



Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve CHAPMAN'S LANDING

Backyard Habitat

*Funch your way
around Great Bay*

Welcome to Chapman's Landing! Explore this small, but robust property featuring things you can do to enhance wildlife in your own backyard. A universally accessible boardwalk leads to the property from an ample parking lot at Chapman's Landing, located along Route 108 in Stratham. An accessible viewing platform awaits the visitor, with a fixed scope aimed at an active osprey nest on a utility pole. Between the platform and the nest stretches a diverse and expansive salt marsh bordering the mouth of the Squamscott River, home to an abundance of wildlife.

EXPLORATION LOGISTICS

Directions: From Route 108 in Stratham, park in Chapman's Landing Parking lot adjacent to the Squamscott River Bridge. Follow boardwalk to property.

Terrain Rating: Universally accessible boardwalk and viewing platform, easy access

Exploration Time: Allow 1/2 hour.

NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE

With its close proximity to homes and roads, this plot of land became overrun with exotic and invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed, black swallowwort, buckthorn and honeysuckle. Through the efforts of volunteers, Reserve staff and agencies like the Natural Resources Soil Conservation Service, this tiny piece of land has been transformed into an oasis for wildlife. Native plantings, such as dogwood, beach plums and apple trees, have brought back a variety of birds, mammals and insects to the site. As you enter the boardwalk, notice the buffer of large trees lining the small creek that empties into the salt marsh. In summer, you will experience a noticeable difference in temperature here. Shade from



luna moth

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the leaves and needles of these large trees allows water-loving insects and amphibians to live in the limited aquatic habitat. The woody edge between the upland and salt marsh provides feeding and resting habitat for small mammals, and myriad songbirds travel between the marsh and the open field. Watch for rare birds in the marsh, such as Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrows, salt marsh sharp-tailed sparrows or Virginia rails. From April through September, you may see osprey mating, incubating eggs and fledging from the impressive stick nest on the utility pole.

WHILE YOU ARE HERE:

- Pack a lunch and watch for long-legged shorebirds foraging through the salt marsh.
- Observe the native plantings to see what insects are using them.
- Four-masted schooners once traveled the waters before you, on their way to Exeter. Imagine you are a captain, awaiting your car-go to set sail for Boston!

WHAT I SAW:

GEOCACHE: Birds and Bees

COORDINATES:

N43° 02' 21.0989 W70° 55' 29.5435

