**Day 1**
September 9th, 2018

- **Start**: Bicentennial Park
- **Rest Stop**: Riverside Park (12.4 mi)
- **Lunch Stop**: Maine School of Science and Mathematics (23.7 mi)
- **Finish**: Collins Pond Park (51.3 mi)

**Route Color**: Yellow

**Distance**: 51.3 Miles

**Vertical Feet**: 2,766

**SAG Support**: (207) 209-3799
**Route Description**

The BikeMaine 2018 route begins by heading east to Fort Fairfield, which is located along the Canada–US border and features the Potato Blossom Festival in mid-July. From there, we travel north to Limestone, a small Maine community that is home to the #1 ranked high school in Maine (Maine School of Science and Mathematics), the #1 largest industrial park in Maine at Loring Commerce Centre, the #1 ranked best tasting public drinking water in Maine, and the #1 ranked most affordable place to live in Maine. Our final destination for the day is Collins Pond Park in Caribou, the most northeastern city in the United States.

**Natural Points of Interest**

**Blackstone Farm:** In 2016, Maine Farmland Trust completed its first protection project with an Aroostook potato farm. This 601-acre farm was purchased by MFT, protected and then sold to Kyle and Michelle Blackstone of Blackstone and Sons Farms. Currently about 400 acres are in potato production, intermixed with sunflowers and other rotational crops. Blackstone cultivates numerous fields in the surrounding area, and the Blackstone family has been farming in northern Maine since 1694, through 10 generations. Protecting this land helps to ensure the family’s farming legacy will continue far into the future.

**Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge:** The 7,750-acre Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge is located on part of the former Loring Air Force Base. The refuge was established in 1998 when land was transferred from the U.S. Air Force to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to lands that were transferred from the military, the refuge manages more than 2,500 acres in conservation easements throughout northern Maine. The establishment of the refuge in the northern Maine highlights the importance of land conservation in an area dominated by industrial logging and agriculture and provides the potential for additional land protection.