



Maine Coast
Heritage Trust

Marshes for Tomorrow: 2025 Impact Summary

This summary was prepared by the MCHT Marshes for Tomorrow Work Team as an overview of our work in 2025. For updates or additional information about ongoing projects and planned activities in 2026, please contact **Jeremy Gabrielson: jgabrielson@mcht.org** or the staff contact.

Land Protection

Since 2016, Maine Coast Heritage Trust has completed **52 land protection projects**, conserving **2,772 acres** of tidal marsh, migration space, and associated upland buffers. In 2025, MCHT helped complete **four projects** conserving **260 acres**.

Kashmer Farm Conservation Easement

MCHT made a **\$156,000 partnership contribution** toward Great Works Regional Land Trust's acquisition of this **126-acre easement**, which conserves tidal marsh and migration space on the York River Marsh in southern Maine. MCHT also supported this project with approximately **\$30,000 in due diligence costs**, including appraisals and survey work.

Contact: Chris Schorn

Muddy River Marsh I

MCHT made a **\$180,000 partnership contribution** toward Brunswick–Topsham Land Trust's acquisition of this **106-acre parcel**, which includes freshwater tidal marsh and associated migration space on the Muddy River. This project contains an especially large migration area, with over **43 acres of future marsh** under a **3.9-foot sea level rise scenario**.

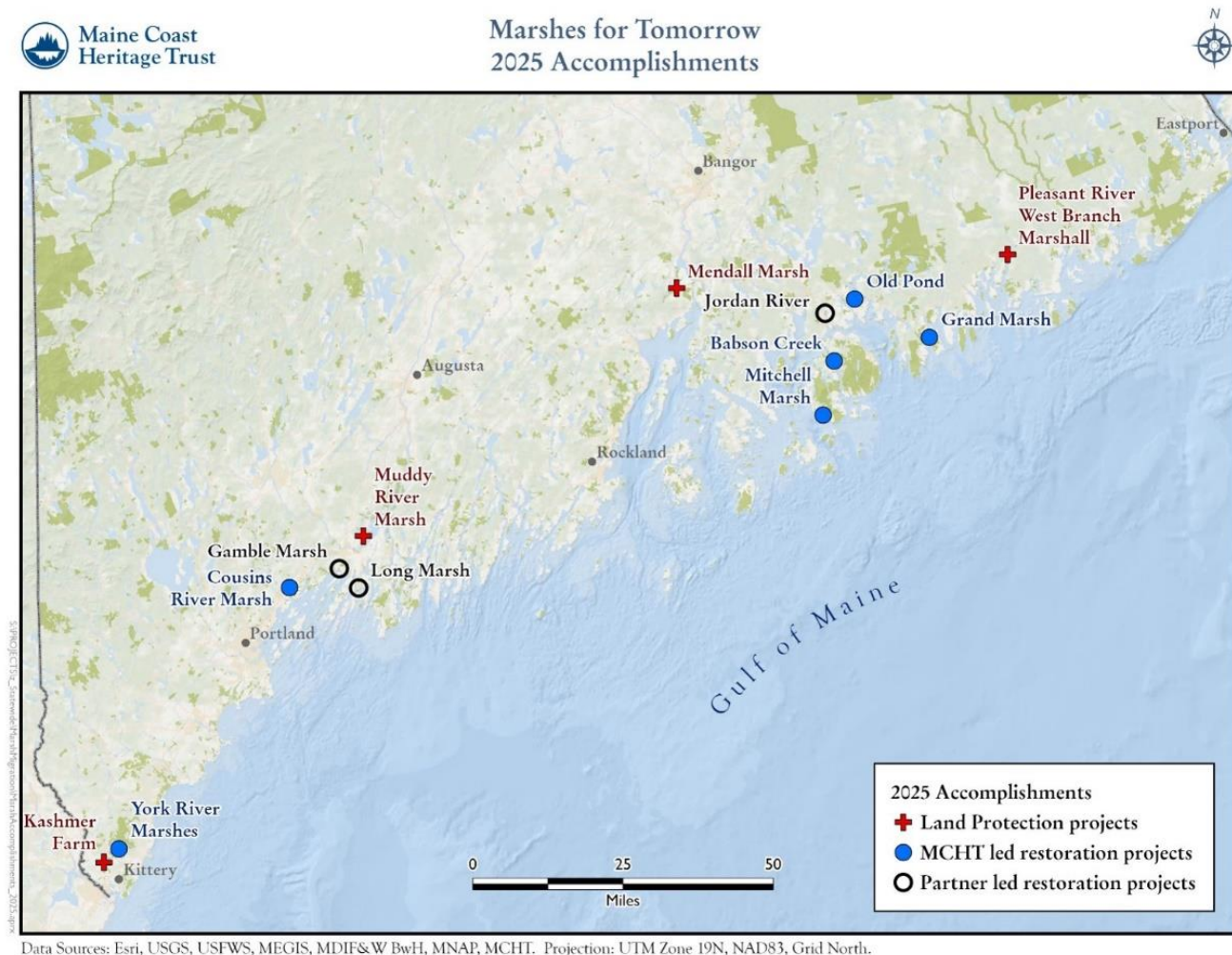
Contact: Adam Pereira

Mendall Marsh Addition (Allen)

MCHT made a **\$24,000 partnership contribution** toward the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's purchase of this **21.8-acre addition** to the Mendall Marsh Wildlife Management Area. *Contact: Mike Thalhauser*

Pleasant River West Branch (Marshall)

MCHT assisted Downeast Salmon Federation with transaction support for this **6-acre parcel**, which contains tidal marsh migration space along the West Branch of the Pleasant River. *Contact: Patrick Watson*



Tidal Marsh Restoration

Tidal marsh restoration projects typically span multiple years. Projects often begin with **one to two years of planning and design**, followed by approximately **three years of active restoration**, and then enter a period of **monitoring and adaptive management**.

MCHT is currently advancing **six tidal marsh restoration projects**. In 2025, MCHT also assisted with **four partner-led projects**. During the year, MCHT completed **one tidal marsh restoration project** and made contributions toward **two partner-led restoration efforts**.

Old Pond Marsh Restoration

MCHT completed the **active restoration phase** of this **20.4-acre project** in Hancock, Maine. Monitoring and adaptive management are expected to continue through **2030**. *Contact: Tatia Bauer*

Middle Bay Marshes

MCHT made a **\$17,000 partnership contribution** in 2025 to Brunswick–Topsham Land Trust toward this tidal marsh restoration project in Brunswick, Maine. *Contact: Tatia Bauer*

Jordan River Restoration

MCHT made a **\$60,000 partnership contribution** to Frenchman Bay Conservancy in support of this tidal restoration project in Lamoine, Maine. *Contact: Bob DeForrest*

In addition, MCHT made substantive progress in 2025 on other active tidal marsh projects. The status of all restoration efforts is summarized in the project lifecycle chart below.

Project life-cycle summary		Design Planning		Active Restoration			Adaptive Management			
Old Pond Marsh*	19 ac						O			
Cousins River Marsh	99 ac			O						
Mitchell Marsh	24 ac			O						
Babson Creek Marsh	16 ac			O						
York River Marshes	132 ac		O							
Grand Marsh	54 ac	O								
Partner-led projects										
Middle Bay Marsh (BTLT)*	25	O								
Mare Brook Marsh (BTLT)*	85	O								
Jordan River (FBC)*							O			
Gamble Marsh (DU)	34 ac		O							
Long Marsh (CBEP)			O							

Completed projects in 2025 are noted with an asterisk (*). Shaded cells indicate completed work, and **O** denotes the anticipated phase of work in 2026.

Capacity Building

In addition to land protection and restoration work, the Marshes for Tomorrow Work Team completed several **capacity-building initiatives** in 2025.

Maine Tidal Marsh Restoration Network (MTMRN)

MCHT continued to provide leadership and administrative capacity for MTMRN. In 2025, Tatia Bauer served as **co-coordinator** for the network, which now includes **more than 170 restoration practitioners, researchers, and agency representatives**. MTMRN hosted statewide gatherings in **March and December 2025**. *Contact: Tatia Bauer*

Maine Blue Carbon Network (MBCN)

MCHT administered a grant on behalf of the network that supported the development of a **blue carbon policy white paper** and the **second Maine Blue Carbon Symposium**, held in **October 2025**. *Contact: Jeremy Gabrielson*



Marsh Restoration Training:

MCHT hosted a **two-day marsh restoration training course** in collaboration with the Salt Marsh Adaptation and Resiliency Teams (SMARTeams). The course brought together **17 participants** from statewide, cross-sector organizations and combined classroom instruction with hands-on field experiences.

Contact: Tatia Bauer

The runnel shown at MCHT's Old Pond Preserve is part of the marsh restoration project completed in 2025.

Bird Monitoring

MCHT assisted with bird monitoring at several marsh sites in 2025. Monitoring at **Cousins River Marsh** documented the presence of **breeding saltmarsh sparrows for the first time** at that location. *Contact: Nicole Sanders*

Peregrine Accelerator

Tatia Bauer participated in a **six-month professional accelerator program** led by the Schoodic Institute. As part of a multidisciplinary cohort, the project team developed strategies to address the **underrepresentation of Wabanaki people** in salt marsh restoration projects and decision-making spaces. *Contact: Tatia Bauer*

Outreach and Education

The Marshes for Tomorrow Work Team supported a variety of outreach and education efforts in 2025, including an information table at **Tides of Change**, a **“Meet the Marsh”** event and **“Coffee with Kate”** at Cousins River, and a presentation to the **Garden Club of America's Conservation Committee**. **“How We're Restoring Marshes” web page:** MCHT published a video-based web resource that helps both general audiences and restoration practitioners better understand how tidal marsh restoration is carried out in Maine. *Contact: Michelle Hennessey*