

Exciting New Collaborative Features Trail excerpt from PRLT Summer 2010 Newsletter

On June 3rd, 2010 , an exciting project was signed into agreement. The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust will now be the designated steward and lease holder of a 3-mile trail segment on Portland Water District's (PWD) Sebago Lake Land Reserve. The recreational trail follows from Otter Ponds at the head of the Mountain Division Trail in Standish, all the way to an undeveloped shoreline on Sebago Lake . The total property now under lease agreement includes 3.45 acres. The project was made possible thanks to the cooperation and partnership of Portland Water District. The PRLT offered to be the Trail Manager of this trail because it has been designated as the first section of the Sebago to the Sea Trail—a collaborative effort to link existing trails to make one contiguous recreational trail corridor from Sebago Lake all the way to Casco Bay—traveling through Standish, Gorham, Windham, Westbrook, Falmouth & Portland.

As Trail Manager, the PRLT will work closely with PWD to respect the land use regulations already in place on the Sebago Lake Land Reserve. Trail maps are now available by visiting www.sebagotothesea.org .

The vision of the Sebago to the Sea Trail has been percolating for years, and was first discussed by members of the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition (many of whom are members of the Sebago to the Sea Coalition now). Since 2007, the PRLT has helped to facilitate the project's efforts by forming the Sebago to the Sea Coalition. A fully collaborative project, this effort is strengthened by its many Coalition members which include- Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, Portland Trails, Healthy Maine Partnerships, Portland Water District, Mountain Division Trail Alliance, the towns of Standish, Windham , Gorham and the cities of Westbrook & Portland and many more.

This 3-mile trail section will link to many other existing trails (including the Mountain Division Trail and much of Portland Trails trail network) to create one approximate 28-mile contiguous recreational trail corridor. Individuals within the Standish, Windham and Gorham communities have been critical in this newly designated 3-mile trail. Sebago to the Sea Trail Northwest Regional Committee members include- Colleen Tucker, Kathleen Miller, Diane Kenty (PRLT Board member), David & Karen McNutt, Richard Curtis (PRLT Board President), Paul Hunt (PWD), Chad Thompson (PWD), Rod Beaulieu (PWD), as well as the advisement of Jaime Parker (Portland Trails) and the leadership of Julie Isbill of the National Park Service's Rivers & Trails Conservation Assistance Program.