

NATURAL, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION RESOURCES

2

“If there is anything lovelier than the scenery of this gentle river I do not know it; and I doubt if the sky is purer and bluer in paradise.”

-William Dean Howells, 1902

The rambling, windswept coast of Kittery, and robust waters of the Piscataqua River have attracted humans for over 400 years. The area’s first known European discoverer, Martin Pring, described the landscape in 1603, with “a notable sheet of water, and of great depth, with beautiful islands and heavy forests along its banks.”¹ Nearly 300 years later, poets, writers and artists regarded the area as their muse, inspired by its extraordinary natural beauty. Today, residents and visitors alike covet the rocky beaches, coastal swamps, and evergreen covered uplands.

This chapter identifies and describes Kittery’s natural resources, open space, and recreation resources, and summarizes past efforts to protect, promote and expand them.² It also identifies issues, opportunities and challenges surrounding them to be addressed in the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.

¹ Bardwell, John D., Old Kittery.

² Much information for the Natural Resources section of this inventory chapter was derived from the 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan document, updated as required.



The headwaters of Spruce Creek lie at the north end of Kittery, at the Eliot town line. As the creek flows southward, it widens and becomes a large, navigable waterway. Clam flats edge the banks, but are not harvestable because of water quality levels.

NATURAL RESOURCES

GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

Geology. Kittery’s geology includes bedrock outcropping, marine silts and clays, and glacial till and outwash. The bedrock dates to 375-450 million years ago, with most concentrated south and east of Interstate 95. Within depressed areas of the bedrock lie the

hydric marine soils, combined with pockets of glacial outwash. In the northwest end of Kittery lie several drumlins with deep soils.

Topography. Slopes across the town consist largely of upland, gently undulating or flat terrain, varying in elevation between 20 and 80 feet above sea level. In three areas of town, Cutts Ridge, Bartlett Hill, and land to the north of Barter's Creek, the land rises more steeply, with the highest point in Kittery, 140 feet, on Cutts Ridge.

Soils. The United States Soil Conservation Service has established the dominant soils in Kittery to be Lyman (shallow and underlain by bedrock, moderately-rapidly drained), Scantic and Sebago (both deep, level, poorly drained). The most prevalent soils are a combination of Lyman and Scantic, combined with rock outcroppings, extending from Brave Boat Harbor southwestward to encompass all of Kittery Foreside and Seavey Island. The area west of 95 and downslope of Cutts Ridge has areas of prime farmland soils and soils of statewide significance for farming interspersed within the prevailing Scantic and Lyman soils.

WATERSHEDS & SURFACE WATERS

Kittery contains five riverine watersheds, described below.

Piscataqua River Watershed. The Piscataqua runs along the southwest boundary of Kittery, separating the town from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and dividing New Hampshire and Maine. This watershed includes all of the land in Kittery draining into the Piscataqua River and its estuary. **Spinney Creek**, a sub-

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- Geology, topography and soils in Kittery reflect its geographic location along the Atlantic coast. Bedrock closely underlies much of the town, interspersed with pockets of marine soils and glacial outwash.
- Five riverine watersheds cover most of Kittery, with the largest extending along the Piscataqua River and Spruce Creek. Many smaller tributaries feed these waterways.
- The town has relatively few fresh water resources, and much of the public drinking water is supplied by wells.
- Kittery contains very little farmland and supports just three active farms.
- Kittery supports three "natural areas," as defined by the Maine Natural Areas Program, including salt-hay salt marsh, white oak-red oak forest, and dune grassland.
- Two "habitat focus areas," defined by Beginning with Habitat, are located in Kittery. These areas, located in the Brave Boat Harbor-Gerrish Island area and York River Headwaters area, support rare plants, animals and their habitats.
- The town's location at the confluence of the Piscataqua River with the Atlantic Ocean, combined with the many extant historic buildings and landscape features, give Kittery tremendous scenic quality.

watershed, lies along the western edge of the Piscataqua River Watershed. The area known as Gerrish Island forms the eastern edge of the Piscataqua River Watershed (with one-third of Gerrish Island draining into the Atlantic).

Spruce Creek Watershed. Spruce Creek runs diagonally from northwest to southeast through the heart of Kittery. Its watershed originates in Eliot and drains the geographic core of the town. Draining the uplands surrounding Spruce Creek and its estuary are seven smaller creeks and brooks – **Wilson, Chickering, Fuller, Hill, Hutchins, Crocketts and Barters.**

York River Watershed. The area north of the Spruce Creek watershed drains from Cutts Ridge towards the York River. Cutts Ridge Stream, Libby Brook and Johnson Brook all contribute to this watershed.

Brave Boat Harbor Watershed. Land in this watershed lies at the eastern corner of Kittery and drains into Brave Boat Harbor and then out to sea.

Gerrish Island Watershed. This small watershed includes land southeast and seaward of the highest point on Gerrish Island (1/3 of the area) towards the sea.

Chauncey Creek, another significant estuarine surface water body, separates Gerrish Island from the mainland, draining northeastward parallel to the coastline and outflowing into Brave Boat Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean.



Chauncey Creek separates Gerrish Island from the mainland, draining towards the Brave Boat Harbor (and the Atlantic Ocean) to the north. The area depicted above once held a tidal mill.

WATER SUPPLY AND AQUIFERS

Despite the estuaries formed by rivers, the town has comparatively few fresh water resources, and none reaches the state's standards for water quality. The public drinking water is supplied by surface water resources in York (the Bell Marsh Reservoir, Middle Pond, Folly Pond, and Boulter Pond) and is augmented by wells where residents live outside the public water supply areas. Two sand and gravel aquifers underlie the town, both located near Cutts Ridge within the York River watershed.

(Placeholder for Topography Map)

(Placeholder for Soils Map)

(Placeholder for Water Resources Map)

Kittery also likely has bedrock aquifers into which residents tap for private wells. For additional information on water quality, refer to the *Public Facilities and Services* chapter of this inventory.

FLOOD HAZARD AREAS & INCREASING SEA LEVELS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has mapped the 100-year floodplain and flood hazard areas in the upland areas of Kittery's watersheds. In general, the floodplain and flood hazard boundaries follow the contours of the waterbodies themselves. These areas have a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year. However, at the time of the writing of this inventory chapter, FEMA was in the process of updating its flood hazard risk information, and had prepared new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) which included inland riverine areas. The town was encouraging Kittery residents to review the maps to understand potential impacts on private property. Also, because Kittery is a coastal community and the land is subject to the impact of velocity from the tides, much of the town is or will be affected by impending sea level rise.³

³ The Maine Department of Conservation predicts that sea level rise will likely occur two times faster in the coming century than it did in the last century ("Maine Coastal Erosion and Hazards," Stephen M. Dickson, Ph.D., State Marine Geologist, Maine Geological Survey, Department of Conservation, Augusta, Maine, 2004)



The Rustlewood Farm, located at the northern end of town and straddling the Kittery-Eliot border, is one of the last remaining large dairy farms in Maine.

WETLANDS

Kittery contains many types of wetlands, scattered throughout the town, with the most common in the form of emergent, forested, scrub shrub wetlands, and vernal pools. Forested wetlands are the most prevalent, with significant representation in the vicinity of Martin Road/Dennett Road, on the interior of Gerrish Island, and east of Wilson Road (south of Cutts Ridge). Scrub shrub wetlands exist along the southwest branch and middle reach of Spruce Creek. Kittery's largest marshland area

lies along Johnson Brook, and large forested/scrub shrub wetland stands in the northwest corner of town between Gee and Betty Welch Roads.

FOREST LAND

Kittery contains several forested areas in the form of both wetland forests (noted above) and uplands forests. Some of the upland forests are white oak-red oak natural communities (defined below). The town maintains the 72-acre Town Forest, located off Haley Road, and upland deciduous forest. In addition, 90 acres of privately-owned forested land in Kittery receives special assessment through the state's Current Use Protection Program (see *Open Space Resources*, below).

AGRICULTURAL LAND

The large amount of bedrock, combined with shallow, poorly drained soils limits the amount of land in Kittery suitable for farming. Where suitable soils exist, they stand in small pockets, complicating the ability to farm on a large scale. The town does have prime farmland soils (typically comprised of sandy loams) in the following locations:

- North shore of Spinney Creek
- Wilson and Fernald Roads
- Northeast of Lewis Road
- Off McEacherns Way
- Between Bartlett and Norton Roads

- On Gerrish Island near Sisters Point
- North of Adams Road and south of I-95.

Kittery has just a few remaining farms. The 300-acre **Rustlewood Farm**, located in the northeast corner and straddling the Kittery-Eliot line, raises milk cows. The next generation has begun a mixed vegetable operation under the name of **Greenlaw Gardens**. This occupies 5 acres of Rustlewood Farm fields and supplies vegetables to local restaurants, specialty food shops and a seasonal farm stand.

There are a few small personal farm operations in town - a beef cattle and small CSA at **Sawyer Farm** on Bartlett Road and a **Christmas Tree Farm** adjacent to Deering Pond. The **Touching Earth Farm**, located on Stevenson Road, is a CSA farm cultivating produce crops and raising bedding and vegetable plants in the farm's greenhouses.

RARE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Maine Natural Areas Program maintains a list of rare native vascular plant species in Maine whose populations within the state are highly vulnerable to loss, including those that are "Endangered" (rare and in danger of being lost from the state in the foreseeable future), "Threatened" (rare and, with further decline, could become endangered), and of "Special Concern" (rare in Maine, but not sufficiently rare to be considered Threatened or Endangered). As of 2015, the list of rare plants contained 347 species, some of which have been accounted for in



The Piping Plover is a shorebird that nests and feeds in the sandy beaches of the Atlantic. The species may be present in Kittery.

the Kittery area.⁴ Principal among these are Bitternut Hickory, Bottlebrush Grass, Mountain Laurel, Northern Wild Comfrey,

⁴ The Maine Natural Areas Program's "Elements of Diversity: Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants," published in September 2015 provides a list of the 347 species.

Saltmarsh False-foxglove, Scarlet Oak, Spicebush, Spotted Wintergreen, Wild Coffee, and Wild Garlic.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife manages inland fish and wildlife listed under the Maine Endangered Species Act (MESA) and the U. S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) or both.⁵ Currently, 22 inland fish and wildlife species are listed as "Endangered" and 23 are listed as "Threatened" under MESA, some of which are also listed under ESA. The list "Endangered" list includes birds, fish, beetles, butterflies, skippers, dragonflies, damselflies snails, mammals, snakes, and turtles. The "Threatened" list includes birds, fish, butterflies, skippers, dragonflies, damselflies, freshwater mussels, mayflies, moths, mammals and reptiles. In the Kittery area, accounts of the Spotted Turtle have been recorded, as well as the Endangered New England Cottontail Rabbit. The region west of 95 and north of 236 is within a new proposed Refuge area for USFWS known as the "Great Thicket".

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Maine's Department of Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry's Maine Natural Areas Program monitors invasive plant species in the state. An invasive plant is defined as a plant that is not native to a particular ecosystem, whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

⁵ Species listed under MESA receive state protection; species listed under ESA receive federal protection; species listed under both receive state and federal protection.

Of the 2,100 plant species recorded in Maine, approximately one-third are non-native, but only a small fraction is considered invasive. However, these have the potential to cause great harm to the landscape. Currently, 19 invasive species and 29 potentially invasive species exist in Maine, some of which may grow in Kittery.⁶ In addition, Maine's Department of Environmental Protection maintains an inventory of invasive aquatic species. In the Kittery area, European Naiad and Curly Leaf Pond Weed have been found⁷

UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS: ECOSYSTEMS, NATURAL COMMUNITIES, HABITAT FOCUS AREAS AND ESSENTIAL HABITATS

Ecosystems. The Maine Natural Areas Program has identified many ecosystems throughout the state. Ecosystems are defined as a group of communities and their environment, occurring together over a particular portion of the landscape, and held together by some common physical or biotic feature. In Kittery, *Coastal Dune-Marsh Ecosystem* has been identified -- low-lying coastal areas with sand beaches, dunes and saltmarshes behind the dunes -- along the 30 mile coastline. Included in this ecosystem are beach strands, dune grasslands, Pitch Pine dune

⁶ The Maine Natural Areas Program maintains this list of invasive species on its website:

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm

⁷ "Maine's Invasive Aquatic Plants: Confirmed Infestations," Maine Department of Environmental Protection, March 2011.

woodlands, Rose-Bayberry maritime shrublands, and *Spartina* saltmarshes.

Natural Communities. The Maine Natural Areas Program has also classified and distinguished 104 natural community types in the state, three of which lie in Kittery:

- *Salt-hay Salt Marsh*, tidal marshes consisting of expanses of saltmeadow cordgrass, smooth cordgrass, and/or black-grass.
- *White Oak - Red Oak Forest*, deciduous forest dominated by red oak with a mix of white oak.
- *Dune Grassland*, sand dunes dominated by beach grass, with patches of beach-pea, red raspberry, bristly gooseberry and/or poison ivy.

Habitat Focus Areas. Beginning With Habitat, a collaborative program of federal, state and local agencies and non-governmental organizations, is a habitat-based approach to conserving wildlife and plant habitat on a landscape scale.⁸ The organization has worked with biologists from several federal and state agencies and organizations, to identify areas of statewide ecological significance that contain unusually rich concentrations of at-risk species and habitats. These "habitat focus areas" support rare plants, animals, animals and natural communities, high quality common natural communities; significant wildlife habitats; and their intersections with large blocks of undeveloped habitat. Of the 140 focus areas statewide, Kittery contains two:

⁸ www.beginningwithhabitat.org

- *Brave Boat-Gerrish Island.* This area located in both Kittery and York along much of Kittery's Atlantic coast, includes many associated natural communities and provides the habitat needed to support most of the plants and animals native to Southern Maine.
- *York River Headwaters.* This area covers 1,000 acres of uplands and wetlands in York, Eliot and Kittery. It includes a tidal marsh estuary ecosystem with intertidal bays, and is one of the largest unprotected *Spartina* saltmarshes in the state. The York River is currently being studied for possible "Wild and Scenic" designation from the US Park Service.

In addition, the *Mount Agamenticus* focus area, while only bordering Kittery, is one of the largest remaining expanses of undeveloped forests in coastal New England. It abuts Kittery's Brave Boat Harbor focus area and watershed.

Essential Habitats. Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) designates "essential habitat" areas. These are areas currently or historically providing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species in Maine which may require special management considerations.⁹ Currently, MDIFW has identified two essential habitats which may be present in Kittery, the *Piping Plover* and *Least Tern* habitat, and the *Roseate Tern* habitat. Piping

⁹ Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), "Essential Habitat: Overview," fact sheet. Essential habitats in Maine have been mapped, and sites do appear in York County, although not as far south as Kittery.

Plover and Least Tern nesting sites are located on the sand beaches along the Atlantic coast, and Roseate Tern sites are located on off-shore islands. Because Kittery contains both sand beaches and off-shore islands, it is likely that both habitats exist, or may develop in the future, within the town.

SCENIC RESOURCES



Scenic views in Kittery include both those of natural areas, as well as historic features, such as the First Congregational Church Cemetery (and Piscataqua River/Gulf of Maine).

Located on the Atlantic coast and bordered on the south by the Piscataqua River, Kittery possesses tremendous visual and scenic

(placeholder for Kittery critical natural areas map)

(Placeholder for Kittery habitat focus areas map)

quality. Views include both those seen from the land, looking outward across the water, as well as views of Kittery, from the water. Several inland views of historic building clusters, including Kittery Point and Kittery Foreside, are possible from the roads that wind throughout. Views may be classified as follows:

- Unobstructed by natural or manmade features, over land toward the ocean or tidal inlet or bay; or uncluttered over land or water toward a hill, open land or other natural feature
- Over land or water that include manmade features associated with settled areas
- Over land or water that include traditional maritime features

Kittery residents have rated views according to scenic value to the community, and have divided the views into three categories: 1 (highest value), 2 (very high value), and 3 (high value).¹⁰ A total of ten views were rated 1, thirteen views received 2, and eight were rated 3. Scenic roads (discussed later in this inventory chapter) were also rated on a highest (1), very high(2) and high (3) scale and residents identified a total of 23 such scenic roads.

KITTERY'S STREET AND PUBLICLY-OWNED TREES

The Town of Kittery Department of Public Works conducted a street tree and publicly-owned shade tree inventory in 1994, locating species, documenting condition, and noting any

¹⁰ The 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan provided a complete listing of these views.

maintenance needs and/or site conflicts. The inventory also highlighted “hazard trees,” or trees to be removed. Each tree received a number and the number was associated with the location (street address). In summary, the inventory found that Kittery contained many substantially-sized street trees representing a range of species, and noted that of the 1,300 publicly-owned trees, many were in decline because of age, damage, poor growing conditions. Ninety-seven trees were found to be “hazardous,” and in need of immediate removal. The inventory recommended that Kittery devote the resources of its tree program to maintenance, and also to implement an ordinance that would promote good tree care. It also recommended new plantings of trees at targeted areas, such as schools, and encouraged “memorial” tree plantings.

PAST AND CURRENT NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION EFFORTS

Spruce Creek Association. Established in 2002 by a group of Kittery and Kittery Point residents, this non-profit membership organization devotes itself to the monitoring and protection of the 9.8 square mile Spruce Creek Watershed, located in both Kittery and Eliot. Many members live along the Spruce Creek waterfront and are concerned about the long term beauty and health of the waterbody and its watershed. Goals of the association include providing stewardship of the creek; standardizing watershed-related ordinances; offering educational programs; and establishing a method of reporting and remedying violations. In March of 2008, the association completed a **Spruce Creek Watershed-Based Management Plan**. Updated in 2014, the goals of the plan included:



Spruce Creek as seen from Route 1, looking southward. Concern about the water quality in the creek, as well as its scenic beauty, fostered the activism of the Spruce Creek Association

- Re-opening shellfish beds in Spruce Creek
- Ensuring that Spruce Creek meets minimum Class B and SB water quality standards
- Ensuring that Spruce Creek is useful and healthy for drinking, recreation, fish, birds, and other wildlife now and in the future.

The plan included many implementation measures to meet these goals, some of which can be taken on by watershed stakeholders.

Kittery Shellfish Conservation Committee. This seven-member committee, appointed by the Kittery Town Council, is tasked with surveying Kittery's clam flats once every three years to establish size, distribution and density of the clam population. It also recommends conservation closures and opening of flats in conjunction with area biologists of the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

Kittery Comprehensive Plan, 1999 (adopted in 2002). The 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan identified many goals aimed at protecting and managing the quality of the town's water, critical natural and scenic resources, including:

- Protecting the quality and supply of surface waters
- Protecting the quality and supply of groundwater
- Protecting wetlands
- Managing the use of flood prone areas
- Protecting significant wildlife
- Maintaining the town's scenic quality while respecting property rights
- Preserving scenic quality of the shoreline
- Maintaining and enhancing high value scenic views from public viewing sites
- Maintaining and enhancing the visual character of Kittery's scenic roads.

IDENTIFICATION OF PRELIMINARY NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following is a preliminary list of issues, challenges and opportunities posed by the findings of the inventory of existing conditions of Kittery's natural and scenic resources.

- The town's topography, soils and associated wetlands place limits on the extent of development possible. Shallow depths to bedrock further complicate this constraint.
- Wells currently supply drinking water to many Kittery homes, making preservation of groundwater and aquifer quality critical to the health of the community.
- Rising sea levels pose a long term threat to development near flood hazard areas. These areas include the edges of Kittery's major surface waters as well as portions of the watersheds.
- The largest of Kittery's remaining active farms, the Rustlewood Farm, has been conserved; the other smaller scale farm operations are not protected from future development.
- Kittery contains many unique natural areas, including natural communities, habitat focus areas and essential habitats, all of which add to the town's visual appeal and to residents' quality of life. Opportunity exists to protect these areas, while at the same time preserving individual property-owner's rights.
- Kittery possesses tremendous visual and scenic qualities, making it a highly desirable place to live and providing attractions for visitors. Opportunity exists to protect these qualities, while at the same time preserving individual property-owner's rights.
- 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.

OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

As noted earlier in the introduction to this inventory chapter, residents of Kittery place high value on open space for its contribution to the town's physical character, as well as its natural beauty. The role open space plays in guarding natural resources and providing recreation opportunities furthers residents' level of appreciation. Of Kittery's 12,000 acres and 30 miles of coastline, approximately 14% has been protected in perpetuity from development through one of the following means¹¹:

1. Ownership by the United States government
2. Ownership by the State of Maine
3. Ownership by a non-profit conservation organization or land trust
4. Town ownership of recreation and forest lands

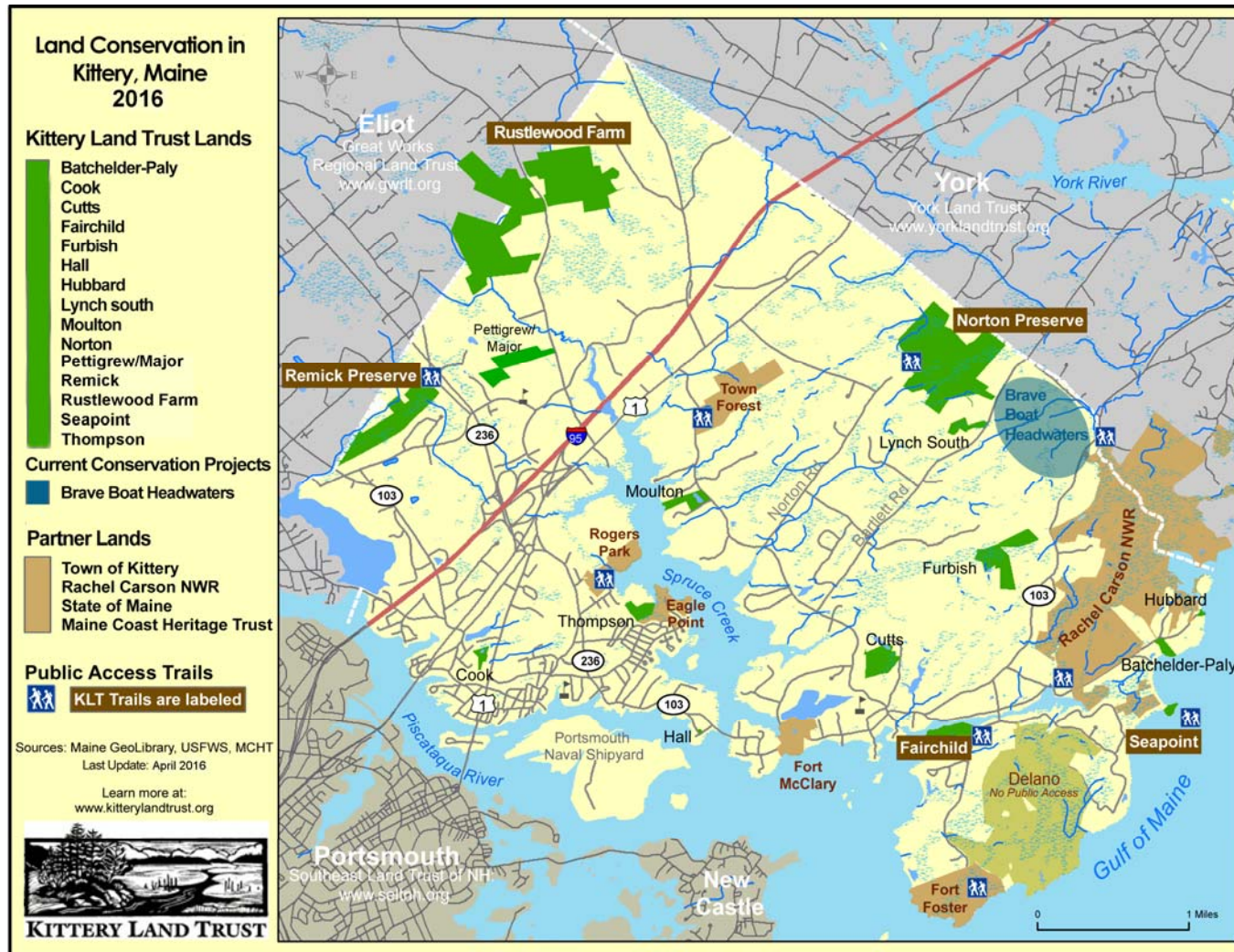
FEDERALLY-OWNED PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. This large expanse of salt marshes and estuaries rimming 50 miles of coastline, extends from Cape Elizabeth (at its northern end) to Kittery, providing protected land for migratory birds. Land acquisition is in process, with the goal of obtaining a total of 14,600 acres. The Brave Boat

¹¹ www.kitterylandtrust.org. The Kittery Land Trust has protected 810 acres, and other entities steward 850 acres, including 3 miles of coastline. The KLT website lists a total acreage for the town as 12,000, whereas other sources list 48,000.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- Of Kittery's 12,000 acres and 30 miles of coastline, approximately 14% of the acreage and 10% of the coastline have been protected through a variety of conservation methods.
- While the State of Maine and Town of Kittery own some of this protected land, the majority has been conserved through the efforts of the Kittery Land Trust (840 acres) and Maine Coast Heritage Trust (408 acres).
- Kittery is also the southern "anchor" of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, with its Brave Boat Harbor division, located in northeast Kittery, covering 400 acres.
- Kittery's scenic roads, including Route 103 (Pepperrell Road and Whipple Street), are some of the town's most treasured assets. Visitors come from far and wide to drive the winding routes and take in historic and sea-facing views.
- Kittery's Conservation Commission is charged with protecting the natural resources located within the territorial limits of the town.
- The Kittery Open Space Advisory is tasked with maintaining an inventory of public open space and making recommendations to the Town Manager about acquiring and/or deaccessioning this space.



Conservation lands in Kittery include Federally-owned, State-owned, town-owned lands, as well as those owned by the Kittery Land Trust and Maine Coastal Heritage Trust, both nonprofit land trusts. (Kittery Land Trust)

Harbor division of the refuge consists of more than 800 acres, with 400 of the acres along Kittery's coastline. In addition to spectacular bird- watching, visitors to the refuge can take advantage of 1.8 miles of walking trails (known as the Cutts Island Trail) through scenic uplands in the vicinity of Brave Boat Harbor. The area is home to several species of rare and/or endangered birds and animals, including the Piping Plover, New England Cottontail, and Saltmarsh Sparrows.

STATE-OWNED PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

Fort McClary State Historic Site. Located at the mouth of the Piscataqua River with an entrance off Pepperrell Road in Kittery Point, this 37-acre property is owned and managed by the State of Maine as an historic and recreation site. It also provides habitat to a variety of upland and coastal flora and fauna habitats.

TOWN-OWNED PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

Fort Foster. Located on Kittery Point and jutting into the Gulf of Maine (Atlantic Ocean), Fort Foster covers 89 acres of upland and coastal wetland area.

Seapoint and Crescent Beaches. Located between Fort Foster and Brave Boat Harbor, these beaches extend across approximately 4.5 acres.

Kittery Town Forest. Managed by the Kittery Conservation Commission and Kittery Department of Public Works, this 72 acre parcel stands between Haley and Lewis Roads.

Rogers Park. Also managed by the Kittery Conservation Commission and Kittery Department of Public Works, this 27-acre parcel is located along Spruce Creek and behind the Kittery Community Center.

Wood Island. Wood Island is a 1.25-acre parcel, located in the Piscataqua River, that once served as a lifesaving station. Now in disrepair, the town is deliberating over its future. The site is part of an EPA Brownfield and MDEP/EDC grant to fund a remediation cleanup project in coordination with restoration efforts at the site. At present, public access is limited to persons with private boats.

Eagle Point. This 25-acre parcel, located along the backs of Spruce Creek, provides access to the water and a spot for viewing wildlife.

Kittery Cemeteries. Kittery contains over 130 cemeteries, burial grounds and burial sites, scattered throughout the town. They range size from hundreds of graves, to single burials.¹² Many are on private land and some are overseen by the Kittery Cemetery Committee. Maine's Cemetery Law prohibits the desecration of historic burial sites.¹³

¹² At least two of Kittery's cemeteries, the Orchard Grove/Highland Cemeteries, are owned and operated by a private corporation.

¹³ <http://mainecemetery.org/law>.

LANDS PROTECTED BY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Kittery Land Trust. Established in 1987 with a mission to conserve coastal, upland, agricultural and forested lands in the Town of Kittery, the trust has protected 840 acres of open space, with 450 acres conserved in the last five years. Recently, the trust secured a conservation easement, using Federal ranch and farmland protection funds, for the Rustlewood Farm. Located at the northern edge of town and crossing into Eliot, the farm covers 300 acres and continues as an active dairy and produce farm, and is the last remaining large dairy farm in Maine. The trust currently protects the following lands:

Public Access Lands

- Norton Preserve, 177 acres on Norton Road, including a 98 acre parcel owned by the town, protected by a conservation easement held by KLT
- Remick Preserve, 80 acres of forested upland off Fernald Road
- Within Brave Boat Headwaters, a 150-acre public preserve in progress. Located off Brave Boat Harbor Road, the area contains three headwater streams for Brave Boat Harbor, four vernal pools, the historic location of the Mitchell-Grant Garrison. The area currently offers public access on 57 acres.
- One acre of upland between Seapoint and Crescent beaches that allows public access.

Limited Access Lands

- Clayton Lane, 8.5 acres of woodland abutting Rustlewood Farm, consisting of brushy, young forest

- Cook Preserve, a 5-acre wetland and a mature beech stand, off State Road
- Cutts, 22 acres off Tower Road, consisting of upland forest, wetlands and an old mill pond
- Fairchild, a 17-acre shorefront property adjacent to Chauncey Creek (public access on 3 of the 17 acres)
- Furbish, 30 acres of oak and hemlock forests in heart of the Brave Boat Harbor watershed
- Hubbard, 2.7 acres of ocean front oak-beech forest on Cutts Island
- Lynch South, 10 acres of wetland habitat in the Lynch Lane neighborhood
- Rustlewood Farm, a 300 acre dairy and produce farm in Kittery and Eliot protected by a conservation easement
- Thompson, a 18-acre woodland property on Mill Pond Road, adjacent to Spruce Creek.

Easement Lands (Access by Permission of Owner, Only)

- Batchelder-Paly, a 4-acre easement on Cutts Island
- Hall, located at the corner of Bowen Road and Old Ferry Lane, a one-acre grassy area
- Moulton, approximately 12 acres of field with a duck pond, on Haley Road

In the process of developing its strategic plan, the trust targeted seven focus areas for land conservation. Included in this were the Rustlewood Farm (described above), and the **Brave Boat Harbor Headwaters**. Through the Brave Boat project, the trust is collaborating with the regional **Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Project**, a ten-partner effort to conserve lands, waterways and working landscapes in the six-town area between

the Town of Wells and Gerrish Island in Kittery Point. The focus area involves 48,000 acres of land. 150 acres of open space in Kittery, when secured, will connect Mount Agamenticus to the Atlantic, through Brave Boat Harbor.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust. This non-profit land trust is involved in land protection along the entire coast of Maine. In 2008, the trust secured a conservation easement on 408 acres in Kittery Point. This private land of the Delano family, with nearly one mile of ocean frontage, represents 40 percent of Gerrish Island and affords valuable habitat for amphibians and migratory birds.

OTHER EFFORTS TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE

Kittery Conservation Commission. This eight-member commission appointed by the Town Council is charged with protecting natural resources located in Kittery. As part of this charge, the commission is tasked with keeping an index of all open areas within the town, and recommending to the Town Council, measures for protection of these areas. In addition to reviewing development proposals and assessing impact on wetlands, the commission oversees maintenance of Rogers Park, located along Spruce Creek and the Town Forest Farm.

Kittery Open Space Advisory Committee (KOSAC). This 12-person committee of the town was established in 2007 to work in cooperation with other boards and committees to develop and open space plan for Kittery. The plan was to include an inventory of publicly-owned lands and properties held under conservation easements; develop a list of critical wildlife habitats, recreational



Brave Boat Harbor, located at the northeast edge of Kittery, is part of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. Protection of its watershed is an ongoing effort of the Kittery Land Trust.

opportunities, and landscapes important to Kittery's history; inventory undeveloped municipal properties; develop a maintenance and signage program for town-owned lands; and a plan for implementation. To date, the committee has:

- completed a windshield survey/inventory of properties
- assessed the inventory of town properties for their recreation/open space potential
- worked with the planning board on the cluster subdivision ordinance

- discussed the permanent protection of Fort Foster and its management

Future efforts include:

- Updating the open space plan
- Updating maps
- Advocating for the use of town funds for stewardship of public open space
- Recommending the disposition of town lands suitable for conservation.

State Current Use Protection Program. This initiative, provided through Maine’s Department of Revenue Services, offers property owners reductions in the assessed value through one of four programs: Farmland Tax Law, Open Space, Tree Growth, and Working Waterfront. In 1999/2002, 335 acres in Kittery was enrolled in the Tree Growth Program, and 8.5 acres was part of the Farmland Tax Law Program. In 2015, the amount of acreage in the Tree Growth Program had been reduced to 90, but the Farmland Tax Law Program had enrolled 201.35 acres.

Kittery Comprehensive Plan, 1999 (adopted in 2002). Open space was addressed as part of the Recreation chapter of this plan (see recommendations in the *Recreation Resources* section of this inventory chapter. Significant measures have been taken since 2002 to secure protection of open space in Kittery, including recent efforts at the Rustlewood Farm and Brave Boat Harbor.

2014 Quality Improvement Plan for Kittery’s Shore and Harbors¹⁴.

This draft plan was completed in response to a recommendation in the 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan to identify and set priorities for improvements and to guide implementation. Specific recommendations and implementation strategies were made for Kittery Point, Kittery Foreside, the Traip Boat Launch, the Rice Avenue neighborhood (near Badger’s Island), Eagle Point, Fort McClary, Fort Foster, Seapoint Beach, Crescent Beach, the Rachel Carson Refuge, Brave Boat Harbor, Isles of Shoals, Wood Island, Spinney Creek, and Spruce Creek. Policies shared throughout included:

- Enhanced public access
- Improved navigational safety
- Improved cleanliness of the beaches
- Enhanced productivity of the clam flats, particularly along Spruce Creek
- Funding for waterfront improvements
- Coordination between the town, Naval Shipyard, and Port Authority
- Mitigation of shoreline erosion
- Mitigation of water pollution
- Planning for long term sea level rise and climate change

Maine Shoreline Protection/Shoreline Overlay Zone. (Section 16.3.2.17 of the Kittery Town Code.) Kittery has incorporated this code into the development review process for the purposes of protecting natural resources (among other resources) along the town’s coastline from the impact of development.

¹⁴ The plan was not adopted by Town Council.

CRITICAL UNPROTECTED PUBLICLY-OWNED LANDS

Scenic Roads. Many public roads in Kittery stand unprotected from incompatible development – new buildings and structures that detract from their scenic beauty. Route 103, rambling along Kittery’s coast through Kittery Point and to York passing Brave Boat Harbor, has been regarded by residents and visitors alike as a drive through New England’s natural and cultural history. Both the 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan and draft Update (2015) noted its significance as well as that of many others, outlining dozens of scenic views possible along the routes. Provisions in the plans for preserving the quality of these scenic roads included:

- Adopting a Scenic Road Overlay Zone.
- Requiring the use of existing curb cuts and/or sharing of curb cuts and minimize their size, screening them with vegetation where possible
- Requiring subdivision proposals to identify all scenic resources and outline plans to preserve them
- Requiring that new fences and walls have minimal impact on scenic views
- Obtaining State Scenic Highway designations
- Educating property owners about programs available to assist with viewshed protection
- Limiting the placement of conventional communication towers

IDENTIFICATION OF PRELIMINARY OPEN SPACE ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES

The following is a preliminary list of issues, challenges and opportunities posed by the finding of the inventory of existing conditions of Kittery’s open space resources:

- Kittery is being rapidly developed, but the population is remaining level. New development is adhering largely to one-acre zoning (40,000 SF per dwelling unit).
- The current cluster development ordinance, as written, may have unintended consequences, and the town has not studied the cost of uncontrolled residential development to the community.
- The Kittery Outlets, built to last approximately 30 years, are reaching the end of their useful life and will need replacing. The impact of this development on the Kittery environment has been substantial, including Spruce Creek, and needs to be evaluated and mitigated in plans for redevelopment.
- Kittery’s many miles of scenic roads are threatened by lack of provisions for preserving picturesque character. Opportunity exists to amend the Town Code so that these roads and views are protected, through revised development standards and subdivision regulations.

RECREATION RESOURCES

Kittery's many passive and active recreation sites contribute further to residents' quality of life. The town is fortunate to have several public beaches and two publicly-owned historic forts that provide access to the coast. In addition to these, Kittery maintains athletic fields and courts, playgrounds, walking trails, and boat docking/launching sites that complement the beach areas.

FEDERALLY-OWNED AND STATE-OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES

Fort McClary (37 acres). Located on Pepperrell Road (Route 103) in Kittery Point, Fort McClary dates to the 18th century when a fortification was constructed to protect the mouth of the Piscataqua River from maritime intrusions. Today, Fort McClary is a regionally-known recreation site and national tourist destination. In addition to its many extant historic features, the park contains 0.6 miles of hiking trails, picnic areas, a skating pond, and a playground. The site is known for its "million dollar view."¹⁵

John Paul Jones Memorial Park (2 acres). This trapezoidal-shaped park was created between Hunter Avenue and Newmarch Street,

¹⁵ For more information about the historic features at Fort McClary and the State of Maine/Friends of Fort McClary efforts to preserve and restore these, refer to the *Historic and Cultural Resources* chapter of this inventory.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- Kittery contains 28 acres of federal and state-owned recreation facilities, including both active and passive recreation sites. Two of these sites are open to all.
- The town maintains several historic sites (Fort Foster, Wood Island) which provide recreational opportunities, as well as many athletic fields and playgrounds.
- The Kittery Community Center, opened in 2011 at the former Frank Frisbee Elementary School on Rogers Road, provides active recreation facilities (gymnasium, fitness center) and offers recreation-oriented programs to users of all ages.
- A master plan for Kittery's athletic fields, completed in 2014, outlined the need for greater access to facilities, and need to eliminate overlap of facilities, and the need to rest fields on an ongoing basis.
- Access to the water (Piscataqua River) is limited by the small number of launches, slips, and moorings, and parking spaces near these sites.
- Kittery contains an extensive network of trails, both at formal recreation facilities, and on conservation lands. While used extensively, the trails do not currently connect to one another, and are not widely publicized.
- Sportspersons are permitted to hunt throughout the year in approximately 2/3 of the town. Some of the hunting ground lies in residential areas.

adjacent to Memorial Bridge. Owned by the State of Maine, it contains a bronze bas relief Soldiers and Sailors Memorial created by sculptor Bashka Paeff to commemorate World War I veterans, as well as three other memorial markers.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Recreational Facilities. Located at the eastern end of the Shipyard, these extensive facilities include playing fields with lights, tennis courts, a running track, three parks, two children's playgrounds and a basketball court. The Shipyard also maintains indoor facilities including a gymnasium, fitness center, tennis courts, racquet ball courts, a 10-pin bowling center. Due to increased security operations at the Shipyard, access to these facilities is restricted to employees.

TOWN-OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES

Kittery Community Center. Located on Rogers Road in the former Frisbee Elementary School, The Kittery Community Center opened in 2010, providing programs and services to residents of all ages. Indoors, the center contains a gymnasium, indoor track, fitness room, as well as the STAR Theatre, a 171-seat performance space. Outside, the center maintains a playground and athletic fields. Programs include classes for users of all ages, trips to arts and cultural organizations, an "Eyes of the World Discovery Center," a forest-based pre-school program for 2 to 5 year olds, and a S.A.F.E. after school program for youth K through 7th grade. For more information about the Kittery Community Center, refer to the *Public Facilities and Services* chapter of this inventory.

Fort Foster (89 acres). Located off Pocahontas Road in Kittery Point, this rocky site was home to the 200-guest Pocahontas Hotel, constructed in 1885. The hotel closed in 1904 (but remained standing until 1920), and the federal government claimed the land and constructed the fort. Briefly occupied by the 124th Coast Artillery Corps in 1905, it was never fully occupied again and in the late 1940s it served as a recreation site for the nearby Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. In the 1950s, the federal government offered the land to the Town of Kittery, and the deed transfer took place in 1961. Today, Fort Foster is one of the most popular recreation sites in Kittery, featuring a 569 foot pier



Seapoint Beach, located on Kittery's far eastern end, is a popular town-owned recreation site for swimming, fishing, dog-walking, bird-watching, and other outdoor recreation activities.

(built in 1942), ballfield, playground, pavilions, picnic and barbecue areas, and designated swimming, scuba diving, windsurfing and kayaking areas, as well as public restrooms. Visitors must pay a small admission fee, and both residents and non-residents can obtain season passes. The fort is open seasonally (Memorial Day to Labor Day), from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 or dusk.

Seapoint & Crescent Beaches (approximately 4.5 acres). Located at the far eastern end of Kittery, these beaches provide users access to the Atlantic for swimming, jogging, fishing, dog walking, and enjoying nature. Surfing takes place at Crescent Beach at low and middle tides.

Wood Island (1.25 acres). This small island located in the Piscataqua River was the site of a lifesaving station in the early 20th century. It retains a seawall and building, all of which are in a state of disrepair. The privately-formed Wood Island Lifesaving Station Association is in the process of raising funds to restore the facility, but at the present time, the site is inaccessible to the public.¹⁶

Rogers Park (23 acres). Located at the end of Dion Avenue, adjacent to the Kittery Community Center and bordering Spruce Creek, Rogers Park provides walking trails for hikers and dog walkers. It is maintained by the Kittery Conservation Commission.

Recreation Fields. The town maintains six recreation field areas, covering 19.15 acres, providing opportunities for residents of all

¹⁶ For more information about the history of this site, refer to the *Historic and Cultural Resources* chapter of this inventory.



Frisbee Common, located in front of the Kittery Community Center, contains facilities for baseball, soccer and softball, and is heavily used.

ages to engage in many different sports. The fields are located throughout the town and include:

- **Emery Field (5.75 acres/3.1 acres of fields).** This multi-use property located on Cole Street adjacent to the former Kittery Community Center includes a basketball court and a multi-use field. The town recently received a grant to refurbish the perimeter walking path at this field.
- **Kittery Community Center at Frisbee Common (1.5 acres of fields).** Located on Rogers Road, Frisbee Common contains facilities for baseball, soccer and softball, and is heavily used by schools for intermural programs.

- **Haley Field (3.2 acres of fields).** Located on Litchfield Road less than one mile from the Shapleigh School, Haley Field contains soccer fields and a small parking area.
- **Memorial, Tobey and Dewolf Field Complex (5.25 acres/4.7 acres of fields).** This active recreation site is located on the Old Post Road, and provides space for football, baseball and youth baseball (on a small separate field), and contains the Tobey Memorial Field House. It is used by the High School, Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball League.
- **Shapleigh Middle School Fields (5.9 acres of fields).** Located on Stephenson Road in the western part of Kittery, Shapleigh Field is used by the Shapleigh School, Kittery Recreation Department, Traip Academy, Little League, and Kittery residents for high school athletics (track and field, soccer, field hockey, women's softball), t-ball and Little League practices. The track and field facilities were recently reconstructed.
- **Mitchell Field (5.9 acres/.75 acre fields).** Located on School Lane adjacent to the former First Baptist Church and cemetery, the field is part of the Horace Mitchell Primary School.

Recreational Areas. In addition to the recreational fields, the Town of Kittery maintains three recreational areas containing playgrounds and other non-field amenities:

- **Frisbee School (Kittery Community Center) Recreational Area (.50 acre).** This recreational area is located adjacent to the

Kittery Community Center. Amenities include a playground with swings, a jungle-gym, and merry-go-rounds.

- **Shapleigh School Recreational Area (.25 acre).** Located adjacent to the Shapleigh School on Manson Road, this area contains two outdoor basketball courts, used primarily by students of the Shapleigh School.
- **Mitchell School Recreational Area (1 acre).** Located adjacent to the Mitchell School in Kittery Point, this area contains swings, a climber, a slide and a basketball court, as well as a small multi-purpose field, used primarily by students at the Mitchell School.

Passive Recreation Sites (Parks). Kittery's passive recreation sites provide quiet spots for visitors to stroll, rest on benches, and relax on the lawns. They do not contain recreational equipment, and most were built in memory of a person or persons.

- **Howells Park (.25 acre).** This small green space lies adjacent to the home owned by William Dean Howells, on Pepperrell Road in Kittery Point. The park features a broad lawn surrounded by shade trees and moveable seating.
- **Rudolf Park (.25 acre).** Located off Rogers Road and Lutts Avenue, this small passive park is maintained by the Conservation Commission.
- **Williams Avenue Park (.25 acre).** Also maintained by the Conservation Commission, this passive recreation site is located off Williams Avenue.

Water Access Areas.¹⁷

- **Town Wharf (Frisbee's Wharf), Pepperrell Cove.** Located on 0.4 acres in Kittery Point, this town-owned facility consists of two piers and floats, a one-ton hoist, gas, diesel and water, as well as 32 parking spaces. The Kittery Port Authority maintains the facility.
- **Town Wharf, Government Street.** Also maintained by the Kittery Port Authority, this 0.1 acre site located in Kittery Foreside contains a pier and hoist.
- **Traip Academy Boat Launch, Williams Avenue.** This boat launch located adjacent to Traip Academy in Kittery Foreside provides four parking spaces, maintained by the Kittery Port Authority.
- **Old Ferry Landing.** This small town-owned property is located at the end of Old Ferry Lane on Bowen Road, and contains a small park, two parking spaces and ADA-compliant steps leading to the water.

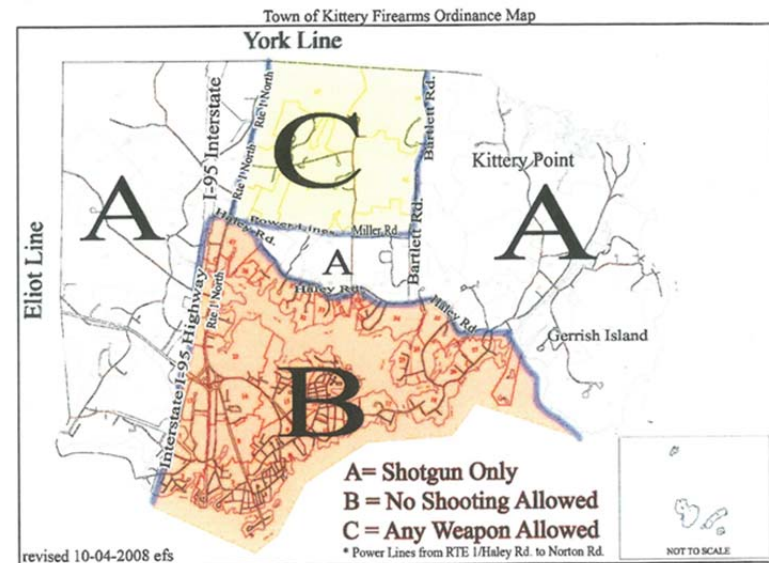
Trails. Many miles of walking trails thread throughout the town on publicly-owned lands (both Federal and State):

- Town Farm
- Rogers Park

¹⁷ For more information about marine resources in Kittery, including moorings, refer to the *Marine Resources* chapter of this inventory.

- Fort Foster
- Braveboat Headwaters/Mount Agimenticus
- Gerrish Island
- Abandoned trolley tracks
- Fort McClary (federally-owned)
- Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (federally-owned)

Hunting. Hunting is permitted throughout all months of the year in approximately 2/3 of the town. Sportsmen and women cannot hunt in area to the south of Interstate 95 and west of Haley Road (area “B” on the graphic below), and the town ordinance



The Town of Kittery Firearms Ordinance Map shows the area where hunting is not permitted.

governing firearms states the persons found in the “no shooting” area carrying a loaded firearm (loaded with either blank or live ammunition) will be punished by fine.¹⁸

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Badger’s Island Marina/Badger’s Island Marina East. Located on the Piscataqua between Kittery and Portsmouth, this private marina offers deep water power and sailboat slips (25 to 125 feet), electrical hook-ups, cable, water, pump out, bathroom and shower facilities, as well as parking. The marina also services and stores boats. Other private recreation facilities include the **Kittery Point Yacht Yard** and **Take Flight Adventures**, a ropes course located on Route 1.

EFFORTS TO PLAN FOR RECREATION NEEDS

Kittery Comprehensive Plan, 1999 (adopted in 2002). The 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan noted that town facilities for active recreation use were below benchmark standards for tennis, baseball and soccer fields. The greatest need seen by the community was for more soccer fields. The plan also pointed out the need to provide better information about Kittery’s trail system, and to improve the community center (an effort completed in 2011).

¹⁸ Section 9.04.020 of the Kittery Town Ordinance, Kittery Firearms-Unlawful Discharge.

Town of Kittery Fort Foster Park 5-year Management Plan 2004-2008. In 2004, the Kittery Parks Commission completed this plan to steer management of the fort over a five-year period. The commission updated the plan multiple times between 2004 and 2008. Goals of the plan included upgrading public amenities, but also monitoring uses and evaluating user fees, and engaging in historic preservation of the fortifications. Capital improvements, identified through the planning process, included:

- Building an ADA-compliant restroom and a changing room
- Replacing pier decking and railing
- Replacing the leach field of accessed by the Town Pavilion bathroom
- Upgrading playground equipment
- Installing dog-waste collection bag dispensers
- Installing interpretive signs
- Installing a water level control structure for the marsh
- Raising the Tower Pavilion Road; replacing the culvert
- Relocating memorial benches
- Controlling erosion along the shoreline.

Town of Kittery Seapoint and Crescent Beaches 5-Year Management Plan 2007-2011. In 2007, the Kittery Parks Commission produced this plan to anticipate improvements and guide future management of the beaches. Recommendations included:

- Maintaining roads and culverts leading to the beaches in a manner that does not disrupt the area’s natural resources.
- Upgrading the parking area with a landscape plan

- Instituting continuous police monitoring to discourage in-season use by non-permit holders and prohibiting parking of buses and large vans
- Streamlining the number of signs at the parking areas and on roads near the beach to reduce visual clutter

Town of Kittery Master for Athletic Fields Plan (2015). In 2015, the town completed a comprehensive plan that analyzed existing field conditions and made recommendations for improving the athletic fields system. Recommendations were shaped, in part, through a series of informational meetings with user groups and key stakeholders. Needs identified through the planning process were:

- More playing venues to accommodate the type of uses
- Fewer overlapping/multi-use fields
- Opportunities to rest fields (periodically take them off-line)
- Greater access to facilities
- Improved ancillary facilities (irrigation, lighting, etc.)
- Lighting to expand hours of use
- Greater funding for field maintenance and improvements
- Increased staff to maintain fields
- New capital funding for improvements

The plan's recommendations included:

- Adopting a "Field Use Policy" that places controls over the use of the fields
- Looking for opportunities to create new playing venues

- Setting aside funds to renovate existing facilities as new venues come on-line
- Aggressively pursuing traditional state and federal funding sources, in order to reduce the financial burden on residents to fully support field upkeep and improvement

Maine State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (2014-2019). Every five years, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands updates its comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. For many years, this plan listed adequacy benchmarks standards for recreation facilities. The last two iterations of this plan did not include these standards. The 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan noted that while Kittery exceeded the state-recommended standard for total municipally-owned recreation acres, it was lacking in the area of numbers of baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts and boat ramps. The 2014 *Kittery Athletic Facilities Master Plan* proposed measures to improve the number of fields.

Another means of measuring the adequacy of recreation facilities in Kittery are the national averages published by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The 2016 Field Report listed an average of one park for every 2,277 residents and 9.5 acres of parkland for every thousand residents. Kittery's recreation offerings for its 4,562 residents (2010 census) Exceeds both of these national averages.

IDENTIFICATION OF PRELIMINARY RECREATION ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES

The following is a preliminary list of issues, challenges and opportunities posed by the finding of the inventory of existing conditions of Kittery's recreation resources:

- Limited staffing at Fort Foster make maintenance a challenge. Maintenance tasks range from housekeeping (including bathroom cleaning), lawn mowing and controlling youths who congregate after hours.
- Dog walkers do not always pick up waste, even though disposal bags are supplied throughout many of the parks and recreation sites. At Rogers Park, horseback riders leave horse waste.
- Geese congregate on the athletic fields and leave waste, creating a potential public health problem. Continual treatment with organic deterrents will be needed into the future.
- The one soccer field in Kittery is in very high demand.
- Overall, the fields in Kittery are over utilized, and the town does not maintain practice fields. Maintenance (including mowing, aerating, and fertilizing) is complicated by the over use.
- Due to increased security at the Shipyard since 9/11, the general public is not permitted to utilize the athletic facilities

on the base. This reduces the number of overall recreation offerings in the town.

- The existing network of trails in Kittery is not well-publicized, and many of the trails do not connect. Opportunity exists to create a well-documented trail system that runs continuously throughout the town. Conversion of the old trolley bed to a recreational trail could be included in this effort.
- The existing firearms ordinance permits hunting in some residential neighborhoods.

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INTERVIEWS

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