

Beaches Conference 2017  
July 14, 2017

Workshop Notes from Mapping your own love of place: making personal maps of coastlines and beaches with Molly Holmberg Brown from MollyMaps  
Notes and Drawings by Alyson Eberhardt

Often when looking at maps, I view them through an analytical lens: to inform a research or restoration project or to figure out how to get from one point to another. The MollyMaps workshop provided an incredible opportunity to examine place from a different perspective – through the lens of art and emotion. Molly first directed us to think about a meaningful place, to filter out a lot of the details, and to focus on what about that place we are most connected to. For some that was a building, or a person, or a meander in a river; for me it was trying to envision what an area of Seabrook, NH looked over 100 years ago. We were then instructed to zoom into a small area of our place for the creation of our 'mapette.' With a quick art tutorial, and a map by our side, Molly stepped us through the process of first creating a line drawing, and then bringing it to life with watercolors. Molly played a vital role as coach as we navigated the slight discomfort of letting go of the specifics of the landform and focusing more on representing what makes this place meaningful. It was a fascinating – and fun – experience to think about our connections to place! For those that missed this opportunity and want to give it a try, you can find more about MollyMaps workshops [here](#).



Final Mapette



Line Drawing with water added