This map reflects the most accurate and up-to-date information at time of printing. However, prior to travel, visitors should check current road and trail conditions at www.nps.gov/kaww.

Please use extreme caution when traveling on the Swift Brook Road and the Loop Road. These gravel roads are shared with logging and equipment trucks. It is important to drive slowly, keep to the right side of the road, and yield to oncoming trucks.

Park only in existing pull-offs or established parking areas and do not block gates.
**Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument Loop Road Interpretive Map**

**WELCOME** to the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument Loop Road, situated west of Wazooaqi Stream in the south section of the Monument. The travel route includes cultural, biological, and geological features of significance, as well as scenic views of and fringing and intertidal wetlands of nesting and foraging birds, and others have drawn inspiration from this landscape for nearly 200 years. Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, a non-profit 501(c) organization dedicated to supporting the Monument, hopes you will be one of many to follow in their footsteps.

**DIRECTIONS**

From I-95 Exit 264 (Medway) - Travel west towards Medway approximately 0.8 miles, turn right onto Route 11 (also called Grindstone Road). Follow Route 11, also known as the Katahdin Woods and Waters Scenic Byway for approximately 20 miles and then turn left onto the Swift Brook Road. Please use caution when making the left onto Swift Brook Road as there is limited night distance; please be considerate of your speed as you pass the residential area near the junction.

From I-95 Exit 264 (Sherman) - Travel west approximately 0.25 miles, turn left onto Route 11. Travel approximately 5 miles, turning right on Swift Brook Road.

Travel the Swift Brook Road approximately 0.9 miles following the signs to the Loop Road. Sandbrook Stream Picnic and Camping Area: The Loop Road trail begins at a re-purposed sand and gravel pit. Its materials were once used for building logging roads along Sandbrook Stream, where a series of beaver dams have created “deadwater” areas with nesting, foraging, and feeding areas along the stream. Walk the short trail in the left you will arrive at the largest of these beaver dams. Beaver dams modify the natural environment and the overall ecosystem builds upon the change, making beavers a keystone species - a species on which other species in an ecosystem largely depend. Leaving the parking area, the first half-mile of thick spruce forest provides habitat for the spruce Grouse and other northern bird species including Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warbler, Boreal Chickadee, as well as both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Loop Road Gates: The entrance gate is situated between a section of glacial outwash and a wind-blown drift. Combined with the spruce forest you just passed through, this area is particularly rich in biological diversity. To explore this area further continue 0.3 miles past the gate to the first road on your right where you will find an abandoned gravel pit and a rustic unpaved parking area. To begin Loop Road Interpretive Tour, set odometer to 0.

**MILE 0.3 - ESKER TRAIL** - From the parking area, a one-mile round-trip hike along the edge of the lake to a second marsh begins. The trail is on the opposite side of the Loop Road just before the parking area. Prominent edges - long, smooth, steep-sided ridges of sand and gravel formed by meltwater streams running beneath the retreating glacier - occur throughout the Monument. Landforms such as eskers and kames – eskers are ridges of glacial till deposited during the retreat of the last ice age and kames are hills formed by the deposition of glacial outwash by meltwater streams - are transitional deciduous northern hardwood and boreal spruce-fir mix – a type that does not exist anywhere else in the National Park System. Mountain tops are dominated by spruce-fir with lowland valley full of colorful northern hardwoods. Historically in addition to timber - woodcarvings, chips, mulch, charcoal, syrups, oils, gums, and extracts have been produced from these forests.

**MILE 7 - There are several scenic overlooks through this section. When stopping, park off the road and use existing pull-offs.**

**MILE 1.8 - LESTER MARK FROM I-95 Exit 123 (Sidney) - This hike begins on a section of the IAT, for about 1.5 miles the gravel logging road frequented by moose, bear, mountain bikers, hikers, and occasionally logging trucks carrying wood harvests to the logging mills. Within the first few minutes of the hike you will cross Katahdin Brook and pass the first IAT campsite. Continue up the long hill and the trail head age will be on your right. The first portion of the trail can be a little as well as island. From here you have the logging road and hike through a section of thick young hardwoods before ascending through a mixture of softwoods over switchbacks and some steps built in 2014 by the Maine Conservation Corps. Bring your lunch and enjoy the views from the lush forest.**

**BARNARD MOUNTAIN** (1426 ft) - The hike begins on a brief section of the Loop Road, for abut 0.5 miles to the parking area.

**MILE 1.5 - WATASATAQUK ROAD & ORIN FALLS** - Turn the Loop Road onto the road to Orin Falls. Travel approximately 0.5 miles to the parking area. For moose signs near the summit where they hang out in the cool breezes of summer.

**ORIN FALLS** - Please be considerate of your speed as you pass the residential area near the junction.

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