

Naturalists will love Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve

It's been called a naturalist's dream. Home to more than 30 species of rare plants, limestone that's rich in a variety of fossils, and several marine caves and geological formations, it's little wonder that the Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve is a preferred destination for people interested in nature.

Burnt Cape is an elevated coastal site located on the northwest side of Ha Ha Bay, near Raleigh at the northern tip of the Northern Peninsula. It's a peninsula which measures some four km and one km wide, separated from the mainland by a narrow strip of land.

The area has been considered an important botanical site since the early 1900s, when M.L. Fernald, a well-known botanist from Harvard University, visited the limestone peninsula.

Only in recent years, however, have steps been taken to preserve the area.

Several groups and individuals, including the Raleigh Town Council, were successful earlier this year in having the

Visitors will be impressed by the unique land formations, rare plants, and fossilized limestone at the Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve near Raleigh.

(Photos courtesy of the Town of Raleigh)



area declared an ecological reserve. Sections of the cape which had been disturbed by quarrying operations have been rehabilitated.

One of the most important reasons for setting aside the area as a reserve was the occurrence of many species of rare plants. It's the only known location in the world for the Burnt Cape Cinquefoil and the only known Newfoundland location for two other species, the Dwarf Hawksbeard and the Arctic Lesser Dandelion.

Also significant are the fascinating land features on the cape, including a marine cave known as the 'Big Oven', and a series of small, rounded holes in the limestone known as the 'Cannon Holes'.

Be sure to take advantage of the daily tours offered by interpreter-guides.

Information is available at the Raleigh Town Council building, or at Pistolet

Bay Provincial Park, located a short distance from the town.

Burnt Cape is also an ideal area from which to view icebergs and whales.

