

## Blue Point Preserve

### Letterbox Location #2

Difficulty: Easy

Walking distance total: 1 mile

Blue Point Preserve features vistas of the marsh after a short half-mile walk from the parking lot. This land was a potential site for shellfish harvesting by the Sokokis people of the Abenaki Tribe. In the 1600s, people dug ditches in the marsh to control tides and harvest hay. Neighborhood kids used to ice skate over the marshlands.

Directions & Clues: At the parking area, locate the kiosk at the trailhead and continue along the trail.

At the north and south leg intersection, take the south leg to the right. First, you can check out the pitch pines to your left at the very beginning of the north leg trail.



Citizen Science Project

Pines are coniferous trees- that is, trees with needles instead of leaves. The taller pines here are Maine's state tree- the white pine. Pitch pines are the shorter pines on this trail. These trees have adapted to grow in sandy soil. There are not too many more of these pines left in the state of Maine, so SLT is working to save them by opening up the surrounding canopy.



Eastern White Pine

Continue on the south leg until you see where the north leg meets back up with the south leg on the left. Take the north leg trail. (You will also see the bench and a post, which is a Climate Change Observation Log. If you wish, take a picture to contribute to the citizen science project!)

Enter the north leg, and almost immediately on your right, you will see a big white pine. White pines like these were harvested all across the coast of Maine for shipbuilding in the colonial days. Walk only a few steps into the north leg trail and find the letterbox hiding under birch bark in the center of the branches in the pine tree.

*Feel free to collect a Junior Steward sticker, but please remember to return all items to the container: stamp, ink pad, pencils, and journal. Please be sure to place the bin inside the bag and hide it safely where you found it.*

Continue your hike: You may take the north or south leg back to the parking lot.

Thank you for visiting Blue Point Preserve!