The scenic rail corridor runs along the entire Downeast coastal area, connects multiple scenic conservation areas, intersects Downeast salmon rivers, and is very near two state scenic byways.

The multi-use trail brings economic and recreational benefits to the Washington and Hancock County areas similar to other trails in Central and Northern Maine. Just some of the economic benefits include people visiting area attractions, staying at local hotels, and visiting local restaurants.

Directions to Parking Areas

Washington Junction Parking Lot (Harpsford): From Ellsworth take Main Street east from junction with US 1A, US 1, and Route 3. Go 2.5 miles. Turn left on Railroad Street. From the east traveling on US 1. Two miles west of Route 182 junction turn right on the road that directs you to the Ellsworth Hospital. Travel 2 miles. Turn right on Railroad Street.

Franklin/Route 182 Trailhead: Parking where the Down East Sunrise Trail intersects Route 182 in the center of Franklin. Route 182/Tunk Lake Road Trailhead: Turn north off US 1 in Sullivan on the Tunk Lake Road/Route 182. Travel 4 miles. Park where the trail intersects Route 182.

Cherryfield Parking at Matthews Grocery or at North Street Cafe: North Street Cafe is at 159 North Street (Cherryfield). From US 1 take Route 183 north for about 1 mile. Turn left on North Street at Matthews Grocery (Parking available). Coming east on Route 182 turn left at North Street just after crossing the Trail. Cherryfield Falls (Park Entrance Route): Turn north from US 1 on the Tunk Lake Road. Park where the Trail crosses Tunk Lake Road just over a bridge from US 1.

Machias (Park Entrance Route): Parking at green screen and Station 98, just west of the causeway (dike). Also, parking is allowed on the causeway (for trailers).

East Machias (US 1): Turn east at US 1 and Willow Street. Paddle parking lot on the left behind Machias’s One-Stop Gas Station, near the Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF) Aquatic Research Center.

East Machias (Route 182): Several miles north of intersection of US 1 and Route 182 is a gravel lot on the west side of Route 182 where the Trail intersects roadway.

Bucksport (Route 186): On Route 186, 1 mile west of the intersection of US 1 and Route 186 in Bucksport, turn north on Mill Valley Road. Go 100 feet to gravel parking lot on right where Trail intersects roadway.

Ayers Junction (Route 214): On Route 214, 4 miles northwest of intersection of US 1 and Route 214 in Pembroke. The gravel parking lot is on the left at intersection of the trails and the roadway.

Plan to use and enjoy the improved trail in Maine.