

Scarborough Marsh

Scarborough, Maine

Coordinates: N43° 33.942 W070° 22.475

Geocaching.com code: Gc3TVV6

Type of Cache: Earthcache*



Be aware that this site is located by a busy road.

Scarborough Marsh is 3,100 acres (1,254 ha) and is the largest salt marsh in Maine. It was also one of Maine's first BirdLife International Important Bird Areas, part of a global effort to identify areas that are critical for bird conservation.

Scarborough Marsh formed over a long period of time. This low-lying area is relatively sheltered and less exposed to the waves and tides that erode the coast so sediment is deposited. Over time, sediment built up and marsh plants established. The plants trapped more sediment and gradually increased the height of the marsh and allowed it to expand. The marsh provides critical resting, breeding and feeding habitat for waterfowl, egrets, herons, glossy ibis and other shorebird species, and supports aquatic species.

The marsh has a long history of human use. Sokokis Indians hunted, trapped, clammed and fished here. In the 1600s, European settlers harvested salt hay for their livestock and used the area for pasture land. In the 1900s, the marsh became viewed as a cheap space to fill and develop - it was even proposed as a site for the town dump at one point. Recognizing the value and significant habitat the marsh provided, in 1957 the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife began a process to acquire it.

In 1972, Maine Audubon formed a partnership with the state and opened the Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center. Opened between June and September, it serves as a nature center for the marsh and provides exhibits and walks where a visitor can learn about the natural environment and value of the marsh.



Learn more about this area:

maineaudubon.org/find-us/scarborough-marsh/

www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/focusarea/scarborough_marsh_focus_area.pdf#sthash.TepXoBFs.dpuf

Thank you to: eebee (cache owner), Christine Tilburg (EcoSystem Indicator Partnership), and the Tilburg Family

Passport Question:

- What two mammals are at the top of the "life in a Maine salt marsh" sign?



This site is part of the Gulf of Maine Council's **EcoSystem Indicator Partnership's (ESIP) ICUC project**. It is a citizen science project to document, through photographs, the status and changes in the environment at select sites over time. To submit a photo to the ICUC project, walk through the interpretive center to the back deck. Place your camera on the top horizontal edge of the "Scarborough Marsh" sign above the "S". To confirm photo orientation, see the photo above. Submit your photo (with the date and time it was taken) to: ESIPmail@gulfofmaine.org

***Please note:** To log this Earthcache, please visit Geocaching.com for additional tasks or questions to be completed.

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's (GOMC) 2012-2017 Action Plan identifies goals for three broad issues that benefit significantly from regional collaboration:

1. Restore and conserve habitat
2. Environmental and human health
3. Sustainable communities

More information on the GOMC, its partners and its activities can be found at www.gulfofmaine.org

