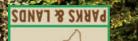
## www.parksandlands.com

Bureau of Parks and Lands Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Maine Department of



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## GUIDE & WAP

# PUBLIC LANDS NAHMAKANTA

# THE MAINE HIGHLANDS REGION

#### DIRECTIONS

From southern Maine, travel beyond Greenville about 1.5 hours (over rough gravel roads—see Special Considerations). Drive northeast 15 miles to Kokadjo: reset your odometer at the outlet bridge over the Roach River at First Roach Pone (near the Kokadjo Gen-



eral Store). Reset your odometer at each subsequent intersection as there are many logging roads and follow signs for Nahmakanta Lake Camps and Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Camps to hel guide you. Bear left at 0.3 miles, and follow Sias Hill Road (also known as Kokadjo-Ripogenus Dam Rd.). Go another 1.7 mile, turn right onto Smithtown Rd. Bear right at 3.2 miles, then turn left after a total of 4.9 miles on the Smithtown Rd. This left takes you onto the Nahmakanta Rd. In 4 miles, bear right and after I mile take a hard left. After another I.8 miles, take a hard right. Bear left after 0.6 miles (use caution – approved ATV use begins on this road). Pass Penobscot Pond with camps on right, and reach boundary sign in another 1.4 mi.

From Brownville, leave Route II at the Jo-Mary Campground sign about half way between Brownville Junction and Millinocket (visitors must pay day-use fees at the Jo-Mary Gate between April and November; season passes are available from North Maine Woods). Proceed past the gate and take a right turn in 6 miles. The southern boundary of Nahmakanta Public Lands is 9 more miles in, just after the Henderson automated checkpoint. NOTE: The map in this guide shows selected access roads. For complete road information carry another map such as The Maine Atlas Gazeteer.

#### FEES

Day use fees are charged at the North Maine Woods Jo-Mary Gate between April and November. Season passes are available from North Maine Woods. Visit www.northmainewoods.org for more details



## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Fees are required to access the North Maine Woods. Access via the Jo-Mary Rd. is through the North Maine Woods recreational system: visitors must pass through a checkpoint and pay the required day use or camping fees. The State of Maine is a member of North Maine Woods, an organization that manages recreation on nearly three million acres in northern Maine. Fees collected at checkpoints defray the costs of managing public access and maintaining recreational facilities. ATV use is permitted on "shared use" roads but North Maine Woods does not allow transport of ATVs through the Jo-Mary gate without special permission. Visit www.northmainewoods.org.

#### Know applicable laws.

• The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) Warden Service does search-and-rescue operations and enforces state fish and game laws, boating laws (on inland waters), and ATV and snowmobile laws. To learn more about applicable laws and to purchase appropriate licenses, visit www.maine.gov/ifw.

#### Help stop the spread of invasive species.

- Eurasian Milfoil is an aquatic invasive.
- Clean all watercraft before they are launched and after retrieval. FMI: www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/ Buy only local firewood, do not transport out of state fire-
- wood. FMI: www.maine.gov/forestinvasives Cell phones should not be counted on in an emergency.
- Coverage is spotty to non-existent. The North Maine Woods Henderson automated checkpoint has a working phone for emergency use between mid-May and mid-October.

#### Moose, bear and other large animals are abundant.

- · Observe from a safe distance; do not flush wildlife.
- Drive slowly on area roads, particularly at times of low light.
- · Food must be securely stowed when camping.
- Tents must be kept free of food and food odors.

#### Logging trucks frequent area roads. Watch out for them and:

- Pull over and stop for trucks regardless of which direction they're headed as they have the right of way.
- · Avoid roads that are too narrow for two vehicles.
- Do not block side roads or stop in a spot with poor visibility.
- · Be prepared for rugged gravel roads (dusty, washouts): travel slowly and carry a spare tire.

#### Trailerable and hand-carry boat launches are highly variable.

- Online sortable listing: www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches
- Nahmakanta Lake Wilderness Camps
- · Chewonki, a nonprofit environmental education organization, manages the Debsconeag Wilderness Camps on Fourth Debsconeag Lake, leasing the property from the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. Nahmakanta Lake Wilderness Camps, at the north end of the lake, lies on 103 acres owned and leased out by the National Park Service.
- Be a responsible visitor and Leave No Trace • Learn more at www.lnt.org



- Pet owners should exercise caution
- Trappers are permitted to use Maine public lands so be careful with your pets.

Wear blaze orange during hunting season.



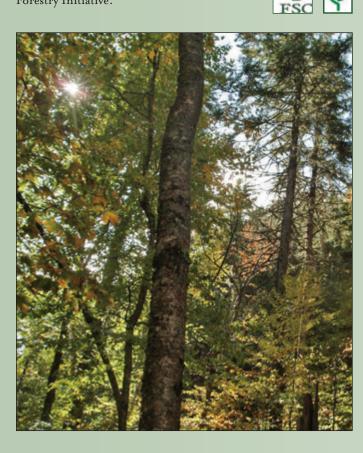
## VISITOR RULES

- Fires Kindle fires only in authorized campsites with fire rings. Do not cut live vegetation. www.maine.gov/forestpests
- **Pets** Pets in campsites must be leashed and attended; outside of campsites, pets must be under control. Trash Carry out all trash.
- Firearms Do not discharge weapons within 300 feet of any picnic area, camping area, parking area, marked hiking trail or other developed area. Loaded firearms are not permitted at campsites or on hiking trails.
- Fishing All those fishing must have a valid license and review the State's open water fishing regulations. Fishermen are asked to use lead-free sinkers and jigs to prevent metal poisoning of loons, eagles and other wildlife. www.maine.gov/ifw/
- Power Use no chainsaws, generators or other power **Equipment** equipment around campsites.
- Limit of Campers may not exceed a 14-day stay in a Stay 45-day period
- Abandoned Bureau of Parks and Lands staff may take custody **Property** of any personal property left unattended for
- more than 3 days (unless advance written permission is given).



# TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON MAINE'S PUBLIC LANDS

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) manages its public lands to achieve multiple benefits: public recreation, wildlife habitat and timber sales (revenues from which help fund land management). The Bureau adheres to strict practices in selectively harvesting timber, minimizing runoff and soil erosion, and taking other measures to ensure that the health of the larger ecosystem is maintained. BPL's forest practices are greencertified by two independent auditors—the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.



# **PROPERTY HISTORY**

nderlying much of the Nahmakanta Public Lands is a massive body of ancient granite that extends up to Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park. The rock's resistance to weathering accounts for the region's rugged outcrops and bald summits. A thin layer of crushed rocks deposited by glaciers roughly 13,000 years ago covers much of the bedrock.

Most of the forests around Nahmakanta have been harvested several times, including just prior to the State's acquisition in 1990. In a few areas, though, old-growth trees remain. The Bureau of Parks and Lands manages portions of the Nahmakanta forests for the sustainable production of timber and the targeted wildlife benefits that derive from certain forest management practices. Revenues from timber sales help support the ongoing costs of managing Maine's Public Lands.



# CONTACTS

Eastern Public Lands Bureau of Parks and Lands 106 Hogan Road, Suite 5 Bangor, ME 04401 207-941-4412 www.maine.gov/nahmakanta

Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce 1029 Central Street Millinocket, ME 04462 207-723-4443

www.katahdinmaine.com Moosehead Lake Chamber

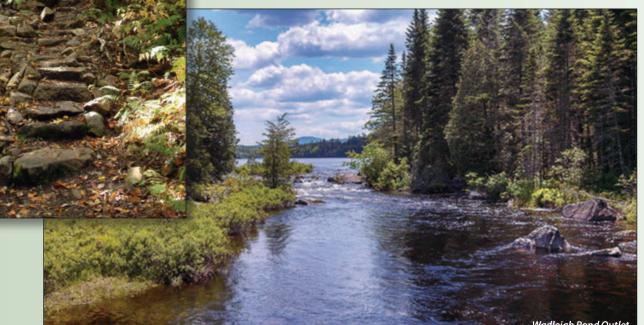
of Commerce P.O. Box 581 Greenville, ME 04441 207-695-2702

www.mooseheadlake.org North Maine Woods, Inc. PO Box 425 (92 Main Street) Ashland, ME 04732 207-435-6213

www.northmainewoods.org

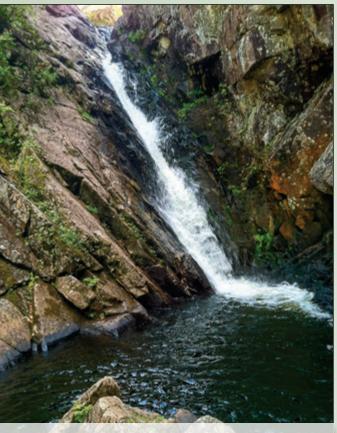
See online information for all Maine Parks and Lands sites: • www.parksandlands.com

· Camping: www.campwithme.com



## PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Land for Maine's Future Program generously funded acquisition of more than two-thirds of the Nahmakanta Public Lands. The National Park Service owns 1,820 acres of the Appalachian Trail Corridor that crosses the property, including all of the frontage along Nahmakanta Lake. The Maine Appalachian Trail Club maintains this section of the AT. Forest management activities are green-certified by FSC and SFI. Local logging contractors donate labor and equipment time to improve snowsled and ATV trails. Adopt-a-trail volunteers and supporters also help maintain the Nahmakanta lands: please contact the Bureau of Parks and Lands if you wish to help. This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.



Tumbledown Dick Falls in its deep, narrow gorge is the largest of several waterfalls on the unit.

Photo by Katie Nemmer

## **REGIONAL DESTINATIONS**

The Nahmakanta Public Lands are in the Maine Highlands Region that encompasses other notable North Woods attractions in Piscataquis County. Nearby destinations include:

- · Penobscot River Corridor offers boating and 75 campsites along more than 50 miles of frontage on the Penobscot River and associated lakes
- · Moosehead Lake Shoreline Lands encompass several significant parcels along Moosehead Lake, including the renowned Mount Kineo with 5 miles of hiking trails.
- Katahdin Iron Works State Historic Site has hiking trails beautiful scenery and historical landmarks at the site of a former iron ore mining operation within the North Maine Woods system. Gulf Hagas, a National Natural Landmark known informally as the "Grand Canyon of Maine," provides challenging hikes and an impressive gorge six miles west of Katahdin Iron Works.
- · Seboeis Public Lands, with 21,369 acres encompassing nearly all of Seboeis Lake (13 miles south of Millinocket), features productive fishing waters studded by wooded islands and framed by Mt. Katahdin and the Barren Chairback Range

## **OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST**

- Baxter State Park, with more than 200,000 acres and 46 mountain peaks (including Mt. Katahdin), provides abundant hiking, boating and camping opportunities and is the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.
- Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area (The Nature Conservancy), spanning 46,271 acres, contains mature forests and the highest concentration of pristine, remote ponds in New England.



# **OVERVIEW**

r ikers, campers, hunters, fishermen, snowmobilers and paddlers all enjoy the rugged hills, abundant wildlife and clear waters of this remote region southwest of Baxter State Park. The Nahmakanta Public Lands encompass 43,000 acres of sprawling forests and low mountains (the largest stands at 2,524 feet). Numerous streams and brooks course down steep slopes and run through narrow gorges. Within Nahmakanta's boundary lie 24 "great ponds" (10 or more acres in size) and more than 50 miles of undeveloped shoreline.

An extensive network of hiking trails leads visitors along lake shores, up to open ledges, and past popular attractions like Tumbledown Dick Falls and Pollywog Gorge, a mile-long gorge with sheer walls that rise 180 feet. The Nahmakanta portion of the Appalachian Trail (AT) lies within the upper reaches of the 100-Mile Wilderness, considered by many to be the AT's most remote section (though not a designated "wilderness area").

During warm weather, ATV riders explore a network of shareduse roads. Fall months draw hunters in search of moose, bear, grouse and deer. In winter, snowmobiles traverse Nahmakanta Public Lands along designated trails such as ITS 85/86 (which links Millinocket and Greenville).

Within the Nahmakanta Public Lands is the State's largest Ecological Reserve, an 11,802-acre expanse that includes much of the property's 9,200-acre roadless area (known as the Debsconeag Backcountry). The Ecological Reserve was established to ensure the habitat of both plant and animal species that need additional protection and as an area for long-term environmental monitoring, scientific research and education.

The Nahmakanta Public Lands lie in the heart of a diverse complex of approximately 500,000 conserved acres that runs from Katahdin Iron Works in the south to Baxter State Park in the north.



# When to Visit

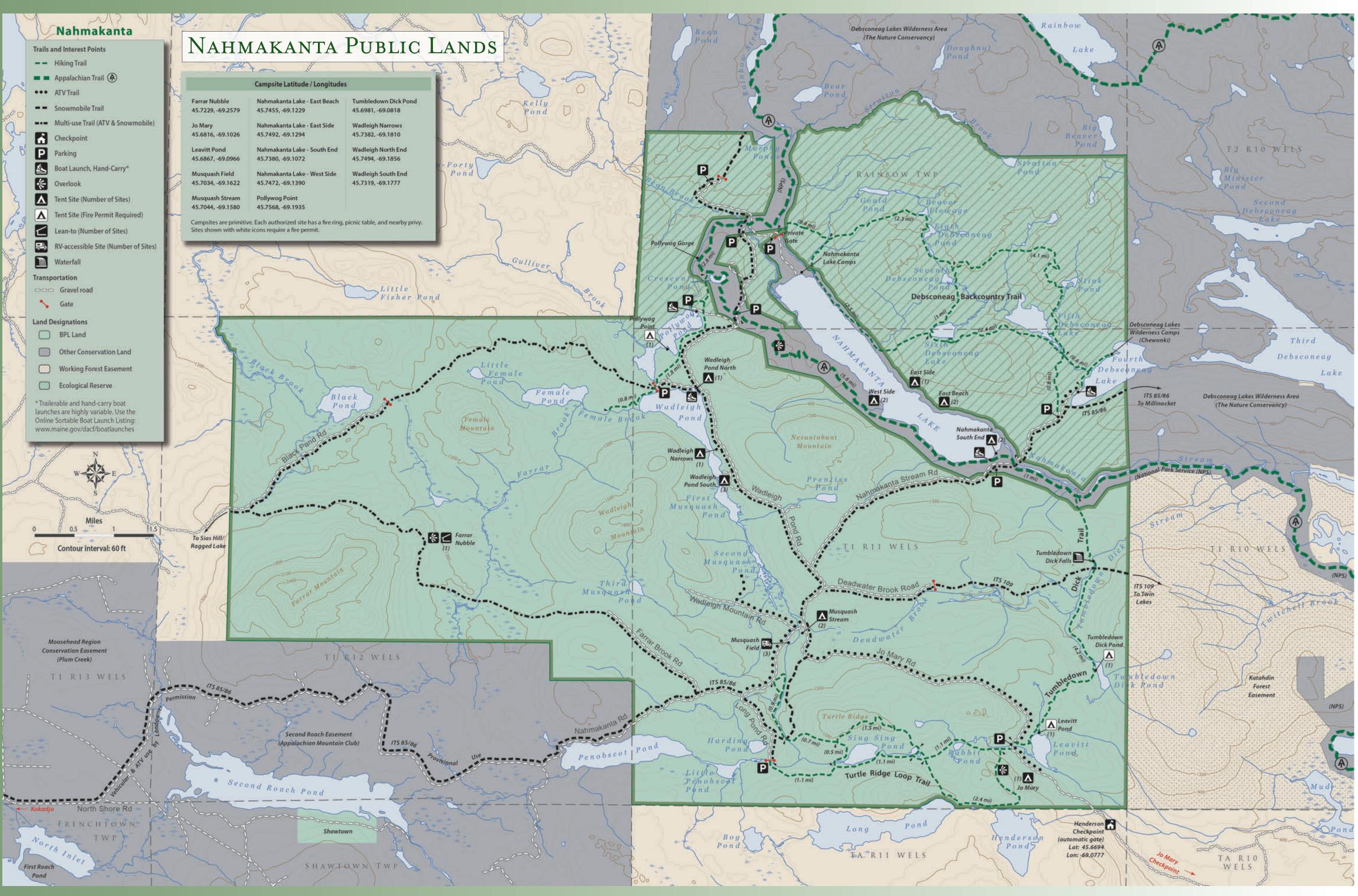
Boaters, hikers and campers enjoy Nahmakanta Public Lands during warm-weather months, followed by hunters in October and November and snowmobilers in mid-winter. Surface fishing and brook fishing for salmon and trout are usually best in the weeks following ice out (typically early to mid-May) or when the waters cool in September. Brook fishing is best before beaver flowages warm in mid-summer. Please note: the JoMary Road may be gated during mud season.



# Services & Facilities

- The Bureau of Parks and Lands maintains 5 authorized campsites with privies on Wadleigh Pond, 2 near Musquash Brook, and 2 on Pollywog Pond. On lands owned by the National Park Service bordering Nahmakanta Lake, there are six authorized sites where campfires are permitted. Most authorized campsites have a fire ring, privy, and table. Fire permits are needed for the primitive, traditional campsites on SingSing and Rabbit Ponds as well as the sites at Pollywog Pond, Leavitt Pond and Tumbledown Dick Pond.
- Of the 22 campsites, 10 are drive-to, 9 are boat-to, and 3 are walk-to. There is a hand-carry boat launch at Fourth Debsconeag Lake (with 6 parking spots at most). Musquash Field accommodates 3 small RVs. This is a primitive site, no hook-ups available.
- More than 35 miles of hiking trails, in addition to 9 miles along a highly scenic stretch of the Appalachian Trail





# HIKING TRAILS

Appalachian Trail (moderate at Nahmakanta) has more than 9 miles that crosses the Nahmakanta Public Lands. If you hike south from the AT road crossing east of Pollywog Pond, about 1.2 miles (one way) you will find stunning views from ledges on Nesuntabunt Mountain.

Turtle Ridge Loop Trail (options from 6.6 miles to 11 miles between the west trailhead on the Long Pond Road and east trailhead on Jo-Mary Road) crosses densely wooded terrain, passing several ponds and open ledges that periodically offer panoramic views of surrounding mountains.

**Debsconeag Backcountry Trail** (loops of from 7.4 miles to 13 miles roundtrip—moderate): East trailhead near west end of Fourth Debsconeag Lake at 'new' parking lot; west trailhead north of Nahmakanta Lake near Rainbow Stream (no footbridge). The figure-eight trail layout provides several options to explore pristine ponds nestled throughout the State Ecological Reserve.

Tumbledown Dick Trail (4.6 miles one-way—moderate) links the AT with Leavitt Pond and the Turtle Ridge trail system, providing access to scenic falls and to campsites at Tumbledown Dick and Leavitt Ponds.

# MOTORIZED TRAILS

ITS 85/86, a major snowmobile trail linking Greenville and Millinocket (both snowmobiling hubs), provides trail touring and access for ice fishing on Nahmakanta Lake. (The Bureau does not encourage riding on lakes because of potential hazards.) Unplowed roads are open to snowmobiling as well (plowing changes year to year based on logging needs—get upto-date information from BPL's Off Road Vehicle Program). ATV riders can explore shared-use roads at Nahmakanta (open to ATVs, pedestrians, bicycles, and equestrians). There are also multi-use trails open to ATV riders and snowmobilers. The trail to Farrar Mountain provides scenic views north toward Mount Katahdin.

Access to Nahmakanta across private roads is subject to landowner permision. Please follow posted signs. For maps and additional information about ATVing and Snowmobiling contact the Bureau's Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office at (207) 287-4957. Within Maine Only: 1-800-462-1019.

This map shows selected access roads. For complete road information use another map, such as The Maine Atlas and Gazetteer.