

North Mill Pond

Portsmouth, New Hampshire



Coordinates: N43° 04.291 W070° 46.343

Geocaching.com code: GC34HAH

Type of Cache: Traditional

North Mill Pond is a shallow urban, tidal pond that receives freshwater mainly from Hodgson Brook and regular tidal flow from the Piscataqua River. The land surrounding the North Mill Pond is among the most significantly impacted in the Portsmouth region, as it was one of the first areas to experience development. Due to hard work by many volunteers and organisations, by the early 1980s the North Mill Pond was slowly becoming a functioning tidal marsh again. There were sightings of horseshoe crabs, egrets, gulls, night herons, and numerous small birds, especially on the mud flats at low tide. A local resident group, the Advocates for the North Mill Pond (ANMP) formed to protect and restore North Mill Pond.

ANMP recognized that in order to improve the condition of the Pond, they also needed to focus restoration efforts on Hodgson Brook. With

support from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the City, the Hodgson Brook Restoration Project was launched in 2004. Many Portsmouth area businesses and community members have contributed to The Hodgson Brook Restoration Project by providing office space, donations that have funded projects and volunteering to work on efforts such as residential rain garden installations and stream cleanups. In 2014, with funding from the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and the Royal Bank of Canada Blue Water Project, the Hodgson Brook Restoration Project restored 700 feet (213 metres) of urban stream and installed a tree box filter in the Hodgson Brook watershed.



NE DES Coastal Program

Learn more about this area:

des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/hodgson/advocates.htm

des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/hodgson/index.htm

Thank you to: 21alpine (cache owner), Jeanne and Joseph C Beland, Kevin Lucey (NH Dept. of Environmental Services)

Passport Question:

- Over time, there have been many people, groups and organizations involved in restoring and preserving North Mill Pond. What school is specifically mentioned, on the interpretive panel, for its help in restoration efforts such as reseeded ribbed mussel beds?

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



Did You Know: In 1998, the Gulf of Maine Council presented an award to the **Advocates for the North Mill Pond** of Portsmouth for their on-going dedication to the protection, restoration and enhancement of the North Mill Pond estuary, including: an annual shoreline cleanup, salt marsh restoration through grass planting and mussel seeding, water quality monitoring, storm drain stenciling, community awareness and outreach, and publication of the study entitled "The State of the North Mill Pond. In 2004, **Tricia Miller**, Advocates for the North Mill Pond, was given a Gulf of Maine Council award for her numerous contributions to the work of the Advocates for the North Mill Pond (Portsmouth) and other seacoast environmental organizations.