

### **13. SEARS ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS**

The feasibility study for offshore wind required an in-depth look at port infrastructure in the Port of Searsport, part of which focused on the transportation parcel of Sears Island. MaineDOT considered a whole island approach and acknowledged that if port development and investment were to occur on the transportation parcel, improvements could be made to the conservation area to improve the experience for visitors to the island.

In an effort to help visualize what potential improvements may look like, Maine DOT has created the renderings shown in Figure 13-1 and Figure 13-2. These renderings show both the whole island to better locate the potential OSW development in relation to the conservation area as well as an enlargement of the proposed infrastructure improvements. These potential improvements include:

- Education Center Building
- Interactive/Interpretive Landscape Zones
- Outdoor Classrooms
- Waterfront & Boating Access Area
- Education Center/Waterfront Access Parking Area
- Trail Head Parking Area
- Cell Tower Road Improvements

As a part of the public process for the OSW port development project, MaineDOT would like to hold discussions with stakeholders regarding the potential maintenance and education improvements on the conservation side of the island. Maine DOT understands that there will be many differing viewpoints on this issue and a final plan will require input from all concerned parties and would occur on a parallel track with the design of the transportation parcel marine facilities.



Figure 13-1: Sears Island Overall Land Use Concept



**Figure 13-2: Sears Island Overall Land Use Concept Enlargement**