

INGALLS POND TRAILS

2019 Oct.



Directions & Parking Area

Ingalls Pond is almost entirely in Baldwin, Maine, and is bisected by the Pequawket Trail highway. The parking area is at latitude, longitude: 43.857861, -70.790080.

From the south drive to West Baldwin on Pequawket Trail (State routes 5/113/117 though West Baldwin.). The West Baldwin Post Office is at 932 Pequawket Trail. From that Post Office continue driving 2 miles north. As the highway descends to Ingalls Pond the southern-most part of the pond will be on your left, and the small parking area is just a short distance ahead on the left. Beyond the parking area you will also see a sign on the right for the P Y Estes Contractor Quarry.

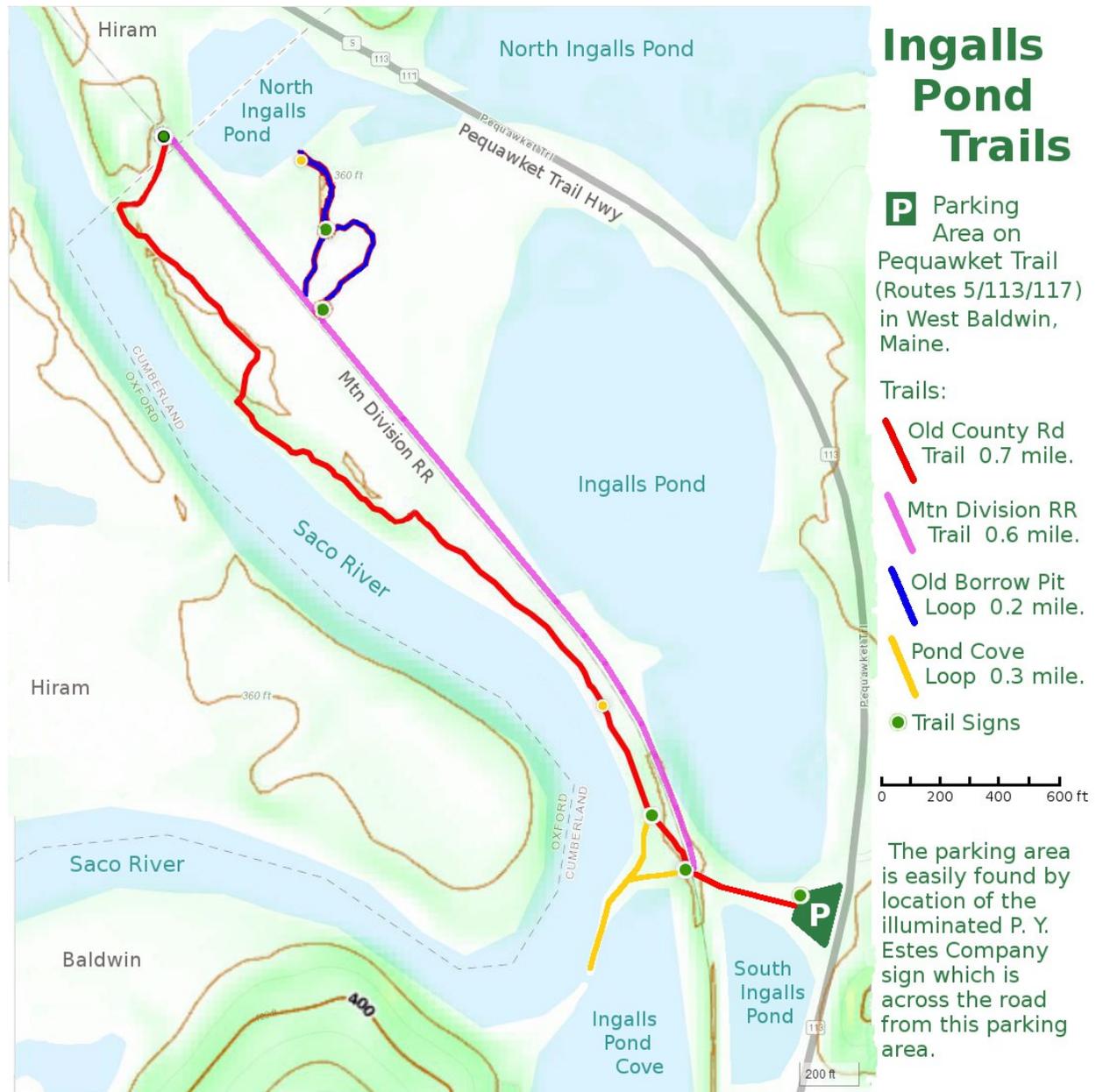
From the north, drive through Hiram on Pequawket Trail. From the Saco River bridge in Hiram, where State route 117 (Main Street) joins with State routes 5/113, continue south. At about one mile from the bridge, you will cross the town line into West Baldwin and you will see parts of Ingalls Pond on both sides of the road. Continue for about a half mile; just after seeing the P Y Estes quarry sign on your left, you will see the small parking area on your right.

When at the parking area, if you can tolerate the passing traffic, it is worth your time to walk a short distance north along the highway, If you do, you are rewarded with a wide panorama (above) across the largest of Ingalls Pond, and with all of the ridge of Mt Cutler rising above the pond to the northwest.

Trails



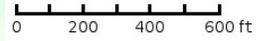
At the parking area, a small kiosk provides information about the Ingalls Pond Conservation Area, and a Trails Map shows details of the trails system. All trails are marked with red and yellow "turtle" trail markers. The "turtle" mark is the symbol of the Francis Small Heritage Trust that owns these lands and maintains the trails. Trail signs provide information at most trail junctions.



Ingalls Pond Trails

P Parking Area on Pequawket Trail (Routes 5/113/117) in West Baldwin, Maine.

- Trails:
- Old County Rd Trail 0.7 mile.
 - Mtn Division RR Trail 0.6 mile.
 - Old Borrow Pit Loop 0.2 mile.
 - Pond Cove Loop 0.3 mile.
 - Trail Signs



The parking area is easily found by location of the illuminated P. Y. Estes Company sign which is across the road from this parking area.

Old County Road Trail: (Parking to north end, 0.7 mile.) This trail starts at the Parking Area and leads first to the RR crossing. (**Caution! Just beyond the boulders at start of this trail there is a patch of poison ivy. If you wander off the trail here, you may risk a serious rash!**) The name of this trail refers to how the trail follows an old paved road that was the travel route from Baldwin to Hiram before the current state highway was developed. As you leave the parking area on this trail notice that you are walking on

the asphalt pavement of this road that was discontinued in 1941. This trail reaches the RR crossing at distance of about 300 ft. At the RR crossing, two other trails diverge from the Old County Road. To left, the Pond Cove Trail is a frequently-used fishing access for the river shore and the small pond that is directly connected to the river. To the right, the embankment of the railroad serves as a second trail that leads to the north end of Ingalls Pond.

From the RR crossing, Old County Road Trail continues northward, following the older road for most of its length. Although you do not see the old pavement here, be aware that the asphalt is only about 4 inches below the trail surface, which is actually the deposition of about 80 years of composted leaves, pine needles and soil.

At several places along the trail, you will find good view points across the river under the shade of towering pines. **CAUTION! The river bank is steep and the river may have strong currents. None of this area is suitable for swimming, and care must be taken for the safety of children along this river bank.**

On the trails map, you will see a yellow dot on the red line of this trail. This is a "point of interest" mark, and this one is at about 200 yards north of the RR crossing. This is where you can see the historic outlet of the larger Ingalls Pond. On your left, on the river shore, you should find an iron rod rising out of granite with flagging tape on the top of the rod. *Carefully* lean over the edge of the granite and you can see the outlet of the stone culvert that was constructed as the outlet of the pond. This stone culvert was built more than a century ago to carry pond water under the railroad and the old county road. However, if you look nearby you will see several deep pits where the stone culvert has collapsed under the ground. There does seem to still be some outlet flow, but the collapses have restricted this flow. As you walk a little further along the trail, notice on your right that you can see the stone culvert that passes under the railroad. There is usually water in this part of the outlet.

Although the trail follows the old road for most of its length, at a place where the land between the RR and the river is fairly wide, the trail diverts to the left to run closer to the river shore. *Watch carefully for "turtles" to be sure to find the trail at places where it takes sharp turns.*

After the last sharp turn to the right, the trail ascends a gentle rise, then bears left along the side of this hill, and ends at the RR near the town line between Baldwin and Hiram. At this point, the land across the RR (on the NE side of the tracks) is not owned by the Trust, but the owner does not prohibit trespass if a visitor wants to walk into that land along the north shore of the pond. Walking the side of the RR road bed is an obvious return route if you have walked to the end of the Old County Road Trail.

Mountain Division Railroad: (RR Crossing to north end of this property, 0.6 mile.) The existing RR road bed serves as an alternate trail from the RR crossing near the parking area to the north end of the Trust property where the Old County Road Trail ends at the railroad. **CAUTION! Be aware of motorized traffic that may use this route. The Maine Dept of Transportation owns the railroad**

and the 99-ft-wide right-of-way. There are occasional visits of MDOT rail cars and other private rail cars. Also, the railroad is used in winter as a snowmobile trail, and the sides of the road bed are traveled by ATVs and trail bikes. The motorized travel on this embankment sometimes dislodges loose rocks, and can make dips and bumps in the traveled way. Walking along the RR usually has no problems, but be aware that there may be traffic at times, and the surface is sometimes disturbed by motorized vehicles.

Walking the Mtn Division RR Trail does give good views across Ingalls Pond for most of the length. While the Old County Road has river views, if you want to see the ponds, walk the railroad. There are also fishing access points along the railroad where some folks have good success with fishing, depending upon the seasons. Ingalls Pond is also populated by a good number of Eastern painted turtles, and there have been sightings of the endangered Blandings turtle. The turtles often come to sandy places on the railroad to make nests of eggs. If you see turtles along the rail line or evidence of turtle egg nests, please avoid disturbing the turtles of their eggs. Some other visitors may not be as considerate; at times you may see excavated egg nests where raccoons, foxes or other animals have raided the turtle eggs.

At about 0.15 mile (800 ft) south of the town line, the Borrow Pit Trail diverges to east of the railroad.

If you continue north on the railroad, beyond the Ingalls Pond Conservation Area property, at distance of about a half mile beyond the town line, you will reach the iron truss bridge that carries the railroad across the Saco River.

Using the Old County Road Trail and the Mtn Division RR Trail makes a nice loop walk of about 1.5 miles.

Ingalls Pond Cove Trail: (About 1/8 mile from either fork off the Old County Road Trail.) This short spur off the main trails leads into and along a peninsula between the Saco River and the small pond that is directly connected to the river. At end of this peninsula, there is a gap in the river bank wide enough for boats to pass, so there is easy passage for water craft from the Saco River into this pond. This trail gives good river views and is often used as a fishing access for both the pond and the river.

As with the Old County Road Trail, use **CAUTION** here. **The river bank is steep and the river may have strong currents. None of this area is suitable for swimming, and care must be taken for the safety of children along this river bank.**

Borrow Pit Loop and Spur Trail to the North Pond: (About 1/8 mile around the loop, and less than 100 yards from the loop to the pond.) A "borrow pit" is actually the same as any gravel pit, but there is a special condition. Usually, a borrow pit is developed as a source of gravel or other fill for a nearby construction project. This century-old borrow pit had material

removed that was used for either the railroad or the county road, or... possibly... both. In excavating the gravel, the workers pushed up the top-soil, brush and tree debris to create a "berm" around all of the excavated pit. Growth of vegetation over most of a century has stabilized that berm or ridge, and this trail circles around the pit atop that ridge. When you walk this, notice the remaining boulders in the pit; clearly, some rocks that had been left here during glaciation were too large to be moved or to be of use.

Following some higher ground to the north, a short Spur Trail leads to a nice view point over the pond that is crossed by the town line .

Safety and Allowed Uses

As noted in the trail descriptions, take special care - especially with children - at places where the nearby river banks drop abruptly to the water. Nobody should attempt swimming in these areas; not only are the steep banks treacherous, but there are many submerged logs and trees, and often the river has swift currents. Swimming here can easily result in accidental drowning.

The trail descriptions also warn against possible motorized traffic on the railroad or along the side of the tracks. In addition, some places along the railroad can be unexpectedly rough terrain. Use care not to trip on rough ties, the rails, or loose rocks along side of the railroad.

The FSHT encourages you to walk these trails, explore the area, and enjoy the views.

- ◆ Fishing and legal foraging are permitted, but hunting with firearms is not allowed here to assure the safety of visitors who are walking these trails and using these lands.
- ◆ Dogs are permitted, but must be on leashes or under direct owner control. Dogs must not be aggressive to other visitors. Assure that no animal feces are left on or near trails.
- ◆ Human powered bicycles are allowed, but motorized vehicles should use ONLY the Mountain Division RR Trail.
Camping is not allowed. No campfires are allowed, and wood-gathering is allowed only by owner permission.

Other than the permissions already described, please *"Leave nothing but footprints; take nothing but pictures."*

Contacts

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