



PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: February 13, 2024
Comment Period Ends: March 14, 2024
File Number: NAE-2005-01143
In Reply Refer to: Mr. Taylor Bell
Phone: (978) 318-8952
Email: Taylor.m.bell@usace.army.mil

SUBJECT:

This notice announces a request to modify the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program Instrument for the addition of nineteen individual projects. These projects were placed on Public Notice in one of the following years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

ILF PROGRAM SPONSOR:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
28 Tyson Drive
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

BACKGROUND:

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is the sponsor of the Maine ILF Program which serves as an alternative form of compensatory mitigation for impacts to aquatic resources. The Maine ILF program is authorized by the New England District, Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A copy of the signed ILF agreement titled "State of Maine-In Lieu Fee Program Instrument," dated "August 2011," includes details about the ILF Program goals and objectives in general and can be found at the following link: [New England District > Missions > Regulatory > Mitigation > In-Lieu Fee Programs > ME \(army.mil\)](#)

Maine Department of Environmental Protection submitted nineteen projects as proposed additions to the ILF Instrument pursuant to 33 CFR 332, Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources (Federal Register: April 10, 2008, effective June 9, 2008). Pursuant to 33 CFR 332.8(d), the District Engineer will provide public notice of the proposed addition of ILF program mitigation sites.

The Maine ILF Program accrued funds from the sale of compensatory mitigation credits resulting from USACE and Maine Department of Environmental Service-permitted impacts in the State of Maine. The funds were made available through a competitive grant process for the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of wetland and watercourse resources with associated upland buffers in the State of Maine.

PURPOSE

USACE previously published Public Notices regarding these same nineteen Individual projects between 2019 and 2021. USACE provided an Initial Evaluation Letter determining that in accordance with 33 CFR 332.8(d)(5) that these projects had the potential to provide compensatory mitigation for activities authorized by Department of Army permits. These projects were later administratively withdrawn due to the time lapse between USACE's initial approval and the sponsor's submittal of a draft or complete modification.

At this time, USACE is providing a Public Notice in accordance with the procedures in 33 CFR 332.8(d). The USACE will provide an Initial Evaluation Letter to the sponsor within 30 days of the end of the public comment period.

After the comment period, the district engineer will review all comments and make a determination on the potential of the proposed projects to continue to provide compensatory mitigation for activities authorized by DA permits. That determination will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposals, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors potentially relevant to the proposals will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

An ILF program involves the restoration, establishment, re-establishment, enhancement, rehabilitation, and/or preservation of aquatic resources through funds paid to a governmental or non-profit natural resources management entity to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements for Department of the Army permits. Similar to a mitigation bank, an ILF program sells compensatory mitigation credits to permittees whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the ILF program sponsor. The operation and use of an ILF program are governed by an ILF program instrument.

A group of federal and state regulatory and resource agency representatives known as the Interagency Review Team (IRT) oversees the establishment and management of the program. The IRT is chaired by the USACE and the primary role of the IRT is to facilitate the establishment of the ILF program through the development of an ILF Instrument. The IRT also reviews ILF mitigation proposals and provides comments to USACE. Ultimately, USACE approves the use of the ILF program for specific projects pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The USACE provides no guarantee that any individual or general permit proposing to use the ILF program for compensatory mitigation would be authorized.

CENAE-R
File No. NAE-2005-01143

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Draft mitigation plans are available on RIBITS at the following link:
https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:100:10138939747531:::RP:P100_PROGRAM_ID:261 Go to the project and select cyber repository to get to the project.

2019:

NAE-2024-00304 (2019 - CIM - Caribou Bog Central - Old Town ME Walden Parke)
NAE-2024-00309 (2019 - SM - Pump Box Brook - 3RLT - York County – Maine)
NAE-2024-00307 (2019 - SM - Kennebunk Plains-Fenderson Connector - Wells, ME)
NAE-2024-00308 (2019 - SM - Norton Brook to Mill Creek Conservation Corridor Phase I - Falmouth, ME)
NAE-2024-00306 (2019 - SM - Old Boston Farm - Ogunquit, ME)
NAE-2024-00310 (2019 - SM - Deering-Northwest River - Sebago, ME)
NAE-2024-00305 (2019 - CIM - Walden-Parke Preserve Addition - Bangor, ME)

2020:

NAE-2020-03002 (2020 - CIM - Littlefield Woods - CCLT - Chebeague Island, ME)
NAE-2020-03004 (2020 - SM - Charles Pond - GLLT - Fryeburg, ME)
NAE-2020-03005 (2020 - SM - Deering Watershed Wetlands - TRLT - Sanford, ME)
NAE-2020-03006 (2020 - SM - Hoopers Brook - GWRLT - South Berwick, ME)

2021:

NAE-2021-03139 (2021 - CIM - Half Moon Pond - Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust - Bristol, ME)
NAE-2021-03141 (2021 - CIM - Beaver Pond - KELT - Westport Island, ME)
NAE-2021-03143 (2021 - CIM - Oyster River Bog - Georges River Land Trust - Rockland, ME)
NAE-2021-03142 (2021 – CIM – Maquoit Bay Eckert – Brunswick Topsham Land Trust – Brunswick, ME)
NAE-2021-03144 (2021 - CIM - Passagassawakeag Headwaters - Coastal Mountains Land Trust - Knox, ME)
NAE-2021-03147 (2021 - CIM - Walden Parke Preserve 2 - Bangor Land Trust - Bangor, ME)
NAE-2021-03148 (2021 - SM - Cox's Pond Wetlands - Great Works Regional Land Trust - South Berwick, ME)
NAE-2021-03152 (2021 - SM - Norton Heirs - York Land Trusts - York, York County, ME)

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). EFH describes waters and substrate necessary for fish to spawn, breed, feed, or grow to maturity.

The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that site-specific adverse effects will not be substantial, if there is any impact at all. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on our initial review, the proposed activity would not affect historic properties. Additional review and consultation to fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the review process.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The USACE is reviewing the applications for the potential impact on Federally listed threatened or endangered species and their designated critical habitat pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. Our review will be concluded prior to the final decision.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

The states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable, the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this public notice, we are requesting the state concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, license or assent from State.
- (X) Permit from local wetland agency or conservation commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act

COMMENTS

The USACE is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Native Tribes, and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit if needed for these proposals. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and to determine the need for a public hearing and gauge the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

CENAE-R
File No. NAE-2005-01143

All comments received will be available for public review in their entirety and will be considered a matter of public record. In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Taylor Bell at taylor.m.bell@usace.army.mil, (978) 318-8952, (800) 343-4789, or (800) 362-4367.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the modification. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. The USACE holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant. Typically, the USACE will request that the applicant contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Stephen V. Rochette
Chief, Technical Support Branch
Regulatory Division

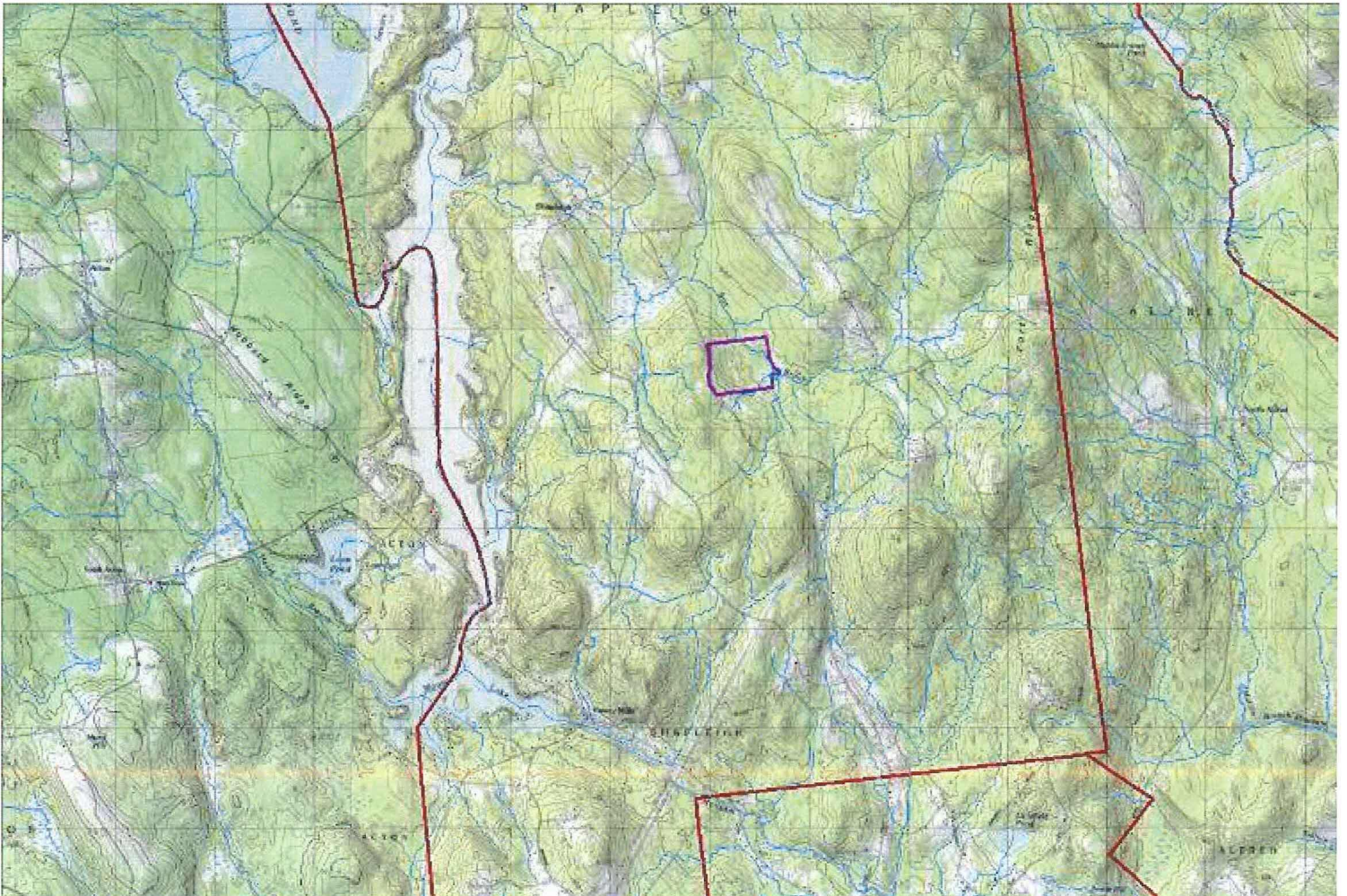
Please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil or (978) 318-8058 if you would like to be removed from our public notice mailing list.

Project: Pump Box Brook I - Coley Trafton

Location: Shapleigh, Maine

Sponsor: Three Rivers Land Trust

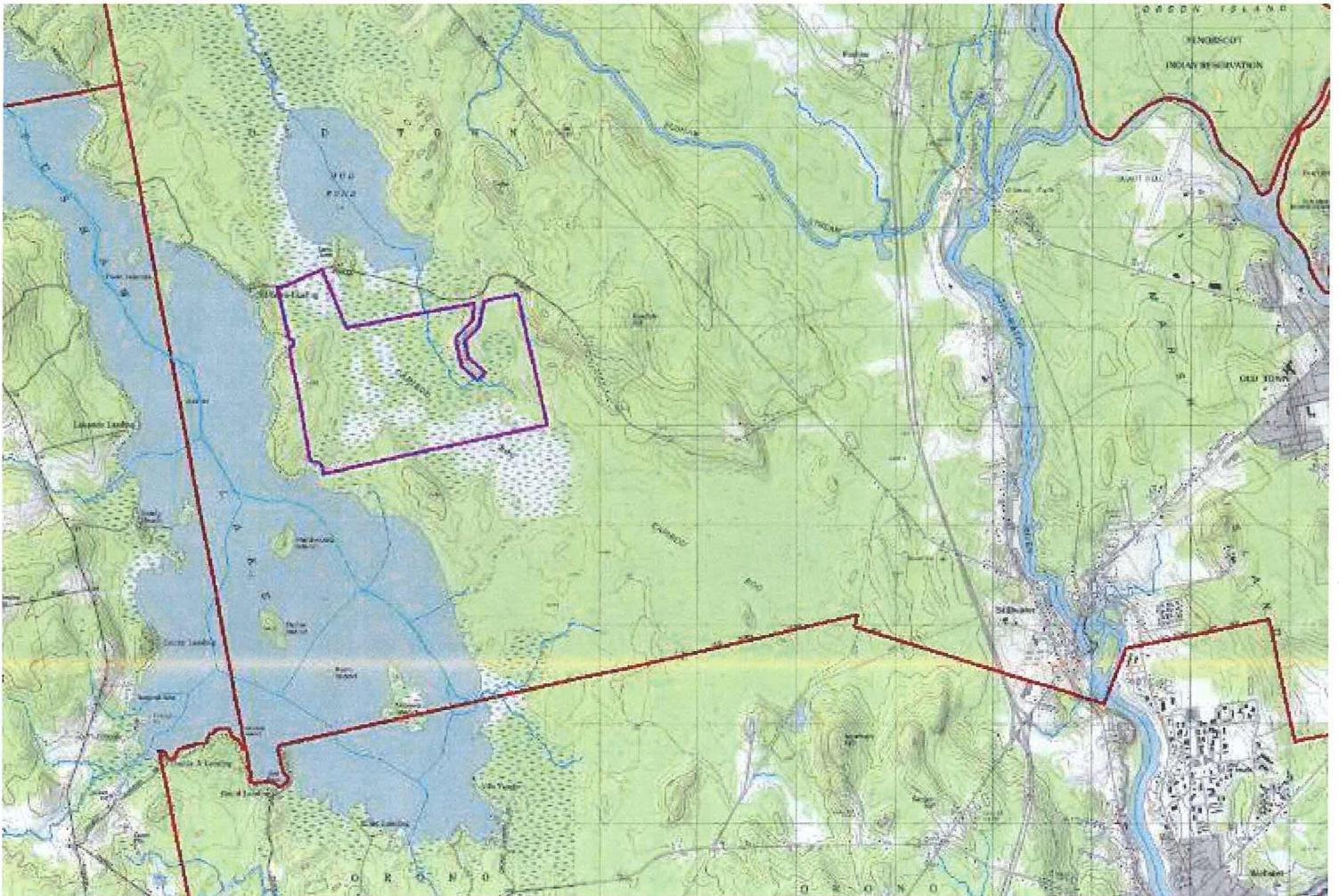
Three Rivers Land Trust proposes to use MNRCP funds to protect the Coley Trafton property, a 78-acre forested property along a discontinued part of the Coley Trafton Rd. It protects 1,270' of Pump Box Brook, and 660' of one of the Brook's tributaries. There is a great blue heron rookery located within an emergent freshwater marsh, and wetlands along the edges of the Brook. The property is within the Mousam River Watershed, and Pump Box Brook feeds to that water body. The Coley Trafton property is in part a former farm, with evidence of field management in the uplands, and one old road. The forests adjacent to the brook are seasonally wet in areas and seem to have potential as vernal pool habitat. One potential vernal pool was identified this fall. Spotted salamander egg masses were noted in a slow-water area of the brook's wetlands during a visit on 4/27/19. Beaver activity and well-formed rookery nests were also observed at that visit. Although the property was cut heavily about 30 years ago by the previous owner (described by the current owner as a clearcut), there are no known opportunities for restoration. There are two main resource priorities in this acquisition: protection of the extensive wetland area mapped and functioning as Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, and protection of the Pump Box Brook watershed, which serves as critical water quality buffer for Mousam Lake.



Central Interior & Midcoast Region

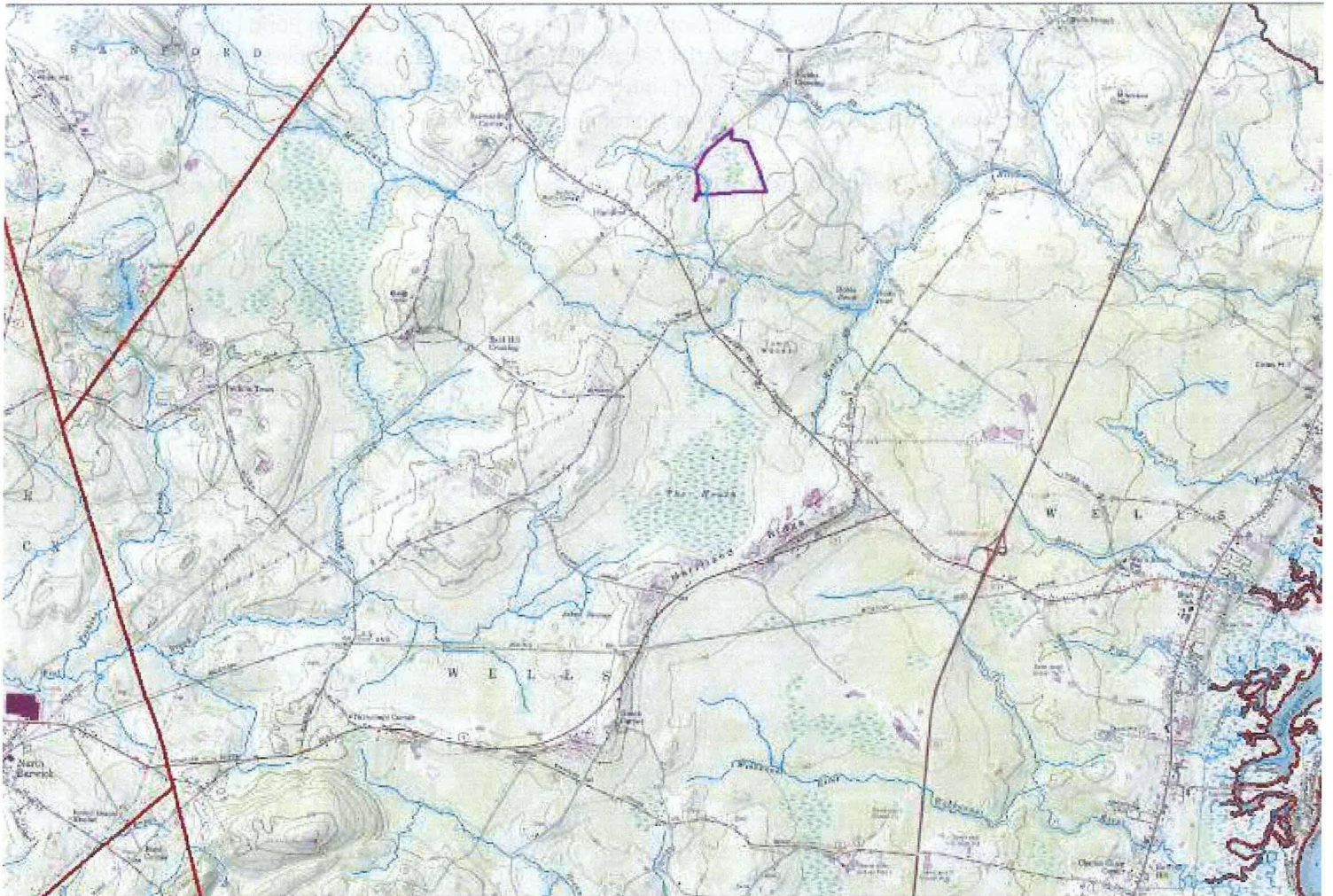
Project: Caribou Bog Central
Location: Old Town, Maine
Sponsor: Orono Land Trust

Caribou Bog Central is an 882-acre parcel located centrally in the north-south oriented Caribou Bog Wetland Complex (CBWC), which extends about 10 miles from Bangor to Alton and covers almost 6,000 acres. The Project Parcel is 83.5% wetlands (736 acres), so constitutes about 12% of the CBWC. The CBWC was ranked the third most important peatland to protect in the State of Maine by Davis and Anderson (1999) in terms of its rarity, its exemplariness, and its diversity; and it is the only one of the top three peatlands not fully protected. The Corridor Project (a joint venture of Orono and Bangor Land Trusts) has been working since 2001 to conserve land in an 18,000-acre focus area that includes all of the CBWC. So far the Land Trusts have protected about 6,000 acres, of which 5,000 acres are either within the CBWC itself (3,000 acres) or its adjacent upland buffer (2,000 acres). The Project Parcel is the only remaining major parcel of the CBWC not yet conserved, and its acquisition and conservation would nearly complete conservation of the entire CBWC. The parcel contains two vernal pools on an 86-acre upland portion of the Project Parcel, as well as a major spotted salamander breeding and summering habitat immediately adjacent to this upland in the lagg area of the CBWC and an adjacent older-growth coniferous forest wetland. This 86-acre upland lies just east of an intensely developed section along Pushaw Lake, and could be developed for additional housing if it is not conserved.



Project: Kennebunk Plains-Fenderson Connector
Location: Wells, Maine
Sponsor: Town of Wells Conservation Commission

The Town of Wells proposes to protect 77 acres of forested uplands and wetlands and remove a barrier to brook trout passage. The project is located near the Kennebunk Plains/Wells Barrens Beginning with Habitat Focus Area and adjacent to additional town-owned conservation land. The parcel contains approximately 50 acres of forested wetlands, a stream, and a potential vernal pool. The Town of Wells well own the property and has stewardship funds dedicated in the Town budget for land management.

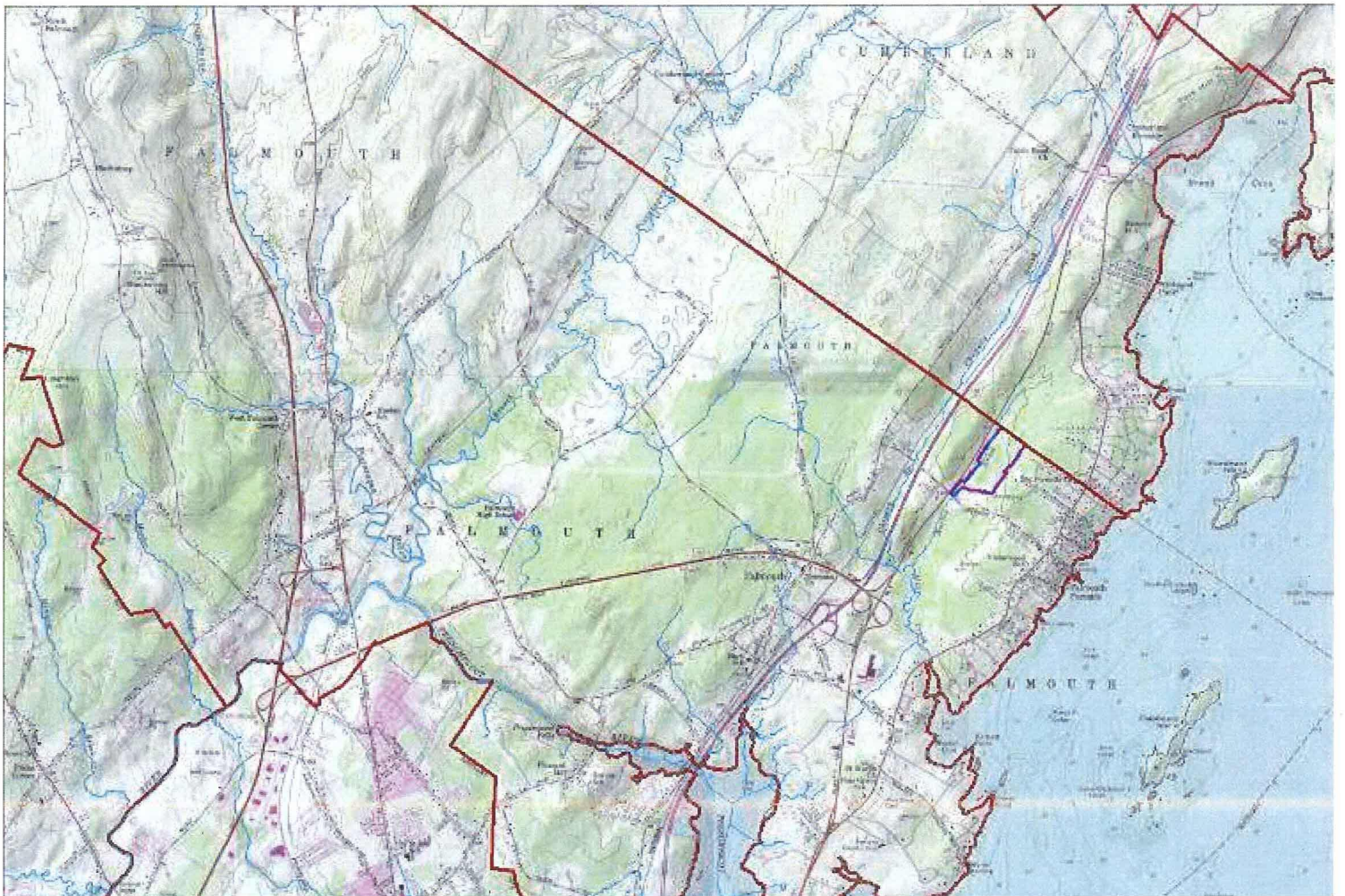


Project: Norton Brook to Mill Creek Conservation Corridor, Phase I

Location: Falmouth, Maine

Sponsor: Falmouth Land Trust

The Falmouth Land Trust seeks to protect this 52-acre property through a fee acquisition using MNRCP funds to leverage other funding. The 52-acre Hinks property has been on the market for several years and is currently listed at \$1.9 million as a development site for a business park or commercial use. The property is one of a handful of 50+ acre undeveloped blocks of land remaining in Falmouth and is located in the town's "Growth Area" where future development will intensify as the Rt. 1 corridor builds out. Properties of this size have been identified as a priority in the recently drafted Greening of Falmouth 2.0 plan which is the town's new open space plan. NWI maps indicate the site is approximately 98% wetland, however field surveys indicate that there is less wetland on the site. In addition, the property contains a riparian corridor on Norton Brook. Norton Brook is a tributary to Mill Creek which enters Casco Bay at Mussel Cove. The upland forest is part of a larger contiguous block of forest that has habitat for mammals including New England Cottontail (threatened species) as mapped on Rare and Threatened species map. A plant survey indicated the presence of variable sedge, identified by the Maine Natural Areas Program.

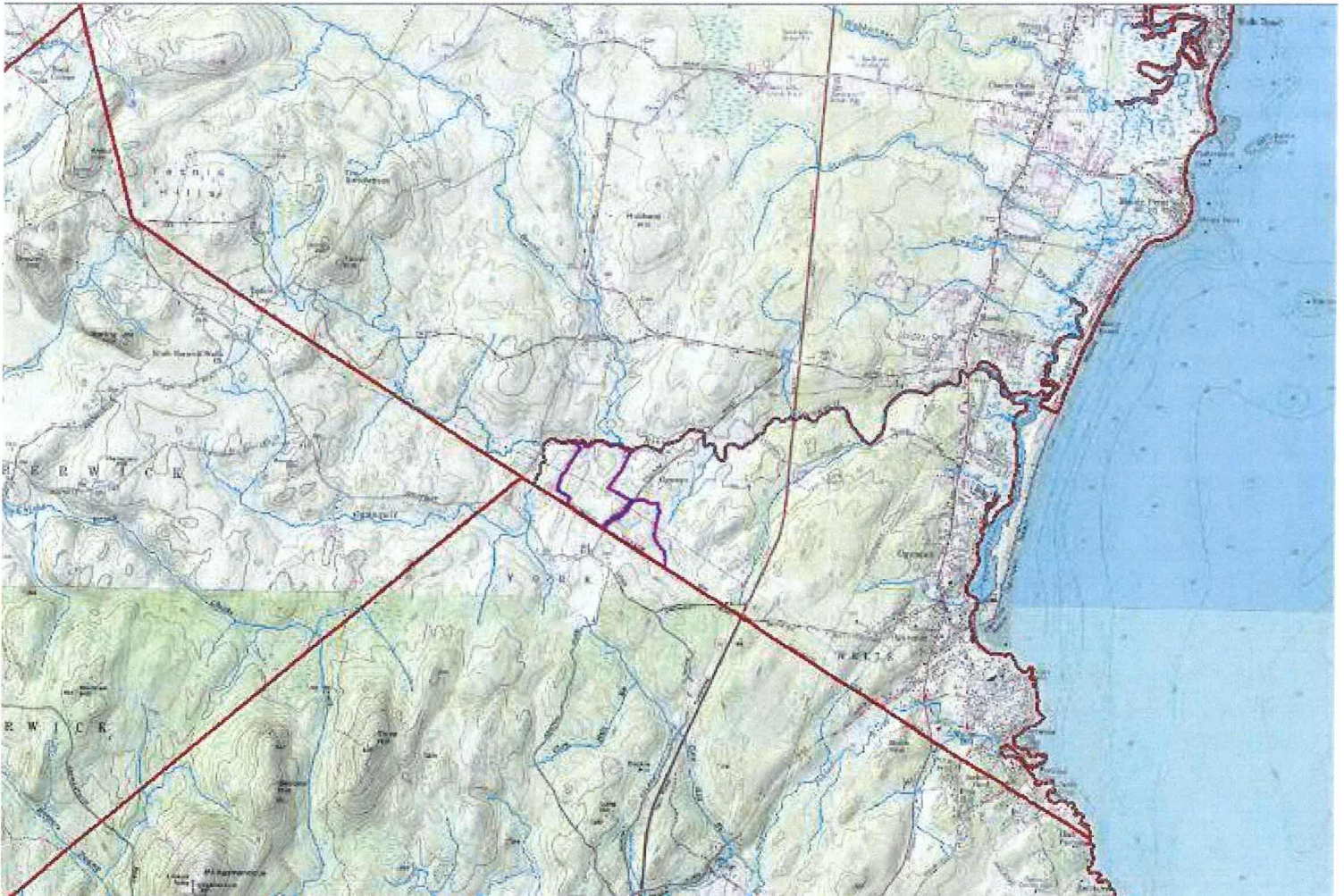


Project: Old Boston Farm

Location: Ogunquit, Maine

Sponsor: Great Works Regional Land Trust

Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) proposes fee simple purchase of 157 acres of natural lands with 2,050 feet of frontage on the Ogunquit River, forested and scrub shrub wetlands, and ponds, to be managed as a preserve by GWRLT. The 'Old Boston Farm' (now a woodland, not a farm) will be added to the suite of conservation lands owned and managed by GWRLT. The project contains approximately 35 acres of wetlands, rare plants, habitat for rare species, and 6 potential vernal pools. The project is located within the Mt. Agamenticus Beginning with Habitat Focus Area. This project lies about 6 miles from a project with major wetland impacts, the new Maine Turnpike Toll Plaza in York. The parcel is under high threat of development.

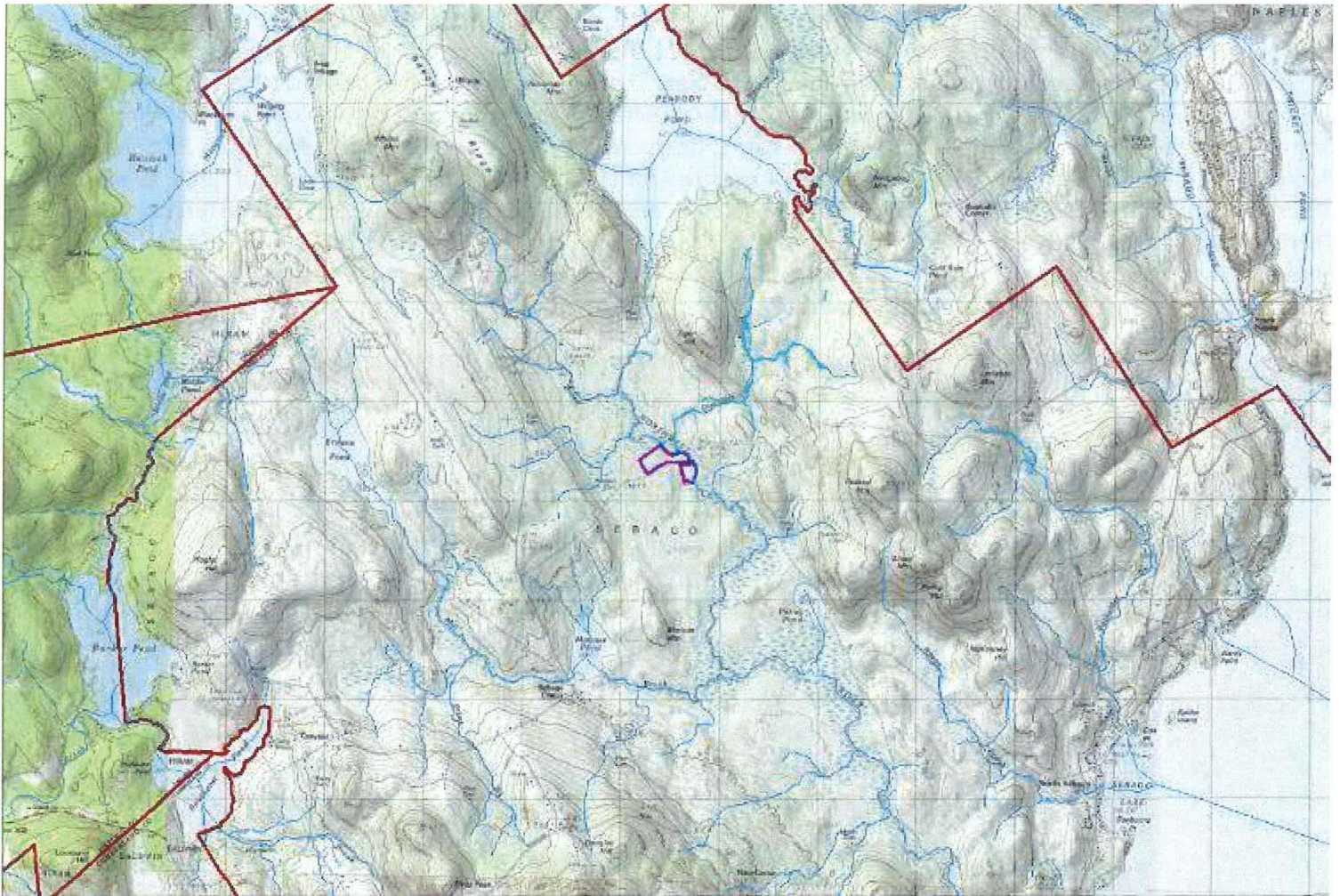


Project: Deering-Northwest River

Location: Sebago, Maine

Sponsor: Loon Echo Land Trust

Loon Echo Land Trust proposes to permanently protect wetland and upland forest habitat in a Beginning with Habitat Focus Area (Perley Pond Peatland). The project consists of fee acquisition of 2 parcels totaling approximately 22 acres along the Northwest River which includes a total of approximately 8.5 acres of freshwater wetlands. The parcels contain mapped Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, wild brook trout habitat, and is supported by the Town of Sebago and the Portland Water District.

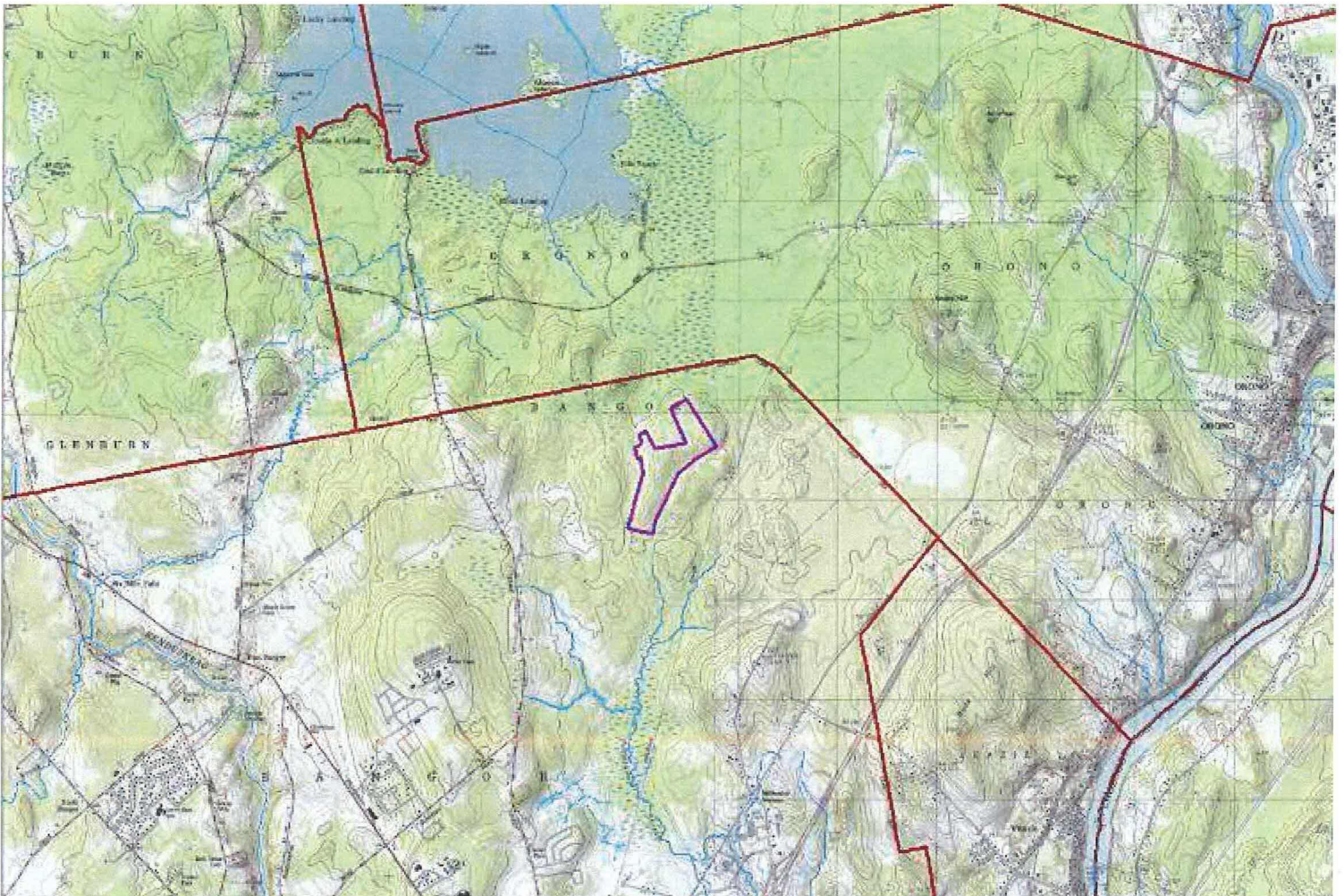


Project: Walden-Parke Preserve Addition

Location: Bangor, Maine

Sponsor: Bangor Land Trust

The Walden-Parke Preserve Addition (Project Parcel) is a 110-acre parcel mostly surrounded by land already owned by Bangor Land Trust (BLT) except for a housing development and land used for forestry to the northeast. An isolated vernal pool is in the northern part of the Project Parcel and an extensive vernal pool complex is in its eastern portion and in adjacent land owned by BLT. A beaver flowage is along its western boundary, mostly on land owned by BLT; a portion of this flowage has been recorded as a Wetland of Special Significance in an earlier wetland survey. The goal of this project is to acquire in fee this 110-acre parcel and conserve it in perpetuity for the benefit of wildlife and for its recreational trails. Wildlife benefits include amphibians using the vernal pools and birds and mammals using this land as a corridor between Penjajawoc Marsh to the south and the Caribou Bog Wetland Complex (CBWC) to the north. Both Penjajawoc Marsh and the CBWC are included in a Beginning with Habitat focus area report by the Maine Natural Area Program in 2001, with many special-concern species of birds, plants, and dragonflies. The Project Parcel lies in a relatively narrow isthmus of undeveloped land between Penjajawoc Marsh and the CBWC and helps to widen that isthmus and make it more welcoming for populations of wildlife to go between these two wetlands of statewide importance.



Project: Littlefield Woods

Location: Chebeague Island, Maine

Sponsor: Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust

Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust (CCLT) proposes to protect the 24-acre Littlefield Woods property through fee acquisition. Littlefield Woods is an important parcel to protect within Chebeague Island’s fragile island Ecosystem and is a beloved property that features popular and historic trails, extensive road frontage, important and functioning wetlands and wildlife habitat, and essential water source protection. One of the largest unprotected parcels on Chebeague Island, Littlefield Woods consists of approximately 24 acres on the Littlefield Road in the middle of the island. While the property is primarily upland, portions of the property are forested wetland with approximately 1.5 acres of scrub/shrub wetland as well as a roughly 4,000 square foot pond (believed to be dug out in the past). With CCLT’s purchase and permanent protection of Littlefield Woods, many of the property’s existing functions and values will be ensured far into the future. These include the parcel’s support for groundwater and aquifer recharge as well as the ability for it to provide wildlife habitat and recreational and educational value. A large wetland system located to the north of the property will greatly benefit from the permanent protection of Littlefield Woods because of the enduring upland buffer that will protect it.

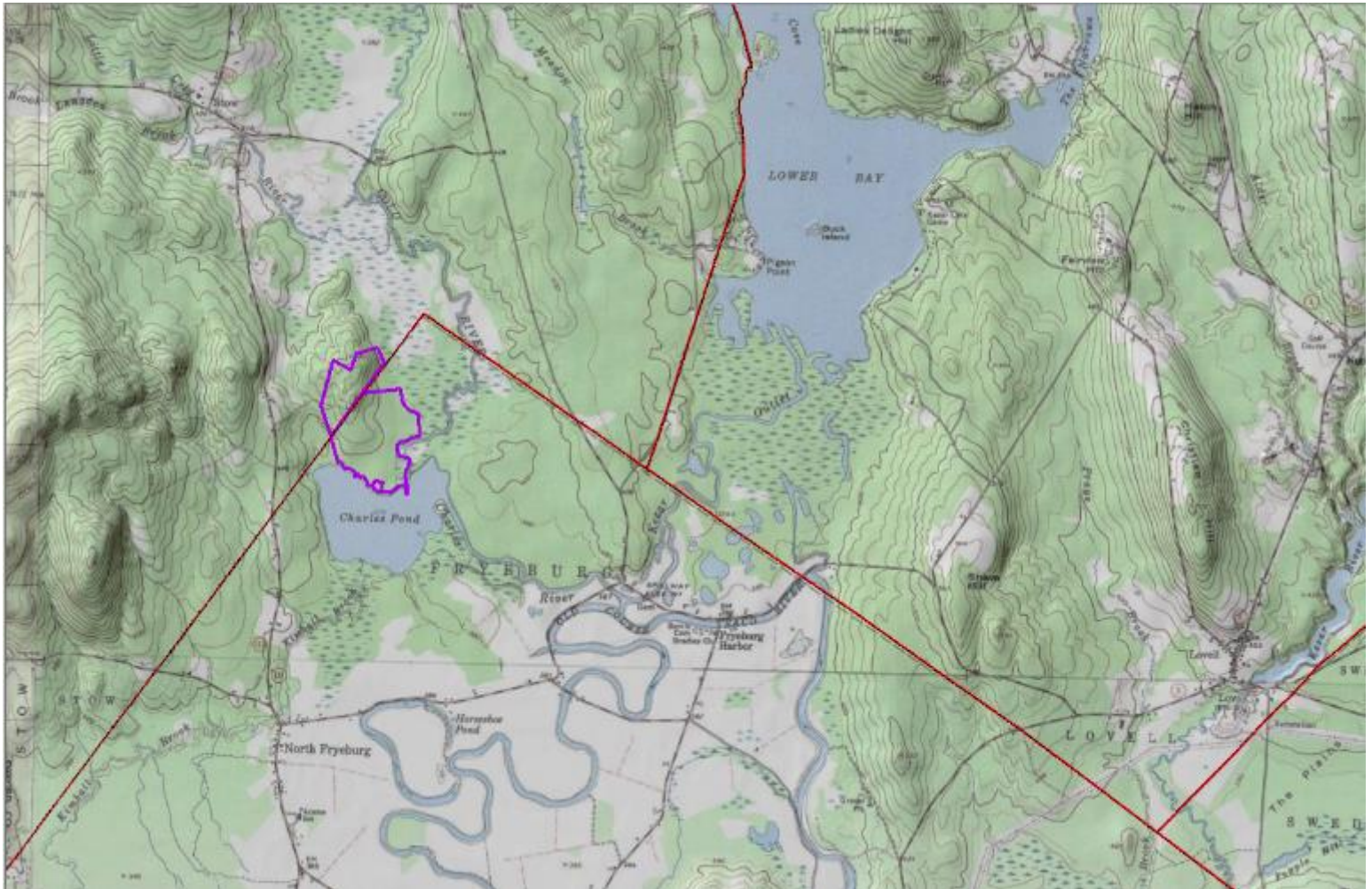


Project: Charles Pond

Location: Stow and Fryeburg, Maine

Sponsor: Greater Lovell Land Trust

Greater Lovell Land Trust (GLLT) proposes to purchase 107 acres on Charles Pond. The pond and Cold River watershed are identified as conservation focus areas by GLLT and neighboring Upper Saco Land Trust (USVLT). While just outside the geography of the Upper Saco River Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance, Charles Pond and the Cold River share many characteristics, contributing to the recognized diversity and ecological significance of the Upper Saco watershed. The acquisition is a strategic anchor for GLLT's future conservation in the Cold River watershed. Working with USVLT, GLLT will use the conservation of the Charles Pond property as leverage with other landowners for additional conservation in the Cold River watershed. The primary management objective is to maintain the site's significant natural resource values. The property has 93 upland acres and access via a right-of-way from Route 113. Specific project goals include: 1) Permanent protection of approximately 1,800 feet of Charles Pond shoreline and 1,500 feet of Cold River riparian corridor, as well as buffer for the associated wetlands within and north of the property; 2) Conservation of the Maine IFW-identified Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat, two Exemplary Natural Communities (Tall Sedge Fen and Silver Maple Floodplain Forest), and contribute toward maintaining the long-term health of the rivers Native Brook Trout Habitat; 3) Secured access to a popular setting for GLLT's, USVLT's and other organizations' environmental education programs and water-based recreation for town residents and visitors alike; and 4) Expanded opportunity for additional conservation in a watershed with two of GLLT's twelve focus areas.

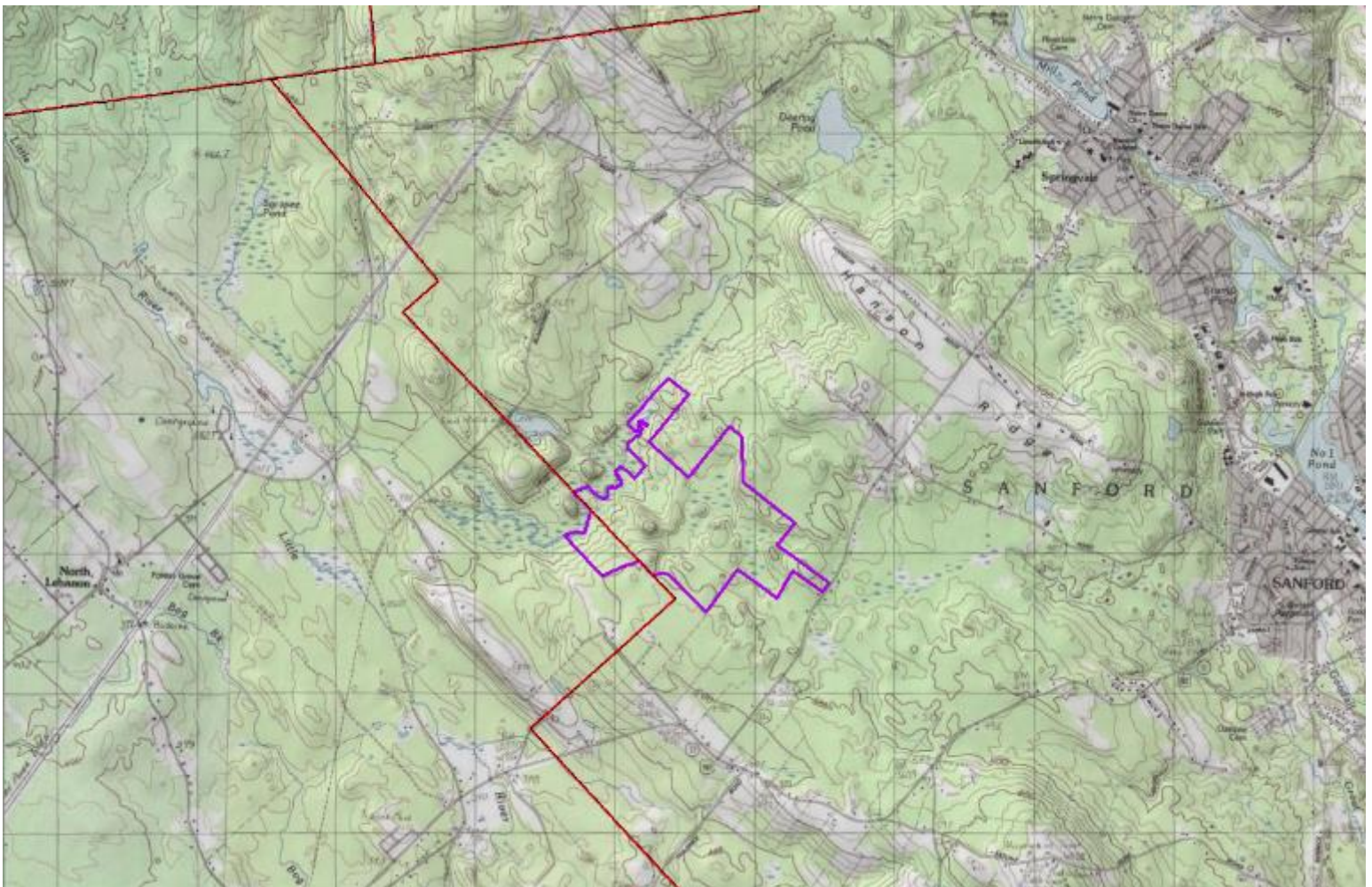


Project: Deering Watershed Wetlands

Location: Sanford, Maine

Sponsor: Three Rivers Land Trust

Three Rivers Land Trust proposes fee acquisition of approximately 320 acres of wetland and upland buffers associated with the Little River in Sanford, Maine. This would be part of a larger effort to conserve 550 contiguous acres owned by the same landowner and at high risk of development. Adjacent and nearby conserved lands further increase the impact of this project. The area proposed for MNRCP protection includes three opportunities for wetland enhancement, plus significant wetland protection by eliminating ATV access. The Project involves a series of open wetlands (one designated as Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat), and extensive forested wetlands that drain to the Little River, and are included in the larger Salmon Falls/Piscataqua River watershed. Along with the wetlands, significant upland buffer would be protected for long term stewardship with limited recreation access. The National Wetlands Inventory has mapped approximately 110 acres of wetlands on the proposed property, including open marshes, scrub-shrub wetlands, and forested wetlands. The proposed project would protect about 5,500 linear feet of shoreline along the Little River, and at least one potential vernal pool.

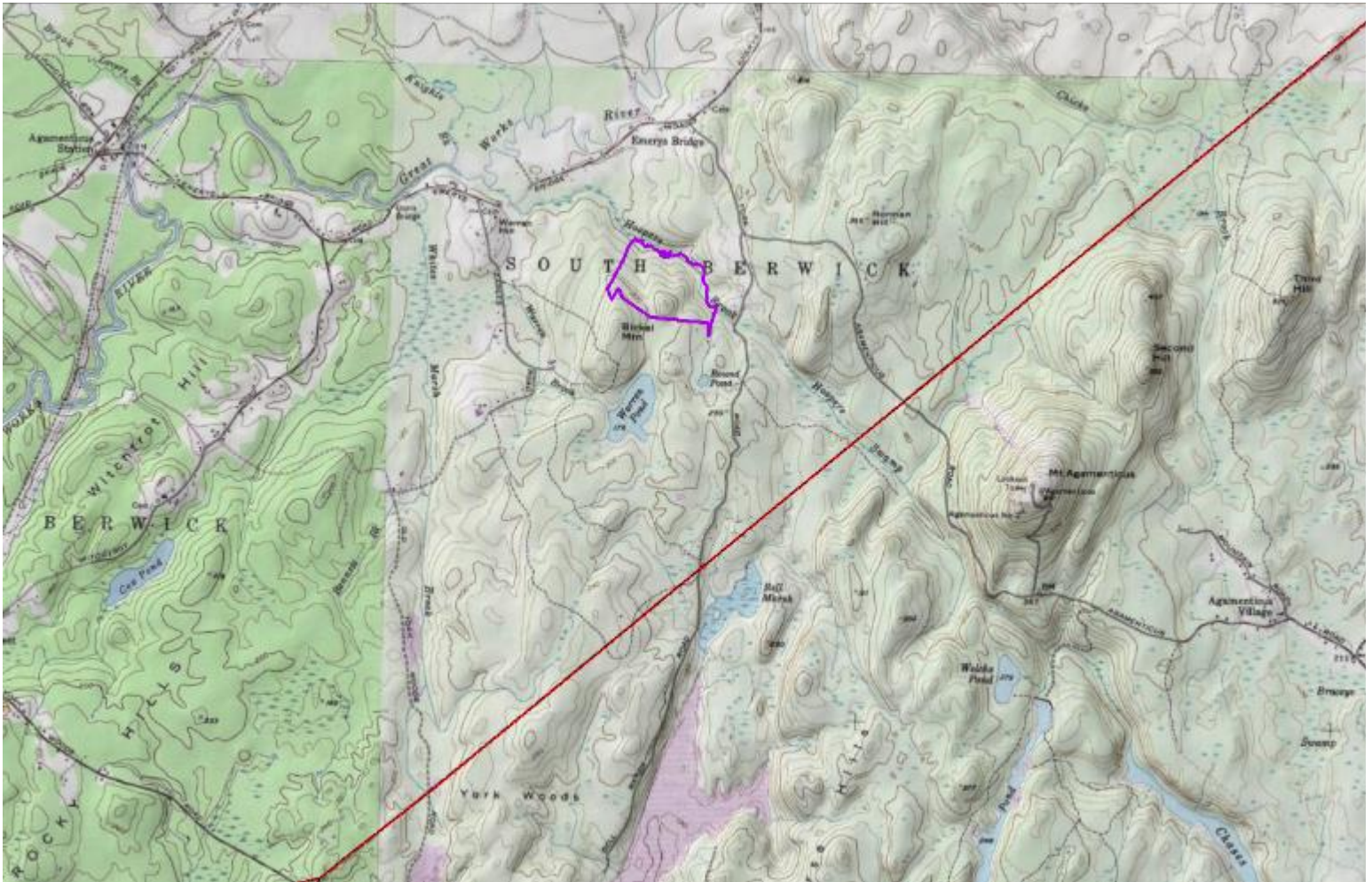


Project: Hoopers Brook

Location: South Berwick, Maine

Sponsor: Great Works Regional Land Trust

This project will acquire fee interest in 70 acres containing two vernal pools and 3,200 feet of frontage on Hoopers Brook with associated wetlands within the Beginning with Habitat Mt Agamenticus Focus Area. Hoopers Brook drains Hoopers Swamp and is a tributary to the Great Works River which joins with the Salmon Falls and Cocheco Rivers to form the Piscataqua River estuary. The parcel is within an Unfragmented Habitat Block of 3,788 forested acres. Most of the upper slopes are upland, reaching from Bickel Mountain and down to Hoopers Brook, where seepy slopes and gullies carry groundwater down to the brook. A second stream also flows down slope from Round Pond to Hoopers Brook. The property will be owned by the Great Works Regional Land Trust and be managed in a forever wild condition. Public access will be created using an existing logging road and the creation of walking trails.

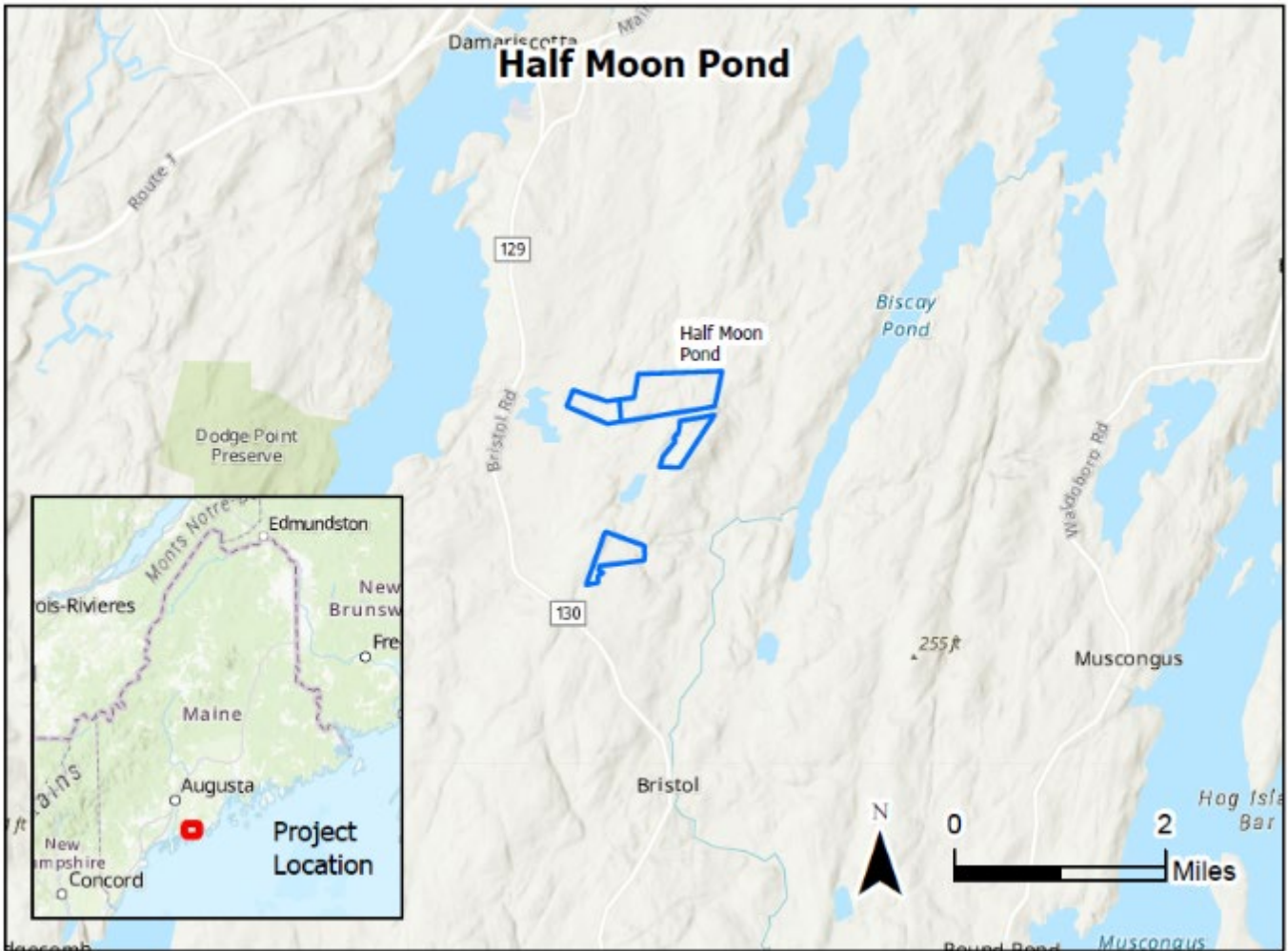


Project: Half Moon Pond

Applicant: Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust

Location: Bristol, Lincoln County

Having secured from a single landowner an Option to Purchase 476 acres across eighteen neighboring parcels in a large forest and wetland complex at the heart of the Pemaquid Peninsula, Coastal Rivers seeks the support of MNRCF to complete a Fee Purchase of four of these parcels totaling 215 acres and representing a variety of wetland types. They border another 245 acres of existing Coastal Rivers conserved lands and are part of the largest unfragmented forest block on the Pemaquid Peninsula, at nearly 4,400 acres, the conservation of which is a top priority for both Coastal Rivers and the Town of Bristol. Wetland and aquatic features on the Hunt property include just over 47 acres of forested, scrub shrub, and emergent wetlands, multiple vernal pools, and headwater streams. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has mapped Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat on Lower Pond, and a portion of the IWWH lies within the Hunt-MNRCF project area. The goal is to conserve the land, complete minor restoration around vernal pools and wetlands, and enhance existing trail systems, while keeping the property interiors primarily wild and untrammelled.

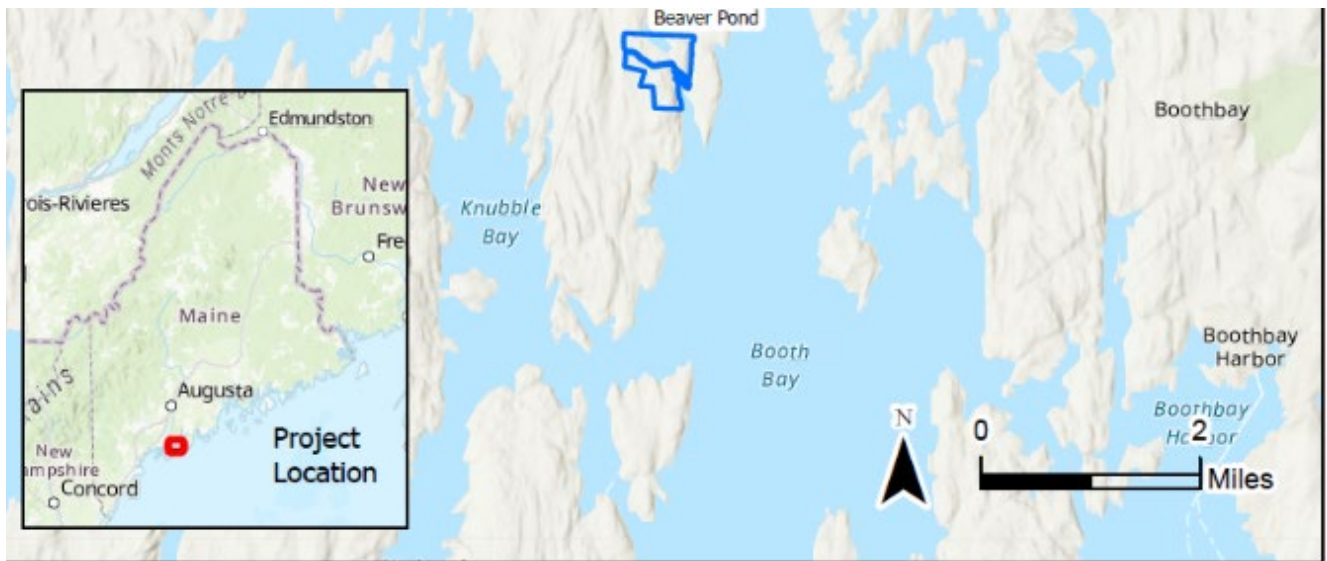


Project: Beaver Pond

Applicant: Kennebec Estuary Land Trust

Location: Westport Island, Lincoln County

KELT is proposing to permanently protect this land for its habitat value (tidal waterfowl & wading bird habitat, vernal pools), potential for low-impact recreation and traditional use, and influence on surrounding water quality.

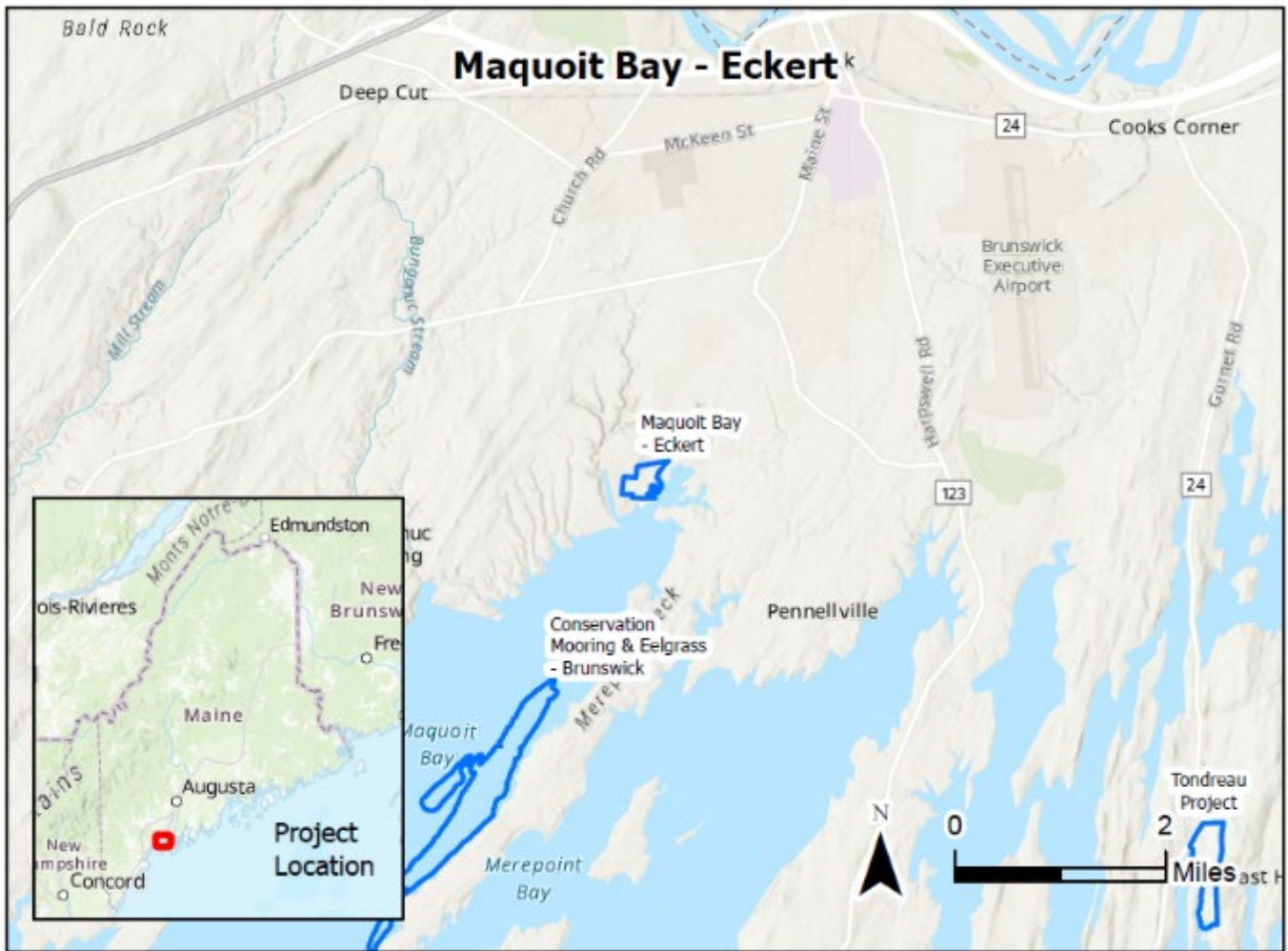


Project: Maquoit Bay - Eckert

Applicant: Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust

Location: Brunswick, Cumberland County

The proposed project will be a fee simple purchase and long-term preservation of the Eckert tract, a ~25 acre coastal property that includes 2,850 feet of shoreline abutting an extensive (> 50 ac.) salt marsh at the head of Maquoit Bay. The property will be managed as a preserve by the Brunswick Topsham Land Trust (BTLT). The objectives of this project are to: prevent shoreline hardening that would keep the extensive adjacent salt marsh from migrating onto the property as sea level rises; prevent future development that could impair the functions and values of the 19.4 acres of existing forested (PFO) wetlands and their associated stream drainages, which feed freshwater to the marsh; protect the buffer along the adjacent salt marsh system that hosts a full suite of salt marsh bird species (including the Salt Marsh Sparrow); and provide for low impact nonmotorized recreation, primarily on existing trails and woods roads already located on the Eckert property. The marsh is expected to migrate onto the property as sea levels rise and Maine Coast Heritage Trust identified the Eckert parcel as a priority in its coastwide analysis of marsh migration, due to its ability to accommodate future marsh

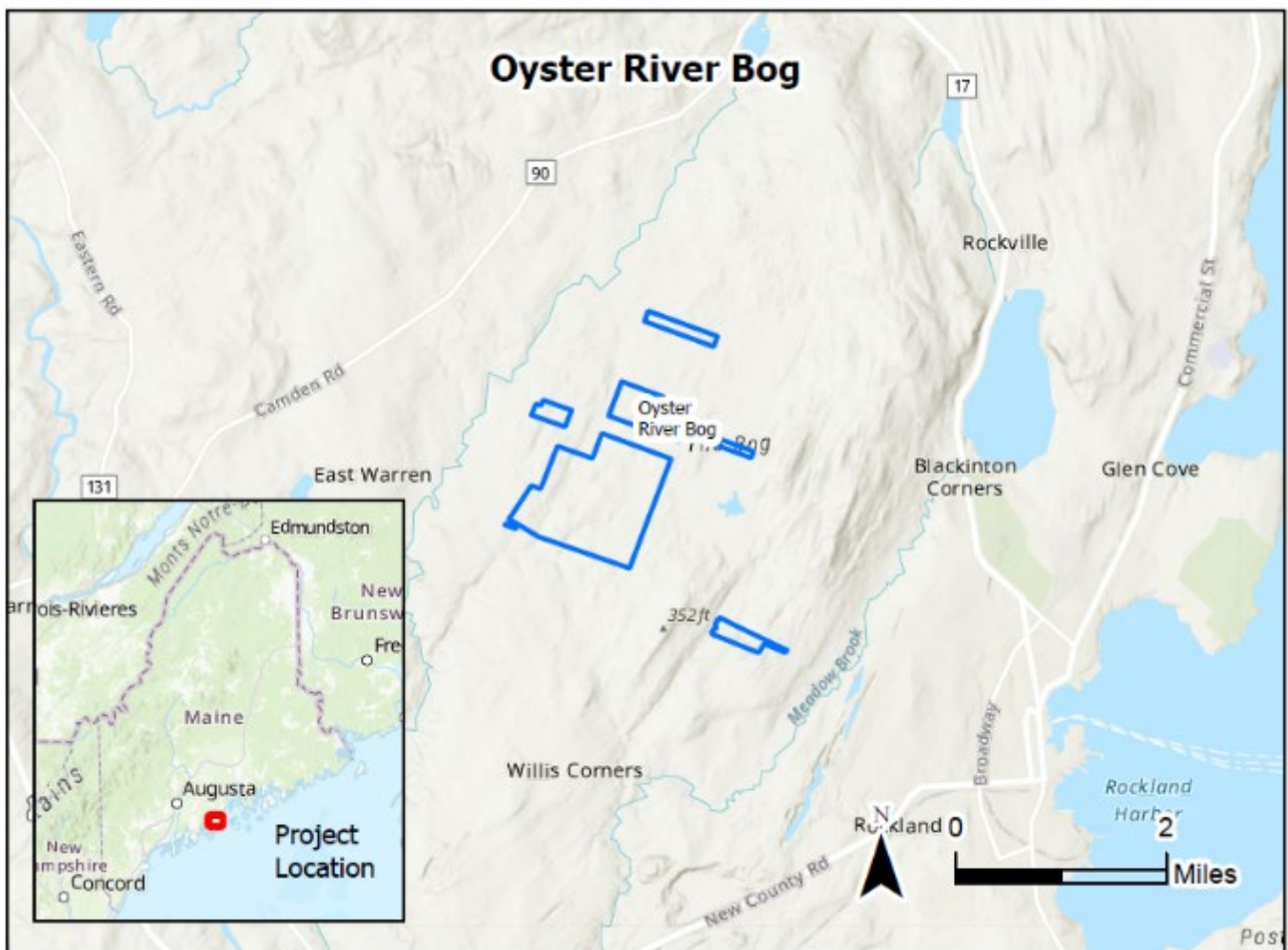


Project: Oyster River Bog

Applicant: Georges River Land Trust

Location: Rockland, Knox County

This project is a 519-acre preservation project that encompasses upland woodland buffer to the Rockland Bog, important wetlands, and a section of the unpatterned fen bog. It is identified within the Rockland Bog Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and within a focus area identified by the Georges River Land Trust. The project area, including freshwater emergent wetlands, freshwater forested wetlands, freshwater shrub-scrub wetlands and inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat, will increase the conservation land in the Bog watershed by 50%. This project is surrounded by other conservation lands including those owned by the City of Rockland, Oyster River Bog Association (fee and easement), and Southern Maine Wetlands Conservancy. In total of the 5880-acre bog watershed, 940 acres is already conserved, and this acquisition project would increase the conserved lands to 1,457 acres. The bog is noted for being the largest peatland complex in Mid-Coast Maine. The project area has been heavily harvested causing a decline in biodiversity and impacts to the onsite wetlands and watershed of the Oyster River. The Bog overall is also a place used by the community for decades for low impact recreation and hunting. Natural regeneration of the wetland complexes and upland will improve habitat conditions, best accomplished through permanent conservation. Georges River Land Trust intends to hold the fee title and manage the property for its diverse habitat values, and wetland functions primarily along with supporting traditional low impact trails, including our own existing Georges Highland Path.

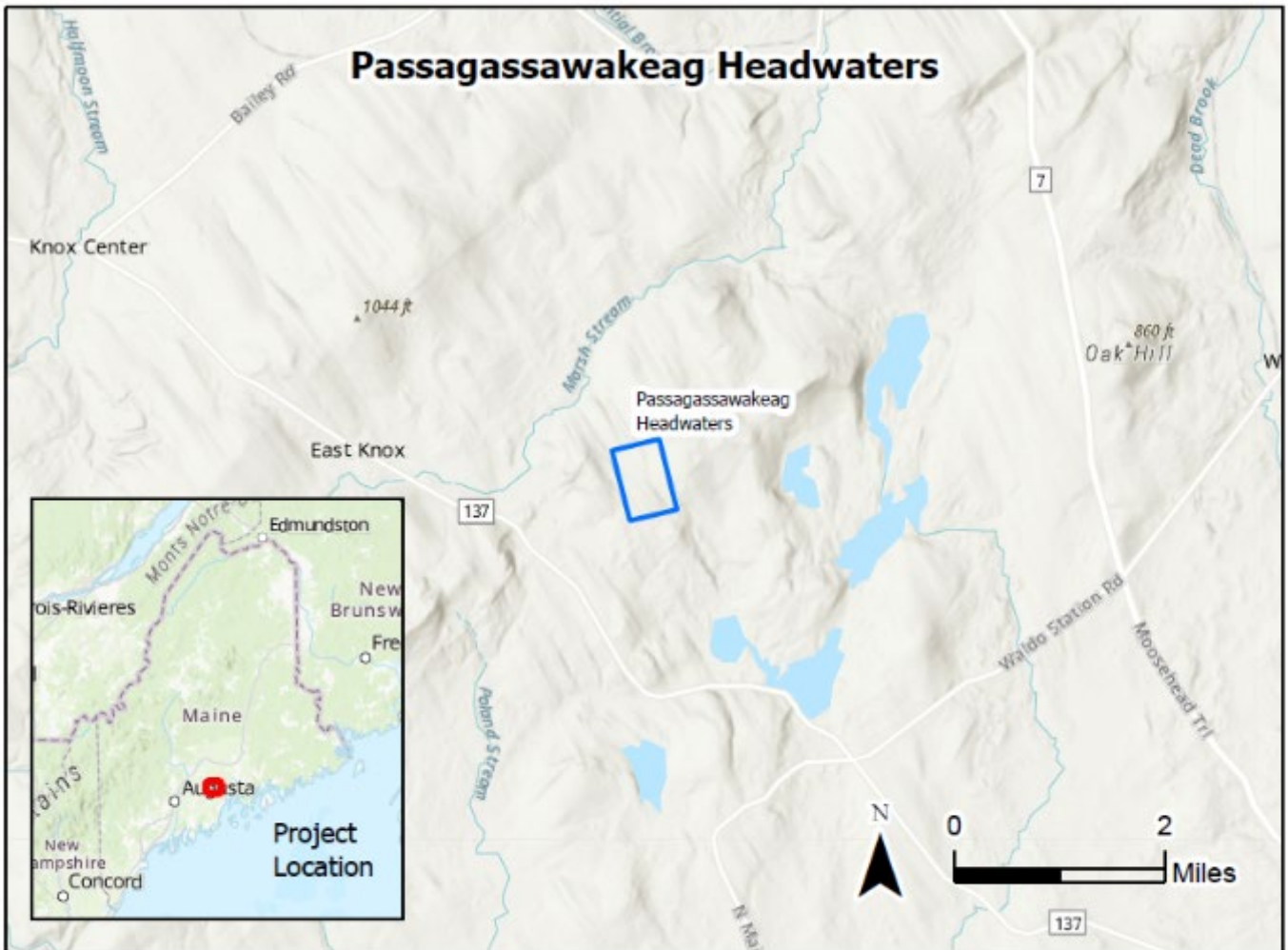


Project: Passagassawakeag Headwaters Preserve

Applicant: Coastal Mountains Land Trust

Location: Knox, Waldo County

Coastal Mountains Land Trust proposes to permanently conserve 109 acres in the Town of Knox. The property is one of the first two projects within the Land Trust’s Passagassawakeag Headwaters Interest Area, and contains over 30 acres of Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat, over 28 acres of wetlands including a rare natural community (Hardwood Seepage Forest/state rank S3), 2-4 potential vernal pools, and the southernmost population of Mink Frogs in the state. Conservation of this property would help conserve a wildlife corridor between a 3,500 acre undeveloped block to the east, (the Passagassawakeag Headwaters Interest Area) and Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area to the west, owned by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW).

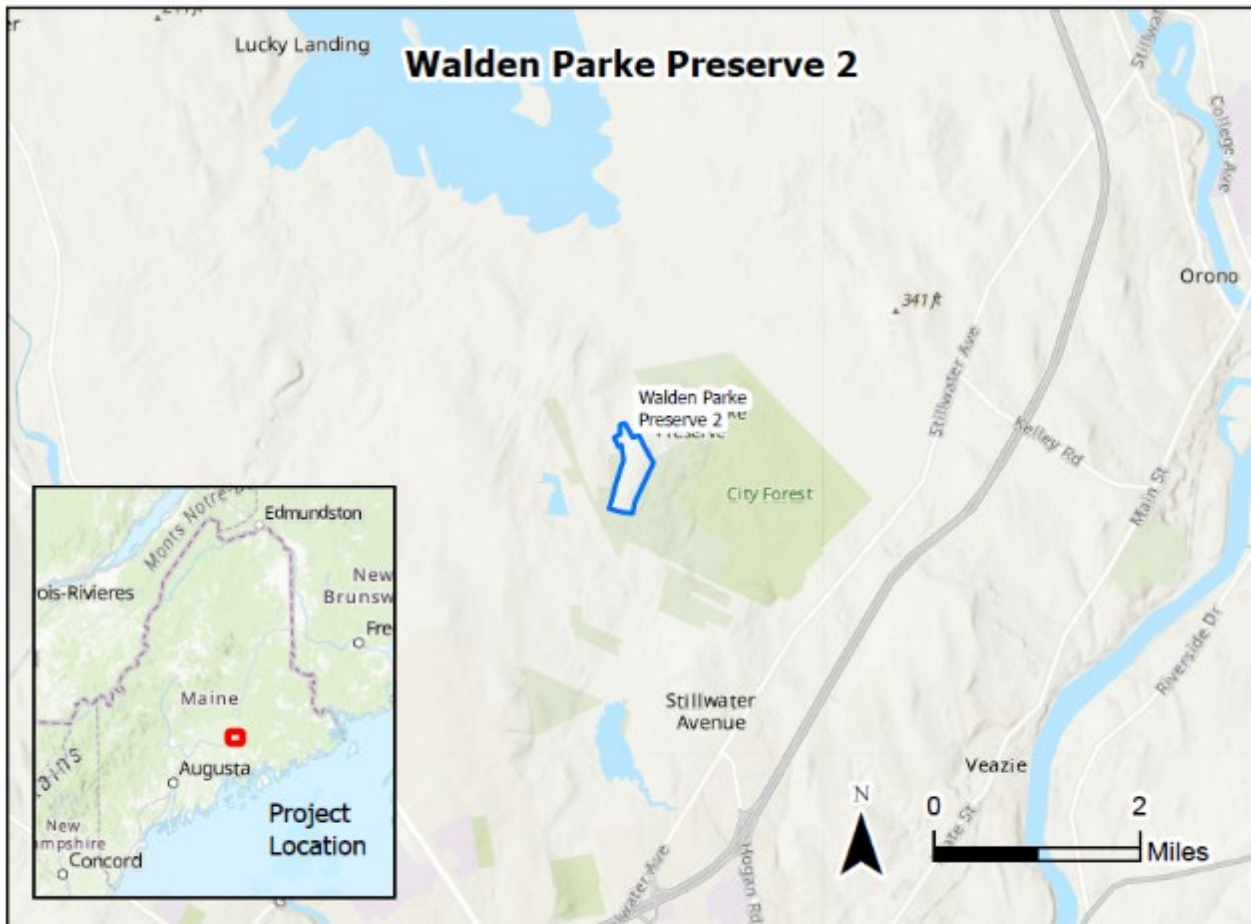


Project: Walden-Parke Preserve Addition

Applicant: Bangor Land Trust

Location: Bangor, Penobscot County

The Walden-Parke Preserve Addition is a 66-acre parcel surrounded on three sides by land already owned by Bangor Land Trust (BLT). An extensive vernal pool complex, mostly on BLT land just east of the Project Parcel, extends into the Project Parcel in two places, and the Project Parcel has 11.4 acres of critical terrestrial habitat for this vernal pool complex. A beaver flowage along its western boundary (a Wetland of Special Significance) is mostly on land owned by BLT, with 7.5 acres on the Project Parcel considered Significant Wildlife Habitat. The northern and northeastern part of the Project Parcel contains a 6.6-acre forested wetland (PFO), described by Kristen Puryear of the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) as likely a Cedar-Spruce Seepage Forest; this same portion of the Project Parcel has 0.3 acres of emergent wetland (PEM), 0.5 acres of scrub-shrub wetland (PSS), and a small potential vernal pool. The goal of this project is to acquire in fee this 66-acre parcel and conserve it in perpetuity for the benefit of wildlife and for its recreational trails. Wildlife benefits include protection of amphibians using the vernal pools, and birds and mammals using this land as a corridor between Penjajawoc Marsh to the south and the Caribou Bog Wetland Complex (CBWC) to the north. Both Penjajawoc Marsh and the CBWC are included in a Beginning with Habitat focus area report by MNAP in 2001, with endangered, threatened, and special-concern species of birds, plants, and dragonflies. The Project Parcel lies in a relatively narrow isthmus of undeveloped land between Penjajawoc Marsh and the CBWC and helps to widen that isthmus and make it more welcoming for populations of wildlife to go between these two wetlands of statewide importance. The habitat value of both these major wetlands depends in part on the connectivity between them, and on the small wetlands in the connecting corridor.



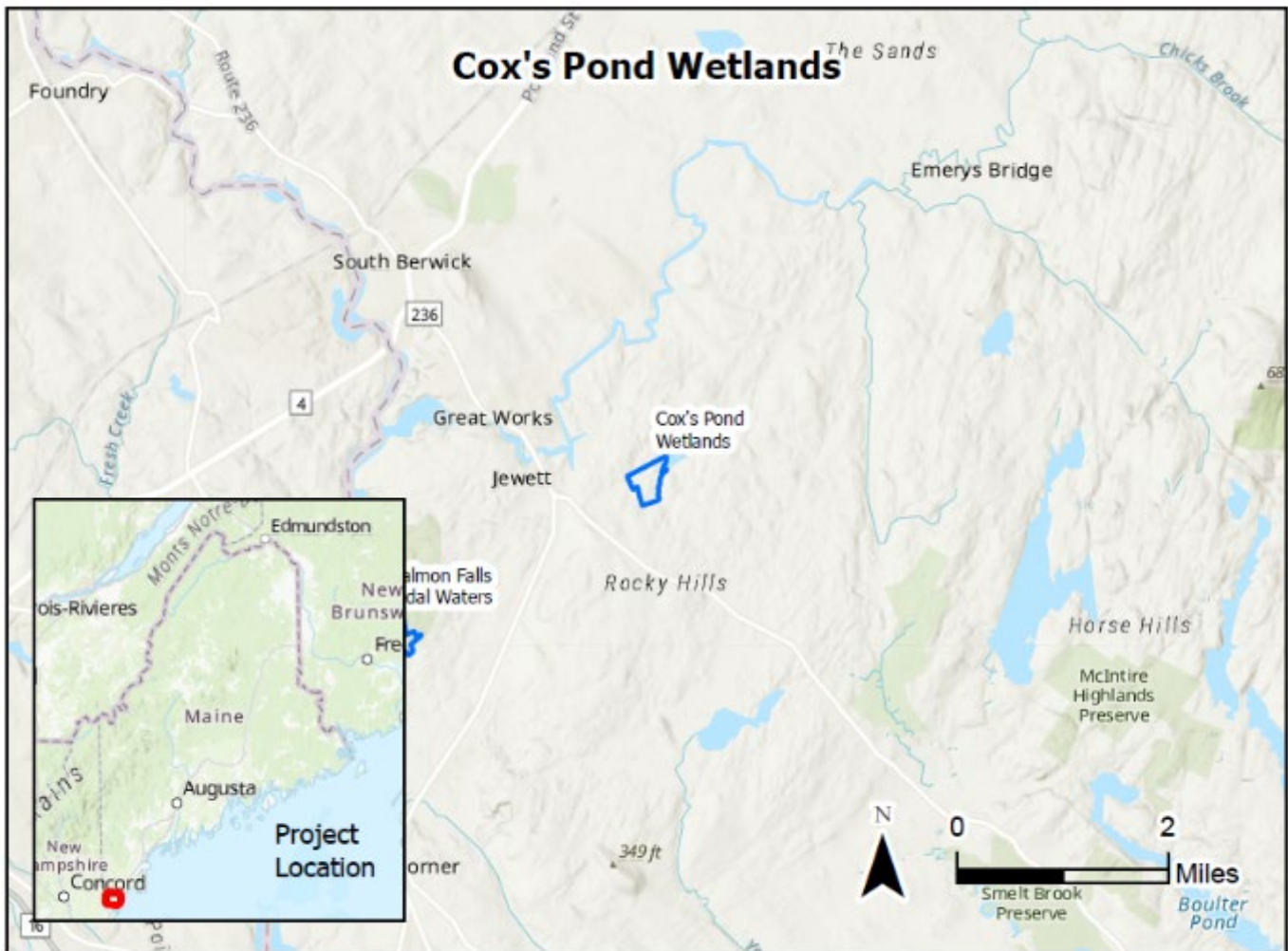
Southern Maine Region

Project: Cox's Pond Wetlands

Applicant: Great Works Regional Land Trust

Location: South Berwick, York County

This project consists of the fee purchase of approximately 36 acres on the southeast corner of Cox's Pond (15 acres) in South Berwick within the Salmon Falls River watershed. The property contains 521 feet of shore frontage as well as open wetlands and seasonal drainages. The uplands are forested with mixed species older growth trees showing no evidence of past logging activity and very minimal invasive plants. The land has been in the same family since the 1700s and they are supporting this conservation effort with a bargain sale. The project shares a boundary with two Great Works Regional Land Trust properties and is within the Mt. Agamenticus State Focus Area containing over 15,000 protected acres. Management will be forever wild with the cutting of vegetation restricted to creating walking paths and invasive species control. The property has not been surveyed and the purchase price will be based on a per acre price.



Project: Norton Heirs

Applicant: York Land Trust

Location: York, York County

The 46-acre Norton Heirs property is surrounded by conservation land on three sides owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W), Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) and York Land Trust (YLT) in an area containing thousands of acres of conservation land in the Mt. Agamenticus region. It is within a 5,541-acre unfragmented block of forest, the Mt. Agamenticus Beginning with Habitat Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and MDIF&W's Mt. Agamenticus Management Area. The property is forested and the forest is approaching maturity. The property contains 10.7 acres of high value, fresh water, forested wetlands, two potential vernal pools and a series of ephemeral and perennial headwater streams to Chicks Brook, and the upper reach of Chicks Brook, which is mapped by MDIF&W as a Brook Trout stream. A small portion of the wetlands (approximately 1.5 acres) are mapped by MDIF&W as Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat. The wetlands are ranked High Value for production export, wildlife habitat, fish habitat and uniqueness/heritage. The property is part of a rare Central Hardwoods Oak Forest Ecosystem, which has only one location in the state. The property supports rare turtles and two rare plants: Sweet Pepperbush *Clethra alifolia* (S2), and Chestnut Oak *Quercus Montana* (S1). A recreational trail follows much of the eastern and southern boundaries of the property through the upland forest. To eliminate the threat of development and poor forestry practices, York Land Trust will exercise its option to purchase the property for \$1,400 per acre, if funding is secured. We hope to acquire the property in fee in the spring of 2022 and will own and manage the property for wildlife habitat and low-impact recreation. No future forestry is proposed.

