



Both preserves offer four-season fun

Middle River Park & Machias River Preserve

The Two Rivers Conservation Area



View of the Machias River from Machias River Preserve

DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY

The Downeast Coastal Conservancy (DCC) maintains and protects the Two Rivers Conservation Area 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, untrammled 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 assistance in conserving your land, please contact us.

DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY

PO Box 760
Machias, ME 04654

Telephone: 207-255-4500

www.DowneastCoastalConservancy.org
info@downeastcoastalconservancy.org



**DOWNEAST
COASTAL
CONSERVANCY**

© June 2018 Downeast Coastal Conservancy

Two Rivers Conservation Area

HISTORY

The Two Rivers Conservation Area consists of two river-front properties, one on the Middle River and one on the Machias River, in the Machias Valley. The 100 acres of land that is now **Middle River Park** was once the historic St. Regis Farm, a property that pastured draft horses and cattle involved in the St. Regis Paper Company logging drives on the Machias River. The property was later a local family farm. The **Machias River Preserve** consists of 900 acres of land and 3.5 miles of river frontage. For many years, the Machias River was home to some of the greatest log drives on the east coast. This land is now available to hikers, snow-shoers, anglers, picnickers, paddlers and hunters.

GETTING TO MIDDLE RIVER PARK

Middle River Park is located conveniently in the heart of Machias. From Route 1, across the street from Helen's Restaurant, turn onto Kilton Lane. Cross over the Sunrise Trail and immediately turn left. Take the first right and park in the lot near the large warehouse building. The trails begin atop the field.

Paddlers will find signs directing them to the hand-carry boat launch at the end of the parking area.



Young families on a canoe outing on the Middle River

GETTING TO MACHIAS RIVER PRESERVE

Vehicle parking is available at 2 locations. The first is on Route 1A in Machias, about 0.5 mile south of the Down East Community Hospital and the second is on Route 1A in Whitneyville, about 0.3 mile north of the bridge over the Machias River. From the Sunrise Trail, ATVs and snowmobiles will find small parking areas where the Homestead Trail and Hemlock Trail inter-



Paddlers navigate Munson Pitch on the Machias River sect with the Sunrise Trail.

GUIDELINES FOR USE

Thank you for your stewardship and caring for the Two Rivers Conservation Area for all to enjoy. The properties are open from dawn to dusk. Help us ensure that others have an enjoyable experience by using this land responsibly.

- Trails were designed for foot traffic only;
- Keep pets leashed or under reliable voice control and in your sight at all times;
- Pick up after your pets;
- Pack out your trash;
- Fires, camping, ATVs, snowmobiles and bicycles are not allowed;
- Do not carve graffiti or initials in rocks, ledges or trees;
- For your safety, wear blaze orange during hunting season;
- Please respect neighboring private property and roads.

Middle River Park

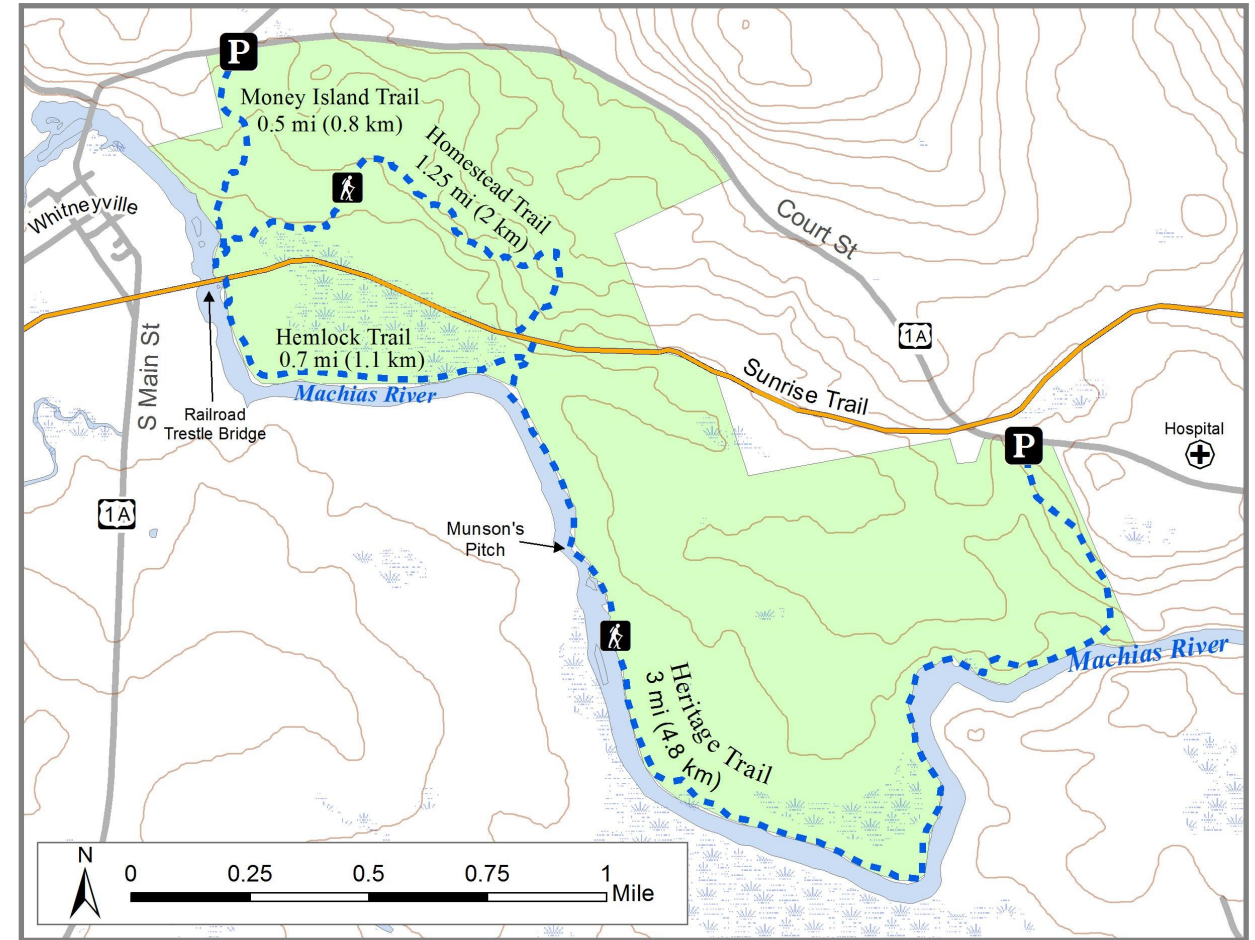


Trail Information

Hikers can explore several different loop trails on the property. There is about 1 mile of established trail. Trails are blazed in colors coordinating with this map—blue, red and orange. Picnickers will enjoy views of the Middle River and Machias Bay from the top of the hill near the parking area, or carry your picnic out to the overlook at the northernmost point of the trail.

In winter when there is adequate snow on the ground, the hill near the parking area is available for sledding. Also when there is snow cover, snowshoers can hike between the lookout points at the end of the orange and red trails, this area is too marshy to traverse at other times of the year.

Machias River Preserve



Trail Information

Visitors can explore the 5.5-mile trail network with a variety of loops by connecting hiking trails with segments of the multi-use Down East Sunrise Trail. The **Heritage Trail** and **Hemlock Trail** offer an extended walk along the Machias River with new views unfolding throughout the hike. The **Homestead Trail** winds its way through natural forest, an old Red Pine plantation and the site of a former family farm that has been overtaken by nature. The **Money Island Trail** provides a glimpse of a regenerating forest, a babbling trout stream, and a wonderful view of Money Island in the middle of the Machias River.

Due to its proximity to the Machias River, the Heritage Trail is affected by flood waters. The trail is closed if it is covered by water. When the water is at its highest, hikers will not be able to access the river.