West Branch Preserve protects nearly 1.5 miles of the West Branch of Davis Stream and is vital to the health of the stream, one of the major tributaries to Damarscotta Lake.

The West Branch Preserve consists of three separate properties acquired by the Damarscotta Lake Watershed Association (now Midcoast Conservancy) at different times. The first two properties were conserved thanks to a generous Jefferson family in 1998 and 2000. The final property, acquired in 2006, was a former big game park for bison, elk, and red deer and now makes up the northern part of the preserve. Old hunting blinds and a historic stonework mill foundation offer a glimpse back into the history of this property.

“A hike on West Branch Preserve is a rare escape from busy midcoast Maine. At the bottom of an open hardwood forest the hiker arrives at a surprisingly wild stream tumbling down its rocky course. It seems as remote and quiet as northern Maine.”
—Nancy Holmes, Newcastle resident

The northern trails consist of wide, former woods roads that overlook grassy fields and wetlands. Right before the Lean-to Loop, look for an old mill site that offers a window into the past. As you cross the bridge, enjoy the tranquility of Clifford Brook, which flows southeast into Alder thicket along the West Branch. Tracy's Mill Loop offers a peaceful walk through the woods where you can see and hear several vernal pools during the spring. Joe’s Trail winds up and down into scenic overtalks of the West Branch. From the power line crossing, you can see as far as the Camden Hills on a clear day. If you continue along the Tracy’s Mill Loop, you’ll notice beaver activity has created many small ponds and dams along the Dyer Headwaters. The trail then meanders along an old woods road to the Butterfly Meadows where you may see deer and turkey, birch and poplar trees, and more.

DURING YOUR VISIT
Carry out what you carry in
Keep dogs under control, please clean up after your pets
Wear blaze orange during hunting season
Hunt deer and turkey with a permit from Midcoast Conservancy
Ride your horse/mountain bike from July 1–October 13
Campfires in designated fire pit only
No ATVs allowed

HOW TO GET THERE
From Mill Route 17/Rockland Road, take Jones Road for 1.7 miles. Turn left onto North Mountain Road. In 0.6 miles, parking is on the left.

From the South:
Follow Routes 213 (from Newcastle) or 32 (from Waldoboro) into Jefferson. Go north onto Route 126/Washington Road. In 0.5 miles, turn left onto Village Street. In 0.1 miles, turn right onto North Mountain Road. In 1.6 miles, parking is on the right.

GET INVOLVED
Support from members and volunteers makes this preserve possible.

Join Today
Unlimited use of preserves without day use fees
Discounts on cabins, camp sites, events, classes and workshops
Special events for members
Keep Midcoast Maine a beautiful place for all
Be a member visit www.midcoastconservancy.org

Volunteer
You can help maintain trails and buildings, staff recreational events, lead guided walks, and more. You too can make a difference in your community!

Midcoast Conservancy
207-389-5150
midcoastconservancy.org
West Branch Preserve

Enjoy a peaceful walk through the woods whether you enjoy wider, flatter trails like Katie’s Way and the Lean-to Loop or narrower trails with more varied terrain like Tracy’s Mill Loop and Joe’s Trail.

Total Acres: 456
Total Trail Length: 6.8 miles

Map Key

1. Tracy’s Mill Loop
   Trail Length: 2.25 Miles
   Difficulty: Moderate
   Highlight: Beaver Dam

2. Joe’s Trail
   Trail Length: 1.5 Miles
   Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult
   Highlight: West Branch View

3. Katie’s Way East*
   Trail Length: 0.85 Mile
   Difficulty: Easy
   Highlight: Beaver Meadow

4. Katie’s Way West
   Trail Length: 0.85 Mile
   Difficulty: Easy
   Highlight: Wetlands

5. Overlook Spur
   Trail Length: 0.35 Mile
   Difficulty: Easy
   Highlight: Old Observation Blinds

6. Lean-to Loop
   Trail Length: 1.0 Mile
   Difficulty: Easy
   Highlight: Old Mill

Midcoast Conservancy Property

10-foot contour line

Winter Passage Only
*Northern part of Katie’s Way East is winter passage only

Non-blazed trails follow the arrows

Updated: November 2017