

CHAPTER 211

STATE PARKS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(REPEALED)

§801. Designation of certain forts and coaling station as state parks

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 460, §19 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 502, §E30 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 678, §11 (RP).

§802. Restaurant facilities at the Ancient Pemaquid Restoration Site in the Town of Bristol

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 375 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 824, §§Z-2 (RP).

SUBCHAPTER 2

JOHN PAUL JONES MEMORIAL PARK

§851. Designation

The state park at Kittery, situate between Hunter Avenue and Newmarch Street and between Water and Government Streets in the Town of Kittery, County of York, shall forever be known and designated as "John Paul Jones Memorial Park" in memory of the commander of the first American warship.

SUBCHAPTER 3

BAXTER STATE PARK

§900. Purpose

Seldom has a more generous gift been presented to a people than has been given by Percival Proctor Baxter to the people of the State of Maine. It is incumbent upon them, the recipients, to preserve the trust impressed upon them, to ensure for themselves and for future generations the fullest use of Baxter State Park consistent with the desires of the donor. [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

Governor Baxter's expressed desires were that this park "shall forever be retained and used for state forest, public park and public recreational purposes ... shall forever be kept and remain in the natural wild state ... shall forever be kept and remain as a sanctuary for beasts and birds." [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

Lest those that follow, uncertain of Governor Baxter's wishes, seek to define his desires in ways inharmonious with their original intent, this section is enacted. [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

It shall be the object of the Baxter State Park Authority to preserve the grandeur and beauty of Maine's highest peak, Mount Katahdin, as well as the 45 other mountains, the numerous lakes, ponds and streams; to subordinate its own wishes to the intent of Governor Baxter; to recognize his wish that, in this era of change, one thing of natural beauty remain constant. [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

This intent must be interpreted so as not to separate this park from the people to whom it was given; but rather seek to have it enjoyed and "used to the fullest extent but in the right unspoiled manner." [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

As a public forest it shall remain in its natural wild state and when "the Forests of our State have been cut off and disappeared, when civilization has encroached upon the land we now refer to as 'Wild Land,' this park will give the people of succeeding generations a living example of what the State of Maine was 'in the good old days' before the song of the woodsman's axe and the whine of the power saw was heard in the land." [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

As a public park and a place of recreation, it is apparent that it is intended for "those persons who enjoy the wilderness" and that the repeated use of the word "recreation" refers to the use of this park compatible with its natural state as a wilderness area and an expanse "for those who love nature and who are willing to walk and make an effort to get close to nature ... with pleasant foot-trails built and attractive camp-sites laid out in the valleys, by the brooks, and on the shores of the water." [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

As a tract kept in its "natural wild state," it is intended that "everything in connection with the park must be left simple and natural and must remain as nearly as possible as it was when only the Indians and the animals roamed at will through these areas ..." Access to the park shall be provided only "as may be necessary to accommodate those persons who wish to enjoy the great unspoiled area that now is the property of our State ..." [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

As a "sanctuary for beasts and birds" it shall be forever a "sanctuary and home for the creatures of the wild," and as refuge "against hunting, trapping and killing" where "hunting with cameras will take the place of hunting with guns." [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

While this area bears the name park, it is not to be confused with the existing state park system and is to "be separately administered free from any connection with the larger State Park Commission." (Bureau of Parks and Lands) That system, purchased with the funds of the people, must change from time to time to accommodate changing circumstances and the varying desires of its proprietors; not so, Baxter State Park, purchased by the generosity of one man, richly endowed, and presented to the people with specific stipulations. [PL 1973, c. 625, §64 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. E, §30 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24 (REV).]

"While I am living I fear no encroachments on the park, but as time passes and new men appear upon the scene, there may be a tendency to overlook these restrictions and thus break the spirit of these gifts." [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

Solemnly cognizant of the responsibility, it shall always be the purpose of the authority to satisfy the terms of the Trust. [PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 477, §1 (NEW). PL 1973, c. 625, §64 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 502, §E30 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24 (REV).

§901. Designation

All the lands in Townships 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Range 9 W.E.L.S. and in Townships 3, 4, 5 and 6, Range 10 W.E.L.S., Piscataquis County, and Township 6, Range 8 W.E.L.S., Penobscot County, that have been donated and conveyed to the State in trust by Percival Proctor Baxter and all lands in the Townships 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Range 9 and in Townships 3, 4, 5 and 6, Range 10, and in Township 6,

Range 8 and all lands in Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties that hereafter shall be donated and conveyed to the State by Percival Proctor Baxter in trust for state forest, public park and public recreational purposes are named and shall hereafter be named "Baxter State Park" in honor of the donor, and the same hereafter shall forever be so designated on the official maps and records of the State. They shall be under the joint supervision and control of, and shall be administered by the Director of the Bureau of Forestry, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Attorney General, and the commissioner, director and Attorney General shall have full power in the control and management of the same, under the title of Baxter State Park Authority, as authorized by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 11. The authority shall receive moneys available from trust funds established by the donor of the park and shall include fees collected, income from park trust funds invested by the Treasurer of State and other miscellaneous income derived from the park for maintenance and operation of the park. [PL 1989, c. 503, Pt. B, §56 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).]

The authority is further designated the agency of the State to receive such sums as are, from time to time, paid to the State by the trustee under clause THIRD of a certain inter vivos trust dated July 6, 1927, as from time to time amended, created by said Baxter for the purchase or other acquisition of additional land for said Baxter State Park, and for the purchase of other lands for recreational or reforestation purposes, and the authority is authorized to expend such sums so received for such purposes and shall hold and use such lands as specified in the trust. [PL 1985, c. 107, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 226, §17 (RPR). PL 1967, c. 504 (AMD). PL 1969, c. 557, §3 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 477, §2 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 87 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 460, §18 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 497, §3 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 556, §3 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 812, §77 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 107, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 503, §B56 (AMD). RR 2009, c. 2, §21 (COR). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23 (REV).

§902. Public reserved lots in park

The public reserved lots in the area known as Baxter State Park shall be forever held in trusts, and are here declared to be so held, as part of said park not only as respects the interests conveyed to the State by Percival Proctor Baxter but as respects the basic title originally owned by the State. The basic title of each such lot is declared to be held in the same trusts and for the same purposes as are declared in the deed or deeds of the said Percival Proctor Baxter conveying to the State his interest in such lot.

§903. Rules

1. Adoption of rules. The Baxter State Park Authority may adopt rules pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act it considers necessary for the protection and safety of the public or for the proper observance of the conditions and restrictions expressed in the deeds of trust of the Baxter State Park to the State.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Violation of rules and permits. A person who violates any of the rules of the Baxter State Park Authority or a condition of a permit issued under those rules commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged.

[PL 2009, c. 644, §1 (AMD).]

3. Destruction of structure, monument, marker or notice. A person who intentionally or knowingly mutilates, defaces or destroys any structure, monument or marker lawfully erected within the boundaries of the Baxter State Park, or any notice or rule of the Baxter State Park Authority that is posted in conformity with this section, commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 226, §18 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 201 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 694, §237 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §F2 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 644, §1 (AMD).

§904. Agents and representatives

The Baxter State Park Authority shall appoint agents or representatives to carry out this subchapter. All appointed agents or representatives hold office under the rules of the Civil Service Law. They must be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties and a certificate thereof must be returned and filed in the office of the chair of the authority. They must be appointed by the authority in accordance with the Civil Service Law and may be allowed actual necessary expenses of travel. [RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §13 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 226, §19 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 785, §B63 (AMD). RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §13 (COR).

§905. Police supervision; power to arrest

Said park authority shall exercise police supervision over Baxter State Park. The agents or representatives of the Baxter State Park Authority, designated for that purpose by said park authority, are authorized and empowered to arrest with or without warrant any person within the State who is committing, or to detain, until a warrant has been obtained, any person within the State who has been seen by said agents or representatives committing any offense against the state laws, or any violation of any rule or regulation of the Baxter State Park Authority within said park, but no dwelling house shall be searched for the purpose of such arrest without a warrant, and then only in the daytime, and no sealed railroad car shall be entered for the purpose of such arrest without such warrant.

§906. Restrictions on powers and duties of park authority

The powers and duties of the Baxter State Park Authority shall not be so construed as to permit the collection of a fee for entering the premises of the park by residents of the State or interfere or conflict in any way with the powers and duties of the Maine State Bureau of Parks and Lands, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the Bureau of Forestry and their duly appointed wardens or rangers, and the enforcement of the inland fisheries and game and forestry laws in respect to Baxter State Park or to the State generally. Nothing in section 900 or any other law shall be interpreted or construed to modify, nullify or affect in any way any of the provisions in any deed of trust made by Percival Proctor Baxter conveying land in Baxter State Park to the State of Maine. [PL 1975, c. 497, §1 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. E, §30 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV); PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §§23, 24 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 226, §20 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 477, §3 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 460, §§18,19 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 493, §3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 502, §E30 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 (REV). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §§23, 24 (REV).

§907. Jurisdiction

The District Court shall have original and concurrent jurisdiction with the Superior Court in all prosecutions under any provisions of this subchapter. Any person, arrested as a violator of said subchapter, shall with reasonable diligence be taken before the District Court in the division nearest to where the offense is alleged to have been committed for a warrant and trial, and in such case jurisdiction is granted to the District Court in adjoining divisions to be exercised in the same manner as if the offense had been committed in that division.

§908. Park operations

1. Certain approval unnecessary; payments. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Baxter State Park Authority does not need the approval of the Department of Administrative and

Financial Services through the Office of the State Controller for the payment of any bills, invoices, accounts, payrolls or any other evidences of claims, demands or charges.

[PL 2007, c. 466, Pt. A, §31 (AMD).]

2. Certain approval unnecessary; purchases. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, purchases of materials or services by the Baxter State Park Authority do not need the approval of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services through the Bureau of General Services.

[PL 2007, c. 466, Pt. A, §32 (AMD).]

3. Certain approval unnecessary; construction or improvement. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the construction or reconstruction of roads and buildings or any other improvements by the Baxter State Park Authority does not need the approval of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services through the Bureau of General Services.

[RR 1993, c. 1, §34 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 68, §C2 (NEW). RR 1993, c. 1, §34 (COR). PL 2003, c. 600, §4 (REV). PL 2007, c. 466, Pt. A, §§31, 32 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.