

**Appendix 5A**  
**Summary of the Inventory of Protected Land for Recreation in Harpswell**

**Introduction**

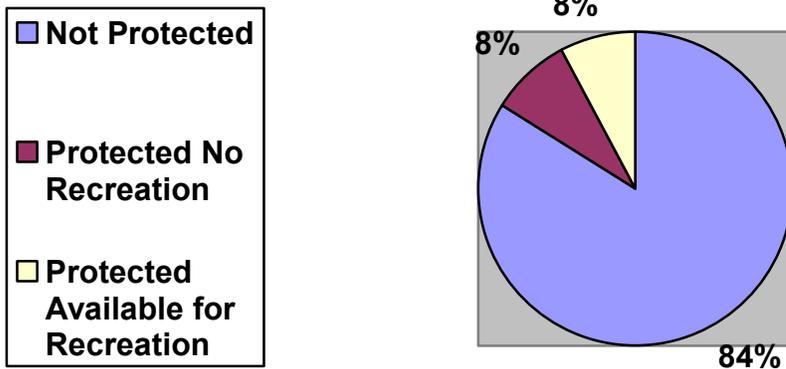
During the Open Space planning process, the residents of Harpswell expressed a high level of interest in preserving open space in the Town for recreation. In addition in a survey done by the Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission in 2007<sup>1</sup>, they also expressed strong support for improving access to the water and expanding the trails in Harpswell.

The Town has a Recreation Department and Committee whose mission is to provide leisure, educational, arts and sports programs, opportunities, facilities and services that enhance the quality of life for all residents of Harpswell. Information about recreational opportunities, including a list of the hiking trails in Harpswell, is available at the Town website under the heading called *Town Departments-Recreation* at [www.harpswell.maine.gov](http://www.harpswell.maine.gov).

**Summary of the Inventory of Protected Recreation Land in Harpswell**

The Town of Harpswell has a total of approximately 24.6 square miles of land or **15,700** acres of land in total. Of this amount, **2,518** acres or **16%** of the total land in the town is protected from development, as a result of its ownership by the town, state, federal government, non-profit groups, education institutions and/or civic, historic and cultural organization. Of the total land in Harpswell, **1213** acres or half of the protect land is available for recreational use by residents of the town. Please see **Chart 1** below.

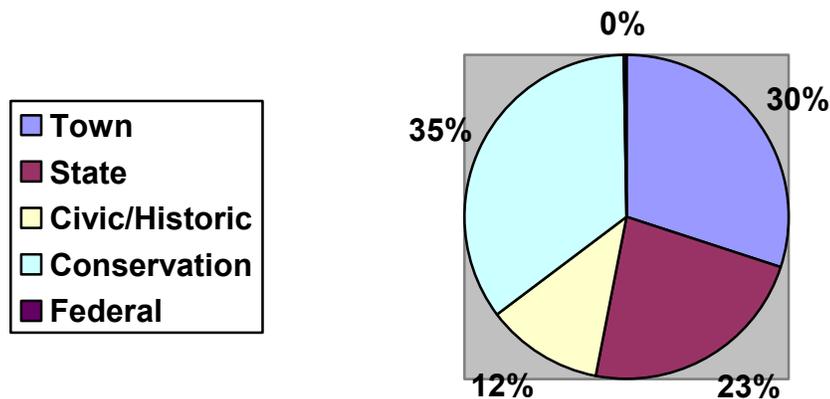
**Chart 1**  
**Percentage of Total Acres in Harpswell Available for Recreation**



<sup>1</sup>Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission Open Space Survey Report, May 23, 2007.

As can be seen in **Chart 2** below, the organizations that contribute to the availability of recreational land for public use in Harpswell are the Town, the State and the Federal Government and conservation organizations. Government groups account for about **53%** of the recreational land, conservation groups contribute **35%**, and civic, historic and cultural groups, including the two elementary schools, provide **12%** of the land which can be used for recreation in Harpswell.

**Chart 2**  
**Protected Recreational Land in Harpswell by Organization**



### Methodology

In 2007, members of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Harpswell prepared a list of properties in Harpswell that are protected from development (Please see **Appendix 13A and 13B** for this inventory). Each property was listed by its ownership, its type of development constraint (government, easement, covenant, long term lease, board of directors, or tax advantage), its map and lot number on the Town tax map, its number of acres and its address if relevant. In addition, each piece of property was rated as to whether or not it has **water** access for commercial fishing, contains important **habitat**, is considered **scenic**, has **cultural, historic or civic** importance to the town and/or whether it provides **recreational** opportunities for residents.

After this document was completed, **an Inventory of Protected Land for Recreation in Harpswell (see Appendix 5B)** was prepared, using the original inventory. Lands available for recreational use include the following types of properties which permit different types of recreation.

- 1) **Town Land (361 acres for recreation):** Town lands are owned by the Town of Harpswell and include a) Town landings and wharves, b) Town land, historic buildings and municipal buildings and c) Town islands. All of the Town Landings permit access for small boats to land and enter the water for recreational boating. Some of the Town land can be used for picnics and provides trails for

hiking. In addition, the Town owns one ball field and maintains two islands which can be used by members of the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) for picnicking, boat landing and camping. Membership in the Maine Island Trail Association is open to the public. The Town website provides information about the trails in Harpswell that are open to the public.

- 2) ***State Land (285 acres for recreation)***: State lands are owned by the State of Maine and include land and islands managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Baxter State Park Authority. A number of these properties are available for hiking and picnicking. Four of the properties owned by the State are part of the MITA and are available to members for picnicking, camping and/or boat landing.
- 3) ***Federal Lands (0.4 acres for recreation)***: Federal lands include islands owned by the United States of America. One of the islands owned by the USA includes an aid to navigation for boaters.
- 4) ***Conservation/Land Trust Nonprofit Organizations (426 acres for recreation)***: Three conservation non-profit organizations own or manage easements on property in Harpswell. These include the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, The Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Nature Conservancy. Each of these organizations manages properties that can be used for hiking, walking, picnicking, and/or camping. One of the HHLT properties is part of the Maine Island Trail Association.
- 5) ***Historic, Cultural and Civic Land and Buildings (141 acres for recreation)***: A variety of organizations own property of historic, cultural and civic importance to the residents of Harpswell. Some of these properties are available for recreational use. Bowdoin College owns the Thalheimer Farm and Wyer Island which has hiking trails open for resident use. Maine School Area District (MSAD) #75 owns the two elementary schools. Their play grounds can be used for recreation. The Harpswell Neck Physical Education Association manages two tennis courts near the Elijah Kellogg Church and the Holbrook Community Foundation operates a wharf which can be used by recreational boats to dock while they visit the restaurant.

## **Glossary of Terms Used**

The following terms are used in the inventory:

- 1) ***Ownership***: Provides the name of the owner of the property or category of owner. The categories of owners include town, state, federal government, educational institutions, private individuals, nonprofit organizations, and associations.
- 2) ***Type of Protection***: Indicates the type of legal or organizational protection to a change in the use of the property for conservation or civic purposes. These types of protection include a) ownership by the government, a non-profit organization

- or a common sub-division group, b) the existence on the property of an easement, long term lease, state covenant or deed restriction, c) the existence of a board of directors dedicated to the conservation mission of the organization, and d) the tax advantages and restrictions that result from designation as a National Registry of Historic Places.
- 3) ***Permanently Protected***: A property is permanently protected if it has a conservation easement, deed restriction, state covenant or government legislative mandate on it which limits its use for conservation purposes.
  - 4) ***Protected***: A property is protected if it is owned and operated by a government, civic, educational, cultural or historic organization whose goals are to preserve the property for its current conservation use. However, after following certain procedures, the organization could change its purpose and sell the land.
  - 5) ***Map/Lot***: Provides the map and lot numbers on the 2007 tax map of Harpswell.
  - 6) ***Water***: The property includes groundwater, streams, ponds, freshwater wetlands, tidal marches and mudflats or provides access to the ocean for commercial fishermen for fishing, lobstering and clamming.
  - 7) ***Habitat***: The property includes high value habitat as defined by the United States Fish and Wildlife Gulf of Coastal Maine Program and the Beginning with Habitat Program. The first program lists the habitat required for 91 species of high value fish and wildlife and the second lists the habitat needed for rare/threatened and endangered animals and plant species.
  - 8) ***Scenic***: Natural and manmade elements in the landscape pleasing to the eye, and worthy of protection.
  - 9) ***Cultural***: The property is important to the community for cultural, civic or historic reasons. The property contains a cemetery, a civic organization or historic building. The buildings managed by civic organizations in Harpswell include three libraries, four fire departments, two elementary schools, property belonging to Bowdoin College and several community halls.
  - 10) ***Recreation***: The property includes land or facilities for recreation, such as hiking trails, ball fields, or public tennis courts and/or places to kayak, boat, swim, picnic, sled and snowshoe.
  - 11) ***Maine Island Trail Association***: Abbreviated as MITA. The Maine Island Trail Association provides recreational access to more than 150 islands and coastal waterfront properties from Cape Porpoise Harbor to Machias Bay and into the Canadian Maritimes. They preserve these properties by promoting environmental education, volunteer stewardship, and land conservation. Only MITA islands which are accessible by the public are listed in **Appendix 11B and 11C**. If residents want to join MITA and learn more about privately owned MITA islands, please see [www.mita.org](http://www.mita.org) for further information.
  - 12) ***National Registry of Historic Places***: Abbreviated as Nat'l Reg Hist Plcs. The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of important historic places. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history,

architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties by recognizing that a property is of significance to the Nation, the State, or the community and by providing eligibility for Federal Tax benefits and Federal assistance for historic preservation. Owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that there is no Federal involvement. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so.

- 13) **MSAD #75:** Maine School Administrative District #75 includes the towns of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham. MSAD #75 owns two elementary schools and their fields in Harpswell.
- 14) **HNPEA:** Harpswell Neck Physical Education Association is an organization dedicated to support of public physical education in Harpswell. Among other activities, they lease and maintain two tennis courts for use by the public.