

STORY OF THE LAND

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 Damariscotta Lake.

The West Branch Preserve consists of three separate properties acquired by the Damariscotta 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

Thanks to Boy Scout Lucas Kostenbader, the lean-to in the northern portion of the Preserve offers an exciting and easily accessible camping opportunity near the heart of Jefferson Village, which can be reserved by groups or individuals.

From the steeply sloping terrain along the West Branch stream in Jefferson, where cascading pools of water flow through a hemlock-lined ravine, to the beaver dams and meadows at the base of Haskell Hill on the western side of the Mountain Road, the West Branch Preserve has a rich array of habitat types.

Protected with assistance from Joseph and Mary Fiore.

WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE

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 thickets 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 hills to scenic overlooks 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 15
- Campfires in designated fire pit only
- No ATVs allowed



HOW TO GET THERE

From ME 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

Jefferson/Somerville, Maine



Photo by Kieth Carver



MIDCOAST
CONSERVANCY

WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME TRAIL

West Branch Preserve

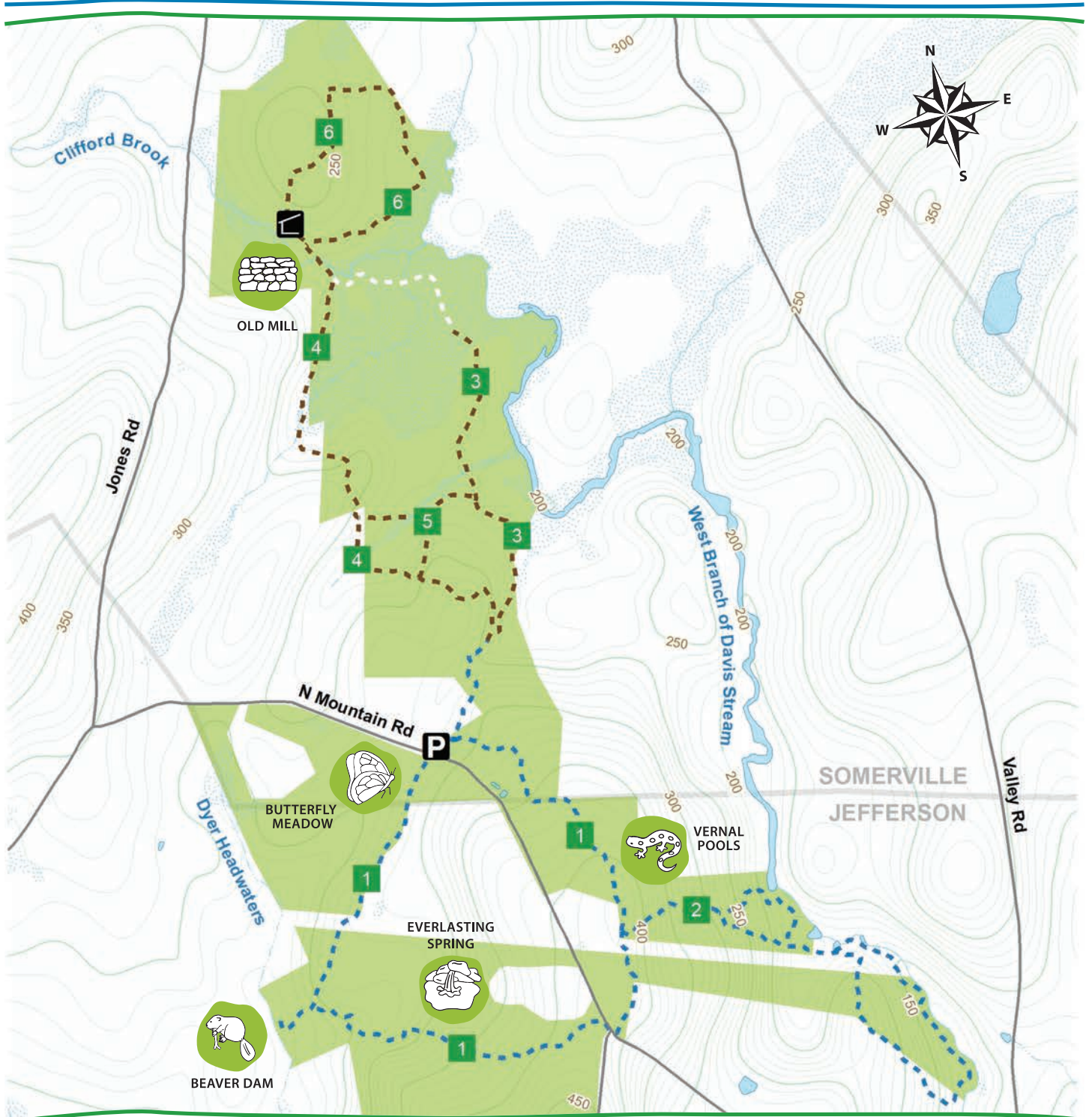
Enjoy a peaceful walk through the woods whether you enjoy wider, flatter trails like Katie's Way and the Lean-to Loop or narrower trails with more varied terrain like Tracy's Mill Loop and Joe's Trail.

Total Acres: 456

Total Trail Length: 6.8 miles



**MIDCOAST
CONSERVANCY**



Map Key



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|---|---|--|
| <p>1 Tracy's Mill Loop
Trail Length: 2.25 Miles
Difficulty: Moderate
Highlight: Beaver Dam</p> | <p>4 Katie's Way West
Trail Length: 0.85 Mile
Difficulty: Easy
Highlight: Wetlands</p> | <p> Midcoast Conservancy Property</p> <p> 10-foot contour line</p> |
| <p>2 Joe's Trail
Trail Length: 1.5 Miles
Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult
Highlight: West Branch View</p> | <p>5 Overlook Spur
Trail Length: 0.35 Mile
Difficulty: Easy
Highlight: Old Observation Blinds</p> | <p> Winter Passage Only
*Northern part of Katie's Way
East is winter passage only</p> |
| <p>3 Katie's Way East*
Trail Length: 0.85 Mile
Difficulty: Easy
Highlight: Beaver Meadow</p> | <p>6 Lean-to Loop
Trail Length: 1.0 Mile
Difficulty: Easy
Highlight: Old Mill</p> | <p> Non-blazed trails
follow the arrows</p> |