

# SMELT BROOK PRESERVE

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Welcome to our 300+ acre Smelt Brook Preserve! Follow our Riverview Trail through a mature forest of shagbark hickories and oaks for about three-quarters of a mile to access outstanding views of vast salt marshes and the meandering York River.



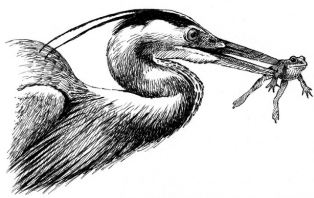
## Cultural History

The area surrounding the York River and Smelt Brook has a long history of traditional saltwater farms where families fished, pastured cattle, and harvested marsh hay. Fencing and “staddles,” wooden posts where hay was stacked to dry, can still be found on some stretches of riverbank.

## Natural History

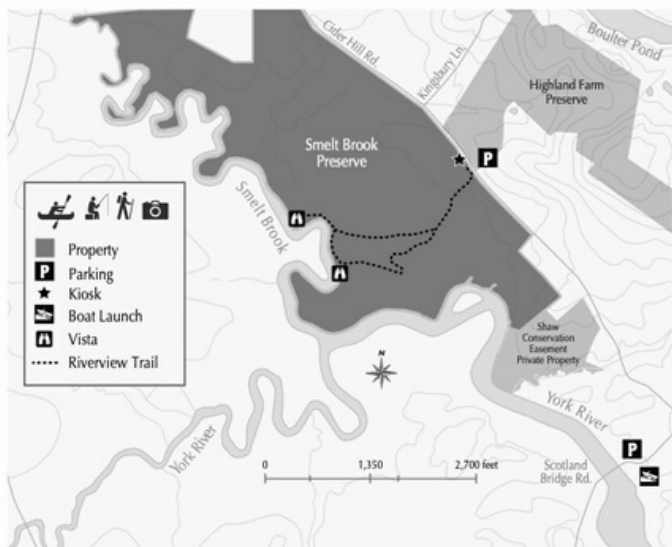
The York River watershed drains a 21,179-acre area or 33 square miles, and rises from sea level to 660 feet in elevation, at the summit of Mt. Agamenticus. Rainbow smelt, alewife, American eel and brook trout are among the 28 fish species identified in the York River’s rich fish habitats.

As one of the Gulf of Maine’s least disturbed marsh-estuarine ecosystems, the region included within the Smelt Brook Preserve offers the opportunity to view exceptional shorebirds including great blue herons, night herons, white egrets and kingfishers. The York River's salt marshes help protect the quality of our water, prevent erosion, and reduce flooding.



Mark McCollough

# Smelt Brook Preserve Trail Map



## Visit Our Other Preserves

We manage 10+ miles of trails in the York area. Explore more!  
[www.yorklandtrust.org/explore](http://www.yorklandtrust.org/explore)



We acknowledge that our preserves sit on Abenaki lands. We extend our sincere gratitude and respect to these original caretakers of this land, and to all other Wabanaki people who have a relationship with this land.