

Explore

1 Welcome to Rossetti Beach! Head down the gravel trail toward the beach. As you walk, take notice of the pine trees along the trail.

Do you know how to tell pines apart? Many pines have different numbers of needles per bud, which tells us what type of tree it is.



White Pine has 5 needles



Red Pine has 2 needles

Check out how many needles there are on the buds of the pines along the trail!

2 One of the reasons we conserved this beach was to protect a rare plant called BEACH HEATHER. This plant is more typically found near the Atlantic Ocean, but it is also found along Lake Champlain in a few select areas. Please do not disturb this valuable plant!

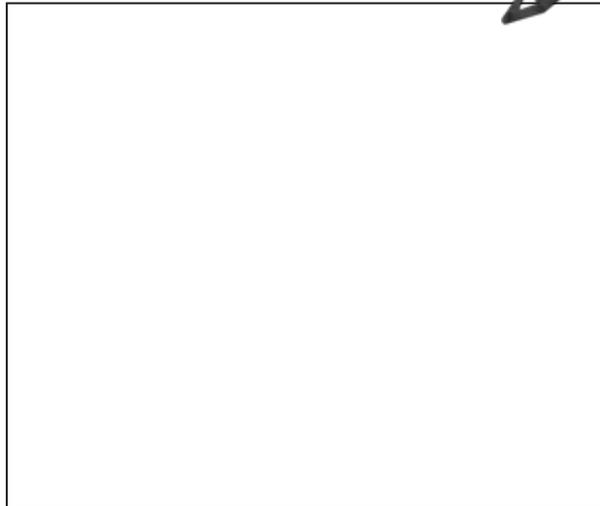


3 The reason some coastal plants are found along Lake Champlain is because the Champlain Valley used to be a sea! When the glaciers melted, ocean levels rose and spilled into what was called the Champlain Sea.



Observe

Find a small item from the trail to sketch below!



4 Near the lake, you'll notice more deciduous (leafy) trees. Many of these trees are oaks, but did you know there are two types of oaks? The two types are white oaks and red oaks. White oaks have rounded tips on their leaves, whereas red oaks have pointy tips.

Which kind of oak can you find along the beach?

5 As you walk north along the beach, look for clamshells. Did you know that 300 species of freshwater mussels are found in North America?

Native mussel numbers have been declining due to competition from the invasive zebra mussel. Make sure to thoroughly clean all recreational equipment after use in the water to avoid spreading zebra mussels to new water habitat.



Zebra Mussels

One common and unique aspect of this landscape is DRIFTWOOD. Driftwood is usually fragments of dead trees which have been washed into the water because of wind, flooding, logging, or erosion.

Driftwood provides good habitat for a variety of animals and birds, as well as fish while it floats in the water.

6



Hike

What kinds of birds do you see out on the water? Did you know Lake Champlain supports 318 species of birds and is a major stopping place for migratory birds? Keeping this critical feeding ground productive is another reason to improve the water quality of Lake Champlain!



Listen

...for sounds of animals: birds chirping, squirrels rustling in the leaves, or just the wind whistling through the branches.

8 Rossetti Beach is home to another rare species—the BLACK GUM tree. Lake Champlain marks one of the northernmost spots in this tree's territory. It prefers wet soils, but the tallest specimen, with deep roots, is on the north end of the beach.



ROSSETTI BEACH



About us

The Lake Champlain Land Trust is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1978 that preserves the islands, shorelands, and natural areas of Lake Champlain. Rossetti Beach is an oasis of undeveloped shoreline and wetland habitat on Lake Champlain. A short walk down a wide, gravel path through mature forest and across a flooded wetland ends at a rare sandy beach on the shores of Lake Champlain. This combination of natural communities creates perfect habitat for a wide array of plant and animal species. The Lake Champlain Land Trust, together with the Town of Colchester and individual supporters, conserved Rossetti Beach in 1997.

Do you have QUESTIONS about something you've seen on the trail today? Need directions to more of our natural areas? Want to donate online? Contact us via www.LCLT.org or 802-862-4150!



Explore, observe, Listen to & Hike

A family hiking guide to Rossetti Beach Natural Area



View of Rossetti Beach