



Protect

**West Mabou Beach
Provincial Park**

Presentation to Inverness County Council

Feb. 5, 2018

From West Mabou Beach Committee

FOR BROADCAST USE:

West Mabou beach will remain park reserve.

Natural Resources Minister Ernest Fage announced today the Nova Scotia government has decided to protect the uniqueness and ecological values of the 215-hectare property.

West Mabou beach has a significant beach and dune system, rare plants and outstanding scenic views.

Fage says it is also the only piece of Crown land that provides access along the western coast of Cape Breton Island.





West Mabou Beach Provincial Park



County

Inverness

Size

275.26 ha

Classification

Natural Environment

Status

Designated; Operational (Man. Agreement)

Location N.S. Atlas:

12 V 4

Managed As

Core Park

Print PDF

(<https://novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/consult/Anid=930&type=pdf>)

Overview

Large coastal property on Northumberland Strait with beautiful sand beach and important conservation values

Protection Values

Contributes to Province's goal of protecting 12% of its land base by 2015; unique dune field; one species of bird found at the park is listed as critically imperilled and another two species vulnerable to extirpation or extinction. In addition, two species of vascular plants were listed as imperilled and one species as vulnerable to extirpation or extinction.

Education Values

Range of local and regional themes including landforms, dune ecology, coastal processes, wildlife

Tourism Values

Important in regional tourism infrastructure; just off Ceilidh Trail; one of the region's nicest beaches, significant tourist attraction; one of few high quality public beaches on west coast of Cape Breton

<https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/consult/>

From the Province's Environment Website

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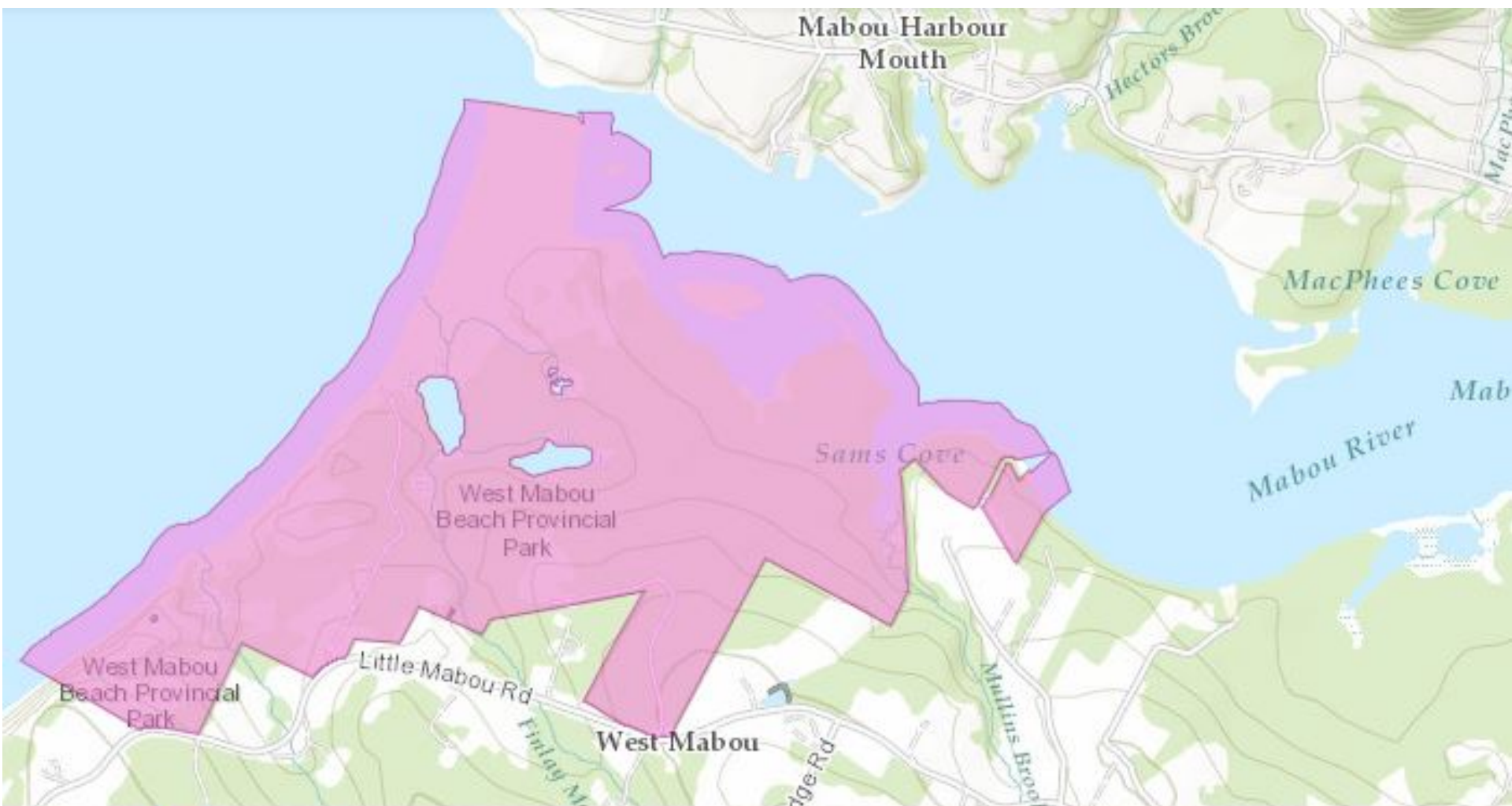
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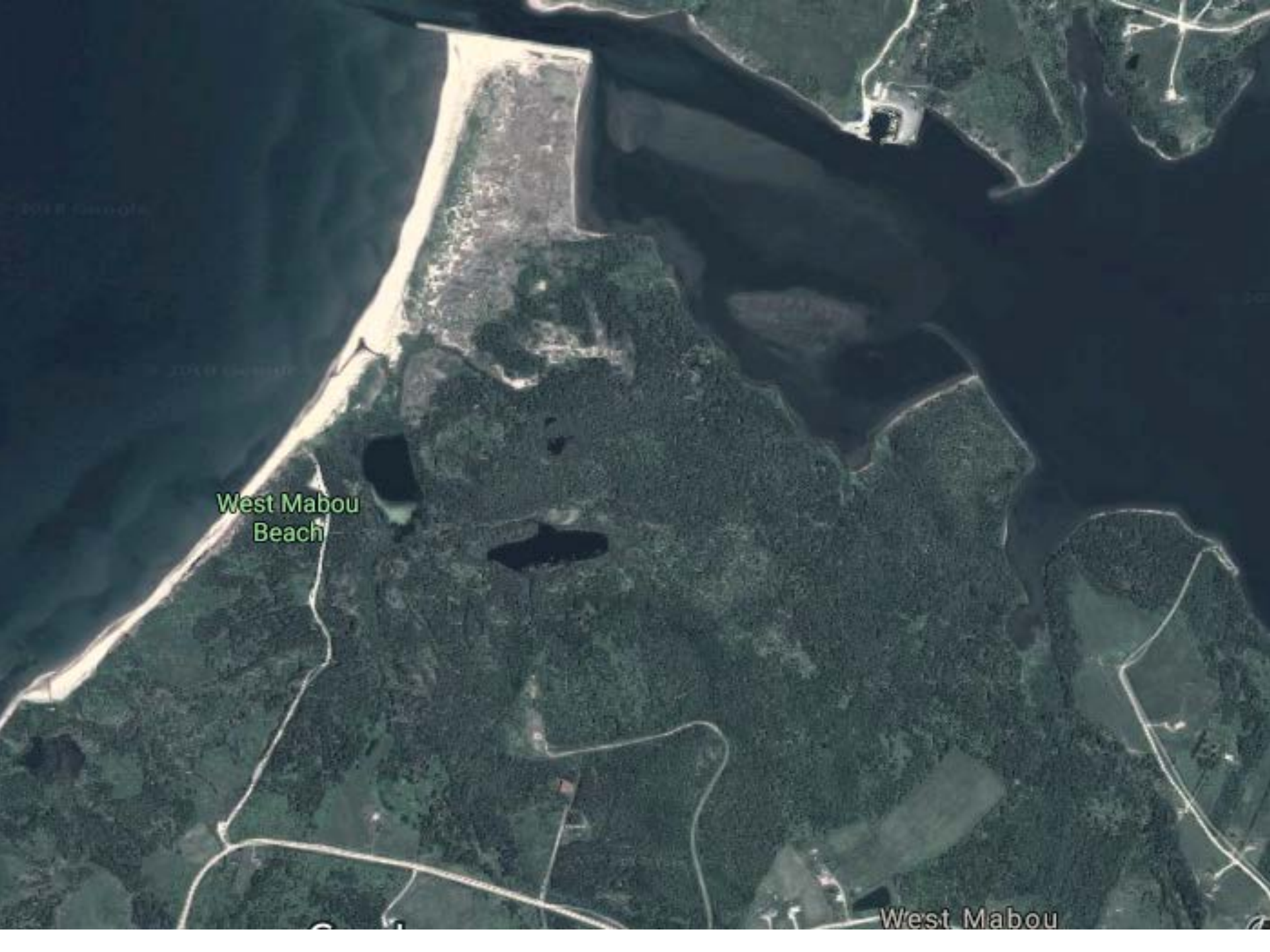




Quotes from geologist/park planner

- “ Preserving the existing land base in public ownership is essential in maintaining the long-term ecological integrity of the site while accommodating public access to recreation”.
- “previous attempts at development on this site triggered wide spread erosion resulting from disturbing the very fine clay/silt soils on the site”





West Mabou
Beach

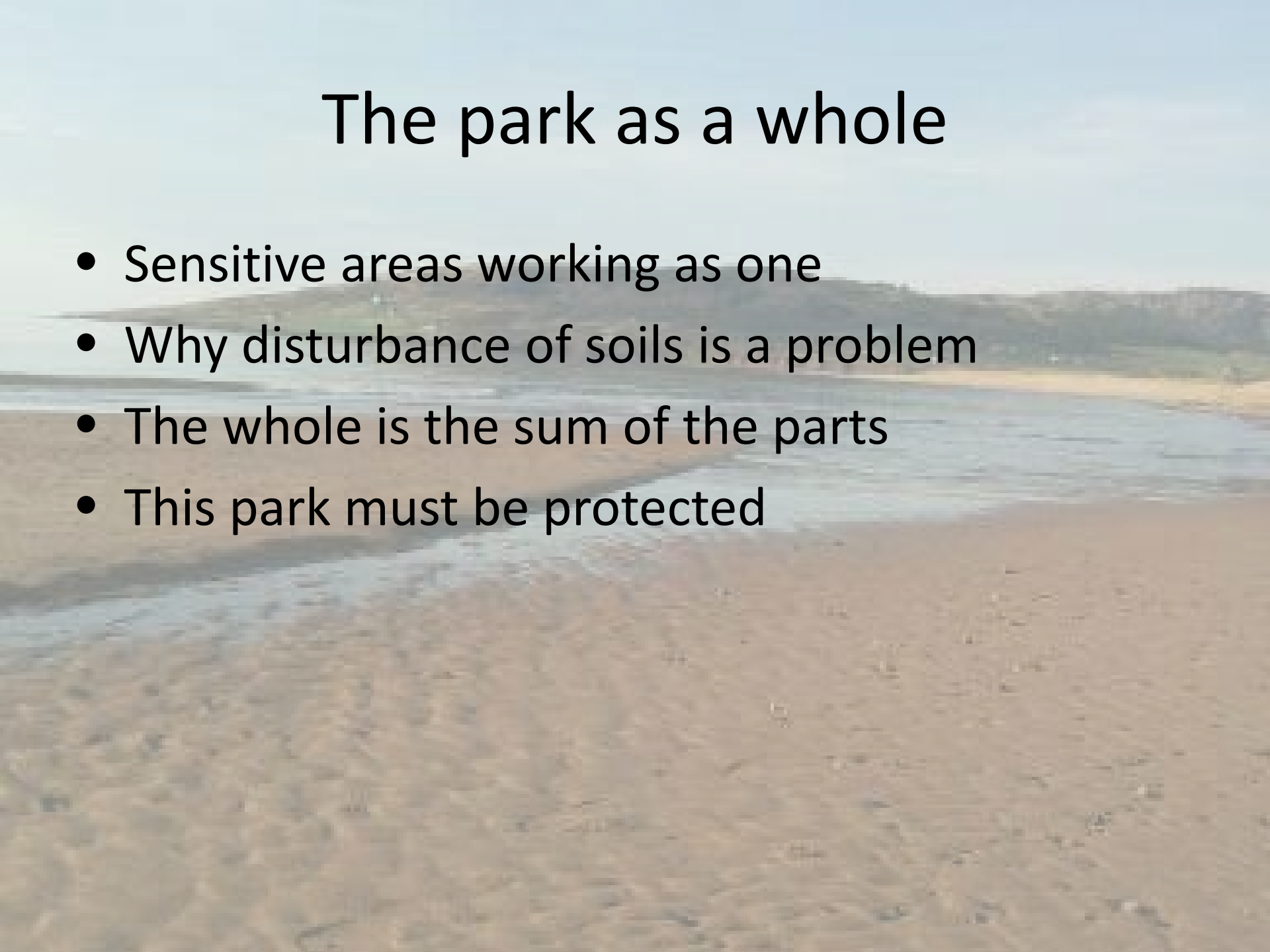
West Mabou



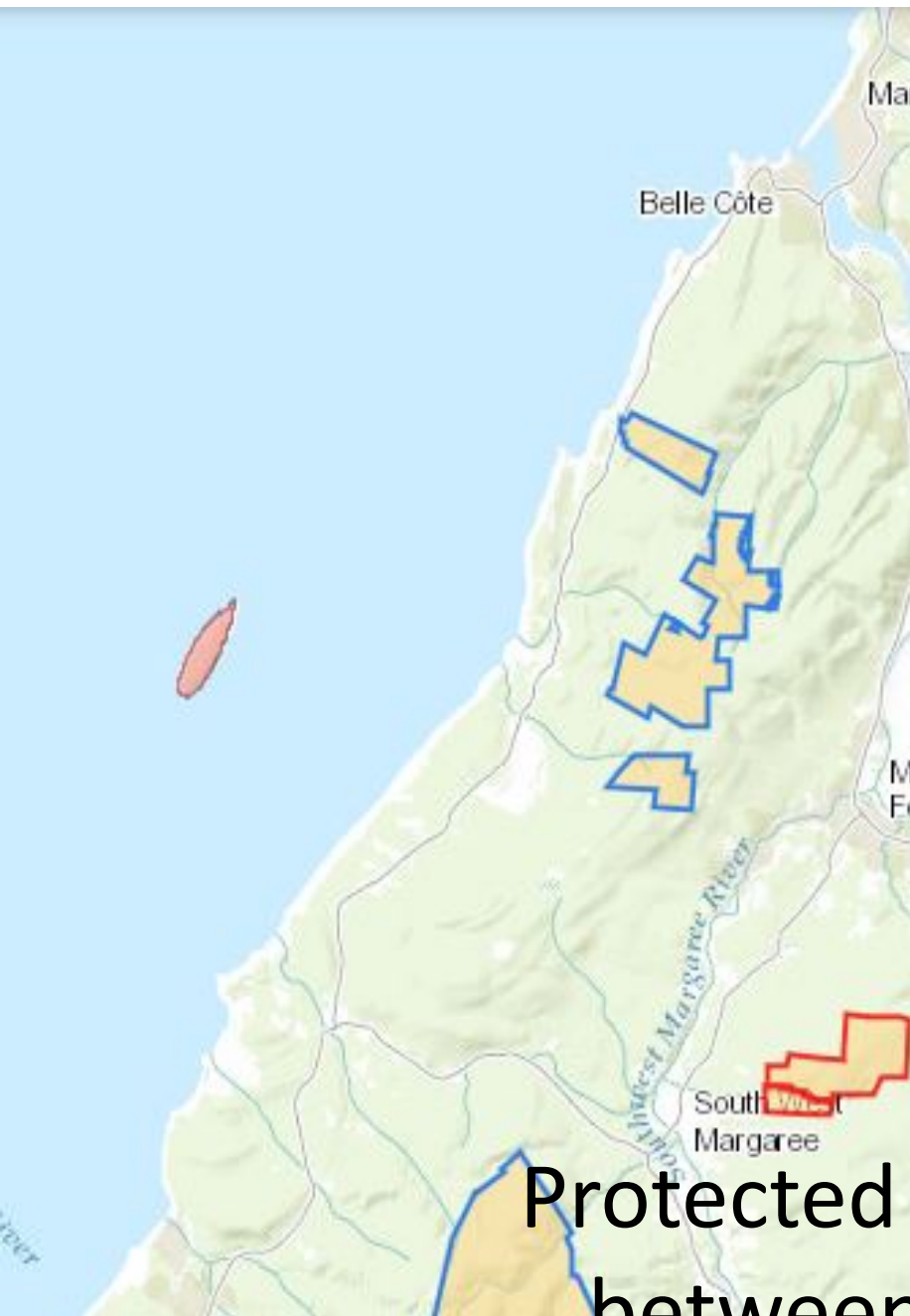


The park as a whole

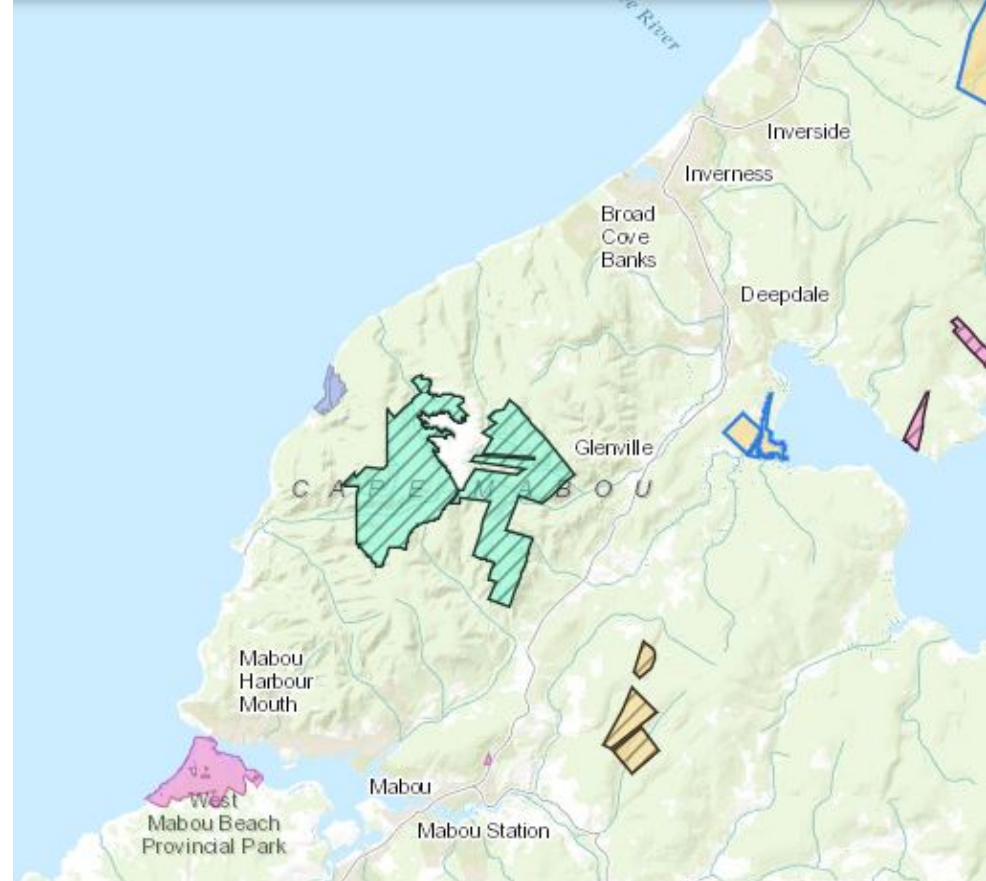
- Sensitive areas working as one
- Why disturbance of soils is a problem
- The whole is the sum of the parts
- This park must be protected







Protected lands- few and far
between along our coast



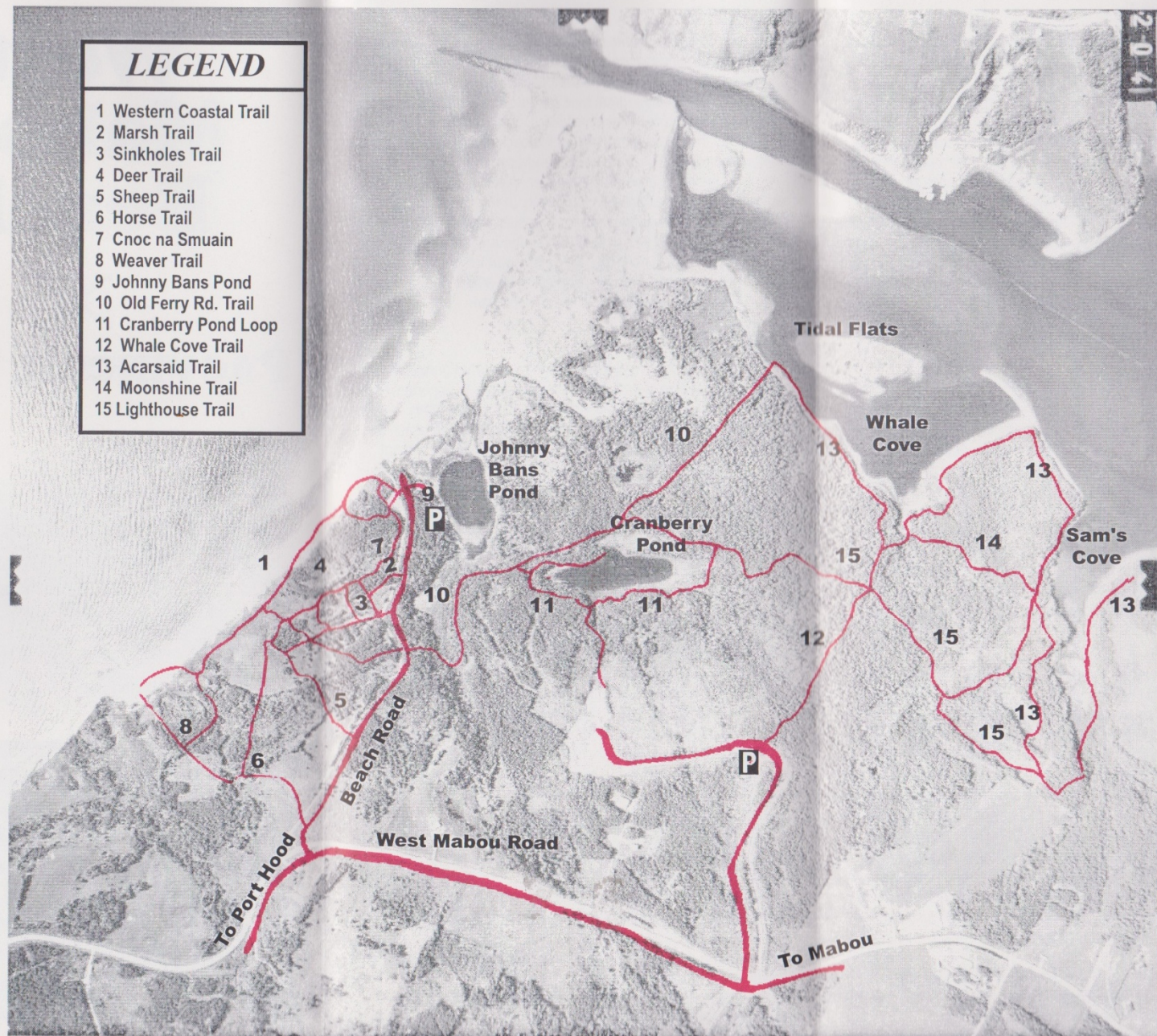
Users Of the Park

- Hiking groups
- Families
- School groups – educational and recreation
- Young athletes



LEGEND

- 1 Western Coastal Trail
- 2 Marsh Trail
- 3 Sinkholes Trail
- 4 Deer Trail
- 5 Sheep Trail
- 6 Horse Trail
- 7 Cnoc na Smuain
- 8 Weaver Trail
- 9 Johnny Bans Pond
- 10 Old Ferry Rd. Trail
- 11 Cranberry Pond Loop
- 12 Whale Cove Trail
- 13 Acarsaid Trail
- 14 Moonshine Trail
- 15 Lighthouse Trail



November 1959



• NOV • 59

Grade 5 June 2017



Oct. 02



The Intermediate Girls' division of Wednesday's regional cross-country running meet gets off to a jostling start at the West Mabou Beach location. More than 200 student athletes from across the Cape Breton and Strait school boards were in attendance.

County schools hold own at running meet

-by Bill Dunphy

Participants in the Cape Breton and Strait school boards' regional cross-country running meet were treated to a true cross-country experience last Wednesday in Mabou.

Hosted by Dalbrae Academy, more than 200 runners descended on the trail system at West Mabou Beach to vie for berths at provincials in six age divisions.

The West Mabou course was praised for its diversity, taking runners on 1 km and 2 km loops that offered up everything from rolling terrain, wooded pathways, steep inclines and even a section of rocky beach.

And despite the rainy

start to the day, it eventually cleared up to provide ideal running conditions.

Schools from the Antigonish area took advantage of the perfect setting to run up a perfect day for its athletes, capturing the regional banners in all six divisions.

As part of a pilot project this year with the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation, cross-country running and volleyball placings for provincials are to be determined by school board region and not the traditional Highland Region.

As a result, Antigonish provided a new challenge for Inverness County runners.

"Antigonish is so dominant, they are knocking

people out of contention (for provincials) that normally would have been there," said meet organizer Stanley Cameron.

"But by the same token, the bar has been raised, and when you compete against those kinds of good runners, you will only improve yourself."

But while the team positions were dominated by Antigonish, runners from both Bayview and Dalbrae will advance to provincials by merit of their individual placings. As a result, Bayview is sending 14 runners to provincials, and Dalbrae has another dozen going.

At Bayview, Carissa MacIsaac was the only medalist from Wednesday's regional meet, placing fifth

overall in the Junior Girls division.

The Bayview girls placed second in the Junior Girls' team standings, based on the placings of Brandi Bond (6th), Bryanne MacNeil (7th) and Alisha Hawley (12th) for 30 points. St. Andrew's Secondary School had the first four finishes for a perfect 10 points.

Tamarac, with 132 points, finished in fourth place among the nine teams competing in the Junior Girls' Division.

The Bayview boys also finished second overall in the Junior Boys' division with 97 points. Leading the way were: Chris MacDonald (18th); Mark MacEachern (22nd); Bradley MacDonald (27th); Joshua MacDonald (30th).

The Tamarac Junior

Tourism Values

- Cape Breton Island – our status internationally, nationally- one of the top islands to visit.
- Based on reports from, Trip Advisor, Hike Nova Scotia, Fodor's reviews, Tourism Nova Scotia 2015 Visitor Exit survey
- Value added component
- Open for business but...





Trip Advisor Review

- Robby G C
- Toronto, Canada
- 1787759
- Reviewed 6 October 2017
- [Dunes, Beach and Salt Marshes](#)
- We had to drive on a dirt road for a while, until we found the parking lot. There were lots of info boards about the fauna, flora, trails, salt marches and so on.

I immediately went to the beach. It was huge as well as beautiful. There were lots of seashells and rocks as well. The view here was amazing! The dunes were striving and were well protected.

I enjoyed walking on the beach and see the beauty surrounding me. Wow! Amazing! This is worthwhile!

From Hike Nova Scotia

“The West Mabou Beach Provincial Park offers a family friendly trail system with magnificent coastal views and the only public beach in the Mabou area.”



Fodor's Review

- “A wide sweep of sandy beach backed by a dune system is the standout feature of this 530-acre park on Mabou Harbour. The only public-access beach in the area, it also has a fishpond, a picnic area, and change rooms, but its status as a protected natural environment prevents any further development and preserves its peaceful quality. Behind the beach are 12 km (7½ miles) of hiking trails, through agricultural land and marshes, that have fine views. “





Tourism Nova Scotia

- “Tourism Nova Scotia’s 2015 Visitor Exit Survey indicates that visitors engaging in outdoor activities like hiking and cycling spend more than those that do not engage in these activities. Trails based tourism creates jobs and puts money into local economies year round. This is particularly important in rural communities.”











Why this park is important to us

- Public Accessibility
- Suitable for all ages
- Suitable for all incomes
- Free
- We value our natural spaces





Thank you

