



# Dresden Hikes



## 1.

### **Pownalborough Court House Trails**

This has 130 acres of woods with 3+ miles of trails. Maps available at the trailhead. The trail is wheelchair accessible for the first 1,500 feet. Parts of the trail are steep.

**Directions:** From the intersection of Route 197 and 128, turn north on Route 128, then in 1.3 miles the Court House is on the left, with parking available there or across the road at the trail head.

**Of interest:** The Court House is open for tours, Thurs., Sat., Sun., 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Memorial Day weekend to Indigenous Peoples' Day.



## 2.

### **Bowman House**

This historic home is surrounded by 44 acres of beautiful lawns and woods. It is an easy walk around the lawns and down to the Kennebec River.

**Directions:** From the intersection of Route 197 and Route 128, head north about .5 mile, the house is on the left, where there is a sign identifying it.

**Of interest:** The area was home to the Wabanaki people for more than 12,000 years. In 1762, Jonathan Bowman hired Boston architect Gershom Flagg, builder of the nearby Pownalborough Court House, to build his home on the site. In 1965, the home was bought by Bill Waters and Cyrus Pinkham. In 1971 the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and donated it to Historic New England, with a life tenancy for themselves. Tours of the house are available Thurs., 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sat., noon – 1 p.m., June 1 – October 15. For more information: [historicnewengland.org/property/bowman-house/](http://historicnewengland.org/property/bowman-house/)



## 3.

### **Dresden Falls Archaeological and Wildlife Preserve**

31 acres made up of meadows and river frontage on the Kennebec River. There is a gravel road which ends at the boat shed, then you can walk through the field to the river. This easy walk is about .4 miles to the boat shed.

**Directions:** From the intersection of Route 197 and Route 128, go south for about .75 miles. There is a small parking area to the right, just before a white house. It is easy to miss and if you get to Goransons' Farm, you have gone too far.

**Of interest:** The preserve is one of the most important prehistoric sites in Maine. Seasonally, native people camped in this resource-rich area for 4,000 years, 9,000 to 4,500 years ago. More stone tools have been uncovered here than any other Early to Middle Archaic (8,000 B.C. to 3,000 B.C.) site in New England.



4.

### Swan Island

Swan Island is located at the head of Merrymeeting Bay and open for hikers, campers, bird watchers, and others. There is a 4.5 mile gravel road leading to Theobald Point plus 7 miles of hiking trails. The island has 10 Adirondack shelters overlooking Little Swan Island and the Kennebec River; fire pits and picnic tables at the sites, and other amenities. It is open from May – October.

**Directions:** There is a parking area and boat launch where Main and Front Streets meet in Richmond. Ferry service to the island is no longer available so access is by kayak, canoe, or other water vessel.



5.

### Green Point Wildlife Management Area

483 acres are included in the management area with a .6 mile walk to the Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay. This easy walk includes an old apple orchard, small ponds, and meadows. The area is popular with bird watchers and

Maine Audubon sponsors bird watches here. Follow the old road through the orchard to an overlook where you will find benches and a picnic table. You can also take a right at the fork in the road which leads to a large meadow with trails through the fields. There is also a 1.2 mile trail from the Green Barn and back.

**Directions:** From the intersection of Route 197 and Route 128, head south for about two miles. You will see a big parking lot on the right next to a large green building or drive a little further and park in the small gravel lot in front of the gated road.



6.

### The Earle R. Kelley Wildlife Management Area

This is an 862-acre state managed lot with an easy one-mile walk to a bog. Follow the road/path for about a mile to come to the Dresden Bog. Where the trail splits, go to the left.

**Directions:** From Route 27, take Blinn Hill Road, in a couple of miles, take the Bog Road on the right, about .5 mile is a gate marking the entrance. Park on the side of the road.

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### Additional information

Most trails are described in greater detail, with maps, in *Maine by Foot*: [mainebyfoot.com/dresden/](http://mainebyfoot.com/dresden/) and [mainebyfoot.com/swan-island-richmond/](http://mainebyfoot.com/swan-island-richmond/)

This guide provided by the Dresden Recreation Committee



## 7.

### **Blinn Hill view**

Not a hike, but a nice roadside stop. At an elevation of 446 feet, Blinn Hill is the highest point in Dresden and has—on a clear day—a sweeping view of western Maine.

**Directions:** Take Blinn Hill Road north to where there is a small turn out and a stone marker on the left. *Please be respectful of the neighbors.*