



## Stockton Island



### Tracks in the Sand

What would the Apostle Islands be without sand? They sit on a foundation of billion year old *sandstone*. Sand is a major component of the “till” left behind when the glaciers melted 10,000 years ago. Today, wind and waves sculpt exposed shorelines and carry sand grains to protected shores to form beaches. No island is blessed with more spectacular and diverse sandy areas than Stockton. The 10,054 acre island features sand beaches at Quarry Bay, Presque Isle Bay, and Julian Bay. The bridge of sand connecting Presque Isle Point to the rest of Stockton Island is an outstanding example of a geologic feature called a “tombolo”. The tombolo is home to a variety of plant communities (bogs, dunes, lagoons, savannahs, and pine forests), the park’s largest campground, and the “singing sands” of Julian Bay. People feel called to beaches everywhere, but at Julian Bay, where the “singing” sand squeaks underfoot, the call can actually be heard.

### Bearprints

Bear tracks on the beach have become a common sight on Stockton Island. The island supports one of the most concentrated populations of black bears in the world. A study of Stockton Island bears revealed that the population grew from two animals in 1984 to a high of 31 non-cub bears in 1994. DNA analysis of bear hair samples collected in 2002 determined that there were at least 26 different bears living on Stockton Island that summer. As the bear population grew, the animals took steps to self regulate their numbers. Some bears swam to other islands, females had fewer litters, the bears endured compressed and overlapping home ranges, and several smaller bears were killed and eaten.

Some bears turned to alternative food sources. In summer 2002, a large boar with a scar on his rear end roamed between the camping areas at Presque Isle

and Quarry Bay. “Skar’s” campground visits in search of “easy pickings” became increasingly frequent and menacing in August as the blueberry crop waned. After using every available nonlethal tool to discourage Skar’s aggressive behavior, park rangers were forced to shoot him. Visitors must take precautions to help keep this from happening again. Never approach or feed a bear. Keep a distance of at least 50 yards, even for photography. Don’t lure or allow bears to feel comfortable around campsites, docks, and picnic areas. Store food and garbage in the bearproof containers provided at campsites on Stockton Island. Take steps to reduce food odors. If you encounter a bear in a visitor use area; make yourself look big and dominant; bang pots, yell, make noise until the bear leaves the area; and report the encounter to park staff as soon as possible.



### Footprints

Stockton Island has attracted people for centuries. Archeological evidence indicates that native populations may have fished, hunted, harvested berries, and made maple syrup on the island over 1,000 years ago. By the late 1800s, Stockton Island attracted commercial activities such as fishing camps, lumber camps, and a brownstone quarry to its shores. Today, visitors flock to Stockton Island to anchor in its protected bays, explore its varied landscapes, camp in its lakeside campsites, and walk its white sand beaches.

The shoreline areas that attract the most visitors also tend to be very fragile. Vegetation in sandy areas (dunes, savannahs, pine forests) is susceptible to trampling. When plants that stabilize the sand are trampled and killed, erosion becomes more of a problem. Informal trails mar the landscape around the Presque Isle campground and at Julian Bay. Visitors can help protect our fragile sandscapes by using sand ladders provided at the campsites, walking on designated trails and boardwalks, and walking on beaches below the line of vegetation. This will help leave no trace of our passing...except tracks on the beach.



# Stockton Island

0 1 mile

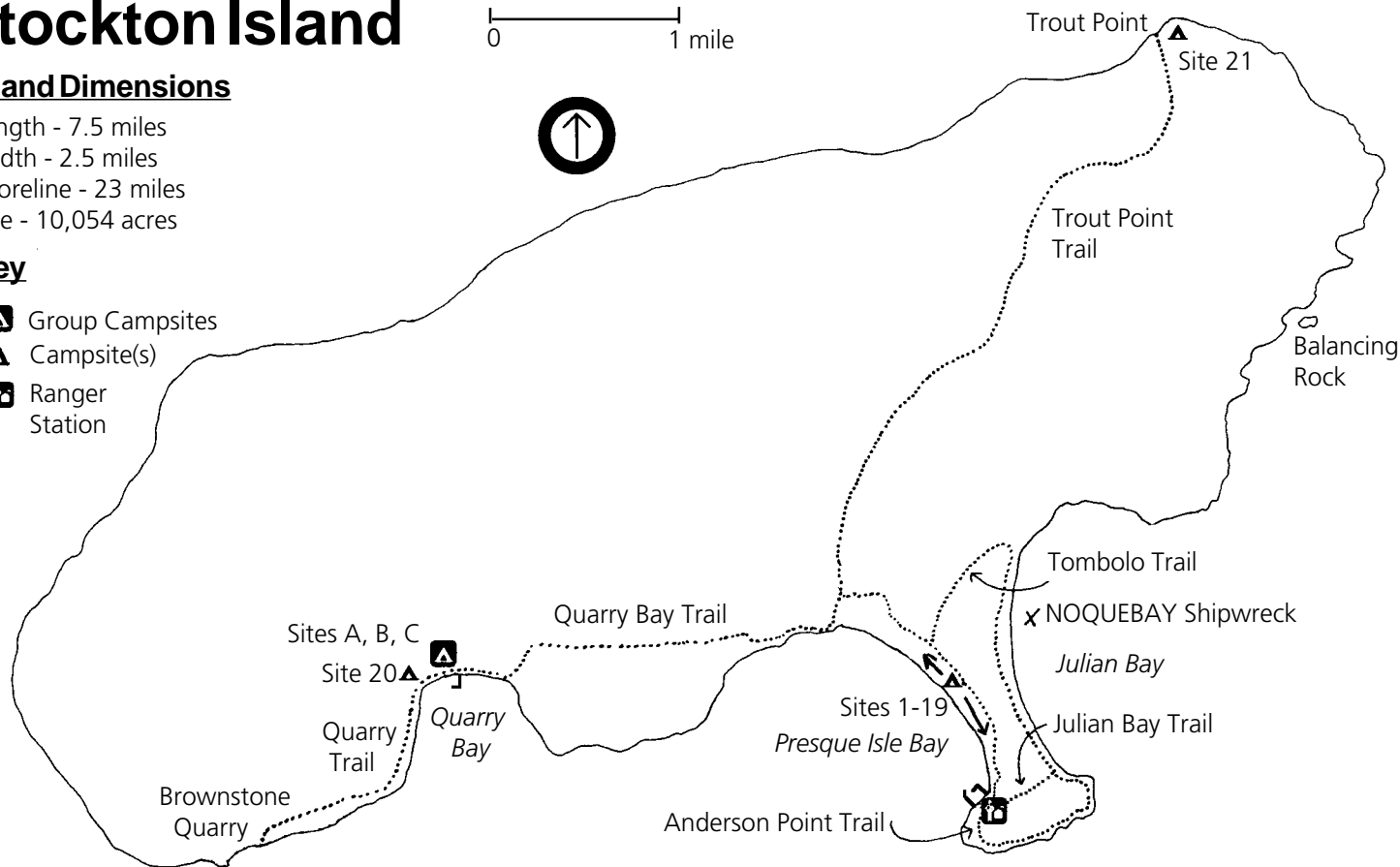


## Island Dimensions

Length - 7.5 miles  
Width - 2.5 miles  
Shoreline - 23 miles  
Size - 10,054 acres

## Key

- Group Campsites
- Campsite(s)
- Ranger Station



## Hiking

There are about 14 miles of hiking trails on the island. Limited maintenance may make portions of the Trout Point and Quarry Bay trails difficult to follow. Off-trail travel can be strenuous. Rock ledges near the lake are slippery. Use caution when walking on them.

### JULIAN BAY TRAIL, 0.4 mile

Trail booklets at the Presque Isle trailhead introduce you to the diverse plant communities along the trail. The trail ends at Julian Bay beach. (20 minutes)

### ANDERSON POINT TRAIL, 1.4 miles

This trail winds through the forest around the rocky shoreline between Julian Bay beach and Presque Isle dock. (50 minutes)

### TOMBOLO TRAIL, 2.8 miles

Leaving the Quarry Bay trail 0.6 mile from the Presque Isle dock, this trail travels through forest and bog and then onto the beach ending at the Julian Bay trail. A lagoon outlet along the beach may require hikers to wade across. (2 hours)

### QUARRY BAY TRAIL, 3.6 miles

This trail goes from the Presque Isle dock, through the campground, en route to Quarry Bay. (2 hours)

### QUARRY TRAIL, 1.5 miles

The trail leads from Quarry Bay west along the shore to an abandoned quarry operated by the Ashland Brownstone Company from 1889 to 1897. (50 minutes)

### TROUT POINT TRAIL, 4.7 miles

The trailhead is located on the Quarry Bay Trail 1.6 miles from Presque Isle. The path winds through Stockton's interior forest en route to the old logging camp clearing at Trout Point. (2 1/2 hours)

## Boating and Camping



Docks are located at Presque Isle Bay and at Quarry Bay. Docking is permitted as space is available and within posted times. Please observe all docking signs and regulations. Some dock space is reserved for excursion and National Park Service boats.

Boats can be anchored or beached in Quarry, Presque Isle, and Julian Bays. Boaters should monitor marine weather forecasts, since shifting wind conditions and subsequent rough water can pose a significant threat.

A half-mile long waterfront campground is located among the pines on Presque Isle Bay. Three group campsites and one individual site are located at Quarry Bay. Another individual site is located at Trout Point. Limited wilderness camping is also allowed. Camping permits are required for all camping in the national lakeshore. A camping permit fee is charged. Permits should be picked up on the mainland before the start of a trip. For detailed information, request the free publication, entitled "Camping".

## Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore offers opportunities to experience a variety of natural and cultural features. Visitors can do their part to help protect park resources by following the seven principles of "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics:

- 1) Plan Ahead and Prepare
- 2) Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- 3) Dispose of Waste Properly
- 4) Leave What You Find
- 5) Minimize Campfire Impacts
- 6) Respect Wildlife
- 7) Be Considerate of Other Visitors

We ask your help to preserve Stockton Island's beauty and ensure visitor safety. Vegetation and soils on both sides of the tombolo are fragile and unstable. Hikers should stay on beaches or designated trails in this area. Climb bluffs only where sand ladders are provided.



To lessen impacts on the environment and other visitors, do not wash dishes or yourselves in the lake or at water faucets. Soap and rinse where gray water can filter into the ground. Be prepared to carry all refuse back to the mainland. Build campfires only in fire receptacles when provided. Grilling on the dock, or on boats moored to the dock is prohibited. Campfires are not allowed on beaches at Julian Bay or Presque Isle Bay or on beaches adjacent to campsites. Burn only dead, fallen wood and do not leave fires unattended. Fireworks are not allowed. Keep pets leashed and do not leave them unattended. Finally, do not feed bears or other wildlife. Keep your campsite clean. Campers are required to use bear-proof food storage lockers where provided. Otherwise, suspend food between trees at least 10 feet from the ground. With your help, future visitors to Stockton will find the island as you have - in its wild and natural state.

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