



PARKER RIDGE & *Blue Hill*

A perfect combination creating a deeper sense of community

Blue Hill, in Hancock County, settled in 1792, is the gateway to the Blue Hill Peninsula.

The peninsula encompasses several other villages including Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooksville, Brooklin, Castine, Surry and Sedgwick. The sweeping sea views, hills, valleys and coastline offer adventures of all kinds.

This stunning area was first home to Maine's Native Americans for 4,000 years before the arrival of early settlers. Early industry flourished first with shipbuilding and then granite quarries and copper mining. Blue Hill granite was shipped far and wide during the 1800's. The latter part of that century

saw a new industry begin to develop--the tourist industry. Summer visitors began to arrive by steamship and eventually railcar from the bustling cities of the northeast.

The original settlers and newcomers alike have generously contributed money, time and talent to Blue Hill's first-rate library, fine schools and numerous art, music and theater establishments. Blue Hill Memorial Hospital is a striking example of collaboration between dedicated management and community support. Blue Hill Heritage Trust is an admirable example of the area's forward-thinking residents, who have entrusted thousands of acres of land held for the enjoyment of current and future citizens. Today's homegrown entrepreneurs such as farmers, artisans, craftsmen and res-

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taurateurs co-exist with these cultural offerings to create this unique region.

In 1992 Blue Hill began attracting yet another population of residents. Constructed high on a ridge overlooking Blue Hill Bay is a rare gem called Parker Ridge Retirement Community. This graciously designed community is a haven that includes an inn of 34 apartments and 13 assisted living suites as well as 24 cottages surrounding a village green. Since its inception, the residents have come to this unique property not only from the surrounding villages, but from various states around the country. Some residents are "locals" and some are from the generations of "summer people", and others have discovered this community through research and visits to the area. Seeking a place of tranquility, beauty and cultural opportunities, they have chosen to call Parker Ridge and Blue Hill their home.

Each summer, Parker Ridge is privileged to host weekly chamber music performances by Kneisel Hall's "Young Artists". This summer music school is an intensive program where musicians from around the world study chamber music with guidance from a distinguished faculty. Kneisel Hall's superb festival and programs are renowned throughout the entire area and beyond. Parker Ridge is a proud supporter of the arts.

The origin of the Blue Hill Public Library extends back to 1796 when books were first loaned from a grocery store. A fundraising effort and a federal grant finally allowed the Blue Hill citizens to open the doors of a lovely new building in 1940. Since then, three wings have been added. It is amaz-





Parker Ridge residents, along with those of the surrounding communities, *consider themselves fortunate* to have quick and easy access to *Blue Hill Memorial Hospital*.

ing that this public library in the village of Blue Hill provides hundreds of thousands of lending transactions, over four hundred cultural programs and four hundred and fifty community meetings in the course of a year. Parker Ridge residents are dedicated patrons of this wonderful library.

Parker Ridge residents, along with those of the surrounding communities, consider themselves fortunate to have quick and easy access to Blue Hill Memorial Hospital (BHMH). This 25-bed critical access hospital offers primary and selected specialty healthcare services. Donated by Mrs. F.B. Richards in 1922, this hospital is still operating 95 years later. BHMH is one of the largest employers in the region and is an affiliate of Eastern Maine Healthcare System, with additional offices in Castine and Stonington.

Kollegewidwok Yacht Club of Blue Hill originated in 1920 with the goal of teaching children how to sail. This unusual name is derived from a local Indian name which means “mixed rapids”. In its early years, the club’s objective was to host a race twice per week. Later, after WW II, a location was chosen between Blue Hill and East Blue Hill, in an area with excellent anchorage. After a fundraising effort, a lovely clubhouse was built, and the club’s existence was formalized. The Kollegewidwok Sailing Education Association is a non-profit sailing school. Sailing classes are offered each summer for beginners through advanced level with certified instructors. The club is another special attribute for a small community such as Blue Hill. These are just some of the assets that make Blue Hill remarkable, and in turn make Parker Ridge a wonderful place to retire.



Kneisel Hall Students at Parker Ridge

Additional area resources enjoyed by the residents of Parker Ridge include the Blue Hill Country Club's 9-hole golf course, which opened in 1906 and is located in a picturesque setting along the water on Parker Point Road. The Blue Hill Fairgrounds are not far from the base of Blue Hill Mountain on the Ellsworth Road. The annual country fair is a favorite of all generations on the Blue Hill Peninsula. It draws thousands from around the state and, this year, is scheduled from August 31 through Labor Day. The nearby Blue Hill Co-op is a natural food grocery store and café with a large selection of local and organic produce, cheese, wine, vitamins and supplements, health and beauty items and much more. Founded

in 1974, the co-op has been a gathering place for the Blue Hill Peninsula community for over 30 years.

The rich history and wealth of natural resources that make up the Blue Hill area are thoughtfully maintained and preserved by two great organizations. The Blue Hill Historical Society was founded in 1902 for the purpose of preserving the heritage of the Town of Blue Hill. The Society's home and headquarters is the Holt House, which was built in 1815, and serves as a museum and repository of artifacts and archives relevant to local history. The Blue Hill Heritage Trust is a membership-based land conservation organization founded in 1985 by residents of the Blue Hill Peninsula. The staff and



members work tirelessly to conserve the pristine natural landscape of the area. Together, these two groups serve to keep the history and natural beauty of Blue Hill alive and well.

The residents of Parker Ridge enjoy Blue Hill's wealth of recreational and cultural opportunities. They also enjoy being a part of the greater Blue Hill community--a community with a

rich history and majestic surroundings. With so many engaging opportunities for residents to enjoy throughout the year, Parker Ridge and Blue Hill really are the ideal combination for retirement living. For more details about this community, please call Marilyn Phinney at 207.374.2306 or visit them online at www.ParkerRidge.com. You can also find them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RetireAtParkerRidge](https://www.facebook.com/RetireAtParkerRidge). **MSM**