

**TOWN OF KITTERY
SEAPOINT AND CRESCENT
BEACHES
5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN
2007-2011**

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1 Section I – Introduction

This plan defines how Seapoint and Crescent Beaches will be managed for the next five years. Included in this document is a description of Park administration procedures and an evaluation of the Park's infrastructure. This plan is intended to serve as a "living document" for the Kittery Parks Commission, so it also includes sections on 5-year management goals, annual budgets, meeting minutes, and recommended capital improvement projects. At the end of five years, the Commission envisions revisiting the plan to determine if amendments are warranted and to establish new five-year goals.

1.1 Mission Statement

Seapoint and Crescent Beaches are vital recreational preserves for the citizens of Kittery. The beaches are to be managed in perpetuity in a manner that preserves the natural environment while allowing residents and park visitors the opportunity to enjoy their resources and natural beauty.

It is the intent of the Kittery Parks Commission to strive to adhere to this mission statement while implementing this management plan.

1.2 Plan Preparation

The Kittery Parks Commission (KPC or Commission) was empowered by the Town Council with developing management plans for the town parks it is responsible for (Fort Foster and Seapoint and Crescent Beaches). A management plan for Fort Foster was prepared in 2004.

Preparation of this plan for Seapoint and Crescent Beaches involved members of the Commission and the Commissioner of Public Works with input from town employees, and the Town Manager. A public meeting was also conducted on January 11, 2007.

1.3 Goals and Objectives

Following are the goals and objectives for managing the beaches:

1. Management activities or recreational uses should not diminish the natural or cultural resources of the beaches.
2. Wherever practicable, natural and cultural resources of the beaches will be managed to benefit all visitors. If conflicting, natural resources have priority.
3. Future capital improvements to the beaches will be designed to be consistent with their coastal setting.
4. Long-term management planning intends to ensure that Seapoint and Crescent Beaches are forever maintained under public ownership as a natural and

recreational resource for the citizens of Kittery.

2 Section II – Administration

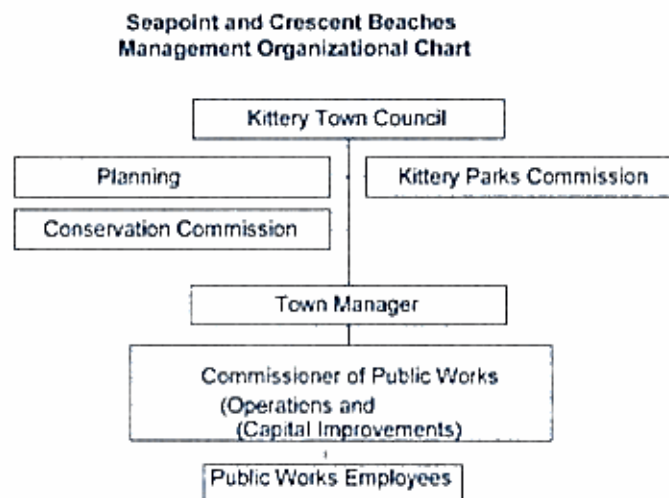
This section of the plan presents how the Seapoint and Crescent Beaches are administered and describes the interaction between the various Town departments and commissions. Although the Parks Commission suggested this plan, it must be implemented collaboratively by all appropriate entities within the Town's government.

2.1 Management Structure

Management of Seapoint and Crescent Beaches falls under the normal duties of the Town Manager, who in turn reports to the Town Council. As shown in the organizational chart below (solid lines), the Town Manager directly supervises the activities of the Commissioner of Public Works and the Recreation Department with regard to their work.

The Parks Commission serves in an advisory role to the Town Council and Town Manager for developing annual budgets, identifying capital improvement needs, developing Park rules, ensuring that capital improvements fit harmoniously into the landscape, and implementing and updating the management plan (see Town Ordinance 2.13 in Appendix A).

The Conservation Commission also serves in an advisory capacity regarding management of the natural resources found within the beaches. The Commission may directly advise the Town Council or the Town Manager, or they may work collaboratively with the Parks Commission.



The Commissioner of Public Works also works with the Town Manager, using input from the Parks Commission to develop annual budgets and to propose capital improvement projects. The Parks Commission may consult with the Conservation Commission regarding proposed changes affecting Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.

2.2 Annual Budgeting

The Commissioner of Public Works is responsible for preparing a draft annual operating budget for submission to the Town Manager. The Parks Commission will review the budget for suggested changes and forward these to the Town Manager and the Town Council before submission to the Town Council for final approval. The draft budget should include:

- * Estimated operations and maintenance costs.
- * Estimated capital improvement costs.
- * Requests for additional funds, if necessary, for capital improvement costs.

The current annual budget is included in Section VI of this management plan.

2.3 Operations and Maintenance

Operations and maintenance (O&M) costs can include:

1. Labor and benefits costs for Public Works employees for the portion of their work that involves the beaches.
2. Equipment costs (e.g., trucks, mowers) for Public Works employees for the portion of time that it is used at the beaches.

The Parks Commission, with the approval of the Town Council, may solicit and report other sources of incomes, such as outside grants (see Town Ordinance 2.13.030[C]).

2.4 Capital Improvement Projects

Capital improvement projects may be funded by general town funds, unappropriated surplus or outside grants and donations.

The Parks Commission is responsible for identifying capital improvement needs within each 5-year management plan, and the Town Manager is to be so advised.

2.5 Park Policies and Regulations

Seapoint and Crescent Beach policies and regulations are posted on the Town's web site and they are available at the Municipal Office Building. Current policies and regulations are found in Appendix B.

The Parks Commission is responsible for recommending revisions to Park policies and regulations on an annual basis, or as needed in response to specific conditions. Recommendations are made through the Town Manager to the Town Council.

2.6 Policies Concerning Privately Funded Improvements

Privately funded improvements are not presently envisioned for the beaches.

Reservations and Special Events:

Presently, no private reservations or special events are allowed at Seapoint and Crescent Beaches. Public access is to be maintained at all times. Any exceptions to this policy would require the approval of the Town Council.

2.7 Management Plan Implementation and Revision

The Parks Commission is responsible for advising the Town Council and Town Manager about the current management plan and for periodically revising it, as necessary. The plan will be revised, at a minimum, every five years. Revised plans will be developed in association with the Commissioner of Public Works and the Town Manager. A draft of the plan will be reviewed by the Town Manager, prior to the Parks Commission submitting it to the Town Council for review and approval.

2.8 Monitoring and Reporting

The Commissioner of Public Works is responsible for management of the Park and providing periodic reports to the Town Manager. The Parks Commission will meet with the Town Manager at least once a year to monitor and discuss the 5-Year Management Plan and park rules and regulations.

The Parks Commission will also hold periodic meetings with the Town Manager to discuss Park management at the discretion of the Town Manager.

2.9 Annual Administrative Calendar

The annual administrative calendar for implementing the management plan is:

- A. Once a year, a walk of Seapoint and Crescent Beaches will be made by the Town Manager, Commissioner of Public Works and the Parks Commission to determine needed projects, capital improvements or changes in the Management Plan.
- B. The Town Manager will, at his discretion implement or delegate needed projects, improvements or changes.

3 Section III – Natural Resources of Seapoint

Seapoint is situated on portions of Cutts Island and Gerrish Island; the two islands are separated by Chauncey Creek. Seapoint consists of two crescent-shaped sandy areas (Seapoint Beach and Crescent Beach) with extensive rocky inter-tidal zones separated by an upland spit (Seapoint) that extends eastward into the ocean. A fortified sand and cobble barrier separates the beach from salt marsh, freshwater wetlands, and upland habitats to the west. Brave Boat Harbor on the north side of Cutts Island is associated with a tributary to Chauncey Creek.

Seapoint and surrounding areas are separated into parcels owned by the Town of Kittery, the Kittery Land Trust, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), and private land owners.

For more specific descriptions of Natural Resources, see Appendix C.

4 Section IV – Infrastructure

Currently there are no buildings or facilities at the beaches.

4.1 Roads and Culverts

Roads to the beaches are in generally good condition. It is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Public Works to periodically examine the roads and make recommendations during the annual budgeting process for funds for maintenance activities or to identify capital improvement needs. All management of roads and culverts should be tempered by maintenance

of the natural resources at Seapoint.

4.2 Parking Areas

The town parking lot at Seapoint Beach is in good condition, although it could be made more attractive and user friendly. The Commission, in association with the Commissioner of Public Works, will consider the need for a landscaping plan for this parking lot. Continuous police monitoring is essential to discourage "in-season" use by non-permit holders. Contemporary problems in need of near future resolution are:

- Signage in parking areas and on roads near the beach (signs are too numerous(~25) and redundant).
- Buses and large vans (conveying groups of people) to Seapoint and parking there should be prohibited (because facilities, bathroom are lacking).

4.3 Bathrooms and Septic Systems

None exist at Seapoint and Crescent Beaches, and there are no current plans to establish them.

4.4 Dogs

Various issues concerning dogs in the Park (i.e. dog waste disposal and possible use-fees) may have to be addressed in the future as the utilization of Seapoint for canine recreation continues to increase as surrounding communities diminish access for dogs to their own parks and beaches.

5 Section V – 5-Year Goals (2007-20011)

Specific goals of this 5-year management plan include:

- Improve signage at Seapoint and adjacent parking areas.
- Clarify off-season parking in lower (Town) parking lot for non-permit holders
- Consider new ordinances regulating the parking of buses and large vans at Seapoint.

6 Section VI – Annual Budget:

To be determined by the Commissioner of Public Works (in consideration with the Parks Commission), advising the Town Manager.

7 Section VIII – Capital Improvement Projects:

None at this time

Appendix A
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Note: Mr. Robert Vincent (UNH post-grad student in conservation/ecology) served as a special advisor to the Parks Commission in the preparation of this management plan and particularly, Appendix C – (Natural Resources of Seapoint).

APPENDIX B SEAPOINT AND CRESCENT BEACHES ORDINANCE

Chapter 12.12

SEAPOINT AND CRESCENT BEACHES Approved 7/14/03

Sections:

12.12.010	Definitions.
12.12.020	Disorderly conduct.
12.12.030	Vehicular use—Parking restrictions.
12.12.040	Public indecency.
12.12.050	Littering.
12.12.060	Disturbing topography.
12.12.070	Drinking.
12.12.080	Animals.
12.12.090	Fires.
12.12.100	Entering upon saltmarsh.
12.12.110	Windsurfers prohibited.
12.12.120	Jet skis prohibited.
12.12.130	Selling Prohibited.
12.12.140	Camping prohibited.
12.12.150	Hours of operation.
12.12.160	Enforcement and penalty.

12.12.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

"Animal" means and includes any living creature that is not a human but shall exclude any animal used for a guide or sight-seeing dog.

"Authorized vehicle" means vehicles of the municipality of Kittery, state of Maine, or any public service corporation vehicle, ambulance or emergency vehicle.

"Camping" means the use of a tent or other temporary structure.

"Crescent Beach" means and includes all land bounded within the following: south and east by the Atlantic Ocean, northerly by the saltmarsh and Seapoint Beach and westerly by other owners.

"Dangerous weapon" means any firearm or other weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, whether animate or inanimate, which in the manner it is used or is intended to be used is capable of producing death or serious bodily injury. If the person intentionally presents, in a covert or open manner, a thing as a deadly weapon, it shall be presumed that the thing is a deadly weapon.

"Firearm" means any weapon either loaded or unloaded which will expel a projectile by the action of an explosive and includes any such weapon commonly referred to as pistol, revolver, rifle, gun, machine gun or shotgun. Any weapon which can be readily made into a firearm by the insertion of a firing pin or other similar thing in the actual possession of a person is a firearm.

"Motor vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle not operative exclusively on tracks and shall include snowmobiles and motor-driven cycles including motorcycles and mopeds.

"Owner" means any person, firm or corporation holding title to a vehicle or having

exclusive right to the use thereof.

Seapoint Beach. "Seapoint" means and includes all land bounded within the following: on the south and east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by the land now or formerly of Albert Kerr, on the west by the saltmarsh, other owners and the easterly edge of Cutts Island Road. Seapoint Beach shall include that area known as Thaxter's Point. (Ord. 3-97 (part); prior code § 9-21)

12.12.020 Disorderly conduct.

No person shall engage in disorderly conduct within Seapoint or Crescent Beach. Disorderly conduct as used herein shall include but not be limited to the making of loud and unreasonable noises; the activating of any device or explosive substance which releases noxious or offensive odors; knowingly accosting, insulting, taunting or challenging any person with offensive, derisive or annoying words or gestures, or other physical conduct which would in fact have a direct tendency to cause a violent response by an ordinary person in the situation of a person so accosted, insulted, taunted or challenged. (Ord. 3-97 (part); prior code § 9-22)

12.12.030 Vehicular use—Parking restrictions.

- A. No person shall drive or park any vehicle or motor-driven cycle other than an authorized vehicle on Seapoint or Crescent beaches, shore or bank. No bus shall be operated, driven or parked anywhere within the area defined as Seapoint and Crescent beaches.
- B. The parking lot at the end of Seapoint Road immediately adjacent to Seapoint Beach is restricted to vehicles bearing valid Kittery solid waste stickers. This restriction does not apply to vehicles enumerated in Section 12.20.010 A. and B. of Chapter 12.20.
- C. Parking is allowed on the south side of Seapoint Road from its intersection with Thaxter Road a distance of five hundred fifty (550) feet in an easterly direction, subject to the following restrictions:
 - 1. All vehicles must be parked off the paved roadway surface;
 - 2. May 15 to September 30, inclusive, parking is limited to vehicles bearing valid Kittery solid waste stickers or seasonal permit stickers;
 - 3. October 1 to May 14, inclusive, parking is allowed without stickers.
- D. Tagging and/or towing of violators is utilized to enforce the parking restrictions in B. and C. above.
- E. The Kittery Municipal Office issues:
 - 1. Solid waste stickers for residents and non-resident property taxpayers. There is no cost for the initial sticker.
 - 2. Seasonal permit stickers for active military personnel stationed in Kittery and residing in military housing. There is no cost for the initial sticker.
 - 3. Seasonal permit stickers for non-residents not listed in (1) or (2) above. A total of one hundred (100) permits are available at a cost of \$125.00 per permit, issued on a first come, first served basis.All permits must be affixed in the manner set forth in Section 8.04.040 D of Chapter 8.04.

12.12.040 Public indecency.

No person shall engage in public indecency within Seapoint or Crescent beaches. As used in this chapter, public indecency shall be defined as set forth in Title 17-A, Section 854 of the

Maine Criminal Code. (Ord. 3-97 (part): prior code § 9-24)

12.12.050 Littering.

No person shall throw, drop, deposit, discard or otherwise dispose of litter within Seapoint and Crescent beaches except in a litter receptacle. (Ord. 3-97 (part): prior code § 9-25)

12.12.060 Disturbing topography.

No person shall remove, molest, injure or otherwise damage anything natural or physical within Seapoint and Crescent beaches. This provision is not intended to regulate the removal of seashells and driftwood, seaweed and scientific samples. (Ord. 3-97 (part): prior code § 9-26)

12.12.070 Drinking.

No person shall drink or consume any alcoholic, spirituous, vinous, fermented or other alcoholic beverage, or combination of liquors and mix liquors upon Seapoint and Crescent beaches. (Ord. 3-97 (part): prior code § 9-27)

12.12.080 Animals.

No domestic animal shall be allowed within Seapoint or Crescent beaches except that dogs, while under the control of their owner or keeper, are allowed on Crescent and Seapoint beaches at times other than between the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from June 15th through September 10th of each year. This limitation shall not apply to guide or Seeing Eye dogs when used as such. At no time shall the owner or keeper of any dog allow that dog to run at large on Crescent or Seapoint beaches or enter upon any publicly owned saltmarsh immediately adjacent to Seapoint or Crescent beach.

A pooper scooper rule is in effect for dogs. Owners and keepers must take their dog waste with them when they leave the beaches. (Ord. 3-97 (part): Ord. 8-90 (part): prior code § 9-28)

12.12.090 Fires.

No person shall start or allow any fire to burn within Seapoint or Crescent beaches except in suitable facilities provided by the municipality or where permission has been obtained from the municipal fire chief, town forest fire warden, or their designees. A permit will not be required for the use of portable stoves which are fueled by propane gas, sterno, or briquettes. In the event that any cooking or other fire or burning herein allowed is undertaken by any person, said person before leaving such fire shall totally extinguish the same. (Ord. 3-97 (part): Ord. 8-90 (part): prior code § 9-29)

12.12.100 Entering upon saltmarsh.

No person shall trespass or enter upon the publicly owned saltmarsh immediately adjacent to Seapoint or Crescent beaches except for educational or scientific purposes and only after approval is granted by the Kittery town council or its duly designated agent(s). Requests shall be made to the Kittery town clerk, who shall refer all such requests to the Kittery town council or its duly designated agent(s).

Public notice shall be given by locating signs conspicuously along the saltmarsh notifying the public of this limitation. (Ord. 3-97 (part): Ord. 8-90 (part): prior code § 9-31)

12.12.110 Windsurfers prohibited.

No person shall engage in windsurfing in the waters of Crescent and Seapoint beaches

between June 15th and September 10th of each year except in those areas duly authorized and designated by the Kittery town council. Public notice of such designated areas shall be conspicuously posted in the beach parking lot or other conspicuous place or places. (Ord. 3-97 (part); Ord. 8-90 (part); prior code § 9-32)

12.12.120 Jet skis prohibited.

Jet skis are prohibited on the shore or in the waters of Crescent and Seapoint beaches. (Ord. 3-97 (part); Ord. 8-90 (part); prior code § 9-33)

12.12.130 Selling prohibited.

The selling of merchandise or services is prohibited at Seapoint and Crescent Beaches.

12.12.140 Camping prohibited.

Camping is prohibited from 12:01 A.M. to 6:00 A.M.

12.12.150 Hours of operation.

A. Seapoint and Crescent Beaches are closed to the general public between the hours of 11 p.m. and 3 a.m., May 15th to September 30th, inclusive.

B. The Kittery solid waste sticker parking lot adjacent to Seapoint Beach and the non-resident parking lot are closed to the general public between the hours of 11 p.m. and 3 a.m., May 15th to September 30th, inclusive, with the exception of vehicles used in their official capacity by agents or members of:

1. Town of Kittery
2. Public Utilities
3. Emergency Services
4. Contractors providing service to or on behalf of the above.

C. The owners or operators of any vehicles found in violation of this subsection will be summonsed and the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense, as provided in subsection A of Section 10.12.040.

12.12.160 Enforcement and penalty.

This chapter is enforced by the Kittery police department. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter, commits a civil violation for which a penalty of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) may be adjudged. A violation of Section 12.12.030 shall be a fine of \$25.00. All penalties recovered shall accrue to the benefit of the town. (Ord. 3-97 (part); Ord. 8-90 (part); prior code § 9-35)

APPENDIX C NATURAL RESOURCES AT SEAPOINT

Marine Resources

Seapoint Beach and Crescent Beach consist of several thousand feet of ocean shoreline with near-shore sub-tidal habitat, extensive rocky inter-tidal areas and gently sloping sandy beaches that provide valuable nesting, breeding, and foraging habitat for a variety of marine invertebrates, fish, birds, and mammals. Varied inter-tidal and sub-tidal bathymetry increases niche separation and algae diversity. Large amounts of algae are periodically deposited as wrack on beaches, providing forage for invertebrates, crustaceans, and avian predators. Wrack covered over with sand provides layered deposits of decomposing organic matter that is often exposed and recycled as detritus during winter storms. Rocky inter-tidal habitat increases local diversity through variations in resource allocation and habitat heterogeneity. Inter-tidal pools provide refuge and foraging habitat for a variety of small marine organisms capable of withstanding environmental extremes, as well as important foraging habitat for avian predators. Eel grass (*Zostera marina*), a submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), can also be found in the inter-tidal pools of Seapoint Beach.

Estuarine Resources

Chauncey Creek Marsh

Chauncey Creek marsh is a back barrier marsh situated behind steep sand and cobble berms up-gradient of the beaches, which reduce storm surge impacts and help maintain conditions favorable for marsh development. Sandy areas of the berms are moderately vegetated with beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), dusty miller (*Artemisia stelleriana*), Orach (*Atriplex patula*), sea blite (*Synedra kubearus*), seaside goldenrod (*Salidago sempervirens*), and sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*). Berm areas facing the marsh are vegetated with rose (*Rosa rugosa*), prairie grass (*Spartina pectinata*) and mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), which occur along the berm/salt marsh interface. The barrier berms provide nesting, feeding, and refuge habitat for a variety of wildlife including invertebrates, birds, reptiles, and mammals of various sizes. Chauncey Creek extends eastward into the marsh, providing tidal exchange from Portsmouth Harbor.

During the 1930's, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed grid ditches throughout the marsh in an effort to create jobs and reduce mosquito breeding habitat. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Ducks Unlimited installed ditch-plugs during 2000, creating pools, altering tidal exchange in some locations, and increasing surface water area and ground water levels throughout the marsh. The objective was to reduce mosquito breeding habitat and increase habitat for shorebirds and water fowl. In 2004 the Town of Kittery and the Kittery Land Trust turned over management of Chauncey Creek Marsh to the USFWS Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Studies are currently being conducted at Chauncey Creek Marsh to determine changes in ecological structure and function resulting from the ditch-plugging.

Wetlands

Freshwater wetlands occur in low areas bordering salt marshes and beach barrier berms, as well

as scattered about within forested habitat in the Seapoint area. Freshwater wetlands include palustrine emergent (PEM), palustrine scrub/shrub (PSS), and palustrine forested (PSS) wetlands (Cowardin et al. 1979). The freshwater wetlands provide nesting, breeding, and refuge habitat for a variety of reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. In addition, bordering freshwater and brackish wetlands provide transition buffer zones at the interface between estuarine and upland habitats, providing travel corridors, protective cover, and increased species diversity.

Vernal pools are defined by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land and Water Quality, as shallow depressions usually containing water for only part of the year. Vernal pools serve as essential breeding habitat for certain species of wildlife, including salamanders and frogs. The isolated and ephemeral nature of vernal pools prevents the establishment of predatory fish populations, reducing predation on eggs of obligate vernal pools species. Obligate pool species (wood frogs, spotted and blue-spotted salamanders, and fairy shrimp) require vernal pools and adjacent upland habitats for various parts of their life cycles. According to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), beginning with Habitat Program (2001), vernal pools occur in forested areas of Seapoint and Brave Boat Harbor. Vernal pool studies may be conducted in the future to verify the location of any existing vernal pools. All vernal pools identified should be protected with an appropriate "no disturb buffer zone".

Forested Uplands

Upland areas surrounding Seapoint and adjacent wetlands consist of mixed deciduous and coniferous forest fragmented by residential development. Dominant species in the forest canopy include red oak (*Quercus rubra*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), white ash (*Fraxinus Americana*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). Forested uplands adjacent to freshwater and estuarine wetlands provide a valuable buffer zone that contributes to nutrient and toxicant retention, reducing discharges of these substances to adjacent wetlands and waterways. Existing forested buffers should be retained adjacent to wetlands and waterways.

Wildlife

The close proximity of several overlapping habitats in the Seapoint area provides nesting, breeding, feeding, and refuge habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Near-shore sub-tidal areas provide habitat supporting bait fish; commercial fisheries; seasonal, migratory, and resident water fowl; and marine mammals. **Inter-tidal and sandy beach** areas of Seapoint Beach, Crescent Beach, and Brave Boat Harbor provide habitat for invertebrates and shorebird predators. **Vegetated barrier berms** provide habitat for reptiles; birds; and mammals. **Salt marshes** of Chauncey Creek and Brave Boat Harbor provide habitat for invertebrates, nekton, birds and mammals. **Freshwater wetlands** provide habitat for invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, birds, and mammals. **Terrestrial forested** areas provide habitat for invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, birds, and mammals.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals

The MDIFW beginning with habitat program has identified several exemplary natural communities and rare plants and animals that occur in the Brave Boat Harbor/Gerrish Island focus area. Only a partial survey of the area has been conducted and it is possible that additional species and communities may exist at these locations. Table 1 presents a list of the communities, plants and animals.

Table 1: Rare Species/Natural Communities for Brave Boat Harbor/Gerrish Island

Common Name
Exemplary Natural Communities
Dune Grassland
Spartina Salt Marsh
White Oak-Red Oak Forest
Rare Plants
Salt Marsh False-Foxglove
White Wood Aster
Sea-Beach Sedge
Spicebush
Scarlet Oak
Dwarf Glasswort
Sassafras
American Sea-Blite
Wild Coffee

Outdoor Recreation

The Seapoint area is utilized by local residents and non-residents. A gravel parking lot is provided for residents at the entrance to Seapoint Beach. Gravel and grass parking areas are provided along the south side of Seapoint Road a few hundred yards west of Seapoint Beach. Dog walking is a very popular activity, and is permitted at Seapoint Beach during specific times of the day. Seapoint Beach is a popular spot for beach goers during all seasons, supporting such activities as: kayaking, swimming, scuba diving, fishing, birding, photography, educational purposes, and scientific research.

Future Management *(these are included for future consideration and possible incorporation into the Management Plan; they are not part of the present Management Plan)*

The following management concerns have been identified by the MDIFW (Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) "Beginning with Habitat Program" and are included for future consideration:

- Rare species surveys should continue to be conducted.
- Upland buffers should be maintained adjacent to wetland areas.
- Buffers to salt marsh and freshwater wetland areas should be maintained.
- Natural hydrologic flows in tidal wetlands should be preserved.
- Invasive species management is a continuing problem in need of solution.
- Boating regulations to protect against erosion and noise disturbance to tidal wetlands and associated wildlife should be considered.
- No dredge spoils or fill should be placed in tidal wetlands.
- In town development plans consider over-development, habitat fragmentation, invasive species establishment and expansion, and improper storm water runoff.
- Review of existing trails and roads should be conducted to determine Off Road Vehicle (ORV) appropriateness as well as exclusion of ORV's from wetland areas.
- Town comprehensive plans and zoning plans may identify, protect, and preserve important natural habitats as identified by MDIFW.

Protection Status

Conservation land in the Brave Boat Harbor/Gerrish Island focus area is overseen by the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, MDIFW, and the Kittery Land Trust. Large portions of land (salt marsh, freshwater wetland, and upland forest) remain in non-conservation private ownership.

