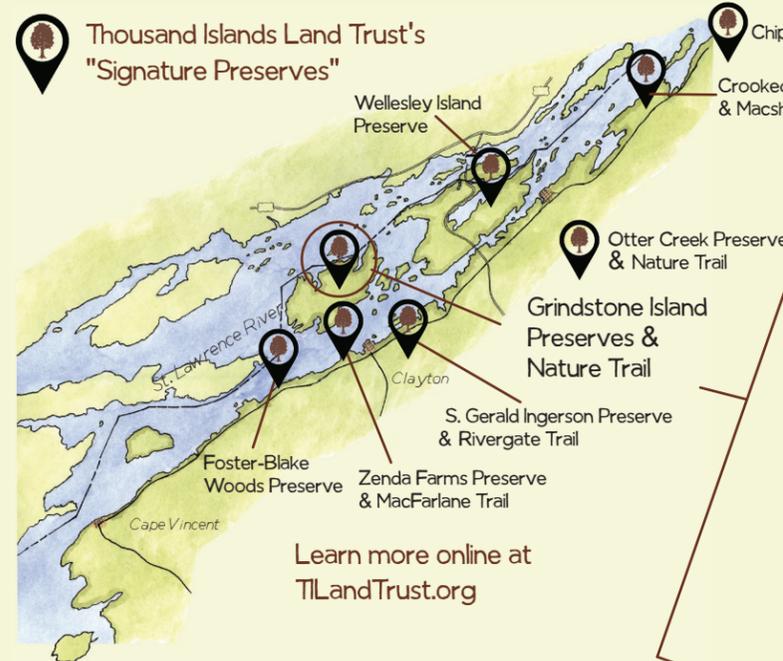


Grindstone Island Preserves and Nature Trail Where the Cultural and the Natural Come Together

Grindstone Island is the fourth largest island in the Thousand Islands region. TILT protects approximately 50% of the Island, including preserves and conservation easements.



The Grindstone Island Nature Trail

What is a Conservation Easement?
A voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified organization, such as a land trust that restricts specific activities on the land to protect its conservation values. Ownership status of the property does not change. Conservation easements are private property. Please be respectful of residents' privacy when visiting Grindstone Island.

Heineman Family Nature Preserve - Songbird Forest
The Songbird Forest is a breeding ground for Neotropical migratory songbirds like the Cerulean Warbler, Yellow Warbler and Common Yellow Throat. These birds winter in Central America and return to North America for the summer season. They need an undisturbed, leafy canopy where predators are less likely to live and where they can forage for tiny insects.

A Human Landscape Legacy
Throughout recent history, the island's landscape has been dominated by human activity. Native Americans occupied Grindstone Island long before European explorers discovered its resources. Settlers found that easy access to the island made harvesting its forests and quarrying its rocks attractive.

Mid River Farm
Besides providing nesting habitat for grassland birds, Mid River Farm also yields pasture and hay for agricultural use. Mid River Farm was one of TILT's first protected properties. Its owner at the time, Josephine Murray, was one of the Land Trust's founders.

Lindley Pt.
Lindley Point was donated to TILT by island resident Tim Thacher specifically to protect the area from the threat of development.

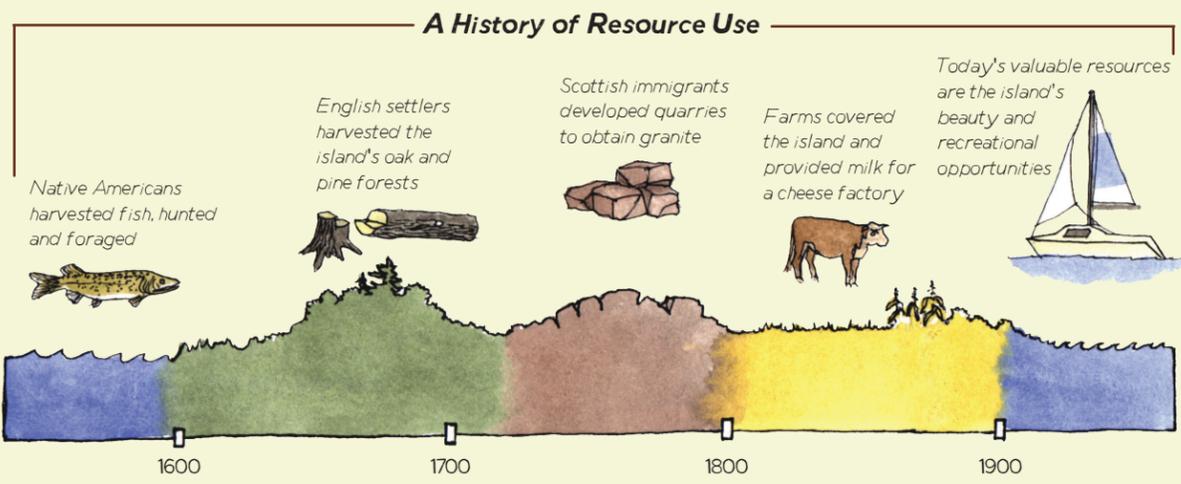
Potters Beach
One of the only naturally occurring sandy beaches in the Thousand Islands, Potters Beach has been a favorite summertime spot for generations. TILT purchased the beach in 1995 in order to ensure it remains open to the public.

Beech / Maple Forest — Forest communities that once covered the island have been fragmented by human activities.

Pitch Pine / Rocky Summit — This picturesque plant community is rare in the Thousand Islands region and sensitive to human disturbance.

Old Fields — Land cleared for cultivation or grazing, these early successional habitats formed soon after human management ceased.

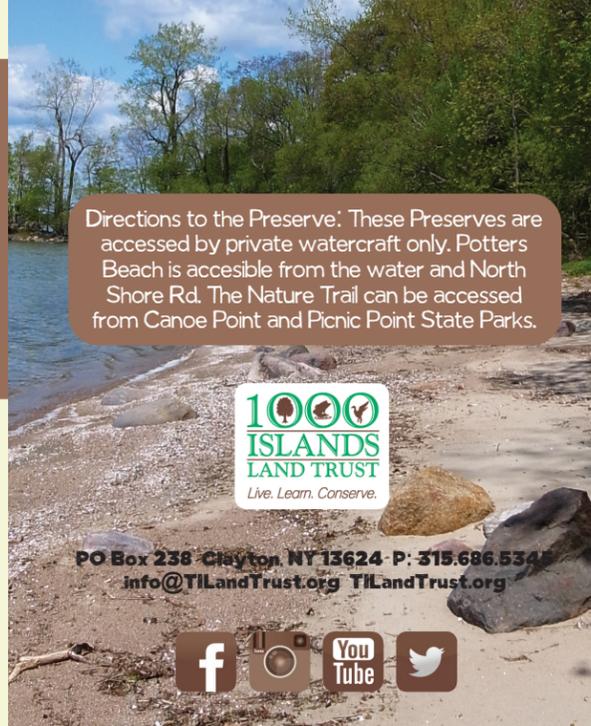
Wetlands — In contrast to the uplands, Grindstone contains some of the largest, most productive wetlands in the region.



Broad-winged Hawk

Access to Grindstone
While there is no public ferry service to the island, TILT hosts various "treks" on Grindstone throughout the year - biking, kayaking, kids' activities, our famous mule tour and more! See the full schedule on the TILT website: TILandTrust.org.

Grindstone Island Preserves and Nature Trail Brochure
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Front cover photo of a restored pothole on the Rusho Farm Preserve & back cover photo of Potters Beach by Ellen Staggs
All Illustrations by Robert McNamara of The Art of Wilderness



The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TLLT) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization created in 1985 to

conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats,

water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities

of the Thousand Islands region, for present and future

generations!
TLLT is supported by donations from people who care about the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. Our conservation work is only possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Donations of land, conservation easements, and

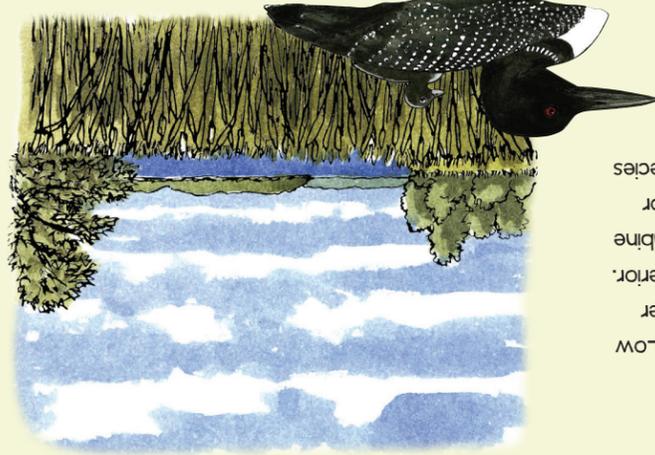
financial resources to TLLT are tax deductible under

provisions of the Internal Revenue code. To find out

more about donating land, creating a conservation easement, or including TLLT in your will, please call us at 315-686-5345.



Donate today!



Ups & Downs of Island Life
Long ago, ancient rock formations were carved by glaciers to form this irregularly sculpted landscape. Low lands along the shore are saturated by seasonal river level changes, springs and runoff from the island interior. These factors, along with human modifications, combine to create the island's plant communities. Three major habitats that include both native and introduced species are present: Marshland, Shrublands and Forest.

Wooden Bridge and Loon Nesting Platform
A wooden bridge traverses the shallow emergent marsh, complete with benches for viewing native wildlife.

Have a seat, you may spot a Least or American Bittern,

Kingfisher, Mink, Muskrat, Otter, Beaver or Short-tailed

Stoat. A floating platform placed in the open water of the marsh provides nesting for Common Loons. Human

development along the shoreline has eliminated many

areas that were once loon nesting sites. The platform also offers safety from raccoons and other predators who

destroy the nests.
Plants along the trail are engaged in a battle for

dominance. Human activity is commonly the reason

for the introduction of invasive and non-native species,

which then has a trickle-down effect on the entire

ecosystem. For example, the lower water levels created

when the St. Lawrence Seaway was built allowed

fast-growing, non-native cattails to move in. This now

crowded habitat forces Northern Pike to spawn in

deeper waters affecting the entire wetlands food web.

Native & Non-Native:
Cattails



Preserve Rules: Preserve open sunrise to sunset • Stay on trail • No motorized vehicles
No camping, dumping, fires, or collecting flora & fauna • Keep pets on a leash • No trapping • Hunting by permit only
The roads on Grindstone are public but smaller trails may be private. Please respect the privacy of the island residents.



Common Garter Snake

