

APPENDIX C – INTERPRETIVE MATERIALS IN SUPPORT OF HERITAGE, NATURE, AND CULTURAL BASED TOURISM

This introduction is provided as background to many specific recommendations to attract and allow visitors to share the experiences available in our community from our historical, natural and cultural resources.

What do tourists want from the place they visit ? Put yourself in their position. They want what could be called The “5Ws” of tourism. 1.) What is here ? 2.) Which way to the local sites ? 3.) What am I looking at ? 4.) Where are the places to eat ? 5.) Where are the places to stay ?

Eastport should develop a tourist friendly economic model that would show off its historic, natural and cultural history. It must develop a public infrastructure such as parking, phones, restrooms, information center and signs giving directions to see what is in the area. The city should encourage the opening of restaurants, construct docking facilities for different types of pleasure craft including cruise ships and encourage some form of public transportation especially during celebrations or special events.

Tourism has always played a large role in the economy of Eastport. With the changes in the local economy, tourism will play a much larger role in the future. Heritage/Historical, Nature and Cultural based tourism in recent years have become very popular. Given the 3-4 million tourists, that go yearly through Ellsworth to Acadia National Park, it is critical for Eastport’s tourist economy to capture some of this attention. Efforts must be made to create the curiosity or incentive for travelers to make the two hours or 100 miles trip beyond Ellsworth to Eastport.

To encourage this tourism the city should work with the Maine Tourism Office and locally with the Downeast Heritage Center in Calais along with other organizations including ones on the Canadian side of the border. With a combination of grants from private, state and federal sources, Eastport could develop its own tourist market and make it an attractive stop for tour buses, cruise ships and visitors traveling by car.

Eastport is part of a region, eastern Washington County, it must think regionally and work with the other towns to capitalize on the expanding tourist market. Overall Eastport needs to be made more tourist friendly to attract the many tour buses and cruise ships thereby boosting the economy of the city.

Detailed inventory of interpretive materials in support of heritage, nature and cultural tourism:

BACKGROUND:	INTERPRETIVE SIGNS/EVENTS:
HERITAGE TOURISM	
Middle Street (built by the British during the occupation of Eastport), corner of Kilby and Boynton Street (site of ceremony of Eastport’s return to the U. S.) Fort Sullivan/Fort Sherbrooke on High Street and other identified areas	Encourage the placement of interpretive signs at various sites to explain significant historical events that had not just local, but national and international impact.
In Bayside Cemetery, William Metcalfe is buried. He is one of three Americans who received the Victoria Cross in W.W. I, the highest military decoration of Great Britain.	Encourage the addition of signs to Hillside and Bayside Cemeteries noting those buried there and their significance to local, state, national and international events.
Eastport has the distinction of being the last piece of American territory to be occupied by foreign forces from the War of 1812. The British retained control of Eastport until June 30, 1818. When the British give up control of Eastport (Moose Island) it partially solved an important part of the northeast border problem remaining from the end of the Revolutionary War.	Celebrating the anniversary of the capture (1814-2014) and evacuation (1818-2018) of Eastport you would attract a number of visitors to the city. Encourage the celebration of the 200 th anniversary in 2014 of the capture and occupation of Eastport by the British 102 nd Regiment of Foot. Research the history of this regiment and include what the British forces accomplished for Eastport during their four year

BACKGROUND:	INTERPRETIVE SIGNS/EVENTS:
	military occupation.
Reconstruction of the Fort Sullivan Blockhouse for the bicentennial events and an ongoing tourist destination.	Locate behind the auditorium, not far from the original site, with proper historical signs. Hold a yearly “occupation and evacuation event” in July or August.
A Calais bank was the site of a Confederate robbery on July 18, 1864 during the Civil War. The Confederate bank robbers were held at the jail and courthouse in Machias.	Tie in to Machias & Machiasport events that also have Revolutionary and War of 1812 fort sites.
Civil War ships were burned on Cony Beach during the early part of the 20 th century.	encourage the Bureau of Parks and Lands to promote the “Civil War Ships Memorial” at Shackford Head State Park.
	The city will encourage the Maine Department of Transportation to have signs posted along Route 1 and Route 190 noting the unfinished world’s largest tidal project the Passamaquoddy Tidal Dam. Signs on the causeway section of Route 190 will designate the Pleasant Point and Carlow’s Island dams.
Quoddy Village. This housing development was built by the Army Corps of Engineers to house the offices and workers for the uncompleted Passamaquoddy Tidal Dam project. It was then taken over by the National Youth Administration until the start of W. W. II when the U. S. Navy took over the entire village. During the war it became home to a Naval Construction Battalion that housed over 3,000 Seabees and was called Camp Lee-Stephenson. The navy renamed all of the streets in the village after servicemen. After the navy abandon the base the city kept the name of the streets.	The city will encourage the Maine Department of Transportation to have signs posted along Route 1 and Route 190 noting the significance of
The US Post Office building has an important location on the corner of Water and Washington streets and is the northern anchor to the downtown local historic district which is on the National Register of Historic Places.	The city will encourage the U. S. Postal Service to continue with its plan to restore the Post Office building, which also contains the offices of the U. S. Customs and U. S. Coast Guard, to its original 19 th century appearance and to bring it up to date to modern accessibility standards.
Presently and from time to time the weather service seeks locations along the Maine coast for new weather stations. From the 19 th century till the last part of the 20 th century the weather service had an office in Eastport which was located at the post office. Not only was this weather station the most eastern it was home to one of the earliest weather stations in the United States. This local weather museum would serve two purposes: an additional historic destination for visitors and make the building attractive to the U. S. Postal Service for restoration.	<p>The city will encourage the U. S. Weather Service to locate a new weather office in Eastport at its former location in the U. S. Post Office building.</p> <p>The city will encourage the U. S. Weather Service to open a local weather museum in the Eastport Post Office building. “Eastport to Block Island” was a phrase familiar to people along the east coast of America.</p>
NATURE BASED TOURISM	
BACKGROUND:	INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/EVENTS
Old Sow whirlpool overlook, located at the end of Clark street this area can be made into an attractive stop. The overlook offers scenic views of the whirlpool and the surrounding Canadian islands.	<p>Encourage efforts to secure a grant(s) from state, federal and private sources for the Old Sow whirlpool overlook.</p> <p>The parking area, for example, could be graveled over and large wooden guardrails with large rocks placed near the edge of the overlook. Sign(s) could be placed nearby explaining the whirlpool</p>

BACKGROUND:	INTERPRETIVE SIGNS/EVENTS:
	and view from the overlook. Solidly anchored vandal proof benches and picnic table(s) would make a nice addition.
Shackford Head State Park.	<p>At the parking lot a bulletin board should be constructed with a map showing the trails with mileage. Signs are needed for the “Cony and Crescent Beach Trails. Year round maintenance should be started. A flagpole should be placed at the Civil War Ships Memorial or at the entrance to the park.</p> <p>A gravel, stone or cement steps should be built leading down from the edge of the field to Cony Beach and this field should also be landscaped. Twice a year the field should be bush hogged to keep it free of bushes and alders. Once or twice a year the gravel road leading to the parking lot should be graded. The main trail to Shackford Head Overlook should be graveled over for safety and erosion control. To take advantage of the scenic view that this overlook offers an observation deck should be built with interpretive panels.</p> <p>From Shackford Head Overlook to Ship Point people must walk down the present path of loose rock which is located next to the pile of rocks blasted from the ledge. For the safety of hikers a set of stone steps should be constructed possibly using the nearby stone. Some of the other trails in the park must be improved for public safety because they are located near ledges.</p>
Encourage the creation of a walking trail linking the pier at Estes Head in the south end to the Old Sow Whirlpool Overlook in the north end. This foot path will take advantage of the scenic views that Eastport has to offer and make Shackford Head State Park the focal point. The trail will start near the cargo pier at Estes Head, go around Broad Cove to Shackford Head State Park, proceed to the airport and unto the old Eastport camping ground at Carrying Place Cove. From there it will go to “Prince Regent’s Redoubt” on top of Redoubt Hill, the Battery Field, through Hillside and Bayside cemeteries and to the Old Sow Whirlpool Overlook.	Work with private property owners to gain their cooperation to complete this walkway, where necessary.
Encourage the public use of a large section of land on Treat’s Island. Several of the owners have a special tax status with the city under the state’s “Farm and Open Space Tax Law.” This allows public access and use of the owners property for lower taxes. Treat’s Island has the family grave site of Revolutionary War hero Colonel John Allan, the last Fort Sullivan Civil War artillery battery earthworks and a section of the unfinished Passamaquoddy tidal dam project that connects Treat and Dudley islands.	Treat’s Island along with nearby Burial Island could be used by sea kayakers, tour boat operators and others for day trips and overnight camping.
The City of Eastport is at the entrance to the Bay of Fundy and is strategically located between Cobscook and Passamaquoddy Bay. The two bays support numerous wildlife such as eagles, porpoises, whales, seals, etc. which makes an ideal combination for Windjammers and other tour boat operators to use Eastport.	The city will encourage schooner operators, known as Windjammers, along with other tour boat operators to make Eastport their base of operations. This mixture of vessels could make Eastport the center of a Downeast tour boat fleet. By having them locate at Eastport it will increase the number of visitors to the city and thereby boost business downtown and along the waterfront.

<p>BACKGROUND:</p>	<p>INTERPRETIVE SIGNS/EVENTS:</p> <p>The city will encourage the Marine Technology Center campus (the Boat School) of the Washington County Community College to use Cobscook and Passamaquoddy Bay for recreational and training uses.</p> <p>The city will encourage the Marine Technology Center in developing a “challenging water trail” using sea kayaks, much like the foot trail described on page App C-2. Starting at the Boat School, on Deep Cove, the kayakers will have two options depending on the tides to enter Passamaquoddy Bay either at Carrying Place Cove or Carlow’s Island. Once in the bay they would proceed to paddle around Eastport to Treat’s Island then back to their point of origin.</p>
<p>CULTURAL BASED TOURISM GOALS:</p>	
<p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>The very popular summer art school of the New York Grand Central School of Art was located in Eastport. This school was started by the noted artist George P. Ennis and was based in Eastport from 1927-36. The original headquarters of this school was at the former Boynton High School.</p> <p>According to Mr. Ennis the open space on the second floor of the former school was perfect for displaying 200 pieces of art. Mr. Ennis advertised the summer art school in popular national magazines. He called Eastport and the area “the Brittany of America.” If it was not for his untimely death this summer art school would have grown and prospered.</p>	<p>INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE/EVENTS</p> <p>Encourage efforts to promote the arts in Eastport.</p> <p>Local organizations should work with the city to secure state, federal and private grants to enhance their operations to attract visitors to Eastport.</p> <p>Encourage efforts to secure a grant(s) from state, federal, and private sources for example a Humanities grant to have an art school located in Eastport. Public or private colleges could be invited to establish this art school. An artists in residence could possibly use the second floor of the Eastport City Hall (the former Boynton High School) for an exhibition area.</p>
<p>To catch the imagination of the public a two-masted “Eastport Pinkie” could be started. Up to W.W. I this workhorse of the local fishing fleet was a common sight along the wharves of Eastport. These vessels carried herring for the sardine factories and transported dry goods up and down the coast. After construction, the “Eastport Pinkie” might be put on display at the Downeast Heritage Center.</p>	<p>Encourage the Marine Technology School (the Boat School) and the Downeast Heritage Center in Calais to have a working demonstration of traditional wooden boat construction. For example with a grant(s) from state, federal and private sources a boat-builder in residence program could be started to show visitors wooden boat construction.</p>
<p>Over the centuries many sailors, fishermen and passengers from Eastport have lost their lives to the ocean. Hillside Cemetery has several gravestones erected to the memory of loved ones lost at sea. Eastport is home to the deepest cargo port on the east coast and has a long history of maritime activities such fishing, shipping and passenger service. There is no Mariners memorial statue in Downeast Maine and the most eastern city in the United States would be a good choice for one.</p>	<p>Encourage the construction of a suitable Mariners memorial statue with one or more figures and be built on the waterfront where it will attract visitors. The city will encourage efforts to secure a grant(s) for example a Humanities grant from state, federal or private sources.</p> <p>This memorial should express compassion, empathy, the sense of loss and reflect the historic maritime nature of Eastport.</p>
<p>Over the years many sightings of a sea serpent near Eastport and the area has been reported. Through out the 19th and early 20th centuries the local newspaper reported on this sea creature and in 1868 it reported that it was seen swimming near Carrying Place Cove.</p> <p>The Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe have a legend of the great sea serpent they call “Aputmakin.” The legend says “you had to watch out for this monster</p>	<p>Encourage the building of a 40 to 60 foot sea serpent statue that would be placed on or near the waterfront. The city will encourage efforts to secure a grant(s) for example a Humanities grant from state, federal and private sources. This statue would probably be the only one of its size and kind in the United States.</p>

BACKGROUND:	INTERPRETIVE SIGNS/EVENTS:
<p>because it would tip over your canoe if you were not careful.” The city should invite the Passamaquoddy Tribe for their support and in the spirit of cooperation this statue will be named “Aputmakin” in honor of our neighbors and their legend.</p>	