

Ingalls Camp History

In 1977 the Town of North Hero purchased and conserved Camp Ingalls – a former 4-H camp.

Then, in 2012 the Nature Conservancy and Lake Champlain Land Trust conserved an additional 170 acres, opening the door to creation of the combined nature area.

Camp Ingalls/Butternut Hill was named a “Premier Grand Isle Forest” by the Vermont County Foresters in 2015.

Today, Camp Ingalls is managed by the North Hero Parks and Recreation Committee.



White Trillium

Partners in Conservation

Combining Camp Ingalls and Butternut Hill created a large conserved area.

The expansion brought together closely associated habitats and natural areas making the south end of North Hero a valuable, sustainable ecosystem.



Camp Ingalls Long House

A special feature of Camp Ingalls is the **Long House**.

This large, open, camp-style building includes a complete kitchen and provides a great space for nature camps, presentations, school and community events, yoga classes, and more. We even rent the space for meetings, family gatherings, and small weddings.



The Long House

Story Walk

This is a great treat for families with young children!

The **Story Walk** leads readers along a wooded trail, from station to station, where pages of a great story book can be read.

Thanks to the **North Hero Library** and volunteers, the story changes every month from spring through the fall.



Readers along the Story Walk

Learn More

Come visit us on the North Hero Recreation Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/NorthHeroParksAndRecreation/

Learn about North Hero's nature areas—Pelots, Camp Ingalls, and The Footpath—at the town website:

www.northherovt.com/31/parks-and-rec-committee



Barred Owl

Visit The Nature Conservancy:

www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/vermont/

Visit the Lake Champlain Land Trust:

www.lclt.org/

Join the Trail Stewards

North Hero's Nature Areas are managed and largely maintained by volunteers.

We have a great group of neighbors and friends who love being outdoors, learning and sharing knowledge of nature, and working together to keep Camp Ingalls, Pelots Nature Area, and The Footpath healthy and in prime condition for visitors.

Watch our Facebook page for information on Trail Stewards' activities – and join us!



Trail Stewards at the Ingalls Vernal Pool overlook



Welcome to
Camp Ingalls
Nature Activity Area
Butternut Hill Nature Area
Conserved Lands & Public Trails

Camp Ingalls and Butternut Hill are shared conserved lands, open for recreation, discovery and learning in nature.

Enjoy Our Nature Area

- One-mile nature trail
- Recreation field
- Four-season walks
- Kids' camp
- Wildlife & wildflowers
- Pollinator garden
- Outdoor education
- Mountain, lake, and bay views
- Story Walk with the North Hero Library



Aerial photos by John Hadden

Along the trail at Camp Ingalls and Butternut Nature Area



Begin your walk through a mature **maple-ash-hickory-oak forest**.



Pass a **vernal pool**. In spring it provides habitat for amphibians, insects, and fairy shrimp.



Then walk on a farm road with a vista of a **lakeside floodplain forest** which filters water entering Lake Champlain and offers habitat for many plants and animals.



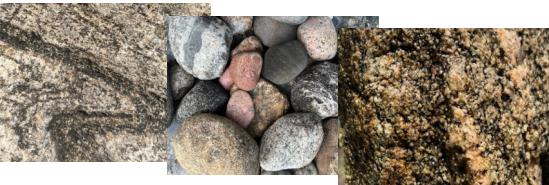
The trail then leads through a **cedar forest** and passes a butternut tree known as a "white walnut."



At a cedar bluff, you can see majestic views of **Lake Champlain** created by an ancient glacier.

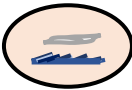
Descend beautifully crafted stone steps to view a **swamp and marsh** where turtles can be seen.

On the **shale beach**, find **glacial erratics** brought by the glacier from distant geological formations in the ancient Canadian Shield.

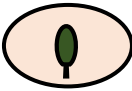


Niches at Ingalls and Butternut

A niche is a small specialized environment or habitat community. You can visit these niches along the trails:



Broad Lake- shores and cliffs along Lake Champlain.



Cedar Copse- cedar forest with a mixture of some broadleaf trees.



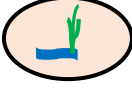
Floodplain Forest- silver maples and shrubs which flood in spring and slowly dry up.



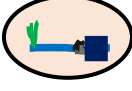
Lakeside Floodplain Forest- stay wet all year long.



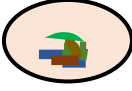
Hardwood Forest- maple, shag bark hickory, butternut, and oak trees.



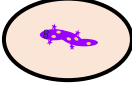
Marshes- cattails and marsh grass on the edge of open water.



Slough (*slew*)- a shallow backwater to the open lake.



Swamps- slow moving water as it passes through stands of grasses, trees and shrubs.



Vernal Pool- spring time pools which are rich in amphibians and insects and are dry the rest of the year.



Spring Ephemerals- spring time flowers



Pollinator Garden- Meadows attract hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, wasps, and moths.

