



# MOWRY BEACH PRESERVE

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### DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY

The Downeast Coastal Conservancy (DCC) maintains and protects the Mowry Beach Preserve and also works cooperatively with land owners to protect other land in coastal Washington County from Steuben to Lubec and up to Calais and Rt. 9. This area is part of the last frontier on the Northeast coast of peaceful, untrammelled beauty, including forests, woodlands, wetlands, islands, salt marshes, clam flats, fishing villages and working waterfronts.

DCC is a membership organization whose mission is the conservation of natural habitats and resources of the coastal watersheds, islands and communities of Washington County, Maine for present and future generations.

Formed in 2009 through the merger of Great Auk Land Trust and Quoddy Regional Land Trust, Downeast Coastal Conservancy brought together two successful land trusts, each with over twenty years of conservation, into a single, stronger organization.

To join DCC, make a charitable contribution, or obtain advice and assistance in conserving your land, please contact us.

DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY

PO Box 760  
Machias, ME 04654

Telephone: 207-255-4500

[www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org](http://www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org)  
[info@downeastcoastalconservancy.org](mailto:info@downeastcoastalconservancy.org)



Known locally as the “Jabez Mowry Pasture Lot” or “Poley Woods,” the Mowry Beach property was the last remaining undeveloped portion of lands the Mowry family acquired in the early 1800s, shortly after European settlers arrived on Lubec Neck. The family maintained the land as pasture for decades, and generously allowed local residents to enjoy use of it. The Mowry family eventually approached Quoddy Regional Land Trust (now DCC) offering to sell the land at a “bargain sale” price (well below its appraised value) so that it could remain an unspoiled recreational resource. With help from the State’s Land for Maine’s Future Program, QRLT purchased the property in 2004.

Mowry Beach abuts the Lubec Consolidated School and area students use the property for class projects and individual study. Students and staff from the school and from the Cobscook Community Learning Center, along with Maine Conservation Corps and Americorps volunteers and many community residents, helped construct the trail—an ambitious project involving more than 800 volunteer hours.

### ECOLOGY

The 48-acre Mowry Beach Conservation Area encompasses 1,800 feet of shoreline— part of a 1.2-mile sand beach that runs from Lubec village to South Lubec. This sand beach is a rare geological phenomenon downeast where beaches are more commonly made up of pebbles, cobbles or boulders.

The State of Maine has designated the south Lubec shoreline an “Important Bird Area” due to its high concentration of nesting, migrating and wintering birds. Migratory songbirds are common during nesting season, along with several species of finches. Cedar and bohemian waxwings frequent the site in fall and winter, along with rough-legged hawks, northern harriers and northern shrikes.

Beach visitors can find the remains of a drowned forest along the low-tide line—making this site a stop along Maine’s Ice Age Trail. Several rooted tree stumps are visible that once grew upland of the beach (when the sea level was about 5 feet lower than it is today). As the sea level rose with the melting of glaciers, the beach migrated inland.

The property’s upland portion contains wetlands, a small freshwater pond, and former pasture (now reverting to alders). A 2,100-foot, handicapped-accessible trail traverses a mix of freshwater scrub-shrub and wetlands populated by waxwings, thrushes, redpolls, finches and warblers.

## Hike Lubec!



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## VISITOR INFORMATION

The Mowry Beach Trail can be reached from either the parking lot at the end of Pleasant Street or off South Street (at the southern end of Lubec Consolidated School). The path meets ADA guidelines for wheelchair access, being smooth and almost level with side rails for wheelchair safety and frequent turnouts for resting.

The trail begins at the parking area (at the south end of Pleasant Street). A gravel path leads to a 1,700-foot boardwalk that passes through coastal scrub-shrub woodland and skirts sphagnum bog and cattail swamp. The final graveled section of trail emerges in back of Lubec Consolidated School near South Street. Return along the same route (for a 0.8-mile roundtrip) or extend your walk (for a 1.2-mile roundtrip) by returning on town roads. Turn right at the school and follow South Street to Washington Street, then take the first right onto Dewey-Mowry Street, following that to Pleasant Street (where a right turn will bring you back to the parking area).

## PRESERVE GUIDELINES

We welcome your visit to the Mowry Beach Preserve which is open from dawn to dusk. Help us protect this special place by observing the following guidelines:

- Please practice “carry-in/carry-out” and “leave no trace” ethics.
- Please stay on the walking path and boardwalk so as not to damage surrounding vegetation.
- Please stay off the dunes when on the beach. Dune vegetation is fragile and cannot withstand trampling.
- Please do not disturb gulls or shorebirds roosting on the beach. Do not feed birds or other wildlife.
- Please keep dogs on a leash at all times. Please pick-up after your dog.
- Fires, camping and ATVs are not permitted.
- Leave all objects and plants as you found them.

## DIRECTIONS

Take U.S. Route 1 to Route 189 (in Whiting) and follow 189 into Lubec village, bearing right on Washington Street at the Quik Shop (as if heading for Campobello Island). Take the third right onto Pleasant Street (just before the International Bridge) and follow it to the end (0.3 mile) to the beachside parking lot and trailhead.

Alternately, turn right off Route 189 onto South Street, (after the cemetery and before Murphy’s Restaurant) and follow that to Lubec Consolidated School. Park at the south end of the school building and walk around back to where a trailhead sign is visible at the lawn’s edge.

**Thank you for helping preserve Mowry Beach for current & future generations!**