

Appendix 14A Summary of Open Space Comparison

Summary

In April 2008, the Harpswell Conservation Commission (HCC) gathered data¹ to compare the amount of protected land in Harpswell to some other coastal towns in mid coast Maine. The HCC gathered information on the following:

- The amount (number of acres) of **permanently protected land** in each town
- The amount (number of acres) of **protected land** in each town, including the amount of land owned by the town, historic, cultural and civic groups.
- The amount of **undeveloped remaining land** which was not yet develop into housing lots nor protected
- The **population** of each town and the **number of protected acres per 1000 population**

As can be seen in **Appendix 14B, Appendix 14C and in Figure 1**, Harpswell has approximately the same amount of permanently protected and protected land as the average of the other six towns studied². Harpswell also has about the same amount of undeveloped land as the average of the seven towns and a somewhat higher number of protected acres/1000 population than the average. (See **Figure 2**)

Because Harpswell is composed of a series of narrow peninsulas and islands, it is quite different topographically than the other six towns. Harpswell has considerably more coast line than the other towns. As a result, Harpswell probably has more **unbuildable land** than the other towns. We did not obtain this information from the other towns so we can not compare Harpswell to the other towns.

As a result of this analysis, the HCC concluded that it was difficult to determine conclusively how Harpswell compares to other towns in relationship to our amount of **undeveloped remaining** land. The data seems to suggest that we have about the same amount of **protected land** as other towns.

In the State of Maine, about 15% of the total acres have been conserved. In the US, approximately 20% or 450 million acres is conservation land. (See **Appendix 14D**) In summary, Harpswell has less conservation land than the State or the US as a whole.

¹ Please note that the data for other towns was gathered in April 2008. In September 2008, the HCC updated the list of protected properties in Harpswell and did not go back and request updates from the other towns. The HCC decided to keep the April 2008 numbers for purposes of this comparison because the data from the other towns would likely not have changed significantly.

² For more detailed information on the other 6 towns, please see the Open Space Archive available in the Planning Office of the Town of Harpswell.

Figure 1
Comparison of Protected Land in Seven Coastal Communities

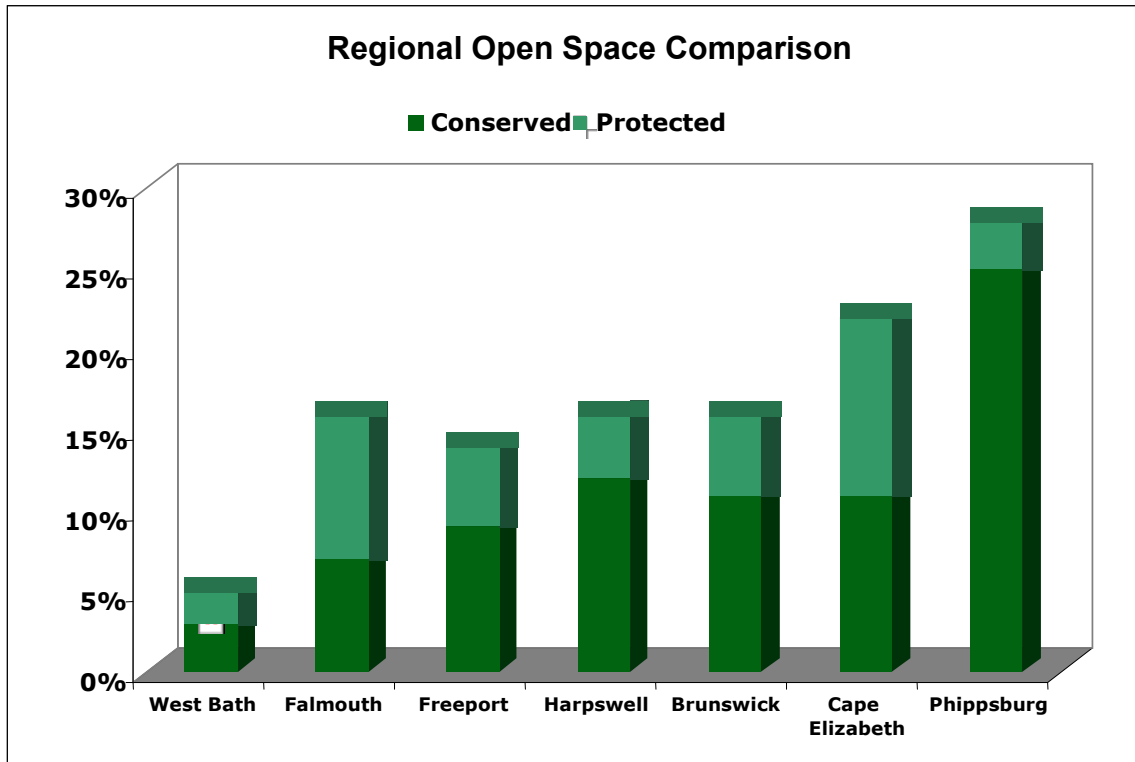


Figure 2
Comparison of Undeveloped Land in Harpswell to Seven Coastal Communities

