

NEWS RELEASE

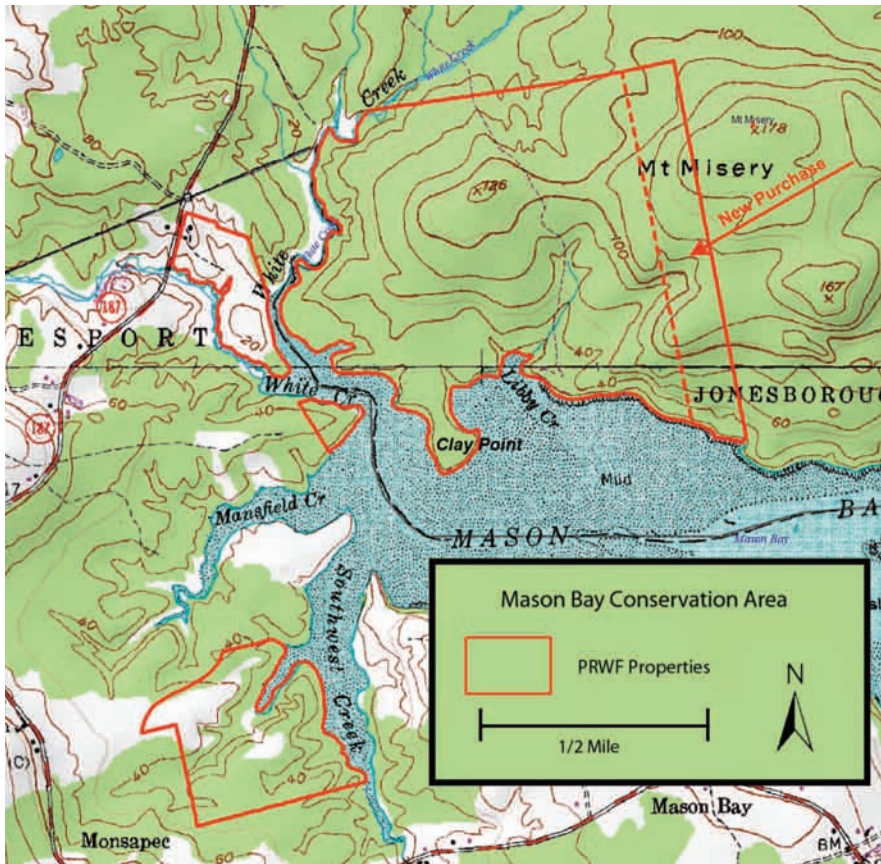
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Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation Adds to Mason Bay Conservation Area

Addison, Maine: Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation announced today the expansion of the Mason Bay Conservation Area with the purchase of an eighth parcel with frontage on the north shore of the bay. This brings the total area protected by PRWF on Mason Bay to 656 acres, comprised of 453 acres of uplands and 203 acres of intertidal wetlands. The properties have over 4 miles of frontage on Mason Bay and along both sides of White Creek at the head of the bay.

Mason Bay, in Washington County, Maine's coastal towns of Jonesboro and Jonesport, is roughly 1 ½ miles long and ½ mile wide. It is characterized by hundreds of acres of shallow waters at high tide that drain to exposed mudflats when the tide is out. The tidal creeks that feed into the upper bay are bordered by extensive and beautiful salt marsh systems. Because of the



exceptional importance of its wildlife habitats, its scenic beauty and its recreational opportunities, Mason Bay has been identified by the Heads of the Estuaries Partnership, a regional conservation consortium, as one of five Priority Areas on the southwestern Washington County coastline meriting intensive conservation efforts.

Mason Bay is particularly important to migrating and resident waterfowl, notably large numbers of over-wintering black ducks that depend on access to ice free flats for winter food. The bay's



flats and marshes also provide vital habitat for migrating shorebirds that need undisturbed feeding and resting areas in order to fatten for their long voyages south each fall. The extensive meadows and forested uplands surrounding the bay provide habitat for songbirds, grouse, woodcock, wild turkeys, and several species of raptors as well as for deer, moose, beavers, fox, bobcats, coyotes and bears.

John Marshall, President of the Foundation stated “PRWF has been exceptionally fortunate to be able to put together this significant block of quality wildlife habitat surrounding upper Mason Bay. Keeping large sweeps of land undeveloped and protected from fragmentation is very important because more different species, and more of any given species, will be protected in a contiguous block of land than in the same amount of acreage broken into smaller parcels.

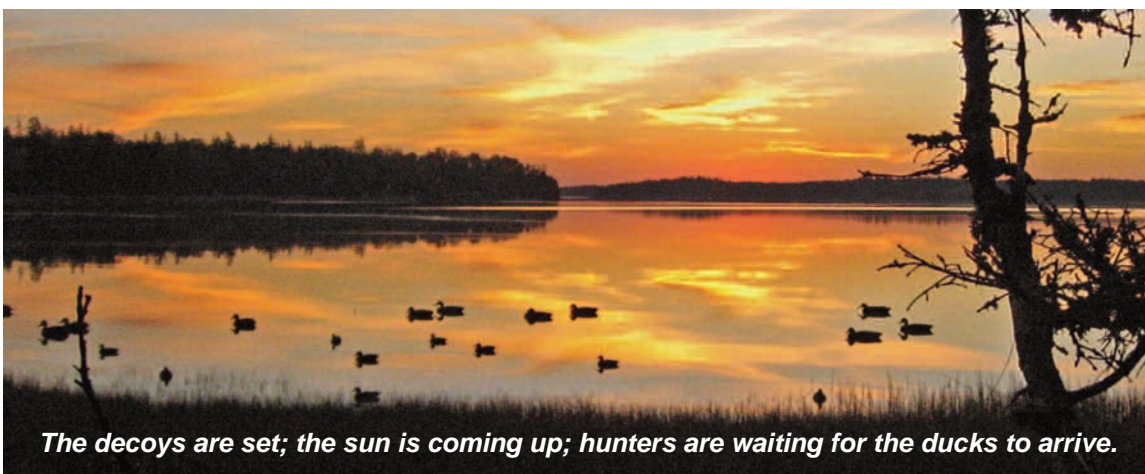


Clay Point is formed of glacial till

“Mason Bay’s unusual combination of protected upland buffer, deep, gradually sloping shores and glacial till soils provide the opportunity for mudflats and marshes to respond to anticipated rises in sea level by growing vertically and by migrating inland. This is important for the wildlife that depends on the intertidal habitat.”

With spectacular vistas and increasingly sizable acreage in conservation ownership, Mason Bay is becoming more important both for people who depend on the bay waters for their livelihoods and for those who enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities. Besides protecting critical wildlife habitat, PRWF’s conservation efforts in Mason Bay will help ensure:

- Public access to the coast for marine-resource-based users, such as clammers and wormers,
- Recreational access to the coast for hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers, hikers, picnickers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and boaters,
- Clean, pollution-free waters, essential for wildlife and commercial fisheries,
- Enhanced ecotourism potential for downeast Maine.



The decoys are set; the sun is coming up; hunters are waiting for the ducks to arrive.



The funding for the Mason Bay Conservation Area has come from a combination of federal, state and private support including grants from:

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program
- USFWS's North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grant Program
- USFWS's North American Wetlands Conservation Act Standard Grant Program
- Maine's voter supported Land for Maine's Future Program
- A recently awarded grant from the Open Space Conservancy, Inc., an affiliate of the Open Space Institute, Inc. which is managing the Saving New England Wildlife Fund, a \$6 million fund established with a lead grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in order to protect the wildlife habitat in northern New England.

In addition to these grants PRWF received generous donations from the landowners who sold their lands at bargain prices in support of conservation. Our Heads of the Estuaries partners -- Downeast Coastal Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy and USFWS - Gulf of Maine Coastal Program -- also provided important financial and technical support for the Mason Bay project.



Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation (PRWF) is a Maine land trust working to protect wildlife habitat on the Downeast Coast and committed to preserving traditional public access for residents and visitors. PRWF is a leader in the Heads of the Estuaries Partnership, a collaboration of local land trusts and governmental agencies working together to protect the important intertidal and nearby freshwater habitats of southwestern Washington County, Maine.

Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation
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