



Grand Lakes Fishing – Grand Lake Stream and the surrounding East Grand area is a world-renowned fly-fishing destination. The lake system is known for its land-locked salmon. Other freshwater species include white and yellow perch, brook and lake trout, and smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Downeast Lakes Land Trust. Photo courtesy of Downeast Lakes Land Trust.



CHAPTER 7

Local Resources, Regional Opportunity

Open Space, Outdoor Recreation, Culture, History & Heritage
Education Resources, Opportunities, & Integrity.

Chapter 7 addresses four of the ten criteria that must be met to
receive National Heritage Area designation:

Criteria 1) An area has an assemblage of natural, historic,
or cultural resources that together represent distinctive
aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition,
conservation, interpretation, and continuing use.

Criteria 3) Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve
natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features.

Criteria 4) Provides outstanding recreational and
educational opportunities.

Criteria 5) The resources important to the identified theme
or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of
supporting interpretation.

National importance is a key aspect in the proposed overall NHA story. Determining national importance requires an analysis of study area resources to determine whether a strategic assemblage of related resources exists that are capable of supporting and expanding upon interpretation of the region's significant stories.

A “strategic assemblage of resources” is a concentration of resources that together support the statement of significance. To comprise a strategic assemblage, these resources must be directly associated with the significance statement and themes to enable an authentic experience of the national story. The resources must also be fully documented to confirm the resource's significance and integrity. They must be geographically close to one another in order to form a cohesive landscape, be efficiently and comprehensively managed by one coordinating entity, and enable interpretation of the area of significance.

Existing landscape elements represent and contain identifiable assemblages of resources with lasting integrity and associated with one or more of the following topics:

1. Important historical periods of the nation and its people.
2. Major events, persons, and groups that contributed substantially to the nation's history, customs, beliefs, and folklore.
3. Distinctive cultures and cultural mores.
4. Major industries and technological, business, and manufacturing innovations/practices, and labor advancements that contributed substantially to the economic growth of the nation and the well-being of its people.
5. Transportation innovations and routes that played central roles in important military actions, settlement, migration, and commerce.
6. Social movements that substantially influenced past and present-day society.
7. American art, crafts, literature, and music.
8. Distinctive architecture and architectural periods and movements.
9. Major scientific discoveries and advancements.
10. Other comparable representations that, together with their associated resources, substantively contributed to the nation's heritage.

Chapter 6 contains a partial inventory of notable natural, historic, and cultural resources within DownEast Maine. The resources listed here (and others not listed), when woven together, will enable cohesive interpretation of the region’s National important heritage story.

Following each inventory is a list of opportunities identified by community members through surveys, community discussions, conversations at board meetings of regional partners, and one-on-one interviews. These opportunities identify ways to build upon existing resources to expand capacity, strengthen partnerships, and generally create new and more opportunities to connect with and commemorate the people and places that make up Downeast Maine. These lists are in no way exhaustive and will grow as NHA planning continues. Opportunities listed here, and those to follow, will inform the next phase of participation in the National Heritage Areas program – development and promotion of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area.

A Partial Inventory of Important Cultural & Education Resources

Site/Program/Event	Resources
Passamaquoddy Culture & History	
Waponahki Museum Resource Center, Sipyak	A museum and educational resource center of the Passamaquoddy Tribal culture, language, and traditions. Includes displays, dance, food, language, storytelling, and artist demonstrations.
Wabanaki Cultural Center	The Center preserves the culture and history of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Native American Tribes with artifacts, historical displays, and works of art. Additionally, there is a Touch Tank containing local sea creatures.
Passamaquoddy Cultural Heritage Museum, Motahkomikuk	A museum and educational resource center of the Passamaquoddy Tribal culture, language, and traditions. Includes displays, dance, food, language, storytelling, and artist demonstrations.
Indian Days at Sipyak & at Motahkomikuk	A celebration of traditional and modern Passamaquoddy culture. Includes dance, food, canoe paddles, traditional ceremonies, storytelling, artist demonstrations, and more.

Long Point Preserve	Three miles of trail along Machias Bay at the 180-acre Long Point Preserve. Archeological and cultural resources around Machias Bay date back thousands of years. Part of the ancestral homeland of the Passamaquoddy, Machias Bay also saw early European exploration and is the site of the first naval battle of the Revolutionary War. Hiking, beach, wildlife watching. The trail includes interpretive information about petroglyphs created by the Wabanaki.
Abbe Museum	Collections include 12,000 years of Native American culture and history in Maine. The Abbe hosts archaeological artifacts, publications, a variety of educational programs for the public, special programs for school groups, and an annual Indian Market. The Abbe has permanent and changing exhibitions, ethnographic materials from the 17th through 20th centuries, the largest and best documented collection of traditional Maine Indian basketry, and an extensive contemporary collection. The 17,000 square-foot Abbe Museum includes spacious exhibition galleries, indoor and outdoor program spaces, a research lab and state-of-the-art collections storage. Guided tours, custom tours, K-12 education, educator resources, Gift shop.
Abbe Museum Indian Market	The annual Indian Market enables indigenous artists to connect directly with the community to educate and also sell their wares. AMIM includes performances, educational programming, and the Indigenous Film Festival.
Settlement History	
St. Croix International Historic Site	The only International Historic Site in the world; site of the first French attempt in 1604 to colonize the territory they called l'Acadie. The National Park Service and Parks Canada each administer a site on their respective side of the Saint Croix River. The US Park features an interpretive trail on a small, wooded point overlooking St. Croix Island. Life-size bronze figures of the French and Passamaquoddy and displays located along the trail tell their story. The Park has a visitor center, restrooms, wi-fi, and ranger on-site to provide interpretive tours.

Burnham Tavern	A National Historic Site and one of 21 homes in the United States designated as most significant to the American Revolution. Once a tavern, now a museum of the site of the First Naval Battle of the American Revolution. The Burnham Tavern is open during the summer, starting with Margarett Days in June. The museum tour is guided with an historic interpreter.
Fort O'Brien State Historic Site	Also known as "Fort Machias", preserves the remains of a fort that was originally built in 1775 to protect Machias Bay, and destroyed and rebuilt three times over a 90-year period. Fort O'Brien is an open, grassed area with scenic views of Machias Bay. The Park is located behind the elementary school.
Margaretta Days	Annual celebration of the Battle of the Margaretta, the first Naval Battle of the American Revolution and beginning of the US Merchant Marines. Celebrates the Battle of the Rim, when the British returned for revenge for the Margaretta and were run off by the Patriots and their allies, the Passamaquoddy. A Friday and Saturday event held every June at the University of Maine at Machias campus. The event features period re-enactors: soldiers, musicians, trappers, timber framers, weavers etc. and with Passamaquoddy peoples. The event includes food, music, dance, children's activities, storytelling, contemporary artists and crafters, and opportunities to try one's hand at traditional crafts.
Machias Committee of Safety	A group of historical reenactors dedicated to bringing the stories of the Battle of the Margaretta and Battle of the Rim to life. Some of the reenactors are direct descendants of people who actually participated in these battles. The MCOS participates in local festivals, parades and school presentations by way of historical reenactments. They hope to build a permanent living history site, which they call Liberty Village. The village will be approximately 2 acres in size. They intend to build a blockhouse fort, a colonial homestead with a small cabin, root cellar, garden and a smokehouse; wigwams to represent the Native American culture, influence and participation in historical events of the past; open shelters for demonstrations; and picnic areas.

Bastille Day	This family event takes place on the French national holiday and encourages visitors from near and far to experience our Franco-American and Native American cultures through music, food, film, lectures, and children's activities, along with kayaking, historic walking and lighthouse tours.
Fort George	A palisaded earthwork fort built in 1779 by Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War as part of an initiative to establish a new colony. Fort George was the focus of a years-long dispute among the English, French, Indians, and colonialists. The remains of the fort are on the National Register of Historic Places and part of the Castine Historical Society walking tour. The Friends of Castine Fortifications has hosted history reenactment events. Fort George is open to the public as part of a state-owned and town-maintained park.
Fort Knox Historic Site	Features one of the best-preserved examples of coastal defense fortifications constructed in the mid-1800s. America's first fort named after Major General Henry Knox. The fort overlooks the city of Bucksport and the mouth of the Penobscot River. The grounds include picnic areas, benches, and short scenic trails. Shakespeare plays, military reenactments, and a haunted tour are examples of events. The Fort is maintained regularly, and preservation work is ongoing. Free interpretive guided tours provided by volunteers are available; reservations for special events (weddings, family gatherings, reunions, business retreats) and group tours may be arranged. Bus tours are welcome. A visitor center includes restrooms, information, guides, and a gift store.
Industry, Villages, & People	
Dennysville Historic District	22 Colonial Revival and Federal style buildings on 300 acres.
Eastport Historic District	29 Italianate and Romanesque buildings.

Castine Historic District	The 18,000-acre District was at the center of colonial conflicts dating to the early 17th century, and the site of military action during the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Bypassed by the railroads, it has retained a village feel reminiscent of the early 19th century. Contains Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival architecture, later Victorian summer houses, remnants of British and American fortifications, and Dice Head Lighthouse.
Town of Cherryfield National Historic District	52 contributing and 10 non-contributing residential and commercial buildings on approximately 75 acres circling the Narraguagus River. The District exemplifies the culture of the historic lumber, shipbuilding, and canning industries. The Cherryfield/Narraguagus Historical Society created a booklet that tells a brief story of each building and its residents within the district. The Society owns the only remaining historically intact railroad station from what is now the Down East Sunrise (rail) Trail - although it was moved from its original location adjacent to Wyman's wild blueberry factory, birthplace of commercial wild blueberry production and canning. The Narraguagus River at Cable Pool Park, just outside the District, was once a world-renowned fly-fishing spot for wild Atlantic Salmon.
East Machias Historic District	Thirty-two buildings on 630 acres include religious buildings, educational structures and homes in East Machias.
Sedgwick Historic District	300 acres with two Greek Revival buildings.
Bar Harbor Historic District	17 buildings on 250 acres representing Late Victorian and Late 19th and 20th Century Revival Styles.
Blue Hill Historic District	Sixty-eight Greek Revival and Federal buildings on 800 acres.

Calais Historic Districts	Three historic districts including buildings in the Italianate, Greek Revival, Queen Ann, and Gothic Revival styles.
Somesville Historic District	Somesville's Historic District is located around Somes Harbor and its environs. There are 30 buildings on 4000 acres, many of which are in the Greek Revival and Federal Styles.
Ruggles House Museum	A museum showcasing Federal design and Adam ornament, including a flying staircase, and original furniture. The home was completed in 1820 for Judge Thomas Ruggles, a wealthy lumber dealer. The Museum is in excellent condition. It is open to the public seasonally and offers a few public events, such as a tea and an ice cream social.
Wilson Museum	A series of buildings began in 1921 to house geologic specimens from around the world. Collections include rocks and fossils from the earliest geologic times that reveal humankind's advances in tool-making from pre-history. Visitors can tour an historic colonial home, and watch craftsmen demonstrate the tools and techniques of their trades, including a woodturner and a blacksmith. The Pump House displays early firefighting history. The Museum provides learning experiences and exploration of the history and cultures of the Penobscot Bay region and world.
Jonathan Fisher House 1814 Historic House Museum	Home of the first Congregational minister of the small village of Blue Hill. Fisher was an artist, farmer, scientist, mathematician, surveyor, and writer of prose and poetry. The house contains remarkable artifacts of the Federal-era, including Fisher's artwork, furniture he built and finished for his family and others, a collection of homemade surveying instruments, a large camera obscura that he designed and built, and an extensive library. A re-creation of Fisher's 1820 orchard is in progress and incorporates a 200-year-old pear tree. Individual, group, and school tours welcome. Public events include antique auctions, history programs, and special events.

Woodlawn Museum, Gardens, and Park	A 180-acre historic estate, home to three generations of the Black family and once a gentleman's farm. Woodlawn's collections, including the original household furnishings, were left as they were when the last member of the family died in 1928. Visitors can tour the historic Black House and formal gardens, play croquet on a championship court, picnic, and hike 2-miles of trails built as exercise tracks for the Black family's horses. Activities include afternoon teas, tours, community events and education programs for community members, school groups, and travelers.
Nathan Gates House	Built in 1810, the historic house museum contains an extensive collection of old photographs, period furniture, housewares and other memorabilia, and a genealogical library. The Marine Room highlights the area's seafaring and shipbuilding past. A model schoolroom and post office and a large collection of carpentry tools occupy the adjacent Cooper House. Offers annual public events such as a summer tea, lobster lunch, and Christmas party .
Sound School House Museum and Research Center	Built in 1892 for the children of the quarrying and farming village of Somes Sound. Served as a community center for dances, suppers, and tag sales. Includes a curatorial wing to house the Ralph W. Stanley Library and the society's collection of historic objects. The Schoolhouse is now a museum and center for scholarship and offers educational programs.
Dr. Job Holmes Cottage & Museum	Home to several early doctors, the Cottage is restored in the image of the 1850 Doctor's home and office. Collections include pictures and maps; medical equipment; an 1847 daybook of calls and charges; herbs, mortar and pestle for making medicines; a traveling medicine kit complete with medicines of that time; a wooden wheelchair; and traveling dentist chair.
Paul Urann House, Sullivan	Built circa 1800 for a prominent early leader of the community. The house is located on a portion of one of the original land grants in Sullivan township. It remains mostly original with little renovation and retains several features of historical significance. Now a house-museum and educational resource maintained by the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society.

La Rochelle Mansion & Museum	<p>La Rochelle is a Georgian Revival mansion built in 1903 by architects Andrews, Jaques and Rantoul of Boston. The estate was built for George Sullivan Bowdoin, great grandson of Alexander Hamilton. The forty-one room, 13,000 square foot lavish chateaux has twelve bedrooms and nine full bathrooms. Beatrix Farrand, one of America's most celebrated landscape architects, designed and planted the original gardens, which can still be viewed to this day. The mansion is now home of the Bar Harbor Historical Society. House museum exhibits include Wabanaki waterfront history and history of life in Bar Harbor, from the grand hotels to ice harvesting. The home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.</p>
Historical Societies	<p>Most historical societies offer some type of public programs for all ages, covering many topics relevant to the history and heritage of Downeast Maine. Historical societies offer exhibits and hold print, photographic, and audio/video archives available for public viewing. Most historical societies are located in historic buildings.</p>
Roosevelt/Campobello International Park	<p>An international park featuring President Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt's summer home, includes 2,800-acres with walking and biking trails, beaches, a visitor center. The site can easily handle bus tours. The Roosevelt home contains original furnishings and is viewable by guided tour only, no touching. An adjacent historic home includes a cafe, public gathering in the living room and on the porch, and an expansive mowed field abutting the ocean. Picnic tables and many walking paths are accessible.</p>
Hillside Cemetery Tour	<p>A large and well-maintained cemetery is a scenic location that contains the graves of many early settlers to the area. The cemetery itself has an interesting history of formation. The entire cemetery was moved once, and many graves within it have been moved several times. The history of the cemetery formation and early burial practices is well-documented. The self-guided cemetery tour provides detailed information and stories about the people buried at the cemetery. These stories are a deep glimpse at the greater story of life in Downeast Maine during the 1700s and 1800s.</p>

The Granite Art Garden Center for Art, History, and Sustainability	Preserves the history and art of the granite quarrying industry, which boomed in the 19th century. Visitors can learn about the unique geology of Sullivan, traditional stone working techniques, the quarrymen's lifestyles, and how quarrying & stone working are important industries today. The Garden also preserves a family legacy and the Back-to-the-Land movement of the 1960 and 70s. Offers trails for biking, walking and skiing; demonstrations; museum exhibits; live music; art openings; classes; and tours. The Garden also offers artist-in-residence programs and internships in forestry, recreation, gardening, historic blacksmithing, woodworking, and stoneworking.
Granite Museum Deer Isle	Preserves the history, practices, and trade of traditional granite quarrying on Mount Desert Island and in Maine.
Maine Granite Industry Historical Society, Seal Cove	The Society houses hundreds of the tools used by the quarrymen, blacksmiths, stone cutters and stone carvers; over 350 historic photos, company ledgers, books, Union badges and constitutions; and the largest collection of books relating to the granite industry and family genealogy writings from the families of the men who worked the quarries.
Scenic Byways	
Bold Coast Scenic Byway	A 125-mile coastal route that invites visitors to explore the culture, history, wildlife, and rugged beauty of DownEast Maine, including seaside fishing villages, National Historic Districts, important sites of the American Revolution, forests, rivers, coastal cliffs and beaches, and wild blueberry barrens.
Black Woods Scenic Byway	12.5-mile route winding through rugged glacially formed lakes and erratic boulders, and provides plenty of access to fishing, swimming, paddling, and rugged hiking trails with panoramic vistas toward the Atlantic Ocean. The Maine Department of Transportation and Bureau of Parks and Lands have completed extensive upgrades to trailheads, boat launches, and camping areas along the scenic byway.

Schoodic National Scenic Byway	27 miles of commercial fishing communities, historic villages, and bold coastal scenery including lighthouses, and the Schoodic division of Acadia National Park. Public recreation access includes fishing, swimming, paddling, hiking, and biking. Interpretive panels at 7 of the Byway turnouts are specifically designed to help children and their families learn about the cultural and natural heritage of the Schoodic section of Downeast Maine.
Million Dollar View Scenic Byway	Expansive views of the Chiputneticook chain of lakes known for their recreational fishing, wildlife, and wilderness recreation. Vistas include rolling hayfields, Mount Katahdin, Peekaboo Mountain and the landscape of New Brunswick, Canada. The Byway begins in Danforth, a former lumber town in the Baskahegan River Valley. Nearby Weston is the location of an historic portage used by Native cultures and early settlers connecting Baskahegan Stream to Butterfield Landing on East Grand Lake. Travelers may continue north or east to explore scenic byways in Aroostook County or New Brunswick, Canada.
Acadia All American Road	A 40-mile route including the 27-mile-long Park Loop Road through Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island. Features beaches, bicycling, foliage, hiking trails, islands, ocean views, and wildlife. Bar Harbor is a haven of historic landmarks, lodgings, eateries, village parks, and excursions like whale watching and interpretive tours. The free Island Explorer bus network connects the Park with inns, campgrounds and the island's village centers.
Maritime Culture & Economy	
Downeast Fisheries Trail	A self-guided tour spanning Washington and Hancock Counties that connects historic and active fisheries sites to illustrate the region's maritime heritage. The Fisheries Trail map
East Machias Aquatic Research Center	A research and community outreach facility on the East Machias River that includes a fish hatchery, a flow-through fresh water experimental facility, a state certified water quality testing laboratory, a Technical Resources Center, and a small Historic Museum/Education Center. Public tours and events.

Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries	MCCF develops and implements innovative programs that provide value for today's fishermen and drive more sustainable management approaches for future fisheries, and connects the knowledge of fishermen, the findings of scientists, and the world of policy makers. Public programs include a Lunch & Learn monthly talk series and Discovery Wharf with a touch tank, touch wall, and virtual reality station. Their Eastern Maine Skippers Program, implemented in 6 high schools in Downeast Maine, provides students with the core knowledge and skills needed to participate in coastal fisheries.
Little River Lighthouse	A historic lighthouse where visitors can spend the day enjoying the island, host an event, or even spend the night.
Great Harbor Maritime Museum	A former town fire station renovated into a museum that commemorates local maritime heritage. The museum has hosted events ranging from model boat regattas to lectures from notable boat builders and other prominent guests and features changing exhibits. The Museum has archived a number of historic resources on the Maine Memory Network and hosts the Mt. Desert Island Community Heritage site.
Swan's Island Lobster and Marine Museum	The Museum tells the history of fishing on Swan's Island as preserved by two brothers who recognized that it was rapidly disappearing. The museum includes models and a wide range of fisheries artifacts that tell the story of the people who depended on the sea for a livelihood. The museum grounds include nature trails and a "Life Along the Shore" ecology exhibit.
McCurdy's Smokehouse	A complex of buildings once used to smoke herring, now serving as a museum to the cultural and economic significance of the smoking and canning industry.
Schoodic Kids Quest	Seven interactive sites along the Schoodic National Scenic Byway designed to engage children and their families in the region's history, ecology and culture. Mapped sites with interpretive information, Kids Quest activity booklet in progress.

West Quoddy Head Lighthouse	Located inside the 1858 Light Keepers' house adjacent to the lighthouse, the visitor center provides information about lighthouse keepers, sardine canning, and aquaculture history.
Deer Isle Lighthouse Trail	The Deer Isle Lighthouse Tour provides lighthouse enthusiasts an exciting opportunity to view 8 and receive 8 Lighthouse Passport stamps. Three of the lights are visible from the shore of Deer Isle, the other 5 lights can be viewed and/or visited by sea and all 8 can be viewed by air. Maine Open Lighthouse Day in September.
Maine Open Lighthouse Day	Annual event sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, the Maine Office of Tourism and the American Lighthouse Foundation; offers the public the rare opportunity to climb and learn about over two dozen historic Maine lights.
Lost Fishermen's Memorial Park	Built in honor of those lost at sea in pursuit of their livelihood, this memorial sculpture park is located in the heart of downtown Lubec at the picturesque mouth of the channel with intimate views of the turbulent waters of Lubec Narrows, the Roosevelt Campobello International Bridge, and Campobello Island.
Wooden Boat School	A 64-acre saltwater campus where wooden boat enthusiasts can immerse in workshops on the construction, maintenance, repair, design, seamanship and other related crafts, alongside the finest and most knowledgeable boating professionals. Publishes Wooden Boat and Professional Boatbuilder magazines.
Ferry Boats	Island communities rely on ferry boats for regular transportation to and from the mainland. Ferries also allow the public to watch wildlife, sightsee, and access the unique landscapes and culture of island communities.

Active working waterfronts towns	Several communities in Downeast Maine have prioritized preserving their working waterfronts to maintain their fisheries economy and heritage and have some form of public space on or near a working waterfront where both visitors and residents can experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a fisheries industry that is still prominent today. Stonington, Jonesport, Lubec, and Eastport are particularly notable for their commitment to working waterfront preservation and public access near the waterfront.
Lobster Boat Races	Lobster Boat Races , an annual event held in fishing communities all along the Maine coast, originated in the sheltered waters between Jonesport and Beals Island in Downeast Maine. Most competing boats are active lobster fishing vessels. The events attract crowds of locals as well as visitors who raft up on their own boats for floating barbeques or line the waterfronts to cheer the racers on. Races include other community events, such as pancake breakfasts and lobster feeds.
Arts, Music, & Handcrafts	
Abbe Museum	Native American Festival & Basket Makers Market; Indian Market; cultural & historic exhibits, museum store and gallery; educational programs & community events.
Maine Sculpture Trail	The Schoodic International Sculpture Symposiums held over 4 years produced the Maine Sculpture Trail, a 34-piece outdoor exhibit that spans 200 miles of Downeast Maine. The large granite sculptures are located in coastal community parks and public spaces. An interactive online map and paper map guide travelers to each sculpture. The Maine Sculpture Trail is part of the International Sculpture Trail, which extends into coastal New Brunswick, Canada.
The Tides Institute & Museum of Art	A cross-border arts institution emphasizing the cultural ties between Maine and New Brunswick and New England and the Atlantic Provinces. TIMA programs include a StudioWorks Artist-in-Residence Program, an annual cultural guide online & imprint, 120 spherical panoramas, community programs, and a historical and contemporary cultural collection with a focus on art, architecture and history. TIMA also preserves historic buildings in Eastport and incorporates them into their arts programs.

Eastport Arts Center	EAC nurtures and promotes six year-round constituent groups engaged in theater, art, music, film, education and community outreach. EAC collaborates with area schools to introduce students to a variety of artistic disciplines and to foster an understanding of the creative process through hands-on experiences. EAC is a venue for special events and visiting artists and performers, and an array of workshops are offered year-round for all ages.
Lubec SummerKeys	SummerKeys is an immersion in the study and practice of a musical instrument within the context of the beauty of the Downeast Maine landscape. The program is open to all levels – from beginning students to accomplished players. Offering workshops for a wide range of instruments and in photography and public performances.
Stonington Opera House	Stonington Opera House is a multi-purpose performing arts center listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has served as a community gathering space and performing arts center for over 100 years. Programs for youth include poetry and acting. Community programs include performing arts, poetry readings, movies, music, and an artist residency.
Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School & Festival	A program that fosters the art of chamber music through teaching and performance steeped in tradition and artistic excellence. The program seeks to enrich artistic skills and cultural life in surrounding communities, and to represent the highest ideals of ensemble performance. Offers young artist, adult, and Maine student intensive programs, and public performances.
Bagaduce Chorale	Bagaduce Chorale is an auditioned chorus of 80+ singers from throughout Downeast Maine ranging in age from high schoolers to seniors. The Chorale performs both classical and contemporary choral works in concerts featuring keyboard accompaniment and musical ensembles.
The Grand Theatre	The Grand is an historically significant Art Deco theater that provides a range of arts, entertainment, and education programs, including music, performing arts, youth programs, and movies.

Grand Lake Stream Folk Festival	A 2-day family-oriented festival celebrating Grand Lake Stream's natural beauty and unique cultural heritage within the context of a beautiful natural setting. The festival includes traditional and contemporary folk art and handcrafts, history, demonstrations, live music, food, and a children's arts and crafts program.
Campobello Fog Fest	A free, annual, five-day music and art festival on Campobello Island. The event was established to raise awareness of the island's rich cultural history and natural beauty, Fog Fest offers a range of music from classical, gospel and jazz to bluegrass, folk, rock, and country. Venues range from rustic, turn-of-the-century cottages to heritage houses, restaurants, cafes, bars, beaches and parks.
Schoodic Arts for All	A community arts center offering diverse programs and activities including film; live music and performing arts; a variety of arts classes and workshops; and a week-long arts festival each summer.
Bay of Fundy International Marathon	A weekend of cross-border road races that celebrates the international connection between Campobello, New Brunswick Canada and Lubec, Maine. Includes a marathon, half-marathon, and other races.
Alexander Art Trail	AAT is the largest hand-carved outdoor sculpture collection in Maine. It was created as a collaborative effort between a non-profit organization, local landowner, various artists and volunteers. Programs include tours, exhibits, and field trips.
Criterion Theatre	An historic Art Deco theater built in 1932. Live performances, local acts, films, and community events.
North East Historic Film Archive and Alamo Theater	One of 5 historic Film Archives in the USA with the mission of preserving and making accessible the moving image of northern New England and an active town theater.
Art Studios & Galleries	Most communities have public galleries and art studios, and some have prolific arts communities (such as Eastport, Blue Hill, Mount Desert Island, and Deer Isle). Many offer classes or workshops.

Local Talent	Most communities offer live music at pubs and cafes, theaters, outside on community greens, and in community centers. Many are in historic buildings or waterfront parks.
Education Facilities	
Cobscook Institute	CI offers a unique path to a high school diploma through a public four-year high school program for self-motivated, outdoor-oriented, community-minded learners. River Camp is a two-week summer camp for teens interested in outdoor careers, conservation, ecology, and outdoor skill building. CI offers public classes and events around arts, music, & writing. CI hosts Downeast Spring Birding Festival.
Schoodic Institute	SI and Acadia National Park's partner to manage the largest of 18 National Park Service Research Learning Centers in the United States. SI provides professional development for teachers and helps train a new generation of stewards who will help conserve natural and cultural treasures. Education is integrated with research programs through citizen science, public lectures, art programs, workshops, stewardship, Ranger programs, school field trips, conferences, events, and information sharing. Campus includes lodging, dining, information center, Acadia National Park Welcome Center exhibits and gift shop, classrooms, laboratories, and a modern 124-seat auditorium.
Eagle Hill Institute	The Institute is a scientific and literary organization dedicated to contributing to a greater interest in scholarly and educational pursuits, especially in the natural history sciences. It maintains a natural history and art history library, publishes several peer-reviewed scientific journals, and hosts resident scholars, chamber concerts, lectures, and discussion Forums. The Institute hosts immersive Natural History Training seminars, the annual Natural History Conference, nature retreats, and hiking trails. Art programs, workshops, residencies, and retreats focus on landscapes, nature, and natural history.

Washington County Community College	WCCC is recognized as one of the top 150 community colleges in the United States for its commitment to student success and educational excellence. The college currently enrolls approximately 450 students in its Certificate, Diploma, and Associate Degree programs in 20 major areas of study. They also offer a liberal studies program where students can earn the first two years toward a baccalaureate degree.
Haystack Mountain School of Crafts	One and two-week studio workshops as well as the two-week, Open Studio Residency program, exhibitions, tours, auctions, artist presentations, and shorter workshops for Maine residents and high school students. Workshops include a variety of fields - science, literature, music, and the visual arts. Haystack publishes annual monographs and organizes a variety of conferences and symposia that examine craft in broader contexts. The award-winning campus was designed by noted American architect, Edward Larrabee Barnes. The series of modest structures perched on a granite ledge overlooking the Atlantic Ocean are built in a vernacular style with local materials and interconnected by a series of walkways that encouraged community while seeming to float above the forest floor.
College of the Atlantic	The 38-acre main campus is located on the ocean in Bar Harbor; off-campus facilities include two organic farms, and two offshore island research stations. Founded in 1969, COA was the first college in the U.S. to focus on the relationship between humans and the environment. College of the Atlantic provides a distinctive educational philosophy, human ecology, which integrates knowledge from all academic disciplines and from personal experience to investigate and improve the relationships between human beings and our social and natural communities.

University of Maine at Machias	<p>UMM is an affordable liberal arts college and close-knit community on a 243-acre campus. The average class size is 17 students, facilitating one-on-one learning. The campus has a series of wilderness walking trails, athletic fields, student dormitories and classrooms. UMM offers ten bachelor's degree programs; three associate degree programs; twelve certificates; 25 minors; 7 degrees and 6 certificates through online, distance learning programs; and 14 certificate pathways for high school students through the UMM Early College program.</p>
Maine Maritime Academy	<p>A public college offering associate's, bachelor's, or master's degrees in engineering, management, science, and transportation. MMA's 950+/- students benefit from hands-on education, international sea-time aboard the Training Ship State of Maine or the Schooner Bowdoin, cadet shipping aboard commercial vessels, and cooperative education assignments. Graduates become world-class mariners and engineers, supply chain managers, logistics professionals, and scientists here in Maine and beyond.</p>
Public & Private Elementary & High Schools	<p>Some schools include nature-based or outdoor recreation programs; some offer programs to connect youth with local history. The Eastern Maine Skippers Program of Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries provides Downeast Maine students in 6 high schools with the core knowledge and skills needed to participate in coastal fisheries. Sumner Memorial High School's Pathways Program engages students in the design of their educational program for an alternative path to graduation. The program encourages active participation in community projects. Hancock County Technical Center partners with area high schools to offer hands-on career and technical education. Washington Academy, founded in 1792, welcomes students across the region and from around the world; students from 15+ countries currently attend the Academy.</p>
Land Trust Programs	<p>In addition to extensive restoration and advocacy work, Downeast Maine land trusts host education programs, community events, and volunteer events that provide experiential learning to students, the larger community, and visitors to the region.</p>

Library Programs	Most local libraries offer some type of public programs for all ages, covering many topics relevant to Downeast Maine heritage.
Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship	A co-working space and business incubator. MVCE and partners support entrepreneurs and small business owners as they create jobs and community prosperity. MVCE offers coordinated sets of start-up programs, workshops, and events to create skill development opportunities and a deeper sense of community among our small businesses. A mentor program pairs successful local business owners with start-up entrepreneurs and businesses.
Agriculture & Culinary	
Agricultural Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Virtual Museum	The Heritage Center preserves and shares the ecosystem, culture and history of the Maine wild lowbush blueberry in order to help sustain family farms and encourage aspirations for growth in the industry. The Heritage Center is currently developing learning opportunities for people of all ages across the globe. They hope to open the Center in summer 2021, and the virtual museum is already live.
Maine Wild Blueberry Trail	A statewide self-guided driving tour to help people experience wild blueberries in many environments. Visitors can meet growers & producers, hike trails in natural areas, enjoy wild blueberries at dining establishments, attend community events, and more.
Maine Beer Trail	A “trail” created by the Maine Brewers Guild that connects more than 100 craft breweries across Maine to promote and support Maine brewers. Brewery visitors can find tasting rooms, tours, live music, food and events, or family friendly locations. Beer Trail Passports encourage people to visit more breweries by offering tiered prizes based on number of passport stamps collected.
Maine Wine Trail	A self-guided “trail” created by the Maine Winery Guild that connects 29 wineries across Maine to promote and support Maine vintners and distillers. Winery visitors can find tasting rooms, tours, live music, food and events, or family friendly locations. Wine Trail Passports encourage people to visit more breweries by offering a prize for collecting 10 stamps.

Agritourism Businesses & Farmers Markets	Some farmers and producers in the region offer varying degrees of agritourism opportunities. These include farm stays, tours, workshops, stores, and markets; open farm days; pick-your-own; wineries; and special events. Weekly farmers markets are hosted in many communities across the region.
Machias Wild Blueberry Festival	A weekend packed with events in honor of the wild blueberry, including local blueberry farm tours and pie galore!
Great Sardine and Maple Leaf Drop	A combined Canadian/American New Year's Eve celebration with arts, music, food, and community.
Downeast Salmon Federation Smelt Fry	A rite of spring and fundraiser for wild Atlantic salmon preservation - smelt fry, music, and other activities.
Maine Maple Sunday	A day dedicated to honoring maple producers around the state; local maple farms open their doors for educational tours and maple syrup tastings.
Winter Harbor Lobster Festival	A weekend packed with events in honor of the American lobster, including lobster feeds, games, music, and much more.
Eastport Salmon & Seafood Festival	A gathering in homage to our local seafood resources, especially Atlantic salmon raised in Passamaquoddy Bay. Includes food, arts, theater, music, and more.
Maine Open Farm Day	An annual family adventure for the public to learn about the business of agriculture. Open Farm Day is a choose your own adventure with education for all ages. Farms across Maine have demonstrations, displays, farm-raised products for sale and animals and crops to experience. Activities include barn and field tours, milking, hay-rides, nature trails, tastings and refreshments.
Maine Open Creamery Day	An annual event when creameries around the state invite the public to meet the animals that make the milk, tour the grounds and creameries, learn about the tradition of Maine cheese making, and sample and purchase cheeses.

Maine Wild Blueberry Weekend	A new statewide agritourism event in 2021, initiated by the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission. Farms, restaurants, and any other business or community across the state are invited to offer wild blueberry products.
Downeast Cider + Cheese Festival	3 days of celebrating cider, a historic industry in Downeast Maine, especially Ellsworth, and it's natural companion, Maine cheeses. Tastings, orchard tours, demonstrations, farm market, music, and more.

Opportunities To Conserve Cultural, Historic, And Scenic Features

Cultural

- Collaboration with Tribe, Wabanaki Cultural Center, Wabanaki Heritage Center, Passamaquoddy Museum and Abbe Museum to build capacity at the cultural centers & museum in Sipayak and Motahkomikuk to offer community programming and bring native artisan festivals to Passamaquoddy community.
- Collaboration among the region's 36 historical societies to develop story-telling tools - walking tours, interpretive panels, audio stories, apps for storytelling, story maps, historical society programs for school and community.
- Include local history in schools, teach the truth of European settlement and treatment of native tribes.
- Offer Passamaquoddy history and language classes by and for both youth and adults. Incorporate Passamaquoddy language into regional interpretive & educational materials.
- Offer Latino history and Spanish language classes by and for both youth and adults. Incorporate Spanish language into regional interpretive & educational materials.
- Develop student and adult programs for learning the history of the place, build strong sense of "This is where I'm from", or "this is the place I call home".
- Create a series of historic downtown walking tours that depict a shared heritage of industry, history, culture, and more.
- Offer incentives and assistance for preservation of historic buildings that are eligible for the Historic register – private homeowners and businesses have fewer resources available for historic preservation than do non-profit organizations.
- Build "sister city" relationships with the communities where buildings, streets or other infrastructure were built with granite from Downeast Maine; develop interpretive information about the origin and history of the granite.
- Explore Cultural Planning funds with the Maine Arts Commission.

- Identify and promote a multi-days or week-long three-nation loop route between Lubec, Campobello and Grand Manan islands (Canada), St. Andrews and St. Stephen (Canada), Calais, Sipyak, and Eastport.
- Develop a regional self-guided revolutionary war historic driving tour, including sites and events such as Fort Knox, Castine, Bastille Day, Machias, Margarett Days, and Eastport.
- Utilize smaller historic sites that are open spaces, such as Fort O'Brien, as a public gathering space for community events, like outdoor concerts.
- Middle River Park & Machias River Preserve are good spots for historic interpretation of logging industry, Battle of the Margarett, and Battle of the Rim, and Atusville, a historic black community, although very little documentation on Atusville exists.
- Conduct more community events in restored historic buildings.
- Create new collections of famous artists, petroglyphs, photographers, musicians, etc.

Education

- The region needs outdoor recreation outfitters and more and younger guides. Work with Washington County Community College, Cobscook Institute, and College of the Atlantic to recruit and retain guiding entrepreneurs.
- Get youth involved in community planning, advocacy at local and state levels.
- Heritage stories told by youth – create a method for youth to express what they want to tell those who come after them, their peers, and visitors about this place and what is important for heritage preservation.
- Conduct a community-assets and needs assessment from a youth perspective.
- Multi-generational learning or intergenerational exchange; family learning; mentor-based learning – youth to youth, adult to youth.
- Work with schools to develop heritage-based graduate student projects and college or high school paid internships.
- Engage new residents in volunteer or learning experiences to help them connect with their new place, take advantage of new resident curiosity and desire to build community
- Heritage education about the Revolutionary War/Machias/Wabanaki assistance; raising sheep and hogs on islands and living on islands; lighthouse keepers; ship builders, captains, cargo sea shanties; and genealogy.
- Develop more outdoor classrooms to learn and build community through nature.
- Open space education - science based collaborations with Schoodic Institute and trails, and Ice Age Trail include archaeological and geological resource areas, and Fisheries related Beals Institute, Darling Marine Center, Franklin Aquaculture, Schoodic Heath and bogs, Salmon

Federation, Conservancies etc.

- Create education tools around marine life and ecosystem in ecologically unique or important bays like Bay of Fundy, Cobscook Bay, and Frenchman Bay.
- Shared mobile classrooms for science and outdoor programs, similar to Downeast Salmon Federation's mobile alewife smoker.
- Environmental education partnerships amongst Downeast Fisheries Partnership members. Partners utilize each other's programs for their own teaching and learning.
- Integrate DFP programs into a holistic education plan toolkit that can be shared with schools and home schools. Teachers can become advocates for youth to take advantage of the programs of the organizations.
- Introduce kids to their own backyards and outdoor world through school and extra-curricular programs from pre-k forward.
- Work with Wooden Boat School in Brooklin to provide low-cost and scholarship or grant-funded community boat building camps to build smaller boats for a school or community group to utilize. Rowing or sailing hulls, kayaks, canoes. Learn history, techniques, and styles of DownEast heritage boatbuilding. Learn safe use of the boats and basic array of navigation skills.
- Expand agritourism in this region to support Downeast Maine farmers and educate residents and visitors about farms and food production, and connect people with farmers, animals, history and tradition, and the land. Design agriculture programs for youth & secondary schools with the Cooperative Extension. Develop a Community Composting program. Conduct on-site agritourism field training.
- Voluntourism - Develop opportunities to travel with a mission – match travelers with experiences that give back to communities.
- Develop more ways to boost the local economy through shoulder season expansion.
- Join the Realize Maine Network program for retention and attraction of young professionals (20-40 yrs. of age) through regional social, civic, and career activities.
- Grow our population and economy from within through entrepreneurialism as focus, but also outside recruitment.



Dried Smelts - Downeast Salmon Federation conserves important river, scenic, recreational, and ecological resources with a focus on sea-run fish. The Annual Smelt Fry is a celebration of spring and a delicious community feast. Pictured here are dried smelts for sampling at a community event promoting local foods.

A Partial Inventory of Important Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Resources

Site/Program/Event	Description of Resources
Conservation Land - Recreation & Habitat	
Downeast Lakes Land Trust Recreation Trails & Community Forest	DLLT protects 370,000 acres of forest, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and lakeshores that are part of a 1.4-million-acre international wildlife corridor between Maine and New Brunswick and sustainably manages a 55,678-acre Community Forest for wildlife habitat, sustainable forest products, and public recreation. Features include campsites, mapped trails with guides, and signage, education programs and community events.
Downeast Coastal Conservancy	DCC maintains public hiking trails on 12 conservation areas across a variety of settings including coastal islands, water trails, riverside walks, beaches, and mountains on the sea. Features include water access for swimming & paddling, birdwatching, hiking trails, picnic areas, interpretive information. Trails are mapped with guides and signage.
Downeast Salmon Federation	DSF stewards over 6,000 acres of conserved land and 43 miles of river and stream, most of which is open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, or paddling. Several cabins are available for reservation by the public.
Frenchman Bay Conservancy	FBC currently protects 8,000 acres of ecosystems and traditional land uses, including forest, wetlands, coastline, mountains, an organic farm, working woodlot, wild blueberry fields, and waterfront along a wild and scenic river. FBC maintains 28+ miles of year-round public access hiking trails through conservation easements or owned preserves in 12 communities, with scenic vistas, sandy beaches, rocky coastlines and mudflats for recreation and commercial access for clam and worm harvesters.
Blue Hill Heritage Trust	BHHT protects over 10,000 acres of land for wildlife, recreation, scenic beauty, sustainable use and historical importance to sustain ecological and community health and protect traditional livelihoods. Features include mapped & signed trails, water access, interpretive information, picnic areas, and education programs & community events.

Island Heritage Trust	IHT holds conservation easements for habitat preservation on over 771 acres of private land on Deer Isle, including 13+ miles of coastal shore, wildlife habitat, islands, and forests. IHT owns 459 acres on 18 properties with public access to hiking & swimming, including Mark Island and its lighthouse, Settlement Quarry, and Causeway Beach. The DeeriNature Self-Guided Nature Trails offers a digital introduction to the plants and animals of Deer Isle. They conduct environmental education and community events, including the annual Wings, Waves, & Woods birding festival each May.
Woodie Wheaton Land Trust	WWLT protects the watersheds and lands of the Chiputneticook Lakes region, a group of five lakes along the international boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. All owned lands are open to the public for nature-based tourism, traditional recreational use, and aesthetic appreciation of scenic and wildlife values. Features include water access for paddling, camping, and swimming; mapped, signed hiking trails; birdwatching; picnic areas; and one of Maine's last remaining native landlocked salmon fisheries and some of the best smallmouth bass habitat in the United States. WWLT hosts a summer speaker series and community events.
Crabtree Neck Land Trust	CNLT conserves essential wildlife habitat and corridors, scenic viewsheds, and open spaces endangered by development pressure, and to maintain the historic rural character of the Hancock peninsula. CNLT protects more than 400 acres on Crabtree Neck and created 7 miles of trails on 6 public preserves. They manage a Community Garden with 28 plots to teach people how to grow their own food, donate to food pantries, and offer garden-related educational activities.
Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust	GPMCT manages the 4,500-acre Great Pond Mountain Wildlands for wildlife habitat and low-impact recreation, including mountain biking, paddling, and hiking. They are a partner in protection of the 136-acre Nowick Farm for perpetual agricultural and forestry use. GPMCT protects the 6 Phillips Lake Islands, ranging from less than one acre to four acres in size, accessible from water only and open to the public for day use. They protect 72 forested acres with a plethora of vernal pools, including 2 of State Significance.
The Nature Conservancy	TNC protects 2.4+ million acres in Maine, including nearly 2,000 acres of coastal land in Downeast Maine with public access to hiking trails and beaches, and conservation habitat around inland waters.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust	MCHT conserves coastal lands and islands for scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. MCHT holds 300+ easements and owns 120+ preserves that are free and open to the public. MCHT also addresses food insecurity by supporting farming on conserved lands. Downeast Maine is home to 35 public-access preserves (and growing) with trails, picnic areas, swimming beaches, camping, water access, cabins for rent, and a community garden. Many preserves contain rare and unusual birds, habitat, and plants.
State Public Lands	
Donnell Pond	14,000 acres of remote forested land containing lakes, ponds, and mountains. Hiking trails, boat launches, and numerous primitive campsites on sandy beaches, accessible both by boat and by foot.
Machias River Corridor	60,000 acres of preserved land in the Machias River Watershed, 76 miles of nearly unbroken river shoreline, 252 miles of river and lake frontage, and the country's largest, self-sustaining wild Atlantic salmon run. Machias River is a popular backcountry canoe route. Amenities include remote campsites, boat launches, picnic areas, swimming beaches.
Great Heath	One of the largest peatland systems in Maine and an excellent example of a domed bog ecosystem. The state-owned portion is designated as an Ecological Reserve to protect Maine's biological diversity. Adjacent to the Pleasant River, one of the seven rivers in Maine that support Atlantic salmon. Recreation on the land consists primarily of fishing and paddling on the Pleasant River.
Duck Lake	27,000 acres of forested land with boat launches & campsites.
Rocky Lake	11,000 acres of woodlands and wetlands bordering three lakes (1,555-acre Rocky Lake, 332-acre Second Lake and 275-acre Patrick Lake). Boat launches, picnic areas, 11 primitive waterfront campsites accessible by land and water.
Holbrook Island Sanctuary	An island preserved for wildlife as a natural area. Public access is day use only, and includes a network of several short hiking trails, a boat dock, and a boat mooring.

Cutler Coast	10 miles of hiking trail, 3 remote tent sites, and 4.5 miles of ocean headlands on a 12,234-acres expanse of blueberry barrens, woodlands and peatlands overlooking the Bay of Fundy.
Wildlife Management Areas	Downeast Maine contains 12 Wildlife Management Areas held by Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. WMAs provide a statewide, ecologically based system of land holdings for the protection and enhancement of important wildlife habitats and provide opportunities for all types of public recreation, including hunting, ATVing, and snowmobiling. WMAs serve as demonstration areas where the public can see and learn about wildlife and habitat management techniques and practices that could also be implemented on private lands.
State Parks	
Roque Bluffs	274-acres with hiking trail over cliffs and rocky shores, a picnic area, playground, and pebbled beach perfect for swimming, beach-combing, and paddling.
Quoddy Head	541-acres situated on the easternmost point of the United States, with 5 acres of trail winding through forests, bogs, and along the coastline, with the famous Quoddy Head Light and visitor center.
Cobscook Bay	The Park offers 106 campsites on an 888-acre peninsula for tenting and RVs, a boat launch, and trails. The Park is part of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge.
Shackford Head	A diverse trail system allows for easy walks to challenging terrain atop bold cliffs with beach access and scenic views. Trails near the parking area provide some access for wheelchairs.
Lamoine	62 tent & RV campsites on the shore, boat launch, playground, picnic areas, beach.
National Wildlife Refuges	
Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge	Spans 3,801 acres in three towns with trails through pine forests, peatlands, blueberry barrens, marshes, cedar swamps, granite shores, and cobble beaches.

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge	One of the oldest National Wildlife Refuges and located in the Atlantic Flyway. 50+ miles of dirt roads and trails for biking and hiking, 3 interpretive trails, and opportunities to tour with wildlife biologists.
National & International Parks	
Acadia National Park - Mount Desert Island	ANP protects the highest rocky headlands along the Atlantic coastline of the United States for its scenic beauty, cultural heritage, and wildlife habitat. ANP is one of the top 10 most-visited national parks in the United States. In total, the Park system includes 27 miles of historic motor roads, 158 miles of hiking trails, and 45 miles of carriage roads. Recreational activities include car and bus touring; hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding on carriage roads; rock climbing; kayaking and canoeing; swimming; sea kayaking and guided boat tours; cross-country skiing; snowshoeing; snowmobiling; ice fishing; camping, and ranger-led programs.
Acadia National Park - Schoodic Peninsula	The Schoodic Peninsula is more secluded than the main body of the Park. It contains 2,266 acres (9 km ²), or approximately 5% of Acadia National Park, and receives approximately 10% of ANP visitors. Recreational activities include car touring; hiking; bicycling; kayaking and canoeing; cross-country skiing; snowshoeing; and camping.
Roosevelt/ Campobello International Park:	RCIP on Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada is the only existing international park and serves as a memorial to Franklin Deleanor Roosevelt and as a symbol of cooperation between the U.S. and Canada. RCIP preserves Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's historic summer home on 2,800 acres of natural areas with 9 hikes and three carriage roads. Hiking, biking, beaches, picnic areas, historic home tours, Tea with Eleanor, dining, special events, and programs and tours.
St. Croix International Waterway	The St. Croix is part of the Canadian Heritage River System that recognizes important cultural, natural and historical roles rivers had, and continue to have, in shaping the country and the lives of Canadians. The river is an international boundary that divided people with a shared heritage, thus the heritage story is shared by Downeast Maine as well. Approximately 10,000 people paddle the St. Croix each year. Camping available by land or water-only. Paddling, fishing, white water, wildlife watching.

St. Croix International Historic Site	The only International Historic Site in the world; site of the first French attempt in 1604 to colonize the territory they called l'Acadie. The National Park Service and Parks Canada each administer a site on their respective side of the Saint Croix River. The US Park features an interpretive trail on a small, wooded point overlooking St. Croix Island. Lifesize bronze figures of the French and Passamaquoddy and displays located along the trail tell their story. The Park has a visitor center, restrooms, wi-fi, and ranger on-site to provide interpretive tours.
Privately Owned	
Birdsacre - Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary	The 200-acre Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary preserves the home, vision, and achievements of pioneer, ornithologist, and photographer Cordelia Stanwood. Nature trails, Nature Center, Stanwood Museum, Woodland Gardens, picnic areas.
Cobscook Shores	A system of eleven privately owned but publicly accessible parklands along the shores of Cobscook Bay. Walking trails, picnicking, hiking, biking, camping and paddling.
Birding	
Maine Birding Trail	A self-guided trail encompassing Washington and Hancock Counties, providing birding opportunities in diverse habitat on public lands.
Birding Festivals	Wings, Woods, and Warblers Birding Festival, Downeast Spring Birding Festival, Acadia Birding Festival: Annual birding experience during spring migration and the breeding season that include self-guided explorations, guided hikes, boat tours and presentations led by area experts.
Municipal Campgrounds	
McClellan Park	A 10.4-acre town park with views of open ocean, coastal cliffs and islands, a campground for tents & RVs. Picnic tables & grills for day use.

Henry Point Campground	An RV & tent campground at the edge of a working waterfront. 20 campsites with picnic table RVs up to 45 feet, no hookups, porta potty for tent campers; water access for fishing & kayaking.
Outdoor Recreation Areas & Activities	
Outdoor Adventure Center at Washington County Community College	The OAC offers adventure programming that brings people together to grow and collectively interact with the natural world. Programs foster collaboration among regional partners, learning, and fun for people of all ages. Ropes course, rock climbing wall, disc golf course, youth sailing & climbing, youth camps, special events, and equipment rentals.
Downeast Sunrise Trail	An 85-mile, multi-use corridor connecting eastern Maine and the head of the East Coast Greenway. Traverses numerous inland habitat types.
Maine Island Trail	A 375-mile recreational waterway that spans the entire coast of Maine and connects over 200 island and mainland sites open for day visits or overnight camping. Access by motorboat or sea kayak.
Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway	A 211-mile on-road bicycling route on quiet rural roads. Connects with the East Coast Greenway, US Bike Route 1, and the Coastal Link Trail in New Brunswick, Canada.
Dedham Trails	4 miles of trails primarily used for hiking, running, nature trips, and mountain biking, with numerous single tracks leading off of it.
East Coast Greenway	A bicycling route that connects 15 states and 450 cities and towns for 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida. The northeastern gateway is in Calais at the international border crossing. The route directly connects to bicycling routes in New Brunswick, Canada. Ultimately, the entire route is intended to be off-road. The Down East Sunrise Trail is currently the longest contiguous off-road section.
Land trust group walks & paddles	Every land trust in Downeast Maine offers some degree of group walks and paddles, educational & community events, youth camps, and more.

Registered Maine Guides	<p>Maine Guides have a long and colorful history in Maine. Grand Lake Stream boasts the largest concentration of registered guides in the state. Maine Guides are recognized around the world as the gold standard in their outdoor skills and knowledge. Guides support conservation and education efforts that ensure the future of guiding. They provide quality service, promote safety, obey all laws, cooperate with wildlife officials and landowners, and support conservation and education. Guides are certified in one or more categories: hunting, fishing, recreation, sea kayaking or whitewater rafting.</p>
Foot Races	<p>MDI Marathon, International Marathon, Downeast Conservation Run, Sunrise Trail Relay, Bridge the Gap, and many smaller runs</p>
Fisheries/Hatcheries	
Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery	<p>Craig Brook raises and stocks seven river specific brood stocks of Atlantic salmon for Maine waters. Public facilities include boat launch, picnic areas, nature trail with interpretive signs, an indoor Visitor Center with watershed, stewardship and historical themed displays, library and archives, Atlantic salmon fly fishing museum, conference room and meeting facilities.</p>
Green Lake National Fish Hatchery	<p>A large-scale cold water hatchery that raises eight river-specific strains of healthy Atlantic salmon for recovering endangered Atlantic salmon to Gulf of Maine rivers. Three out of every four Atlantic salmon returning to U.S. waters come from the Green Lake National Fish Hatchery. Tours, education programs.</p>
Grand Lake Stream State Fish Hatchery	<p>One of the oldest sites of fish hatchery activities in the country. Supplies the West Grand strain of landlocked salmon and provides three quarters of the salmon used in Maine's stocking program. Guided tours, education programs.</p>
Peter Gray Hatchery	<p>Downeast Salmon Federation operates the Peter Gray Parr project salmon conservation program, a unique project that uses world class rewilding processes and has had proven success toward the recovery of wild Atlantic salmon. Offers guided tours, citizen science and other community volunteer events.</p>

Down East Institute	A marine research laboratory and education center featuring a large shellfish research and production hatchery that collaborates with community and industry partners to develop methods to adapt to the changing marine environment and create new opportunities.
Geology & Ecology	
Coastal Maine Geopark	An initiative by College of the Atlantic to develop resources and promote experiences that highlight the unique geology of coastal Maine and it's influences on natural and cultural heritage, and to promote sustainable development through geo-tourism.
Maine Ice Age Trail	A self-guided driving tour with 46 of the finest and most accessible sites along the margins of the last great North American continental ice sheet. Printed & online map, downloadable iPad app. An existing map of the trail includes extensive technical information about the geologic significance of each site – available only by purchasing it through the University of Maine at Orono bookstore. The Ice-Age trail comprises many remote and difficult to find sites, some of which are on private property. The sites are not marked.
Night Sky	
Acadia Night Sky Festival	A 5-day event celebrating the dark, starlit skies of Downeast Maine through education, science and the arts. Workshops, internationally recognized speakers, tours, and hands-on experiences.

Opportunities for Open Space and Outdoor Recreation

Natural/Open Space

- Strengthen Downeast Maine communities by restoring a strong and resilient ecosystem and our regional fisheries economy
- Host community wide Enviro-thons for all ages, family and friends teams, business teams, etc.
- Educate community members and work with community leaders to address climate change & sea level rise related to local industry and infrastructure. Redesign downtowns to include greenspaces as floodplains.
- Recognize and honor the region's industrial past and support an industrial future within the context of natural resources heritage and coordinated with open space preservation and sustainable practices.

- Develop more community forests to connect communities with nature and utilize the resources at community level.
- Seek Wild and Scenic River status for the Machias River. Machias contains the greatest amount of juvenile-rearing habitat and has the highest estimated smolt production of the state's eight wild Atlantic salmon rivers. The river system supports a rich array of wading birds, waterfowl, neotropical migrants and grassland species. This region of Maine is considered a Globally Important Bird Area, with the occurrence of at least 180 species of birds, including 23 warblers. Create multi-sport connections between the Machias river waterway and the Grand Lakes system – bike, hike, paddle, camp.
- Develop creative interpretation for the National Wildlife Refuges geared toward locals that is engaging and timeless. Ideas from NWR staff include expanded use of social media; podcasts with shorts that are relevant to today, seasonally & site specific; install webcams at public places to view wildlife; virtual reality exhibits
- Partner with Coastal Maine Geopark to build out supporting infrastructure to guide visitors to these sites with user-friendly information, develop educational toolkits for schools. Geositemaps, itineraries, and interpretive information; further development of the Maine Ice Age Trail; sites for school & community education; self-guided scenic & educational tour.
- Expand the Acadia Night sky festival with small events across the region, coastal and inland on the lakes, in the wild blueberry barrens. Can even extend from a week to two weeks if events are staggered.

Outdoor Recreation

- Address voids in recreation infrastructure by connecting trails to create more regional systems, building off the Down East Sunrise Trail.
- Expand the number of boat tour operations – kayaking, whale watching, lobster and lighthouse tours.
- Create more camping and glamping opportunities.
- Develop and map more bike routes, both



Calais Waterfront Walkway – The Calais Waterfront Walkway, once part of the Maine Central Railroad, is a grassy riverside promenade in downtown Calais. The Walkway marks the easternmost trailhead of two national bicycling routes connecting Key West, Florida and Calais (East Coast Greenway and US Bike Route 1), and the 211-mile Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway connecting Calais and Milbridge. The Calais Walkway mirrors another riverside promenade and multi-use trail a stone's throw across the international St. Croix River in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada. Photo courtesy of Kristine Keeney.

- on- and off-road; attract biking events - gravel grinds, slow rides; develop local bike clubs.
- Develop the Eastern Maine Canoe Trail
 - Improve facilities at trailheads – maps, information, toilets; upgrade existing camping, hiking, and boat launch facilities.
 - Provide information about camping, bathrooms, etc., explore creating an app in partnership with Maine trail finder.
 - Develop educational tools to help residents and visitors become better stewards of the land.
 - Connect trail users with land trusts to help them understand non-profit or private partnerships versus state and federal lands and land management.
 - Find funding and human resources to increase capacity for trail upgrades and maintenance to keep up with increased use. Nurture a recreation land management collaboration across the two counties to address increased visitation.
 - Develop “trail-running” summer positions to help identify and address or report on the growing incidences of littering, squatting, and illegal fires and camping.
 - Develop community “work parties” reminiscent of a good old-fashioned barn raising to bring people together to help develop and maintain infrastructure.
 - Assist schools to connect with or develop nearby recreation trails.
 - Leverage conservation lands to bring more value to communities – to help offset tax breaks for forest, ag, open space reductions
 - Promote area to potential new residents for outdoor recreation as quality of life.
 - Collect trail use data to back up grant applications and provide information to municipalities about the economic benefits of outdoor recreation.
 - Develop and promote winter sports events and challenges
 - Develop both introductory and immersive experiential recreation tours; engage all age groups, fitness levels, children.
 - Develop pet-friendly parks; a dog park.
 - Improve boat launches, parks, trails, and other public infrastructure in village areas to create active outdoor downtown hubs.
 - Develop East Coast Greenway & Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway gateway infrastructure & cultural information at Calais - Bike shops, bike rentals, bike storage, bike shipping @ city building, DEST brochure & map updates.
 - Develop safer and varied bicycling routes that offer routes for all skill levels to encourage fitness, community, and fun.
 - Connect the three annual Birding festivals each May and June to expand participant opportunities to engage with birding. Create incentives and opportunities for community members and school or youth groups to participate. Update DownEast Acadia Birding Trail map and build out information on DART and other websites.

- Develop community-run recreation equipment shares.
- Continue Bicycles Welcome training in partnership with Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

Conclusion

Downeast Maine includes supporting resources, such as museum collections, archives, and organizations with interpretive and educational programs that convey the themes associated with the potential National Heritage Area. Roadside markers and interpretive signage near sites provide additional information about past events that shaped the region's history and resources that are no longer extant or publicly accessible. These educational resources support the interpretation of the study area's history and provide additional context related to the identified themes that could support any future activities or growth of a potential national heritage area.

Given the number of resources that meet NHA criteria for direct association and integrity, the study team finds that there are enough natural, cultural, and historic resources to form a nationally significant landscape and to support the efficient management of such resources as a National Heritage Area.

The study area has diverse resources associated with the themes associated with Downeast Maine that have a direct association with the identified nationally significant story and adequate physical integrity to support public interpretation. Additional supporting resources that also represent the distinctive aspects of Downeast Maine, such as museums and existing organizations, provide historic and natural context, contribute to visitor opportunities, and reflect the ecological and cultural landscape of the study area. Overall, the study team believes that this resources inventory meets the threshold for a “strategic assemblage of resources” needed to be eligible for NHA designation.