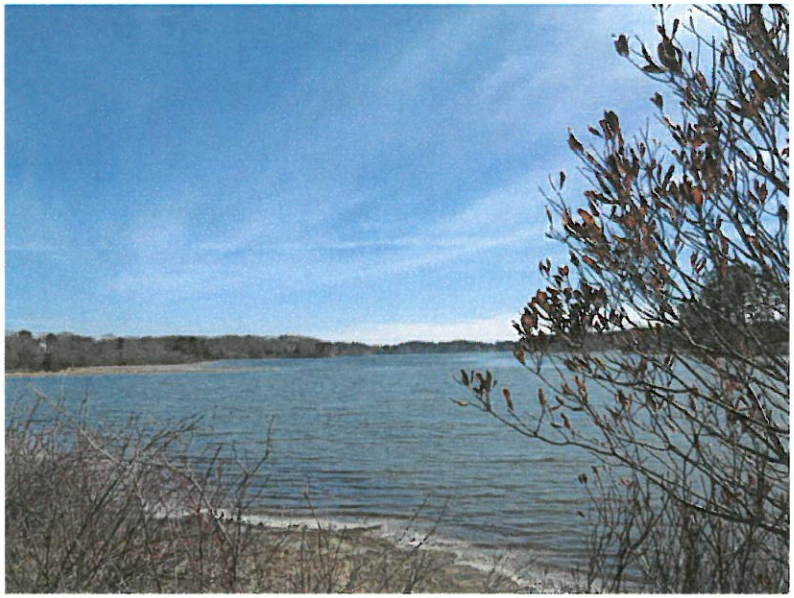
NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION



Spruce Creek cuts diagonally across Kittery, from northeast to southwest providing a popular recreation spot, as well as a spectacular scenic resource. Protection of its water quality is a high priority for Kittery residents.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature -- the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.

- Rachel Carson[1]

[1] Carson, Rachel, *Silent Spring*, New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1962.

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

State of Maine Goals:

To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas, and unique natural areas

To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the State's water resources, including aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers, and coastal areas

To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development which threatens those resources

To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all of Maine citizens, including access to surface waters

To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community, while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services, and preventing development sprawl

(Growth Management Act 30-A M. R. S. A. 4312-4350)

TOPIC AREA GOAL STATEMENT: TO PROTECT KITTERY'S NATURAL RESOURCES INCLUDING FRESH WATER, WETLANDS, VERNAL POOLS AGRICULTURAL LANDS, FOREST RESOURCES, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Objective 2.1. Protect and preserve critical open spaces for passive recreation, visual impact and preservation of wildlife habitats, coastal (saltwater) wetlands, freshwater wetlands, and vernal pools

Objective 2.2. Increase opportunities for recreation

Objective 2.3. Implement sustainability measures to protect the environment

Throughout the comprehensive planning process, Kittery residents pointed to its natural and scenic qualities as some of the town's most valuable resources. Situated on the Atlantic coast and at the mouth of the Piscataqua River, Kittery possesses outstanding natural resources, including seaside dunes, forested wetlands, evergreen-covered uplands, and rolling farmlands, many of which frame treasured scenic views. These resources provide myriad recreational opportunities, from kayaking along the creeks, to building sandcastles on the beaches, to trekking along forested trails. By making a long term commitment to protecting these resources, Kittery residents will help ensure a healthier, more environmentally sustainable future for the town, and in so doing, foster a higher quality of life.

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

The historic 300-acre Johnson Farm, also known as Rustlewood Farm, has been protected through a conservation easement, arranged by the Kittery Land Trust.

To protect the town's natural and recreation resources, residents of Kittery will need to continue to undertake several tasks. First, residents will need to identify critical open spaces, including farmlands, forests and scenic vistas, and enact legal and/or regulatory measures to conserve them. Second, residents will need to commit to maintaining existing recreation sites and establish priorities for creating new ones, including evaluating the recommendations of the recently completed draft Athletic Fields Master Plan (not adopted). Third, the town will need to implement a "sustainability plan," one that aims to conserve energy, clean up waterways, and adhere to environmentally-friendly building and construction practices. Each of these efforts must take into account the town's limited financial resources.

Topic Area #2 of the comprehensive plan focuses on protecting the town's natural resources, open space, and recreation resources by encouraging preservation of critical open spaces, increasing opportunities for recreation, and implementing sustainability measures to protect the environment.

KITTERY VOICES: RESIDENTS' THOUGHTS

REGARDING NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Kittery residents have voiced opinions, concerns, and ideas about the town's natural resources and recreation, including the following "burning questions:"

"How do we respect the rights of hunters to engage in their activity and simultaneously ensure the safety of all residents?"

"How do we strike a balance between dog owners' desire to bring their dogs to the beaches and the desire of others for clean and peaceful beaches?"

"Would you support implementing the recommendations of the Athletics Field Master Plan even it if meant an increase in your taxes?"

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

"Consider exceptions to lot size for low income, mixed income housing."
"Keep the area north of Spruce Creek as a low-growth zone."

"Do not develop on or near wetlands as we have in the past -- we need open space!!"

"Protect to the extent possible, critical habitats and wildlife corridors."
"Enforcement of the dog ordinance is too little; a policy change is needed."

"The Athletic Fields Master Plan should be funded primarily through grants to minimize fiscal impact to residents."

"Make sure the Athletic Fields Master Plan is "need" vs. "want" and re-evaluate as demographics change."

"Establish definite times for hunting."

"Continue support of existing conservation organizations."

"Convert street lights to LED illumination - mandate environmentally-conscious paving - RECYCLE!!!!"

"Start planning NOW for sea level rise -- let's start changing our energy usage and sources (solar and wind)."

"Enforce shoreline protection along Kittery shores including Spruce and Chauncey Creeks."

Protection of the Brave Boat Harbor headwaters is a current joint effort of the Kittery Land Trust and Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Project.

ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

- Kittery's topography, soils and associated wetlands, as well as shallow depths to bedrock, place limits on the extent of development possible.

- Farmland has all but disappeared in Kittery. Opportunity exists to adopt regulations limiting the amount of farming

soils that can be removed from a property, as a means of preserving existing agricultural lands town-wide.

- Wells currently supply drinking water to many Kittery homes, making preservation of groundwater and aquifer quality critical to the health of the community.

- The town's current cluster development ordinance, as written, may result in unforeseen and unintended loss of valued natural areas, as well as costs to the community. Opportunity exists to protect Kittery's many unique natural areas, including natural communities, habitat focus areas, and essential habitats, while at the same time preserving individual property-owners' rights, through negotiation of easements and restrictions on wetlands and farmlands; purchase of unprotected open spaces; and creation of buffers between developed lands and preserved open spaces.

- The Kittery Outlets, nearly 30 years old, have had a significant impact on the town's environment, and especially the quality of Spruce Creek. Opportunity exists to improve the quality of Spruce Creek through future redevelopment efforts at the Kittery Outlet area.

- The quality of Kittery's recreation areas, including parks, playing fields, and beaches, is negatively affected by dog and horse waste left by pet owners. Several options are available for controlling and processing dog waste in public open spaces.

- Kittery's athletic fields are in high demand, and since 9/11, the general public has not been permitted to utilize the facilities at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The recently-completed draft ***Athletic Fields Master Plan*** proposes a phased approach to field management and expansion, and opportunity exists to implement this plan, as needed and financially feasible.

- The existing trail network in Kittery is not well-publicized and many of the trails do not connect. Opportunity exists to create a well-documented non-motorized trail system that runs continuously throughout the town, including conversion of the old trolley bed to a recreational pathway.

- Kittery's existing firearms ordinance permits hunting in some of the town's residential neighborhoods, and some residents have expressed concern about their safety. Opportunity exists to re-visit the existing firearms ordinance so that residents feel safe, while at the same time hunters may continue to pursue their activity.

- Rising sea levels pose a long term threat to development near flood hazard areas, including edges of the town's major surface waters and portions of the watersheds. Currently, Kittery has not adopted a sustainability plan to protect its environmental future, including its surface waters and watersheds. Through the creation and implementation of a sustainability plan, Kittery can conserve energy, protect water quality, and ready itself for the impact of rising sea levels.

- Scenic views, vistas and roads are some of Kittery's most treasured assets, and many stand unprotected from

obstruction. Opportunity exists to protect Kittery's visual and scenic qualities, including its scenic roads, while at the same time preserving individual property-owners' rights.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommended policy directions for the Topic Area of Natural Resources and Recreation. See the table that follows for specific action steps for achieving these.

2.1 PROTECT AND PRESERVE CRITICAL OPEN SPACES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION, VISUAL IMPACT AND PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS, COASTAL (SALTWATER) WETLANDS, FRESHWATER WETLANDS, AND VERNAL POOLS

Protection of the town's critical open spaces, scenic resources and wildlife habitats will require a joint effort of town officials, boards and committees, private landowners, and local/regional land conservation organizations. Together, these individuals and entities can develop a mutually-acceptable set of approaches to resource protection, while at the same time preserving the rights of property-owners.

2.1.1 Protect existing open lands, including farmlands and wetlands, from over-development by having larger minimum lot sizes in the rural residential zone;

2.1.2 Protect Kittery's remaining farmland (including forests);

2.1.3 Protect wildlife corridors;

2.1.4 Strengthen cluster zoning regulations so that they better protect and preserve critical open spaces; and

2.1.5 Review existing hunting regulations to improve safety of residents while, at the same time protecting residents' right to carry firearms and to hunt.

2.1.6 Consider endorsing the York River Committee's efforts to designate the York River Watershed as a Federal Wild and Scenic River with the Mount Agamenticus-to-the-Sea Initiative and Brave Boat Harbor Initiative

2.1.7 Preserve scenic vistas and views, including scenic roadway corridors

2.2 INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION

Kittery residents value recreation, in both its active and passive forms, and see the need to maintain existing resources, as well as develop new ones.

2.2.1 Evaluating recommendations of the draft ***Athletic Fields Master Plan*** (pending adoption) and implementing as needed and feasible

2.2.2 Consider expansion of the season at Fort Foster

2.2.3 Enforce the dog feces ordinance, at Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster in particular

2.2.4 Support the Kittery Community Center's strategic plan for program expansion

2.2.5 Increase awareness of existing recreation resources and how to enjoy them

2.2.6 Establish new and beautifying existing small passive recreation spaces in the commercial areas

2.2.7 Give priority/preference to Kittery residents for use of boating, recreational fields and recreational facilities

2.2.8 Create new kayak-launching sites to provide greater access

2.2.9 Revisit existing hunting regulations so that all Kittery residents feel safe but, at the same reserve the right to own a firearm and hunt

2.2.10 Work with public and private partners to extend and maintain the existing network of non-motorized trails, and connecting these trails to regional systems.

2.3 IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Residents share a concern for the town's environmental future, and see the need to conserve water, develop and rely on alternative sources of energy, minimize waste, and ready themselves for the inevitable rise in sea level and flood plain levels.

2.3.1 Create an energy committee

2.3.2 Establish policies and undertaking efforts to conserve energy

2.3.3 Strengthen language in existing ordinances that protect natural resources and increasing enforcement of these ordinances

2.3.4 Use renewable energy for all town building (renovations and new construction), e.g. solar

2.3.5 Determine sustainability requirements for new privately-developed buildings

2.3.6 Prepare for climate change and sea level rise (e.g. ensure adequate flood plain infrastructure)

2.3.7 Collaborate with other towns for renewable and sustainable energy resources and technologies

2.3.8 Consider joining the New England Climate Adaptation Project (along with other Maine coastal communities)

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION AND THREE KEY PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Environmental Stewardship	• By protecting and preserving critical open spaces, residents will safeguard plants and animals, as well as the town's tremendous scenic qualities
Health & Wellness	• By protecting and preserving recreation resources, including athletic facilities, trails and waterways, Kittery will promote recreation, thereby ensuring improved health for residents
Economic & Social Vitality	• By protecting and preserving natural, scenic and recreation resources, Kittery will help sustain two important sectors of its economy.

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

GOAL STATEMENT: protect Kittery's natural resources including water, agricultural and forest resources, open space and recreation

OBJECTIVE 2.1: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CRITICAL OPEN SPACES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION, VISUAL IMPACT AND PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS, COASTAL (SALTWATER) WETLANDS, FRESHWATER WETLANDS AND VERNAL POOLS						
Strategy	Existing Resources*	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
2.1.1 Protect existing open lands, including farmlands and wetlands, from over-development	Existing unprotected open spaces (particularly in the area north of Spruce Creek) Federal Wetlands Protection Act Maine Natural Resources Protection Act American Farmland Trust Maine Farmland Protection Program Maine Farmland Trust Kittery Land Trust; Kittery Open Space Advisory Committee (KOSAC) Kittery Conservation Commission Kittery Planning Board	Complete inventory of open spaces in Kittery	Operating Cost/Capital Cost	Task is already underway by KOSAC	LEAD: Kittery Open Space Advisory Committee (KOSAC) Kittery Land Trust PARTNERS: Kittery Conservation Commission Maine Farmland Protection program/American Farmland Trust	Ongoing
		Consider negotiating conservation easements/restrictions and/or agricultural easements/restrictions, or other actions, such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) on unprotected open spaces -- particularly wetlands and farmlands				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.1: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CRITICAL OPEN SPACES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION, VISUAL IMPACT AND PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS, COASTAL (SALTWATER) WETLANDS, FRESHWATER WETLANDS AND VERNAL POOLS						
Strategy	Existing Resources*	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Protect existing open lands, continued		Consider purchase of unprotected open spaces				
		Prohibit destruction of manmade wetlands which are functioning wetlands and have hydric soils, vegetation, and creatures, characterizing the areas as wetlands and vernal pools) by reviewing the existing ordinance, and increasing restrictions, as			LEAD: Kittery Conservation Commission PARTNERS: Federal and State Wetlands Protection Acts	
2.1.2 Protect Kittery's remaining farmland (including forests)	Unprotected farms and forested lands Maine Farmland Trust Kittery Land Trust	Evaluate the existing land use ordinance and institute changes that support farm operations and direct development of designated growth areas	Operating Cost		LEADS: Kittery Planning Board Kittery Economic Development Committee PARTNERS: Maine Farmland Trust Kittery Land Trust)	Ongoing
		Integrate farming and forestry into town-wide strategy for economic development including promotion of farms and locally raised farm products				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.1: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CRITICAL OPEN SPACES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION, VISUAL IMPACT AND PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS, COASTAL (SALTWATER) WETLANDS, FRESHWATER WETLANDS AND VERNAL POOLS						
Strategy	Existing Resources*	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Protect Kittery's remaining farmland, continued		Promote the use of Maine's current use property tax programs and Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program				
2.1.3 Protect wildlife corridors	Existing zoning ordinance; existing preserved open spaces adjacent unprotected open spaces Kittery Land Trust	Allow the Planning Board to amend zoning ordinance so that through the development process, portions of undeveloped land that buffer preserved open spaces, may also be preserved (helping to foster corridors)	Operating Cost		LEAD: Kittery Planning Board PARTNERS: Kittery Conservation Commission Kittery Land Trust	1
2.1.4 Strengthen cluster zoning regulations so that they better protect and preserve critical open spaces	Existing cluster zoning ordinance existing undeveloped lands	Review and amend cluster zoning ordinance to allow for greater density in order to preserve open space, increasing the open space percentage requirement	Operating Cost		LEAD: Kittery Planning Board PARTNER: Kittery Conservation Commission	2

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.1: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CRITICAL OPEN SPACES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION, VISUAL IMPACT AND PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS, COASTAL (SALTWATER) WETLANDS, FRESHWATER WETLANDS AND VERNAL POOLS						
Strategy	Existing Resources*	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
2.1.5 Review existing hunting regulations to improve safety of residents while, at the same time protecting residents' right to carry firearms and hunt	Existing regulations allowing hunting throughout the year (except Sundays)	Consider revisions to existing hunting policies	Operating Cost		LEAD: Town Council	1
		Add hunting regulations to the Town website and the Town kiosk so that residents are more informed of policies				
2.1.6 Consider endorsing the York River Committee's efforts to designate the York River Watershed as a Federal Wild and Scenic River with the Mount Agamenticus-to-the-Sea Initiative and Brave Boat	Kittery Land Trust/Brave Boat Harbor Initiative; KOSAC	Review York River Committee's effort	None Required	**SEE ENDNOTE 2.1.6.A**	LEAD: KOSAC	1
2.1.7 Preserve scenic vistas and views, including scenic roadway corridors	Multiple scenic views and roadway corridors located throughout Kittery, identified in the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update	Revisit the inventory of scenic views defined in the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update, making a photographic record and updating the inventory, as needed	None Required	**SEE ENDNOTE 2.1.7.A** for a listing of Kittery's scenic views ***See also Strategies 1.1.6 and 5.1.3***	LEAD: KOSAC PARTNERS: Newly-Formed Historic Preservation Advisory Committee Planning Board	1

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.1: PROTECT AND PRESERVE CRITICAL OPEN SPACES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION, VISUAL IMPACT AND PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS, COASTAL (SALTWATER) WETLANDS, FRESHWATER WETLANDS AND VERNAL POOLS						
Strategy	Existing Resources*	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Preserve scenic vistas and views, continued		Revisit town ordinances and revise to provide critical viewshed protection measures				
		Evaluate the feasibility of adding "scenic road" designations to protect views				
		Explore the possibility of creating a scenic overlay district or districts				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
2.2.1 Evaluate recommendations of the draft *Athletic Fields Master Plan* and implement as needed and feasible	Existing fields and facilities; draft ***Athletic Fields Master Plan*** with specific implementation recommendations	Establish priorities for implementing the plan (these priorities should take into account the projected cost)	Operating Costs/Capital and Maintenance Costs spelled out in the recommendations section of the plan	Obtain funding from an array of sources, including user fees; grants (to minimize the fiscal impact of implementation on tax payers; Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands "Land and Water Conservation Fund;" in addition to property tax revenues	LEAD: Kittery Department of Public Works PARTNERS: Kittery Parks Commission Kittery Recreation Department	1
		Update existing playgrounds and develop new playgrounds near athletic fields, and include bike racks at the fields for children to store their bikes while at play				
		Add tennis courts (at the KCC), volleyball and badminton facilities to existing playgrounds				
		Upgrade facilities to include more offerings for seniors, such as "senior" softball				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Evaluate recommendations of the *Athletic Fields Master Plan,* continued		Include more agricultural/vocation activities at the schools, including greenhouses and gardens				
		Increase access to existing recreation facilities by installing sidewalks (leading to the facilities) and bike racks		***See Strategy 5.2.1***		
		Re-evaluate the plan every 10 or so years to reflect changes in Kittery's demographics				
2.2.2 Consider expanding the season at Fort Foster	Fort Foster	Add a line-up of live concerts and events, including music and plays	Operating Cost/Capital Cost (additional toilet facilities)		LEAD: Kittery Parks and Recreation Department PARTNERS: Kittery Department of Public Works park volunteers	2

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
2.2.3 Enforce dog feces ordinance, at Seapoint Beach and Fort Foster in particular, and horse waste at Rogers Park	Existing dog ordinance; many open spaces that appeal to dog owners and dogs; regulations enforced by other towns including York, New Castle, Rye, Ogunquit, Wells and Hampton	Increase awareness regarding enforcement of dog ordinance, supporting the efforts of the Police Chief	Operating Costs (enforcement)/Capital Costs (dog waste stations/bags; methane convertor; signs)		LEAD: Kittery Department of Public Works PARTNERS: citizen volunteers, Kittery Police Department	1/Ongoing
		Develop more effective means of controlling dogs at Fort Foster, such as issuing dog walking "permits" in the form of tags			LEAD: Kittery Park Commission	
		Hire a student intern/interns with money from the Fort Foster gate receipts to be a resource officer during the summer months and in September (a beach "steward")				
		Limit the times of year dogs are permitted on the beach, including during bird migration and during summer months; limit hours dogs can be on the beaches				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Enforce dog feces ordinance, continued		Consider developing a designated dog park or fenced off area of the beach(es) where dogs can run off leash				
		Increase restrictions on dog behavior and increase enforcement				
		Raise the fine for uncollected dog waste to $100 per incident; retain revenue for programming and improvements at Fort Foster and Sea point Beach				
		Use fees collected from enforcement fines to maintain public spaces and recreation sites; support the schools' efforts with this				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Enforce dog feces ordinance, continued		Install more waste receptacles at the beaches for dog owners to dispose of the dog feces; institute an "adopt a waste receptacle" program to foster community involvement in the effort to clean up				
		Explore placing methane conversion apparati in public spaces and recreation sites to convert dog waste to energy		"Park Spark" was an experiment that placed a methane digester in a Cambridge, MA park that converted dog waste in to methane gas, used to power a park light. **(SEE ENDNOTE #2.2.3.A)**		
		Erect more signs with regulations pertaining to the conduct of dogs and their owners on the beaches				
		Issue day passes to out-of-town visitors, to be purchased on line, permitting their dog(s) to visit Kittery				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Enforce dog feces ordinance, continued		Continue tradition, established by the Conservation Commission in the 1990s, of organizing community clean up days to remove trash and waste from the beaches				
2.2.4 Support the Kittery Community Center's strategic plan for program expansion	Existing Kittery Community's building and outdoor facilities Kittery Park and Recreation Commission	Involve the community, through a comprehensive public engagement process, in deciding when and how to implement the strategic plan	Operating Cost (engagement process)/Capital Cost (expanded facilities)		LEAD: Kittery Community Center (staff and board) PARTNER: Kittery Park and Recreation Commission	2
2.2.5 Increase awareness of existing resources and how to enjoy them	Existing park and recreation facilities Park and Recreation Commission Conservation Commission	Create on-line and printed guides to the recreation resources of Kittery and make them available to residents and visitors	Operating Cost		LEAD: Park and Recreation Commission PARTNERS: Conservation Commission KOSAC	1
2.2.6 Establish new and beautify existing small passive recreation spaces in the commercial areas	Existing "pocket parks"; small underutilized spaces in commercial areas	Identify/locate possible locations for new pocket parks	Capital Cost	Potential public-private partnerships	LEAD: Economic Development Committee PARTNERS: Garden Club volunteers	2

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
2.2.7 Continue to give preference to Kittery residents for use of launching facilities, recreational fields and facilities	Existing recreation fields, mooring, boat launching and docking facilities		Operating Cost	In areas operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, lower mooring fees for residents are prohibited by law	LEADS: Kittery Harbor Master Kittery Recreation Department	2
2.2.8 Create new kayak-launching sites to provide greater access	Existing underutilized sites	Identify new kayak launch sites in existing town-owned locations, such as Rogers Park	Capital Cost	***See Strategy 6.__.__***	LEADS: Kittery Harbor Master Kittery Recreation Department	2
2.2.9 Revisit existing hunting regulations so that all Kittery residents feel safe but, at the same time, may reserve the right to own a firearm and hunt *(See Also Objective 2.1.4)*	Existing regulations that allow hunting throughout the year, except on Sundays overpopulation of deer many publicly-accessible hunting areas throughout the town	Undertake a comprehensive public engagement process that involves all citizens of Kittery in determining the future of hunting within the town. In the process, take into account the fact that many Kittery residents are enthusiastic and responsible hunters, and others see hunting as means of controlling the overpopulation of deer; and still others would like to limit the types of hunting/prey/weapons allowed (including traps), or	Operating Cost (funds to hire a public engagement specialist and revise the existing hunting ordinance)		LEAD: Town Council PARTNERS: residents of Kittery	1

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Revisit existing hunting regulations, continued		Place signage in the Town Farm Forest and Rogers Park to alert residents that hunting is occuring during specified times and signs that warn hunders of homes nearby and the limit on types of weapons that can be used				
2.2.10 Work with public and private partners to extend and maintain the existing network of trails for non-motorized uses, and connect these trails to regional systems	Existing trail network including routes on the Town Farm, Rogers Park, Fort Foster, Brave Boat Headwaters, Gerrish Island, the abandoned trolley tracks, Fort McClary and the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge Maine Island Trail Association Maine's Landowner Liability Law (Title 14, M.R.S.A. 159-A)	Collaborate with marketing efforts of the Maine Island Trail Association	Operating Cost (marketing and materials distribution)/Capital and Maintenance Cost (trail expansion and management)		LEAD: Kittery Open Space Advisory Committee PARTNERS: Kittery Conservation Commission Maine Island Trail Association	Ongoing
		Construct connections between existing trails				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.2: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Work with public and private partners to extend and maintain the existing network of trails, continued		Provide educational materials regarding the benefits and protections for landowners allowing public recreational access on their property				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.3: IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
2.3.1 Create an energy committee	Town-wide interest in energy conservation and sustainability in all forms	Establish a new committee or revive the defunct committee charged with designing a sustainability policy and plan for the town	Operating Cost		LEAD: Town Council PARTNERS: interested town residents	1
		Establish town-wide goals for energy efficiency, resource conservation, and social/environmental sustainability				
2.3.2 Establish policies and undertake efforts to conserve energy	Kittery Land Trust Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Initiative	Continue support for existing conservation organizations	Operating Cost/Capital Cost (trash receptacles/ street lights)	***SEE ALSO 9.3.1***	LEAD: Newly-formed Energy Committee (Lead); PARTNERS: Town Council property owners	1
		Place more trash receptacles, including recycling bins, throughout town				
		Ban bottled water at public, government and school meetings				
		Convert street lights to LED illumination				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.3: IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Establish policies and undertake efforts to conserve energy, continued		Mandate environmentally-conscious paving				
2.3.3 Strengthen language in existing ordinances that protect the town's natural resources and increase enforcement of these ordinances	Existing town ordinance	Revisit the "Pay to Throw" policy	Operating Cost		LEAD: Newly-formed Energy Committee PARTNERS: Town Council property owners	1
		Revisit establishing a requirement that all septic systems in the Shoreland Zone and near wetlands and vernal pools be pumped every three years				
		Regulate fertilizer and pesticide run-off				
2.3.4 Use renewable energy for all town building (renovations and new construction) (e.g. solar)		Mandate LEED Silver as a minimum on all new and renovated town-owned buildings			LEAD: Newly-formed Energy Committee PARTNER: Town Council	2

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.3: IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
Use renewable energy for all town building, continued		Advocate and provide incentives for installing solar power town-wide				
2.3.5 Determine sustainability requirements for new privately-developed buildings	Shoreland Resource Officer	Establish a long-term goal for net-zero construction			LEAD: Newly-formed Energy Committee	2
		Provide incentives for use of solar power and other renewable/recycled resources, including building materials				
		Develop and implement a shoreline protection plan (including Spruce and Chauncey Creeks) that guides the location and size of development and encourages replanting of the shoreline				

TOPIC AREA 2: NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 2.3: IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT						
Strategy	Existing Resources	Actions	Funding	Notes	Lead & Partners	Priority
2.3.6 Clean up Spruce Creek to allow clamming and other activities	Spruce Creek Association and Management Plan Shellfish Committee	Implement recommendations of the Spruce Creek Management Plan	Operating Cost		LEAD: Spruce Creek Association PARTNERS: property owners Town Council Shellfish Committee	1
2.3.7 Prepare for climate change and sea level rise (e.g. ensure adequate flood plain infrastructure)		Evaluate the existing town ordinances in light of projected rise in sea level	Operating Cost	**SEE ALSO: 9.1.1**	LEAD: Newly-formed Energy Committee PARTNER: Planning Board	2
		Revise the zoning regulations to protect new development from flood hazards				
2.3.8 Collaborate with other towns for renewable and sustainable energy resources and technologies	University of New Hampshire hydro turbine	Explore options to collaborate with neighboring towns on power generation through solar arrays and wind turbines, and water wind turbines	Operating Cost/Capital Cost (contributions to renewal energy construction projects)		LEAD: Newly-formed Energy Committee	2
2.3.9 Consider joining the New England Climate Adaptation Project (along with other Maine coastal towns)	Existing project underway in Wells	Contact the New England Climate Change Adaptation Project (MIT/CBI/NERRS)	Operating Cost	**(SEE ENDNOTE #2.3.9.A)**	LEAD: Newly-formed Energy Committee	1

ENDNOTES

2.1.6.A. **York River Study Committee and Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers.** The York River Study Committee was formed to work with community members to develop a York River Watershed Management Plan and evaluate the suitability of a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the river and its tributaries. The Study Committee includes members from Eliot, Kittery, South Berwick, and York. The York River Committee is in the process of obtaining designation for the York River Watershed as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River from the federal government. In 1968, the U.S. Congress passed the "National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act" which made it the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation, and their immediate environments, that possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, should be protected in free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. As of December 2014, 160 rivers have been designated in 36 states.

For more information:
York River Study Committee website: http://www.yorkrivermaine.org/
NPS Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers website: https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1912/Partnership-Wild-and-Scenic-Rivers.htm

2.1.7.A. The 1999 Update of the Kittery Comprehensive Plan listed the following **scenic views, vistas and roads** as meriting protection:

Category One (Highest Value) Scenic Views And Vistas
View 1-1. The view over Seapoint Beach (180 degree view)
View 1-2. The view of the marsh from Seapoint Road past and across from the former boat building barn
View 1-3. The view from Chauncey Creek Road toward Gerrish Island
View 1-4. The view from Chauncey Creek Road toward the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge
View 1-5. The view from the Gerrish Island Bridge looking to the east
View 1-6. The view from the Route 103 bridge over Spruce Creek (360 degree view)
View 1-7. The view from Old Ferry Lane toward the Back Channel and Harbor
View 1-8. The view of Spruce Creek from the Route One/Quarterdeck area
View 1-9. The view of the Back Channel from Badger's Island and the Foreside (180 degree view)
View 1-10. The view on the approach to the Eliot Bridge (180 degree view)

Category Two (Very High Value) Scenic Views And Vistas
View 2-1. The view from Chauncey Creek Road toward Pepperrell Cove
View 2-2. The view of the harbor from the turn in Pepperrell Road at the Congregational Church

View 2-3. Pocket views of the river from Whipple Road near Tilton Avenue
View 2-4. The view of agricultural land (Johnson Farm Area) from the Wilson Road
View 2-5. The view of Spruce Creek between Route One and I-95
View 2-6. The view of Legion Pond from the Old Post Road
View 2-7. The view of Pepperrell Cove from the Kittery Point town wharf area (180 degree view)
View 2-8. The view from the Crockett Neck Road causeway easterly toward Barter's Creek
View 2-9. The view from the Crockett Neck Road causeway westerly toward Spruce Creek
View 2-10. The view of agricultural land from Picott Road
View 2-11. The two views of Spruce Creek from Picott Road
View 2-12. Pocket views of Pepperrell Cove and Wood Island from Pepperrell Road
View 2-13. Fort Foster views (200 degree view from central area and views all around)

Category Three (High Value) Scenic Views And Vistas
View 3-1. The view from Route 103 toward Brave Boat Harbor going west at the Town line
View 3-2. The view from Route 103 toward Brave Boat Harbor going east near the Town line
View 3-3. The view from the Gerrish Island bridge looking west along Chauncey Creek
View 3-4. The view of Pepperrell Cove from the Fort McClary area (200 degree view)
View 3-5. The view from Whipple Road northerly toward Spruce Creek
View 3-6. The view from Seapoint Road northeast of Log Cottage
View 3-7. The view from Seapoint Road over the stonewall toward the marsh and Gerrish Island
View 3-8. The view from Tower Road toward Seapoint Beach/salt marsh (180 degree view)

Category One (Highest Value) Scenic Roads
Road 1-1. Route 103 including Whipple Road, Pepperrell Road, Tenney Hill Road, and Brave Boat Harbor Road
Road 1-2. Seapoint Road
Road 1-3. Chauncey Creek Road
Road 1-4. Hunter and Newmarch Streets Road 1-5. Government Street
Road 1-6. Crockett Neck Road from Route 103 to Bond Road
Road 1-7. Old Ferry Lane
Road 1-8. Picott Road
Road 1-9. Wilson Road from Picott Road to the Eliot line
Road 1-10. Haley Road from Route One to Hartley Farm Road

Category Two (Very High Value) Scenic Roads
Road 2-1. Tower Road
Road 2-2. Love Lane
Road 2-3. Cutts Road from Picott Road to Betty Welch Road
Road 2-4. Goodwin Road
Road 2-5. Old Dennett Road west of I-95
Road 2-6. The half mile of Bartlett Road near the York line
Road 2-7. Lawrence Lane Road 2-8. Adams Road

Category Three (High Value) Scenic Roads
Road 3-1. Miller Road
Road 3-2. The upper end of Norton Road
Road 3-3. Pocahontas Road Extension
Road 3-4. Litchfield Road
Road 3-5. Betty Welch Road

2.2.3.A. **Park Spark Project.** The Park Spark project transformed dog waste into energy (methane) through a publicly fed methane digester as an interactive urban intervention that questions our current waste system, and at the same time creates an opportunity for others to participate in the (re)imaging of the byproduct energy (methane).

For more information:
http://parksparkproject.com/artwork/1116247.html

2.3.9.A. **New England Climate Change Adaptation Project.** The Massachusetts Institute of Technology worked with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) and the Consensus Building Institute to test an innovative way to help coastal communities understand and prepare for the potential impacts of climate change. The team engaged four at-risk New England towns in testing the use of role-play simulations as a means to educate the public about climate change threats and to help communities explore ways of decreasing their vulnerability and enhancing their resilience to climate change impacts. The towns are Wells, ME; Dover, NH; Barnstable, MA; and Cranston, RI.

For more information:
https://necap.mit.edu/