

Georges River Land Trust: 3 Year Strategic Roadmap

Our Purpose: We protect the nature that shapes the local character of the Georges River watershed.

We permanently conserve lands of the highest ecological value.

Goal:

Conserve 10,000 acres by 2030

Priorities:

1. Conserve parcels of land within the 90-90th percentile of natural resource value (i.e. ecological significance, undeveloped blocks, terrestrial and coastal resilience)
2. Pursue purchase of parcels ahead of holding conservation easements for landowners.
3. Partner with other land trusts to protect wetlands, forests and wildlife corridors.

Timelines:

1. Approach abutters to GRLT conserved lands to determine pipeline (2024)
2. Add an average of 700+ qualified acres per year to pipeline annually between 2025-2027.

Partnerships:

Volunteers, 12 Rivers Initiative, Donors, Coastal Mountains Land Trust, MidCoast Conservancy, Municipalities and Conservation Commissions

Funding Strategy:

Public agencies, Family and other foundations, Individual donors

We care for our lands by improving their climate resilience.

Goal:

Support native ecosystems to increase the health and resilience of local habitats.

Priorities:

1. Monitor all conservation easements annually and make recommendations to landowners.
2. Develop management plans for preserves and steward accordingly.
3. Initiate climate adaptation plans on selective preserves.

Timelines:

1. Management plans complete and up-to-date on outstanding preserves.
2. Climate adaptation project on Riverview Hayfields (2025)
3. Baselines complete on new easements.
4. Monitoring completed annually on all easements

Partnerships:

Knox- Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation, Ag Allies, *MNRCP*, University of Maine, Highstead RCP, Nature Conservancy, OSI, Volunteers and others TBD

Funding Strategy:

Public agencies, Conservation organizations, Individual donors

We offer nature-based experiences.

Goal:

Establish a portfolio of well-attended, public-facing experiences that attract and represent the mix of interests and opinions of our communities.

Priorities:

1. Maintain public trails and preserves to a standard that invites more people to use them more often.
2. Host nature-based experiences through events, workshops, outdoor art installations, educational programs, throughout the year, at scale.
3. Make climate-resilient stewardship practices and skills training available to the wider community.
4. Develop Langlais Art Preserve and Gibson as learning centers.

Timelines:

1. **Trails:** New Langlais and Trolley Marsh (2024), Pleasant Mtn.(2025), Rockland Bog (2025/26), Ragged Mtn. & Weskeag (2027)
2. **Community Events:** Weekend Walks & Talks, River Paddles, Town Talks, 2 Day Nature Fest (2024-2027)
3. **Stewardship:** Climate Resilience Training at Preserves (2024-27)
4. **Learning Centers:** Langlais Art Preserve Education Programs (2024-27), Gibson Nature Center (2025)

Partnerships: Maine Forestry, RSU-13 (Cushing), Bolduc Correctional Facility, MidCoast School of Technology, MaineHealth, Knox Co.Clinic, UMaine, Colby, SideCountry Trails, Municipalities and Conservation Commissions

Funding Strategy: Local Businesses, Educational Funders, Local Communities

We are intentional and resourceful in supporting our ambitions.

Goal:

Raise sufficient dollars to meet priorities.

Priorities:

1. Increase size of professional, productive staff
2. Protect continuity with realistic work plans, adequate capacity and fair compensation.
3. Activate skill sets of an engaged Board
4. Sustain trustworthy, productive, durable collaborations that expand our reach and impact
5. Recruit an active volunteer staff
6. Inspire participation and support from donors, peers and partners

Timelines:

1. Increase size of membership base and revenue from donations by +20%/year
2. Sustain minimum grant award target at \$350k/year
3. Establish and promote a capital campaign to increase endowment for acquisitions, enhance long-term stewardship, expand our public outreach programs, secure new headquarters as a public learning center. (2025- 2027).

Partnerships: Board, Local Businesses, Individual Donors, Foundations, Public agencies

Funding Strategy: Angel and individual donors, Foundations, Art funders, Public agencies, Local Businesses, Friends of Mid-Coast Maine, volunteers

Mandatory Funding Requirements:

Staffing
Land Protection
Stewardship
Public Programs
Learning Centers