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The
Kennebec
River

Special
Edition
2018

Weston Woods and Water Challenge

SWT announces a campaign to protect 275 acres of historic, forested land with over a mile of frontage on the Kennebec River. Red oaks, sugar maples, and red maples dominate the hardwoods while white pines and hemlocks dominate the softwoods. The landscape has diverse topography of kettle holes, pine plains, flood-plain forests and eskers.

On the west side of Weston Woods, with another mile of frontage on the Kennebec River, 50 acres of farmland have been protected by an agricultural easement held by Maine Farmland Trust. The State of Maine has protected Weston Island and other adjacent parcels by a conservation easement. The Weston parcel is within an important Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Focus Area and there is significant wading bird habitat north of Weston Island.

The Weston family has owned this model forest and farm for over 220 years, including the classic Federalist homestead, built in 1817. The farmhouse has been purchased by an owner interested in restoration of the historic home.

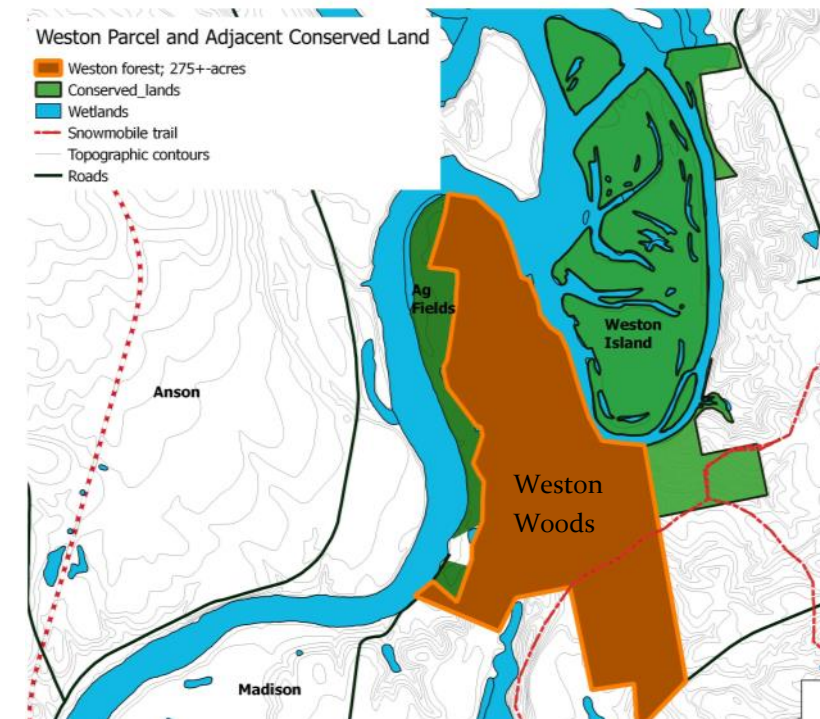
The irreplaceable, pristine views of the land from the river's corridor will be forever protected for all future generations. Conserving the Weston forest will protect the underlying Kennebec aquifer with clean,

unpolluted water. Native species of mammals, birds and reptiles will flourish in their natural habitat.

SWT will establish and maintain trails for hiking, skiing, hunting, birdwatching and biking and water frontage for boat landings, picnics, and fishing. The snowmobile trail that now runs through the land will remain open.

This is the most ambitious project SWT has undertaken in its 91 year history. This visionary project will protect the natural resources of the Kennebec River so treasured by all of us.

Our children, grandchildren and all who follow will thank those who protected the beauty of the river.



Somerset Woods Trustees
P.O. Box 833
Skowhegan, Me. 04976

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Kennebec River

Jack Gibson, SWT President

When we think of our most precious landscapes, many of us imagine our favorite views of mountains and rivers. For me, I love the Kennebec River with its islands, four of which SWT owns, and the pristine views of landscapes that haven't changed much since Native Americans canoed the river.

The problem is, I said that landscapes haven't changed—much. There are more gravel pits, but eventually the sweet fern will emerge and trees will grow. There are a few more homes but with river resource protection laws, most are at least 100 feet from the river.

What I'm worried about are the changes that will be more apparent when there are houses every 200 feet along the river; when the forests are cut too thin; when once vacant shores are posted with *No Trespassing* signs; and, when the fishing gets slow because of diminishment of quality habitat.

I feel that conserving Weston Woods is more than just important; it's essential that we protect OUR river, one property, one section at a time.

We need your support. I hope you will join us to protect Weston Woods—and the Kennebec River.

WHAT WILL WESTON WOODS COST?

EXPENSES

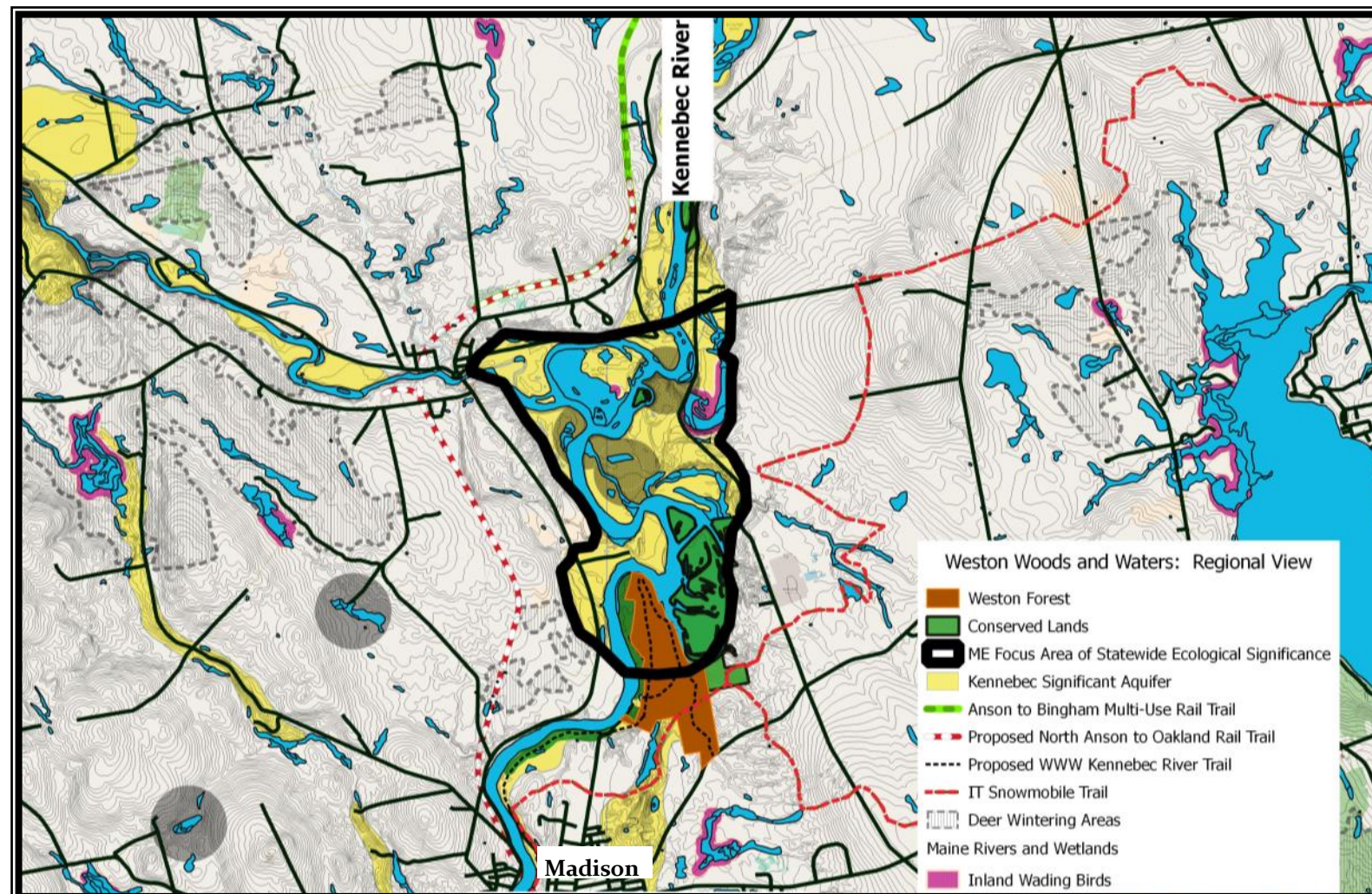
LAND PRICE:	\$450,000
DUE DILIGENCE & STEWARDSHIP:	\$60,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$510,000

KNOWN OR ANTICIPATED REVENUES

GRANT:	\$225,000
FUNDS PLEDGED AS OF 8-27-2018:	\$152,600
REMAINING NEEDED TO PURCHASE:	\$72,400
REMAINING TO COMPLETE PROJECT:	\$132,400

WHAT MAKES PURCHASING WESTON WOODS SO SPECIAL? IN JUST A FEW WORDS...

- **COMPLETES THE PROTECTION OF THE WESTON FARM: [HISTORIC HOMESTEAD BUILT IN 1817 & 50 ACRES OF FARMLAND (PROTECTED BY MAINE FARMLAND TRUST); CONTINUES THE WESTON FAMILY STEWARDSHIP BEGINNING IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY]**
 - **PROTECTS OVER A MILE OF PRISTINE RIVER CORRIDOR AND VIEWS**
 - **PROTECTS IRREPLACEABLE NATURAL RESOURCES**
 - **PROTECTS CLEAN WATER = NO STORMWATER POLLUTANTS FROM DEVELOPMENT**
 - **PROTECTS FISHERIES**
 - **PROTECTS THE UNDERLYING KENNEBEC AQUIFER**
 - **PROTECTS ANIMAL HABITATS AND GLACIAL TERRAIN**
 - **EXPANDS RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**
 - **RETAINS A POPULAR SNOWMOBILE TRAIL**
- **PROVIDES FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS & AS A DEMONSTRATION FOREST**
 - **OFFERS AN ECONOMIC BOOST TO THE TOWN**
- **PROVIDES INCOME TO THE TOWN (3% CUTTING INCOME SHARING BEGINNING IN 2021)**



SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS

Saturday, September 8th Tour Weston Woods & Waters and the Weston Homestead

1 to 3 PM at 436 Weston Avenue
Madison, ME
Catered by 122 Corson and SWT
Free
Enjoy viewing this beautiful parcel of 275 acres on the Weston peninsula with over 1 mile of frontage and tour the circa 1817 homestead. Please attempt to RSVP by September 1st (if possible!) to Nancy at somersetwoodstrustees@gmail.com

Saturday, September 22nd Kennebec River Paddle

Evergreens Campground
202 Ferry Street Solon, Maine
8 AM (Optional breakfast) to approximately 11:30 AM
Bring your canoe/kayak (or borrow one of ours, if available). Start the perfect autumn morning with a big breakfast (Optional) at Evergreens, followed by a tour of the Kennebec River with our Trustees. Learn about the natural forces that created the river, the many economic benefits that the river provided early settlers and industries, and the artifacts left behind by native Americans. Charge only for breakfast; tour is free!



Sunday, October 14th Dedication and Hike at Young's Wildlife Preserve Fletcher Mountain Road (off of Bluff Road) Bingham, Maine 2-4 PM

This property was donated to SWT by Norcross Wildlife Foundation in 2017, a gift to Norcross previously given from the Young family. SWT will have a short dedication ceremony followed by a hike to the beaver pond.