

Stabilization at Narrow Place Beach

North Haven Conservation Partners is dedicated to stewarding the lands in our trust and to providing public access to those properties. Narrows Place Beach, also known as Tar Tank Beach, is one of NHCP's most frequently visited properties. It provides access to a beautiful beach with stunning views of Penobscot Bay, the Camden Hills and spectacular sunsets. The beach, as well as the adjacent road, have suffered from severe erosion over the past few years as ever stronger and more frequent storms impact the region. The problem was made startlingly clear after the recent storms in January with their high tides, strong winds and storm surge which did so much damage along the Maine coast. Fortunately, NHCP has been working on addressing the erosion at Narrows Place Beach for a number of years. The engineering firm Gartley and Dorsky was hired by NHCP to develop a plan to stop the erosion on the portion of the beach that NHCP owns, as well as provide easier access to the beach. After the plan and the estimated expense for the project was approved by the NHCP Board of Directors the proper permits from both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Town of North Haven were acquired. NHCP wants to thank Elliot C. Brown General Contracting Inc. for completing the project which included installing stone riprap along the shore and adding a series of granite steps. A railing will be added to the stairs and some additional landscaping, including native plantings will be completed in the spring. This project was made possible thanks to the generous donations of our supporters. We hope that you will have the opportunity to visit this beautiful spot.

The recent storms that did so much damage here on North Haven and throughout Mid Coast Maine also caused a lot of damage to NHCP trails. NHCP staff and volunteers have been busy clearing the trails and will continue to clean up blowdowns through the winter. As a reminder, though all this "damage" may look terrible and make getting through areas of the forest a real challenge, it is not necessarily bad for the forest and in many ways is beneficial. Controlling the fuel load, while maintaining quality habitat, soil and forest health, and the aesthetic beauty of our properties is a balancing act that NHCP continually works toward.

NHCP will be hosting a vernal pool program in March to explore the natural history of these unique habitats. The date of this event will be determined by the weather and NHCP will advertise the date, time and location as soon as possible.