

Healthy Communities Through Conservation



The Vining Lake Campaign is a Project of Downeast Coastal Conservancy

Vining Lake

Downeast Coastal Conservancy (DCC) plans to acquire the 27-acre Vining Lake in Washington County, Maine, including the lake and all the land surrounding the lake, approximately 406 acres. DCC's goal is to establish a community-based conservation preserve so that the public can continue to enjoy forever Vining Lake's many recreational and educational attractions. A private conservation buyer concerned about the threats of granite quarrying, commercial forestry and lakeside development currently owns this property. The property has good road access and is a short drive from a state highway. There are no structures or other development on the property. The property is naturally reforesting after logging more than 10 years ago, but no logging occurred near the lake. The land surrounding the lake has stands of white pine and other native trees, and there are several small meadows, some of which serve as winter deer habitat. There are extensive granite outcroppings. The lake's outlet includes a stream and associated wetlands.



“As an avid outdoorsman, I am committed to the responsible growth and preservation of our region, a region which I love to share and promote among the 270 employees of Machias Savings Bank. As an ardent supporter of Downeast Coastal Conservancy, I’m confident that the stewardship initiative for Vining Lake is a unique opportunity to ensure the protection of another of our rich natural assets, while preserving responsible community use. I hope you will join me in supporting this project.”

Larry Barker, President & CEO,
Machias Savings Bank

Conservation Values

DCC strongly believes that conservation and stewardship of this property is critically important because of the lake's uniquely pristine condition and the lack of any development around the lake. There are few lakes in Downeast Maine that have no camps, cottages, subdivisions or nearby structures.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) habitat analysis stated that ***“the forest habitat parcel of Vining Lake are of high value (within the top 25% in the Gulf of Maine Watershed), based on their value for rare or declining species of birds and fish.”*** USFWS's analysis further determined that Vining Lake and its surrounding land provide important habitat for 28 of 91 USFWS priority trust species and is particularly high value habitat, in comparison with the rest of the Gulf of Maine watershed, for 10 of those 28 species.

Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) considers the lake to be among the top twelve brook trout habitats in New England. Stocking reports by IF&W indicate Vining Lake has been annually stocked with brook trout since at least 1996. The lake and its outlet stream and wetland are part of the East Machias River watershed, one of the few remaining Atlantic salmon rivers in the United States.



“This is particularly central to a strategic focus on the East Machias watershed and the resultant benefits to water quality protections necessary to support the fisheries recovery efforts of Downeast Salmon Federation and our partners.”

- Dwayne Shaw, Downeast Salmon Federation.

A Community Preserve --- Recreation and Education

Vining Lake has been a recreational resource for surrounding communities for many decades. Families use the property for hiking, fishing, hunting and other recreational activities. Since the lake is a particularly important habitat for brook trout, it is widely used during the winter for ice fishing. Many local people say that their love of fishing was born at the lake; many like to think of it as their secret fishing spot. DCC will continue to allow low-impact recreation on the property while at the same time protecting the habitat. Boating in the lake will be limited to hand-carried non-motorized craft.

The preserve will be used by local schools and colleges for supervised research and teaching activities. DCC will extend and add to existing trails, and add interpretive signage, as well as providing designated parking areas away from the lake while limiting vehicle traffic to certain parts of the property. DCC believes that that appropriate low-impact use of the lake and surrounding lands is sustainable and compatible with maintaining the important natural resources of the preserve.



“This is rare and exciting opportunity to protect a high quality Brook Trout habitat for future generations and guarantee public access forever”

– Gregg Burr – State of Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Regional Fisheries Biologist.



Acquisition

The current owner acquired the lake and surrounding land over several years. DCC has entered into a one-year purchase option agreement with the owner that allows DCC to buy the land and lake for a bargain price of \$125,000. This is a very generous offer from the owner, who wants to protect the natural habitats and recreational opportunities of this property. DCC believes that the conservation values of the property substantially exceed this bargain sale price.

Stewardship

In addition to the purchase price, DCC seeks to secure funds for initial improvements to the property, to facilitate educational activities, and establish an investment fund for stewardship of the preserve. Such funds will allow DCC to fulfill its community conservation responsibilities to this property in perpetuity. The dedicated stewardship investment fund will be established at the Maine Community Foundation.

Vining Lake Community Preserve Campaign Budget

Land Purchase - Bargain Sale Price	\$125,000
Long Term Stewardship Funding	\$165,000
Initial Access and Land Improvements	\$50,000
Educational Outreach and Interpretation	\$50,000
Legal, title, appraisal costs	\$10,000
Total Fundraising Goal	\$400,000

Please Contribute

You can help DCC establish the Vining Lake Community Preserve by contributing today.

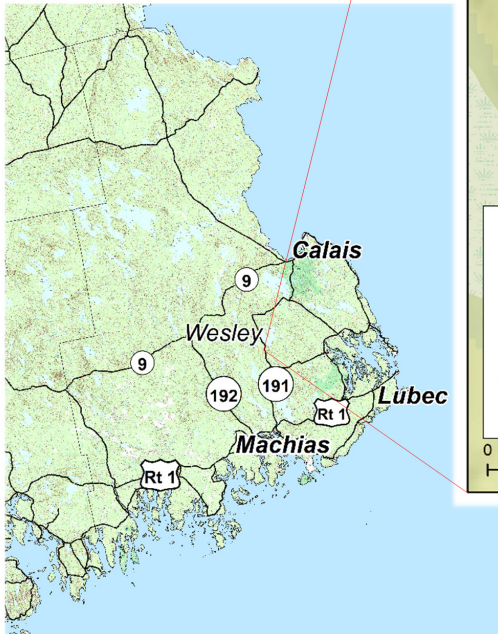
Contributions should be sent to Downeast Coastal Conservancy,
P.O. Box 760, Machias, ME 04654
Attention: Executive Director

If you wish to contribute appreciated securities, please contact
Jon Southern, DCC's Executive Director at 207-255-4500;
jon@downeastcoastalconservancy.org



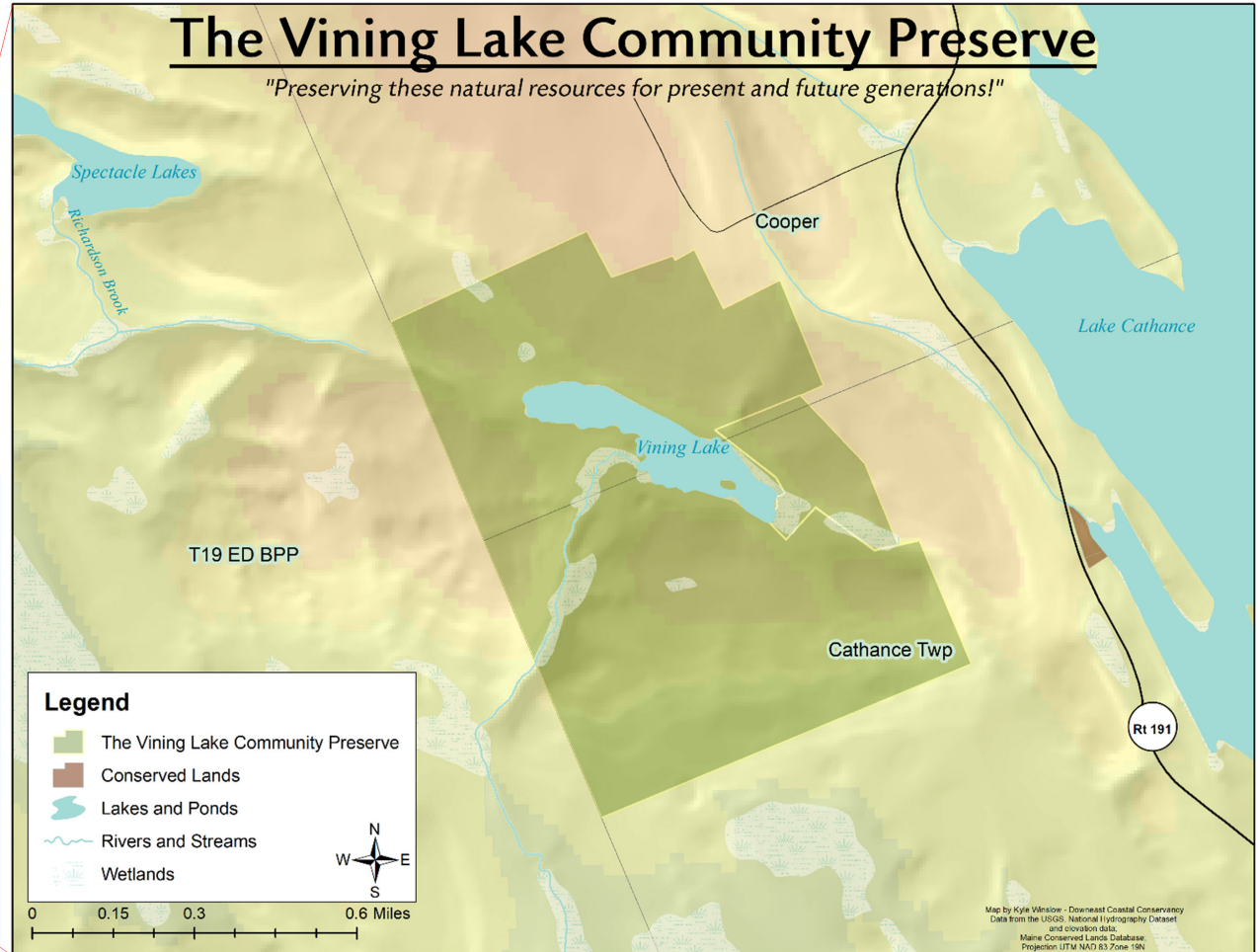
Where is Vining Lake?

Vining Lake is located about ½ mile west of Route 191 across from Cathance Lake partially in the town of Cooper and partially in Cathance Township, Maine



The Vining Lake Community Preserve

"Preserving these natural resources for present and future generations!"



Learn more at: www.ViningLake.com

The Vining Lake Community Preserve offers a rare opportunity to protect a diverse 406 acre habitat encompassing the entire undeveloped Vining Lake, a highly regarded brook trout habitat, guaranteeing future public access to a multi-use preserve.

The mission of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy is the conservation of the natural habitats and resources of the coastal watershed, islands and communities of Washington County, Maine, for present and future generations.



To donate to the Vining Lake Community Preserve Campaign or to become involved, contact:



Downeast Coastal Conservancy

PO Box 760 (6 Colonial Way)

Machias, ME 04654

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“Vining Lake is a wonderful piece of land and a beautiful lake for all to enjoy. For generations, many memories have been made there by kayakers, canoeists, fishermen, hunters, and other types of re-creationists. Vining Lake has remained un-developed and has a remote quiet setting for outdoor enthusiasts to relax and enjoy. I was first taken here by my father 40 years ago to fish for Brook Trout and I still enjoy it’s largely unchanged beauty to this day. Thanks to the Downeast Coastal Conservancy these activities will remain for all to enjoy.”

Bill Robinson
Edmunds Township, ME
Master Maine Guide

Find out more at: www.ViningLake.com