

July 19, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town and Land Trust land swap completed in Lincolnville

Lincolnville - Coastal Mountains Land Trust and the Town of Lincolnville have finalized an exchange of two properties, creating a new Town Park and conserving wildlife habitat along the Ducktrap River. Residents of the Town of Lincolnville voted overwhelmingly in favor of this swap in July 2020, and after finalizing the details, the transaction was completed in early June 2021.

The Town of Lincolnville now owns a 4.34-acre park on Penobscot Bay, located off Route 1 near the Lincolnville / Northport town line. The property was previously managed as a private park, and has an existing volleyball court, horseshoe pits, picnic areas with grills, paths, a parking area, and steps leading down to its stone beach. The Town is currently working on necessary improvements to the park. It is temporarily closed but expected to open later this year.

In exchange, the Land Trust now owns a 68.8-acre property on the Ducktrap River, near the Tanglewood 4-H Camp. This parcel is nearly surrounded by other permanently conserved land. The Land Trust will manage the property in a natural condition, allowing recreation such as hunting, birding, and hiking in its remote forests. Conservation of this parcel furthers the Land Trust's long-term goal of protecting the river corridor and habitat for Atlantic Salmon.

David Kinney, the Lincolnville Town Administrator said recently, "The Town is thrilled to be partnering with Coastal Mountains Land Trust with this land exchange and views the exchange as a win-win situation for all involved. The exchange preserves in perpetuity the Ducktrap River corridor along with the river's wild Atlantic sea-run salmon and other significant habitat while also expanding public access opportunities to Penobscot Bay. We look forward to the public's enjoyment of these unique locations for generations to come."

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Coastal Mountains Land Trust has worked since 1986 to permanently conserve land to benefit the natural and human communities of the western Penobscot Bay. The Land Trust has protected over 12,000 acres, offering 50 miles of trails for public recreation.

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Mill Brook Preserve Established in Searsport

Searsport – Coastal Mountains Land Trust has acquired a 25-acre property along Mill Brook, just minutes away from town off the Mount Ephraim Road. Thanks to a generous donation from Jim and Linda Babb.

The new Mill Brook Preserve permanently conserves land on a beautiful mile long stretch of stream, just north of Route 1 and town. The Mill Brook Preserve is the Land Trust's second preserve in Searsport. A 10-minute walk from town leads to a heavily forested section of brook that is natural, secluded, and quiet. Additionally, the preserve will be accessible to students and classes at the Searsport Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, via an old woods road from behind the schools' ball fields that leads to Mount Ephraim Road, right by the entrance to the preserve.

The Land Trust is currently building a high-quality hiking trail, rebuilding a bridge, and adding signage to the preserve. Once finished, the trail will allow for quick access for hikers, birders, fishermen, and hunters, to the banks of Mill Brook. A public trail opening will be held once it is completed this fall.

Jim and Linda Babb have lived by Mill Brook since 1976. Thanks to their generosity and foresight, this amazing portion of Mill Brook will be permanently preserved for those who come after. Jim, who is the Editor Emeritus of *Gray's Sporting Journal*, wrote about Mill Brook in his 1999 book *Crosscurrents: A Fly Fisher's Progress* (The Lyons Press):

"Over the past 30 years I've fished from the Arctic to Patagonia, from Scotland to Midway Island. But my true love is fishing for herring-size brook trout on nameless little streams. Dozens are within a short drive of my house, but my favorite is only a two-minute walk from the back door."

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