

ELIOT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Focus Areas of Ecological Significance



Photo: York Land Trust

York River Area
Including York River Headwaters, and Frost Hill wading bird habitat

What makes the York River area so important?

Rare & endangered species habitat

- *Spotted Turtle*
- *New England Cottontail*
- *Saltmarsh Sharp-Tailed Sparrow*
- *Broad Beech Fern*

Ecological value

- *Cleans water running off land prior to reaching the ocean.*
- *Exports nutrients to marine food nets.*

Economic value

- *Acts as a protective buffer for storm surge.*
- *Provides scenic vistas that raise property values.*
- *Attracts tourism for wildlife observation, paddling, hunting, & fishing.*

Public access

- *Through Mt. Agamenticus Preserve, Highland Farm, & McIntire Highlands Preserve.*

Historical sites

- *Contains remains of dams & mills from Punkintown settlements dating back to the 1700s.*

"Environmentally, we live at the upper limits of the southern forests and at the lower limits of the northern forests so we have species of both. The same is true for the flora and fauna, or wildlife, giving a larger diversity of plants, animals, reptiles, turtles, etc., than is usual."

-Silas Weeks



Photo by Kimberly Richards

"The extensive York River Estuary is one of the Gulf of Maine's least disturbed marsh-estuarine ecosystems and may be the most ecologically diverse coastal drainage for its size in the Gulf of Maine."

-Beginning with Habitat

What can we do to help?

Reach out to local environmental & conservation organizations

- *Volunteer.*
- *Attend public events.*
- *Make a donation.*
- *Become a member.*

Be an active citizen

- *Encourage town planners to improve approaches to development that may impact focus area functions.*
- *Monitor & remove invasive plant populations.*
- *Educate recreational users about the ecological, economic, & health benefits of these areas.*

Leave a legacy

- *If you are a landowner, consider adopting a conservation easement that will ensure these lands are preserved for future generations.*

For More Info:

MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST

www.mcht.org
ph(207)729-7366

Maine Land Trust Network

A communications & coordination service provided by MCHT connecting land conservation orgs & agencies
www.mltn.org

BEGINNING WITH HABITAT

Online Toolbox
www.beginningwithhabitat.org/toolbox/about_toolbox.html

GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST

www.gwrlt.org
email: info@gwrlt.org
ph(207)646-3604

Sponsored by the
Eliot Conservation Commission

Visit us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/eliotconservation

Contact us c/o
Town of Eliot
1333 State Road
Eliot, ME 03903
Ph(207)439-1813
www.eliotmaine.org



Photo: www.traveljournals.net