



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# Building on Success

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In 2022, we made significant progress in our work to support Maine communities, protect plants and animals, secure access to the coast for more people, and build the coast's resilience in a changing climate.

You joined thousands of supporters giving to Maine Coast Heritage Trust to make this work possible. Thank you! Through your generosity and strong partnerships with other organizations across the state we were able to conserve 36 places in a single year, including five projects within our Rivers Initiative and five projects within our Marshes for Tomorrow Initiative.

These initiatives are an important part of our organization's focused efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the Maine coast. When coastal rivers and tidal marshes are protected and functioning properly, they have a significant impact on all life within Maine's coastal ecosystems and increase the coast's resilience exponentially. These projects are also powerful community builders, bringing people together, shifting attitudes, and inspiring hope.

Thanks to your support, communities in Maine can now explore and enjoy expanded municipal parks, additional water access sites, and new public preserves (nine in total!). People gathered on MCHT preserves for wildlife walks, community celebrations, and island picnics. Land stewards cleared and extended trail systems and removed invasive plants and planted native ones. Gardeners tended to community plots, and Midcoast food

pantries were filled with fresh vegetables and beef from Erickson Fields and Aldermere Farm.

Maine's land conservation community benefitted from workshops and learning opportunities offered by MCHT and our colleagues, and we made progress in our ongoing efforts to better understand and incorporate into our work principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

*You made all of this—and so much more—possible in 2022.*

Thanks to your ongoing support and commitment, MCHT is a strong organization with an impressive track record. In 2023, we're asking important questions to help us build on these successes and guide the creation and adoption of a new strategic plan for the organization. We will investigate questions such as: what does the future of land conservation look like in Maine, and what should be prioritized? How might the changing external environment in the state impact the way we approach our work? What business model will enable us to most effectively achieve these goals and assure long-term financial sustainability? And how can we become a more diverse, inclusive, and welcoming organization with a mission that is relevant to all Maine communities?

We look forward to sharing this journey with you, hearing your thoughts, concerns, and hopes, and working together on behalf of the Maine coast and all who live, work, and play here. Thank you for being part of the MCHT community.

With great appreciation,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom".

Tom Armstrong, *Chair of the Board*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Stookey".

Kate Stookey, *President and CEO*





2. The Maine Land Trust Network, a program of MCHT, organized regional events to educate legislative candidates about the work of land trusts and the community benefits of conservation. One event, pictured here, was held at Pondicherry Park in Bridgton and attracted folks from Western Maine.



3. MCHT land steward Kirk Gentelen (who took this photo!) led nature walks at MCHT preserves and wrote about his Midcoast adventures in his popular column "Nature Bummin'." In the summer of 2022 he saw numerous nested Red Crossbills, a species typically spotted in Maine in the winter. Learn more: [mcht.org/nature-bummin](http://mcht.org/nature-bummin).



4. MCHT conserved a small waterfront parcel with a boat launch just across the harbor from Stave Island Preserve, improving access to this beautiful island experience and Frenchman Bay at large.



5. Members of Color of Change, a Portland-based nonprofit group of young climate-change activists, spent a day with MCHT and Maine Beer Company on recently protected Little Whaleboat Island in Casco Bay.



6. We collaborated with the town of Brunswick and Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust to help conserve 41 acres of undeveloped shoreline on the Androscoggin River. This project allows for the expansion of a town park to include a lovely new detour off an established bike and pedestrian path.

**Cover:** MCHT staff hosted a *Down East* magazine writer and photographer for a paddle on the Orange River, which is part of our Rocky Lake Preserve, pictured here. Rocky Lake, MCHT's largest preserve, was expanded by 750 acres in 2022. This area is one of few places on the Eastern Seaboard where the ocean connects to inland forest, and it will become increasingly important wildlife habitat in a changing climate.

1. **(previous page):** Hundreds joined us for the "Meet the Marsh" event at Cousins River Fields and Marsh in Yarmouth in November. MCHT Associate Director of Stewardship Amanda Devine led event attendees down to the marsh, where she explained how protection of the wetlands and surrounding uplands makes it possible for the marsh to migrate as sea level rises, keeping highly valuable habitat intact.

7. **(right):** MCHT accepted the fee transfer of the Mason Bay Conservation Area from Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation. The property includes 639 upland acres, 260 fresh and saltwater wetland acres, and over five miles of shoreline, including wildlife-rich salt marsh and mudflats in Jonesport and Jonesboro. Over the next several years, MCHT will work to protect the bay's ecology and upgrade public access in key areas—stay tuned!





8. The Aldermere and Erickson Campaign, which kicked off in 2022 and continues through 2023, will add critical new infrastructure to our agricultural preserves in Rockport. Here, cows frolic in a field before what will be the new barn and visitor center at Aldermere Farm, a project made possible through the campaign. This new structure will allow us to continue to serve the community and provide exceptional educational programming opportunities.



9. MCHT staff, seasonal crew members, and volunteers added two sets of stone steps at Boot Head Preserve on the Bold Coast. The preserve has soft, peaty soils, and, with increased visitation at the preserve, it's become necessary to harden added sections of Boot Head's trails. Harvesting and transporting lumber and heavy stones is quite labor intensive! Visitors can help protect fragile soils by keeping the trail tread narrow and using bog bridging and rock steps when provided.



10. A collaborative conservation effort on Mount Desert Island resulted in the protection of 70 acres of ecologically significant land on Babson Creek, and ensured its continued use by students of The Community School.

#### Photo Credits

Cover: Tara Rice, courtesy of *Down East* magazine

1 © Chris Bennett Photography

2 Maggie Lynn

3 Kirk Gentalen

4 MCHT photo

5 Ceci Danforth

6 MCHT photo

7 © Ken Woisard Photography

8 MCHT photo

9 Wayne Bernard

10 Courtesy of The Community School of Mount Desert Island

# See what you made possible in 2022!

Thanks to your generosity, Maine Coast Heritage Trust advanced our goals to protect plants and animals, build climate resilience along the coast, create more access to land and water, serve Maine communities, and support conservation efforts across the state. Thank you!

Learn more about your impact

[mcht.org/  
2022-impact](https://mcht.org/2022-impact)

The maps on the following three pages span the entire coast of Maine and showcase some of the work made possible thanks to donor support.

## ● **New places** conserved in 2022

The **36** places conserved in 2022 comprise **4,161** acres (that's greater than the size of Hallowell) and include **28** miles of shoreline (the distance from Portland to Brunswick).

## ● **Lands cared for** in 2022

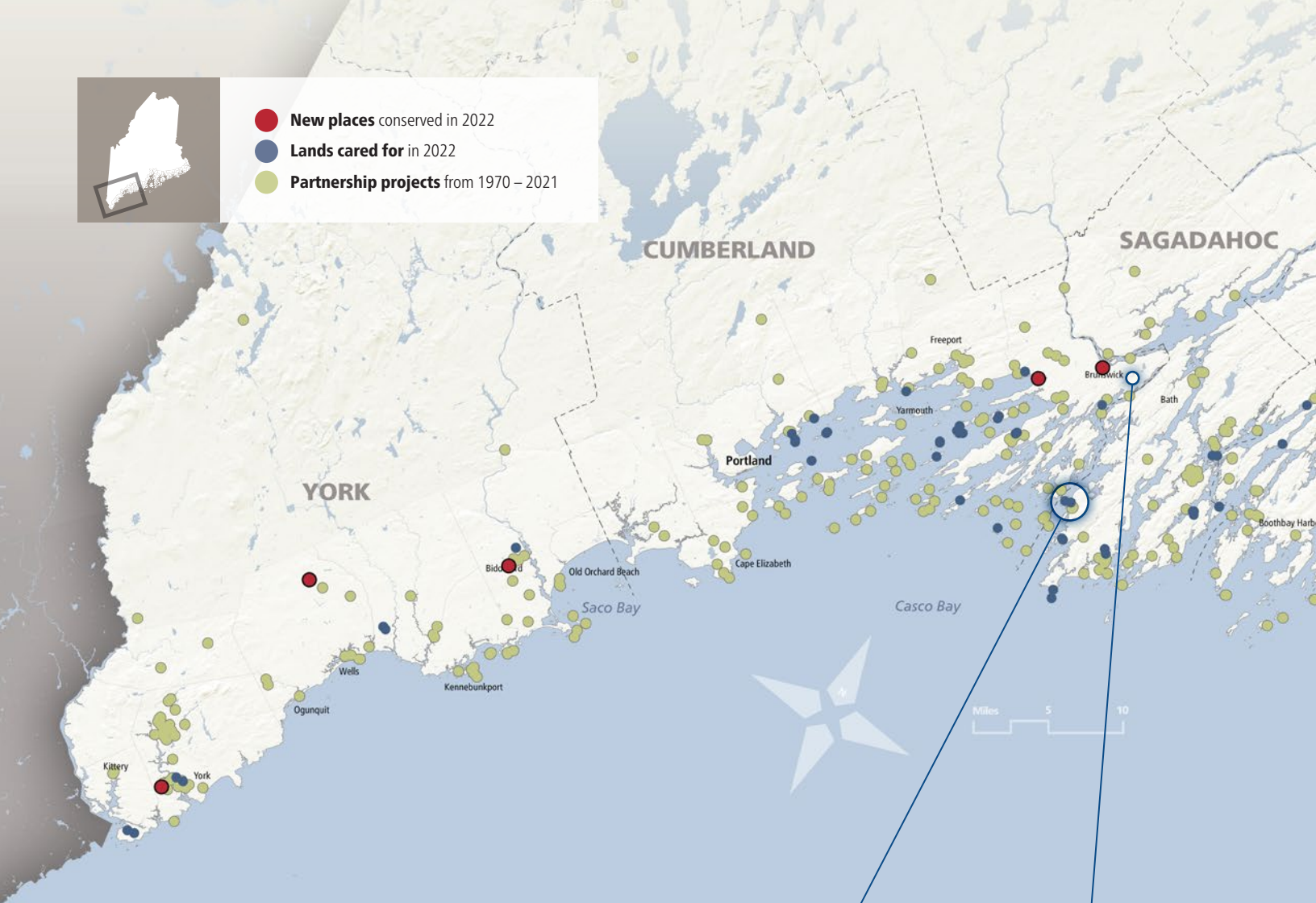
Our stewardship staff monitored and cared for **43,346** acres (that's about the size of the town of Boothbay) in 2022, including maintaining over **100** miles of trail (the distance from Kittery to Damariscotta).

## ● **Partnership projects** from 1970 – 2021

In addition to conserved land under our care, MCHT has worked with partners to conserve hundreds of places throughout Maine. In 2022, **15** of the **36** places conserved were partnership projects.



- **New places** conserved in 2022
- **Lands cared for** in 2022
- **Partnership projects** from 1970 – 2021



**Phippsburg**  
MCHT staff provided boat transportation and a guided walk of Malaga Island for Portland-area teachers interested in incorporating its history into their curriculum.



**Brunswick**  
The Maine Land Trust Network, a program of MCHT, offered a workshop exploring how folks with different abilities can access conserved land, and the role land trusts can play in that effort.

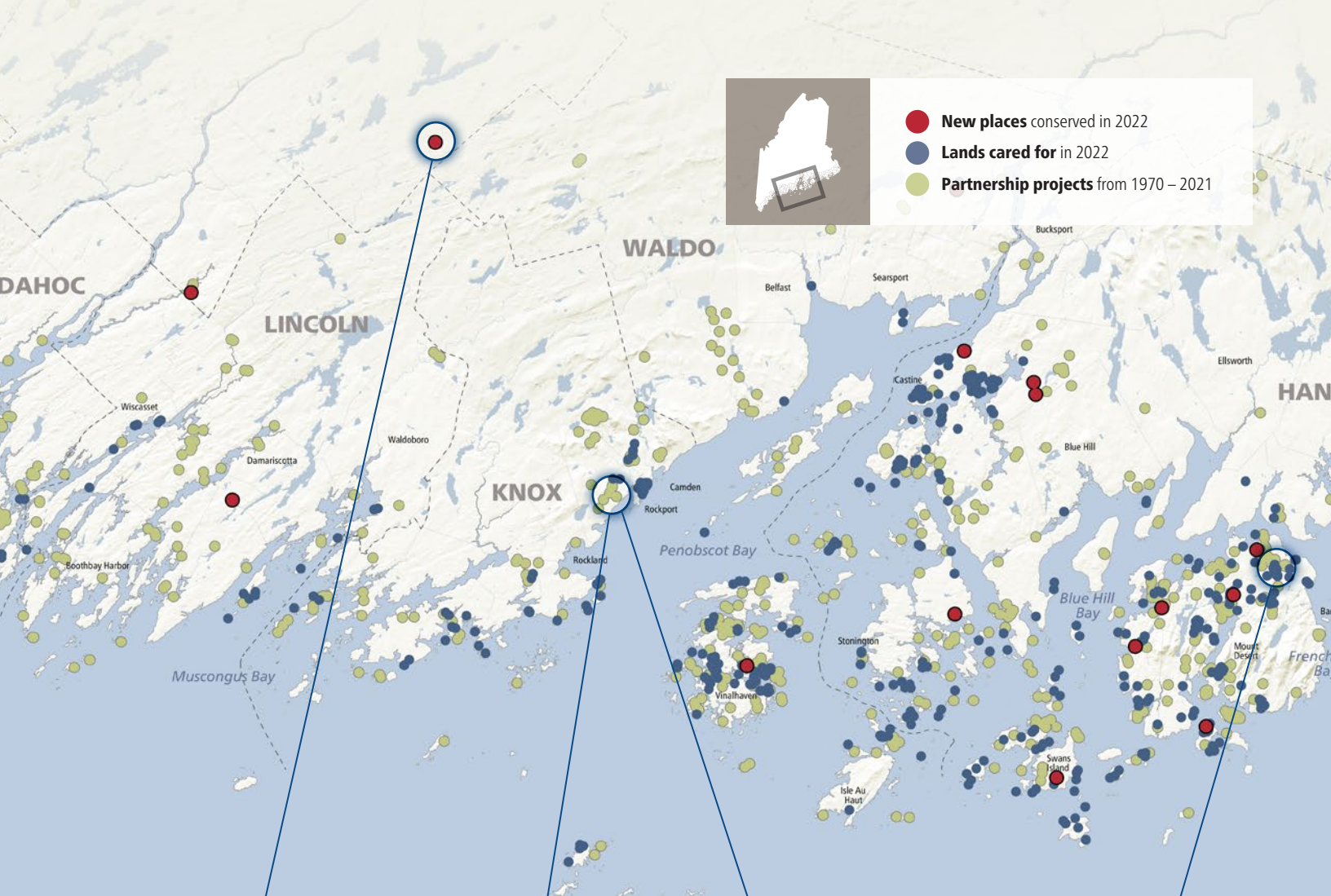
## Donations by the numbers

**4,051** people gave to MCHT in 2022, with **680** giving for the first time. Welcome to MCHT! We're so happy to have you.

**351** people gave monthly, which helps us be more proactive and strategic in our conservation work. We're grateful to have **750** people giving at *The President's Circle* level, and **351** donors age 50 and under supporting this work as members of MCHT's Next Wave.

Coordinated over **60** educational workshops and field trips, over **40** community events, and over **10** donor events, serving over **4,500** attendees in total.

Hosted **55** participants from **30** organizations at an Accessibility Workshop. In total, MCHT's Land Trust Program offered **23** events with over **1,100** participants.



**China**

MCHT aided Midcoast Conservancy in the conservation of 12.5 acres on the Sheepscot River. The Sheepscot is one of five coastal rivers we're focusing on through our Rivers Initiative.

Completed **5** more projects as part of our Rivers Initiative to enhance the coast's resilience in a changing climate.



**Rockport**

MCHT volunteers and Erickson Fields apprentices stand before boxes of vegetables harvested at Erickson Fields Preserve to be donated to area food pantries.

Donated **17,450** pounds of fresh produce from Erickson Fields and **1,635** pounds of hamburger from Aldermere Farm to local hunger relief organizations.



**Rockport**

Brothers Michael Heath and Matthew Heath help staff at Aldermere Farm care for the cows and assist with other tasks at the agricultural preserve.

**200** volunteers pitched in to support programs at Aldermere Farm and Erickson Fields preserves in Rockport.



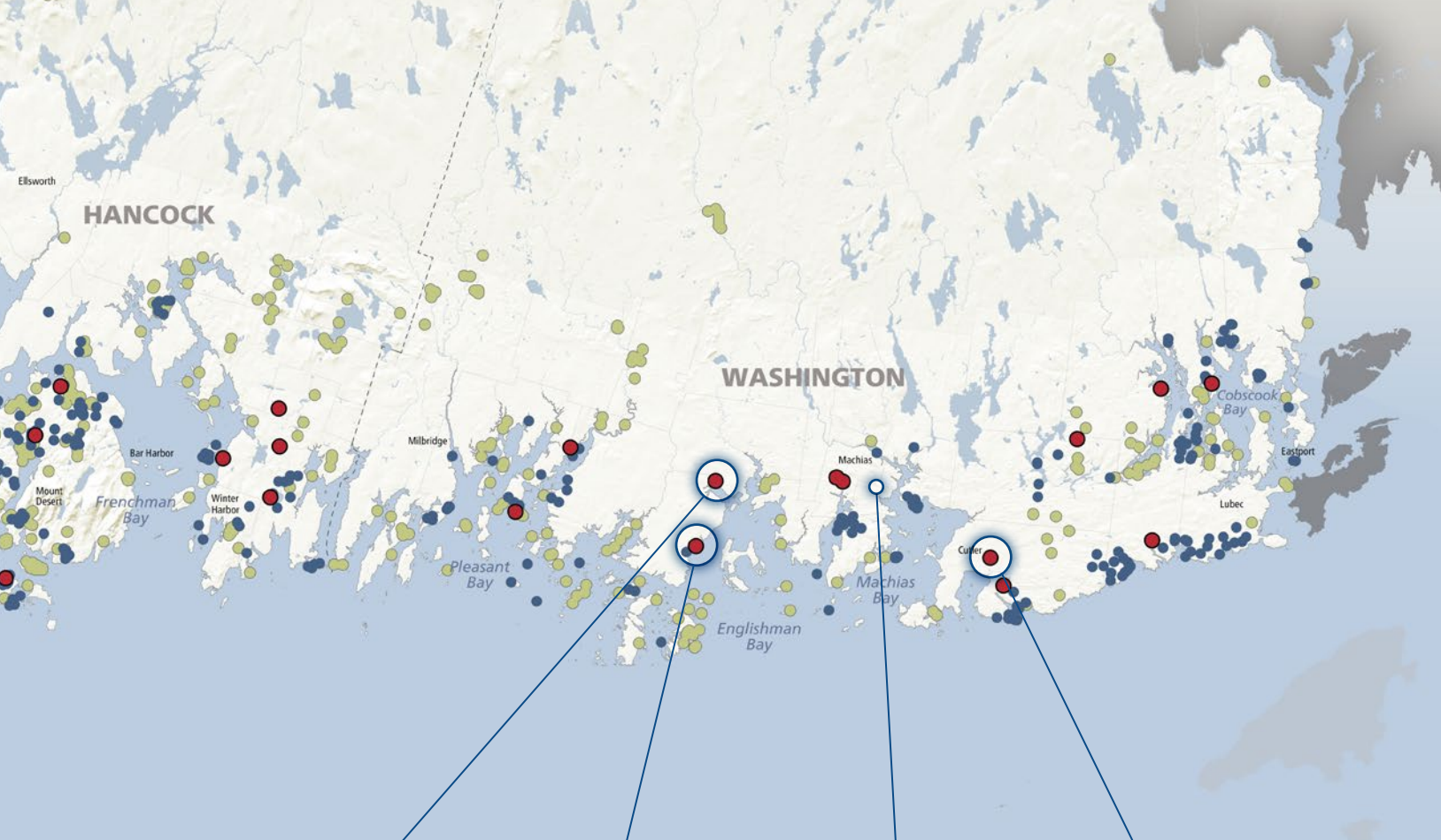
**Bar Harbor**

We began renovation and structural reinforcement of Bar Harbor's Stone Barn, maintaining its iconic look while making it a safer structure more suitable for public programming.

To enhance programming at MCHT preserves, we built one barn, began restoration of another barn (see above), and broke ground on a new barn and visitor center (at Aldermere Farm).



- **New places** conserved in 2022
- **Lands cared for** in 2022
- **Partnership projects** from 1970 – 2021



### Jonesboro & Jonesport

We're excited to have a large new coastal preserve in our care! Over the next several years we'll be increasing access to key portions of Mason Bay Preserve.

Added **9** new MCHT preserves and expanded **3** existing preserves by **772** acres.



### Jonesport

Working with a generous landowner, we conserved Bar Island, a small island off Jonesport that is easily accessible across a wide sand bar from a public beach.

Conserved **2** islands, on top of **7** conserved in 2021.



### Machias

Gia Francis, a Forestry major at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, worked for Downeast Coastal Conservancy in the summer of 2022 as one of MCHT's Richard G. Rockefeller Conservation Interns.

Supported **10** conservation interns working for land trusts throughout the state.



### Cutler

We were able to conserve 18 acres of salt marsh (and about 10 acres of potential future marsh) at Turner Stream in Cutler.

Completed **5** more projects as part of our Marshes for Tomorrow Initiative to conserve essential habitat in a changing climate.

# The Maine coast is a world treasure worth caring for, and we're on a mission to keep it open, healthy, working, and beautiful.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) is a nonprofit land conservation organization protecting and caring for vital coastal lands. We're partnering with individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities to conserve iconic islands, critical wildlife habitat, coastal watersheds, water access sites, downtown greenspaces, and beautiful places for people to explore. Our Land Trust Program supports and strengthens Maine's entire land conservation community of over 80 land trusts.



Acres Conserved



Coastal Islands Protected



MCHT Preserves



Miles of MCHT Trail



## Every dollar you give supports MCHT's mission

### MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Lead state-wide-initiatives to protect and restore salt marshes and coastal rivers, which are key to maximizing the coast's natural resilience and minimizing damage to people, plants, and animals.
- Prioritize protection of islands for birds and other wildlife as sea level rises and habitat shrinks.

### PROTECT PLANTS AND ANIMALS

- Establish connected habitats so that plants and animals can move to find food and hospitable living conditions.
- Sustain the coast's biodiversity through thoughtful land stewardship.
- Provide people great experiences outdoors while reserving places for wildlife.

### EXPAND ACCESS TO THE COAST

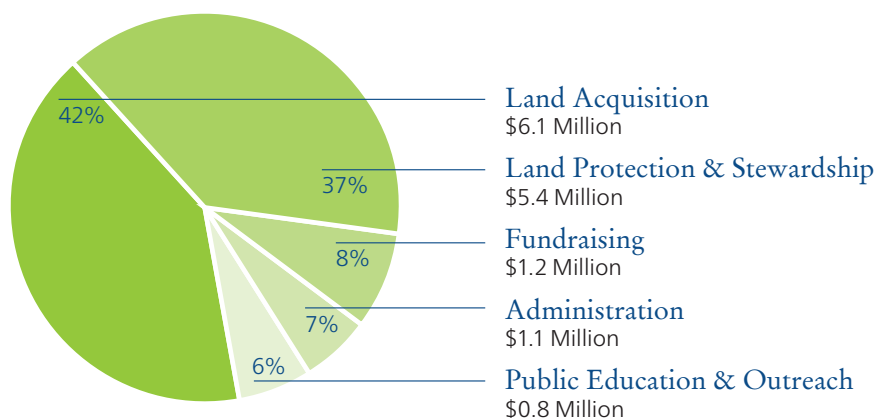
- Create public preserves with trails, accessible paths, benches, picnic tables, and campsites.
- Protect traditional access sites to the working waterfront.
- Build boat launches for commercial access and recreational boaters.
- Run and support programs connecting people to nature.

### SERVE MAINE COMMUNITIES

- Listen to, learn from, and partner with communities to protect the places and experiences that matter to peoples' lives and livelihoods.
- Collaborate to find creative solutions to problems like limited or unsafe coastal access, food insecurity, and declining fisheries.

# Generosity in action, 2022

We value your gift to Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and we're making sure it goes as far as possible for the Maine coast. For every \$10 MCHT spent in 2022, \$9 went directly to protecting and caring for coastal lands and islands and connecting people to the coast.



## Where do those funds come from?

- Private Restricted Contributions & Grants (54%)
- Investment Draw (23%)
- Annual Fund (17%)
- Public Restricted Grants (3%)
- Other Revenue (3%)

The above represents a summary of how your generous contributions were spent during 2022 and the sources of funds applied. Our 2022 audited financial statements and Form 990 will be available later in 2023. A complete set of MCHT's 2021 audited financial statements are available at [mcht.org/financials](http://mcht.org/financials).

## Board and Council members (as of 10/28/2022)

Chair            Thomas Armstrong, Jr.  
 Vice Chairs    Thomas E. Ireland, Lucy McCarthy  
 Treasurer      Arthur Martinez

### Founders

Thomas D. Cabot (1897–1995)  
 Margaret M. Rockefeller (1915–1996)

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Ann Amstutz Hayes	Arthur C. Martinez
Thomas Armstrong Jr.	Lucy McCarthy
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MacKenzie Davis	Sheridan Steele
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Philip DeNormandie	Bambi Putnam	Paula Volent
Carol Donnelly	George Putnam III	William J. Zwartjes
Ben Emory	Peter Quesada	

*“While preserving and protecting Maine’s shoreline and islands are central to MCHT’s mission, so too are our efforts around community conservation. Whether it’s partnering with working waterfronts, creating programs that reveal the wonders of Maine’s coast, or restoring Wabanaki access to land that they have lived with for generations, MCHT does a wonderful job creating space for the human relationship to and with the coast and the sea. To me, that is the essence of ‘conservation,’ and it is hard to imagine a more worthwhile endeavor.”*

— MacKenzie Davis, Board Member

Your donation to MCHT sustains lives and livelihoods  
and empowers people and organizations across Maine to  
conserve our common ground.

Thanks for all you made possible for the coast and  
beyond in 2022.

