

Odoirne State Park

Natural Features

Odiorne Point is the largest undeveloped stretch of shore on New Hampshire's 18 mile coast. Located three miles south of Portsmouth on Route 1A in Rye, Odiorne offers an extensive array of habitats. On the south end of the park, sheltered tidepools of the Sunken Forest give way to an exposed rocky shore. Just north, the shore evolves into a pebble beach which shelters a fresh water marsh. Along the way to Frost Point where a jetty extends into Little Harbor lies a small sand dune environment. At the end of Little Harbor, Seavey Creek feeds the neighboring saltmarsh.

Extensive inland disturbances during World War II induced the growth of dense forests in various stages of succession. Large stone walls bound open fields. Fresh water systems are represented within the park by a man-made pond and marsh. Remnants of formal gardens and wildflowers grow side by side; and the man-made military bunkers lie hidden under mounds of earth.

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