

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

KEY TRENDS

- The town and CELT open space holdings increased 240 acres or 22% from 2006-2017.
- Residents will likely resist any initiatives that did not protect any existing parks, outdoor recreational areas and trails.*
- There is majority support for using Fort Williams to raise funds for the Town.*

*2017 Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

Residents rank town parks, open space and trails as the highest rated local services.* The town has a long history of funding (\$2 million +) the purchase of land for open space preservation and recreation. The town budget includes a Land acquisition fund and has supplemented this fund with bonding to purchase or partner to purchase land and easements. In 1985, the town's efforts were supplemented with the establishment of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, which has partnered with the town numerous times to preserve open space. Cape Elizabeth will continue to use this multifaceted approach when pursuing the preservation of unique or significant open space land parcels in Cape Elizabeth.

*2017 Comprehensive Plan public opinion survey

Major Open Space

The Town of Cape Elizabeth holds, in fee and easement, 990 acres of land managed for public open space, and increase of 159 acres since 2006. In addition, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) manages 580 acres where public access is allowed, which includes 250 acres of easements on land owned by the town. Town and CELT open space totals approximately 1,310 acres. This is an increase of 240 acres since 2006, or an increase of 22%. The community standard of open space (acres of public access open space / 1,000 population) has increased from 118 acres in 2006 to 143 acres in 2017. This does not include 36157 acres of land owned by the State of Maine and the U.S. Government available for open space and recreation. Public open space has increased through purchase of land for preservation and acquisition of land through development review.

Community Open Space Standard

	1993	2006	2017
Population	8854 (US Census 1990)	9068 (US Census 2000)	9157 (ACS 2015)
Total Open Space (Town and CELT in acres)	22.5	1070	1310
Percentage of town (based on 15 sq. miles)	2.2%	11.5%	13.7%
Community Standard (acres of open space/1,000 population)	24 acres/1,000	118 acres/1,000	143 acres/1,000

Source: Town records

~~While residents are very satisfied with park and recreation facilities, there is less robust support for increasing park and recreational facilities. Compared to other topics for support, seventy-four percent strongly support (27%) or moderately support (47%) efforts to increase park facilities. Comparatively, seventy-four percent strongly support (23%) or moderately support (51%) efforts to increase recreational facilities. (2017 Comprehensive Plan public opinion survey) This is consistent with results of the Future Open Space Preservation Committee survey (FOSP) in 2013.~~

A comprehensive inventory of town open space is included in the Management of Greenbelt and Open Space Plan, adopted in 2012, and included by reference in this comprehensive plan. The management plan symbolizes a maturing of the town's open space program to invest resources in management of existing open space equally with acquisition. The financial resources invested in open space, coupled with its management efforts, highlights the town's stature as a responsible conservation organization.

The management plan, prepared by the conservation commission and adopted by the town council, formalizes policies for activities on public open space. Open space parcels are grouped into 8 subregions, which facilitates managing trail corridors. An open space activities chart was created as a quick reference. Activities allowed were established based on the "management group" each open space was assigned (Activities prohibited by deed are automatically excluded). Management groups are summarized below.

Group 1: These are lots dominated by significant environmental features such as wetlands and water bodies. The primary benefit of these lots is as habitat for wildlife and buffering adjacent neighborhoods. The town's intent is to leave this land in its natural state. A trail might be proposed at some point, especially as a linkage to the greenbelt trail network, however pedestrian activity is not encouraged at this time.

Group 2: Little public improvements are found on lots in this group. The lots are primarily wooded and casual access by the public is anticipated, but trails may or may be present.

Group 3: Most of these lots are small and often isolated from the greenbelt network. Nevertheless, they are valued by the adjacent neighborhood as a natural open space or a gathering space for neighborhood-based events. For this reason, these lots are important, even though they often do not directly connect to the greenbelt trail network at this time.

Group 4: Lots in this group have an abundance of trails. In some cases, the lot's sole purpose is to provide a trail link.

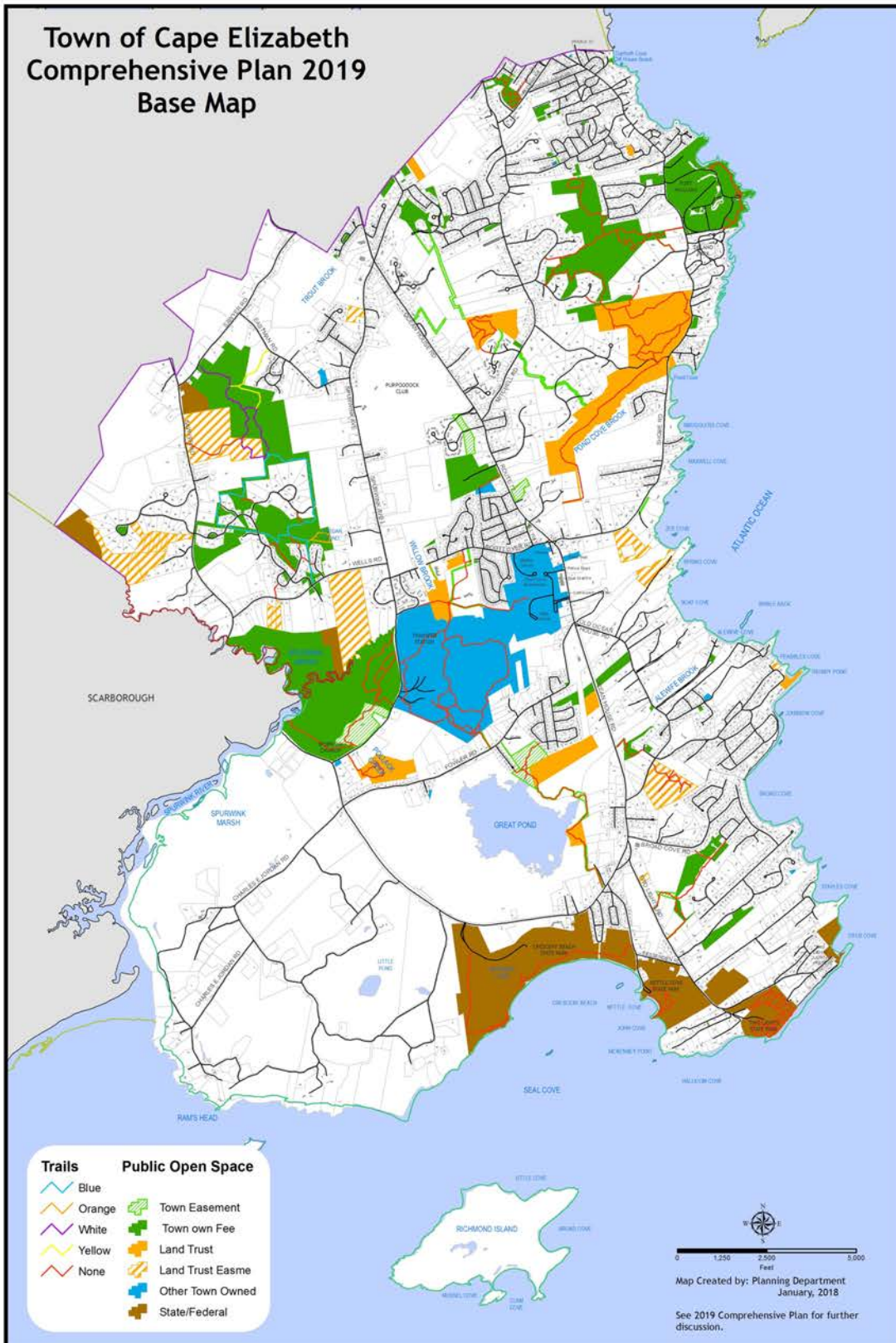
Group 5: This group is made up of the premier town open spaces, for the most part the largest lots which host a multiple of uses in addition to open space. Many of these lots offer parking for visitors who live out of walking range.

The following chart lists town owned / easement open space. The most significant open spaces are on the Primary list, and the remaining land on the Secondary list. Open space is grouped by subregion.

PRIMARY OPEN SPACES The spaces below generally are the largest town open space areas offering a wider range of uses and facilities or are located in significant natural areas where public access is desired	Size (in acres)	Location	Map-Lot	Year Acquired	Management Group
Northeast Area					
Dyer Woods	5.4	Woodland/Mitchell/ Blueberry Rd	U43-17-20	2004	2/4
Cliff House Beach	0.3	Seaview Ave	U2-63	1961	3
Stonegate Area					
Fort Williams (4)(7)	97.2	Shore Rd	U48-2, 2	1964, 1993	5
Stonegate Trails	86.6	Stonegate	U6-18, U6-18C, U51-9, U57-18	1984, 1986, 1994	5
Robinson Woods II Public Access Esmt	1.9	Shore Rd	R2-1	2012	5
Loveitt Woods	18.0	Sherwood Forest	R1-2	2007, 2013	5
Loveitt north access	0.9	Glenden Rd	U4-99K	2016	
Loveitt north easement	0.02	Glenden Rd	U4-99F	2017	
Plaisted Park (5)	3.5	Shore Rd	U6-89, U6-89A	1975	5
Interior Area					
Canterbury License	41.0	Columbus Rd	U29-66	2016	
Cottage Brook	12.6	Aster Ln	U49-59A	2014	4
Lions Field (5)	25.0	Ocean House Rd	U24-1	1972	5
Columbus Lot	1.0	Columbus Rd	U32-6	1972	3
Great Pond Area					
Broad Cove Trails	20.6	Pine Ridge Rd	U36-84, 93-104	1994, 1991	4
Great Pond Condos Easement	9.5	Fenway Rd	R6-28-999	1984	4
Great Pond Sprague Easements (7)	6.6	Fenway Rd	R6-29	1983, 2009	4
Great Pond Fenway Connector (7)	0.1	Fenway Rd	U44-35	2002	4
Great Pond Golden Ridge Ped Esmt	0.4	Golden Ridge Ln	U17-50	2005	4
Great Pond Jordan Pedestrian Esmt	0.5	Fenway Rd	R3-2A	2009	4
Two Lights Pond Pedestrian Esmt	1.7	Two Lights Rd	U37-5-3	1988	4
Two Lights Pillsbury Pedestrian Esmt	0.1	Two Lights Rd	U39-4-1	2002	4
Two Lights St. Bart's Easement	1.7	Two Lights Rd	U37-4-1	1999	4
Two Lights Sullivan Pedestrian Esmt	0.2	72 Two Lights Rd	U39-3	2002	4
Whaleback Trails	5.2	Whaleback Way	R3-17A	2001	4
Gull Crest Area					
Gull Crest	177.0	Cooper Dr	R5-10	1998	5
Gull Crest Fowler Rd Conn Ped Esmt	0.2	Fowler Rd	U44-31	2003	4
School Campus (6)	64.8	Scott Dyer Rd	U21-12	1930, 1954, 1985	5
Marsh Area					
Cross Hill Trails	105.0	Cross Hill Rd	U58-1-2, U58-34, 35, 36, U59-35, 36, 37, U60-21	2000, 2007	4
Eastman Meadows	10.0	Cross Hill	R4-18-49	2011	4
Leighton Farms Trails	6.8	Wells/Leighton Farms Rd	R5-32	2003	4
Spurwink Marsh DOI Easement	16.5	Spurwink Ave	R5-13	1981	4
Town Farm	150.0	Spurwink Ave	R5-11	1800's	5
Winnick Woods	71.0	Sawyer Rd	R4-49B	1995	5

SECONDARY OPEN SPACES The spaces below generally are small and are valued by the adjoining neighborhood or public use is severely constrained by the natural physical characteristics of the lot	Size (in acres)	Location	Map-Lot	Year Acquired	Management Group
Northeast Area					
Abaco Lot	0.4	Abaco Dr	U33-74-14	2001	3
Abaco Pedestrian Easement	0.2	2 Abaco Dr	U33-74-9	1999	3
Baker Lot	0.2	Ocean View Rd	U3-92	1977	3
Dyer Woods Pedestrian Easements	0.0	Fernwood Rd	U34-1-6	2004	3
Holan Lots	3.1	Forest Rd/Ocean View Rd	U3-92, U3-94, U3-97, U3-98, U3-100, U3-110, U3-111	1970, 1977, 1970, 1957, 1975, 1977	1
Ivie Rd lot	0.1	Ivie Rd	U4-22	1958	1
Stonybrook Lot	0.2	Stonybrook Rd	U3-125	1976	3
Stonegate Area					
Arlington Lane Easement	3.0	Arlington Ln	U23-1-999	2003	1
Cranbrook Easement	6.8	Pond Cove Brook	U30-22, U30-25, U30-36, U30-35, U30-37, U30-50, U30-52, U30-49, U30-45,	1980	1
Shore Road Pond	1.1	Shore Rd	U8-10D	1979	1
Coastal Area					
Alewive Brook Lot	0.3	Old Ocean House Rd	R03-2	2004	3
Alewive Cove Lot(no road access)	0.5	Alewive Cove Rd	R3-3A-10	1976	1
Davis Woods	7.3	Old Ocean House Rd	R2-13, 13A	1963	2
Eastfield Lot	0.4	Eastfield Rd	U42-1-29	1995	1
Trout Brook Area					
Ferne Peddy Lots	3.7	North St	U29-38, U29-29, 29A		1
Queen Acres/State Ave	0.7	State Ave	U28-33B	1972, 1980	3
Rice Lot	0.2	Spurwink Ave	U29-31B	2013	2
Interior Area					
Bothel Pedestrian Easement	1.4	Ocean House Rd	U26-6B	2009	2
Canterbury Easement	0.8	Columbus Rd	U29-66-999	1982	1
Canterbury Tank House Lot	0.03	Ocean House Rd	U29-67	1976	1
Hobstone Pedestrian Easement	0.04	Hobstone	U30-100	1982	4
McAuley Lot	0.5	McAuley Rd	U49-4	1984	3
Patricia Lot	0.5	Patricia Dr	U35-25A	1970	1
Tarbox Triangle	0.2	Ocean House Rd	U23-4	1976	3
Wildwood Easement	7.5	Wildwood	U24-9	1981	2
Great Pond Area					
Broad Cove Lot	8.3	Jordan Farm Rd	U55-7	1991	1
McKenney Point Lot	0.1	McKenney Point Rd	U41-9	1969	3
Gull Crest Area					
Fowler Rd Corner lot	0.2	Fowler Rd	U20-7C	1983	3
Hannaford Lot	0.8	Hampton Rd	U19-6B	1968	1
Longfellow Lot	0.2	Longfellow Dr	U21-64	1946	3
Scott Dyer Rd Connector Easement	0.8	Scott Dyer Rd	R5-2	1999	4
Marsh Area					
Autumn Tides Lot	0.5	Wells/ Autumn Tides Rd	R5-33	2005	3
Eastman Meadows Ped/Pkg Easements	0.6	Eastman Rd	R4-18-999	2011	4
Park Circle	1.1	Park Circle	U54-9B	1989	3

Town of Cape Elizabeth Comprehensive Plan 2019 Base Map



The most significant municipal open space areas are Fort Williams Park and Portland Head Light (98 acres), the Town Farm (150 acres), Gull Crest (120 acres), the Cross Hill Trail system (115 acres), Winnick Woods (7157 acres), and Robinson Woods (16450 acres), which is owned by CELT. State parks include Two Lights State Park (42 acres, 2,200 linear feet of coastline), Crescent Beach State Park (212 acres, 4,400 linear feet of coastline) and Kettle Cove State Park (67 acres, 4,400 linear feet of coastline). The U.S. Coast Guard (8 acres) also owns waterfront land at the end of Two Lights Rd.

Fort Williams Park

The most significant town open space is Fort Williams Park. It encompasses 98 acres of stunning waterfront views of the Atlantic Ocean, rocky coastline and a small beach, and Portland Head Light, probably the most photographed lighthouse in the world. The main focus of the park is Portland Head Light, an automated lighthouse originally commissioned by the nation's first president, George Washington. The town operates a museum and gift shop associated with the lighthouse. Other park features include historic batteries, athletic fields, arboretum, a cliff walk and other walkways, tennis courts and two event facilities, the picnic shelter and the beach shelter. The town also rents out office space in the "officers row" buildings.

The park includes several historic structures (See Historic and Archaeological Resources Chapter for list). Historic elements have been managed as integral elements of the park. Historic structures on the National Register of Historic Places should continue to be preserved. Other historic elements should be evaluated and managed consistent with the overall management goals for the park.

The Arboretum at Fort Williams Park is a privately funded effort to eliminate invasive species at 17+ sites within the park. Arboretum gardens have been established at Battery Hobart, the Cliff Walk and the Children's Garden.



Fort Williams was a military fort until 1961, when it was purchased by the Town of Cape Elizabeth from the U.S. Government. The Fort Williams Park Committee, a 7-member volunteer committee, advises the town council on policies and activities programmed for the park. The committee periodically prepares a Fort Williams Park Master Plan, which features infrastructure improvements. The last plan was done in 2011 and will need to be updated in the next 2-3 years. The most recent Fort Williams Master Plan is incorporated as a component of the comprehensive plan. A private, non-profit group, the Fort Williams Park Foundation, has also been formed as a fund-raising partner.

Fort Williams Park is a popular destination not just for the abutting neighborhoods and town residents, but also for visitors from the region, state, nation and internationally. Cruise ships that dock in Portland Harbor result in significantly higher visitors to the park (demonstrated by spikes in gift shop sales). Tour bus companies also deliver visitors to the park. The town conducted a speed and volume study on November 16, 2017. The following volume counts were collected.

Fort Williams Park Traffic Counts, 2017

Sat. 9/23/17	Sun. 9/24/17	Mon. 9/25/17	Tues. 9/26/17	Wed. 9/27/17	Thur. 9/28/17	Fri. 9/29/17
2,711	2,481	1,628	1,609	1,558	1,442	1,499

Source: VHB Speed and Volume Data Collection, November 16, 2017.

Typical programmed events include Little League baseball, softball and t-ball, the Cape Elizabeth High School graduation ceremony, and Family Fun Day. Events such as the Beach to Beacon Race, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K walk, and the Taste of the Nation (No Hungry Kid campaign) are also held at Fort Williams Park. The park is also a popular venue for private family events, some of which reserve the Picnic Shelter, or Ship Cove Platform, Gazebo or Band Stand.~~beach shelter.~~

Some of the park's infrastructure dates back to its days as a military fort. With the last master plan, the town has made major investments to replace deteriorated infrastructure and modernize features such as parking lots to accommodate its new use as a public recreation area. One update that has not been completed is the installation of a public sewer line connection from Shore Rd to support public restrooms.

In order to finance necessary improvements, the town established a fee for tour buses to visit the park and also annually leases out space to food vendors. A portion of the gift shop sales are designated for park maintenance.

In the last few years, town residents have begun to question if the volume of non-resident visitors to the park are reducing park enjoyment and access by residents. Increased use is also resulting in park maintenance costs that perhaps should be borne by visitors rather than municipal taxpayers.

At the March 12, 2018 meeting the town council adopted the following vision for Fort Williams Park:

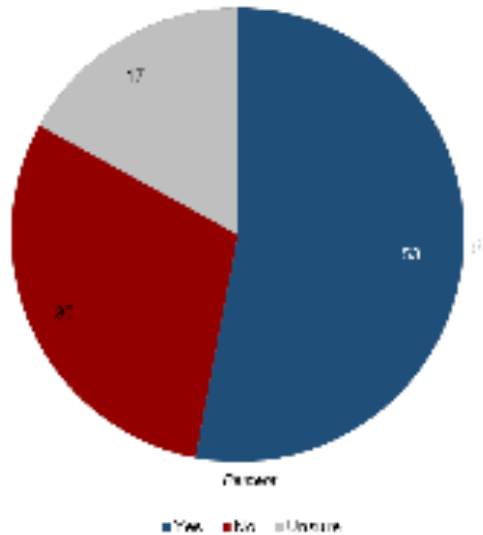
The town's vision for Fort Williams Park is to provide a safe, high quality space for Cape Elizabeth citizens and visitors to enjoy. We will protect and maintain access to the park's historic elements and natural beauty for this and all future generations, and optimize the town's stewardship by managing the park through financially and ecologically sustainable practices.

A subcommittee of the Fort Williams Park Committee has also submitted recommendations for changes to the revenue generating measures in the park. The town council will be considering those recommendations in 2018. The town has repeatedly considered instituting a parking fee, which has failed to win majority support in past nonbinding referendum votes. The town council will be considering a pay / display parking fee system in 2018. The 2017 Comprehensive

Plan public opinion survey queried residents about revenue generation in Fort Williams as follows:

Should the Town should utilize Fort Williams Park to generate funds?

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Other major open spaces

Gull Crest (120 acres) is a facility that includes a sewer treatment plant, the Public Works Facility, the recycling center, athletic fields, a community garden and greenbelt trails. Use of Gull Crest is increasing since access to the school complex and the rest of the town was established with the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Spurwink River. Large tracts of additional land, including the Town Farm across the street, are available to provide additional open space capacity.

Across Spurwink Ave from Gull Crest is the Town Farm, a 150 acre parcel includes much of the Spurwink Marsh. The land was originally donated to the town by Thomas Jordan in approximately 1835 "for the benefit of the poor." In the 1994~~x~~, the town "purchased" the land as open space and used the purchase price to create the "Thomas Jordan fund" to benefit the poor. The upland portion of the property provides expansive views of the marsh, and is popular for walking, skiing and snowmobiling. In 2000, a 50 year conservation easement was donated to CELT.

Winnick Woods is a 71 acre lot located in the northwest part of town. The land was donated to the town with conservation restrictions that limit land uses to passive activities. The Master Plan lays out a trail system that creates loops

within the property and connects it to abutting town lands and the greenbelt trail system.

The Cross Hill open space (120 acres) is a network of trails that connects to the south of Winnick Woods. Winnick Woods and Cross Hill are managed as a single trail corridor. All of the Cross Hill trail system has been assembled from open space required from the Cross Hill, Leighton Farms and Eastman Meadows developments.

Robinson Woods is a 100+ acre preserve located on the west side of Shore Rd and owned by CELT. It is a mix of woods and meadow with public trails.

The town is fortunate to be the home of 3 state parks that provide most of the public access to the waterfront.

Two Lights State Park (42 acres) offers approximately 2,200 linear feet of coastline. This park opened in 1961 and features a rocky coastline with sweeping views of ships entering the Portland Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean. The park offers a network of paths crossing through forested lands and along seaside rock ledges. Popular activities include walking, sightseeing, picnicking, and sunbathing.

Crescent Beach State Park (212 acres) was opened in 1966. As part of the 212 acres, the State leases approximately 100 acres from the adjacent Sprague Corporation. This park area is accessed publicly from its main entrance to its ample parking area off of Bowery Beach Road (Route 77). Beachgoers frequent the beach area and recreational boat and other marine related recreational equipment can be launched from this beach area as well. The park's sandy beach extends approximately 4,400 linear feet in a crescent shape that connects to the east with Kettle Cove State Park lands. In addition to picnicking, sunbathing and swimming, the park offers walking trails and opportunities for fishing, kayaking, and paddle boarding/sailboarding.

Kettle Cove State Park (67 acres) includes approximately 4,400 linear feet of shoreline. This park is accessed from Kettle Cove Road and includes a 67+/- space paved parking lot for users of the park. The park features public beach access and commercial boat launches, a sandy beach area, and supports a variety of coastal activities and wildlife habitat. The town's commercial fishing fleet and the town's Water Extraction Team (WETeam) use Boat Cove within the state park limits for boat launching in marine emergency response situations.

The federal government through the U.S Coast Guard (8 acres) controls the access to the ocean from the lands associated with Dyer Cove at its facility at the end of Two Lights Road in the southeastern portion of the Town. The Coast Guard allows the public to access the rocky beach via a gravel parking lot beyond the paved roadway.

Greenbelt Trails

As noted above, greenbelt trails are highly valued by town residents. The Town's first Greenbelt Plan was prepared in 1973. The goal of the plan was to create a green walkway from Fort Williams Park, located on the northeast shore of town, to Crescent Beach State Park, located on the southern end. The Greenbelt Plan was updated in 1989, 2001, and 2013, and with each plan, the greenbelt expanded throughout the town. The current Greenbelt Plan, incorporated by reference into this comprehensive plan, has the following vision:

Greenbelt Vision: Our vision is one in which the Town of Cape Elizabeth preserves open space, maintains the town's rural character, preserves wildlife habitat, and creates opportunities for residents to enjoy a town wide greenbelt trail system which connects open space. This plan is a guide to the realization of that vision.

The plan includes an equally broad concept of a "greenbelt trail."

Greenbelt Trail: A nature path, sidewalk, boardwalk, bridge or other facility established on properties for which the town has public access rights. For the most part, trails are located in undeveloped areas, but may also be within neighborhoods, especially when creating a connection between the neighborhood and undeveloped areas. Trails are designed primarily for pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle use, although horses and snowmobiles are allowed on certain designated trails. Only trails for which there are legal public access rights are considered part of the Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt.

The 2013 Greenbelt Plan includes 23 trail "links," where potential trails may be expanded, subject to the willing cooperation of private property owners where trails may be located on private property.

Seven existing trails are currently located on paper streets, which are conveniently located to connect neighborhoods to the greater greenbelt network. In 2016, the town accepted or extended its paper street rights in 25 paper streets, in whole or part to preserve the opportunity for greenbelt trails. The town is currently engaged in litigation regarding possible public access rights on waterfront paper streets known as Surfside Ave and Atlantic Place in the Shore Acres neighborhood.

Trail use is extensive across several user groups and ages. This is due in part to the town's effort in building new trails, posting signage for trails, publishing a trails map, and posting trail maps on the town website. The town's management plan, referenced above, has been effective in minimizing user conflicts by clearly identifying uses allowed on town open space and establishing clear policies for trail users.

The town has an estimated 24 miles of public access trails located on town land, CELT property, and state and federal lands. Over 18 miles of these trails are managed by the Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee on behalf of the Town of Cape Elizabeth.

Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt Trails			
Number	Name	Length in miles	Ownership
1	Stonegate	1.2	Town
2	Hobstone Woods	0.75	Land Trust
3	Broad Cove	0.4	Town
4	Great Pond	1.5	Joint
5	Town Center	0.8	Joint
6	Runaway Farm	0.4	Land Trust
7	Spurwink	1.4	Town
8	Dyer-Hutchinson Farm	0.8	Land Trust
9	Gull Crest	18.3	Town
10	Cross Hill	2.3	Town
11	Robinson Woods	3	Land Trust
12	Two Lights	0.5	Town
13	Winnick Woods	0.8	Town
14	Whaleback	0.3	Town
15	Leighton Farms	0.4	Town
16	Dyer Woods	0.75	Town
17	Turkey Hill	0.5	Land Trust
18	Scott Dyer	0.4	Town
19	Canterbury	1.5	Town (license)
20	Great Pond Preserve II	0.5	CELT

Source: Town of Cape Elizabeth records, 2018

Since the first Greenbelt Plan was prepared in 1975, the town has pursued a goal of creating a greenbelt trail that extends from Fort Williams Park to Crescent Beach. The Town of Cape Elizabeth and the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) have both worked to preserve land and acquire public access rights to establish what is now called the Cross Town Trail.

The Cross Town Trail is actually several trails that have been nurtured over decades. Of the 7.5 miles that make up the Cross Town Trail, 4.1 miles are on land or easements held by the Town of Cape Elizabeth. CELT hosts 1.3 miles of trails. CELT and the Town jointly host another 1.1 miles of trails. The final 1.1 miles are located on town roads.

The Cross Town Trail is located on publicly owned land, land owned by CELT and on private lands where property owners have provided rights for public access. The incremental development of the Cape Elizabeth greenbelt is

exemplified in the Cross Town Trail. Almost 40% of the trail length has been acquired by purchase of property or easements. Approximately 32% has been acquired through development review by the pPlanning bBoard, with advice from the cConservation cCommittee. About 5% has been acquired through the generous donation of land or easements by cCape property owners and about 17% is located on public roads.

Local Regulations

Over one third of Town of Cape Elizabeth open space, 350 acres, has been obtained through pPlanning bBoard review of new development. This is the result of a decades long practice where the tTown requires that new development set aside permanently preserved open space. Currently, this standard is accomplished through aggressive clustering of new development which requires that 40% / 45% of gross land area be set aside as open space. Clustering is mandatory in the Residence B District and optional in the Residence A and Residence C District. Almost all new residential development is clustered.

In the few developments where clustering is not used, an open space impact fee standard requires that a portion of land be set aside for open space or a fee be paid, at the discretion of the pPlanning bBoard. The current open space fee is \$6,729 per lot/unit. These regulations should preserve the current ratio of open space per household.

As an offshoot of the implementation of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan, the town established the Future Open Space Preservation Committee (FOSP) in 2012. The committee was charged with a series of tasks to quantify town open space needs and thoroughly examine ways to meet those needs. One task was to develop an "open space" definition, which follows:

Open space: Land and water areas, either public or private, maintained in an essentially undeveloped state (which may include athletic fields) for use as active or passive recreation, wildlife habitat, agriculture, or preservation.

The committee's work included a fiscal analysis of open space preservation and a public opinion survey. Based on the fiscal analysis, FOSP "recommended that open space preservation is a strongly valued community goal and should continue. This fiscal analysis, however, does not support the preservation of open space purely from an avoidance of costs by the town at this time." FOSP also recommended that a that "the Town Council implement a Pennies for Open Space policy to fund the land acquisition fund." This has been reflected in the municipal budget since 2013.

In 2013, as an outcome of the management plan described above, the town adopted Chapter 18, Article V, Open Space Management, which codifies open space management policies.

Public Facilities

The **t**own manages several athletic fields throughout the town and also operates a community pool located at the high school. Athletic fields are listed below.

Location/Name	Facility
Fort Williams	1 M ultipurpose field 2 Little League fields 1 Little League T-ball 3 Tennis Courts Preschool playground
Gull Crest	2 multipurpose fields (plus 1 approved but not constructed)
Lions Field	2 Little League fields (plus 1 approved but not constructed)
Plaisted Park	1 Little League field
School Campus	Holman baseball field Capano softball field 1 multipurpose field Hannaford Turf field Rey Moulton baseball field 6 Tennis courts 3 Playgrounds Track Basketball court

Cape Elizabeth youth are heavily involved in a wide range of organized sports, including T-ball, baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, golf, basketball, swimming, **n**Nordic skiing, field hockey, track, cross country running, football, hockey, and tennis. In addition, for many sports, there are multiple teams at different age levels, as well as school sponsored and privately supported teams, such as travel soccer.

The field needs of most teams are accommodated primarily within the town, although the hockey and nordic skiing teams rely on out of town facilities. The **n**Nordic skiing team uses a trail specifically designed for nordic skiing in Gull Crest.

Community Services

The **c**ommunity **s**ervices **d**epartment is located in the Town Center and offers a full range of services in a building renovated in 2002. The department was shifted from the **s**chool **d**epartment and created as a **t**own **d**epartment in 2013. The **c**ommunity **s**ervices **c**ommittee is a 7-member volunteer board that provides input on department programming.

Approximately 400-500 people are in the cCommunity sServices bBuilding every day. Below is a summary of the program and participation in cCommunity sService programs, including the pool and fitness center, for FY 2018.

Adult Education	Programs per year	Registrations per year
General Enrichment	200	4000
Senior citizen Programs	51	1100
Youth Recreation Program	Programs per year	Registrations per year
Saturday Skill Builders	40	1600
After School Enrichment	165	3300
Preschool Programs	24	240
Teen Programs	16	210
Summer Programs	Programs	Participants
Preschool Camp	7 weeks	145
Middle School Camp	7 weeks	185
Day Camp	7 weeks	665
Athletic, Dance, Enrichment Camps	43	350
Richards Community Pool & Fitness Center		Registrations per month
Fitness Center Day passes		216
Memberships (pool & fitness)		830 per year
Adult Swims		1500
Open Swims		335
Instructional Pool Programs - Adults		329
Instruction Pool Programs - Youth		230
Pool Parties		90 per year

Source: Town of Cape Elizabeth Community Services Department

The cCommunity sServices dDepartment is expanding programs for our youngest and oldest residents. The Cape Care program, consisting of our preschool and before and aftercare programs, has grown to near full capacity. We presently have 25 students in our preschool, 17-22 students in our before care program and 50-60 students in our aftercare program. The aftercare program is at full capacity due to space limitations. With the growth of our preschool, we now offer additional programming for this age group. Swim lessons, dance and yoga are offered during our preschool day. A new playground was built in 2017 to accommodate our growing program. This playground is located at the high school and is available for others to utilize when not being used by our programs.

Expansion of our senior offerings is possible with the purchase of a 14-passenger mini-bus. We offer day trips at a reasonable rate, often sharing these trips with other local recreation departments. We no longer have to work around the school's daily transportation schedule and the former van-for-hire option added cost to our seniors. A future need may be to hire or make available a driver to transport our aging population for daily needs, such as grocery shopping, banking or appointments in the South Portland /Portland area.

Overall, the participation rate in community services programs continues to grow. The lower level/garage area of the Community Center was renovated to accommodate a large spin bike and stretching area. The location now holds 40 spin bikes, one of the largest spin bike offerings in the Portland area.

Public Access to the Water

Cape Elizabeth is a community surrounded by water on three sides. To the east and south is the Atlantic Ocean and to the west is the Spurwink River. In addition, the largest fresh water body in town, Great Pond, is located near the geographic center of town. Public access is available to all these water bodies.

The most dramatic municipal access to the Atlantic Ocean is at Fort Williams Park, which includes a small beach and waterfront trail. The following areas provide waterfront access to the public. All areas are shown on the open space map. The chart below summarizes water access on town land. In addition, there is ocean access from the US Coast Guard property located at the end of Two Lights Rd (est.1,330' of coastline), at Two Lights State Park (1,950,200' coastline), and Crescent Beach State Park (4,40790' of coastline) and Kettle Cove State Park (4,440' coastline).

Summary of Public Access to the Waterfront

Open Space Name	Size (acres)	Oceanfront (feet)	River frontage	Pond frontage
Dyer Woods	5.4	N	N	Y
Cliff House Beach	0.3	186	N	N
Fort Williams	97.2	5703	N	Y
Stonegate	86.6	N	N	Y
Robinson Woods	145	325	N	Y
Broad Cove	20.6	N	N	Y
Great Pond (Condo easement)	9.5	N	N	Y
Great Pond (Sprague easement)	6.6	N	N	Y
Two Lights (St. Bart's easement)	1.7	N	N	Y
Gull Crest	177	N	Y	Y
Cross Hill	105	N	N	Y
Spurwink Marsh (DOI easement)	16.5	N	Y	N
Town Farm	150	N	Y	N
Winnick Woods	71	N	N	Y
Coast Guard	9.52	2501	N	N
Two Lights State Park	42	2228	N	N
Kettle Cove State Park	57	4377	N	Y
Crescent Beach State Park	187	4378	N	N
Trundy Point	2.38	1306	N	N
TOTAL	1190.3	21,004	3	12
Percentage of Waterfront Town Acres	12%			
Percentage of Public Ocean front land	6%	22%		
Percentage of Town/CELT ocean front land		8%		
Percentage of greenbelt trails that traverse private property				18%
Percentage of greenbelt trails adjacent to private property				35%
Total Percentage of greenbelt trails traverse/adjacent private property				53%

Source: Town records

The remaining waterfront is held in private ownership. Some private waterfront areas, however, are visible from public ways or otherwise accessible to the public. For example, The Lobster Shack Restaurant, located on a rocky point of land in the southeastern corner of the town, also provides dramatic water view from its picnic area, and is a popular area for tourists. Residents indicated in the telephone survey that adequate public access to the water is available. Due to the slow growth rate, no increase in waterfront access is anticipated.

Fresh water access to two points on Great Pond, including a boat launch, is available through easements owned by the Town and the Land Trust. Access to the Spurwink River can be obtained through the Town Farm, however, boat access is much more practical just over the municipal boundary in Scarborough off Route 77.

Private Open Space

Use of private open space, particularly trail access, has been declining as land is sold and/or developed.

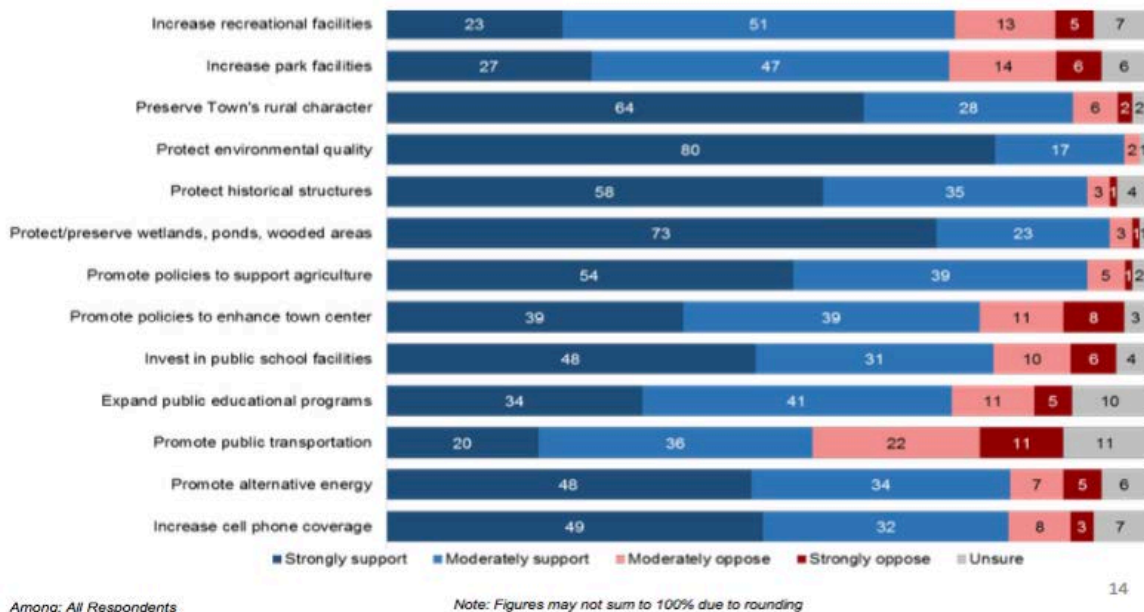
The Sprague Corporation is the town's largest land owner with over 2,100 acres or 20% of the town. Most of this acreage is undeveloped and managed as field or forest land. In 1999, the Sprague Corporation prepared a master plan that included the creation of a 62 lot subdivision that delineated the expected build-out for the next 40 years. The lots were laid out in clusters and the majority of land area will remain open space. Except for the Great Pond trail easement, there are no deeded public access rights on Sprague Corporation land. The Sprague Corporation does allow limited public access to Richmond Island by permit.

The Purpoodock Club operates a private, 219 acre golf course with clubhouse and restaurant located between Ocean House Rd and Spurwink Ave. The club allows informal public access for skiing during the winter months.

Municipal funding for open space

While residents are very satisfied with park and recreation facilities, there is less robust support for funding to increase park and recreational facilities. Compared to other areas with higher levels of support, seventy-four percent in total strongly support (27%) or moderately support (47%) efforts to increase park facilities. Comparatively, seventy-four percent in total strongly support (23%) or moderately support (51%) efforts to increase recreational facilities. (2017 Comprehensive Plan public opinion survey) This is consistent with results of the Future Open Space Preservation Committee survey (FOSP) in 2013.

Ten-Year Plan:



The town has an impressive history of funding land purchases for open space, in partnership with CELT and as an independent purchase. The town has also been flexible in how land purchases have been funded. Funding sources have included general taxation, capital improvement funding, municipal bond issues and impact fees. The municipal budget includes a standing land acquisition fund, to which the town has recommitted to an annual appropriation based on a penny (or more) added to the tax rate at the end of the budget process. It is the town's experience that residents are more supportive of open space funding when a specific property is under consideration than when a general appeal for a municipal land bond is considered. For this reason, prior suggestions to fund a general open space bond has not been supported.

Recreation and Open Space Goals

Goal 1: The amount of publicly accessible open space should be increased in order to preserve the current local standard of open space of 143 acres per 1,000 population.

Recommendations

1. Retain town regulations that promote open space preservation and management.
2. Establish a Strengthen the management program for the use of Fort Williams Park to prioritize the enjoyment by residents and balance the

burden on municipal taxpayers, including increasing revenues from non-resident visitors.

3. Continue to fund unique opportunities to preserve open space using methods including but not limited to annual contributions to the land acquisition fund, proceeds from land sales, general taxation, municipal bonding and partnerships with other governmental and private entities. Municipal funding should be contingent upon permanent public ownership, such as a public access easement, and public access rights. Increase funding of the Land Acquisition Fund, maximize other funding opportunities. Develop and implement funding and other alternatives to purchase open space.
4. Maintain a dialogue with major landowners regarding their future plans and discuss methods for preserving significant open space for recreation.

Goal 2: The tTown shall support the high level of resident participation in Community Services Programs and the high quality of the town's recreational facilities.

Recommendation

5. Continue to evaluate and adapt Community Service programming to meet the needs of the changing Cape Elizabeth population.