

G. RECREATION, SCENIC RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE

Addison has considerable natural resources available for recreational purposes, particularly along its coastline and off-shore islands. The town's open space includes fields, forestlands, wetlands, and shore frontage. The greatest difficulty in using these resources often lies in obtaining adequate public access to them. While some public shoreland access is available at the boat landing and public right-of-ways, most of the remaining coast is privately owned including several beaches. Since 1995, Addison has obtained access to the water by the establishment of several town landings. The Town has made significant efforts to meet other recreational needs including purchase of an 83 acre parcel which may be used, in part, for recreation purposes.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Although the town contributes to some recreation activities among local service organizations, more emphasis is needed on the development of recreational programs. Current efforts include \$5,000 for a playground that was raised at the March 2004 Town Meeting and a project to develop trails on the Ordway property which is underway.

LOCAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Maine Department of Conservation has published guidelines for recreational facilities that municipalities should seek to develop and maintain. The guidelines are based upon a town's population. In the table below those guidelines and the facilities and services found locally are shown, as well as the condition and brief description of those facilities.

Table G-1: Recreational Facilities

Guidelines for Recreation and Park Services for Municipalities with Populations between 1,000 and 1,500	Located In Addison?	Condition (see explanatory notes below table)	Description/Location/Capacity
I. Administration			
Recreation and Park Committee or Board	No		
II. Leadership			
Summer Program: Swimming Instructors	No		
Summer Recreation Director			
III. Program			
Swimming Instruction	No		
Supervised Playground Program	No		
Skiing Instruction Program	No		
Ice Skating	No		
Community-wide Special Events	No	N/A	Addison Days
Arts & Crafts Programs	No		
Evening Adult Education	No		
Recreation Program	No		
IV. Facilities – Outdoor Facilities			
Neighborhood Playground, 2-10 acres; w/in 1/2 mile of each housing	No		

concentration of 50+ homes; playground, basketball court, playfield, etc			
Community Recreation Area, 12-25 acres w/ball fields, tennis courts, swimming, ice skating, etc.	No		
Softball/Little League Diamond (0.75 per 1,000 pop.)	No		
Basketball Court (0.50 per 1,000 pop.)	No		
Tennis Court (0.67 per 1,000 pop.)	No		
Multi-purpose field: football, soccer, field hockey (0.50 per 1,000 pop.)	No		
Swim area to serve 3% of town pop. (15 s.f./user)	No		
Pool –27 sq. ft/water per user or Beach 50 sq. ft/water, 50 sq.ft./beach per user	No		
Ice Skating (5,000 s.f. per 1,000 pop.)	No		
Playgrounds (0.50 per 1,000 pop.)	No		
Horseshoe Courts	No		
Shuffleboard Courts	No		
Picnic Areas w/tables & grills (2 tables per 1,000 pop.)	No		
IV. Facilities – Indoor Facilities			
School Facilities Available for Public Use	Yes	B	D.W. Merritt School
Gym or Large Multi-Purpose Room (0.20 per 1,000 pop.)	No		
Auditorium or Assembly Hall	Yes	C	Town Hall
Public Library	Yes	C	Mayhew Library
V. Finance (funds for operation and maintenance - not capital)			
Minimum \$6 per capital minimum for part-time	Yes/No		

Condition Classification System:

Grade Classification

- A Relatively new facility, lifetime expected in excess of 20 years (with proper maintenance)
- B Facility is a few years older and has been well cared for, lifetime expected to be in excess of 10 years
- C Older facility that may not be in the best of shape and may need minor improvements within 5 years
- D Old facility that needs considerable maintenance within 2 years and/or significant renovation
- F Very old facility that has outlived its usefulness, or is in severe disrepair. This facility (or equipment) is unsafe or unusable and should be attended to very soon. Replacement may or may not be necessary (based on need assessment).

TOWN RECREATION

As noted in the above table and in the Public Facilities chapter, the town has the following recreational resources.

Hunting: Hunting, both bow and gun, is a traditional use that is actively pursued, particularly in and around the marshlands, woodlands and islands.

Water Recreation: The waters of Addison provide recreation including, fishing, bird hunting, cruising in the family lobster boats or skiffs, going to islands for picnics or to family camps. Tubing, jet skis, and the use of speedboats is not prominent water recreation.

Ice Fishing: Smelt fishing on the Pleasant River is a tradition that has been carried on for many years. In recent years there has been forty plus smelt shacks on the river ice creating a small village with lot of activity at low tide.

Snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles: A sport that is enjoyed by many both young and old.

REGIONAL RECREATION

Recreational resources in Washington County have an impact on the local and regional economy. Tourist-related businesses that rely on the recreational opportunities are significant sources of income to some towns in the area. In Addison, some businesses benefit in part from an influx of tourists to the region, especially during the summer.

Regional recreation facilities accessible to Addison residents and to visitors include wildlife refuges, parks, golf courses, picnic areas, public access to surface waters, and hiking and snowmobile trails. Major regional recreational resources include:

1. Cobscook Bay State Park in Edmunds: 888 acres; more than 100 - campsites and shelters are on the water's edge; boating; hot showers; picnic area; hiking and groomed cross-country ski trails, hiking trails.
2. Cobscook Trails: Local network of hiking trails.
3. Cutler Coast Public Reserved Land, Bold Coast Trails: maintained by the State, contains ten miles of hiking trails and three walk-in campsites.
4. Edmunds boat landing.
5. East Plummer Island Preserve and the Mistake Island Preserve in Jonesport, both managed by the Nature Conservancy.
6. East Quoddy Lighthouse and Mulholland Lighthouse in Campobello, N.B.
7. Gleason's Cove Town Park in Perry: picnic sites, beach, fishing weirs, boat launch.
8. Great Cove Golf Course in Roque Bluffs: 9-holes, 1,700 yards long.
9. Great Wass Island Preserve in Beals: 1540 acres of boreal forest, peat bogs, and coastline managed by the Nature Conservancy.
10. Herring Cove Provincial Park, Campobello, N.B: golf course, campground, playground, beach, hiking trails.
11. Jonesboro Wildlife Management Area: 726 acres.
12. Jasper Beach in Buck's Harbor, Machiasport.
13. Lubec Municipal Marina.
14. Machias Seal Island, seabird nesting site with puffin colony, boat tours from Cutler, Jonesport and New Brunswick.
15. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge: 16,000 acres west of Calais, 6,700 acres in Edmunds. Migratory birds, big game and 50 miles of trails.
16. Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge in Steuben: 3,335 acres on the mainland with hiking trails, several islands, and a variety of birds
17. Quoddy Head State Park in Lubec: 532 acres, easternmost point in the U.S., high rocky cliffs with extensive walking trails and views of Canada. The park features 4.5 miles of

- hiking trails, extensive forests, two bogs, diverse habitat for rare plants, and the red-and-white striped lighthouse tower of West Quoddy Head Light.
18. Reversing Falls Town Park in Pembroke: 140 acres, trails and picnic area.
 19. Robbinston Boat Landing and Picnic area.
 20. Roque Bluffs State Park: 2300-foot beach, picnic tables, grills, trails and playground.
 21. Roosevelt-Campobello International Park in Campobello, N.B. A 2,800-acre park that includes the cottage and the grounds where Franklin Roosevelt and his family vacationed, as well as a large natural area with many nature trails and look-out points. The Island also has a Provincial tourist information center.
 22. Shackford Head State Park in Eastport. A 90-acre undeveloped peninsula with protected coves, a bold headland, and hiking trails.
 23. St. Croix Country Club and Golf Course in Calais.
 24. St. Croix Island International Historic Site at Red Beach in Calais. Overlooks St. Croix Island, site of historic French settlement in 1604.
 25. Devil's Head, Calais; hiking, overlooks of St. Croix River and St. Croix Island.
 26. Coastal and nature tours are available by Kayak and motor vessels in nearby towns.
 27. Barren view Golf Course in Jonesboro 9-holes, 2,741 Yards long

PUBLIC ACCESS TO SURFACE WATER

Within the town of Addison, there are four public landings, Addison Point, South Addison, West River and The Narrows, that include recreational boating facilities, floats, piles and gangways, ramp extensions and a commercial boat section. Approximately 168 public and private mooring areas are available located throughout Addison. The majority of local fishermen use private commercial wharves. Within the town there are three hard surfaced boat launch ramps. More detailed information on commercial fishing access is provided in the Natural Resources Chapter, Access to the Marine Resource.

Addison also includes several beautiful islands, each with beaches of various sizes and composition. The islands are privately and state owned. State regulations stipulate boat access and use up to the high water mark, which limits general use.

The town of Addison needs to investigate ways to preserve the quality of the local community that depend on access to the shore for their livelihood, with a healthy percentage of seasonal homes as well.

Many recreation resources in Addison are used traditionally by the public in the absence of public ownership or any formal access or use arrangement. Other formal access sites or agreements have been neglected or forgotten over the years. The town has identified all formal public access points in Table G-2. They are also depicted on Map 8, Marine Resources and Public Access.

Table G-2 Water Access in Addison

Waterbody	Location/Road name Section, Block and Parcel #	Ownership Status	Amenities/ Needs
Pleasant River	Addison Point Town Landing Map 1, Lot 28	Fee ownership	Floats; grant pending
Cape Split Bar	Cape Split Bar Map 28	Fee ownership	
East side of Eastern Harbor-	South Addison Town Landing at Otter Cove Map	Fee ownership	Parking lot expansion; pier

Waterbody	Location/Road name Section, Block and Parcel #	Ownership Status	Amenities/ Needs
	23. Lot 30		
Southern end of Moose Neck	The Narrows Map 23, Lot 19	Fee ownership	Walking path around shore (1/5 mile) with several points for picnic
West side of West River	West River Town Landing at High Rocks Map 18, Lot 59	Fee ownership	
	Arthur Smith Subdivision Map 18, Lot 79	Fee ownership	

Source: Addison Town Office

SCENIC AREAS

The following areas possess especially significant scenic beauty:

1. View of Pleasant Bay at The Bar at Cape Split, Map 22 – Lot
2. The ocean view at The Narrows, Map 23 – Lot 19
3. View of Crowley Island from the Basin Road, Map 18 from roadway
4. View from the top of Hall’s Hill (Indian River Village and Western Bay) Map 12 from the roadway
5. View from Bickford Point (West River Bay and several islands) Map 18
6. Many ocean views from Cape Circle, Map 22
7. View of Addison Village from Church Hill Lane, Map 1 – Lots 21, 22 & 23
8. View of Addison Point and Pleasant Rive Estuary at Wescogus Corner, Map 5 – Lots 5, 6, 7 & 8

It is important to protect the natural land formations of Addison – shore, wildness, open views, open water – in order to protect the people’s way of life and livelihood. The Scenic Resources identified have little or no protection other than minimally through Shoreland Zoning and Subdivision regulation, which may not be adequate to guarantee long range preservation; therefore further consideration of means for protection are being considered.

LAND USE OPTIONS TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE

Open space is an important part of recreational assets of a community. In some cases the advantage is that the land is particularly scenic, or used for recreation and access. A number of options can be used to protect open space, including government purchase of private land, donation, non-profit ownership, voluntary deed restrictions including conservation easements, or regulations like zoning and subdivision ordinances that seek to reserve open areas in new developments. In addition, the Tree Growth Tax Law program, and Farm Land and Open Space Tax Law can serve to protect open space. In 2003 there were 46 parcels totaling 5140.7 acres in tree growth tax status in Addison. There are also currently 7 parcels totaling 148 acres in the Farm (72 acres of cropland and 76 acres of woodland) and 5 parcels totaling 255+ acres in Open Space tax status in Addison.

Addison’s land use ordinances do not contain provisions for open space or cluster development, yet incentives or requirements for preservation are found in the ordinances of other towns. Traditionally, local attitudes have been that unimproved land is often seen as a shared resource, e.g. for hunting, four-wheeling, and though privately owned, the land can be used by the residents because everyone knows each other. This notion has changed, especially in the

past decade, due in part to the influx of people from away. As more and more residents restrict the use of their land, it is harder to sustain the illusion that large amounts of private land are available for public use. This makes the limited amount of public access provided on town-owned lands increasingly important to residents.

Public Opinion Survey

Chapter L – town survey results provide a full graphical summary of responses to questions about the adequacy of existing recreational facilities and the priorities placed on retaining or obtaining more such services. All written comments from the survey are also reproduced in Appendix A.

To summarize for purposes of policy development here, survey responses

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

In order to improve the provision of recreational opportunities, the town has developed the following policies and implementation strategies:

Goal: Addison will maintain and improve access to recreational opportunities particularly water access.			
Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Public Access			
Encourage recreational opportunities and increase public access to surface water.	Fund improvements on town owned land, including landing facilities, as described in the Capital Improvement Plan.	Selectmen	Immediate
	Support recreational planning at Ordway property. To develop handicap accessible trails and parking.	Selectmen	Short-term; as funding allows
Ensure that traditional use of lands and access to water are protected as development pressures increase.	Respect private property rights but seek to maintain traditional uses of any private roads or rights of way to the water. Negotiations with private land owners to secure these accesses will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement/celebration of landowners who continue the centuries old practice of allowing public use of their lands; • Informal agreements allowing public use of lands; • More formal agreements allowing public use of lands until and unless problems arise from disrespectful use of private land (eg. Leaving gates open, littering, vandalism); • Providing property tax incentives 		

Goal: Addison will maintain and improve access to recreational opportunities particularly water access.			
Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
	<p>to property owners who grant written, revocable rights of access across their property;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing rights of first refusal for access points or property of critical importance to the fishery; • Purchasing permanent easements or fee title to access points or property of critical importance to the fishery. 		
Secure public access to the water including deep water facilities and maintaining traditional accesses to shellfishing areas.	Pursue the wide variety of available measures to secure such accesses. These could include: Landowner negotiations, Cooperation with local land trusts, Accepting donations of land or easements, Purchase of easements or land, Use of Land for Maine's Future funds.	Selectmen	On-going and as funding allows
	The town will educate itself on the legalities of public access to the shore and stay up to date on changes in case law that could affect it over time.	Selectmen	On-going
Open Space			
Encourage the preservation of open space.	Pursue the acquisition of rights of way and property to increase recreation and open space.	Selectmen or their designee	On-going
	Request any major sub-divisions to include recreation and open space areas in the plan.	Planning Board	On-going
	Restoring 300 acres of salt marsh to its original pre 1940 condition.	Selectman and Study Committee	On-going
Education			
Encourage and support traditional uses of land and sea.	Develop educational materials describing traditional uses and practices, including issues such as shore access, hunting, working waterfront and commercial fishing, and community institutions.	Selectmen or their designee	On-going

SUMMARY

Addison has recreational opportunities that derive from the natural resources of the town, the region, and some municipal recreational facilities. Some of the town's most important recreational resources rely on shorefront access, which we should seek to maintain and improve.