

## G. RECREATION

The natural resources and quiet rural character of both Pembroke and Perry and the surrounding region provide a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. With lake and bay front lands as well as extensive forest lands, both towns are a haven for outdoor enthusiasts.

Both towns have municipal recreational facilities. Most are located at the Elementary Schools including basketball courts, softball fields, playgrounds and multi-purpose gymnasium and auditorium facilities. Other facilities are located in the village centers and on the shoreline at boat landings, parks and preserves. The Perry Stump Jumpers promote snowmobile trail maintenance and the town of Perry allows the Bushwackers ATV club to use secondary roads to reach services centers and trailheads.

Open space includes athletic fields, farms, forestlands, wetlands, bayshores, and river corridors, as described in the natural resources section of this plan. Much open space is not accessible to the public and as the regional population rises, development pressures on all open space will increase. Accessible open space including ball fields, snowmobile trails, and surface waters are outlined in this section. The goal of this section is to promote and protect the availability of recreational opportunities including access to surface waters.

### RECREATION PROGRAMS

Perry has a Recreation Committee and Pembroke has a Fourth of July Committee. Groups of volunteers organize various celebrations including the Harvest Fair, Fourth of July parades and help promote recreational activities. Many residents now drive to larger celebrations in the region. The Perry Grange organizes various public suppers and parties for residents and visitors. The former Pembroke Grange Hall was sold and is now in use as the Pembroke Library. There are also recreational activities through the winter that use the indoor athletic facilities at the elementary schools and some church sponsored activities for all ages. The Pembroke Trotting Association hosts several horse shows and races every year that are attended by residents of the towns and region. There are three privately owned riding arenas in Perry and a local horse club.

### LOCAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

A variety of recreation opportunities are available in both towns in keeping with the rural character of the region. These facilities range from informal use of private lands, community organization facilities, school facilities and natural areas.

#### **Facilities in Perry:**

Gleason Point, Recreational Area – 110 acres owned by state with municipal lease; paved ramp to water, parking for 20 cars, baseball fields; picnic facilities

Horse Landing (right of way to shore) – water access

East Bay Landing area – boat landing and water access

Leach Point (Map 3, Lot 15 ~0.25 acres)– water access

Nash Preserve Natural Area - 5.0 acres, privately owned

Pottle's Tree Farm – several hundred acres, privately owned; outdoor education for school groups; fundraising events; nature trails

**Facilities in Pembroke:**

Reversing Falls Recreation Area – town owned 40 acres – Access was secured with Land and Water Conservation Fund grants in 1987, 1988 and 1989 that also funded the following improvements primitive campsites, foot trails, gravel road to campsites, observation points, vehicle turn-outs, cemetery restoration and fencing, clearing for scenic view, and preservation of an archeologically sensitive site.

Dam-Landing Ramp and swimming - Pennamaquan Park (Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) (9 acres)

Pembroke Fairgrounds 20 acres, 2,620 foot track (private)

Downeast Sunrise Trail – on Calais branch railroad right of way- part of 80 mile multi-use recreational trail from Ellsworth to Ayers Junction in Charlotte to the north. Currently used for snowmobiling hiking and cross-country skiing.

Little Falls Boat Ramp (Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) 2 acres

Leighton Point Boat Ramp and beach (private) limited agreement provides a right of way for clamming

Pennamaquan Wildlife Management Area (Bureau of Public Lands) 2083 acres, of which 416 acres of land area are located in Pembroke, 311 acres of land area are located in Charlotte, and 1356 acres are open water (split between the two towns)..

Coggins Head Preserve (The Nature Conservancy) 53 acres

Cat Island (Bureau of Public Lands) 10 acres

Wilbur Neck (Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) 200 acres

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

Guidelines for Recreation and Park Services for Municipalities with Populations under 1,000	Located In Pembroke?	Located In Perry?	Condition (Pembroke)	Condition (Perry)	Description/Location/Capacity
<u>I. Administration</u> Recreation and Park Committee or Board	No	Yes		-	Perry – active recreation committee
<u>II. Leadership</u> Summer Program: Swimming Instructors	No	No		-	No pool or water access for swimming in both towns
<u>III. Program</u> Swimming Instruction Community-wide Special Events	No Yes	No Yes		- -	Harvest Fair; 4 <sup>th</sup> of July; Memorial Day; public suppers
<u>IV. Facilities</u> <u>Outdoor Facilities</u> Community Recreation Area, 12-25 acres w/ball fields, tennis courts, swimming, ice skating, etc. Softball Diamond (0.75 per 1,000 pop.) Basketball Court (0.50 per 1,000 pop.) Ice Skating (5,000 s.f. per 1,000 pop.) Playgrounds (0.50 per 1,000 pop.) Picnic Areas w/tables & grills (2 tables per 1,000 pop.)	partial Yes Yes No Yes Yes (2)	partial Yes Yes No Yes Yes	A C B - A A F A	B A C A - A C	Pembroke – ball fields, 2 swimming areas, no tennis or ice skating Perry – ball fields, tennis and basketball courts Elementary School Elementary School Perry – Mahar Lane 3796 sq.ft. outdoor skating surface Elementary Schools Pembroke: Legion Hall; Reversing Falls (tables destroyed); Inland Fisheries property Perry: 45 <sup>th</sup> Parallel rest area; Gleason Point
<u>Indoor Facilities</u> School Facilities Available for Public Use Gym or Large Multi-Purpose Room (0.20 per 1,000 pop.) Auditorium or Assembly Hall Public Library	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes No	A A A A	A A A -	Elementary Schools Elementary Schools Elementary Schools (in gymnasiums)
<u>V. Finance</u> (funds for operation and maintenance - not capital) Minimum \$6 per capita	Yes	Yes			Perry – recreation activities generate their own funds from table rentals and other fundraising
			\$3/capita	\$6/capita	

Condition Classification System:

Grade Classification

- A Relatively new facility, lifetime expected in excess of 20 years (with proper maintenance)
- B Facility is 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).

There are some deficiencies in Perry. The town could benefit from a public swimming area and a library.

## 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 many towns in the area. In both Pembroke and Perry, some retail business benefit in part from an influx of tourists to the region, especially during the summer.

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

1. Boyden Lake boat launch in Robbinston: <1 acre, parking area and boat launch, ice fishing access
2. Boyden Lake Association: Perry; summer workshops on natural history, lake management and camp road maintenance
3. Bushwackers ATV Club in Robbinston: club house, ~23 miles of trails
4. Calais Rod and Gun Club: ~20 acres; trails, skeet shooting, fishing derby, swimming
5. 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.
6. Cobscook Community Learning Center in Trescott: ~40 acres; workshops on natural and cultural history, trails
7. Cobscook Trails: Local network of hiking trails.
8. Cutler Coast Public Reserved Land, Bold Coast Trails: maintained by the State, contains ten miles of hiking trails and three walk-in campsites.
9. Devil's Head, Calais; hiking, overlooks of St. Croix River and St. Croix Island.
10. Double T Farm: horseback riding
11. Downeast Heritage Museum; interpretive center and visitor services; Calais waterfront.
12. Downeast Adventures: miniature golf, kayak rental
13. Edmunds boat landing.
14. East Plummer Island Preserve and the Mistake Island Preserve in Jonesport, both managed by the Nature Conservancy.
15. East Quoddy Lighthouse and Mulholland Lighthouse in Campobello, N.B.
16. Fogwood Farm: horseback riding
17. Gleason's Cove Town Park in Perry: picnic sites, beach, fishing weirs, boat launch.
18. Great Cove Golf Course in Roque Bluffs: 9-holes, 1,700 yards long.
19. Great Wass Island Preserve in Beals: 1540 acres of boreal forest, peat bogs, and coastline managed by the Nature Conservancy.
20. Herring Cove Provincial Park, Campobello, N.B: golf course, campground, playground, beach, hiking trails.
21. Jonesboro Wildlife Management Area: 726 acres.
22. Jasper Beach in Buck's Harbor, Machiasport.
23. Keenes Lake Campground: Calais, swimming, picnicking, trailer hook-ups, boat access
24. Lubec Municipal Marina.

25. Machias Seal Island, seabird nesting site with puffin colony, boat tours from Cutler, Jonesport and New Brunswick.
26. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge: 16,000 acres west of Calais, 6,700 acres in Edmunds. Migratory birds, big game and 50 miles of trails.
27. Patrick Lake in Marion Township: boat access, swimming, primitive camping
28. Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge in Steuben: 3,335 acres on the mainland with hiking trails, several islands, and a variety of birds
29. 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.
30. Reversing Falls Town Park in Pembroke: 140 acres, trails and picnic area.
31. Robbinston Boat Landing and Picnic area.
32. Roque Bluffs State Park: 2300-foot beach, swimming, boat launch, picnic tables, grills, trails and playground.
33. 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.
34. Shackford Head State Park in Eastport. A 90-acre undeveloped peninsula with protected coves, a bold headland, and hiking trails.
35. St. Croix Country Club and Golf Course in Calais.
36. St. Croix Island International Historic Site at Red Beach in Calais. Overlooks St. Croix Island, site of historic French settlement in 1604.
37. Coastal and nature tours are available by kayak and motor vessels in nearby towns.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS TO SURFACE WATER**

### **Perry**

There is a ramp at Gleason Cove in very good condition with beach access, parking and trails for walking. It is also actively used by commercial fishermen. There are also public access points at:

Horse Landing (right of way to shore) – water access

East Bay Landing area – primitive boat landing and water access

Leach Point (Map 3, Lot 15 ~0.25 acres) – water access

The only access that Perry has to Boyden Lake is at a public boat launch in Robbinston. Perry has an informal standing offer to assist Robbinston with float installation/removal.

### **Pembroke**

The only publicly accessible boat landing in Pembroke is off the Garnet Head Road.

The following are limited through tidal (shallow) water conditions:

Leighton Point Boat Ramp and beach – access at end of road for clamming

Two other accesses, the Little Falls Boat Ramp (Private 2 acres) on Little Falls Road and the Dam-Landing Ramp and swimming (9 acres) on the East River Road, are severely limited due to dangerous swimming conditions close to the dam and fast water. Ownership is Inland Fish and

Wildlife.

### **SNOWMOBILE TRAILS**

Pembroke and Perry have 25-30 miles of snowmobile trails that are located on a patchwork of public and private lands. They are maintained by private clubs including the Perry Stump Jumpers, and other local volunteers. These trails link up to those maintained by the Calais Sunrise Snowmobilers, and the Interstate Snowmobile Trail System. These trails are supported in part by town excise taxes and used actively by residents and tourists.

### **SCENIC AREAS**

There are several areas of particularly scenic value to each town. They include:

In Pembroke:

- Reversing Falls
- Lower Falls/Putty's Island (Route 1 and Cross Road)
- Little Falls (Ridge Road and bridge)
- Pennamaquan River
- Town Beach (Leighton (Point)
- Boat Landing (Hersey side)
- Hersey Point (trail)

In Perry:

- Gleason Cove State Park (Passamaquoddy Bay)
- Horse Landing Road (Lewis Cove)
- East Bay Landing (Cobscook Bay)
- Leach Point (Cobscook Bay)
- 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Scenic Turnout and Picnic area
- End of Old Eastport Road and Toll Bridge abutments
- Winthrop ledges
- Pulpit Rock (access by water only)
- Shore Road
- Boyden Lake Road
- Birch Point
- Loring Cove

### **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 2007 Pembroke had 34 parcels totaling 3278 acres in tree growth tax status and 1 parcel of 194 acres in farmland and open space tax status. In the same year Perry had 31 parcels totaling 3,981 acres in tree growth tax status and 2 parcels totaling 31 acres in farmland and open space tax status. In Perry two of these parcels have affirmative provisions granting public access.

There are no provisions for open space or cluster development in the regulatory framework of either town yet incentives or requirements for preservation are found in the ordinances of other towns. Certain unimproved land is seen as a shared resource, e.g. for hunting, and though privately owned, can be used by the residents. As more and more residents restrict the use of their land, traditional use of land for hunting and other outdoor access (hiking, snowmobiling, skiing etc.) is lost along with a way of life. Some landowners are receptive to a continuance of these forms of access as long as they are asked beforehand.

## **PUBLIC SURVEY**

In the 2007 Public Survey (see Chapter L – Survey Results) development in outdoor recreation opportunities was strongly favored. In addition, several survey questions sought to understand how much taxpayers are prepared to spend or invest in their preservation priorities and in community services. A very high priority to respondents in both towns was scenic view protection. Closely following these priorities were more recreational assets including recreational facilities, hiking/walking trails, multi-use trails and public access to the water.

## **SUMMARY**

Pembroke and Perry have many recreational opportunities because of the vast natural resources of the Town and the region, and a few municipal recreational facilities. Some of the Town's most important recreational resources rely on waterfront access, which we should seek to maintain and improve for recreational and commercial marine activities.