

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

It's going to take all of us

Maine is defined by remarkable lands and waters and people's deep connections to place. Here, nature is still big and bold enough to remind us that we are part of it.

At Maine Coast Heritage Trust, we're working to ensure this remains true by accelerating the pace and scale of conservation to sustain life, livelihoods, and these unique connections. We must seize the opportunity while we still can, while our state's natural areas are still relatively intact.

This requires us to think big. Not just in terms of acres—and this year you contributed to the conservation of more than 11,000 acres, a remarkable feat—but also in terms of collaboration. If conservation efforts include more people who love and care about this place, we can accomplish so much more, and it's vital that we do.

The 2024 annual report includes many stories that reflect the ways we're working with individuals, communities, organizations, towns, state partners, and Wabanaki Nations to support lands, waters, people, and wildlife. The many challenges we face—not least of which is a changing climate—require us to work together to increase Maine's resilience.

The conservation movement has always been in a steady state of evolution and change. The road ahead will be no different. It will take all of us to ensure that the lands and waters that make Maine so special are resilient, held sacred, and remain a cherished source of connection for generations to come.

With love for this coast, gratitude for all you made possible in 2024, and excitement for all the good work to come,



A blue ink signature of Tom Armstrong.

Tom Armstrong, *Chair of the Board*



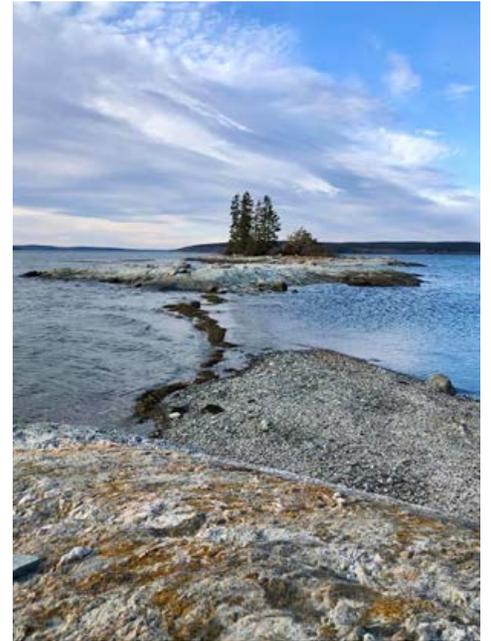
A blue ink signature of Kate Stookey.

Kate Stookey, *President and CEO*





2. MCHT acquired and will be transferring to Northeast Wilderness Trust more than 2,000 acres just inland from the Bold Coast, contributing to over 30,000 contiguous acres of conserved land and adding to significant habitat connectivity efforts in Washington County.



3. With thanks to the First Baptist Church of Brooklin and donors, we acquired permanent access into Harriman Point Preserve—a 138-acre scenic peninsula in Brooklin. This addition will allow stewards to design and build a trail that can hold up better to foot traffic and weather conditions.



6. In 2022, we completed a project in Trescott to secure access for commercial marine harvesting and recreation, and this year we added an accessible trail, picnic area, and parking lot. From this put-in, boaters wind down a narrow, cliff-lined waterway to Haycock Harbor and Grand Manan Channel.



7. Woodward Point Preserve, a Brunswick preserve co-managed by MCHT and Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, was the site of numerous gatherings and collaborations, including a four-season walk series hosted by Wild Seed Project (pictured here). In the fall, Brunswick high school students helped stewards plant native shrubs to improve habitat and better protect soil and the shoreline.



8. Cathy Lookabaugh, community outreach manager for Washington County (pictured far left), teamed up with the Maine Outdoor School to offer a week-long camp for kids ages 10-13 from the Whiting area. Campers connected to the Orange River watershed through a variety of activities, including hiking, canoeing, and journaling—and the free camp will be offered in 2025 as well!

Cover: Russ Island in Stonington, a new MCHT preserve.

1. (previous page): On Mount Desert Island, we're building on decades of conservation efforts to further protect Fresh Meadow surrounding Northeast Creek, one of the largest marsh systems on the island (and accessible via Stone Barn Farm Preserve in Bar Harbor). In 2024, we helped advance a project with partners to assess Northeast Creek's water quality to help inform land use decisions within the watershed moving forward.

9. (right): Over 100 people gathered at Erickson Fields Preserve in Rockport for the third annual Fall Harvest Celebration. This year's event featured a special dedication for an art installation featuring work by Passamaquoddy artist Norma Randi and words by Penobscot and other Wabanaki citizens sharing information about Wabanaki people and connections to this region.





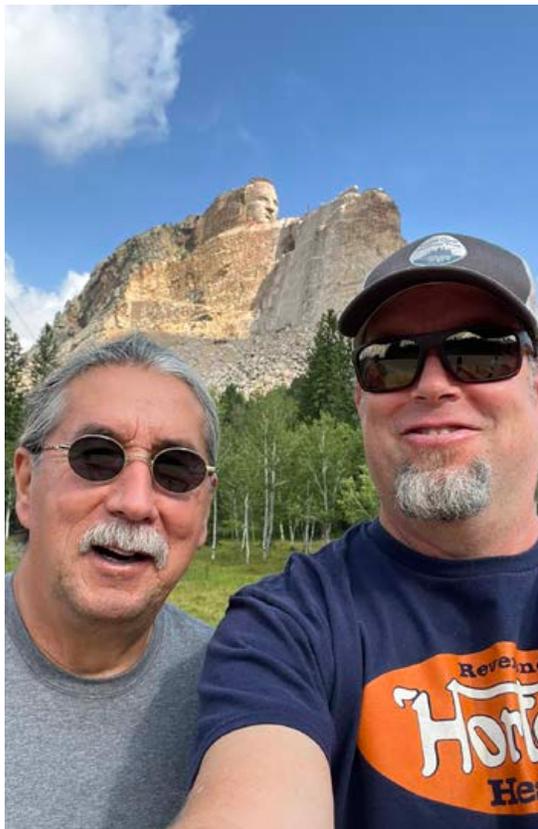
4. We joined the Town of Penobscot and Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries in organizing an annual May community event at Pierce Pond to celebrate alewives and the restoration of the Bagaduce Watershed for fish passage, a multi-year, highly collaborative effort gaining national attention. Here, attendees take a look at pond life under a microscope.



5. MCHT is committed to connecting people to the coast, and thanks to local donor support, was able to acquire a beloved, small coastal peninsula with nearby islands in Blue Hill. In May, after a town vote to accept them, this collection of lands was transferred to the Town of Blue Hill. MCHT holds a conservation easement to keep them open to the public over time.



10. In Hancock County, we contributed to the Forest Society of Maine's project to protect over 5,300 acres of forest, expanding existing conservation land to maintain a larger, unbroken region of wild and ecologically vital habitat in the headwaters of the Narraguagus River, a focus of MCHT's Rivers Initiative.



11. Darrell Newell (left), former vice chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, and MCHT Associate Director of Land Protection Jacob van de Sande (right) traveled together to attend the 12th World Wilderness Congress in South Dakota in August, where Jacob presented about MCHT's Rivers Initiative.

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Your impact in 2024

Your gifts to Maine Coast Heritage Trust contribute to a Maine with coastlines, waters, and woods full of life, where all people and communities are engaged in the outdoors and actively protect and care for the lands and waters that sustain us all. Thank you for your ongoing support and for all you made possible in 2024.

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 2024

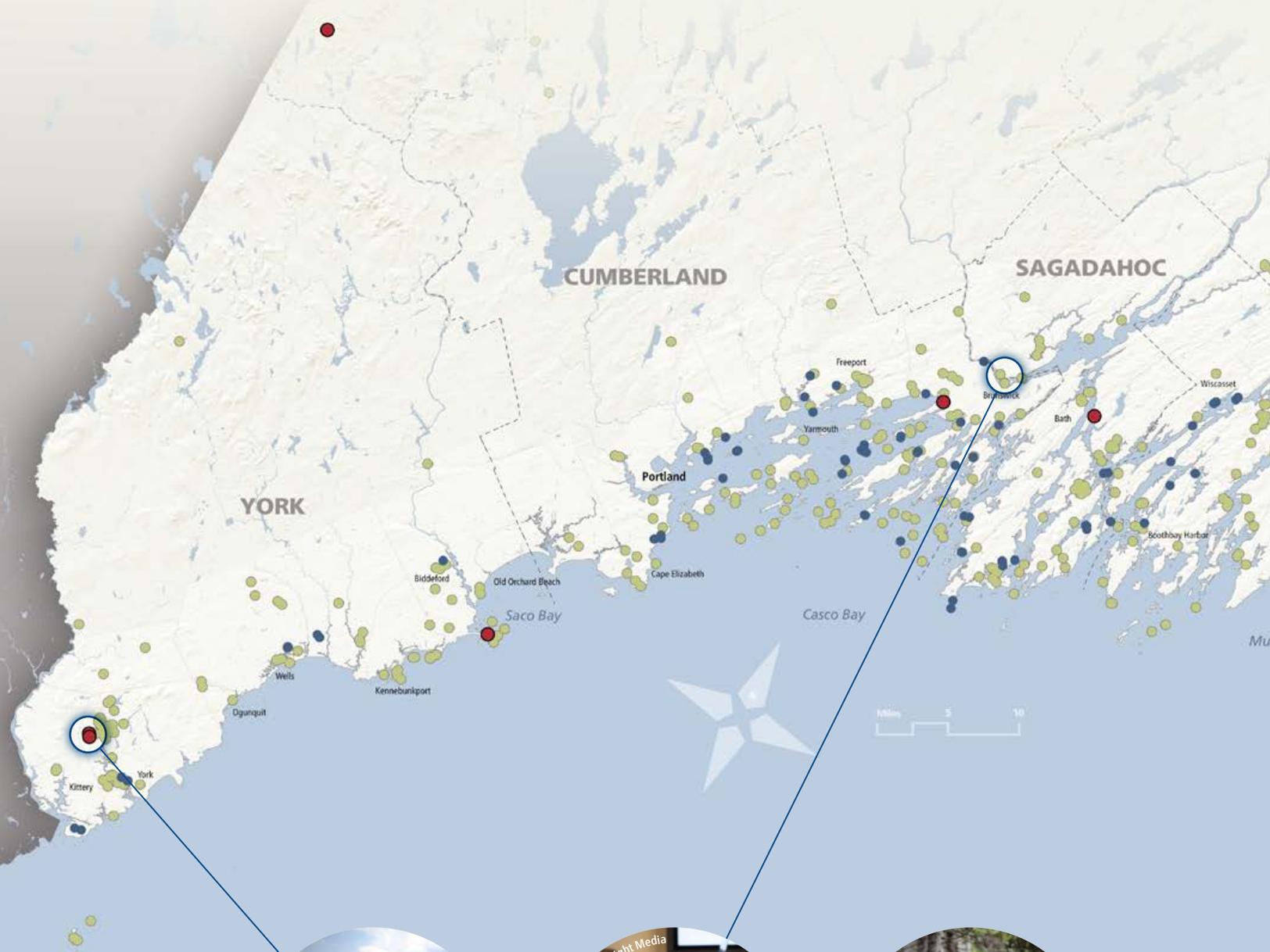
The **32 new places** conserved in 2024 comprise a total of **11,709 acres** (that's around twice the size of Camden Hills State Park) and include nearly **33 miles** of shoreline (that's more than the distance from Ellsworth to Milbridge).

● **Lands cared for** in 2024

Our stewardship staff monitored and cared for a total of **46,965 acres** and maintained over **106 miles** of trail (that's about the distance from Portland to Belfast) and **50 campsites**.

● **Partnership projects** from 1970 – 2023

In addition to conserved land under our care, MCHT has worked with partners to conserve hundreds of places throughout Maine. In 2024, **19** of the **32** new places conserved are now under the care of partners.



York

Along the Upper York River, we worked with York Land Trust and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect a nearly 50-acre parcel of undeveloped marshland that provides habitat for migratory birds and protects the surrounding community from flooding.

Completed **6** priority marsh projects totaling about **130** acres



Topsham

Land conservationists across Maine connected on best practices and enjoyed a keynote address from Dr. Bonnie Newsom, who spoke about her work at the Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledge and Science Northeast Hub.

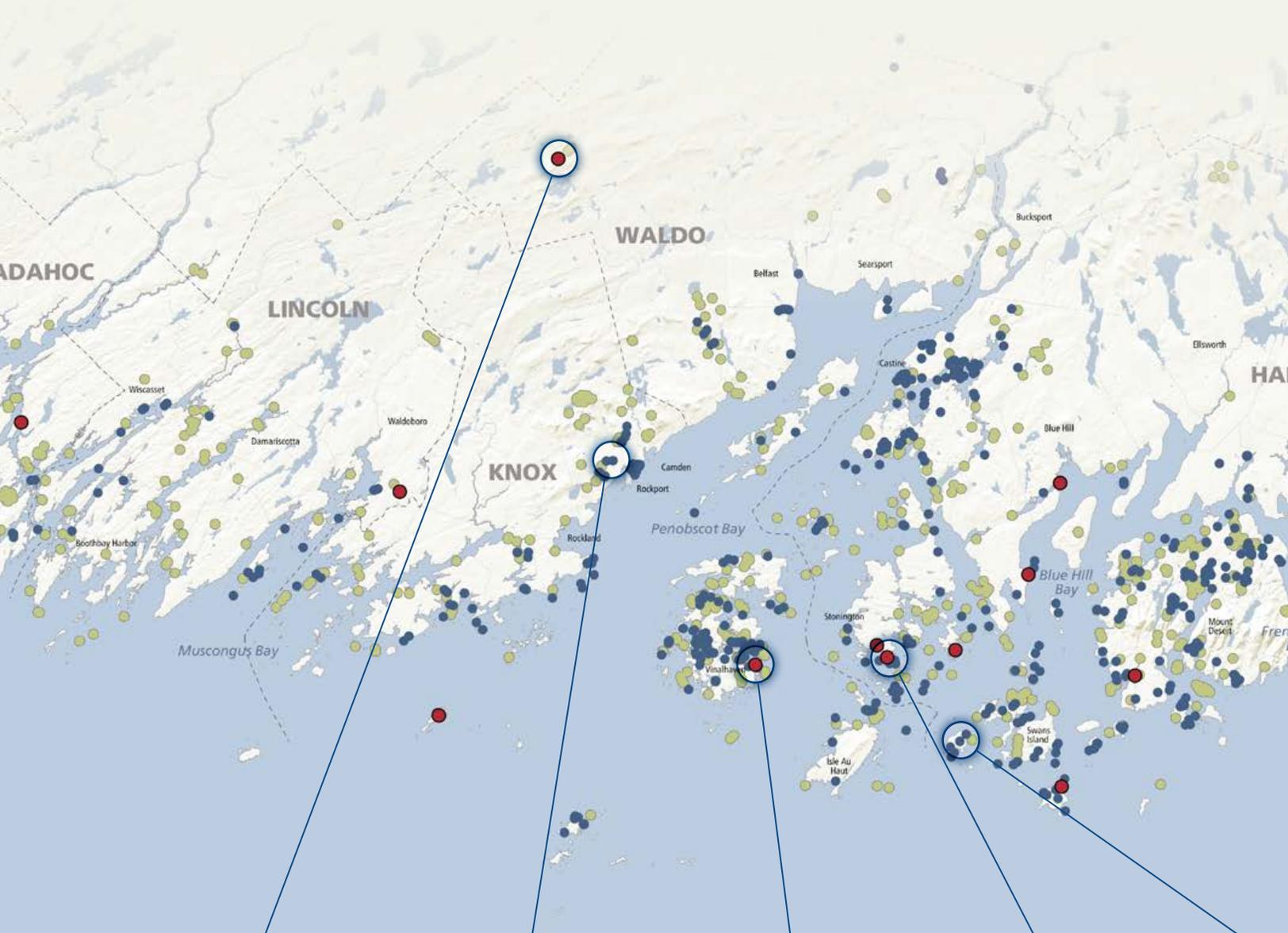
At the first fully in-person Maine Land Conservation Conference since 2019, around **350** people joined us for a full slate of events, including **25** workshops



Augusta

MCHT joined a coalition of more than 500 organizations and helped successfully advance a \$30 million bond to enhance local economic opportunities and public access to the outdoors through the repair and expansion of recreational trails statewide.

Helped raise over **\$56 million** toward collaborative conservation efforts, on top of over **\$20 million** in commitments made directly to MCHT



Liberty

Working closely with partner land trusts, projects big and small are adding up to real progress in our efforts to protect the ecological health of the Sheepscot River. This year, we helped Midcoast Conservancy acquire 12 additional acres in the watershed.

Completed **6** new priority rivers projects across five coastal watersheds totaling about **2,975** acres



Rockport

At Erickson Fields and Aldermere Farm, we worked with partner organizations, volunteers, and members of our Teen Ag Program to grow fresh food for the Midcoast community.

Distributed nearly **18,000** pounds of fresh produce from Erickson Fields and over **500** pounds of ground beef from Aldermere Farm to area food assistance sites



Vinalhaven

We secured access to the entirety of Barney's Point Preserve on Vinalhaven, where previously half of the land was inaccessible to the public.

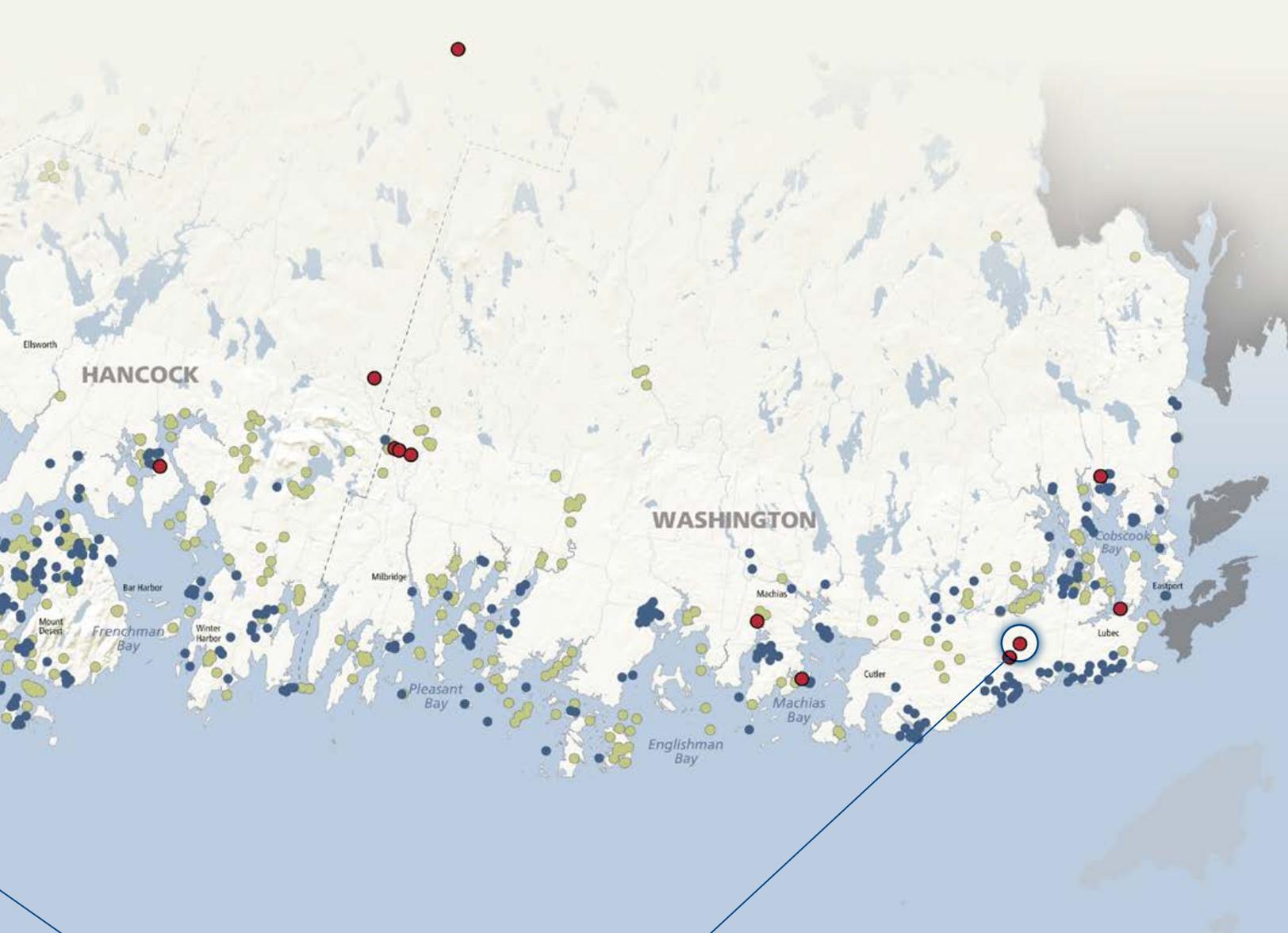
Added approximately **1** mile of trail and maintained over **106** miles of trail along the Maine coast, while improving and securing trail access for **3** existing preserves



Stonington

Russ Island has been a popular stop on the Maine Island Trail, and the Maine Island Trail Association staff and volunteers will join MCHT in continuing to help care for this special place.

Acquired **2** more coastal islands, now MCHT preserves



Marshall Island
 An MCHT steward and two volunteers did a “boatload” of work one afternoon, removing trash and debris from the Ed Woodsum Preserve on Marshall Island.

Coordinated over **95** events and programs for community members and conservation colleagues, reaching **3,775** people, and held **25** events for **268** volunteers



Trescott
 In Trescott, we acquired a 277-acre property protecting over 10,000 feet of stream frontage along the East Stream. This conserved habitat abuts an additional 2,036 acres that MCHT helped conserve this year.

Added **6** new MCHT preserves and expanded **1** existing preserve

Donations by the numbers

4,040 donors gave to MCHT in 2024, with **672** giving for the first time. Welcome to MCHT! We’re so happy to have you. **425** donors gave monthly, which helps us be more proactive and strategic in our conservation work. We’re grateful to have **770** donors giving at *The President’s Circle* level, and **186** donors with individuals age 50 and under supporting this work as members of MCHT’s Next Wave.

Ensuring Maine's extraordinary lands and waters are healthy, working, and open to all for generations to come

Maine Coast Heritage Trust's mission is to advance the conservation of lands and waters in Maine to ensure ecological wellbeing and foster thriving communities. We are committed to:

- conserving Maine's iconic coastline and natural areas;
- supporting human connection to the lands and waters that sustain us all;
- promoting biodiversity and increasing climate resilience in Maine;
- and working in partnership with others statewide to advance conservation outcomes.



Acres Conserved
with Partners



Islands Protected
with Partners



Preserves Open to
the Public



Miles of
Trail to Explore

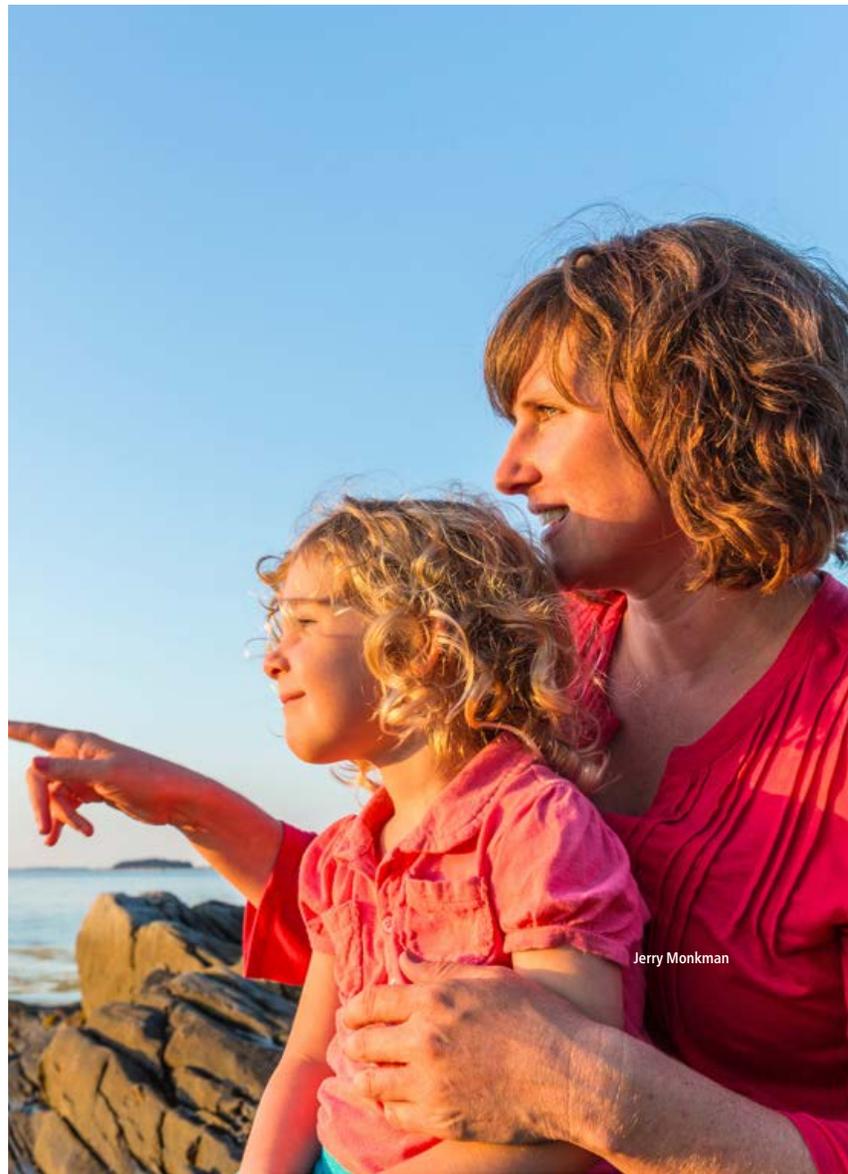
A healthier future for Maine

Conserving lands and waters in Maine will help sustain life, livelihoods, and our unique connections on this coast we love. We're seizing the opportunity—and responsibility—while we still can, while our state's natural areas are relatively intact.

Thank you for supporting the vital work of conservation and for sharing with others about its myriad benefits—from climate resilience to clean water and air to access to natural resources.

Together, we can inspire more people to take part in the conservation movement and improve quality of life for all.

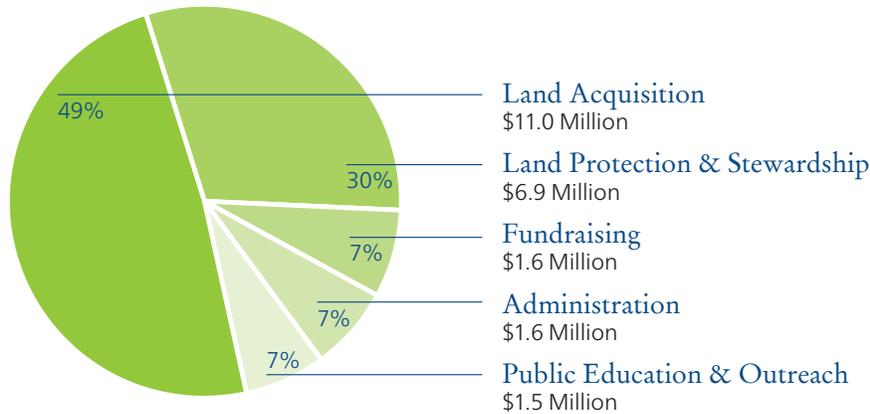
Learn more about what we're making possible together at mcht.org/our-work.



Jerry Monkman

Generosity in action, 2024

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 2024, \$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 (48%)
- Investment Draw (24%)
- Annual Fund (18%)
- Public Restricted Grants (2%)
- Other Revenue (8%)

The above represents a summary of how your generous contributions were spent during 2024 and the sources of funds applied. Our 2024 audited financial statements and Form 990 will be available later in 2025. A complete set of MCHT's 2023 audited financial statements are available at mcht.org/financials.

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(as of October 2024)

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 Vice Chair MacKenzie Davis
 Treasurer Judy Wallingford

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 Margaret M. Rockefeller (1915–1996)

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