

Maine's First State Park  
in the heart of the Crown of Maine.

## ARROOSTOOK STATE PARK GUIDE & MAP

### ARROOSTOOK COUNTY REGION

#### DIRECTIONS

Located 5 miles south of Presque Isle and just west of U.S. Route 1 on Echo Lake. From Route 1 take Spragueville Road west to State Park Road.



#### ONLINE INFORMATION

- Camping Reservations & Campground Maps [www.campwithme.com](http://www.campwithme.com)  
Reservations may also be made by phone: 1-800-332-1501 (within Maine) 207-624-9950 (outside of Maine)
- Group Camping at Arroostook State Park [www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/group\\_camping.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/group_camping.shtml)  
Group Reservations are taken by the park: 207-768-8341
- Boat Launch Listing: [www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches)
- Arroostook State Park [www.maine.gov/arroostook](http://www.maine.gov/arroostook)
- All State Parks and Public Lands [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)

#### CONTACTS

Arroostook State Park  
87 State Park Road  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
207-768-8341  
[www.maine.gov/arroostook](http://www.maine.gov/arroostook)

Official Maine State Parks Geocache: [www.maine.gov/dacf/geotour](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/geotour)



### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### 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](http://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/](http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/)
- Buy only local firewood, do not transport out of state firewood. FMI: [www.maine.gov/forestinvasives](http://www.maine.gov/forestinvasives)

#### Cell phones should not be counted on in an emergency.

- Coverage is generally poor and spotty in this area, so have a backup plan.

#### 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.



Echo Lake

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

- Online sortable listing: [www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches)

#### Wear blaze orange during hunting season.

- Hunting is not permitted at the park between June 1 and Labor Day. Visit [www.maine.gov/ifw](http://www.maine.gov/ifw) for hunting laws.

#### Be a responsible visitor and Leave No Trace.

- Learn more at [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)



Floating dock and rental canoes available.

### PROPERTY HISTORY

Quaggy Jo Mountain, the most prominent feature of Arroostook State Park, rises abruptly from the surrounding farmlands. Uplifted by folding of the earth's crust, weathered and shaped by glaciations through time, Quaggy Jo offers a unique chance to study our geologic past. The underlying limestone formations mark the presence of an ancient sea, and the mountain's outer layer of volcanic rock suggests a later lava flow of an unknown origin. Quaggy Jo is the shortened form of its Indian name, "Qua Qua Jo" which translates to "twin peaked."

Arroostook County is known as the "Crown of Maine" and is renowned for its potatoes. The County has also been a winter wonderland for generations of visitors. In the early fall of 1938, the Presque Isle Merchants Association presented the deed to the first 100 acres of land at Quaggy Joe Mountain (now called Quaggy Jo Mt.) to the state for Maine's first state park. By mid-fall, funds had been raised, plans made, an engineer hired and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) engaged to bring a ski trail and winter sports programs to life. In November, longtime resident Elbridge Sprague broke ground for a new ski trail, and a crew of 35 WPA workers began clearing the trail on the east side of the mountain. By the end of December, the half-mile trail was completed and ready for use, and by February of 1939, downhill and slalom skiers were signing up for the races!

(Source: Various Bangor Daily News and Press Herald newspaper articles from 1938 and 1939.)



View from South Peak

### PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

In 1938, interested citizens of Presque Isle donated 100 acres of land to the State with the hope of creating Maine's first State Park. In 1939, this became a reality with the creation of Arroostook State Park. Subsequent donations increased the park to its present size of over 900 acres. Encompassing Quaggy Jo Mountain's peaks, and fronting on Echo Lake, the park provides year-round recreational opportunities.

- AmeriCorps members, including Maine Conservation Corps, have provided trail maintenance and construction.
- Land for Maine's Future Program contributed funding toward the purchase of this property.
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife stocks Echo Lake with brook trout.
- Presque Isle Snowmobile Club maintains the local snowmobile trails.

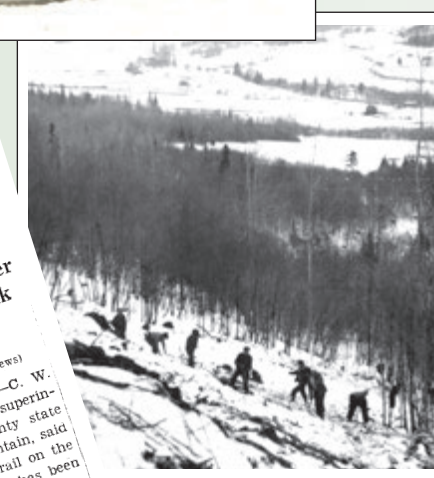
This brochure was made possible in part by funding assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.



Birders at Arroostook State Park.



Ski sled circa 1939; file photo.



Ski trail work circa 1938; file photo.



Ski trail workers circa 1938; file photo.



Potato crop in bloom.

### OVERVIEW

Maine's first state park, Arroostook State Park, is located on Echo Lake in the heart of Maine's potato country. Hiking on Quaggy Jo Mountain, trout fishing on Echo Lake, and camping are popular activities.

The park's natural areas are typical of northern Maine. Its forest consists mainly of a mixture of spruce, fir, beech, and maple. Cedar stands can be found in low, swampy areas.

A wide variety of birds and mammals live within the park. While squirrels and chipmunks are most frequently seen, fox, deer, moose and bear also call the park "home." Birds of all types are found here too, including hawks, owls and woodpeckers.

Large brook trout can be found in spring-fed Echo Lake.



View from South Peak Trail.

### WHEN TO VISIT

This is a popular four-season recreation area. Hiking and skiing as well as fishing, swimming, and camping are among the outdoor activities offered at the park.

- Spring** Ice-out to mid-June is the best time to fish. Be alert for bears with cubs; expect black flies. Birders enjoy the park year-round.
- Summer** Hikers enjoy the scenic vistas, diversity of trails, and camping. Swimming, canoeing and kayaking are popular on Echo Lake. The park has a limited number of watercraft available for rental.
- Autumn** Fall foliage is spectacular most years and can be viewed from the road or trails. Typical view time is mid-September through first week in October. For foliage reports visit: [MaineFoliage.com](http://MaineFoliage.com)  
Wear blaze orange during hunting season.
- Winter** Snowshoes and cross-country skiers find beauty and solitude on the trails: 15 miles of xc-ski trails and 6.5 miles of snowshoe trails. Snowmobilers cross the park on ITS-83.



### SERVICES & FACILITIES

- 30 wooded campsites, each with a picnic table and fire pit.
- Hot showers, flush toilet, and a kitchen shelter with electricity and water are available for use by campers.
- 2 Group camping sites.
- Trailerable boat launch and a hand-carry boat launch. FMI: [www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/boatlaunches)
- Canoe and kayak rentals during the summer season.
- 3 miles of hiking trails.
- About 15 miles of groomed cross-country ski trails and 6.5 miles of snowshoe trails.
- ITS-83 snowmobile trail crosses through the park.
- Picnicking along Echo Lake.
- Swing set.

### REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

Arroostook State Park is an ideal starting point for discovering the North Maine Woods, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec. Regional destinations include:

- Allagash Wilderness Waterway**, a federally designated Wild and Scenic River, is a 92-mile river corridor and canoe camper's paradise. [www.maine.gov/allagash](http://www.maine.gov/allagash)
- Deboullie Public Lands**, remote camping and fishing on crystal-clear trout ponds surrounded by low rugged mountains and 21,871 acres 30 miles from the Canadian border. [www.maine.gov/deboullie](http://www.maine.gov/deboullie)
- Fort Kent Block House**, a State Historic Site originally constructed in 1839 to secure Maine's claim to the northern forest during the "Arroostook War." Located off U.S. Route #1 / West Main Street, Fort Kent. [www.maine.gov/fortkent](http://www.maine.gov/fortkent)
- Scopan Public Lands** contains some of the most rugged terrain in this part of the state. In addition to 14,000-foot-high Scopan Mountain and 9.5 miles of shoreline on Scopan Lake, it also has low hills, wetlands, brooks, and a small pond. [www.maine.gov/scopan](http://www.maine.gov/scopan)

### OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

- The James School**, A fully restored One Room Schoolhouse.
- Transatlantic Balloon Launch Site**, Located 1.5 miles from Arroostook State Park, the Double Eagle II Memorial Park marks the launch site of the first successful transatlantic balloon crossing, which took off 8:43 pm August 11, 1978.
- Haystack Mountain**, A short, rugged .5-mile climb with rewarding 360-degree views of Arroostook County. Located on Rt. 163, 4 miles west of Mapleton.
- Maine Solar System Model**, At forty miles (64.4 km) from Pluto in Houlton, to the Sun located on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle, this is the largest complete three-dimensional scale model of the Solar System in the World.
- North Maine Woods**, 3 million acres of privately owned timber land that is open to the public for recreational use. Drive carefully in this area; yield to logging trucks at all times. FMI: [www.northmainewoods.com](http://www.northmainewoods.com)

For more information on these and other nearby attractions, inquire at the park control station, or just ask a park employee.

### VISITOR RULES

- Camping** Camp only at established sites. Reservations available at [www.campwithme.com](http://www.campwithme.com)
- Fires** Kindle fires only in campsites and picnic sites with fire pits or grills. Do not cut live vegetation.
- Pets** Must be leashed, attended and under control at all times. Clean up their waste.
- 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. Anglers are asked to use lead-free sinkers and jigs to prevent metal poisoning of loons, eagles and other wildlife. [www.maine.gov/ifw/](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/)
- Power Equipment** Use no chainsaws or other power equipment around campsites.
- Quiet Hours** Quiet in camping areas is required between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Use of generators is permitted between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., if the sound does not bother other visitors.



Winter fun at Arroostook State Park.

### WINTER ACTIVITIES

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** Trail skill level is designated by color trail markers:

- Blue** = easy/novice trails with flat or gently rolling terrain and are good for those new to the sport, or those who enjoy even paced gliding.
- Yellow** = moderate/intermediate trails and have greater variation in contours. For these trails, some gradual descents and ascents are involved, and they are generally popular with most ability levels.
- Red** = challenging/advanced trails. Strenuous on uphill grades and fast paced gliding on downhill slopes are to be expected on these trails.

See these and other trail description on the map.

**SLIDING** For those young at heart, use the plastic sleds provided or bring your own. A sliding hill near the Park entrance is packed and ready for a quick run down memory lane.

**ICE SKATING** When conditions allow, an ice skating area is cleared on the lake.

**WINTER CAMPING** is allowed, however contact the park staff prior to your visit to make arrangements (207) 768-8341.

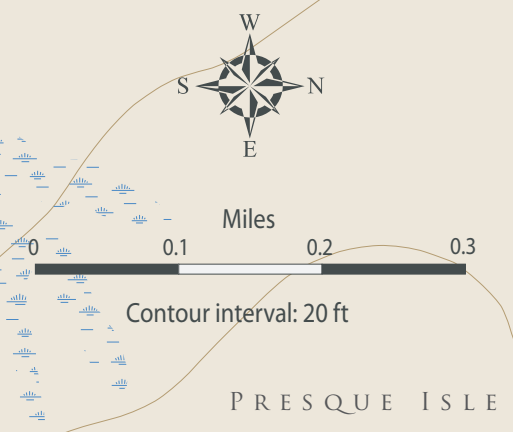


# AROOSTOOK STATE PARK

## Aroostook State Park

### Trails and Interest Points

- Hiking/snowshoeing trail (unless otherwise noted)
- Snowmobile trail
- Cross-country ski trail
- Snowshoe-only trail
- Ranger headquarters
- Parking
- Handicap parking
- Boat launch
- Hand-carry boat launch
- Swimming area
- Picnic area
- Kitchen shelter
- Swing set
- Camping area
- Group tent site
- Lean-to
- Toilets
- Showers
- Transportation**
- Major road, Highway
- Secondary road, Street
- Gravel road



## HIKING TRAILS

If you are planning to hike the entire 3 mile hiking trail system, it is *highly recommended* that you begin by going up the South Peak Trail, then heading over to the North Peak Trail in a clockwise direction. It is much easier to go up the South Peak Trail than it is to hike down.

- View the *Natural Heritage Hike* guide to this loop at [www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/heritage\\_hikes.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/heritage_hikes.htm)
- Hiking trails are open for snowshoeing during the winter unless otherwise marked.

**North Peak Trail** (moderate to difficult, 0.6 miles), provides scenic views through upland hardwoods and conifers. Access: Starts at the day use parking area.

**Notch Trail** (moderate, 0.25 miles), filled with natural beauty, this trail follows an intermittent brook that starts from the top of the mountain and flows through the gorge. Access: Near the start of the South Peak Trail or along the Ridge Trail, allowing hikers a safer and easier route on or off of the mountain.

**Ridge Trail** (easy, 1 mile), meanders along the ridge between North and South Peaks through diverse forest vegetation. Access: From either North or South Peak Trails.

**QuaQuaJo Nature Trail** (easy, 0.5 miles), looping trail through a mature forest with flowing springs and a wide variety of trees, plants, birds, and animals. Access: From the south end of the parking lot, or on the campground road.

**South Peak Trail** (difficult/strenuous, 0.4 miles), is a steep and rugged but interesting climb. It follows a forested path before a rocky outcrop to the peak. Access: From the campground.

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Groomed 15 miles of grooved double set track offers skiing for all skill levels. Please stay on trail and respect the private property owners who have allowed access to their land for much of this trail system. A warming hut is located at the intersection of the Maze and Red Pine Trails.

**Beech Trail** (novice, 0.2 miles), runs from the Novice Trail to campground where the Sheep and Quaggy Jo Mt. Trails begin.

**Cedar Trail** (intermediate, 0.5 miles), connects with Maze, Novice and Sheep Trails. Winds through a cedar swamp, fields, and a stand of new growth hardwoods.

**Lookout Trail** (advanced, 0.5 miles), this un-groomed trail leaves from and returns to the south side of the Quaggy Jo Mountain Trail as an up-and-back trail. Traverses scenic upland hardwood and evergreen forests.

**Maple Trail** (advanced, 2 miles), loops off south end of the Quaggy Jo Mountain Trail. Offers rolling hills and turns.

**Maze Trail** (novice, 1 mile), starts from an intersection on the Novice Trail and winds through a tree plantation and a forest management area on a neighboring farm.

**Novice Trail** (novice, 1 mile), starts at south end of the parking lot, meanders through a cedar swamp connecting the Sheep, Cedar and Maze Trails.

**Old Beacon Trail** (intermediate, 0.5 miles), leads from the Quaggy Jo Mountain Trail across rolling terrain to the former site of an aviation beacon. Provides an outstanding westerly view of the countryside.

**Quaggy Jo Mountain Trail** (advanced, 4 miles), leaves the campground at site #18, is for one-way traffic, and returns to the campground at the Kitchen Shelter. Follows South Peak Nature Trail route for a short distance, then turns to circle Quaggy Jo Mountain. Offers the widest variety of terrain of any of our trails.

**Red Pine Trail** (novice, 0.2 miles), branches off the Maze Trail. Winds through a managed red pine plantation and ends in a farm field with a nice view of Quaggy Jo Mountain and the surrounding area.

**Sheep Trail** (intermediate, 1.5 miles), leaves the campground near site #21, winding through a hardwood forest and passing the edge of an old sheep farm. Return by way of the Novice Trail.

## SNOWSHOEING TRAILS

Trails are marked with green signage. Please stay on the marked trails. Snowshoers, walkers and dogs are not allowed on ski trails at any time during the ski grooming season.

**Novice Snowshoe Trail** (easy, 0.75 miles), is the easiest trail we offer. It winds through a cedar swamp. Dense forest gives protection from the wind and offers a great chance to see wildlife. Take the additional .75 mile Shelter Trail to the warming hut to enjoy a warm inviting view of the mountain by the fire.



### SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

ITS-83 passes through the park utilizing part of Mountain Rd. and crosses the Old Beacon, Maple and Quaggy Jo Trails. Please stay alert for cross-county skiers at these trail intersections.

The Presque Isle Snowmobile Club House is located on the east side of the park off Mountain Rd.

**Bureau's Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office:**  
(207) 287-4957.  
Within Maine Only: 1-800-462-1019.

Monument to first transatlantic balloon flight

Presque Isle