



MAINE ISLAND TRAIL ASSOCIATION



2024 Year in Review

A letter from Board Chair **NANCY EGAN**

Dear Friends,

2024 has been a remarkable year for the Maine Island Trail Association, and on behalf of the MITA Board of Trustees, I thank you for being a part of it.

The year began with a challenge, after January brought destructive storms to the Maine coast that wreaked havoc on the state's working waterfronts as well as many sites along the Trail. Since that time, I have watched our community contribute, in small and large ways, to recovery and cleanup efforts. Our work in 2024 truly exemplified the MITA spirit of stewardship and community, and as I look back, I'm energized for what's ahead.

2024 also featured the introduction of Executive Director Ben Dougherty, who stepped into the role in late September with a tremendous level of enthusiasm for our mission. All of us look forward to working with Ben as we move into 2025, and I am excited to see how MITA develops and grows under his leadership.

I hope you enjoy glancing back at all that we accomplished together in 2024, and that it inspires you to engage with MITA on an even deeper level in the year ahead. Thank you so much for being here with us, and we'll see you out on the Trail in 2025!

Best wishes,



Nancy Egan



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WATERWAY

MAINE ISLAND TRAIL



ONDA

MRS

THE TRAIL AT A GLANCE

The number of islands on the Maine Island Trail increased by four for 2024. An internal review of mainland sites resulted in a number of removals as some no longer met our criteria for inclusion. **As a result, the percentage of islands on the Trail rose from 71% to 85% in 2024.**

220
TOTAL SITES

186
Islands

34
Mainland Sites

The Maine Island Trail is made possible by the generosity of nearly 100 landowners. **Over half of the landowners on the Trail are private individuals or families.**

96
LANDOWNERS

13
Public Agencies

31
Nonprofits

52
Private / Families

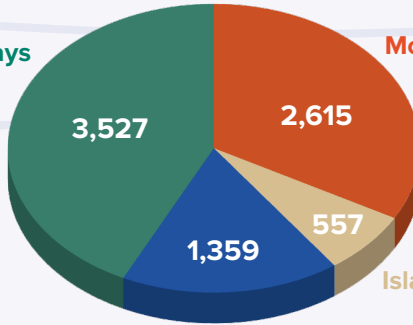


STEWARDSHIP

In 2024, MITA volunteers contributed a **record 8,000+ hours of service** and made over **1,400 site visits** on the Trail.

2024 Volunteer Hours by Activity

Public signup work days
Youth stewardship
Workplace groups
Fleet maintenance



Monitor Skipper program

Island Adopter program

Spring/Fall Cleanups



“Our team has volunteered with MITA twice over the past few years. We’ve helped to maintain the islands’ natural beauty through stewardship projects. These activities typically involve shoreline cleanups, invasive species removal, and trail maintenance, making a tangible difference in environmental preservation. More than the impact on the islands, we leave with a greater connection to this amazing place we call home, and this place (planet Earth) that we work hard to protect every day. Outdoor recreation creates environmentalists, who then give back in this growing circle. We’re so proud to be a part of it.”

-Laura Marston, founder, GoGo Refill





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MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

2024 was another year of shared joy and conviviality for MITA. Our community gathered for familiar events, unique gatherings, and some new concepts as well that we hope to continue in the future.



MITA's summer event season began with the annual **Splash!** fundraiser, which helped raise over \$38,000 in support of MITA's programming.

In June, MITA was the featured nonprofit for the monthly **Portland Greendrinks** gathering. We had such a good time introducing the "greendrinkers" to MITA out at The Casino on Little Diamond Island!

In August, we launched the first-ever **Warren Island Dock & Dine**, an incredible catered picnic lunch at Warren Island State Park from our friends at Big Tree Hospitality. With all guests arriving by boat (their own, or ours), it had a very distinctive MITA feel and we are excited to hopefully do it all over again in 2025!

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

MITA's sponsor roster has swelled to **85 businesses** who are committed to access and stewardship on Maine's islands.

RAISE A GLASS (OR A CAN)

Also in 2024, we surpassed the **\$100,000 mark on lifetime donations from Rising Tide Brewing from the sale of Maine Island Trail Ale!** Keep an eye out for the new can design, and make a toast to 11 years of this incredible partnership.



Highlighting 2024 is MITA's **partnership with Wicked Joe Organic Coffees to launch Maine Island Trail Blend**, a ground dark roast coffee that brings the MITA message to grocery store shelves and supports our programming with every bag sold.

“We are thrilled to collaborate with MITA on this MOFGA certified organic dark roast coffee. MITA gets to spread the word of their mission to coffee lovers, and we get to feel good about supporting that mission by donating a portion of the proceeds. Everybody wins.”

-Bryden Smith, GM, Wicked Joe Organic Coffees



Wicked
ORGANIC COFFEES
Joe

MAINE ROASTED

MAINE ISLAND
TRAIL BLEND

GROUND | DARK ROAST

NET WT. 12 OZ (340g)

USDA
ORGANIC



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COMMUNITY ACCESS FUND

In 2022, MITA quietly launched the **Community Access Fund** to help provide experiences on the water for those who might not otherwise have such opportunities.

In 2024, the third year of the program, we partnered with nine different organizations to help provide experiences for 412 participants from 15 recipient organizations.

Partners

Balmy Day Cruises
Hurricane Island Center for Science & Leadership
Maine Sport Outfitters
A Morning in Maine Sailing Tours
Owen Heil: Registered Maine Guide
Portland Paddle
Quicksilver Water Taxi & Shuttle Boat
Rippleffect
Swans Island Ferry

Recipient Organizations

Adaptive Outdoor Education Center
Boothbay Region High School
Campfire Institute
Casco Bay High School
Downeast Rainbow Alliance
Juneteenth Downeast Weekend on the Water
Kayak Quinn
Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services
Maine Outdoor School
Maine Seacoast Mission
Otter Trails
OWLette
Portland Youth Corps
The Summer Camp
Teens to Trails

“We had 11 paddlers out on the water for the Horizons Paddle day with Maine Sport Outfitters! It was an iconic Maine summer day and we enjoyed two hours of paddling to Curtis Island and back. A big thank you to MITA for sponsoring this memorable day for all abilities out on the water!”

-Kayla Lee, Director, Adaptive Outdoor Education Center



YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN...

The Maine Island Trail endures only because people believe in it.

Whether you're a deeply committed volunteer, a long-time supporter, an island owner, or an infrequent island adventurer, we are thankful for what you have brought to MITA.

As we look back at all of the progress that was made in 2024, we know that there is a lot to be done for 2025. While MITA's purpose and mission remains unchanged, the ways in which we answer the call of that mission will always be evolving. Your support of MITA gives us the resources we need to serve the Trail in the present and prepare for the future.

From all of us at MITA, we thank you for your commitment to the Maine Island Trail. We look forward to continuing the journey with you in 2025!





Support MITA's work at
mita.org/donate



MITA.ORG