

MILTN

MAINE LAND TRUST NETWORK

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW



MLTN

MAINE LAND TRUST NETWORK

MEMBER LAND TRUSTS 2010

ANDROSCOGGIN LAND TRUST
BANGOR LAND TRUST
BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
BIDDEFORD POOL LAND TRUST
BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST
BOOTHBAY REGION LAND TRUST
BRUNSWICK-TOPSHAM LAND TRUST
CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST
CHEWONKI FOUNDATION
COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST
CONSERVATION TRUST OF BROOKSVILLE,
CASTINE & PENOBSCOT
CRABTREE NECK LAND TRUST
DAMARISCOTTA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
DAMARISCOTTA RIVER ASSOCIATION
DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY
DOWNEAST LAKES LAND TRUST
DOWNEAST RIVERS LAND TRUST
FALMOUTH LAND TRUST
FOOTHILLS LAND CONSERVANCY
FOREST SOCIETY OF MAINE
FRANCIS SMALL HERITAGE TRUST, INC.
FREEPORT CONSERVATION TRUST
FRENCHMAN BAY CONSERVANCY
FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY
FRIENDS OF WILSON POND AREA, INC.
GEORGES RIVER LAND TRUST
GREAT DIAMOND ISLAND LAND PRESERVE
GREAT POND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION TRUST
GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST
GREATER LOVELL LAND TRUST
HARPSWELL HERITAGE LAND TRUST
ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST
ISLESBORO ISLANDS TRUST
KENNEBEC ESTUARY LAND TRUST
KENNEBEC LAND TRUST
KENNEBUNK LAND TRUST
KENNEBUNKPORT CONSERVATION TRUST
KITTERY LAND TRUST
LANDMARK HERITAGE TRUST
LOON ECHO LAND TRUST
MAHOOSUC LAND TRUST

MAINE APPALACHIAN TRAIL LAND TRUST
MAINE AUDUBON
MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST
MAINE FARMLAND TRUST
MAINE WILDERNESS WATERSHED TRUST
MEDOMAK VALLEY LAND TRUST
NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTH HAVEN CONSERVATION PARTNERS
OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST OF CASCO BAY
ORONO LAND TRUST
PEMAQUID WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
PHIPPSBURG LAND TRUST
PLEASANT RIVER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
PORTLAND TRAILS
PRESUMPCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST
RANGELEY LAKES HERITAGE TRUST
ROYAL RIVER CONSERVATION TRUST
SACO BAY TRAILS
SACO VALLEY LAND TRUST
SANFORD-SPRINGVALE MOUSAM WAY LAND TRUST
SCARBOROUGH LAND CONSERVATION TRUST
SEBASTICOOK REGIONAL LAND TRUST
SHEEPSHOT VALLEY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
SHEEPSHOT WELLSRING LAND ALLIANCE
SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF MAINE
SOMERSET WOODS TRUSTEES
SOUTH PORTLAND LAND TRUST
SOUTHERN MAINE WETLANDS CONSERVANCY
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN MAINE
THE NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK
THREE RIVERS LAND TRUST
TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
UPPER SACO VALLEY LAND TRUST
VINALHAVEN LAND TRUST
WATERBORO LAND TRUST
WELLS NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH
RESERVE & LAUDHOLM TRUST
WESTERN FOOTHILLS LAND TRUST
WINDHAM LAND TRUST
WOODIE WHEATON LAND TRUST
YORK LAND TRUST, INC.



Strength in Numbers

2010 was a banner year for land conservation in Maine, led by the organizations that comprise the Maine Land Trust Network (MLTN). These groups work to protect Maine's most precious resources — productive landscapes, recreational lands, threatened wildlife habitat, community traditions, and scenic vistas.

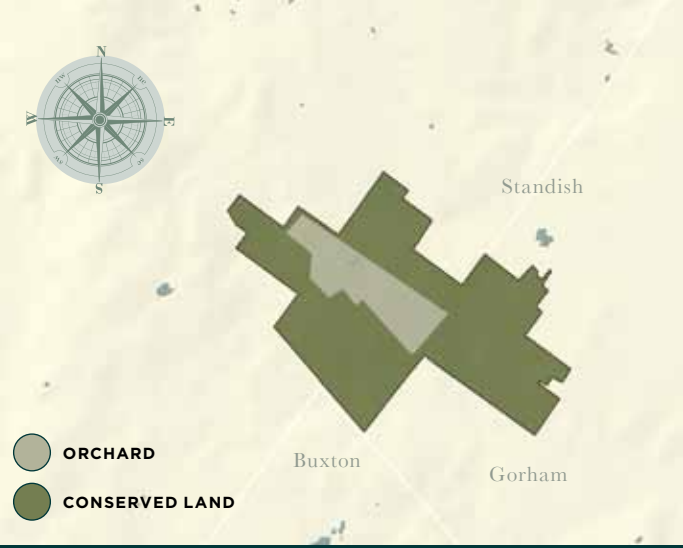
The 2010 Year in Review provides an overview of how land trusts conserve Maine land, highlights the many benefits that land conservation brings to Maine, and describes the services and programs provided to MLTN by the Land Trust Program of Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Throughout Maine land trusts are making great strides, yet they will face many challenges in the months and years to come as the nature of land conservation becomes more complex. As you will read on the pages that follow, Maine's land trusts are meeting these challenges, resulting in better conservation for Maine's people and natural communities.

RANDALL ORCHARDS

Standish, Maine

A favorite community resource, the 500-acre farm that includes this orchard was conserved through a purchased conservation easement, doubling the conservation holdings of the local land trust.



Small Land Trusts Tackle Big Projects

A land trust's potential can't always be judged by the size of its membership. Sometimes community needs outweigh "can we do it" considerations in favor of a boldness out of proportion with size, to the benefit of both the land trust and the community.

The Gorham-based Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT), with just 75 members, took a deep breath before agreeing to buy an easement on 500 acres of farmland in Standish, double the size of all their previous holdings. "This project pretty much dwarfs anything we've done before," says Richard Curtis, PRLT president, of the Randall Orchards project. "But the land is important to the community, and that makes it important to us."

The property, about 100 acres in orchard and the balance in woodland, will remain a working farm. To fund the project, PRLT is raising about \$30,000 locally, as well as applying for federal and state grants.

"This is really a unique opportunity for Standish," says Carolyn Biegel, a former town councilor. "People ride their horses there, go hiking on the trails and picnicking and apple picking. Every land use survey we've done shows the people here want to keep that property as it is."

A similar challenge faced the 400 members of the Mahoosuc Land Trust in Bethel when they learned they had an opportunity to acquire an easement on more than 4,600 acres of forestland, triple

the total acreage they had conserved since their founding. "It was a stretch for us," says executive director Jim Mitchell, the trust's only full-time staff member. "We knew this would force us to improve everything we do."

The Nature Conservancy of Maine had acquired the acreage on the Concord River in 1999 with the provision that it could sell the land if needed. When the Conservancy put the land on the market last year, Mahoosuc Land Trust asked for and received a conservation easement.

The land will remain a working forest, with regular harvests, in a region where many local residents depend on the woodlands for their

livelihood. The trust is in the midst of a fundraising campaign to match a \$50,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor; the money will underwrite stewardship and monitoring costs.

Despite the challenges of taking on oversized projects and raising funds in difficult economic times, bold moves have their own rewards. Both PRLT and Mahoosuc Land Trust feel that by taking these risks their organizations and their communities will be stronger for the experience.

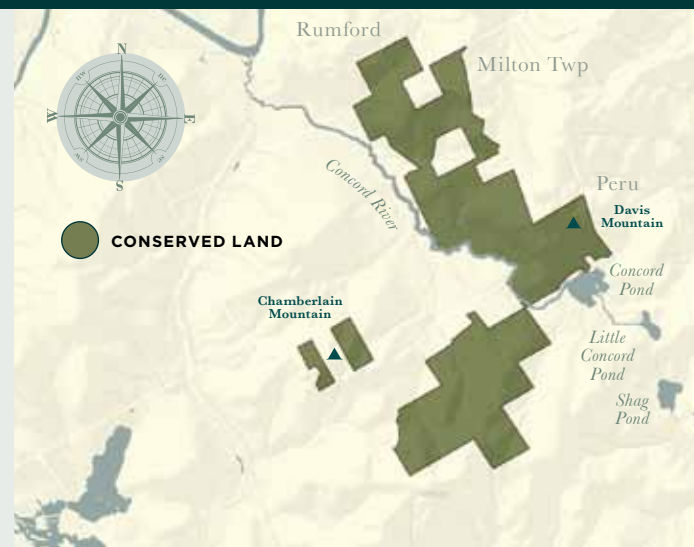
"It was a stretch for us. We knew this would force us to improve everything we do."



CONCORD RIVER

Bethel, Maine

A conservation easement held by the Mahoosuc Land Trust ensures that 4,600 acres will remain in active forest management and continue to provide local jobs.



Land Trust Enables Community Supported Agriculture

FARMLAND conservation is evolving into a highly rewarding and increasingly important part of land trust work. Agricultural land represents more than just a nostalgic link with a pastoral history — it helps preserve open space and a community’s link with the land that sustains it and also provides a wide range of sometimes unexpected amenities. Maine’s community supported agriculture movement is thriving in all corners of the state, bringing people together and building connections. Local land trusts are playing a central role in keeping the movement healthy.

One of the earliest and better known success stories, Brunswick’s Crystal Spring Farm (a project of the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust), has evolved into a vital link between its community and the land. This past year it hosted the largest farmers’ market in the state, as well as a 400-family community-supported agriculture operation. Its gardens supplied fresh produce to local businesses, its trails attracted hikers and cross-country skiers, and the farm was the site of several educational and scientific research programs.

For the past four years the trails through the farm’s fields and forest have also served as the training and competition ground for the Brunswick High School cross-country teams. “It’s a great amenity to have in our own backyard,” says assistant coach Mike Halmo. “The nice thing about having Crystal Spring Farm as a resource is that it really showcases the versatility of a land trust property. A lot of our kids do their community service there, and the school in general has a very strong connection with the farm.”

The Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT) protected the first 160 acres of the once-thriving dairy farm in 1998. In 2008 the trust completed the purchase of an additional 162 acres. “We’re working with many of the abutting landowners with an eye toward further conservation efforts,”



Crystal Spring Farm

explains Angela Twitchell, BTLT executive director. “We hope to add more land over the next couple of years.”

Currently the trust leases the property to an organic farmer, who operates the community supported agriculture operation and other commercial activities. The farm’s Saturday farmers’ market attracts more than 2,000 customers each week between May and October to sample the products of some 35-40 vendors.

The farm has also been the site of several agricultural research programs. This past year the U.S. Department of Agriculture gathered data on low-impact silage harvesting equipment appropriate for New England’s small farms. The University of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania State University are testing new grass cultivars to research higher quality forage crops.

“The degree to which Crystal Spring Farm is involved with the local community and the effects it could have on larger agricultural issues are amazing,” says BTLT president Tom Settlemire. “This past year has demonstrated for us that farmland preservation can be a vital part of land trust work while keeping our community connected to the land.”



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Land Trust Basics

- Land trusts partner with willing landowners to conserve property, most commonly through conservation easements or acquisition.
- Each year, land trusts ensure that the terms of conservation easements are upheld, and they care for the preserves they own.
- Land trusts work with stakeholders to identify community needs for local conservation land such as public recreation uses, wildlife habitat, shoreline access, or working farms and forests.
- Ongoing training and education help land trusts meet their responsibilities into the future.

Providing Value to Communities — How Land Trusts Do Their Work

LAND has a value measured in more than dollars and cents, more than subdivisions and parking lots. Unspoiled natural settings enhance our quality of life, protect our air and water, preserve traditional uses and local economies, provide critical wildlife habitat, and offer recreational opportunities, among many other benefits. A quiet forest trail leading to a spectacular overlook, public access to the shore used by clammers, a slice of sandy beach on a remote island, the fragile wetlands of a local marsh — all are parts of the tapestry of natural settings that enrich our communities. Protecting these treasured places does not happen by accident, but because of individuals and organizations who are committed to protecting the character of their communities.

Land conservation takes many forms, but at its core it achieves the permanent protection of lands by using a variety of conservation techniques that are tailored to meet the interests of willing landowners and other local stakeholders. The most popular methods are conservation easements and outright ownership of the land.

Conservation easements, which protect property while leaving it in private ownership, allow landowners to continue traditional uses of the land and insulate it from development pressures. A landowner and a land trust agree on certain restrictions (no subdivision, for example) that become part of the deed that is tied to that property forever. The land trust then monitors the property on a regular basis and ensures that the restrictions are upheld. For example, Randall Orchards in Standish will remain a working farm in rapidly growing southern Maine, as well as a valuable and valued community resource, thanks to a conservation easement held by Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (see page 2).

When a land trust takes ownership of land (through a donation or purchase), it often works with the local community to determine the most beneficial uses for the property while upholding its conservation values (such as wildlife or habitat

protection). These land trust “preserves” are usually open to the public for recreation, as well as a variety of community programs such as educational opportunities for local schools.

Conserving land is one of the best investments a community can make. Conserved land does not require expensive local services such as water, sewer or schools. At the state level, Maine’s unspoiled wild places attract many of our 48 million annual visitors, fueling a tourism industry that creates 58,000 jobs and the largest piece of the state’s economy. The working farmland, forest and waterfront protected by land trusts strengthen local economies and protect and create jobs for residents, as well as enhancing educational opportunities and scientific research. The work of land trusts assures Maine residents and visitors alike that our state’s most cherished assets will endure for generations to come.



Downeast Land Trust Merger Yields Many Benefits

As much as it sounds like a cliché, Downeast Coastal Conservancy (DCC) really is more than the sum of its parts. Formed in 2009 from the merger of two Washington County land trusts, DCC is showing that consolidation is a viable option for smaller land trusts facing growing responsibilities and more complex legal requirements.

“We’ve gone from two organizations with stretched staff and volunteer capacity to a stronger organization on the path to great success and sustainability.”

DCC president Les Coleman cautions that a merger isn’t a universal solution, but it worked for the Quoddy Regional Land Trust, which focused on the coast between Machias and Lubec, and the Great Auk Land Trust, active in the Steuben-Beals-Jonesport area. “It takes time and effort,” he says of the 18-month process. “You have to look at the long-term objectives and not get caught up in the side issues.”

“The merger brought immediate strength to the organization,” adds Tom Boutoureira, executive director and half of the two-person staff. “Since the merger, we’ve completed seven land protection projects, led over 25 educational and recreational outings, provided more than 30 scholarships to area youth to attend summer conservation camps, completed a strategic plan, and are moving forward with an ambitious conservation plan. We’ve gone from two organizations with stretched staff and volunteer capacity to a stronger organization on the path to great success and sustainability.”

The combined organization now covers all of Washington County from Route 9 (the Airline) to the coast. “Since we’ve merged,” says Alan Brooks, stewardship director, “we’ve seen many positive results and great encouragement from the community.”

The trusts brought in an outside consultant they had both worked with in the past, Caroline Pryor of Bar Harbor, to facilitate the merger process and help develop a shared vision. “Each situation is unique,” she says. “In this case it has already proven successful.” Coleman urges other small land trusts that are looking for ways to ensure long-term sustainability and growth to look at mergers. “This has made us stronger and more successful,” he says.

Maine Land Trust Excellence Program Smooths the Way to Accreditation



THE Maine Land Trust Excellence Program has helped twenty local land trusts take the mystery out of the national accreditation process. The Program seeks to ensure land trusts meet the highest standards of performance and uphold the public trust. “The Maine Excellence Program really gets us down the road to the goal of accreditation,” says Jerry Longcore, president of the Orono Land Trust. “For a small land trust like us, it’s the key to success.”

The Program was created by Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 2009 in a partnership with the national Land Trust Alliance, with support from the Pew Charitable Trusts and private donors. It provides specially designed workshops as well as funds that can be used to pay for professional help with organizational assessments, individually tailored work plans and implementation of those plans. It also includes assistance from Deb Chapman, MCHT’s Land Trust Program circuit rider, to help understand the requirements of accreditation. Deb also organizes periodic meetings of the grantees at which they help each other solve problems, share what they are learning and trade tips.

“With limited staff resources, we knew we’d need help once we started down the road to accreditation,” says Maureen S. Hoffman, executive director of the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (SVCA). “The Excellence Program showed us how to navigate a very rigorous process and got us on the right track.”

Currently, 20 land trusts are participating in the three-year program, and the first five “graduates” will submit their applications for accreditation in 2011. “That’s a pretty substantial proportion of the 100 or so land trusts in Maine,” says Kevin Case, the northeast program director for the Land Trust Alliance. “Maine Coast Heritage Trust is really leading the way on helping local land trusts embrace accreditation.” Two other states, Michigan and Massachusetts, have begun their own programs, based on learning from the Maine program.

“With limited staff resources, we knew we’d need help once we started down the road to accreditation.”

“Working toward accreditation presents real challenges to land trusts,” says Warren Whitney, MCHT’s Land Trust Program manager. “We’re here to help people take the next step forward,” he says. “This is all about making Maine’s land trusts stronger.”



2010/2011

L.L.Bean Land Trust

Grant Award Recipients



Whiskeag Trail Opening Celebration

After receiving an L.L.Bean grant in 2009, the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust celebrated the opening of the 5-mile-long Whiskeag Trail in 2010.

L.L.Bean Grant Supports Public Access

PROVIDING public access to protected lands is one of the most exciting parts of land conservation — building and maintaining trails and facilities encourage outdoor recreation and boost land trust visibility and credibility in the larger community. But often land trusts are stretched thin after a land deal is completed, and it can be hard to marshal the resources to complete the stewardship work required for sustainable public access. Thankfully L.L.Bean, in partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, has funded a grant program since 2004 to help trusts meet their operational needs, and increasingly this effort is directed to supporting public access projects.

In 2010, Bean grants totaling \$22,750 helped six local land trusts improve trail networks, viewing platforms and parking facilities—including a major improvement to a popular hiking trail in the midcoast. “It’s wonderful to be part of a partnership that helps land trusts realize the goal of getting their communities out on the land,” explains Warren Whitney, MCHT’s Land Trust Program manager.

“The L.L.Bean money was absolutely essential for us,” explains Alicia Heyburn, the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust’s outreach and communications director. The \$4,800 the trust received in the fall of 2009 to upgrade the five-mile-long Whiskeag

“We could not have opened the trail as soon as we did without the grant money. It was the little push that got the ball rolling.”

Trail in the north end of Bath in 2010 “was the catalyst for us to go out and raise other money for this project,” she says.

The trust hired a Maine Conservation Corps trail crew to install bridging, put in crushed rock, and clear debris from the trail, which is officially managed by the trust’s associated Bath Trails

organization. The extra help allowed the trail to open officially on September 18, a full two and a half years earlier than originally planned.

The trail starts at a parking area near Thorne Head at the northernmost tip of Bath and runs along Whiskeag Creek and through wooded areas to the city’s new YMCA, just a few blocks above downtown. Much of the work involved upgrading existing informal paths created by mountain bikers and youngsters trekking to local schools, Heyburn says. The majority of the trail runs across public and trust-owned properties, and the trust is currently negotiating an easement with the sole private landowner involved.



Public Policy Review

MEMBERS of the Maine Land Trust Network look to Maine Coast Heritage Trust for information and support concerning public policy issues related to land conservation. Provided by MCHT's public policy coordinator Jeff Romano, these regular updates are made available to Maine's land trusts to inform their organizations' advocacy efforts.

In 2010 there was a simultaneous focus on two issues with important implications to the State's land conservation community. In Maine, MCHT and local land trusts joined other supporters to ensure successful passage of a bond issue to fund the award-winning Land for Maine's Future program. Conservation partners formed a political action committee, raised funds and coordinated an advertising campaign featuring two 30-second ads supporting the initiative. Nearly 60% of voters approved the \$9.75 million measure in November. This marked the fourth time in the last eleven years that the program was endorsed by Maine people.

In the wake of the bond election success, Maine's land trusts turned their attention on Washington D.C., specifically towards extending recently expired income tax incentives available to landowners who donate conservation easements. Throughout the year, Maine land trusts reached out to the State's four Congressional Offices to garner support for the extension. These actions in concert with similar outreach organized nationally by the Land Trust Alliance eventually produced the desired outcome before Congress adjourned in December.

In 2010, MCHT hosted the 28th annual Maine Land Conservation Conference, which brought 450 people together for two days of field trips, lectures, workshops and networking. In addition, land trusts gather for regional meetings and workshops on specific conservation topics hosted by MCHT throughout the year.

In response to input from the MLTN Steering Committee, MCHT recently upgraded the MLTN website, which now includes timely articles about land trust successes as well as technical updates. Another electronic resource for the land trust community is "Infoline," a popular bi-weekly email that includes updates and information about grants, workshops, and public policy matters from Augusta and Washington D.C.

MCHT's Land Trust Program, which includes the dedicated services of circuit rider Deb Chapman, helps Maine's land trusts take on complex challenges and learn from each other, and improves the overall quality of land and protection in Maine.



Strengthening a Movement

THE organizations of the Maine Land Trust Network face individual opportunities and challenges, but they do have a shared resource to assist them as they work to become stronger and more effective. The Land Trust Program of Maine Coast Heritage Trust provides communication, networking, education and financial resources for Maine land trusts as they work to conserve some of Maine's finest lands.

MLTN

MAINE LAND TRUST NETWORK

MLTN STEERING COMMITTEE 2010

Scott Dickerson (*Chair*)
Coastal Mountains Land Trust

Nancy Perlson (*Vice Chair*)
Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust

Judy Adelman
Crabtree Neck Land Trust

Madge Baker
Three Rivers Land Trust

Tom Boutoureira
Downeast Coastal Conservancy

Tom Bradbury
Kennebunkport Conservation Trust

Jessica Burton
Portland North Land Trust Collaborative

Susan Caldwell
The Nature Conservancy in Maine

Richard Curtis
Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

Lee Dassler
Western Foothills Land Trust

Cheri Domina
Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust

Jim Dow
Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Steven Hufnagel
Damariscotta River Association

Dawn Kidd
Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Carrie Kinne
Kennebec Estuary Land Trust

Jonathan LaBonte
Androscooggin Land Trust

Julie Lamy
Boothbay Region Land Trust

Lucy McCarthy
Vinalhaven Land Trust

Aaron Megquier
Islesboro Islands Trust

Liz Petruska
Medomak Valley Land Trust

Jeff Pidot
Kennebec Land Trust

Gail Presley
Georges River Land Trust

Lois Winter
Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation

MCHT LAND TRUST PROGRAM STAFF

Warren Whitney
Land Trust Program Manager
wwhitney@mcht.org

Donna Bissett
Land Trust Program Assistant
dbissett@mcht.org

Deb Chapman
Land Trust Program Circuit Rider
dchapman@mcht.org

The Maine Land Trust Network is coordinated by staff at Maine Coast Heritage Trust. MCHT hosts quarterly meetings of the MLTN Steering Committee, facilitates MLTN's strategic planning efforts, administers grants to land trusts, and provides training and education through workshops, publications and online. More information is available at www.mltm.org



Deb Chapman, Warren Whitney and Donna Bissett

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

1 Bowdoin Mill Island
Suite 201
Topsham, ME 04086

PHOTO CREDITS

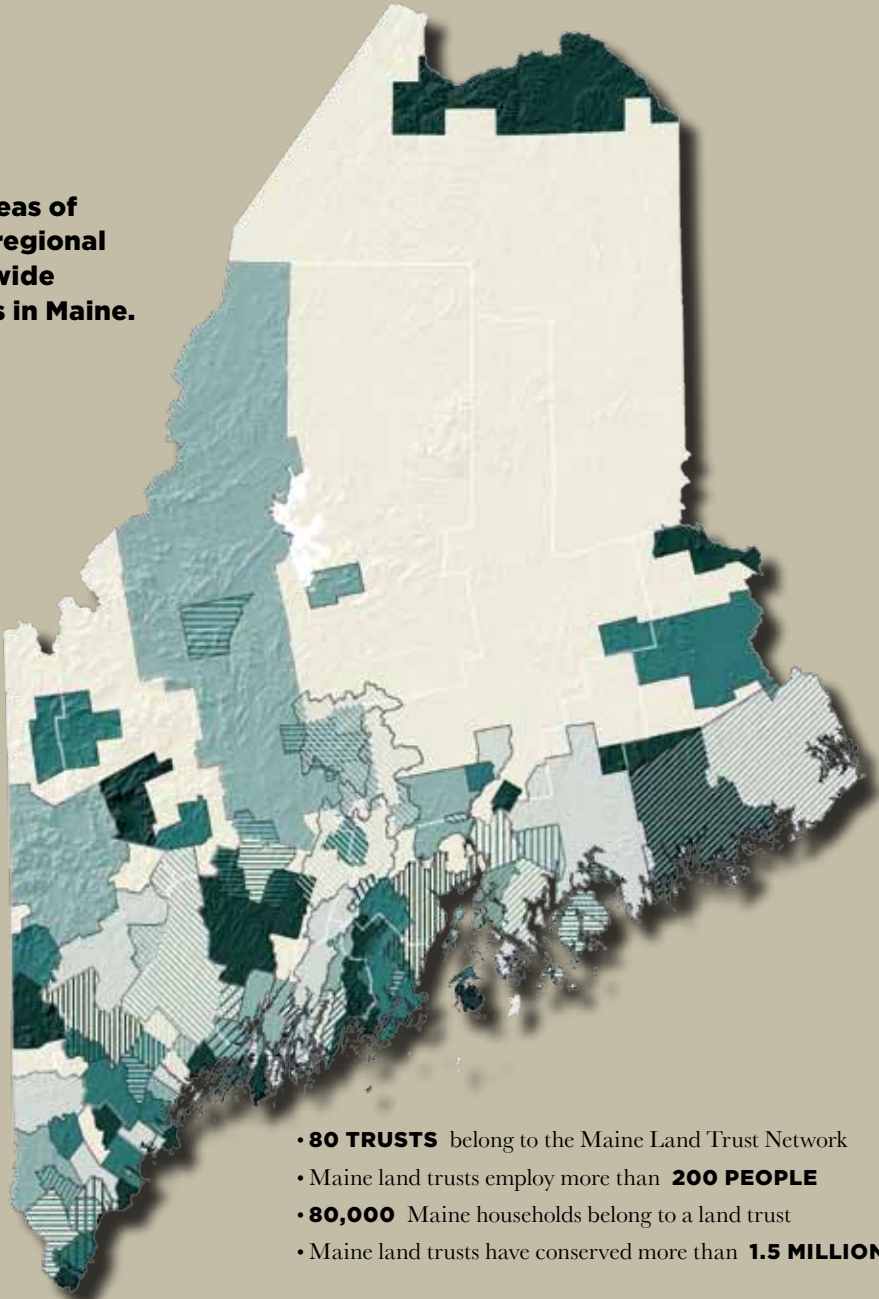
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MILTN

MAINE LAND TRUST NETWORK

Maine land trusts of all sizes conserve productive landscapes, recreational lands, threatened wildlife habitat, community traditions and scenic vistas.

**Service areas of
the local, regional
and statewide
land trusts in Maine.**



- **80 TRUSTS** belong to the Maine Land Trust Network
- Maine land trusts employ more than **200 PEOPLE**
- **80,000** Maine households belong to a land trust
- Maine land trusts have conserved more than **1.5 MILLION ACRES**

www.mltm.org