



River~Link – Exciting Conservation Update!

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- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship



**River~Link is a partnership among land trusts, towns and state agencies, including Damascotta River Association (DRA), Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), Boothbay Region Land Trust (BRLT), Midcoast Conservancy (MC), Town of Newcastle, Town of Edgcomb Schmidt Preserve, Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands (BPL), Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW), Lands for Maine's Future (LMF), Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP), and numerous private landowners and foundations.*

Because of you, we are a big step closer to protecting this special property forever!

We are thrilled to share with you the news that with your help, Damariscotta River Association has secured an option to purchase the 178-acre Louderback Property at the heart of the River-Link* corridor in Newcastle and Edgecomb.

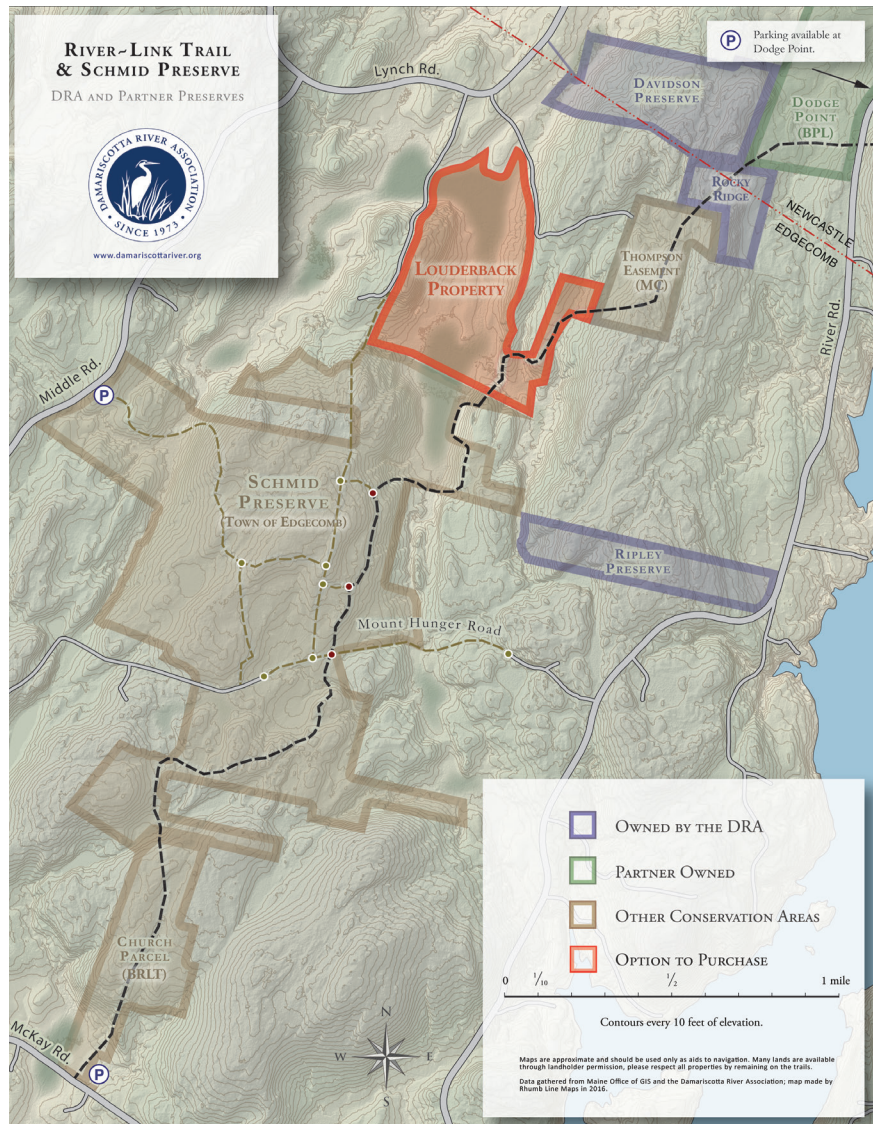
What's more, we've just learned DRA has been awarded a grant that will get us 85% of the way to conserving the land permanently. We are that close to finalizing the remaining link in this incredible conservation and recreation corridor.

Your commitment to the River and our community has made it possible to create this string of protected properties that extends for almost six miles. Where else can you walk for three and a half hours here in Midcoast Maine and not cross a road or hear a car?

Not only does this project carry great recreational value, it is also critical wildlife habitat and of great importance to water quality in the watershed.

Your support is vital to our conservation work in the Damariscotta River Region. Thank you!

To see a larger version of this map, see our blog post at damariscottariver.org/riverlink-filling-in-the-gap.



Conservation of the Louderback property is a win for...

A Wildlife Corridor



The Louderback parcel lies at the center of the largest unfragmented forest block on the Boothbay peninsula – nearly 5,000 acres. Conservation on this scale allows large mammals, such as bobcat, moose, bear and deer, to thrive.

Water Quality



Extensive wetlands on the property flow into the Sherman Marsh Wildlife Management Area in Newcastle. Protecting this area from development contributes directly to water quality in the Marsh and Sheepscot Rivers.

Specialized Habitat



Designated by the State of Maine as significant habitat for waterfowl and wading birds, the Louderback property is occupied by at least 46 species of birds. Fully half of these are listed either as Endangered or of Special Concern.

Trails & Recreation



The property will be managed as part of a preserve that is accessible to the public. Louderback is the “golden spike” completing the River-Link Trail, which extends unbroken along the spine of the peninsula for five and a half miles.

Stay tuned for more on this project – and an opportunity to hike the River-Link trail with us in late spring!

Photos credits: Louderback wetlands, S. Walker. Bobcat kittens, S. Tribble. Sherman Marsh, Lincoln County News. Black-throated green warbler, D. Pancamo. Snowy trail, D. Kaymen.