



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: September 30, 2014
Comment Period Ends: October 30, 2014
File Number: NAE-2005-1143
In Reply Refer To: Ruth M. Ladd
Phone: (978) 318-8818
E-mail: ruth.m.ladd@usace.army.mil

30 DAY NOTICE

The District Engineer is soliciting comments on the 13 projects which have applied for 2014 funding through Maine's In Lieu Fee ("ILF") program, the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program ("MNRCP"). The sponsor for the program is the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. The program serves as an alternative form of compensation for impacts to aquatic resources authorized by the New England District Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and/or the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection. These projects were submitted in response to a Request for Proposals ("RFP") issued in May 2014.

The RFP includes the criteria used to evaluate projects, the information required for a proposal, and other related information. The RFP, the current amount of funds available for release, and additional information can be found at the MNRCP website:

<http://mnrcp.org/>

Any of the projects which involve restoration, enhancement, and/or creation and will require Corps, state, or local permits will be applying individually, not through this public notice.

Attached are the following:

- Summary sheet of projects and the bioregion in which they are located;
- Funds available and the aquatic resource types which have been authorized to be impacted; and
- Project descriptions and locus maps for the 13 projects.

The decision whether to approve funding for projects will be based on an evaluation of each proposed activity and how and where it will compensate for aquatic resources lost through authorizations issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The decision will reflect the national concern for no net loss of aquatic resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from each proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments and/or its appropriateness considering the ecological needs of the bioregion in which it is located.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to determine the most appropriate projects to receive funding from the MNRCP. Any comments received will be considered by the Interagency Review Committee, including the Corps of Engineers, and will be considered in the evaluation of the projects and the determination of which will receive funding. 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. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

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").

The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

SECTION 106 COORDINATION

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed projects may affect properties in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the proposal review process.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The New England District, Army Corps of Engineers, has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the project sites. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which funding is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. By this Public Notice, we are requesting that the appropriate federal Agency concur with our determination.

The State of Maine has an approved **Coastal Zone Management Program**. Although Coastal Zone Management consistency will be required for some of the individual proposals, by this public notice we are requesting the state provide any applicable comments at this time.

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 Ruth M. Ladd at (978) 318-8818, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts, or at the email address noted above.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps 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. All comments will be considered a matter of public record.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Robert J. DeSista
Acting Chief, Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

2014 MNRCP PROJECT PROPOSALS

MNRCP Region	Project Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres	Compensation Type
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	Town of Washburn	Salmon Brook Restoration	Washburn	2.3	Enhancement
Central Interior & Midcoast	Freeport Conservation Trust	Cousins River - Gould	Freeport	48.8	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, Inc.	Great Pond, North Bay (Great Meadow Str)	Belgrade	282	Preservation, Enhancement
Central Interior & Midcoast	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Long Cove Wetlands	Saint George	46	Preservation, Enhancement
Central Interior & Midcoast	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Council	Mill Street Dam Removal	Lisbon	9.76	Fish Passage
Central Interior & Midcoast	Kennebec Estuary Land Trust	Morse Pond IV	Georgetown	75	Preservation
Central Interior & Midcoast	Town of Phippsburg	Parker Head Road Coastal Wetland Restoration	Phippsburg	1.67	Enhancement
Southern Maine	Three Rivers Land Trust	Blandings Turtle Incubator (Walnut Hill)	Alfred	26	Preservation
Southern Maine	Kittery Land Trust, Inc.	Brave Boat Headwaters - Gavin	Kittery	12.38	Preservation, Enhancement
Southern Maine	City of Portland	Capisic Pond Enhancement	Portland	8.8	Enhancement
Southern Maine	Town of Falmouth	Lowell Farm	Falmouth	17.8	Preservation
Southern Maine	York Land Trust, Inc.	Mill Lane Wetlands	York	23	Preservation
Southern Maine	Great Works Regional Land Trust	Salmon Falls - Keay Brook	Berwick	95.8	Preservation

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Funds Available

The table below lists the funds available for each MNRCP biophysical region as of September 23, 2014. Available funds may differ at the time of the awards. Also shown are the natural resources that have been prioritized for restoration, enhancement, preservation, and/or creation within each region.

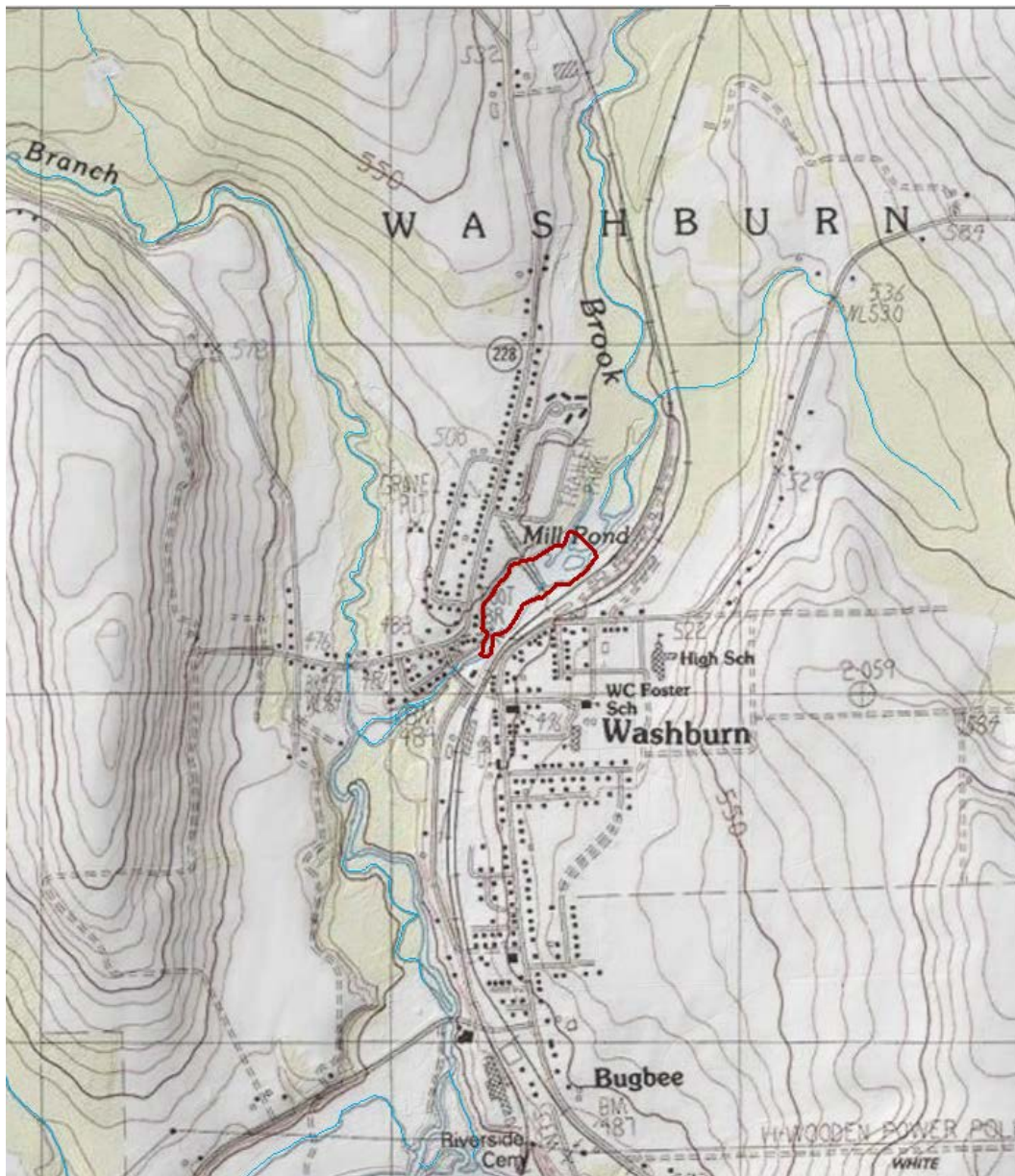
<u>MNRCP Region</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Priority Resource Type</u>
Aroostook Hills & Lowlands	\$100,405	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Forested; Freshwater wetland Scrub-Shrub
Central & Eastern Lowlands	\$59,875	Freshwater wetland Emergent; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Central & Western Mountains	\$189,962	Freshwater wetland Emergent; River/Stream; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Central Interior & Midcoast	\$1,023,098	Coastal wetland Estuarine subtidal; Coastal wetland Marine subtidal; Freshwater wetland Emergent; River/Stream; Vernal pool; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Downeast Maine	\$7,635	Coastal wetland Estuarine intertidal; Coastal wetland Marine intertidal; Coastal wetland Marine subtidal; Vernal pool critical terrestrial habitat
Northwest Maine	\$0	
Southern Maine	\$1,230,501	Coastal wetland Estuarine intertidal; Freshwater wetland Emergent; Freshwater wetland Open Water; Lake, Littoral; River/Stream
<i>Total Amount Available:</i>	\$2,611,476	

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTIONS

Salmon Brook Wetland Enhancement

Service Area: Aroostock Hills & Lowlands

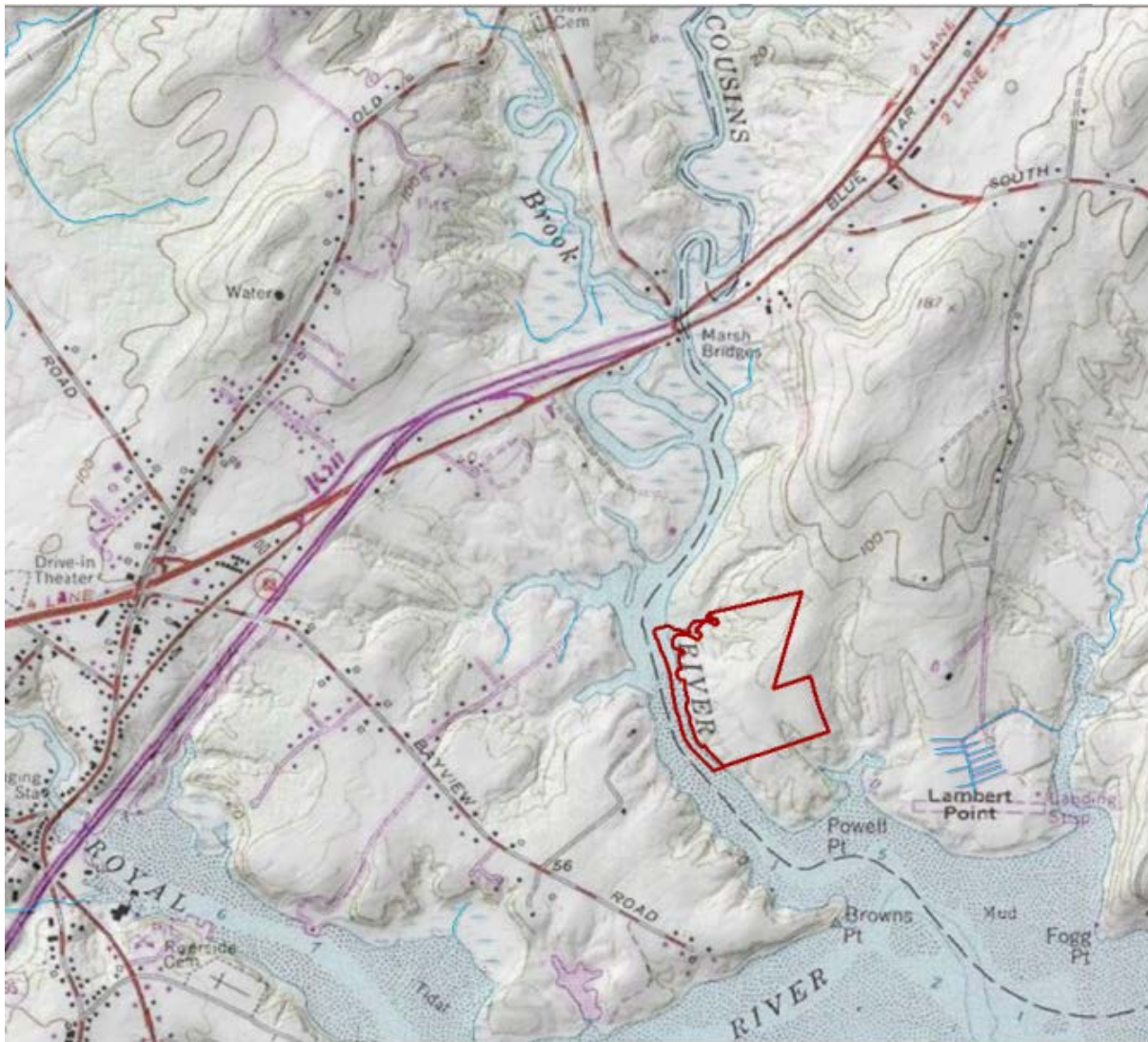
The project entails the restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat along Salmon Brook in the vicinity of Washburn Village. The effort follows the removal of a dam and berm and draining of the associated impoundment earlier this year. The removal of the dam eliminated an upstream barrier to the passage of Atlantic salmon and brook trout, allowing access to significant spawning habitat upstream within the watershed. The area of the former impoundment presents an excellent opportunity for the restoration/creation of floodplain wetlands and riparian buffer zones where Salmon Brook passes through the community's downtown.



Cousins River – Gould Wetlands Preservation

Service Area: Central Interior & Midcoast

The proposed project involves the purchase of 43 acres of land with approximately 2,642 feet of frontage along the eastern side of the Cousins River to protect the ecological functions of the estuarine intertidal and forested wetlands along the river. The 5.7 acres of intertidal wetlands are part of a much larger tidal ecosystem (*Spartina* saltmarsh) in the Cousins River. Protection of the property, in addition to buffering the wetlands on the Property, will help buffer 22 acres of coastal wetlands on the abutting Powell Point Preserve.



Great Pond/North Bay (Invasive Species)

Service Area: Central Interior & Midcoast

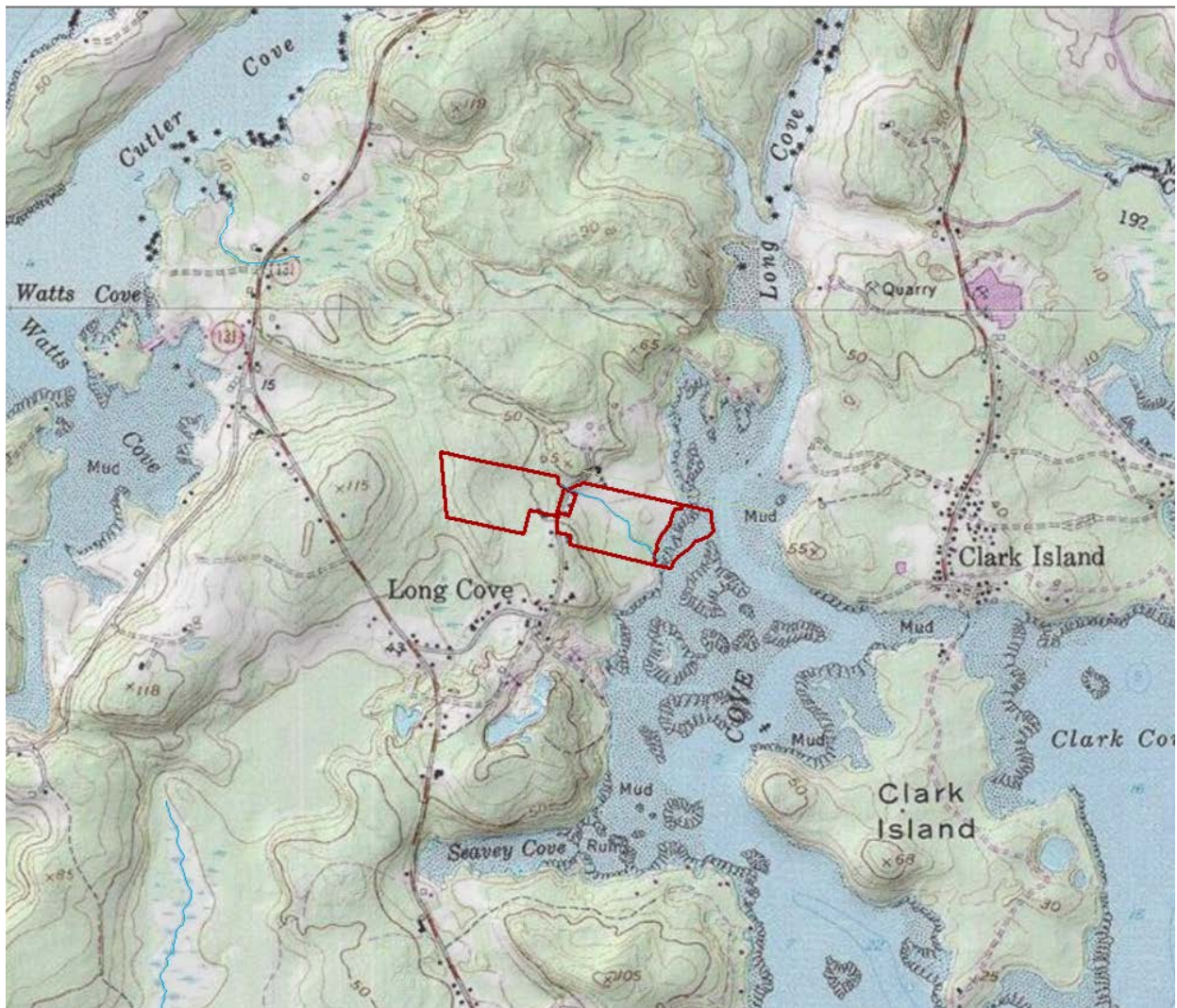
Project will: a) restore wetland areas that are impacted by invasive plants (aquatic and terrestrial); b) restore forested areas that have been logged; c) prohibit development; and d) preserve the property for its ecological functions, and its scientific, educational, and recreation values. Wetlands will be restored by removing Invasive Plants (aquatic and terrestrial) and forests will be restored to old growth conditions



Long Cove (Invasives Removal)

Service Area: Central Interior & Midcoast

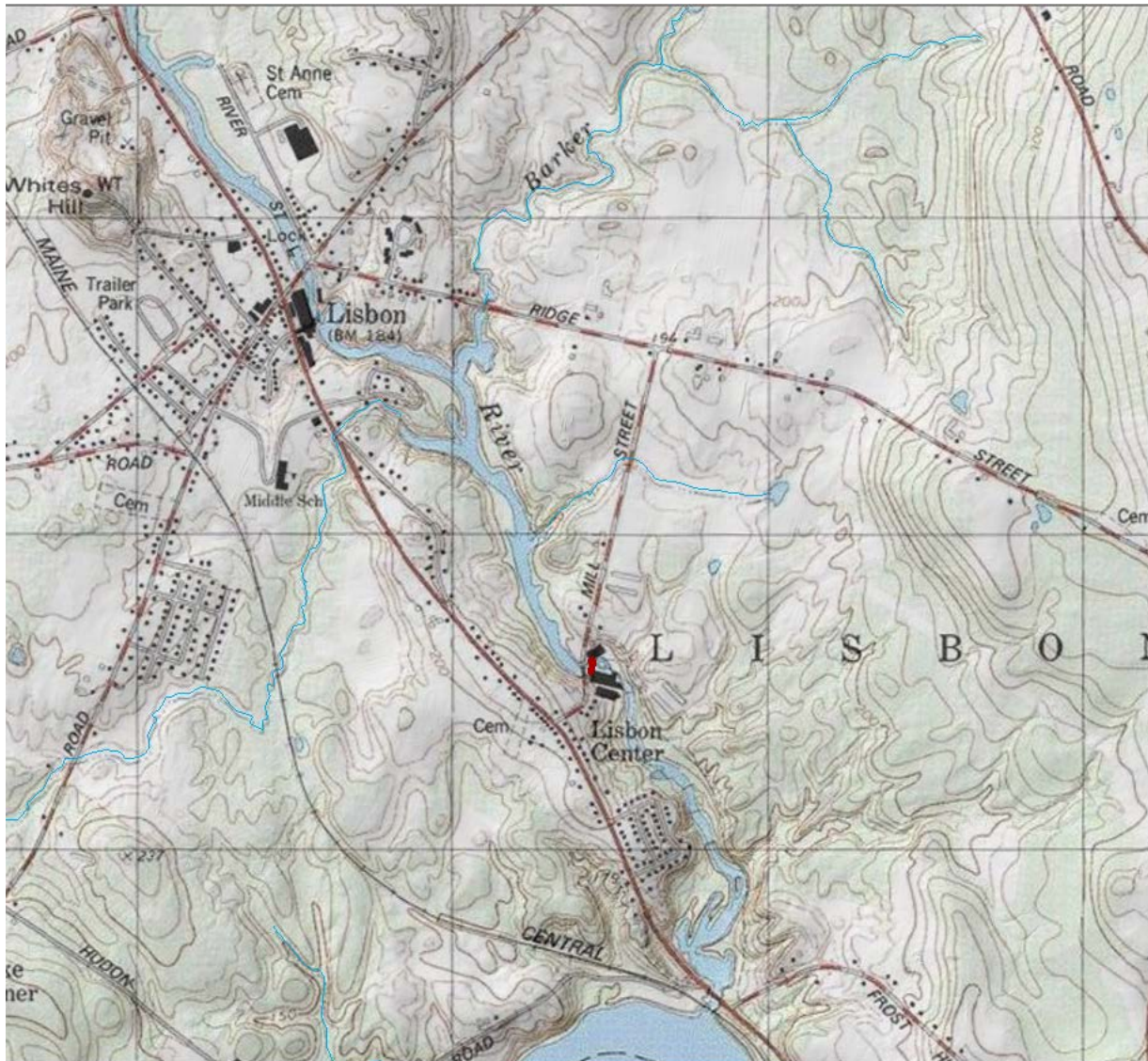
This project will result in the fee protection of more than 35 acres of inland and 6 acres of intertidal land just north of Tenants Harbor in the popular and growing mid-coast town of Saint George. Specific resources to be permanently protected include headwater seepage forested wetlands, entire freshwater streams from forested headwaters to tidal waters, multiple vernal pools and forested critical terrestrial habitat, salt marsh, and intertidal mudflats extending to low water. This project includes each of the MNRCP Priority Resource Types identified for the Central Interior and Midcoast Biophysical Region.



Mill Street Dam Removal

Service Area: Central Interior & Midcoast

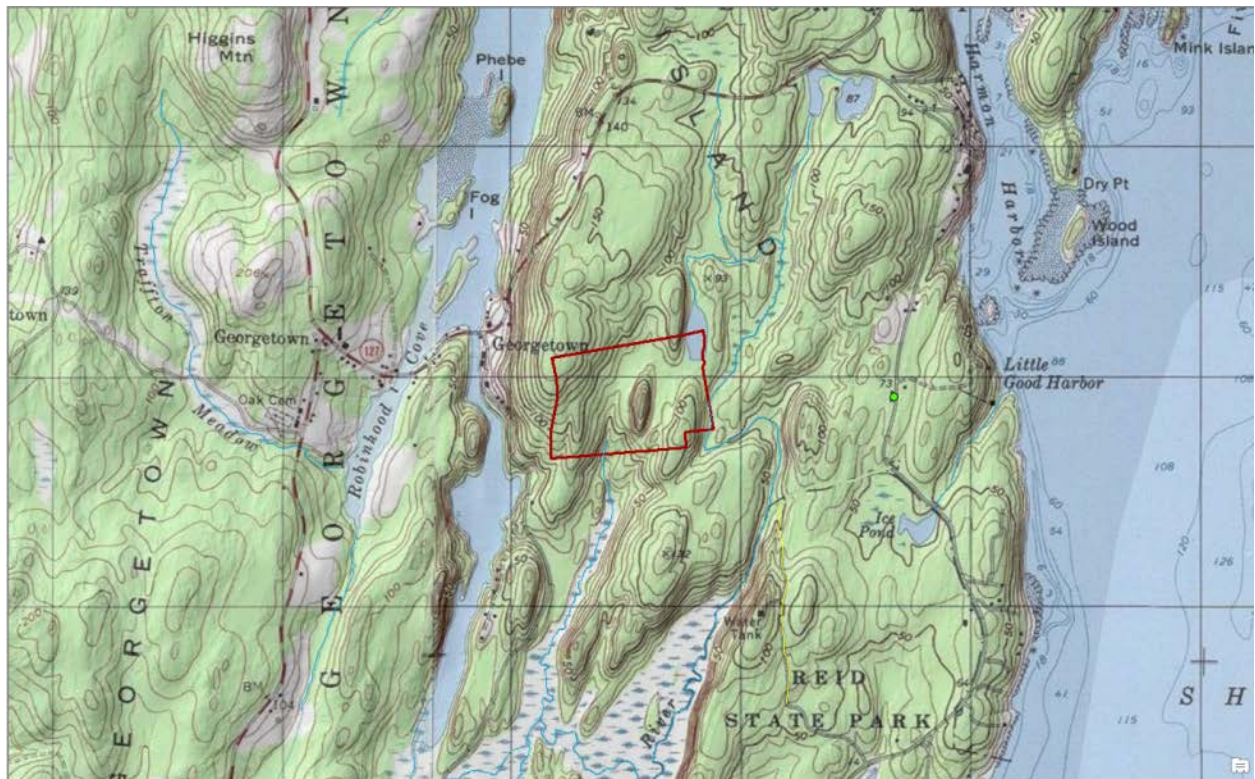
The goal of the project is to remove the Mill Street Dam, which is the first dam on the Sabattus River. Removal of the Mill Street Dam is a component of the Atlantic Salmon Federation's larger Sabattus River Connectivity Project, which aims to provide free-swim access into Sabattus Pond for alewives and other sea-run fish species. Restoration of a self-sustaining alewife run in Sabattus Pond and other smaller ponds in the watershed will benefit myriad invertebrate, fish, bird and wildlife species in the watershed, enhance adjacent wetlands and riparian zones, and help improve water quality.



Morse Pond IV Preservation

Service Area: Central Interior & Midcoast

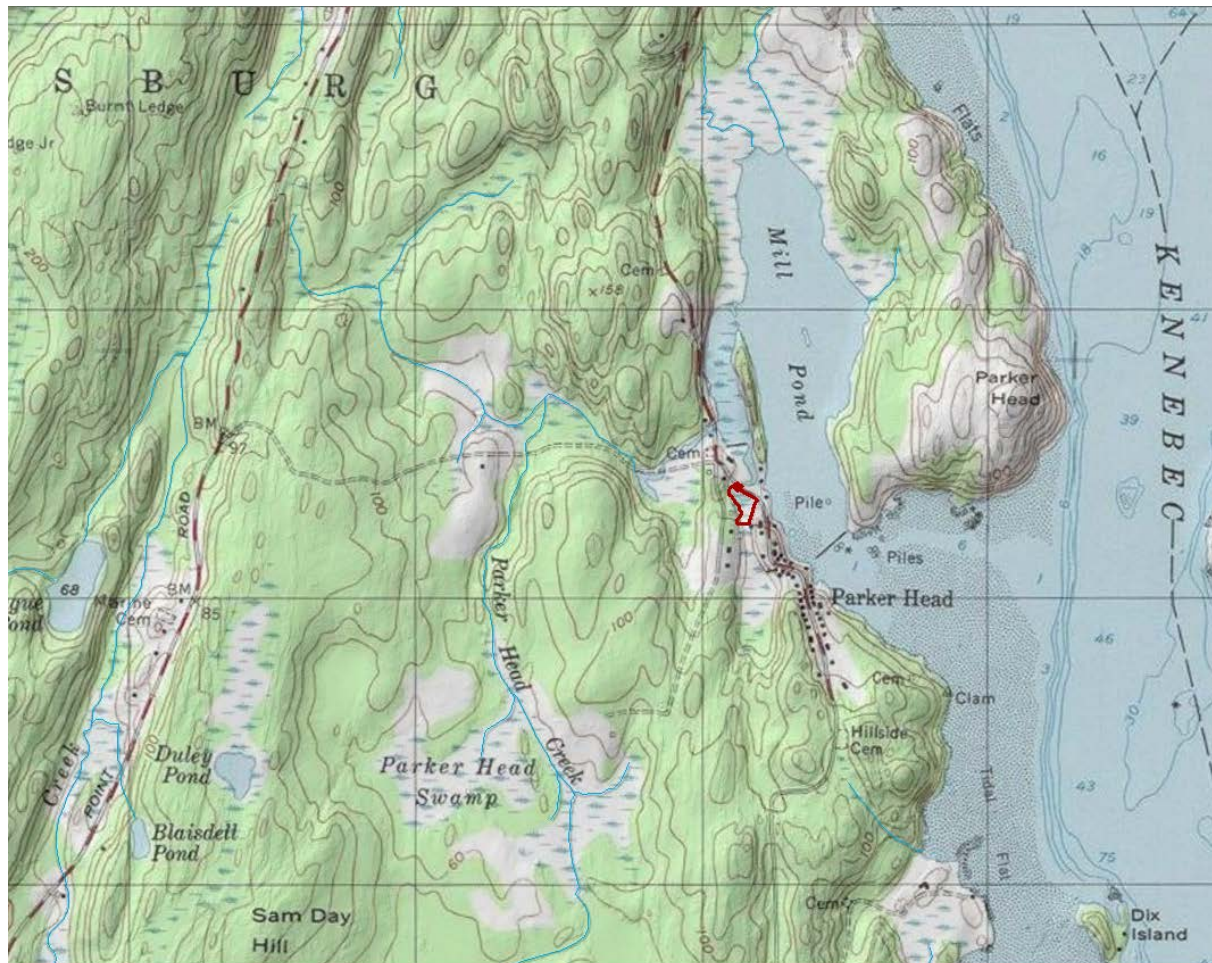
The Morse Pond area of Georgetown is within a 1,312 acre undeveloped habitat block located between State Route 127 to the west and north, Seguinland Road to the east, Reid State Park and other conserved lands to the south, and Indian Point Road to the west. The Morse Pond IV Wetlands Project proposes to protect 62.6 acres of land which includes 20.5 acres of wetland and 42.1 acres of upland buffer. This includes 12.6 acres of significant wildlife habitat (Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat). The project protects approximately 600 feet of pond shore front or one third of the total shore frontage of Morse Pond. This proposed project would protect the south and almost half of the west side of the pond shoreline.



Parker Head Road Culvert Replacement

Service Area: Central Interior & Midcoast

The Town of Phippsburg is proposing to replace an existing 36" diameter culvert whose elevation impacts a coastal wetland within the Beginning with Habitat Kennebec Estuary Focus Area. The culvert is now causing the impoundment of water at low tide and scouring of the coastal estuary. Lowering and enlarging the culvert will simulate the historic function of the coastal wetland, allowing the tidal estuary to ebb and flow more naturally and to drain at low tide.



Blandings Turtle Incubator (Walnut Hill) Preservation

Service Area: Southern Maine

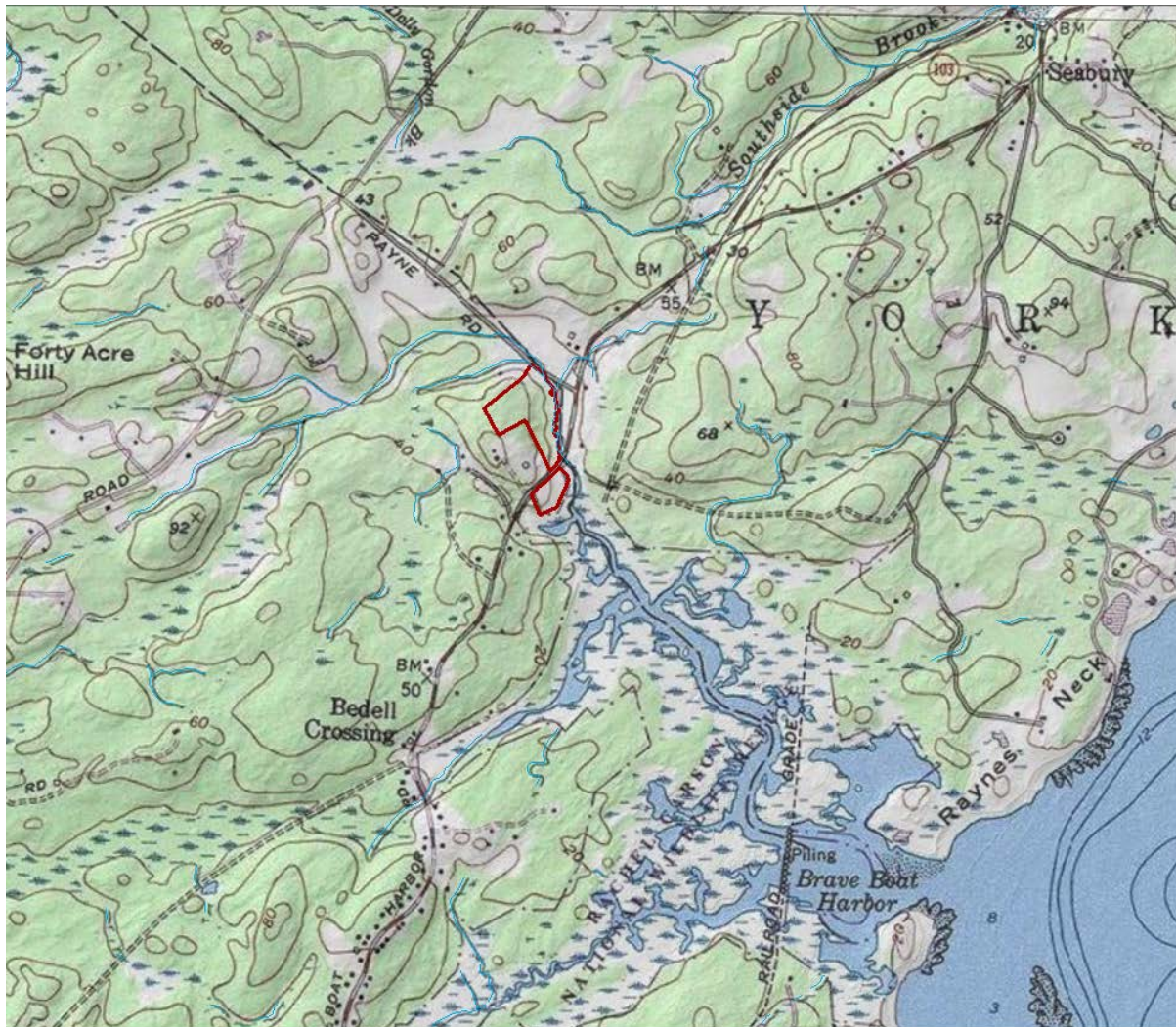
To acquire in fee simple about 25 acres of wooded upland and wetlands adjacent to existing protected wetlands in order to manage the site as habitat for the endangered Blanding's turtles, particularly a reclaimed gravel pit identified as a valuable nesting site.



Brave Boat Headwaters

Service Area: Southern Maine

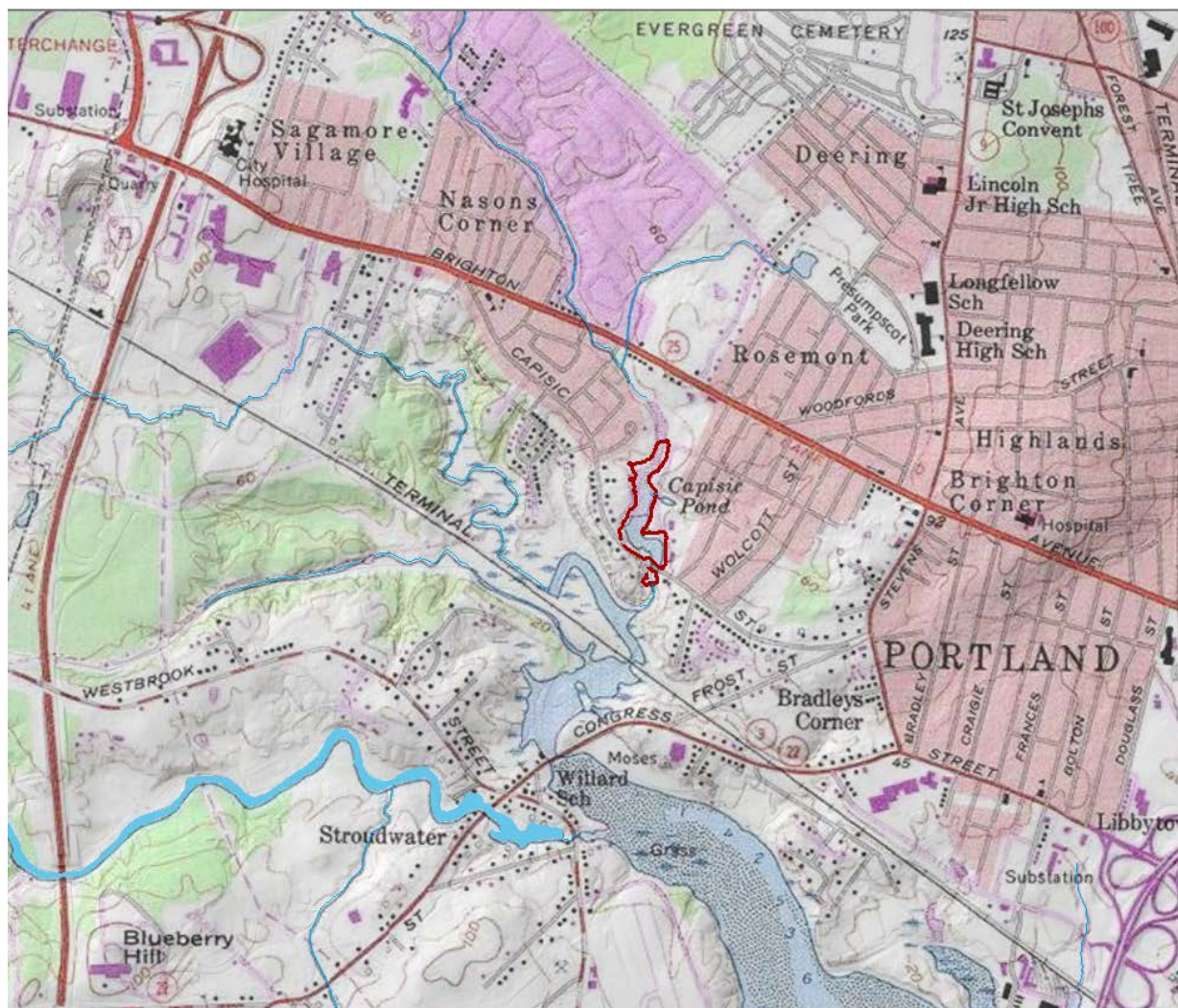
Preservation of 1.38 acres of high value saltmarsh along with 9+/- of upland buffer through a bargain sale of fee interest to Kittery Land Trust. Restoration of wetland function through the rehabilitation of a road-side public access point (improved road slope, grade stabilization, bio-retention) along with active invasive species management and native species planting.



Capisic Pond Enhancement

Service Area: Southern Maine

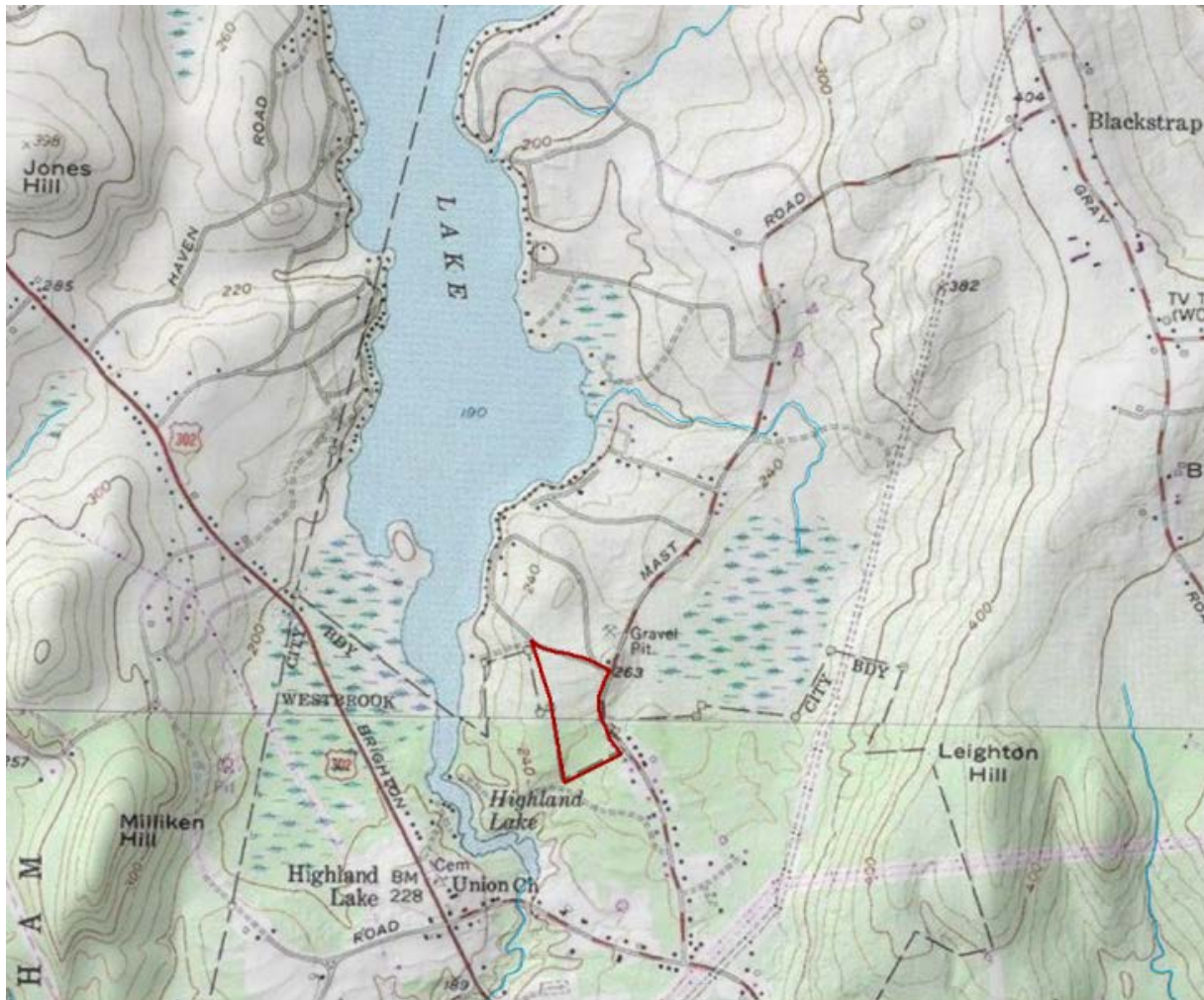
The subject parcel, known as Capisic Pond Park, is an approximately 18-acre city-owned park located in a residential area of Portland. Capisic Pond and its surrounding wetland habitat are rated as a moderate-value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat (IWWH). The pond serves as the receiving water body for Capisic Brook as it flows to the Fore River and Casco Bay. Over the last 65 years, Capisic Pond's open water component has decreased from about 7.7 acres to two acres becoming a cattail monoculture. Left to continue along this trajectory, the pond's value to inland waterfowl and wading birds would decrease. To improve IWWH value, the City proposes land protection and habitat enhancement. Diversification of wetland species, improved structure and habitat would be accomplished by enhancing 0.6 acres of PEM wetland and 1.8 acres of PSS wetland. In 2014, Capisic Pond Park was added to the Portland Land bank, protecting it as conservation and open space.



Lowell Farm Preservation

Service Area: Southern Maine

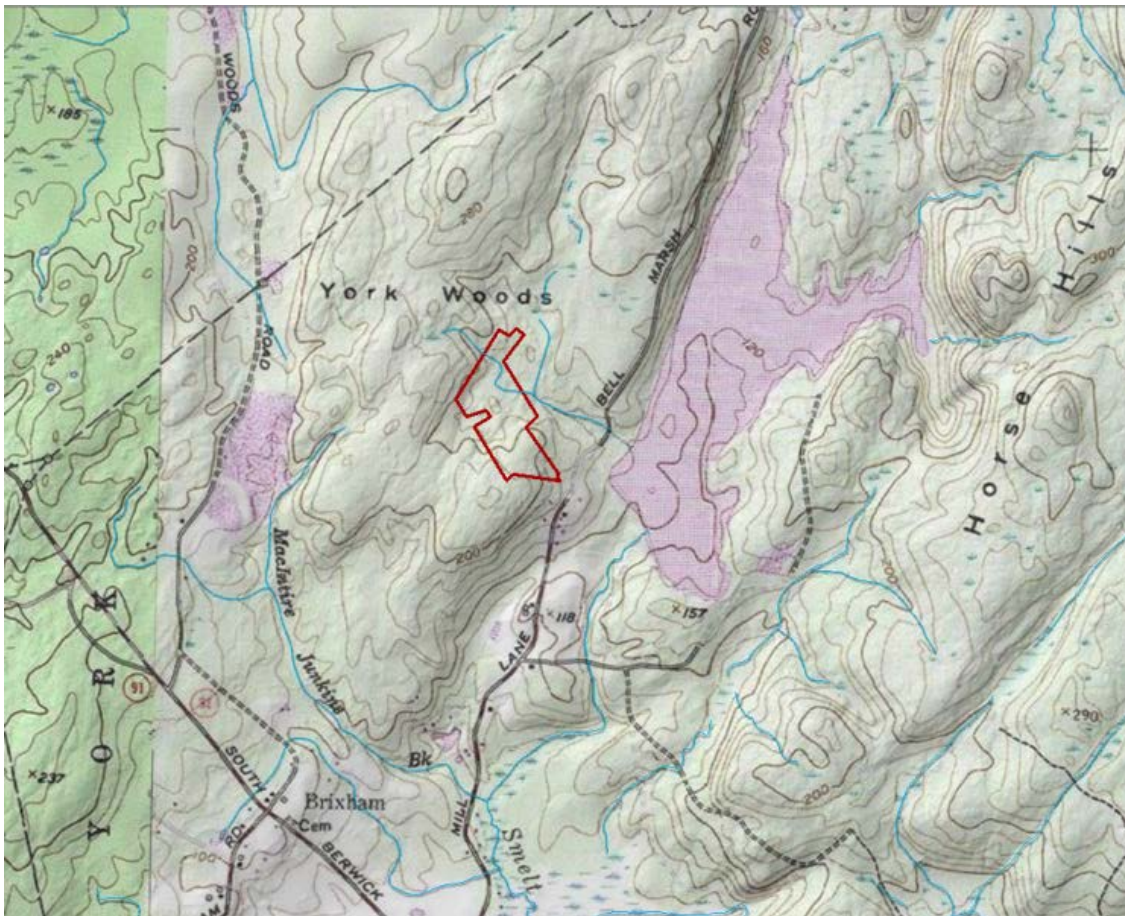
This project will preserve the wetland functions and value on a ± 19.5 acre parcel threatened by immediate development. The property contains two vernal pools and provides upland habitat for six more pools located on adjacent land. It also encompasses ± 2.8 acres of palustrine shrub-scrub (PSS) wetland. Finally, it buffers Highland Lake from the nutrient run-off that would result from further development in the area.



Mill Lane Wetlands Preservation

Service Area: Southern Maine

The Project is an approximately 23-acre parcel, of which an estimated 4.5 acres are forested wetlands including open water pools, a wooded swamp and a perennial stream that runs through the northwestern portion of the property and flows to Bell Marsh Reservoir, a drinking water supply. Spotted turtles have been found in the stream system (downstream), just to the east of the property on land owned by Kittery Water District (KWD). It is within a 3,975-acre, unfragmented block of forest, the Mt. Agamenticus and York River Headwaters Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas of Statewide Ecological Significance, and the Town of York Watershed Protection Zone, a buffer area around drinking water supplies. The land is ranked High-Value for Wildlife Habitat, including good habitat for state-threatened spotted turtles. The property was selectively harvested in 2008 for hemlock, white pine and some red oak. Many large, healthy trees of the same species were left standing and an understory of American beech, black birch and witch hazel is well-established. As a result of the purchase of this property, York Land Trust will eliminate the threat of development in one of Maine's most important areas for rare turtles. York Land Trust will manage the property for plant and wildlife habitat and low-impact recreation.



Salmon Falls – Keay Brook Preservation

Service Area: Southern Maine

This project includes the fee acquisition of 82 acres adjacent to the Trust's Salmon Falls River Conservation Area (143 acres), including wetlands and upland buffer, further upstream along Keay Brook. The purpose of this acquisition is to extinguish a 13-lot subdivision approved by the Berwick Planning Board and recorded at the York County Record of Deeds. This will permanently protect and preserve the upland buffer and adjacent wetlands of the Salmon Falls River and Keay Brook from non-point source runoff that will result from the impervious surface of roads and driveways, and from leach fields and lawns of the 13 house lots. The project will protect the water quality of the Salmon Falls River, the public water source of Berwick, ME and Somersworth, NH, provide habitat and a corridor for wildlife, allow for low impact recreation and provide a site for educational opportunities and research for monitoring and management of riparian lands and wetlands.

