

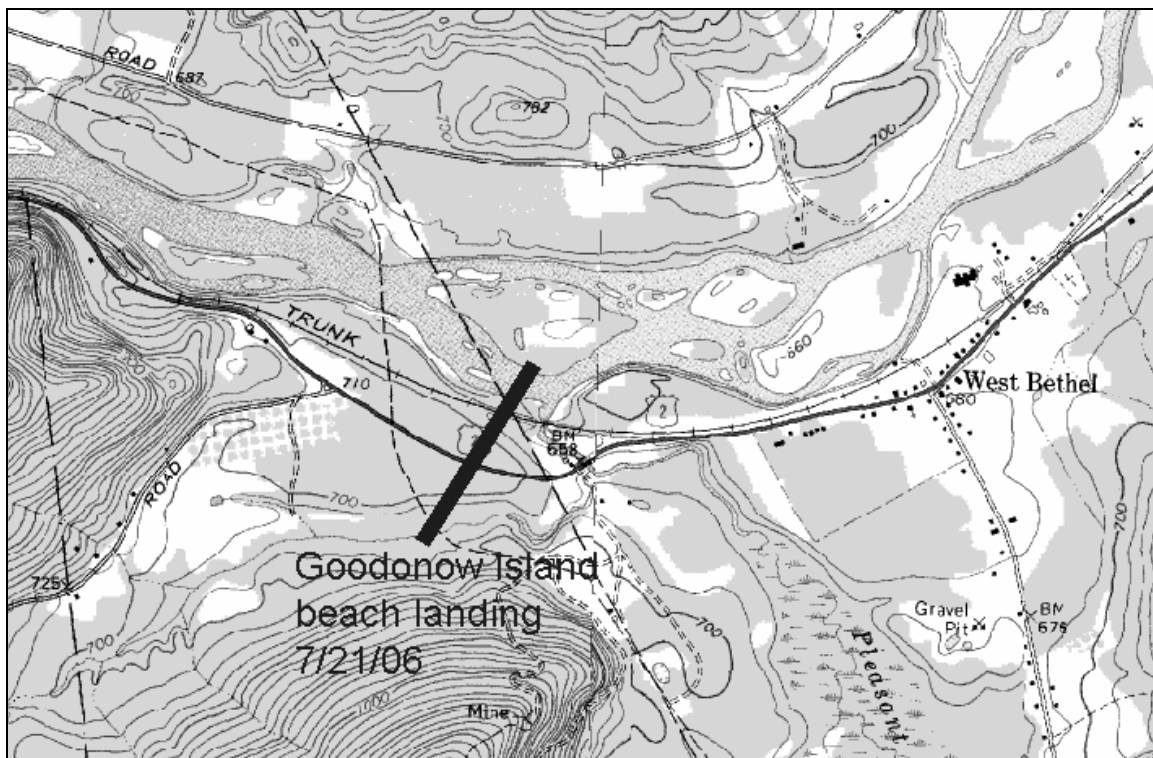
9/12/06

FIELD TRIP NOTES

RE: Goodnow Island beach

FROM: Ken Hotopp

Part of an island property of Mahoosuc Land Trust was visited by canoe and kayak on 7/21/06. We landed boats on the gravel beach on the south side of Goodnow Island, which lies in the Androscoggin River, in West Bethel, Maine. Visitors included MLT staff Jim Mitchell and Ginger Kelly, stewardship committee members Bonnie Pooley, Mac Davis, Joanna Reese, my daughter Alice and I.



The Androscoggin River flows from west to east past this island of approximately 26 acres. MLT owns about 9 of these acres on the south side of the island. At this point the Androscoggin to the south of the island is apparently deep, and we noted some sport fishermen trying this "hole." Across the river and downstream a high (10 meter?) sand bluff is easily seen, just below the mouth of the Pleasant River. This combination of glacial deposit and incoming water may be the cause of the river's physiography here.

During our brief 20-minute visit it appeared that the island's south side consists of part sand and gravel, and part richer floodplain soils. Downstream from the gradual beach where we landed, to the eastern tip, the island is more steeply banked, which can be seen in the image below.



Goodnow Island looking upstream

We saw that the outside edge of the beach was vegetated with rushes and sedges, quickly giving way to more dense vines and forbs, and then a sparse tree cover upon the main body of the island. Though we did not explore the interior of the island, we did not see obvious signs of recent agricultural or other intensive uses.



Goodnow Island beach
Looking at the sand bank downstream

Below is a list of vegetation we observed at and near the beach, but note that this list is likely to grow as the island is examined more closely. The beach has an interesting variety of native rushes, sedges, willows and grass, though many of the usual non-native plants were observed immediately inland.

some plants of Goodnow Island beach

<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	silver maple
<i>Alnus cf rugosa</i>	speckled alder
<i>Calamagrostis cf canadensis</i>	bluejoint
<i>Carex cf lurida</i>	sallow sedge
<i>C. cf gynandra</i>	nodding sedge
<i>C. sp. (flexuosa)</i>	unidentified sedge
<i>C. sp. (scabrata)</i>	unidentified sedge
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	threesquare
<i>Eleocharis sp.</i>	unidentified spike-rush
<i>Fallopia japonica*</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	spotted touch-me-not
<i>Ipomoea cf hederacea</i>	morning glory
<i>Lilium lancifolium*</i>	tiger lily
<i>Lysmachia terrestris</i>	swamp candles
<i>Lythrum salicaria*</i>	purple loosestrife
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	monkeyflower
<i>Matteucia pennsylvanica</i>	ostrich fern
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	sensitive fern
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper
<i>Persicaria sp.</i>	tearthumb
<i>Phalaris arundinaceae*</i>	reed canary grass
<i>Rhus hirta</i>	staghorn sumac
<i>Ribes sp.</i>	unidentified currant
<i>Salix sp.</i>	unidentified willow
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	common elder
<i>Scirpus cf rubrocinctus</i>	rush
<i>Solidago sp.</i>	unidentified goldenrod
<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	meadowsweet
<i>S. tomentosa</i>	hardhack
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	poison ivy
<i>Typha sp.</i>	unidentified cat-tail
<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	slippery elm
<i>Vitis sp.</i>	unidentified fox grape

* non-native

Readers should note that this report is preliminary but may provide a useful starting point for future exploration and management.