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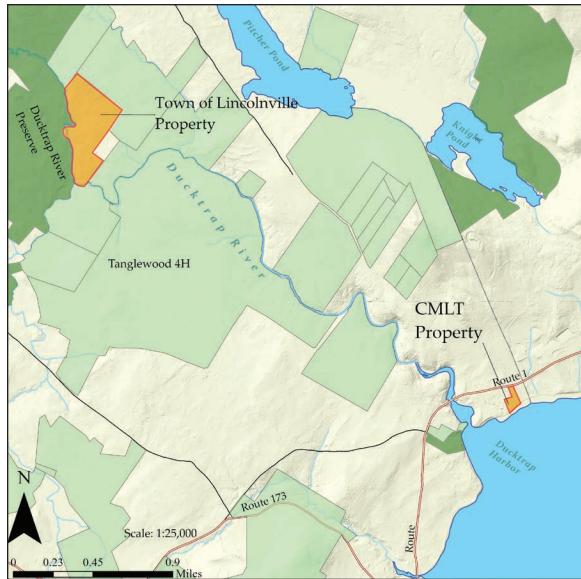
Public access and river conservation: a win-win proposal with Lincolnville

Land exchange of oceanfront park and land along the Ducktrap River

In cooperation with the Town of Lincolnville, Coastal Mountains Land Trust is excited by the opportunity to achieve two important conservation outcomes through a unique land exchange. Following a vote of unanimous support by the Lincolnville Board of Selectmen in March, the proposal has now moved forward for a vote at Lincolnville's Town Meeting in July. The Land Trust is hopeful that local residents will approve this exciting land exchange.

If approved, Lincolnville will receive a 4-acre oceanfront property with salt water frontage. There are picnic areas, a volleyball court, parking, and steps to a scenic stone beach (see back photo). The Land Trust would accept a 69-acre property along the Ducktrap River surrounded by conservation land. The parcel has high value as wildlife habitat including spawning grounds for Atlantic Salmon.

This unique win-win is the result of many years of cooperation between the Land Trust and the Town of Lincolnville. We have worked together on several occasions to permanently protect land along this ecologically important river. Thus, when the owners offered to donate their oceanfront parcel to the Land Trust, we immediately reached out to the Town to see how we might work together for the benefit of people and fish by creating a new oceanfront town park and extending conservation on the Ducktrap River.

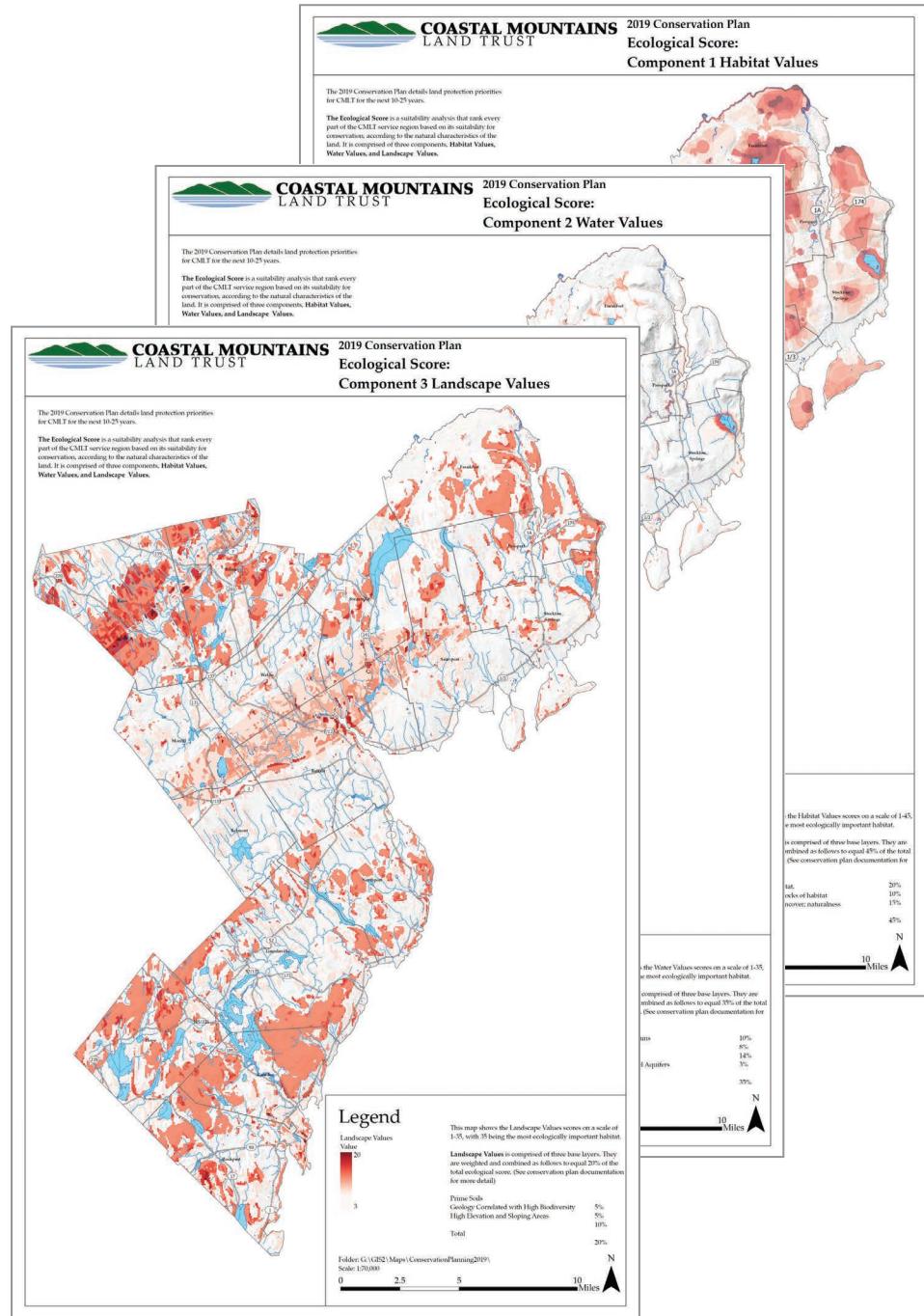


Applying data to map the future of local conservation

Conserving land requires a long-term vision and patient persistence. Shortly after its founding, this Land Trust adopted a strategic conservation approach and began the slow work of protecting land in priority conservation areas, called ‘focus areas’. As members may remember, early focus areas included the Ducktrap River, Bald & Ragged Mountains, and the Passagassawakeag Greenway. And, once identified, these important areas remain permanently on our conservation radar (see cover).

This spring, the Land Trust is excited to have completed work on an updated conservation plan outlining the organization's vision for the next 25 years. Beginning in late 2018, we initiated a collaborative process with board, staff, members, and community leaders who were asked to answer the questions: what are the most important areas in our service region for conservation and why? There are many unique value scores and each has unique merit. This plan however, asks further questions, beyond ecology: what are the local community priorities and values that should also be incorporated into the plan? Potential trail corridors, natural areas near schools, and water access points whose conservation would provide a community benefit have all been highlighted.

By determining the values of land that most need to be conserved, such as rivers, mountain tops, scenic forests, and rare animal habitat, a series of maps were created that displayed these features using publicly available scientific data from the State of Maine, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy. Ultimately, there were ten maps, each identifying a unique or specific natural value including lake shores, undeveloped land, and significant wildlife habitats.



Using a tool called a suitability analysis, these scored maps were then stacked on top of each other, so that areas with multiple important natural features became increasingly highlighted. Areas of potential focus are the darkest, indicating multiple conservation values. Having this updated and revised conservation plan provides the Land Trust Board of Directors with the right tool for identifying future project and campaign priorities.

Adjusting for a safe summer outdoors



Summer at the Land Trust will look and feel different this year. We are sad to announce that most of the great groups and performers who were eager to entertain as part of Arts on the Hill 2020 at Beech Hill Preserve are cancelled. We will monitor the State's guidelines and announce changes as conditions allow. Beech Nut will be open for a reduced schedule of Open Houses. Watch for the "The Hut is Open" flag at the main gates! We hope to offer a range of blueberry activities in August.

One event we are excited to offer for the second year is Coastal Mountains Trails Challenge, #FindYourTrail in July and August. With a goal of 15,000 miles, we hope you will get out frequently, enjoy the preserves, hike the trails, and then log your miles on our website and share your experience with us on Facebook or Instagram. We love to see what you see outdoors. Download the *Take a Hike* map (on our website) for quick access to all trails in the Midcoast area.

Be sure to follow our social media and sign up for eNews to learn about events as plans emerge. Thanks for your patience.



FY 2019–2020 Year in Review

LAND PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS: MOUNTAIN, LAKE, OCEAN

Last fiscal year the Land Trust conserved 626 acres of land including the summit of Mt Tuck, the entirety of Grassy Pond, and rocky frontage along Rockport Harbor. On Mt. Tuck in Stockton Springs, the Land Trust acquired 99 acres and continues to look forward to additional conservation that will expand this important area which offers views over Penobscot Bay.



STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHT: ROUND THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL CONSTRUCTION



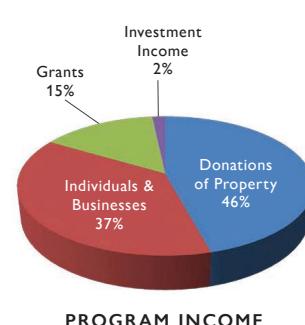
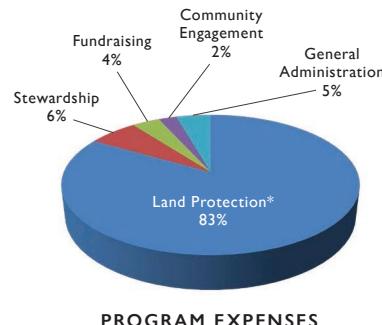
Construction of the first three miles of the Round the Mountain Trail dominated the work of our stewardship department last year. Working with OBP Trailworks to begin construction of the largest trail project in the organization's history, we learned a tremendous amount along the way. Stewardship volunteer work crews meet and work weekly all year long throughout our preserve system maintaining trails, marking boundaries, and managing invasive plants. And there are 50+ preserve, easement, and trail monitors who provide their annual report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS: PICKING BERRIES AND DANCING TOGETHER

Of the 45 events we hosted last summer, a crowd favorite was the Kids Farm Tour. Enthusiastic hands learned how to rake berries — or just pick and eat them — then watched our winnower in action. Another event for children also results in sticky hands... Kites & Ice Cream! Plus, the Beech Hill Hut was open with docents at least 40 times through the summer and fall. The Arts on the Hill summer performance series is growing, with audience numbers regularly 100+. Incredibly, no events were rained out!

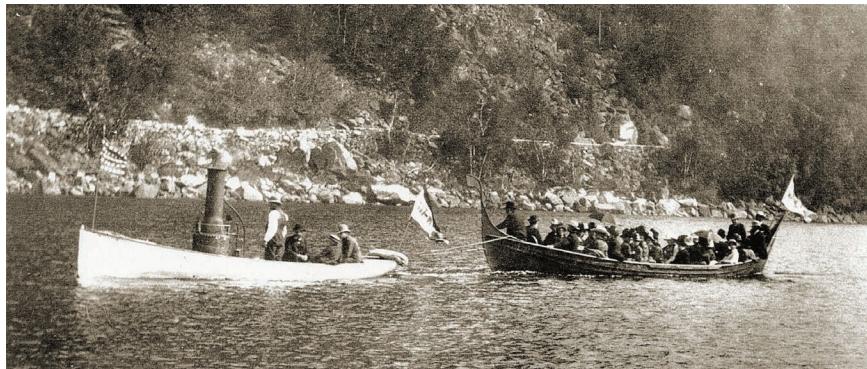


FY 2019–2020 FINANCIAL REPORT



* Land Protection: this number represents the combined cost of land acquisition and the assessment of 'land impairment,' which is the value of the permanent conservation restrictions placed on the land.

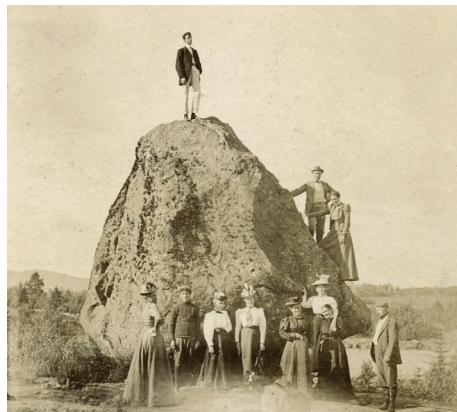
Voted most popular recreation destination since the 1800s: Fernald's Neck



The popularity of Fernald's Neck Preserve is clearly not a new phenomenon. These amazing vintage images of an excursion 'ferry' that brought folks around Megunticook Lake, show the group gathered for a photo (as groups still do!) at Balance Rock — notice the total absence of trees!

In June 27, 1890, the *Camden Herald* ran an ad for an "Excursion on the Lake" posted by F.L. Start: "I have purchased...the steamer *Tit-Willow* and barge *Mikado* and leased the Lake City Picnic Grounds...[for] hourly excursions on the lake... With parties of twenty or more the price will be ten cents each...I shall make every endeavor to please the public and merit a liberal patronage from all respectable people."

Both of these images are of groups that visited in 1899 or 1900 and are part of the Gookin Family Collection at the Walsh History Center, Camden Public Library.



The trail is under construction. Crews began in June and will work through the fall.

Please respect all 'Area Closed' signs during construction. With COVID-19, we need to provide our construction crews space to work safely.



TRAIL UPDATE

Graduating seniors get outside and share their stories

Outdoor Literature is a new senior elective course at Camden Hills Regional High School. Teacher Michael Kinney, who has also taught Latin for nine years, is a registered Maine Guide and spent five years working at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps in Baxter State Park. The course creates a student-centered approach for those who love the natural world to meet graduation requirements.

Says Kinney, "the COVID-19 situation has been challenging from the perspective of a teacher... I think these kids are much more aware of and appreciative of nature than they were earlier in the year before the stay at home order." All the student's work will be on our website, look under the tab Stories. Here are excerpts from their work:

These past few months...I've come to appreciate simpler land use. Before, I... needed to be "doing" something to appreciate nature, but now after a sort of reset, I can just walk or sit and enjoy nature. I have just been walking on Beech Hill, Harkness Preserve, and went biking and hiking on Ragged Mountain.

—Chris S.

Even though my learning has been switched to online, my screen time has gone down drastically because when I'm not doing my school work I'm walking my dogs, hiking, going to the lake or beach, or running. I'm outside all day and I notice that I am happier than I have been in a long time.

—Abigail N.

In previous years I definitely have not been as outdoorsy as I have been this year. I think a major thing is that I have a lot more time in my day... Now that we aren't at school, schedules are more flexible... This has made it so that I have really been trying new things and exploring new places so that I can be able to see my friends.

—Suzannah R.

Bedrock

From the Board President



A geology major in college, I am fascinated by the ground beneath my feet. The smashing together of the earth's tectonic plates over 400 million years ago created the rocks and topography — the bedrock — which support our coastal mountains and landscape today. And the more we understand how bedrock and geology shape the ecosystems around us — the forests, wetlands, mountains upon which all plant and animal life depend — the more I am grateful for the Land Trust's conservation vision. Eons of bedrock put current events in a different perspective.

I admire how the Land Trust takes the long view for protecting land in our community. While geology influences ecosystems, it is land that shapes community. We are all deeply defined by the rocky coast of Penobscot Bay, the quiet freshwater lakes, and our hill's bald summits. It gives me solace to be

part of a team that works on projects that will provide access to wild places long after the current crisis. And, it makes me happy to know that people can take advantage of the trails and preserves to stay healthy, mentally as well as physically.

Coastal Mountains Land Trust has its own bedrock supporting it — our volunteers, our board, our staff, and mostly importantly you — our members. While a 35-year history can't compete with ancient mountains, we can respect their history with thoughtful stewardship and land care practices. In these difficult times, let's keep our feet on the bedrock together.

Judy

Judy Wallingford

Stimulus Package / CARES Act encourages support of nonprofits

Individual donors who are the lifeblood of non-profits will be able to claim their donations this year without complicated tax forms. Quite simply, if you *do not* itemize, you can claim up to \$300 of your gifts to charity this year.

In March, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed Congress, providing a \$2 trillion economic stimulus package. Within it were specific elements significantly benefiting nonprofits. The inclusion of a charitable giving incentive is acknowledgement by Congress that

nonprofits deliver essential services. This is the first time Congress has passed these types of giving incentives in response to disaster or national emergency.

Also, if you are older than 70½, you are aware of the required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA. Donors are able to direct their RMD to a registered charity, reducing their taxable income. This year, the RMD is NOT required. You can reinvest in yourself if you choose. Be sure to learn more about how making a donation may benefit you this year.





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NEWCASTLE, MAINE

Can you bottle the taste of Coastal Mountains? Yes, you can!

Long-time supporter and Scotland native, Andrew Stewart, opened The Drouthy (Gaelic for thirsty) Bear Pub in Camden. That is where Jeremy Howard, a seventh-generation blueberry farmer, was talking with him about the challenges in Maine's blueberry industry. Two years later, Andrew and Jeremy opened Blue Barren Distillery on the Camden waterfront. In the spring of 2018, they released Barren's Blueberry Eau de Vie after fermenting 16 tons of locally grown, wild Maine blueberries which, with their Harbor Gin, won silver medals at the prestigious 2019 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

Imagine our excitement when discussions began about how to present a gin infused with the essence of conserved coastal mountains? We are proud of the spirit they created in our honor and a portion of the proceeds from each bottle will support our Land Trust. We will share details on how to purchase a bottle as we know more.



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Swanville, Brooks, Knox, Searsport,
Stockton Springs, and Prospect

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