fuel caught fire.

The original lighthouse was built in 1850. The current lighthouse was constructed in 1875.

The outside of the tower is in very good condition. Windows and deteriorated bricks at the base on the water side were replaced and the tower was last painted in 2008. The

metal lantern was wire brushed and painted at the same time. The interior of the tower needs painting and the floor of the room below the lantern has buckled due to high year round humidity. In addition, the base floor of the tower and the passage way floods during very high tides and storm surges. The wood section of the passage way and the keeper's house are in good condition. The boat house is in fair condition, though no recent assessment has been made. The fuel storage building is in bad condition – roof slates are falling off and brick mortar needs repointing.

In general, the existing building is adequate to meet current and anticipated needs. The second floor of the keeper's house, which includes three rooms that are currently closed, could be used to expand exhibits; however questions remain about the security and the safety of the stairs, which do not meet current codes. The boat house is used for general storage by the town, but could be used for new exhibits, such as one honoring the community's lobstermen past and present.

During the summer season, there are two paid staff, a Lighthouse Keeper and an assistant (both town employees) who manage the museum and the gift shop.

The tower and keeper's house are open late June to early September.

There are no plans to improve facilities, equipment, or staff.

Grindle Point Lighthouse and Sailors Memorial Museum participate in various lighthouse tours, including "Lighthouse Days" sponsored by the Rockland Lighthouse Museum. An adult education group out of Augusta tours lighthouses along the coast, including the Grindle Point Lighthouse and Sailors Memorial Museum. Groups, of up to 20 children, have toured the tower and museum.

The Board of Selectmen and Town Manager oversee the operation of the Lighthouse and Museum with an annual operating budget of \$7,985. This is offset by donations collected at the Museum and profits from the small gift shop.

## **XI. Islesboro Islands Trust**

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### *Section V.F. Recreation Resources*

This inventory chapter updates and builds on data in similar chapters in the 1987 [Islesboro Growth Management Action Plan](#), 1994 [Town of Islesboro Comprehensive Plan](#), and 2002 [Islesboro Comprehensive Plan](#) and are adopted herein by reference.

Islesboro Islands Trust, a nonprofit land conservation organization serving Islesboro and the Penobscot Bay vicinity, owns ten properties, or preserves, which it manages for ecological, scenic, and educational purposes. Of these, seven preserves have trails that provide Islesboro residents unique opportunities for walking, wildlife observation, and access to the shore. From time to time, all of the preserves are used for organized nature walks and other educational activities. For more information, contact Islesboro Islands Trust, PO Box 182, Islesboro, Maine 04848.

## **XV. Warren Island State Park**

Warren Island is a 70.2 acre state park, managed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (MBPL). Located just south of the ferry landing, the Park includes ten camp sites, toilets, two shelters, moorings, a dock, a float that is available from Memorial Day until September 15<sup>th</sup>, nature trails, and fresh water. A fee is charged for use of the camp sites. According to the Comprehensive Plan Committee, most visitors come to the community by ferry and then make the short passage across Gilkey Harbor to Warren Island by private vessel. According to MBPL's literature, "The park is designed for the boating public, and there is no public ferry transportation to the island. No phones are available on the island." Some visitors take private boats directly to Warren Island.

Warren Island State Park was the first State Park in Maine developed exclusively for boating access. Park staff is not allowed to transport visitors to the island, except in emergencies.

According to MBPL's literature, old British Admiralty charts indicate that a single dwelling, believed to be owned by a Nathaniel Pendleton, existed near the center of the island before the American Revolutionary War.

At least a half-dozen families lived on Warren Island during the nineteenth century. The longest recorded residence, nearly sixty years, was that of George Warren (married to Lydia Hatch). The Warrens resided in a sturdy farmhouse near the center of the island,

surrounded by several acres of cleared farm land. George Warren's son, Capt. J.W. Warren, lived on the northwest shore, opposite Seven Hundred Acre Island.

A gravestone marked, "Mrs. Zilica, wife of Isaac Thomas; died June 9, 1841... age 22 years." is located off the southeast section of the trail leading from mid-island to camp site #7. It has not been determined whether the Thomas family actually lived on Warren Island or if they lived on Seven Hundred Acre Island and were buried on Warren Island.

Warren Island was sold to William H. Folwell in 1899. He then built what is thought to be the most expensive log cabin in New England on the island. The island remained in the possession of the Folwell family until it was acquired by the town in lieu of taxes.

Islesboro donated the island to the state in 1959 with the stipulation that it was to be used for recreational purposes. It was officially dedicated as a State Park on June 30, 1967 by Governor Kenneth Curtis and 40 state and local officials, who took part in the ceremony.

Islesboro resident, Malcolm Graf, was the first Park Manager from 1968 to 1983 before being lost at sea. "Mac" established a tradition of thoughtful management. The safe enjoyment of all visitors and campers while on the island was his prime concern. State Park rules were judiciously upheld; always tempered by Mac's innate awareness of human frailty. Present management continues in the tradition he established.

Existing facilities appear to be in good to very good condition. Local knowledge suggests that campsites are filled most of the summer. Reservations can be made on line through the state reservation system and most sites fill up early and very quickly.

Warren Island isn't very well integrated into the community. As it is state-owned, no property taxes are generated for the town and most visitors have very little connection with community, other than for those who stop-over at the ferry landing before proceeding by canoe or kayak to Warren Island. Some people visit Warren by sailing or motoring to one of the moorings and never actually visit the main island. Islesboro

residents occasionally visit Warren Island, however, and it is geographically part of the archipelago that is Islesboro.

## **XVI. Flat Island**

Flat Island is a state-owned colonial seabird nesting island that is managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), but falls under the jurisdiction of Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) which is enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Seabird nesting islands are significant wildlife habitats and are protected by special regulations. According to NRPA rules, seabirds live over open water and return to land only once a year to nest. Their survival requires undisturbed nesting habitat. Small, unforested, rocky islands, like Flat Island, provide a setting free of most predators.

Many seabird species, nearly eradicated in Maine by the end of the 19th century, have recovered dramatically due to state and federal conservation laws and restoration efforts by nonprofit organizations. In 1998, 234 seabird nesting islands in Maine became protected as Significant Wildlife Habitat under the NRPA, including Flat Island.

Flat Island is the only seabird nesting island in Waldo County. It is also the most accessible seabird nesting island in Penobscot Bay, as all others are located much further away from shore.

The critical nesting period on Flat Island is from April 15 to July 31 each year. Therefore, the MDIFW prohibits trespass on Flat Island during that period, unless written permission is obtained from the Regional Wildlife Biologist.

## **XVII. Conservation Properties**

There are approximately 490 acres enrolled in the state's current use Open Space Tax Program. The 32 properties range in size from 1 to slightly more than 70 acres, with an average size of slightly more than 15 acres.

## **IX. Issues and Implications**

1. Should the town consider using porta-potties as an alternative to the vault privies at the Town Beach Recreation Area to address problems with inappropriate trash disposal?
2. Should the town install a boat launch at Warren's Landing aka Pripet?
3. Should the town make and/or seek investments in the Grindle Point facilities to ensure that the fuel storage building does not deteriorate further and to provide additional space for exhibits? Should the town move its general storage elsewhere to open up additional space for museum exhibits in the boat house?