

# Town of Cherryfield, Maine

*Wild Blueberry Capital of the World*

## Comprehensive Plan 2019



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## A. COMMUNITY VISION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Comprehensive planning demonstrates the importance of land use guidance for Cherryfield. Preserving and protecting the character of the town is vital to the continued stabilization and potential growth of the local economy. Consistent with the provisions of the Growth Management Legislation, Cherryfield's Comprehensive Planning Committee has attempted not only to recognize the value of surface water access and land use standards, but also to preserve and protect the integrity of the town and to continue to make Cherryfield a great place to live, work and play.

The Town of Cherryfield adopted its current Comprehensive Plan in 2002. The data used to create the existing Comprehensive Plan is out of date; thus the analyses and projected needs for housing, employment, education and public services do not reflect current conditions and needs. This Comprehensive Plan update, begun in late 2016, incorporates the most recent census data, better digital mapping information, and updated community facts, figures, and trends. Support to prepare the updated plan was provided by local funds, with assistance from the Maine Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Comprehensive Plan Committee, led by the Planning Board, prepared the Comprehensive Plan update. The activities and draft documents of the Comprehensive Plan Committee were posted on the web site of the Washington County Council of Governments, who provided consulting support to the Town throughout the process. Comprehensive Plan Committee monthly meetings were open to the public. Community members were welcomed to attend any meetings, and were consulted both individually and as a community, throughout the updating process. Public input was formally solicited through two means.

A questionnaire regarding Town facilities and services was mailed to all resident and non-resident property owners and voters in January of 2017. Responses were submitted by mail, at the Town Office and via Survey Monkey. The results of the 2017 survey are summarized in *Chapter B. Public Opinion Survey*, and full results are available at the Town Office. Survey input was considered for policy development in each chapter throughout the document.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee hosted a visioning meeting attended by 27 residents. The meeting was advertised by posters located at public bulletin boards, as well as on the Town marquee, on the Town website, and in the local newspaper. An incentive (locally-donated prize drawing) was offered to encourage participation in the visioning meeting.

### CHERRYFIELD VISIONING MEETING

All participants were given an index card and asked to write 3 words or short phrases (places, adjectives, people) that describe Cherryfield and that, if they were not present, Cherryfield would not be Cherryfield. These words were entered into the [Wordle.net](https://www.wordle.net) web site to produce a Word Cloud that visually represents the most prominent personality of Cherryfield.





Small, independent, local businesses (Air B&B, a hospital, and yoga studio were mentioned specifically)

Professional development opportunities for youth

Destination development and marketing – Cherryfield is a destination for living and playing

Focused on natural beauty and resources

Slow growth

Affordable housing options to support local families

A strong tax base

Clean, maintained buildings and enforcement around housing codes and junk/debris cleanup

Fixing what we already have – capitalize on existing assets

Community fundraising to support desired goals

### **Natural/Cultural Resources**

Abundant Wildlife

A healthy, visible river with a fully developed river walk central to town

Campbell Hill as a welcoming gateway for visitors

Historic Architecture maintained

Strong school

Nice Downtown

Healthy people

A central hub or a newsletter to support/facilitate community conversations

Regional talents showcased at the Academy and Legion

Arts and crafts learning hub

A welcome packet for new residents detailing local assets and opportunities

### **Transportation**

Opportunities for the elderly and handicapped, like local outings

A bike share program

River Trail with maps of camping and access points

Good public information about existing assets (like the Weald Bethel walking trails)

Improved Sunrise Trail to accommodate more types of users, such as bicyclists

Better maintenance of the boat landing on Wilson Hill Road

### **Role in the Region**

A cultural shift needs to occur to help Cherryfield connect more with nearby resources and create greater connection to other communities

Stands out in the area as a desired place to live or visit

An inspiration for nearby communities

Narraguagus River plays a huge role – mudflats downstream in Milbridge, fisheries restoration, recreation, wildlife habitat

Sunrise Trail brings numerous people into town, and provides residents with off-road access to other towns

Contributes to food sovereignty of the region (farms, Incredible Edible gardens, Table of Plenty community supper)

Blueberry factory is a regional employer

Could potentially provide pure sand and gravel regionally

The town could become a regional welcome center

**Land Use**

Renewable energy	Get the factories up and running
Improve existing uses	Small businesses in historic buildings
Business incubator	Antique shop district
Upper corner as Gateway to town	Offer incentives to fix up existing buildings
Uses that encourage travelers to stop downtown	Both independent and regionally-contributing businesses
Utilize the river more, reminiscent of the boatbuilding era	Encourage entrepreneurs

**TOWN OF CHERRYFIELD VISION STATEMENT**

A required element in any local Comprehensive Plan is a Vision Statement that summarizes the community's desired future community character in terms of economic development, natural and cultural resource conservation, transportation systems, land use patterns and its role in the region. The Comprehensive Plan Committee used public input from the public meeting to create a collective Vision Statement for the Town of Cherryfield.

**Cherryfield Today**

Since settlement, and thanks to the river and railroad, Cherryfield has experienced great economic productivity in lumber and blueberries. Cherryfield has also experienced more recent dormant years. Despite fluctuations in population and productivity, there are always members of the community dedicated to keeping their hometown alive and celebrating its special features.

Via the Narraguagus River, Cherryfield is linked to a vast inter-connected system of pristine streams and lakes, and, ultimately, to the Atlantic Ocean. Cherryfield offers exceptional recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, paddling, pleasure boating, hiking, swimming, wildlife watching, snowmobiling, ATV riding, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and snowshoeing.

Despite being a small rural town, several retail and community services contribute to the daily needs of both residents and visitors. In-town services include a community center, Legion Hall, elementary school, library, post office, gas station, heating fuel suppliers, nursery school, animal shelter, elderly housing, lodging, eateries, a small grocery store, antique and gift shops, personal services, active churches, and blueberry processing factory. Businesses outside the center of town include a winery, a gallery, and several farms. The Maine Seacoast Mission offers walking trails, an emergency food pantry and summer youth programs.

Community members and visitors enjoy water access through several access points, including a paved public boat launch. Town parks provide community gathering places and sources of community pride. Service groups and volunteers host many and provide valuable community building social services throughout the year.

Although community members today express a preference for the existing small-town atmosphere, most people also support appropriate economic growth and development, including more numerous and varied small businesses, expanded residential housing opportunities, and limited industrial, manufacturing, and professional development.

**Cherryfield Tomorrow**

In our vision for Cherryfield's future, Cherryfield is a well-endowed regional destination for visitors and a welcoming gateway to the surrounding recreation areas. Main Street and the village center are thriving, with lovingly restored and maintained properties including diverse small businesses and residential properties. Ample everyday services, entertainment, and other opportunities exist for community members. Special community events such as Cherryfield Days draw residents and visitors to the town center. Regional talents are regularly showcased at the Academy and Legion Hall, and the community is a vibrant center for diverse cultural pursuits.

A new sidewalk on River Road (and the two bridges) completes the Downtown Historic River Walk, and connects to other riverside trails and access points. The Sunrise Trail is a high-quality multi-use trail that attracts diverse users to town and allows residents safe, fun access to other communities. The Train Depot is restored and serves as a museum, information center, and hub for visitors to the village center.

Vacant or underutilized factories are revitalized and reinvented. Opportunities exist for gaining new skills, and entrepreneurs are welcomed and supported. Downtown businesses highlight their relationship to the river. Natural resource industries, such as renewable energy, contribute to the regional economy and infrastructure.

The population and strong tax base supports expanded opportunities for all community members, including recreation, cultural, health, transportation, and business opportunities. Cherryfield is a vibrant, safe, and nurturing place to live and an enriching environment in which to raise children. Cherryfield residents are dedicated to keeping their hometown alive and celebrating its special features, with a strong marketing/promotion campaign and groups committed to raising funds to meet community development goals. Cherryfield's strong sense of community, local pride, and small-town rural character attracts residents who appreciate and desire to continue this tradition.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of a Comprehensive Plan is to provide a community with the information and a process to make choices about its future. The Town of Cherryfield has involved its resident and non-resident community members in the development of this plan. It has also made use of extensive resources available through the US Census, several agencies of state government, the Washington County Council of Governments and geographic information system (GIS) mapping. The document will serve Cherryfield for a 10-year time horizon and, as a living document, will be revised and updated as new information and understanding develops.

**The following paragraphs summarize the main points from each chapter of the document. Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies provides greater detail about the choices Cherryfield is making about its future growth and development.**

**Public Opinion Survey**

Supporting a variety of types of new small business and clean manufacturing development in Cherryfield was favored, provided that new development was environmentally friendly, privately

funded, and did not detract from the small-town atmosphere and quality of life. Desirable locations for development included the town center and general infill around existing development.

Respondents were generally satisfied with municipal and community services. Re-consideration of the Town government structure did not have much support.

Desired types of economic activity included most commonly mentioned include (clean) manufacturing, retail, dining, community gathering places, children's activities, and outdoor sports/nature-based businesses. Also mentioned were the arts. The written comments speak to a desire for smaller scale, environmentally friendly operations in keeping with the quiet rural nature of Cherryfield.

Survey respondents generally expressed satisfaction with the existing conditions of the community. Major areas of discontent exist around the need for more and varied small businesses and the need to restore/upgrade the overall appearance of the community. Respondents expressed a strong desire to retain the small-town, rural atmosphere and protect the water quality while also pursuing reasonable, private and generally unregulated growth.

### **GIS Mapping**

GIS mapping tools and the information they provide to municipalities is evolving much faster than the 10 to 12-year time horizon of a local Comprehensive Plan. Even for small rural municipalities who cannot afford the staff, equipment, or software to run GIS mapping products, there are several available alternatives. The Online Planners and Parcel Maps provided by the WCCOG/UMM-GIS partnership provide access to up-to-date spatial information and its background attribute data. Training on how to use it, depict it on alternative base map projections, see and analyze the data behind it, print it, share it, and add to it with local information, is provided in several learning styles and levels of expertise. Several Maine state departments also provide a variety of web-based mapping tools. This chapter provides examples of these tools. However, the individual chapters of this Comprehensive Plan provide many more examples of what they provide and how to use them in ways that both are specific to Cherryfield while simultaneously providing the inventory on which this Comprehensive Plan is being updated.

### **Historic and Archeological Resources**

The history of Cherryfield is substantially based upon the natural resources that drove the local and regional economy, especially forestry, shipbuilding, wild blueberries, and Atlantic salmon. Early residents engaged successfully in a variety of businesses. In the mid-70's, new state/federal rules and regulations effectively pushed many small family businesses out of operation, leading to a decline in both population and services available within the town.

Many current residents can trace their families back to the town's early days. The Historical Society has documented and protected much of the rich heritage of historic structures, and the Cherryfield Historic District was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on October 1, 1990.

Most Public Opinion Survey respondents indicated that they feel strongly that cultural, scenic and historic sites should be protected. Cherryfield still enjoys many of the benefits from our past as a small town with a strong sense of community where people look out for one another. While encouraging new development, the Town should seek to maintain our heritage through the



protection and compatible redevelopment of historically significant buildings, and should continue to collect and maintain our historic records.

### **Population**

Cherryfield's population grew significantly from 1970 to 2000 and has leveled off to little or no growth in the last 15 years, with 1,172 residents in 2015. Maine Office of Policy and Management projections forecast a population decline to 999 individuals representing a 14.8% decrease between 2014 and 2034

Median age is rising to over 45 as the large baby boomer cohort ages and as younger families and residents leave. Mirroring the trend in Washington County and the state, household size in Cherryfield has decreased as empty nesters and retirees occupy more of the town's housing stock.

School enrollment appears to be stabilizing after a trend of decline, and now that the school has become independent of the District, an increase in school enrollments may occur over the next decade as young families move to Cherryfield for the quality education and low housing costs relative to areas in Hancock County.

### **Natural Resources**

The natural resources of Cherryfield are diverse and abundant. Cherryfield encompasses the main stem of the tidal and freshwater reaches of the Narraguagus River, as well as the entirety of its West Branch above the area known as "the crotch". Cherryfield also contains the middle watershed of the Narraguagus River and portions of its tributaries, Schoodic Brook and large wetland complexes at the head of several small brooks. There are small portions of the northern edge of the Pleasant Bay Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and the eastern edge of the Tunk Lake Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance within Cherryfield. Large wetland complexes associated with all of these watersheds support many rare species and natural communities. The Maine Geological Survey has identified 4 community water supplies and several aquifers with a flow of at least 10 gallons per minute in Cherryfield.

Upland areas in Cherryfield are a matrix of forestlands and heaths with several large blueberry-producing areas. In 2019, 41 parcels of property containing 3,634 acres were in the Tree Growth Tax Program. Forest management operations between 1991-2013 are primarily selection or shelter wood harvests with some clear-cut operations. About 650 acres changed land use, mostly since 2003. Approximately 7,000 acres are in cultivation for wild blueberries, and many fields are irrigated.

Cherryfield is a rural community with a small historic village center. Development is concentrated in the southern portion of town, along Route 1, and on several roads leading south toward the adjoining town of Milbridge. Several rare species co-exist with human use of the land including upland sandpipers in the blueberry fields, and wood turtles. Cherryfield has at least 7 areas of "known rare, threatened, or endangered species occurrence and/or the associated habitats based on species sightings" (these include two animals and three plants). The Narraguagus River supports most native sea run fish species.

### **Economy and Employment**

Jobs employing both those who live in Cherryfield and those who come into town to work have fallen since from 274 in 2002 to 230 in 2015. The largest employers are in the blueberry industry, in the provision and distribution of fuels, in the supply of building materials, and in educational and social services. The top three sectors of employment for Cherryfield are 'Natural resources,

construction, and maintenance occupations’; ‘Management, business, science and arts occupations’; and “sales and office occupations”. Tourism is expected to play a much larger role in the future as Heritage/Historical, Nature and Cultural-based tourism grows in popularity.

The town of Cherryfield is part of the Jonesport Economic Summary area that includes 14 municipalities. Total Consumer and total taxable retail sales to consumers in the Jonesport ESA over the 2011-2016 time-horizon show a modest upward trend. Cherryfield’s median household income increased 104% from 1990 to 2016 (\$20,000 - \$41,000 with the majority (91%) occurring between 2000 and 2016, surpassing the median household income for Washington County (\$35,00) but remaining lower than the State (\$49,000). In 2016 over 19 percent of Cherryfield families were listed as having incomes below the poverty level. This is only slightly lower than for the entire county but almost all of these families have children less than 5 years of age.

### **Housing**

The age of the housing stock in Cherryfield is comparable to Washington County with 31% built before 1939. About half of the housing stock in Cherryfield was built before 1980.

Cherryfield has a higher proportion of multi-unit structures (18%) than in Washington County (~8%), a reflection of the presence of a 64-unit affordable housing complex in Cherryfield known as Narraguagus Estates.

The majority of people live in owner occupied single-family housing. The percentage of homes owned by those in the workforce is likely to decline further while the percentage of homes owned by retirees - both those from away and natives - will increase. Cherryfield has a higher proportion of mobile homes and trailers (~18%) than in Washington County (12.2%).

The cost of housing in Cherryfield is affordable the majority of residents. Only 8% of households in Cherryfield are unable to afford the Median Home Price (\$45K) in Cherryfield, much lower than in the larger Machias Labor Market Area Housing Market, of which Cherryfield is a part, where ~29% are unable to afford the Median Home Price. Monthly housing costs for many Cherryfield households exceed 30% of monthly income; 39.9% of households paying a mortgage and 27.6% of households paying rent.

### **Transportation**

Cherryfield residents must travel to adjoining communities for most employment and shopping needs, and therefore are affected by the condition of many arterial roads in Washington County. Transportation linkages in town consist primarily of US 1 and State Routes 182 and 193. Overall Cherryfield’s roads are in fair to poor condition.

Average annual daily traffic has decreased in the last 20 years all over Cherryfield. Most roads have also seen decreases between 2012 and 2015 except for level or slightly higher counts on State Road 193. Route 182 near the elementary school is an important missing link to a safe pedestrian and biking connection between the school and residents to the south and west. Several areas of safety concern include the intersections with Route 1 and Route 182, Route 1 and Route 193, Route 193 and Willey District Road and North Street.

The Maine DOT 2018-2020 Work Plan entries for Cherryfield include Bridge Replacement of Schoodic Bridge over Schoodic Brook and Bridge wearing surface replacement on Route 1 over the

Narraguagus River. MaineDOT could move forward with creating the I-395/Route 9 Connector Project, which would put more traffic onto Route 193 south from Route 9 into Cherryfield.

Continued proper and affordable maintenance of the road network in Cherryfield is in the best interests of all residents. All new roads, subject to subdivision review, must be constructed to specific standards. MDOT has jurisdiction over most main roads and bridges within Cherryfield, so the Town will continue to communicate and cooperate with the department, and will continue to participate in regional transportation planning efforts.

### **Public Facilities**

Town policy is made and overseen by a Select Board and Planning Board. The Town owns over 150 acres of undeveloped land. The town does not have a public water system or public sewer. Properties (39 total) in downtown Cherryfield along the river are challenged with existing Over Board Discharge systems and not enough land to build septic systems. Cherryfield partners with nearby communities for their emergency services and some other municipal needs. Overall, Town facilities are in good condition and expected to meet anticipated future needs.

### **Recreation Resources**

Cherryfield has a number of municipal recreational facilities, and the vast natural resources of our Town and region provide numerous recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Our open space includes farms, wild blueberry barrens, mixed forestlands, wetlands, lakeshores, and river corridors, as described in the natural resources section of this plan. Some of the Town's most important recreational resources rely on riverfront access, which we should seek to maintain and improve.

Via the Narraguagus River, Cherryfield is linked to a vast inter-connected system of pristine streams and lakes, and, ultimately, to the Atlantic Ocean. Cherryfield is a gateway community to exceptional recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, paddling and boating, hiking, swimming, wildlife watching, snowmobiling and ATV riding, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and snowshoeing.

Much undeveloped land is not accessible to the public, and as the regional population rises, development pressures on all open space will increase. The goal of this section is to promote and protect the availability of a wide diversity of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities in and around Cherryfield.

### **Regional Coordination**

Cherryfield cooperates with multiple towns in the region and will continue to develop compatible regional coordination policies with nearby communities. Cherryfield should investigate additional opportunities to develop and expand regional planning, coordination, and funding partnerships.

### **Land Use**

Cherryfield contains approximately 44.8 square miles of flat land to rolling hills, with elevations ranging from sea level to 300-400 feet. Approximately 7,000 acres are under cultivation for blueberries. The Narraguagus River Estuary reaches the head of tide between the two bridges that cross the river in the center of the village; the river supports anadromous fish species, including Atlantic salmon, Rainbow smelt, and alewives. Cherryfield shares the shoreline and a portion of

Schoodic Lake with the neighboring town of Columbia and Township 18 in the Unorganized Territories.

Cherryfield has 27 overboard discharge permits (OBDs) within the village, with little to no appropriate nearby area to install alternative systems, severely limiting growth within the village center. Cherryfield's population has leveled off to little or no growth in the last 15 years and is projected to decline a population decline by approximately 14.8% decrease between 2014 and 2034.

Jobs employing both those who live in Cherryfield and those who come into town to work have fallen from 274 in 2002 to 230 in 2015.

In 2015, Cherryfield had a total of 709 housing units. Between 2000 and 2010, the town saw a 15.4% increase in housing units. Since 2010, the growth in the number of housing units has slowed.

Tourism is expected to play a much larger role in the future of Cherryfield as Heritage/Historical, Nature and Cultural-based tourism are growing in popularity.

The community desires a climate of local employment and an active but small retail center to help encourage the return of young families.

#### **A NOTE ON CENSUS DATA**

Current census data contained within this chapter is compiled from US Census data including 5-year estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS), which is different from the 10-year data. The ACS 5-year estimates data for rural communities is based on a very small sample, and therefore is subject to often-substantial sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error, whenever possible. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee and Washington County Council of Governments recognize that existing Census data is often quite inaccurate in its reflection of the community of Cherryfield. Whenever possible, local planning study data and local knowledge is used in place of Census data. However, in most cases, the most recent data available is the ACS 5-year estimate. Therefore, this data is quoted as current and utilized to make assumptions about local trends, but the understanding exists that a generous margin of error should be allowed for in the ACS 5-year estimate data.

## **B. PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

A total of 781 surveys were mailed to all voters and taxpayers in January of 2017. Surveys were mailed back to the Comprehensive Plan Committee or respondents could complete the survey on-line, or drop them off at the Town Office. A total of 31 surveys were completed on-line and an additional 54 surveys were returned through the mail or in person, for a total of 85 surveys, a 10.9% response rate. The survey included information about the time and date of the upcoming public Visioning Meeting.

There were many responses to the 7 open ended questions at the end of the survey as well as other written comments throughout the survey. The original survey and all of these written responses are reproduced in Appendix 1. (Summaries of the written comments are noted with the charted data here and throughout the document as the issues they address are raised. The raw data is available at the Town Office and graphical summaries of the responses are provided here.)

### **SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS**

Supporting a variety of types of new small business and clean manufacturing development in Cherryfield was favored, provided that new development was environmentally friendly, privately funded, and did not detract from the small-town atmosphere and quality of life. Desirable locations for development included the town center and general infill around existing development.

Respondents were generally satisfied with municipal and community services. Reconsideration of the Town government structure did not have much support.

Desired types of economic activity included most commonly mentioned include (clean) manufacturing, retail, dining, community gathering places, children's activities, and outdoor sports/nature-based businesses. Also mentioned were the arts. The written comments speak to a desire for smaller scale, environmentally friendly operations in keeping with the quiet rural nature of Cherryfield.

Survey respondents generally expressed satisfaction with the existing conditions of the community. Major areas of discontent exist around the need for more and varied small businesses and the need to restore/upgrade the overall appearance of the community. Respondents expressed a strong desire to retain the small-town, rural atmosphere and protect the water quality while also pursuing reasonable, private and generally unregulated growth.

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

#### **General**

Survey respondent demographics reflects a comparable proportion of males and females in the general population who are generally in the 50-69 years old range, followed by the 70-79 years old range, with 16 respondents in the 30-49 years range and 8 in the 18-29 years old range. All respondents indicated that they live in Cherryfield year-round. Most year-round respondents have lived in Cherryfield for between 11 and 20 years, closely followed by more than 40 years. Over 75% own their homes.



### Town Growth and Development

Sixteen questions were asked regarding whether or not survey respondents agree or disagree with the Town supporting or encouraging certain types of growth and development. Questions focused on the types of growth and development that respondents would like to see occur, and on strategies towns can implement to insure development is safe and that it maintains the economic value of properties and the quality of life for all people. Questions also focused on the long-term preservation of community resources, such as water quality and wildlife habitat, parks, trails, and historic properties. Growth and Development questions explored desired methods of administration of public services, such as police, ambulance, and Town government. Responses to the 16 questions are included in the following chart.

Responses indicate that more people feel strongly about the need to preserve scenic and historic or cultural sites, with the need to protect water quality being of second most importance. Researching public transportation options, encouraging development of group homes, and encouraging development of seasonal camping received the strongest disagreement. Responses were pretty evenly split regarding a return to a manager form of government. In general, most opportunities for growth and development appear supported by Cherryfield residents.

Cherryfield Comprehensive Plan - Community Input Survey							
Should the town...							
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
Encourage Growth?	35	28	7	8	3	1.96	81
Encourage new commercial and retail development?	34	33	6	4	3	1.86	80
Encourage New Industrial development?	22	22	14	15	7	2.54	80
Encourage Affordable Residential Development?	28	31	11	5	5	2.10	80
Encourage Group Homes for Special Needs?	17	31	19	7	9	2.52	83
Encourage Seasonal Campgrounds or RV Parks?	19	24	19	12	10	2.64	84
Create Incentives to Enhance the Appearance of Private Properties?	34	27	9	9	4	2.06	83
Do More to Protect the Rural Character of	30	24	14	13	2	2.19	83

Cherryfield Comprehensive Plan - Community Input Survey							
Should the town...							
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
Cherryfield?							
Take Action to Preserve Scenic Areas and Historic or Cultural Sites?	37	26	9	5	4	1.93	81
Do More to Protect Water Quality (such as rivers, streams, aquifers)?	41	18	10	5	4	1.88	78
Do More to Protect Wildlife Habitat?	32	25	14	8	4	2.12	83
Create More Public Parks, Trails, or Boat Launches?	24	27	17	7	7	2.34	82
Build More or Repair Existing Sidewalks?	27	31	15	4	5	2.13	82
Research Public Transportation Options?	21	19	23	8	10	2.59	81
Invest in Public Building Improvements?	16	39	13	10	4	2.35	82
Return to a Town Manager Form of Government?	11	9	42	10	8	2.94	80
<b>Answered Question</b>							<b>85</b>

Town-wide zoning was enacted in 2007, with support from 22% of survey respondents according to the 2003 Comprehensive Plan. In 2017, 34% of survey respondents indicated they are satisfied with the current Land Use Ordinance, and 9% indicated they are very dissatisfied. Nearly 40% indicated they are not sure, perhaps showing a need for more community awareness of the Ordinance.

According to 48% of survey respondents, growth and development should occur in the town center; 28% said infill around existing development; 34% said other locations should be considered. Other locations suggested ranged from “anywhere” to “none”, and included Willey District Road, Route 1, and Route 193 between Mathew’s Store and the Butler Road. Others said existing buildings should be filled first. A riverwalk and other trails systems and the allowance of tiny houses among existing buildings were supported. One respondent said “It depends on what type of "growth and development" you're talking about: if you're hoping for small, independently owned shops/restaurants, they should snuggle in in the

town center. If you're talking about big chain stores (like Family Dollar and the like) or subdivisions, they should not come to Cherryfield at all.”

Other land-use and development comments include:

- The “Town should discourage chain stores and fast food businesses in town.”
- “If encouraging growth in various areas means increasing regulation or subsidizing private enterprise with public funds, I strongly disagree. If it means leaving people liberty to establish businesses or organizations and use their own property as they desire, I generally would agree.”
- “I am in favor of the Town encouraging growth, development, etc., but not by spending more money or by writing ordinances that prefer one business, group, or individual over others. Rather, encouraging growth and development should include: protecting private property rights, standing back and letting the private sector work, reducing burdensome regulations, and defending the rights of the people...”
- “Our natural resources, local scenery, historic and cultural treasures are critical to our town and its future...for quality of life, jobs and development.”
- “The Town of Cherryfield needs to find small business to come to our town. We have been tied to seasonal businesses way too long.”

Cherryfield Elementary School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies classes were introduced to the Cherryfield Comprehensive Plan. As they are the next generation of residents, and possibly future community leaders who will complete the next Comprehensive Plan Update, the students were asked what amenities and services they would like in their town. Here are their thoughts:

<b>7th grade:</b>	Walk-In Clinic	Fix All Roads
School-Spirit Shop	Souvenir Shop	Bakery
Update Mathews Store	Make-Up Studio	Petting Farm
Mini-Mall	Thrift Store	Organic Store
Juice Bar		New Roads
Gun Shop	<b>8th grade:</b>	Park in The Water
Sports Center	Ice Cream Shop	Barber Shop
Indoor Basketball court	Salon	Music Shop
Sub Shop	Gym or Fitness Studio	Jail
Candy Store	Park Hang Out	Police Station
DO NOT CLOSE THE	More ATV Trails	
DUMP!!!	Recovery Center	

### Public Services, Facilities, or Programs

Survey respondents were asked how satisfied they are with public services, facilities, and programs. The Elementary School, Library, Fire Department, and Town Office received the strongest scores on customer satisfaction. (The library is a local non-profit run separately from the Town). Receiving the lowest scores were town road maintenance and repair and property taxes. In general, residents are more satisfied than dissatisfied with Town services and facilities.

How do you feel about the following Public services, Facilities, or Programs?							
Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Sure	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Town Road Maintenance/repair	8	39	5	24	7	2.80	83
Winter Plowing/Sanding	14	51	3	10	4	2.26	82
Fire Department Response and Equipment	28	45	11	0	1	1.84	85
Washington County Sheriff Department Protection	18	43	17	3	3	2.17	84
State Police Protection	21	37	17	6	3	2.20	84
Ambulance Response/Services	19	42	17	3	4	2.19	85
Library Facilities, Services, and Equipment	31	36	8	5	3	1.95	83
Maintenance of cemeteries (Old Town and Intervale)	18	48	13	3	2	2.08	84
Cherryfield Elementary School	33	29	14	2	6	2.04	84
Transfer Station/Recycling	21	47	7	8	1	2.06	84
Town Office Staffing, Facilities, and Services	29	43	6	5	1	1.88	84
Recreation/Community Facilities	10	40	16	13	2	2.47	81
Recreation programs/activities	7	34	21	14	7	2.76	83
Adult/Vocational Education Programs	9	26	32	11	5	2.72	83
Property Taxes	1	41	17	9	13	2.90	81
<i>answered question</i>							<b>85</b>

## WRITTEN COMMENTS

A summary of the myriad responses follows. All responses to the 6 open-ended questions are included in *Appendix 1. Public Opinion Survey*

### What would you NOT change about Cherryfield?

Rural character, historic downtown, quiet, safety, access to nature, beauty.

### What would you change about Cherryfield?

Attitude toward new businesses, more community activities, maintain historic buildings, lower taxes.

### What kind of businesses or activities would you like in Cherryfield

Small, local, non-polluting, river-oriented recreation opportunities, tourism, any business suited for existing but vacant development, retail, any small-scale, locally and independently-run businesses that address real needs without harming the wellbeing of others.

### Are there any issues with bike/ped/atv/snowmobile safety?

ATV's and snowmobiles should be restricted in their use to approved trails, speed limits should be imposed and enforced, bicyclists and pedestrians need more safe road access, the Willy D/Rt. 193 intersection is dangerous with the traffic at Matthews Store, speeding on 193 and Ridge Road.

**Do you have any suggestions for improving the Land Use Ordinance, especially what is allowed or not allowed in each district or zone (historical, mixed use, rural, future industrial)?**

Protection of historic and scenic views – our biggest selling feature, we have to meld together forget our own personal protection of property and do what's best to promote Cherryfield, I'm not in favor of the zoning laws at all, relocate the Floating Industrial District on Rt 1 beginning just past the Town Office-- this would help to mitigate the effects of any potential runoff from future industry rather than placing it adjacent to the Narraguagus running out of town, people should be able to do whatever they want to do with their land, so long as it does not adversely affect the health of other people, get rid of Historical District.

**How do you see Cherryfield in 10 years?**

More growth in recreation & the arts, to look more inviting when entering the town, high speed internet, older homes maintained better, new families with children, more jobs, successful businesses that draw people from nearby towns, the highest rated elementary school in Maine, like it is now but with more people and a younger more diverse demographic, riverfront area cleaned up and enhanced so that it would add to the beauty of the area, a thriving community that attracts families and businesses to want to take root in our community.



## C. GIS MAPPING

GIS, or Geographical Information Systems, is a computer mapping system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) lets us visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends. GIS tools allow users to create interactive queries (user-created searches), analyze spatial information, edit data in maps, and present the results of all these operations on one or more maps. This enables people to more easily see, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships.

### GIS Mapping Capacity

No municipalities in Washington County have resources or staff to maintain in-house GIS mapping tools. To help Towns address economy and capacity, the Washington County Council of Governments (WCCOG), in partnership with the University of Machias GIS Service Center and Laboratory, has developed online GIS mapping capacity for all Washington County towns. This online service is maintained and updated as GIS data changes and thus provides Towns' access to their parcel maps and spatial information. The Planners maps provide municipal and regional Comprehensive Plan maps as well as parcel-specific information for development review.

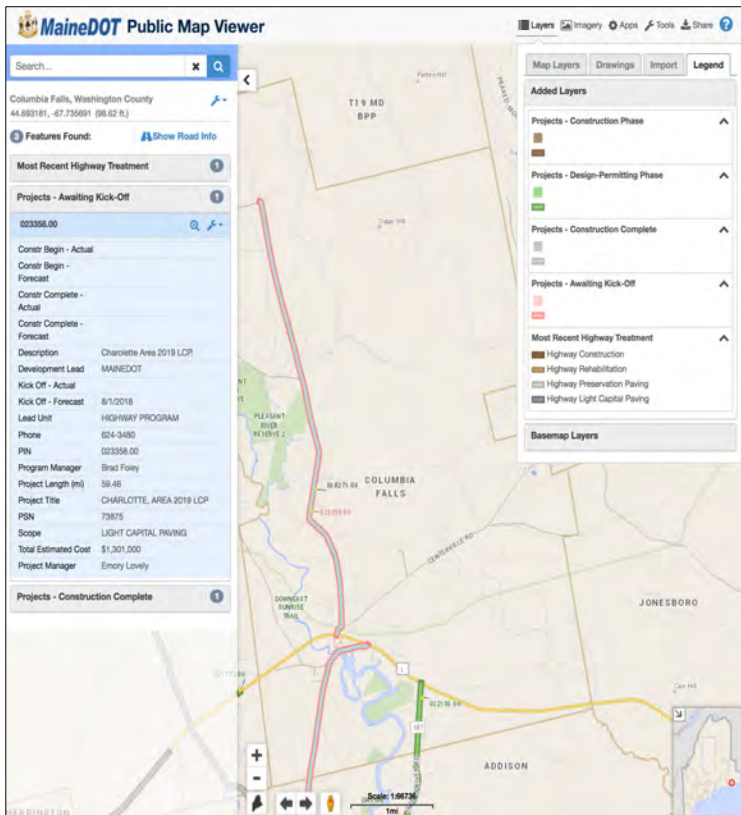
Instructional videos and documents were created by WCCOG and UMM to assist Towns in learning to use these GIS tools for their planning needs:

- Online GIS Mapping – Frequently Asked Questions <http://www.wccog.net/online-gis-mapping-faqs.htm>
- Public Parcel Viewer <http://gro-wa.org/public-parcel-viewer.htm>
- Planners Maps <http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm>
- GIS Maps Instruction Guides (Paper) <http://gro-wa.org/gis-map-instruction-guides.htm>
- Online GIS Mapping Instructional Videos
- <http://www.wccog.net/online-gis-mapping-instructional-videos.htm>
- Paper vs. Digital Maps <http://gro-wa.org/paper-vs-digital-maps.htm>
- Status of Comprehensive Plans with the Growth Management Law <http://gro-wa.org/helping-washington-county-plan-its-future.htm>

In addition to the customized online mapping tools provided by the WCCOG/UMM-GIS partnership, State agencies maintain a variety of online web-viewer mapping tools. Some digital information is only available using their online tools.

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife only releases critical habitat information when a Town prepares a Comprehensive Plan. WCCOG has advocated on multiple occasions that this information be provided in digital format so it can be incorporated into the online Planners maps, but to date we have not been successful. Therefore, State habitat information is provided in Comprehensive Plans using screen shots of the large poster format maps provided to Towns (available in hard copy and PDF format at the Town Office).

MaineDOT data, such as construction scheduling and active projects ([maine.gov/mdot/projects/workplan](http://maine.gov/mdot/projects/workplan)), crash data ([mdotapps.maine.gov/MaineCrashPublic](http://mdotapps.maine.gov/MaineCrashPublic)) and other road and traffic maps via the public on their MaineDOT Public Map Viewer ([maine.gov/mdot/mapviewer](http://maine.gov/mdot/mapviewer)) and <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/maps/>.



Towns are encouraged to maintain, update and provide their parcel mapping data to the UMM-GIS Services Center, and to develop their own expertise in using online GIS information.

Visual imagery of the variety of GIS mapping products can support policy development throughout the Comprehensive Plan. Spatial information can change significantly over timeline (10-12 years) of a Comprehensive Plan. Creating static, point-in-time Comprehensive Plan maps can inform current policy development, but provides only general depictions at “greater than 20,000 feet” and is of little utility for parcel-specific development review over time.

Online resources provide economical access to the spatial information available to the town of Cherryfield for this Comprehensive

Plan as well as for on-going development review. Instructions (in several learning modes) are provided to Planning Boards and Code Enforcement Officers in the same place where the maps are posted to enable use of online GIS mapping tools by municipal personnel.

### Student Training and Workforce Development

The WCCOG partnership with the GIS Service Center at the University of Maine at Machias (UMM) has operated for over a decade. Dr. Tora Johnson and her students in the GIS Program are working on GIS Degree, as well as Certificate and Associates in Science programs. Their course work has, and continues to, directly support many municipal and regional projects in Washington County. It provides students with immediate real-world application of their skills to help them find employment upon graduation. It also provides extraordinary mapping and analysis services to Washington County communities at little or no cost. The courses contributing to this include:

- *GIS I and GIS II foundational courses*
- *Community Applications in GIS*
- *Municipal Applications in GIS*
- *Remote Sensing and Image Analysis*
- *Advanced Projects in GIS*
- *Web-Based Maps, Applications & Services, and*
- *GIS Internships and Work Study credits.*

When municipalities contract with WCCOG to prepare their Comprehensive Plans, they are benefiting from the WCCOG/UMM-GIS Center partnership. Municipalities also commonly contract directly with the GIS Service Center for parcel mapping, parcel map updates, and emergency management planning maps, among many other projects.

### **(Former) Comprehensive Plan Map Set**

The maps commonly included in a Comprehensive Plan are listed below.

- Location of Cherryfield in Washington County
- Public Facilities (including Recreation)
  - Always the entire municipality and often an expanded version for a village or city center
  - Combined with Transportation in some of the most rural municipalities
- Topography, Steep Slopes and Floodplains
- Waterways and Wetlands
- Soils Classifications
  - Depicts soils suitability classifications for septic systems, roads, and low-density development; also depicts Prime agricultural soils and soils of statewide significance to agriculture.
- Marine Resources (where applicable)
  - Place Names, Public Access and Marine Resources in some communities
- Land Cover
- Critical Habitat
- Transportation
- Current Land Use
- Current Zoning also depicted where available
- Proposed Land Use (also called Future Land Use)
  - The entire municipality, and often an expanded version for the village or city center

Most information depicted on these maps is available through statewide servers from the Maine Office of GIS. For a variety of reasons these statewide servers do not or cannot provide some of this information. For instance, locally derived information can be missing such as cemeteries and commonly used names for points of access or orientation. Residents of the towns of Beals and Machiasport, both exemplary Downeast fishing communities, refer to several beaches, bays, points of land, and small islands as points of reference, often navigational, when discussing planning issues. A map created for each town in 2004 and 2009 respectively names those points of access and reference.

It is common when reviewing spatial information for Comprehensive Plan Committees to find errors in the location of public facilities either because the spatial layer is out of date (e.g. the town office moved) or simply inaccurate (e.g. the Post office is on the north side of the road and not the south). In these cases, WCCOG works with the individual community to correct the inaccuracies and/or create new spatial layers on a town-by-town basis.

Much of the Beginning with Habitat information that describes Critical Habitats is available via the Maine Geolibrary Data Catalog (<https://geolibrary-maine.opendata.arcgis.com/search>). Some data is not available online to protect critical resources. Habitat maps of Cherryfield from 2018 (Maps 1, 2, 3, and 7) are available in .pdf format at [https://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the\\_maps/status-c.html](https://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the_maps/status-c.html). The public can also access the online map viewer at: <http://webapps2.cgis-solutions.com/beginningwithhabitat/>. Beginning with Habitat data utilized for this Plan was provided in digital format to the UMM-GIS Service Center and to WCCOG.

When conducting Comprehensive Planning this information is provided to the municipality in a series of large poster sized paper maps. The series of maps include 3 primary maps and 3 supplementary maps as follows:

- Map 1 - Water and Riparian Habitat
- Map 2 – High Value Plant and Animal Habitat
- Map 3 – Undeveloped Habitat Blocks and Connectors among Conserved Land

- Supplementary Map 7 – Wetlands Characterization
- Supplementary Map 8 – USFWS<sup>3</sup> Priority Trust Species
- Regional Map – Building a Regional Landscape

These poster-sized maps can be useful to the Planning Board and the Code Enforcement Officer when reviewing development permit applications. The WCCOG recommends that they be posted on the wall of the town office within easy access to the Planning Board and CEO.

### **Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officer Training with Online Maps**

As referenced in footnote 1 above, there are several training resources available that are geared to different learning styles. The written instruction guides ([gro-wa.org/gis-map-instruction-guides](http://gro-wa.org/gis-map-instruction-guides)) cater to those who like to have a printed (or on-screen PDF) document to study and refer to when they work. Alternatively, the instructional videos ([wccog.net/online-gis-mapping-instructional-videos](http://wccog.net/online-gis-mapping-instructional-videos)) are provided in short (3-6 minute) formats. Any user is able to determine their level of competence from beginner to intermediate to advanced. The videos allow any user to refresh their memory if they do not use the tools over several months and have forgotten the finer details. An online user survey is open at all times to provide feedback so that the WCCOG/UMM- GIS partnership can improve the online interface and experience based on user feedback (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GISUserFeedback>).

### **Shifting from Paper to Online Maps in Comprehensive Plans**

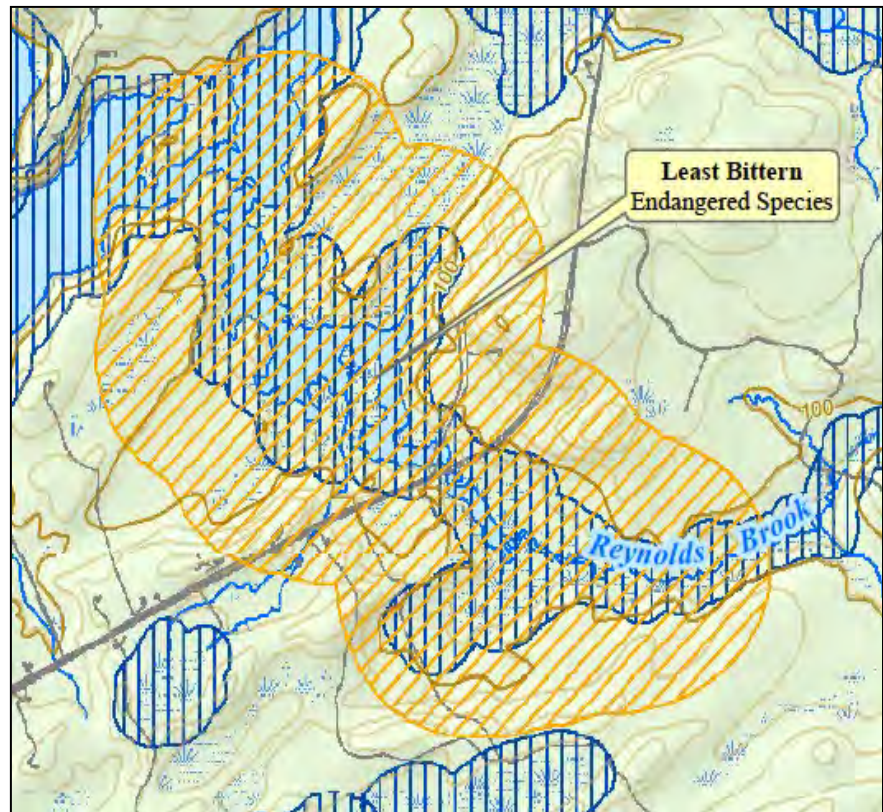
The result of the shift from paper to online maps is to completely abandon creation of town wide maps centered around the themes of Comprehensive Plan chapters. Readers are instead provided with screen shots of the various and detailed output of the variety of mapping tools. Thus, in the Transportation chapter the text provides information about how to access the MDOT web viewer and the screen shot at right describes the location of planned construction, and depicts the detail behind the map (the attribute table) so that the timing of future construction is available to the town (example from Columbia Falls).

As noted above, the WCCOG would prefer that the Beginning With Habitat data were available through the Maine Office of GIS servers so that it could be available to the online Planners maps (<http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm>). However, abandoning the creation of a single town wide map that depicts the spatial subject matter of each chapter does have a few benefits when depicting Critical Habitat information. First, a single town wide map of critical habitat, often depicted on an 8.5-inch by 11-inch piece of paper, is relatively useless when determining the location of the Critical Habitats. Second, by inserting a screen capture of zoomed-in areas of Critical Habitat, taken from the large poster (also PDF) format maps, into the discussion in the Natural Resources Chapter it is possible to:

- See the Critical Habitat in particular areas relative to other known points of interest and provide assistance with interpreting the map legends.
- Remind the Comprehensive Plan Committee, Planning Board and Code Enforcement Officer to actually pull out those large format maps, put them on the wall where they can be seen and use them for development review.

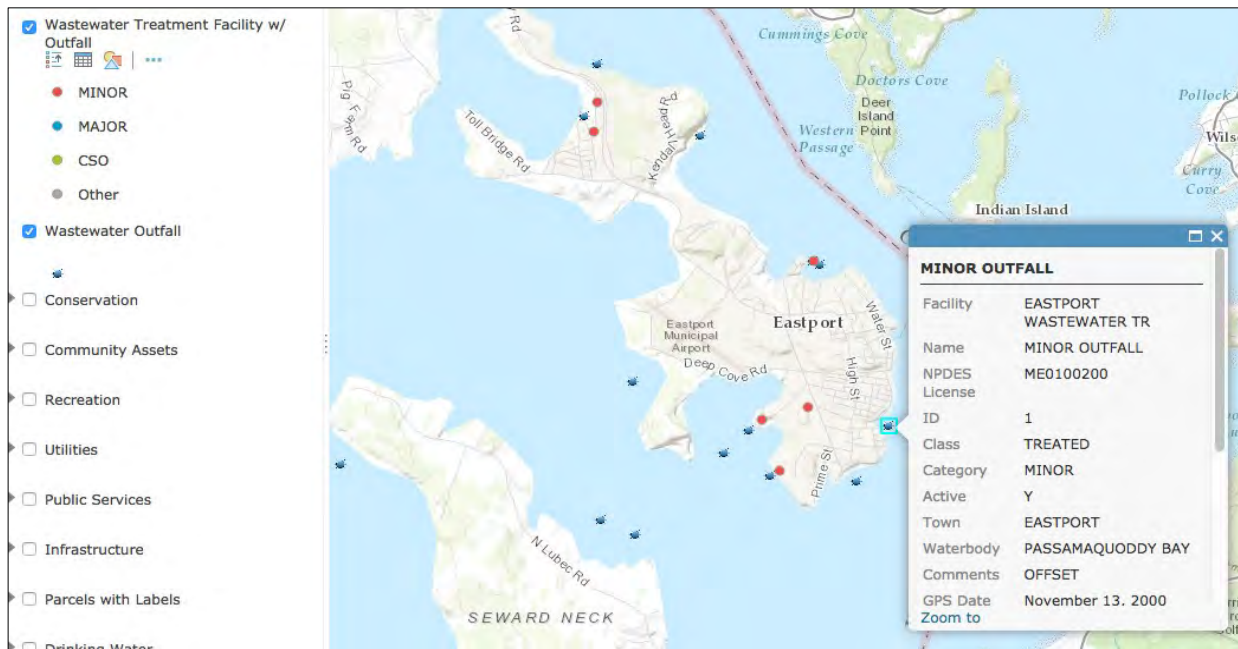


- Consider their actions in the context of regionally significant natural resources such as those described in Statewide Focus Areas of Ecological Significance.





As with the MaineDOT map viewer, this approach to Comprehensive Plan maps uses the chapter text to explain a little more about the true value of GIS mapping. GIS maps are not just snap-shots in time. It is the data behind almost any GIS map that provides the vast majority of its value. For instance, when depicting an inventory of point source discharge influences on water quality the screen shot of the online Planners tool can show the location of the discharge, the information box that provides details about it, and the additional map contents that can be turned on or off in any particular area (Eastport example provided below).



The Maine Drinking Water Program also provides a database on GoogleEarth of public water systems. No password is needed to access these maps. To download the Google Earth data, go to: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/maps.shtml>. A screen capture of the Maine Drinking Water Program’s webviewer service is provided in the Natural Resources chapter.

## SUMMARY

GIS mapping tools and the information they provide to municipalities is evolving much faster than the 10-12 year time horizon of a local Comprehensive Plan. Even for small rural municipalities who cannot afford the staff, equipment, or software to run to GIS mapping products, there are several available alternatives. The Online Planners and Parcel Maps provided by the WCCOG/UMM-GIS partnership provide access to up-to-date spatial information and its background attribute data.

Training on how to use it, depict it on alternative base map projections, see and analyze the data behind it, print it, share it, and add to it with local information, is provided in several learning styles and levels of expertise. Several Maine state departments also provide a variety of web-based mapping tools. This chapter provides examples of these tools. However, the individual chapters of this Comprehensive Plan provide many more examples of what they provide and how to use them in ways that both are specific to Cherryfield while simultaneously providing the inventory on which this Comprehensive Plan is being updated.

## **D. HISTORIC & ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The purpose of this section is to:

1. Identify and profile the type and significance of historic, archaeological, cultural and recreation resources of Cherryfield.
2. Assess current and future threats to the existence and integrity of those resources.
3. Assess the effectiveness of existing measures to protect those resources.

### **SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS**

The history of Cherryfield is substantially based upon the natural resources that drove the local and regional economy, especially forestry, shipbuilding, wild blueberries, and Atlantic salmon. Early residents engaged successfully in a variety of businesses. In the mid-70's, new state/federal rules and regulations effectively pushed many small family businesses out of operation, leading to a decline in both population and services available within the town.

Many current residents can trace their families back to the town's early days. The Historical Society has documented and protected much of the rich heritage of historic structures, and the Cherryfield Historic District was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on October 1, 1990.

Most Public Opinion Survey respondents indicated that they feel strongly that cultural, scenic and historic sites should be protected. Cherryfield still enjoys many of the benefits from our past as a small town with a strong sense of community where people look out for one another. While encouraging new development, the Town should seek to maintain our heritage through the protection and compatible redevelopment of historically significant buildings, and should continue to collect and maintain our historic records.

### **BRIEF HISTORY OF CHERRYFIELD**

Some of the key events from our past have been summarized in this section from local histories, and from the recollections of long-time residents.

Cherryfield, originally called Township No. 11, is located on the southwestern border of Washington County. Our community was settled in 1757 and was one of the fifty "lottery townships," located between the Penobscot and St. Croix Rivers, which were included in the land lottery of 1786. The town was incorporated February 9, 1816.

The origin and development of the town of Cherryfield is chiefly due to the Narraguagus River, which divides the village into two nearly equal parts. Milbridge is at the head of navigation on the Narraguagus, while Cherryfield is about 5.5 miles north, at the head of the tide. Vessels harbored in Milbridge and lumber was floated to the Village in scows and rafts.

Ichabod Willey and Samuel Colson settled Cherryfield in 1757. Willey, and probably Colson, came from New Hampshire. His wife, Elizabeth Bumford, was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Mr. Willey was a millwright and built the first mill on the Narraguagus River. Brothers Thomas and Samuel Leighton, came from Falmouth to the Narraguagus around 1760. Joseph Bracy was a very early settler. Samuel Colson and John Foster had arrived by 1763. John Lawrence came early from North Yarmouth,

while Captain Josiah Tucker built a house and lived on the hill east of Samuel Ray's residence. Alexander Campbell moved to part of Steuben that is now in Cherryfield, where he built mills about 1772 or 1773. He first contemplated building on the property occupied by Forest Mill, but built a dam and tide mill down below that property. There was a mill built prior to this, perhaps owned by Joseph Wallace, Deacon Jonathan Stevens and others.

John Archer, an Englishman, a surveyor and teacher, took up a lot on the Beddington Road in the early settlement, was one of the assessors in 1812, and a member of the Committee of Safety. Shubael Hinckley, sometime prior to the Revolution, settled first on the east side of the river and then moved to the intervale beyond the Archer place. The Fosters came to the river from Cape Elizabeth soon after the close of the Revolutionary War.

The northeast part of Steuben was annexed to Cherryfield in 1826. Alexander Nickels first settled in Milbridge and then purchased the Todd lot in Cherryfield and built a mansion. He was concerned with the tide mill at the old shipyard. Isaac Patten, by trade a tanner, came to Gouldsboro early and then moved to Foster's Island in Narraguagus Bay. General Campbell relinquished some thirty acres of the large lot that he had taken up, and Mr. Patten established a tannery near the creek. Joseph Bracy, a very early settler, already mentioned, finally bought a piece of land of the Todd or Nickel's lot and built a house on the south side of the old County road that led to the bridge at Shipyard Point.

The first meetinghouse was built on the east side of the river near the Campbell Mill near Shipyard Point. "The Belgrade", a full rigged bark that carried fifty-six local men around Cape Horn to California during the gold rush, was built in this formerly active shipbuilding community.

Among later Cherryfield settlers was Dr. Benjamin Alline, surgeon in the Continental Army, who settled in Gouldsboro after the war. He moved to Cherryfield about 1790, was the first physician in the vicinity. Joseph Adams came about 1780 from Massachusetts to Wiscasset, and then to Cherryfield. He was among the plantation officers in 1809 and from that time was identified with the town and with its interests. He held nearly every town office and was elected several times to the General Court. He often rode horseback from Narraguagus to Boston and back again after the session. A man of fine personal presence and of genial manners, he was a member of the Committee of Safety in 1812 and a Representative, from 1821 to 1831, to the Legislature of the newly established State of Maine.

The Census of 1790 lists the following additional heads of families in Township No. 11: John Jordan, Moses Roff, Gowen Wilson, John Anderson, John Elisha, and Ebenezer and John Small, Jr. Our population peaked in 1900 at 1859 persons, and since that time declined to a low of 771 persons in 1970. More recently, the population has rebounded some extent to 1,172 persons in 2015.

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\* Adapted from Ava Harrier Chadbourne's *Maine Place Names and the Peopling of its Towns*, 1957.

## HISTORIC INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY

Farming sustained the early inhabitants of Cherryfield. It was common for settlers to lease land from land companies or non-residents, in addition to their own holdings, to expand production. The burden of these transactions fell upon the tax collector, as the lessee was responsible for taxes. Except for taxes, initially very little exchange of money occurred locally, with most transactions done through barter. To bring in money for their families to pay taxes and purchase the newly available abundance of

consumer goods, farmers in the late 1800s often sought work in mills, as loggers in the winter, by repairing roads, and by taking to the sea.

As the family farm lost self-sufficiency by 1900, specialization in poultry and dairy farming occurred on a limited basis. By 1920, many family farms and fallow lands were consolidated by large landholders and put into wild blueberry production. This cash crop has become a mainstay in the county's agricultural base to the present day.

Cherryfield's claim to be "The Blueberry Capital of the World" is based upon its extensive wild blueberry barrens, which also support the canning facilities operated, by Cherryfield Foods and Jasper Wyman and Son. Both factories also receive and process berries from other parts of the county and the state. Wyman's first factory in Cherryfield was on Park Street about half a mile from the Milbridge town line. It was on the river to make for easy shipping. By 1913, and maybe earlier, Wyman's moved to their present location. Stewarts moved their factory to Stillwater Road by (1910). It was set very close to the road and was moved back in 1948. Both factories have changed considerably over the years from their humble beginnings.

Up until 1887, the gathering of wild blueberries was regarded as a public privilege. From that point on, the landowners were legally able to charge "stumpage" for the taking of the berries. William Freeman of Cherryfield, the lawyer who won control of the barrens for the landowners and also one of the landowners, is credited with having begun the practice of leasing wild blueberry fields to operators who would prune the wild blueberry plants, prevent trespass on the fields, harvest the crop and deliver it to the processing plants. This system of "blueberry leases" remained in wide use until the 1990's. Some of the leases stayed within the same family for several generations.

In the beginning, there were only a few hundred acres at most of what we now call the barrens. Today there are thousands of acres devoted to the wild blueberry. Alexander Baring, the 1st Baron of Ashburton, in 1796 told his employers of "this plain that was that was two to three miles in diameter very poor and barren. The soil is perfectly barren and covered with a short kind of heath and no wood. It has the appearance of being burned, but the soil is so hard that it can never have been good." The firm he worked for had purchased an undivided portion of the million-acre Bingham Purchase. He later negotiated with Daniel Webster concerning the Webster – Ashburton Treaty that established the boundary between Canada and Maine in 1842. This "short heath" was undoubtedly low bush blueberries.

Portland Packing Company was founded in 1862 when two smaller firms joined together. At one time there were 13 sites around the state one of which was a wild blueberry-processing factory in Cherryfield. It appears that they started packing about 1866 and were done packing berries here by 1868 when A.L. Stewart started. We wonder if this first factory was the former Portland Packing facility. In 1866, according to the Machias Union, "The firm in Milbridge that has been engaged in canning lobsters has been putting up blueberries." Unfortunately, we don't know which firm they were referring to.

The train coming to town in 1898 changed the wild blueberry industry. No longer did it take days to get the product to market by ship. Now it could be sent by rail which was much safer and more economical. Wild blueberries were still being sent by rail until the train stopped running in 1984. Wild blueberries were the most important industry in Cherryfield for many years. There were leaseholders who oversaw the harvest and caring of the land, factory workers who processed the berries, and of

course the berry rakers. Most Cherryfield residents remember raking from the time we were big enough to pick up a rake. It was a way for youth to make money for school clothes and have bit of spending money, too.

Today most of the berries are picked with mechanical harvesters. Only a few home lots are still raked by hand. Much of the work in the factories, which used to employ many people is now done by machine as

well. It is truly the end of an era. Folks depended on those six to eight weeks of work to be able to put money away for the hard times during the winter.

Perhaps the first event to start the out-migration of families from Cherryfield was “1816 - The Year of No Summer.” Many families left for the more fertile and less stony farms in Ohio. Around 1870, as the best of the timber was harvested, many lumberjacks and lumber merchants moved west, first to Minnesota and Michigan, then to Washington and Oregon Territories.

Two other influences were the California Gold Rush and the Civil War. During the Civil War, Cherryfield furnished more men per capita than any other town in Maine. While not many men made a fortune in the gold fields, it brought the men in contact with what was going on around the United States. The Civil War gave the men a completely different perspective on life. There was work in the mills on the rivers in southern New England. The Railroads were expanding, followed by the Telegraph Company, and later the Telephone Company. Cherryfield men found jobs in all these industries.

Lumbering in Cherryfield and surrounding areas was in a decline, reducing our population over the years. The lumber industry was hard hit by the depression of 1873, followed by the severe infestation of the Spruce Budworm between 1900 and 1910. During the first half of the Twentieth Century the sawmills on the river slowly closed, and lumbering shifted from logging to pulpwood for the paper mills. By the 1950's and 60's even this was a small part of the economy.

## **SHIPBUILDING**

These following paragraphs are from “An Era To Remember- a historical sketch of the ship building industry in West Washington County” by Robert Hammond, Harrington, Maine, 1967.

Cherryfield experienced a great deal of shipbuilding. At one time vessels were built on both sides of the Narraguagus. The earliest shipyard was on the west side of the river and the later ones on the east side. These shipyards were owned and operated by N. Hinckley, Jewell Hinckley, Samuel and Leonard Strout, William Nickels, Amos Dyer, C. Small, Talbot Smith, A. Campbell & Co., and G.R. Campbell & Co. The vessels built were of average tonnage. Probably one of the largest ever constructed on the river was the bark Frank. Amos Dyer constructed two vessels named Robin and Belgrade. The former received its name from the fact that a robin built her nest in the vessel's timbers while it was under construction and, unbothered by the men, there hatched her young. The latter, a full rigged bark, carried a company of fifty-six miners around Cape Horn to California. G.W. Emery constructed the last ship, the William F. Campbell in 1893.

During the Cherryfield construction period, a change was taking place in the location of shipyards. As years passed and larger boats were being built, deeper water was required for the ships. Consequently, the shipyards were slowly pressured down the Narraguagus River in Cherryfield to the deeper waters of Milbridge.

Below is an index of ships that were built in this area. It is difficult to obtain all of these because in many cases they are not listed in the official register.

Sources:

List of Merchant Vessels in the United States 1889; Fairbanks Volume Record of American and Foreign Shipping - 1878

In order to save space, the following abbreviations are used:

Sch - schooner	1/2 B - half brig or hermaphrodite
Bk - bark	Trn - tern or schooner of three masts
Bkt - barkentine	Bg - brig
Shp - ship	Sbt - steamboat
Scw - scow	Slp - sloop
DD - double deck	

The term rig, when applied to vessels, generally refers to the number and kind of masts and style of sails that are carried, but the term is also sometimes used indiscriminately to designate the class or hull or the complete vessel in her entirety. It may be said of a vessel that she has a ship's hull with rig of a brig, meaning that the hull may be a build that does not correspond with the style of rig. In such cases the rig prevails over the hull in giving the name of the vessel's species, and she is called a brig; but in some compound names, as "scow-schooner", the word "scow" expresses the build of the hull, and the "schooner" the style of the rig.

<b><i>The Ships of Cherryfield</i></b>				
<b><i>Vessel Name</i></b>	<b><i>Year Built</i></b>	<b><i>Tonnage</i></b>	<b><i>Principals</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>
<i>Industry</i>	<i>1826</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>Samuel Small</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Sarah</i>	<i>1826</i>	<i>187.15</i>	<i>Otis Godfrey</i>	<i>bg</i>
<i>Dispatch</i>	<i>1826</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>Charles Godfrey</i>	
<i>Volant</i>	<i>1827</i>	<i>131.2</i>	<i>Louis Wallace</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Franklin</i>	<i>1828</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>Asa Dyer</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Farmer</i>	<i>1830</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>Samuel Small</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>George Washington</i>	<i>1830</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>Asa Dyer</i>	<i>bg</i>
<i>Frontier</i>	<i>1831</i>	<i>56.35</i>	<i>Otis Leighton</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Ontario</i>	<i>1831</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>Joseph Sevens</i>	<i>bg</i>
<i>Frances</i>	<i>1832</i>	<i>169</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>Favourite</i>	<i>1832</i>	<i>153</i>		<i>bg</i>
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>1832</i>	<i>201</i>		<i>bg</i>
<i>Atlantic</i>	<i>1833</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>Hanoy Leightonbg</i>	
<i>Friends</i>	<i>1833</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>Henry D. Leightonsch</i>	
<i>Splendid</i>	<i>1835</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>Eli Foster</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Grand Turk</i>	<i>1837</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>Hanoy Leighton</i>	<i>bg</i>

<i><b>The Ships of Cherryfield</b></i>				
<i><b>Vessel Name</b></i>	<i><b>Year Built</b></i>	<i><b>Tonnage</b></i>	<i><b>Principals</b></i>	<i><b>Type</b></i>
<i>Relief</i>	<i>1839</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>Eli Foster</i>	<i>bg</i>
<i>President</i>	<i>1841</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>Thomas Leighton</i>	
<i>Katahdin</i>	<i>1845</i>	<i>148</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>Nictouse</i>	<i>1845</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>Layton E. O.</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Anna Maria</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>W.H. Mitchell</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Gassabeas</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>133</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>William Nickles</i>	<i>1848</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>Sterling &amp; Ahiens</i>	
<i>Oronco</i>	<i>1848</i>	<i>183.35</i>	<i>Fred Foster</i>	<i>bk</i>
<i>Robin</i>	<i>1854</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>Isa Dyer</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Robert Foster</i>	<i>1854</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>G. R. Campbell</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Moonlight</i>	<i>1855</i>	<i>276</i>		<i>bg</i>
<i>Lucretia</i>	<i>1856</i>	<i>259</i>		<i>bg</i>
<i>Surf</i>	<i>1856</i>	<i>73</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>Kingbird</i>	<i>1856</i>	<i>350</i>		<i>bg</i>
<i>John T. Brent</i>	<i>1857</i>	<i>86</i>		<i>bg</i>
<i>Samuel Lindsey</i>	<i>1859</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>John W. Sawyer</i>	
			<i>Nathan Hinckly</i>	<i>1/2 B</i>
<i>Milwaukee</i>	<i>1860</i>	<i>159</i>		<i>bg</i>
<i>Susan Moore</i>	<i>1860</i>	<i>192</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>William Alan Name</i>	<i>1861</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>Pendergrast Bros.</i>	
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>1861</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>Eaton &amp; Co.</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Alexander Nickles</i>	<i>1863</i>	<i>271</i>		<i>1/2 B</i>
<i>Peris L. Smith</i>	<i>1864</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>H. H. Upton</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Jane Enson</i>	<i>1864</i>	<i>240.37</i>	<i>W. F. Strout</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Frank</i>	<i>1865</i>	<i>577</i>	<i>Simpson &amp; Clapp</i>	<i>bk</i>
<i>Mariposa</i>	<i>1865</i>	<i>298</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>Sophia</i>	<i>1865</i>	<i>134</i>		<i>sch 1/2 B</i>
<i>Mattie E. Taber</i>	<i>1865</i>	<i>235</i>	<i>Marand &amp; Parker</i>	
<i>Anelia</i>	<i>1866</i>	<i>284.44</i>	<i>J. A. Mitchell</i>	<i>1/2 B</i>

<i><b>The Ships of Cherryfield</b></i>				
<i><b>Vessel Name</b></i>	<i><b>Year Built</b></i>	<i><b>Tonnage</b></i>	<i><b>Principals</b></i>	<i><b>Type</b></i>
<i>Susie J. Strout</i>	<i>1866</i>	<i>191</i>		<i>1/ B</i>
<i>Kate Foster</i>	<i>1866</i>	<i>167.89</i>	<i>E.J. White</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Persis Hincly</i>	<i>1866</i>	<i>191</i>		<i>1/2 B</i>
<i>Alaska</i>	<i>1867</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>Bunker Bros.</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>J. W. Coffin</i>	<i>1867</i>	<i>154</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>Shasta</i>	<i>1868</i>	<i>314</i>		<i>1/2 B</i>
<i>Mary E. Leighton</i>	<i>1868</i>	<i>416</i>		<i>1/2 B D.D.</i>
<i>Eva L. Leonard</i>	<i>1868</i>	<i>115.1</i>	<i>J. W. Mosely</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Lookout</i>	<i>1868</i>	<i>134</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>Sharon</i>	<i>1869</i>	<i>279</i>	<i>Talbot Smith</i>	<i>bg</i>
<i>Caroline</i>	<i>1869</i>	<i>111.39</i>	<i>S Campbell</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Margaret</i>	<i>1869</i>	<i>117.07</i>	<i>G. R. Campbell</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Juliet</i>	<i>1870</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>Eli Foster</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Enterprise</i>	<i>1871</i>	<i>136.44</i>	<i>Joel Hinckly</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Wigwam</i>	<i>1871</i>	<i>124.03</i>	<i>W. Nash</i>	
			<i>Luther Stevens</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Como</i>	<i>1872</i>	<i>128.85</i>	<i>William Lewis</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Arctouse</i>	<i>1872</i>	<i>83</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>Haska</i>	<i>1872</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>Eli Foster</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Sabao</i>	<i>1872</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>Eben Wood</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Ida</i>	<i>1872</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>Eli Foster</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Alexander Campbell</i>	<i>1874</i>	<i>475</i>	<i>G. R. Campbell</i>	<i>bkt</i>
<i>Annie &amp; Lilly</i>	<i>1874</i>	<i>291</i>	<i>Joel Hinckly</i>	<i>1/2 B</i>
<i>Adolph Engler (renamed Sara Doe)</i>	<i>1874</i>	<i>648.1</i>		<i>bk D. D.</i>
<i>Lexington</i>	<i>1875</i>	<i>149.77</i>	<i>E.J. White</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Henry T. Wing</i>	<i>1876</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>Joel Hinckly</i>	<i>bg</i>
<i>Ida</i>	<i>1877</i>	<i>67.7</i>	<i>Eli Foster</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Charlie &amp; Willie</i>	<i>1878</i>	<i>16.02</i>		<i>sch</i>
<i>Itasca</i>	<i>1879</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>Joseph Strout</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Little David</i>	<i>1880</i>	<i>15.02</i>		<i>slp</i>
<i>Narraguagus</i>	<i>1881</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>Edwin McKenny</i>	<i>sch</i>



<i><b>The Ships of Cherryfield</b></i>				
<i><b>Vessel Name</b></i>	<i><b>Year Built</b></i>	<i><b>Tonnage</b></i>	<i><b>Principals</b></i>	<i><b>Type</b></i>
<i>Hattie Godfrey</i>	<i>1882</i>	<i>104.33</i>	<i>D. W. Campbell</i>	
<i>May Brown</i>	<i>1882</i>	<i>59.83</i>	<i>Joel Hinckly</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>J. Chester Wood</i>	<i>1883</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Joseph Strout</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Jennis Lind</i>	<i>1883</i>	<i>123.13</i>	<i>J. A. Leighton</i>	
			<i>Joel Hinckly</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Mopang</i>	<i>1884</i>	<i>77.61</i>	<i>Alfred Sproul</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Carrie C. Ware</i>	<i>1884</i>	<i>185.58</i>	<i>Charles Heene</i>	
			<i>Joseph Strout</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Lucy May</i>	<i>1888</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>G. W. Emery</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Clara J.</i>	<i>1889</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>Joel Hinckly</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Ethel</i>	<i>1890</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>Joseph Strout</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Florence A.</i>	<i>1890</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>G. W. Emery</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>Cora M.</i>	<i>1892</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Joel Hinckly</i>	<i>sch</i>
<i>William F. Campbell</i>	<i>1893</i>	<i>201</i>	<i>G.W. Emery</i>	<i>sch</i>

## FLOODS

Floods were a problem from the time the town was settled. The first flood of the 20th Century occurred April 9, 1901. Several small dams upriver on both the East and West Branches broke. The water from both directions reached Stillwater Pond at about the same time. This did extensive damage to Stillwater Dam and Mill as well as other mills downriver in the center of town. Much damage was also done to the town's Main Street and River Road.

Other fairly serious floods occurred in 1909, 1914 and 1923. In March 1936, heavy rains caused the ice to jam up in the narrows below Shipyard Point, flooding back over Park Street, Main Street and River Road, with several feet of water in the streets. The water backed up Main Street as far as where the Railroad Depot is now located. The State Highway workers had torn down the covered bridge on Route 1 and were getting ready to build the new bridge. They were barely able to secure their equipment before the water rose.

The last bad flood occurred on March 10, 1942. At this time the heavy rains caused the ice to jam up the length of the lower river, spilling out over Main Street, River Road and Park Street. Much damage was done to buildings and vehicles. One man lost his life. It took steam shovels and bulldozers to remove the enormous ice cakes from the streets. There were lesser floods in 1955 and 1959, with about two feet of water on lower Main Street and River Road.

In 1961, the Corp of Engineers built an ice control dam at Stillwater at about the site of the old Stillwater dam. This holds back the ice coming down East and West Branches and should prevent disastrous floods from happening again. Any year, it is possible to have enough ice between the dam and the Route 1 Bridge to cause a minor flood in the lower downtown area should there be heavy rain.

Such floods occurred in 1967, 1968, 1976, 1977, and 1987. In recent years, changing weather conditions have reduced the chance of floods. Pictures of these floods may be seen at the Historical Society.

## **HISTORIC PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT**

Historic patterns of development provide important information about the development of communities and community life. Moreover, historic downtowns with concentrations of historic homes and businesses contribute to the feel of a community and its sense of place. The historical pattern of development is clearly evident in the village center of Cherryfield straddling both sides of the Narraguagus River, and contributes positively to the community's identity today.

## **HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Historic and archaeological resources include prehistoric archaeological sites (mainly Native American), archaeological sites from the historical period, and historic buildings and places.

**Archaeological Sites** - The ultimate aim for municipal planning concerning archeological sites should be the identification and protection of all such significant sites. Resource protection zoning is one way that this can be accomplished. Individual landowners of significant properties may also be approached to obtain permission for nomination of archeological sites on their property to the Nation Register of Historic Places, and additionally to donate preservation easements if they so desire. (National Register listing extends protection of Federal legislation against actions by Federal agencies, while the combination of National Register listing and preservation easement with posting against ground disturbance extends the protection of State Antiquities Legislation to archeological sites.)

**Pre-historic Archaeological Sites** - Pre-historical archaeological sites include all sites that contain artifacts from before the first written records. There are two known prehistoric archaeological sites (sites 60.1 and 60.2) and no known historical archeological sites located within Cherryfield, according to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). One of the prehistoric archeological sites may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The MHPC notes that further survey, inventory and analysis of prehistoric archeological sites should focus on the edge of wild blueberry barrens and the Narraguagus River Valley, and of historic archeological sites could focus on sites relating to the earliest European settlement of the town, beginning in the 1750s.

**Historic Archaeological Sites** - Historic archaeological sites are those that include significant archaeological artifacts from the time period after written records began. According to MHPC, historic archaeological sites "may include cellar holes from houses, foundations for farm buildings, mills, wharves and boat yards, as well as shipwrecks."

No professional surveys for historic archaeological sites have been conducted to date in Cherryfield. Any future archaeological surveys should focus on the identification of potentially significant resources associated with Cherryfield's agricultural, residential, and industrial heritage, particularly those associated with the earliest Native American and Euro-American settlement of the Town in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Threats to Existing Sites** - The locations of the above referenced archaeological sites are protected under Shoreland Zoning and Flood Plain Management Ordinance provisions that have been adopted by the

Town.

## **HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND PLACES**

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission maintains an inventory of important sites including buildings or sites on the National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP). They record nine such listings for the town, which include:

- General Alexander Campbell House, US Route 1
- Patten Building, Maine Street
- Colonel Samuel Campbell House, US Route 1
- Cherryfield Academy, Main Street
- Frank Campbell House, US Route 1
- William M. Nash House, River Road
- David W. Campbell House, Main Street
- Archibald-Adams House, SR 193
- Cherryfield Historic District

The sites and buildings listed above, as well as other sites, are shown on map detail on the following page. They are of historic importance to the town's residents and are described below.

The Cherryfield Historic District was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on October 1, 1990 by recommendation of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and was approved by the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

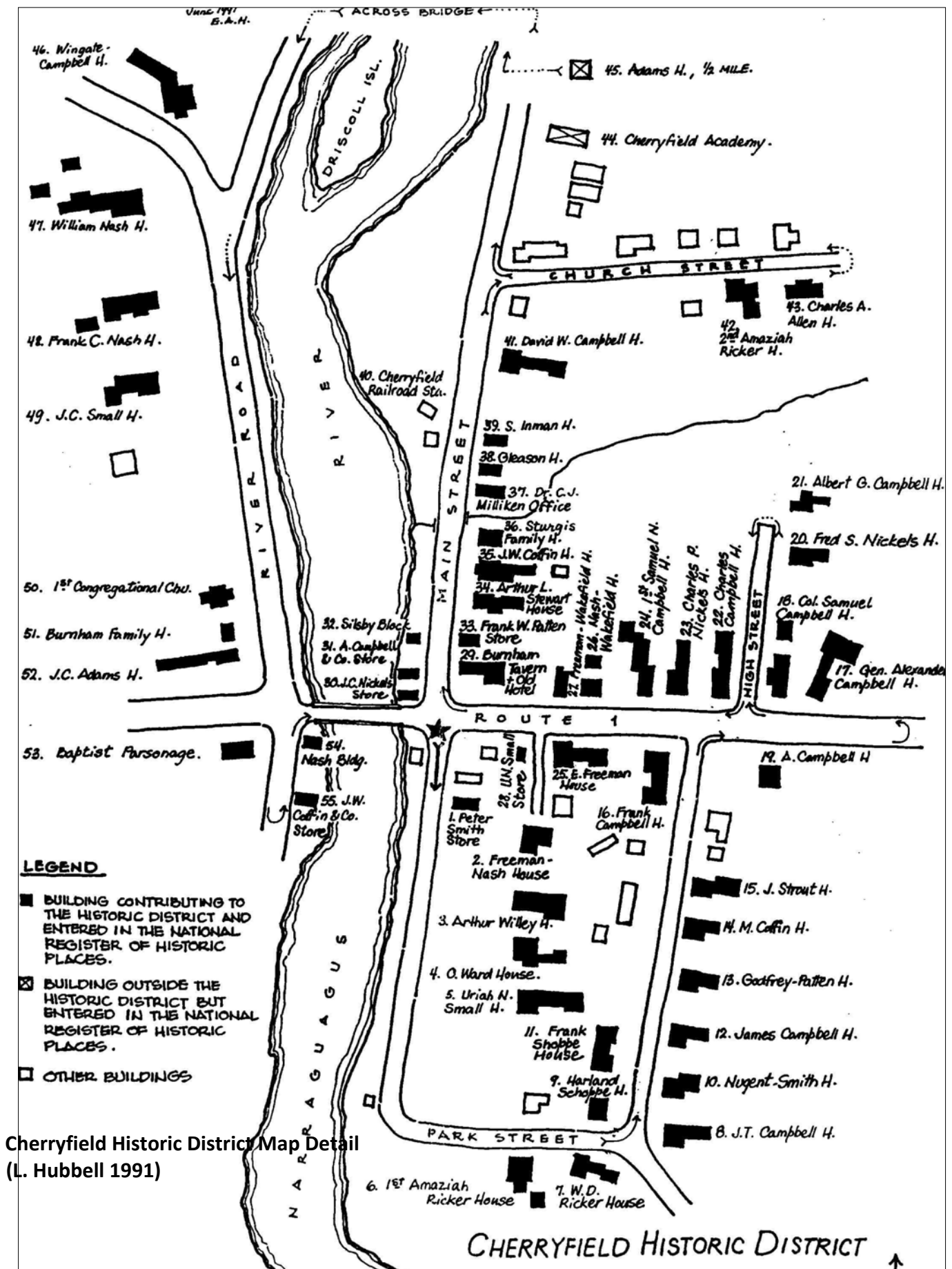
The Cherryfield Historic District is an area of approximately 75 acres lying on both sides of the Narraguagus River. The historic district is comprised of a collection of substantially intact residential and commercial buildings that clearly depict the nineteenth century development of a riverside community. There are 51 contributing and 10 non-contributing buildings in the district. There are another two historic buildings outside the district but also in the National Register.

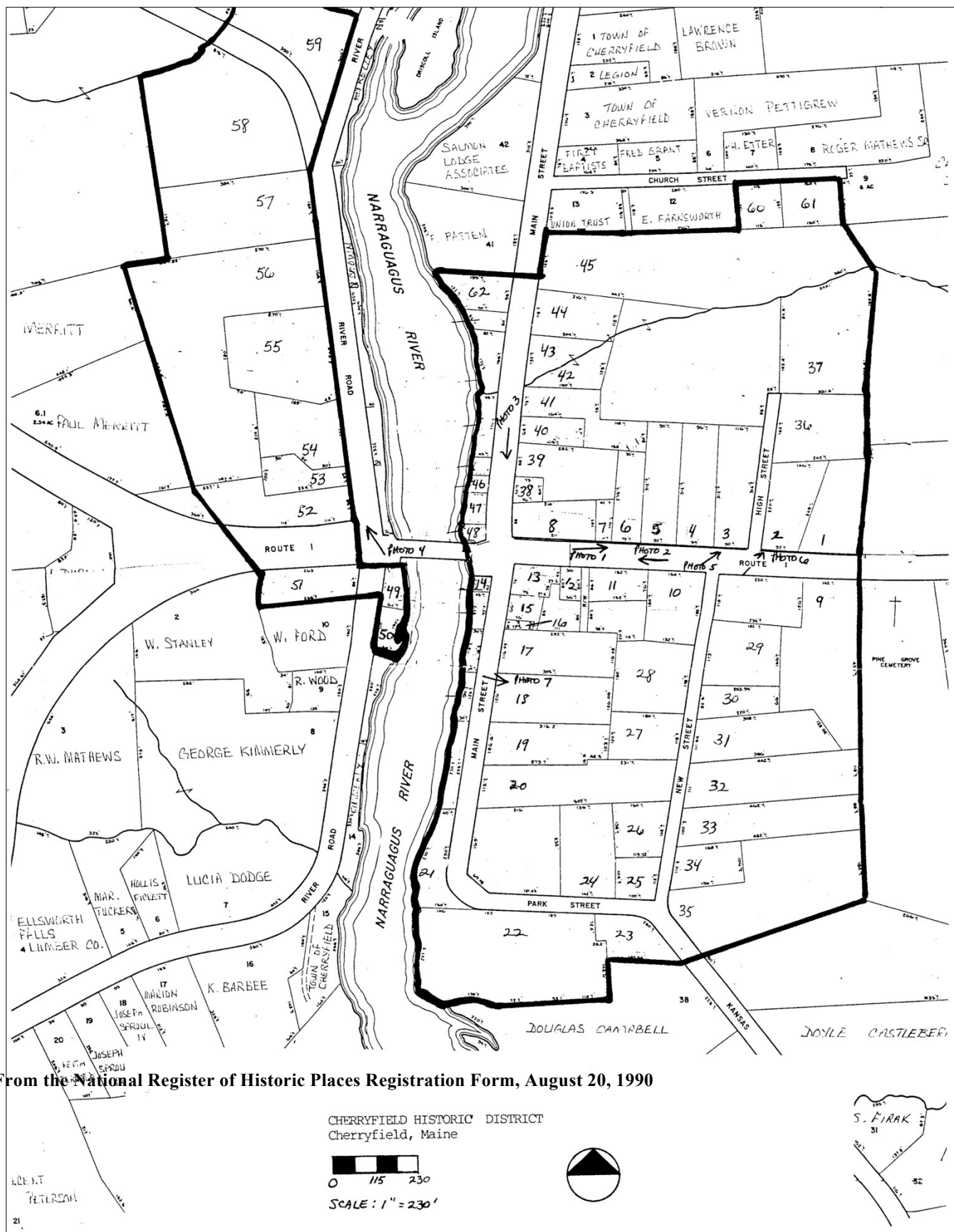
Cherryfield has been approved as an historic district by virtue of its depiction of community development and association with commerce, through its association with significant persons, and for architectural history.

Although the 52 contributing buildings in the district (and all others outside the district) are framed with wood, the district architecturally holds representative examples of the most popular nineteenth century residential styles with an especially impressive concentration of Second Empire dwellings. Included in the styles are: Second Empire, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival.

## **OTHER ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES**

There are a number of other properties in town eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. From the old Academy Building North along Main Street to the Willey District Road, a number of properties are considered eligible.





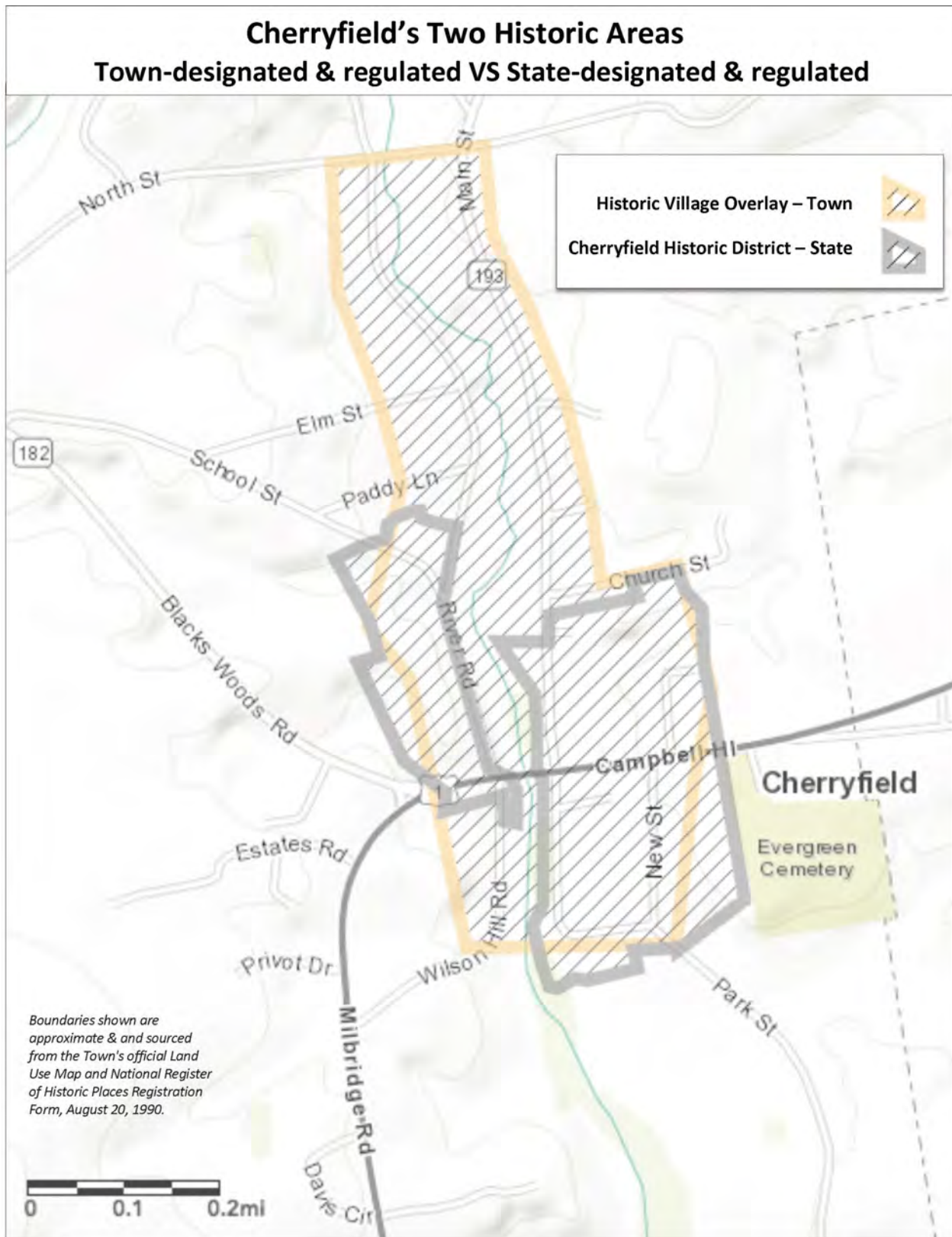
Numbers listed below refer to the preceding Cherryfield Historic District Map Detail.

1. Peter Smith Store, 1858: Vernacular Italianate.
2. Freeman Nash House, 1840: Greek Revival.
3. Arthur Willey House, 1876: Second Empire. Willey was a justice, and his family included lumber manufacturers and merchants.
4. O. Ward House, 1870: Italianate
5. Uriah N. Small, 1840: Greek Revival. Small was a merchant. His store was in what is now the post office (#28).
6. (First) Amaziah Ricker House, 1803: Federal. Second oldest house in the district. Ricker was the first blacksmith in the area, and his shop was in the adjacent building. The Masonic Lodge organized and met in this house.
7. W.D. Ricker House, 1835: Greek Revival.
8. J. T. Campbell House, 1860: Italianate.
9. Harland Schoppee House, built after 1881: Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Vernacular.
10. Nugent/Smith House, 1870: Vernacular Greek Revival. By 1881 local merchant Peter Smith had acquired this property.
11. Frank Shoppe House, 1900: Vernacular Italianate. Shoppe was listed in the Maine Register as a lumberman.
12. James Campbell House, 1860: Greek Revival/Italianate. Campbell was a carpenter and ship joiner.
13. Godfrey/Patten House, 1860: Greek Revival/Italianate. Godfrey was a blacksmith and ship smith. Patten was a merchant and a shoe manufacturer, and his store and building still stands (#33)
14. M. Coffin House, 1860: Greek Revival/Italianate.
15. J. Strout House, 1855: Greek Revival/Italianate.
16. Frank Campbell House, 1875: Second Empire.
17. General Alexander Campbell House, 1790: Federal. Oldest documented home in the village. Campbell was the most prominent of Cherryfield's early settlers. He developed a substantial lumber business and was a Massachusetts State Senator from 1781 to 1798. His descendants still live in the house.
18. (Second) Samuel N. Campbell House, 1883: Queen Anne. A grandson of Alexander Campbell, Samuel was engaged in the lumber business and was active in State politics.
19. Campbell House, 1940: Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Four Square Vernacular modification of unknown configuration on early foundation.
20. Fred S. Nickels House, 1893/1894: Queen Anne Colonial Revival.
21. Albert G. Campbell House, 1893/1894: Queen Anne. Aseph Allen supervised construction. Completed at same time as adjoining house (#20)
22. Charles Campbell House, 1904: Colonial Revival. Built to replace earlier house (built in 1861), which burned in 1903. Campbell was a partner in the manufacturing, shipbuilding, and mercantile firm of G.R. Campbell and Company.
23. Charles P. Nickels House, 1870: Second Empire. Nickels, a general merchant and lumber manufacturer, remodeled this house in 1870 from the original dwelling noted on an 1861 map.
24. (First) Samuel N. Campbell House, before 1861: Gothic/Greek Revival/Italianate. Before moving to his new home (#17) in 1883, Campbell was a partner in the firm of

25. G.R. Campbell and Co. and president of the Cherryfield Silver Mining Company (organized in 1879).
26. E. Freeman House, 1840: Greek Revival.
27. Nash/Wakefield House, 1820: Federal. Wakefield was a manufacturer of castings and machinery.
28. Freeman/Wakefield, 1861: Transitional Greek Revival/Italianate. Wakefield was in partnership with his father in a casting and machinery manufacturing business.
29. U.N. Small Store, 1860: Vernacular Greek Revival/Gothic: Present post office building.
30. Burnham Tavern/Old Hotel, 1840. Alterations were made in the early 1920s. Now a car dealership.
31. J. O. Nickels Store, 1830: Greek Revival. This, the oldest of Cherryfield's historic commercial buildings, was constructed for J. O. Nickels and Son, a lumber and general mercantile business. Acquired by A. Campbell and Co. and linked to their adjacent store (#31).
32. Campbell and Company Store, 1865: Italianate. Now houses a fraternal organization.
33. Silsby Block, 1895: Queen Anne. Built for Dr. E. B. Silsby for use as an office and drug store.
34. Frank W. Patten Store, 1865. Used for various commercial enterprises and considered the most elaborately detailed of Cherryfield's surviving commercial buildings. Now a museum operated by the local historical society.
35. Arthur L. Stewart House, 1850 & 1891: Second Empire front block and an earlier ell. Stewart was among Cherryfield's leading businessmen. His enterprises included general mercantile, stove and tinware manufacturing. He is believed to have been the first commercial canner of wild Maine blueberries.
36. J. W. Coffin, 1860: Italianate. Coffin was a long time Cherryfield merchant and lumber manufacturer.
37. Sturgis Family, 1840: Greek Revival. Owner A. H. Sturgis in 1861 was the operator of a livery stable.
38. Dr. C.J. Milliken House, 1860: Vernacular Greek Revival. This was a store in 1861. Later it was the office of Dr. C.J. Milliken.
39. Gleason House, 1850: Vernacular Greek Revival. This building was the post office in 1861.
40. S. Inman House, 1881-1884: Vernacular Italianate.
41. Cherryfield Railway Station, 1898: Washington County Railroad Commercial Building. Purchased for \$1.00 by the Cherryfield Narraguagus Historical Society in 1985 and was moved ½ mile south from the original site.
42. David W. Campbell House, 1828: Italianate. Constructed by housewright Campbell for his family residence.
43. Charles A. Allen House, 1875: Italianate. Allen's obituary identified him as a house carpenter who "...in his time had built some of the best residences in town...a designer who understood the rules of architecture." His documented work in the district includes building Nos. 16, 50 18, 42 and his own residences. He also remodeled house Nos. 17, 47, and 34. Stylistic characteristics strongly suggest his involvement in house No. 23 as well. With C. D. Small, Allen established a steam-powered mill adjacent to Allen's carpentry shop in which they made doors, blinds, and sash.

44. Cherryfield Academy Building; Greek Revival. The Union School District was formed in 1850 to fund construction. Served as school until 1967. Used through 1992 as town office. It is still in house as the Cherryfield town library. The Trustees are currently seeking to restore it as a cultural center for the area.
45. Adams House, 1793: Federal. Considered to be the second oldest documented house in the village.
46. Wingate/Campbell House, 1850: Italianate. In 1870 Wingate was a manufacturer of blinds, sash, and doors. G. R. Campbell who owned Cherryfield's largest lumber manufacturing and mercantile firm acquired the house in 1881. To transport its own products, Campbell's firm built at least three ships at shipyards located 300 yards south of the historic district's border on the eastern side of the Narraguagus River.
47. William M. Nash House, 1840-1888: Second Empire. Considered to be one of Maine's most distinctive late 19<sup>th</sup> Century dwelling houses, this building is the largest in the district and is also one of the most lavishly ornamented. It is one of local builder Charles Allen's masterpieces. His work was actually a major remodeling of a temple style Greek Revival dwelling which had been occupied by James W. Moore. Further, tradition recounts that a Cape preceded the Greek Revival building, and its structure remains somewhere within the volume of the present house. Nash, a tanner, shoemaker and lumber manufacturer, was one of Cherryfield's leading businessmen.
48. Frank C. Nash House, 1891: Queen Anne. Nash was a partner in a lumber manufacturing firm. Aseph Allen was the architect and builder.
49. J. C. Smith/Wingate House, 1830: Transitional Federal/Greek Revival. One of the oldest surviving buildings in the district.
50. First Congregational Church, 1883: Gothic Revival. The only church in the district. It was designed and built by Charles A. Allen and formally dedicated on July 15, 1885.
51. Burnham Family House, 1850: Greek Revival. Burnham was probably the partner in the lumber manufacturing firm of Campbell and Burnham.
52. J. C. Adams House, 1850: Transitional Italianate.
53. Baptist Parsonage, 1840: Greek Revival. Noted in 1861 as the U.N. Small Store and by 1881 served as the Baptist Parsonage.
54. Nash Building, 1880: Vernacular Italianate. Built as a drug store, it is now used as the office of a charter sailing business. Steel splice bands, used to lengthen ship masts, can still be seen on timbers, reused as piers at the rear of building.
55. J. W. Coffin and Co, Store, 1860: Vernacular Italianate. This stood on the opposite side of the bridge from the Nash Building (#54) until it was moved to its present site in 1936. It was built as the J.W. Coffin and Co. Store, and its second floor was used as a Masonic Hall. Still used as a Masonic Hall.





## CEMETERIES

Cemeteries are also a cultural resource providing insight into the history of the community. An inventory of Cherryfield cemeteries and burial sites is listed below.

1. Old Town Cemetery (town owned)
2. Pine Grove Cemetery (incorrectly labeled as Evergreen Cemetery in current documents) (managed by an association)
3. Tobias Strout Family Cemetery
4. Pinkham Family Cemetery
5. Bailey Family Cemetery
6. Barber Family Cemetery
7. Small Family Cemetery (managed by an association)
8. Horatio B. Willey Family Cemetery
9. Tunk District Cemetery
10. W. Tucker Family Cemetery
11. Wallas Family Cemetery
12. Downing Family Cemetery (TWSP#10)
13. Joseph Small Family Cemetery
14. Betsey Leighton burial site
15. Aaron Leighton Family Cemetery
16. Bracy/Stillson Family Cemetery
17. Daniel Leighton Family Cemetery
18. Wilson Family Cemetery
19. Tourtelotte Family Cemetery
20. Rairdan Family Cemetery
21. Dorman Family Cemetery
22. Tracy Family Cemetery
23. David W. Tucker Family Cemetery
24. Otis Tucker Family Cemetery
25. Intervale Cemetery (town owned)
26. Haycock Family Cemetery
27. Samuel Davis Jr. Family Cemetery
28. Dorr Family Cemetery
29. William Willey Sr. Family Cemetery
30. William Willey Jr. Family Cemetery
31. Hart Family Cemetery
32. Morse Cemetery (maintained by the Morse family)
33. Oakes Family Cemetery
34. Tenan Family Cemetery
35. Newenham Family Cemetery
36. Ichabod Willey Sr. Family Cemetery (maintained by the landowner)
37. Robert Tucker Family Cemetery
38. Ichabod Willey Jr. Family Cemetery
39. Oliver Willey Family Cemetery
40. Grant Family Cemetery
41. Samuel M. Davis Family Cemetery

These cemeteries were located and catalogued in the 1970s. At least one, No. 27, cannot be located. At the time this project was done, the Society was told of ten other cemeteries. Two had been destroyed in the 1920's, one has disappeared from riverbank erosion, one has had a building built over it, and the others have grown up to woods. Two burial sites of Revolutionary War soldiers also cannot be located. A listing of the burials is at the Historical Society.

No. 1 (Old Town Cemetery) and No. 25 (Intervale Cemetery) are both owned by the Town. No recent burials have been made in the Old Town Cemetery but there are still lots available, although no plot plan exists. Burials continue in the Intervale Cemetery and lots are being established without benefit of a plot plan. The Selectmen established a Town Cemetery Committee in the late 1980's to lay out and price available lots in both cemeteries. The Committee never met and therefore no lot, pricing or maintenance plan was established. Both cemeteries contain graves of historical significance including veterans of the American Revolution. The Town provides compensation for Morse, Pine Grove, and Small Cemeteries to maintain veteran graves at these sites.

## **LOCAL WRITTEN HISTORIES**

- The Narraguagus Valley, 1886, by J. A. Milliken
- Sketches of Harrington and Cherryfield, 1893, by A. S. Willey
- Souvenir Edition of The Narraguagus Times, 1902, edited by W.E. Lewis
- Town Register of Cherryfield, 1905, by Mitchell & Campbell
- Era to Remember, 1967, by the Narraguagus High School History Class
- Mills of the Narraguagus, 1977, by Phil Harriman
- Cherryfield Territorial Boundaries, 1981, by Earle Tyler Sr.
- Early Narraguagus River Families of Washington County, 2002, by Daryl Lamson and Leonard Tibbets.
- Way Down East in Maine, 1958, by John T. Greenan (This book is about the earliest families of Steuben, which also includes families and businesses in the section of Cherryfield that was Steuben until annexed in 1826.)

## **PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

According to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, “the standard of what makes an archaeological site worthy of preservation should normally be eligibility for, or listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Because the National Register program accommodates sites of national, state and local significance, it can include local values. Because of physical damage to a site and/or recent site age, some sites are not significant.”

The primary mechanisms for historical preservation in Cherryfield are private investment in historic properties and streetscape enhancement, and municipal support of privately led historic preservation efforts. Private options exist for individual property preservation. The Town should continue to support interested property owners who pursue voluntary listing of additional property on the National Register of Historic Places.

To ensure that significant historical and archaeological resources are not inadvertently lost, the Town should ensure that subdivision or non-residential property developers look for and identify

any historical and archaeological resources. Development proposals should protect those resources, including but not limited to, through modification of proposed site design, construction timing, and/or extent of excavation.

### **Rehabilitation Grants**

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program rewards private investment to rehabilitate certified historic structures (building listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or a building located in a registered historic district and certified by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historic significance of the district). The building must currently be used or will be used for commercial, industrial, agricultural, or rental residential purposes, but not used exclusively as the owner's private residence. Under PL 99-514 Internal Revenue Code Section 47, tax incentives include:

- 20% tax credit for certified rehabilitation of certified historic structures.
- 10% tax credit for rehabilitation of non-historic, non-residential buildings built before 1936.

For both credits, the rehabilitation must be a substantial one. That is, during a 24-month period selected by the taxpayer, rehabilitation expenditures must exceed the greater of \$5,000 or the adjusted basis of the building and its structural components. And, the rehabilitation must involve a depreciable building. The National Park Service must approve, or "certify," all rehabilitation projects seeking the 20% rehabilitation tax credit. Owners seeking certification of rehabilitation work must complete the Historic Preservation Certification Application.

Maine's State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program (LD262, effective July 2008) includes:

- The "Substantial Rehabilitation Credit". A 25% state credit for any rehabilitation that also qualifies for the 20% federal credit. The rehabilitation must meet all of the requirements of the Federal tax incentive program.
- The "Small Project Rehabilitation Credit." A 25% state credit for the rehabilitation of certified historic structures with certified qualified rehabilitation expenditures of between
- \$50,000 and \$250,000. This credit is available to entities that do not claim the federal rehabilitation credit. Applicants must meet all federal tax code qualifications except the substantial investment requirement.
- The "Affordable Housing Rehabilitation Credit Increase". The State Substantial Rehabilitation Credit and the Small Project Rehabilitation Credit may be increased to 30% if the rehabilitation project results in the creation of a certain amount of affordable housing. Please contact the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) for additional eligibility requirements.
- There is a "per project" state credit cap of \$5 million. State credits are fully refundable, 25% of the credits must be claimed in taxable year in which the property is placed in service, and 25% must be taken in each of the next three (3) taxable years. Only rehabilitation expenditures incurred between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2023 are eligible for the credit.

For more information on this subject go to:

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives/incentives/index.htm> for **Federal** guidelines and  
[https://www.maine.gov/mhpc/tax\\_incentives/index.html](https://www.maine.gov/mhpc/tax_incentives/index.html) for **State** guidelines.

## POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>Historic and Archeological Resources</b>			
<b>Goal: Preserve historic and archeological resources for future generations to enjoy and share through restoration and protection of structures and sites and through education that instills a sense of pride in community heritage.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Protect and preserve known archaeological and historic sites and promote awareness of the history and heritage of Cherryfield.	Support and encourage awareness of historic structures and artifacts, especially in the Historic District, including the consideration of listing of additional sites on the National Register of Historic Places.	Historical Society	Ongoing
	Map the two Town-owned cemeteries (Old Town & Intervale). Establish a management plan for maintenance, repair and sales of available lots; repair historically significant headstones.	Select Board and Historical Society	Short Term (Within 2-5 years)
	Submit an application for the Old Town Cemetery for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	Select Board and Historical Society	Short Term (Within 2-5 years)

<b>Historic and Archeological Resources</b>			
<b>Goal: Preserve historic and archeological resources for future generations to enjoy and share through restoration and protection of structures and sites and through education that instills a sense of pride in community heritage.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Ensure that important archeological and historic resources are not destroyed.	Professionally survey and document, as funding allows, any potential areas of historical and archaeological significance, especially along the edge of the wild blueberry barrens and Narraguagus River valley; monitor any important sites or artifacts to ensure their protection and preservation.	Select Board and Planning Board	Long Term (Within 5-7 years)
	Preserve important Town records through appropriate modern preservation techniques.	Historical Society	Short Term (Within 2-5 years) Ongoing
	Continue land use standards that require subdivision or non-residential developments to protect known or discovered historic and archeological resources.	Planning Board	Ongoing

## E. POPULATION

A fundamental element in Cherryfield's Comprehensive Plan is the town's population and how that population is changing over. The ultimate goal of a comprehensive plan is to provide for a proper relationship between the town's future population and its environment. Accordingly, most phases of the plan are either dependent upon, or strongly influenced by, the size and composition of the town's future population.

### SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- Cherryfield's population grew significantly from 1970 to 2000 and has leveled off to little or no growth in the last 15 years.
- Maine Office of Policy and Management projections forecast a population decline to 999 individuals representing a 14.8% decrease between 2014 and 2034
- Median age is rising to over 45 as the large baby boomer cohort ages and as younger families and residents leave
- Mirroring the trend in Washington County and the state, household size in Cherryfield has decreased as empty nesters and retirees occupy more of the town's housing stock
- School enrollment appears to be stabilizing after a trend of decline, and now that the school has become independent of the District, an increase in school enrollments may occur over the next decade as young families move to Cherryfield for the quality education and low housing costs relative to areas in Hancock County.

### POPULATION STATISTICS

#### Populations and Growth Rates

The following table shows the year-round population and percent growth rate by decade in Cherryfield, Washington County and Maine since 1900. The overall trend in Cherryfield is one of decline between 1900 and 1970, significant growth between 1970 and 2000 and a leveling off of growth in the last 15 years. In the last 25 years Washington County has steadily lost population while Maine has grown though in far less robust fashion in the last 10 years.

#### Population Forecasts

According to the Maine Office of Policy and Management projections the population of Cherryfield is predicted to continue to decline to 1143 individuals by 2019, to 1099 individuals by 2024, to 1051 individuals by 2029, and to 999 by 2034, representing a projected decline of 14.8% from 2014 to 2034. Whether this magnitude of a decline takes place or not depends on regional economic activity and whether the town sees any significant shifts from seasonal to year-round residency. Cherryfield does not currently have a large seasonal population, so even a shift from year-round to seasonal residency could have significant effects on the community.

#### Seasonal Population

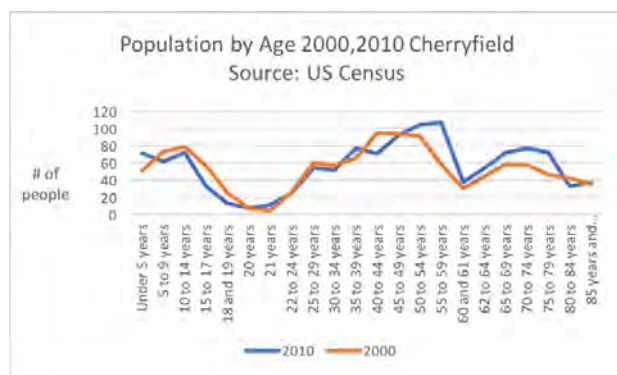
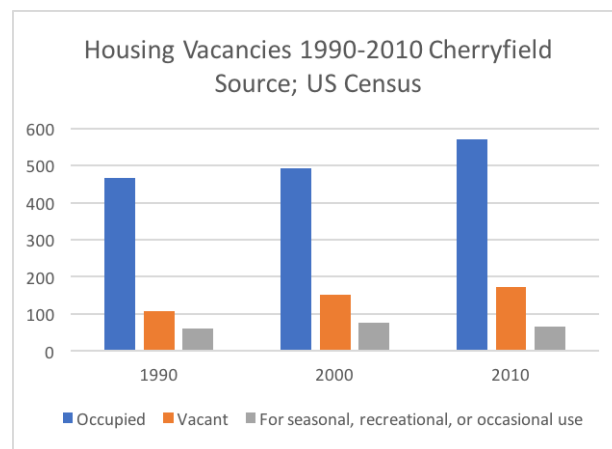
There are no state or federal statistics on seasonal population for Cherryfield. As a scenic community with a lovely historic village, seasonal development has a moderate impact on our community. Based on a total of 65 seasonally vacant housing units reported in the 2010 Census (up from 60 in 1990 and down from 77 in 2000), and estimating average household size for non-residents at 2.7, approximately 176 additional persons may stay in Cherryfield seasonally. The

American Community Survey tracks seasonally vacant housing however the margins of error are as high as 60% (in 2015) so they are not analyzed here. Given recent reductions in growth of the resident population, seasonal people who choose to stay year-round may account for some future increases in population. More information on household composition and on the housing stock is presented in the housing section of this plan.

### Age Distribution

The following chart depicts the differences in age categories in Cherryfield between 2000 and 2010. Overall the population is getting older (median age increase of 4.6 years) due to an increase in the elderly population who are remaining in Cherryfield and a significant continuing decline in the number of individuals under 21 years of age.

The increase in median age is a well-established trend between 2000 and 2010. The increase in median age appears to continue between after 2010 however the large margins of error in the American Community Survey appear to mask this trend by 2015.



Cherryfield Median Age Comparisons Source: 1990 Census, 2000 Census, American Community Surveys 2011-2015			
Year	Median Age	Source	Margin of Error
2000	44.2	Decennial Census	n/a
2010	48.8	Decennial Census	n/a
2011	44	American Community Survey	+/- 8.8
2012	42.5	American Community Survey	+/- 8.3
2013	39.7	American Community Survey	+/- 5.1
2014	45	American Community Survey	+/- 7.3
2015	46.3	American Community Survey	+/- 5.9

### Household Size

Mirroring the county and state trend, household size in Cherryfield has decreased as empty nesters and retirees occupy more of the town's housing stock. Margins of error in the American Community Survey (2015 data at right) in small towns like Cherryfield are high (+/- 0.19). For instance, if 0.19 is subtracted from the 2015 estimate of average household size then it decreases to 2.09, continuing the downward trend in household size (from 2.19 in the 2010 decennial census).

### Number of Households

Not surprisingly the numbers of households in Cherryfield, the county and the state have increased since 1990 reflecting the presence of more single person, single parent, and retiree households.

Number of Households			
Source: 1990 Census, 2000 Census	1990	2000	2010
<b>Cherryfield</b>	466	493	570
Washington County	13,418	14,118	14,302
Maine	465,312	518,200 0	557,219



### School Enrollment and Educational Attainment

School enrollment appears stable in Cherryfield over the last few years, although it declined since 1990 as the population of families and younger residents also declined. Data for resident enrollment is not available on the Department of Education website prior to 2015, when the school became independent of the district. Note the large margin of error in the American Community Survey (ACS) figures, which prevent provision of a calculation of the percentage of population enrolled in school.

<b>Public School Enrollment, Cherryfield Residents</b>			
Source: Maine Department of Education <a href="http://www.maine.gov/doe/data/student/enrollment.html">http://www.maine.gov/doe/data/student/enrollment.html</a>			
School Year	Elementary	Secondary	Total
2017	110	39	149
2016	110	37	147
2015	108	39	145
2014	121		
2013	109		
2012	103		
2010	84	74	
2000	131	58	

Stabilization or even an increase in school enrollments may occur over the next decade as young families move to Cherryfield for the quality education and low housing costs relative to areas in Hancock County, where many commute to work. Educational attainment has steadily increased in the last 25 years. Advanced schooling contributes to growth of regional economies; Cherryfield should consider methods to help increase school enrollment and educational attainment for Cherryfield residents.

<b>Educational Attainment 1990-2015</b>								
Source: 1990, 2000 Census, American Community Survey 2015	1990		2000		2015		Washington County 2015	Maine 2015
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
High School Graduate or Higher	587	73.7	640	76.2	n/a	84.0	87.7	91.6
Bachelor's degree or higher	110	13.8	107	12.7	n/a	20.5	20.1	29.0

### POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>Housing</b>			
<b>Goal: Encourage and promote affordable, decent housing for Cherryfield residents.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Support development of workforce and other affordable housing, including rental and ownership options.	Insure that at least 10% of new residential development from 2019 to 2030 decade be affordable.	Select Board, Planning Board	Long Term (Within 10 years)
	Maintain, enact or amend growth area land use regulations to increase density, decrease lot size, setbacks and road widths, or provide incentives such as density bonuses, to encourage the development of affordable/workforce housing.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Maintain, enact or amend ordinances to allow the addition of at least one accessory apartment per dwelling unit in growth areas, subject to site suitability.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Continue to allow mixed uses and mixed income housing within residential areas of the town.		
	Compile and distribute information on programs, grants, and projects for subsidized housing, energy efficiency improvements, etc.	Select Board, Town Clerk	Ongoing
Support collaborative local and regional housing coalitions in addressing affordable and workforce housing needs.	Participate in regional programs, grants and projects, to insure sufficient, affordable housing options for elderly citizens and veterans.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
Address reported violations of local ordinances and State laws and regulations that affect health, safety or community conditions.	Address any needed modifications to existing land use regulations as necessary.	Select Board, Planning Board, CEO	Ongoing

## F. NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural resources of Cherryfield are diverse and abundant. Cherryfield encompasses the main stem of the tidal and freshwater reaches of the Narraguagus River, as well as the entirety of its West Branch above the area known as “the crotch”. Cherryfield also contains the middle watershed of the Narraguagus River and portions of its tributaries, Schoodic Brook and large wetland complexes at the head of several small brooks. There are small portions of the northern edge of the Pleasant Bay Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and the eastern edge of the Tunk Lake Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance within Cherryfield. Large wetland complexes associated with all of these watersheds support many rare species and natural communities. Upland areas in Cherryfield are a matrix of forestlands and heaths with several large blueberry-producing areas. Cherryfield is a rural community with a small historic village center. Development is concentrated in the southern portion of town, along Route 1, and on several roads leading south toward the adjoining town of Milbridge. Several rare species co-exist with human use of the land including upland sandpipers in the blueberry fields, and wood turtles.

### SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

In 2019, 41 parcels of property containing 3,634 acres were in the Tree Growth Tax Program. Forest management operations between 1991-2013 are primarily selection or shelter wood harvests with some clear-cut operations. About 650 acres changed land use, mostly since 2003. Approximately 7,000 acres are in cultivation for wild blueberries; many are irrigated.

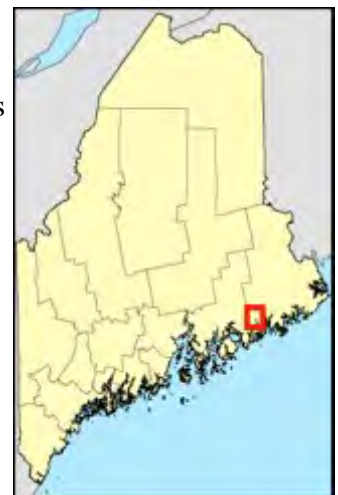
Cherryfield has seven areas of “known rare, threatened, or endangered species occurrence and/or the associated habitats based on species sightings”. The area support several rare species, and the Narraguagus River supports most native sea run fish species.

The Maine Geological Survey has identified 4 community water supplies and several aquifers with a flow of at least 10 gallons per minute in Cherryfield.

Cherryfield has 27 overboard discharge permits (OBDs) within the village. The Land Use Chapter N has more information about these permits.

### LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Cherryfield is located in the southwestern part of Washington County, and lies 59 miles southeast of Bangor, 29 miles east of Ellsworth, 28 miles south of Machias, and 73 miles south of Calais. It is a rural town bordered on the north by Deblois, on the east by Columbia, on the south by Steuben, Milbridge and Harrington, and on the west by Township 10 in Hancock County. The topography is flat to rolling with elevations ranging from sea level to 300-400 feet in the hills south of the Blacks Woods Road, adjoining Township 10, and in the hills along the town’s eastern boundary. The head of tide for the Narraguagus River is located in the center of the downtown/village area. Both saltwater and freshwater wetlands occur in Cherryfield, as well as extensive woodlands and blueberry barrens.



The land area of Cherryfield is +/- 44.8 square miles (28,688 acres). General contour elevations are publicly available on the Cherryfield Planners Map, (<http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm>), using the USA Topographic Map as a base map (as illustrated below). See Chapter B. GIS Mapping for instructions on this tool.



**Utilizing the USGS TOPO MAP Base Map for Cherryfield**

sides of ridges: on the southeast sides boulders were "plucked" and transported further south. Thick till deposits are found in bedrock "valleys" and depressions. The weight of the ice (in some places a mile thick) caused the land to be depressed in relation to the level of the sea. Marine sediments (silts and clays) were deposited in valleys and more sheltered locations. The release of pressure due to the melting allowed the land to rise slowly. In some areas, isolated deposits of sand and gravel (ice contact and glacial outwash) can be found.

## LAND SUITABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

### Soils

"Soil survey" is a general term for systematic examination of soils in the field and laboratory. It involves describing, classifying, and mapping soil types, and then interpreting their suitability for various uses



## GEOLOGY

Cherryfield is located in a region of massive granite intrusion that was glaciated in the Wisconsin age. The glacier caused till (unsorted, poorly drained soil) to be deposited over the entire region. This poorly drained till formed bogs and ponds and altered the drainage pattern. The underlying granite caused the till to be more thickly deposited on the northwest



such as residential, commercial, agriculture and recreation. The Soil Survey Office of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) located in Machias has analyzed the characteristics, behavior, distinctive properties, and appropriate uses of each different soil type. This data can be found on soils maps of each community in Washington County. While there are paper copies of these maps they are far more easily viewed using the online Planners maps referenced above and located here (<http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm>).

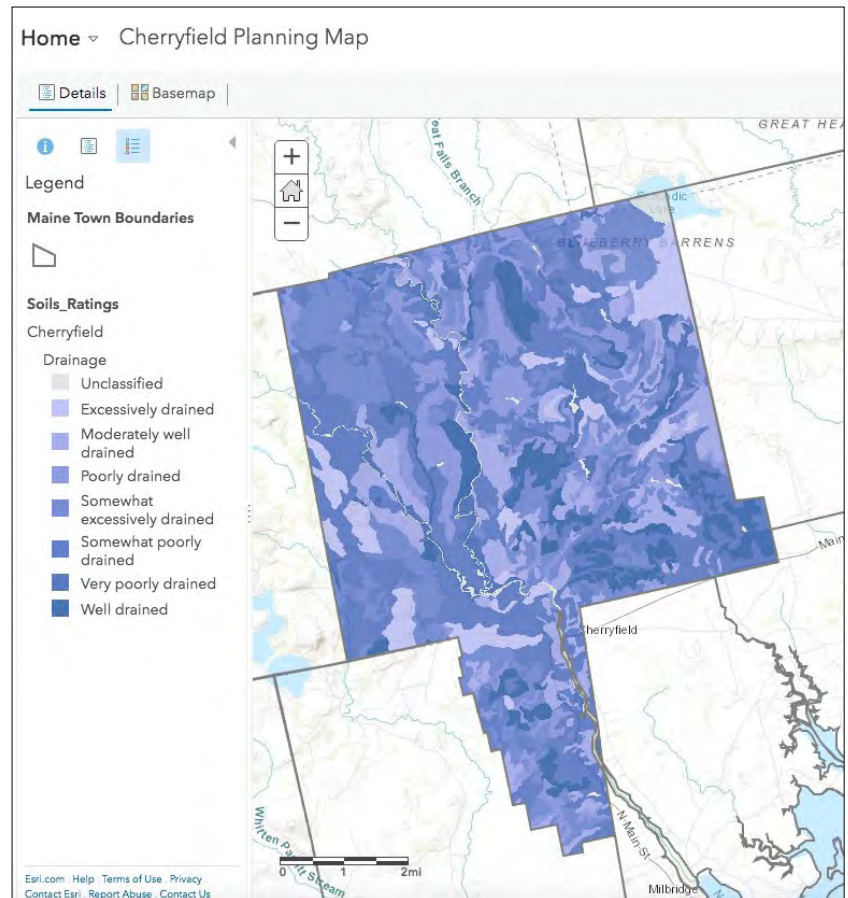
The Drainage and Low Density Development capacity of soils in Cherryfield are shown here (from the Planners Maps). See also Chapter B. GIS Mapping for information and instruction on how to view the attribute tables that provide detailed information on soils names, areas and classifications.

Very few areas of Cherryfield have large tracts of land ideal for residential development. The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA has produced a handbook of Soil Survey Data for Growth Management in Washington County. This publication<sup>1</sup> includes tables that interpret the suitability of different soils for agricultural production, woodland productivity, erodability, and low-density development.

Numerical ratings are assigned to soil types for costs of development and costs associated with environmental constraints and long-term maintenance. These ratings determine the density of development that a soil type can accommodate. Soil with a Very High rating has good potential for higher density development.

Chapter B. GIS Mapping describes the steps one can take to view the attribute tables associated with any of the layers of information in the online GIS maps. Using this tool, it is possible to select, for example, the Cherryfield parcel layer and the Township Soils layer and then zoom to a view of a parcel-specific soil suitability evaluation.

These maps and attribute data are useful to the town to predict the sequence of development; develop future land use plans and update zoning; indicate areas where streets or other infrastructure may be prohibitively costly; and identify where environmentally sensitive land should be protected. Individuals can learn of problems or development costs associated with a piece of land and the advantage of one piece of land over another prior to purchase. The information will help answer whether the site can support a septic system, if the basement will always be wet, if there is a high potential for erosion, and the bearing capacity of the soil.



**Cherryfield Soils – Drainage Capacity**

## 1 USDA-NRSC Orono, ME–Soil Survey Data for Growth Management in Washington County, ME, 1

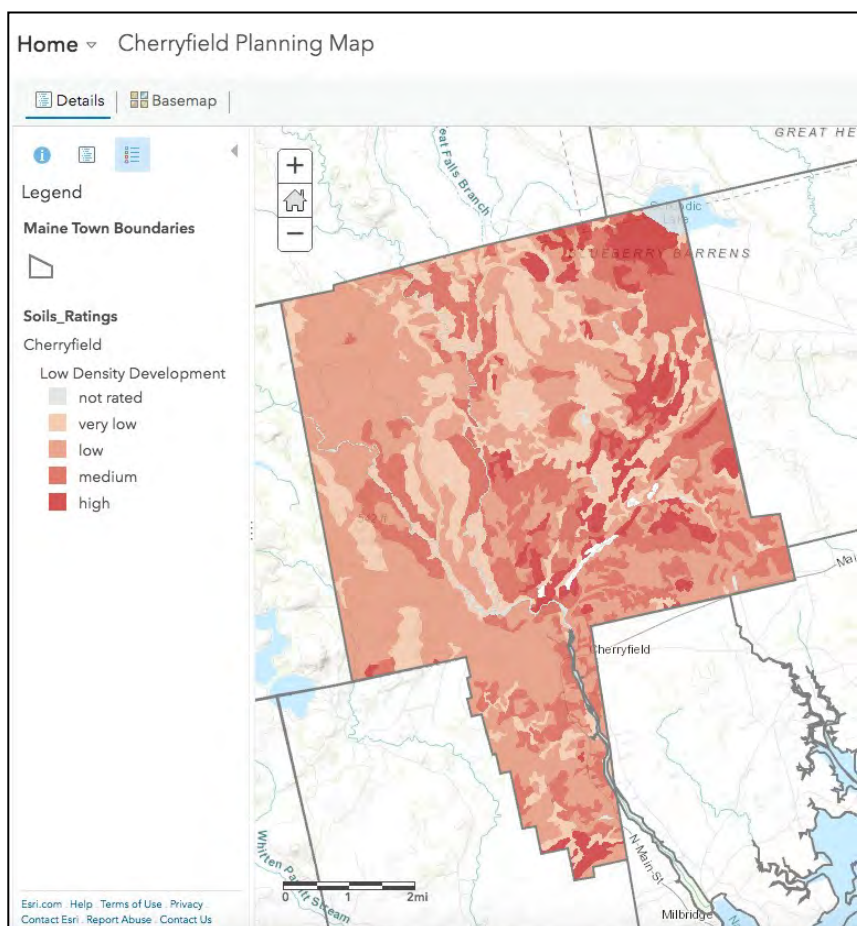
Soil survey maps do not eliminate the need for on-site sampling, testing, and the study of other relevant conditions (for example, pockets of different soils having completely different qualities may be present), but they are an important first step that should precede development decisions.

### Highly Erodible Soils

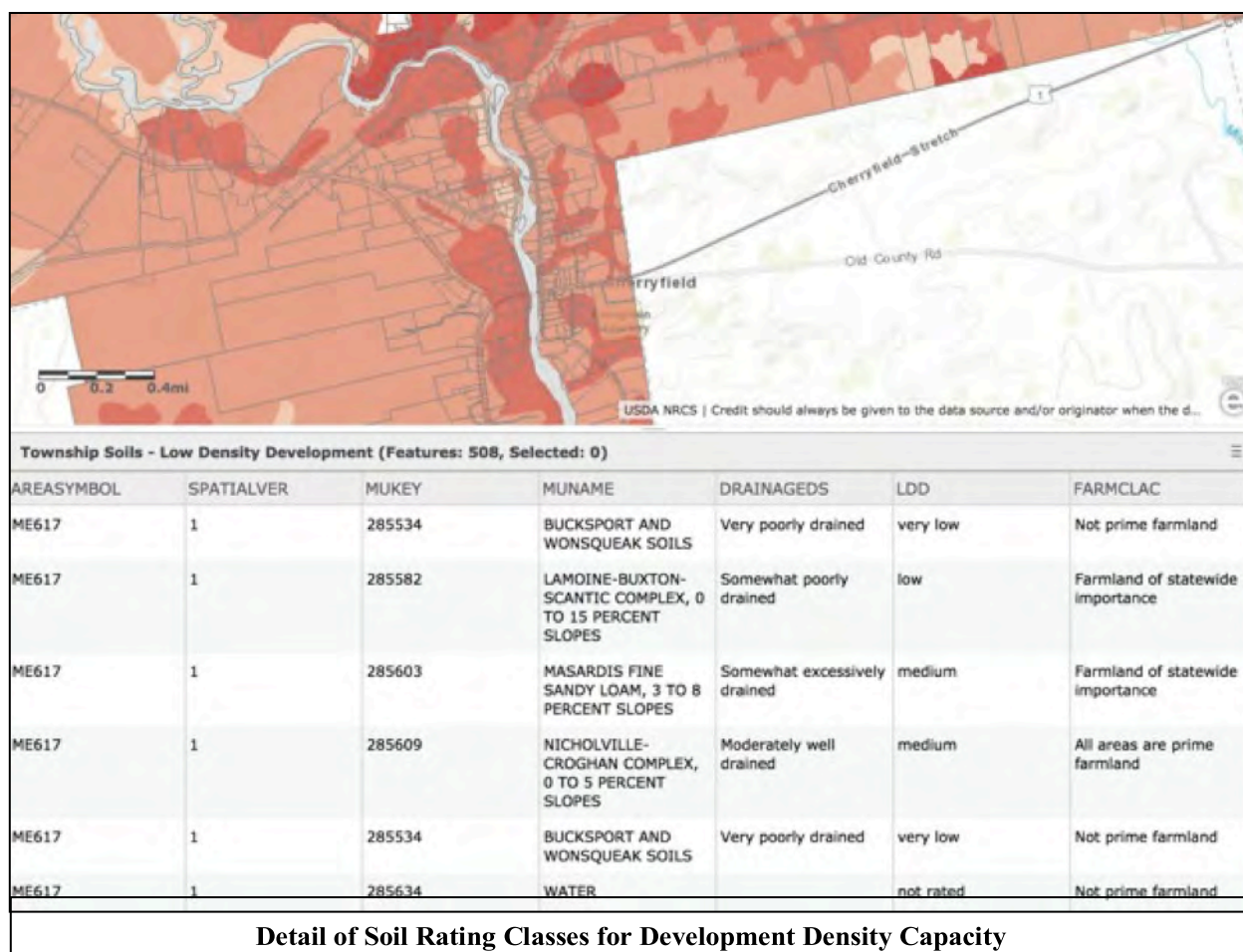
The removal of surface vegetation from large areas of land can cause erosion, which is a major contributor of pollution to surface waters. Highly erodible soils have a potential to erode faster than normal. Soil composition affects its susceptibility to erosion but the combined effects of slope length and steepness are the greatest contributing factors when identifying highly erodible soils.

Most development and intensive land use should take place on areas with slopes of less than 15 percent (representing an average drop of 15 feet or less in 100 feet horizontal distance).

On slopes greater than 15 percent, the costs of roads, foundations and septic, sewer and other utility systems rise rapidly.



**Cherryfield Soils – Development Density Capacity**



## FARM AND FOREST LAND

While most soils in Cherryfield are not generally suitable for many agricultural uses, many are well suited for wild blueberry production and this activity continues to provide significant employment in town. Approximately 7,000 acres are under cultivation for wild blueberries, many of which are irrigated. Other farming activities within Cherryfield include vegetables, fruits, and herbs and some poultry or other specialty products. The Municipal Planning Assistance Program provided Cherryfield with a map of areas with soils deemed by the USDA as prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance. This map is reproduced at right, and the digital soils information is available in the online GIS maps for soil suitability for low-density development. The definitions of such soils are as follows:

**Prime farmland**, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is land with the combination of physical and chemical characteristics best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is actually available for these uses. Urban or built-up land and water areas are not included. The soil qualities, growing season, and moisture supply in these soils are those needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. It is



permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent<sup>2</sup>.

**Farmland of statewide importance**, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is land that has

the capacity to produce food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops in much the same way as prime farmland if land management and land improvements are implemented such as drainage, grading, or rock and boulder removal.

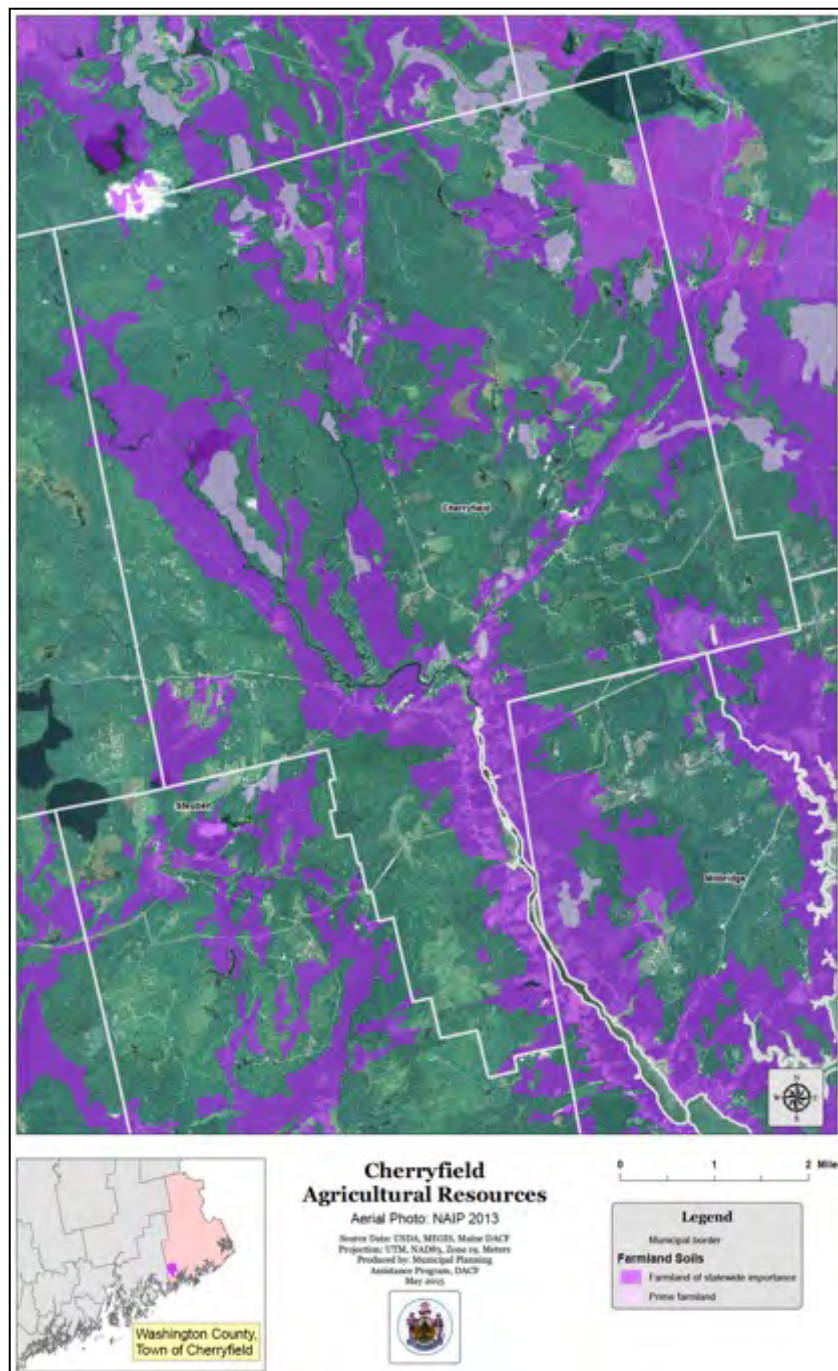
### Woodland Management

Maine's forests play a vital role in the state's economy, especially in Northern and Eastern Maine.

Forested areas provide abundant and diverse wildlife habitat for both game and non-game species and contribute to many recreational and aesthetic experiences.

About 75% of Cherryfield is forested with a maritime spruce-fir forest that also includes patches dominated by fir, heart-leaved paper birch, mountain ash, and extensive areas of forested wetlands.

The Municipal Valuation Return for Cherryfield indicates that in 2019, 41 parcels of property containing 3,634 acres were enrolled in the Tree Growth Tax Program. All enrolled parcels practice some degree of forest management.



**Prime Farmland (light purple) and Farmland of Statewide**

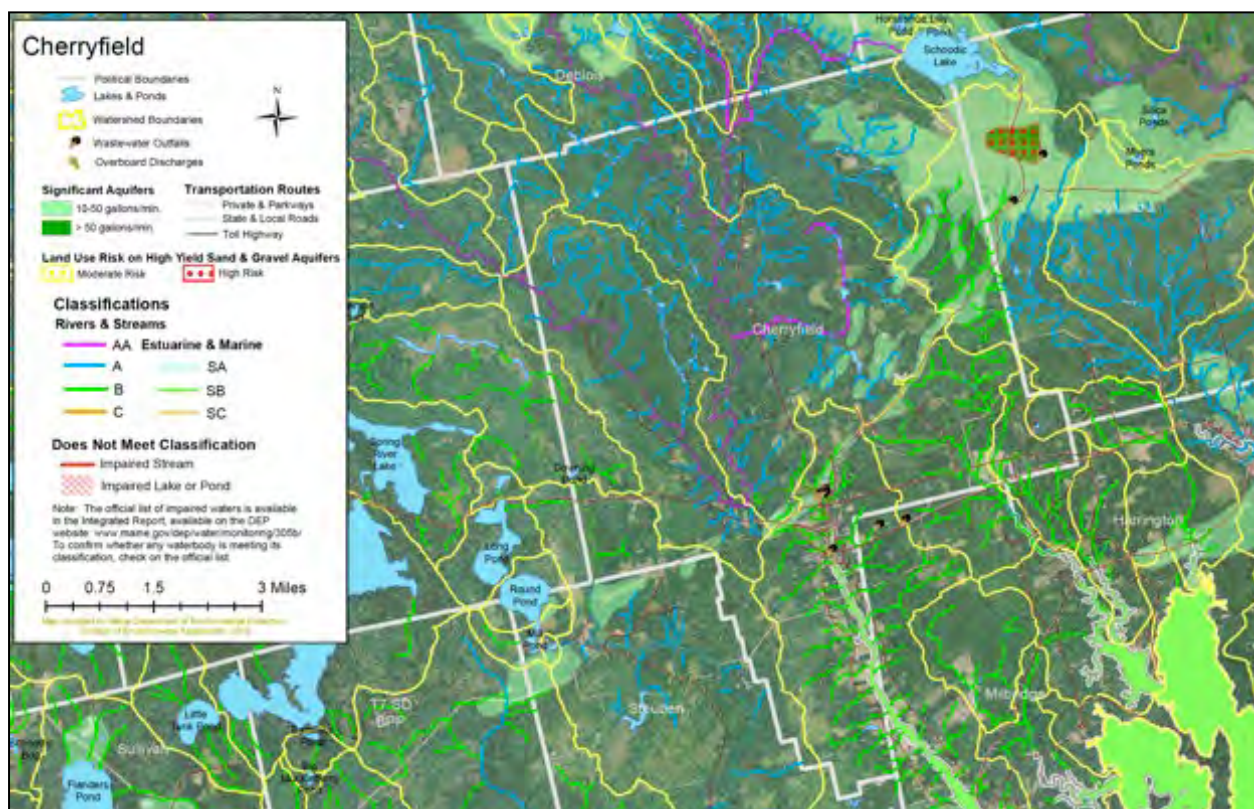
<sup>2</sup> Soil Survey of Washington County Area, Maine, 2003. USDA-NRCS Page 361.  
[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_MANUSCRIPTS/maine/washingtonME2008/Washington\\_southern.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/maine/washingtonME2008/Washington_southern.pdf)

Summary of Timber Harvest Information for Cherryfield 1991-2017 (measured in acres)						
Year	Selection harvest	Shelterwood harvest	Clearcut harvest	Total Harvest	Change of land use	# of Active Notifications
1991	174	0	80	254	0	5
1992	101	0	0	101	0	6
1993	241	0	0	241	0	8
1994	528	0	1	529	0	11
1995	367	0	2	369	2	11
1996	720	0	10	730	18	22
1997	356	103	0	459	0	14
1998	520	46	32	598	0	17
1999	799	146	0	945	0	27
2000	325	45	0	370	0	31
2001	265	0	0	265	2	19
2002	73	190	25	288	0	11
2003	228	1184	0	1412	300	12
2004	292	130	0	422	0	16
2005	100	0	35	135	0	12
2006	1070	0	78	1148	14	19
2007	375	0	30	405	60	18
2008	124	4	0	128	37	11
2009	33	0	0	33	0	8
2010	97	5	0	102	0	10
2011	146	0	0	146	68	11
2012	283	22	75	380	135	12
2013	459	13	0	472	22	18
2014	155.5	160	0	315.5	1.5	13
2015	342	0	0	342	3	16
2016	195	245	0	440	122	12
2017	656	0	13	634	113	13
Total	9,024.5	2,293	381	11,663.5	897.5	383
Average	334	85	14	432	33	14

*Source: Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry – Maine Forest Service from Confidential Year End Landowner Reports; Note To protect confidential landowner information, data is reported only where there are three or more landowner reports of harvesting in the year.*

## WATER RESOURCES

Cherryfield's water resources are vital to the community for recreational fishing, flood control, tourism, and recreation. Tidal and freshwater wetlands in Cherryfield serve as storm water recharge areas and wildlife habitat. The Narraguagus River Estuary reaches the head of tide between the two bridges that cross the river in the center of the historic village center. Anadromous fish species, including Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), and alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) are some of the fish that return to the river to spawn.



### Cherryfield's Aquifers and Rivers/Streams Classifications

Note that *all* of the features depicted on the map above are also available as layers that can be added to the online Planners Maps for Cherryfield (<http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm>) allowing the Planning Board and/or Code Enforcement Officer access to this information on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

## Watersheds

A watershed is the land area from which precipitation runoff drains into a body of water. The boundaries of watersheds, also known as drainage divides, are shown for Cherryfield on the map below (provided by the Maine DEP). The portion of the watershed with the greatest potential to affect a body of water is its direct watershed, or that part which does not first drain through upstream areas. Development activities, such as house and road construction and timber harvesting, disturb the land that drains to a lake by streams and groundwater; thus, these activities can pollute the watershed. Online map viewers for marsh migration and sea level rise can be found at [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/coastal\\_resiliency.html](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/assistance/coastal_resiliency.html).

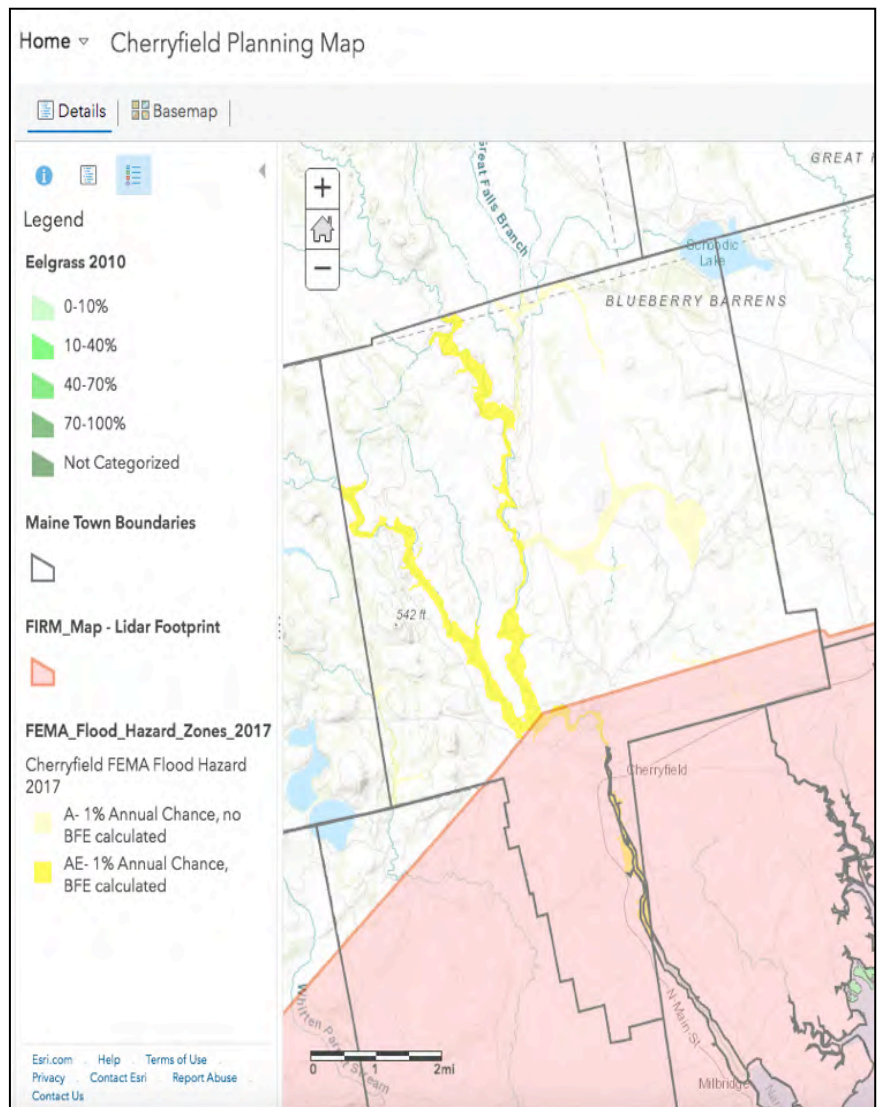


### Shorelands and Floodplains

Shorelands are environmentally important areas because of their relationship to water quality, their value as wildlife habitat and travel, and their function as floodplains. Development and the removal of vegetation in shoreland areas can increase runoff and sedimentation leading to an increase in the amount of nutrients and other pollutants that reach surface water. This can lead to algal blooms and closure of shell fishing areas. Steep slopes with highly erodible soils are particularly susceptible to erosion. The Cherryfield Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, amended March 12, 2007 is in the town office.

Floodplains accommodate high levels and large volumes of water and dissipate the force of flow. A floodplain absorbs and stores a large amount of water, later becoming a source of aquifer recharge. Floodplains also serve as wildlife habitats and open space and outdoor recreation without interfering with their emergency overflow capacity. Flooding can cause serious destruction of property. Activities that increase paved or impervious surfaces can change the watercourse, water quantity, and rate of runoff on floodplains, possibly creating flooding impacts downstream.

Cherryfield participates in the Federal Flood Insurance Programs. Participation provides owners of flood prone property the option to obtain federally backed flood insurance when mortgaging through a federally insured or regulated lender. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued revised Federal Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in 2017 that identify the 100-year floodplains within Cherryfield. A 100-year flood is a flood that has 1 chance in 100 of being equaled or exceeded in any 1-year period. Local flood plain areas fall into two major categories: areas prone to flooding and velocity zones or areas susceptible to damage from wind-driven water during coastal storms. The Cherryfield Floodplain Management Ordinance was enacted July 6, 2017 and found compliant with federal law by the Maine Floodplain Management Program on July 18, 2017.



**FEMA Flood Hazard Zones and LiDAR Mapping**

The new FEMA Flood Hazard zones that became effective in July of 2017 are available on the Cherryfield Planners maps. Note however that the accuracy of the Flood Hazard Zones was improved where it was based on new elevation data provided by the LiDAR<sup>2</sup> mapping of the Washington County coast conducted in 2011-2013. The extent of that LiDAR “footprint” is also available using the Cherryfield Planners maps. The LiDAR “footprint” provides a good indication of the portion of the new FIRM maps that are based on this accurate elevation data. The areas not included in the LiDAR “footprint” continue to depict Flood Hazard Areas that are based on elevation data of questionable accuracy and can therefore include areas where past errors in the mapping of the floodplain were not improved with the issuance of the new FIRM maps. In the following image, taken from the Cherryfield Planners Maps, the extent of the LiDAR mapping just touches Cherryfield.






### Wetlands

The term "wetlands" is defined under both state and federal laws as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils." Wetlands include freshwater swamps, bogs, marshes, heaths, swales, and meadows.

Wetlands are important to the public’s health, safety and welfare because they act as a filter for pollutants, absorb excess water, serve as aquifer discharge areas, and provide critical habitats for a wide range of fish and wildlife. They are fragile natural resources. Even building on the edge of a wetland can have significant environmental consequences. Some wetlands have important recreational and educational value providing opportunities for fishing, boating, hunting, and environmental education.

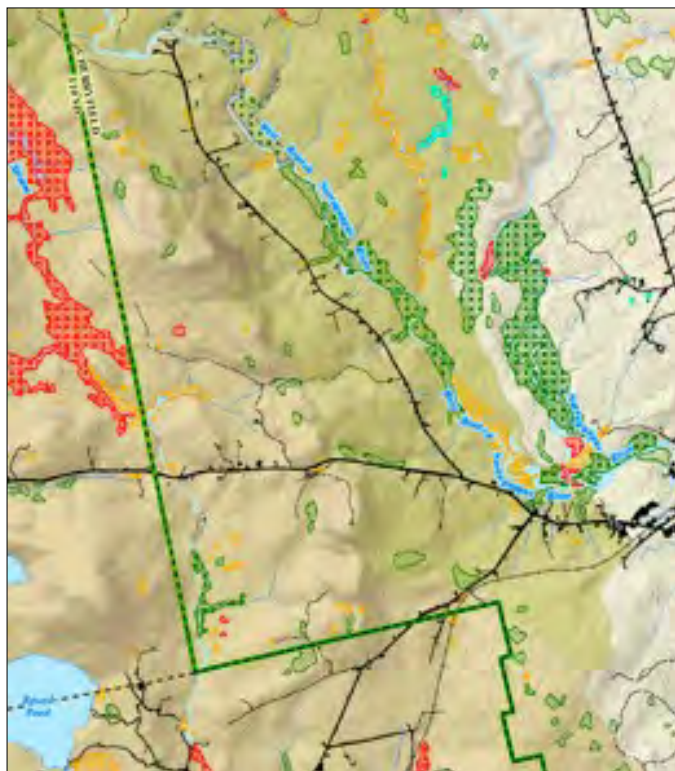
Supplementary Map 7 – Wetlands Characterization, provided to the town in 2016 by the Beginning with Habitat (BWH) program depicts wetlands to the Town as shown on the National Wetlands Inventory maps. These wetlands were identified by aerial photo interpretation and confirmed by soil mapping and other wetland inventories.

Tidal wetlands below the village area and large forested freshwater wetland complexes along both stems of the Narraguagus support Tall Grass Meadow Communities and some rare plant and animal species described in the Critical Habitat section below. Additional large wetlands are found in the upper watersheds of smaller brooks throughout the northern 2/3rds of the town. Field verification of wetland location and boundaries should be undertaken prior to development. Details of these wetland complexes from portions of the BWH Map 7 – Wetland Characterization, are provided on the following page, along with a portion of the legend describing them (at right). See the BWH Supplementary Map 7 – Wetlands Characterization (available at the Town Office) for more detail.

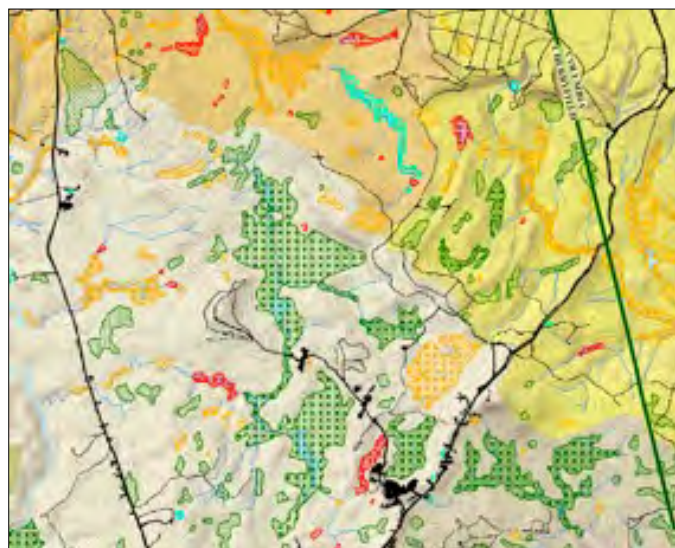
Wetland Class: Fill Color	
	Aquatic Bed (floating or submerged aquatic vegetation), Open Water
	Emergent (herbaceous vegetation), Emergent/Forested Mix (woody vegetation >20 ft tall), Emergent/Shrub-Scrub Mix (woody vegetation <20 ft tall)
	Forested, Forested/Shrub-scrub
	Shrub-scrub
	Other (rocky shore, streambed, unconsolidated shore, reef, rocky bottom)

Legend from Beginning With Habitat Map 7, Wetland Characterization. Complete maps are available at the Town Office.

<sup>2</sup> LiDAR stands for Light Detection and Ranging, a highly precise method of mapping elevation from an airplane using lasers that can map not only the ground elevation, but also the heights of trees and buildings to create a highly accurate three-dimensional model of the landscape.



**Details of wetland complexes from the  
BWH Map 7 – Wetland Characterization**



### **Lakes, Ponds, Rivers and Streams**

Cherryfield shares the shoreline and a portion of Schoodic Lake with the neighboring town of Columbia and Township 18 in the Unorganized Territories. Schoodic Lake is 406 acres with a mean depth of 23 feet and supports both a coldwater and a warmwater fishery. Maine DEP water quality datasets exist for Schoodic Lake back to 1977 (<http://www.lakesofmaine.org/lake-water-quality.html>). Schoodic Lakes' water quality is considered average based on measures of Secchi Disk Transparencies, total phosphorous, and Chlorophyll-a. The potential for algal blooms is low.

Cherryfield has a tremendous diversity of rivers and streams. None are classified by Maine DEP as threatened with pollution levels above state and federal acceptable levels. Indeed all of the tributary streams in the upper watershed of the Narraguagus in Cherryfield are classified as AA or A (*see map provided by Maine DEP on page F-9 above*). The variety of water bodies in Cherryfield are listed in the following table along with a description of their characteristics.

<b>Water body</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
Narraguagus River	Tidal; head-of-tide in Village; associated salt marsh wetlands; freshwater
Spring Brook, Cambell Meadow/Fickett Brook, Great Falls Branch, Middle Brook, Schoodic Brook	Upper watershed tributaries to main stem of Narraguagus River; associated with several large wetland complexes
West Branch Narraguagus River	Wide channel, extensive associated wetlands
Elisha Brook	Headwater tributary to West Branch of Narraguagus
Mill River and Great Marsh Stream	Headwater streams in western hills; drain to Harrington Bay
Big Brook	Intermittent stream in western barrens

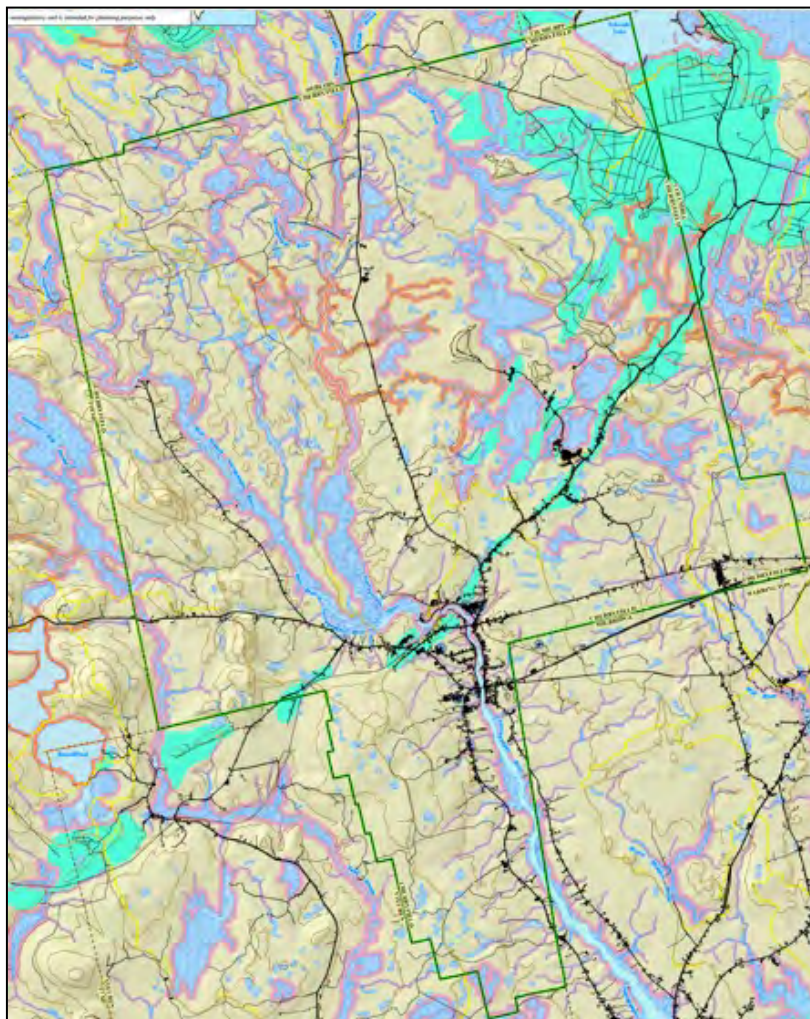


### Groundwater - Aquifers

Aquifers are of two types: bedrock or sand and gravel. A bedrock aquifer is adequate for small yields. A sand and gravel aquifer is a deposit of coarse-grained surface materials that, in all probability, can supply large volumes of groundwater. Boundaries are based on the best-known information and encompass areas that tend to be the principal groundwater recharge sites. Recharge to these specific aquifers, however, is likely to occur over a more extensive area than the aquifer itself.

The Maine Geological Survey identified several aquifers with a flow of at least 10 gallons per minute in Cherryfield (viewable on the online GIS Planners Maps and on Map 1 (Water Resources and Riparian Habitats) of the BWH poster maps).

The Maine Geological Survey identified five public water systems in Cherryfield.



Aquifers in Cherryfield, depicted in Aquamarine color

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES			
Public Water System Name	Facility ID (Source Name)	System Type	Source Type
Cherryfield School Department	174101 (DR WELL 135')	Non-Transient Non-Community	Groundwater
Maine Seacoast Mission Downeast Campus	94995101 (420' BEDROCK WELL)	Non-Community	Groundwater
Narraguagus Estates	91055101 (195' DRILLED WELL)	Community	Groundwater
Wymans of Maine-Cherryfield Factory	2539102 (400' WELL) 2539103 (400' WELL) 2539104 (480' WELL)	Non-Transient Non-Community	Groundwater
Source: Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health Division of Health Engineering, Drinking Water Program; February 20, 2018			



The location of public drinking water supply wells is provided by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in a Google maps-based viewer that depicts these wells, along with their source-water protection areas. The sourcewater protection areas, shown as red circles around the 4 active public water supply systems in Cherryfield (7 public water supply wells), can be used to identify surface sites that are unfavorable for storage or disposal of wastes or toxic hazardous materials.

It is important to protect groundwater from pollution and depletion. Once groundwater is contaminated, it is difficult, if not impossible, to clean. Contamination can eventually spread from groundwater to surface water and vice versa. Most aquifer and surface water contamination comes from non-point sources including faulty septic systems, road salt leaching into the ground, leaking above ground or underground storage tanks, auto salvage yards, and landfills.



Public drinking water supply wells with protection areas

### Fisheries

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) rated pond and streams in Cherryfield for their value as fisheries habitat. Each water body is rated for fisheries management type. Coldwater management supports salmonid species such as salmon and trout. Warm water management supports black bass, chain pickerel, and perch. Cherryfield contains warm water and coldwater fisheries habitat.

Schoodic Lake supports the following fish species: American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), Banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanus*), Blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*), Chain pickerel (*Esox niger*), Fallfish (*Semotilus corporalis*), Landlocked salmon (*Salmo salar sebago*), Rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), Smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), Sunfish (*Lepomis*), and White sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*). The Narraguagus River supports the entire suite of sea run fish native to eastern Maine: Atlantic salmon, American shad, Eastern brook trout, alewife, blueback herring, sea lamprey, American eel, rainbow smelt, and striped bass.

A fortunate concurrence of understanding, technology and funding has occurred in recent years to improve fish habitat, fish passage, and the resilience of streams to withstand significant increases in the frequency and intensity of precipitation associated with climate change. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife provides several resources documenting the problems associated with older stream crossings as well as the benefits of alternative structures. Maine IF&W, along with Project SHARE (<http://salmonhabitat.org/>) and others have conducted stream surveys that document existing



**Barriers to fish passage include undersized, shallow, perched, and blocked culverts and bridge openings**

barriers to fish passage (see examples in photos below) and provide a preliminary map of such barriers in Cherryfield.

If stream crossings are needed, structures should be installed 1.2 times the bank full width with the proper best management practices. Choices for replacement crossing structures include (in order of priority) bridges, three-sided box culvert, open bottom arch culvert, or 4-sided box culvert.

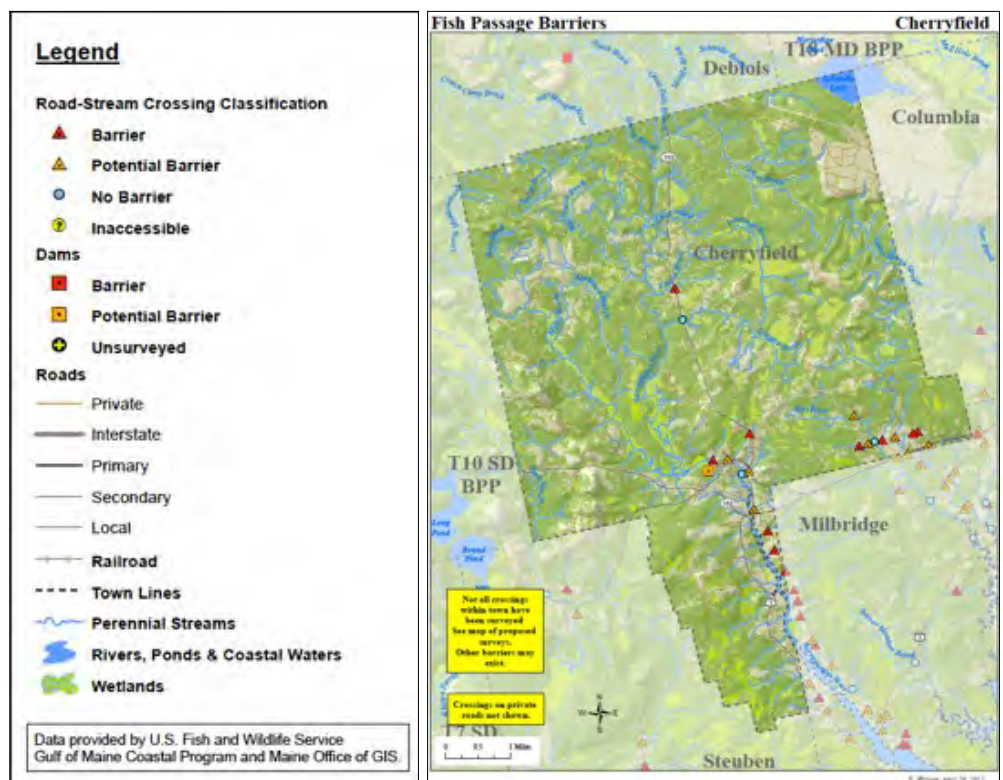
Corrugated metal culverts should be a last resort. The first three structures are preferred as they utilize the brook's natural stream bottom.

Photos are excerpted from publications of [www.StreamSmartMaine.org](http://www.StreamSmartMaine.org).

While incomplete, the map of stream crossing barriers aids the town to work with partners in prioritizing culvert replacement to improve both fish passage and climate resilience.



**Preferred types of stream crossing structures**



**Road Stream Crossings and Fish Passage Barriers**



## THREATS TO WATER QUALITY

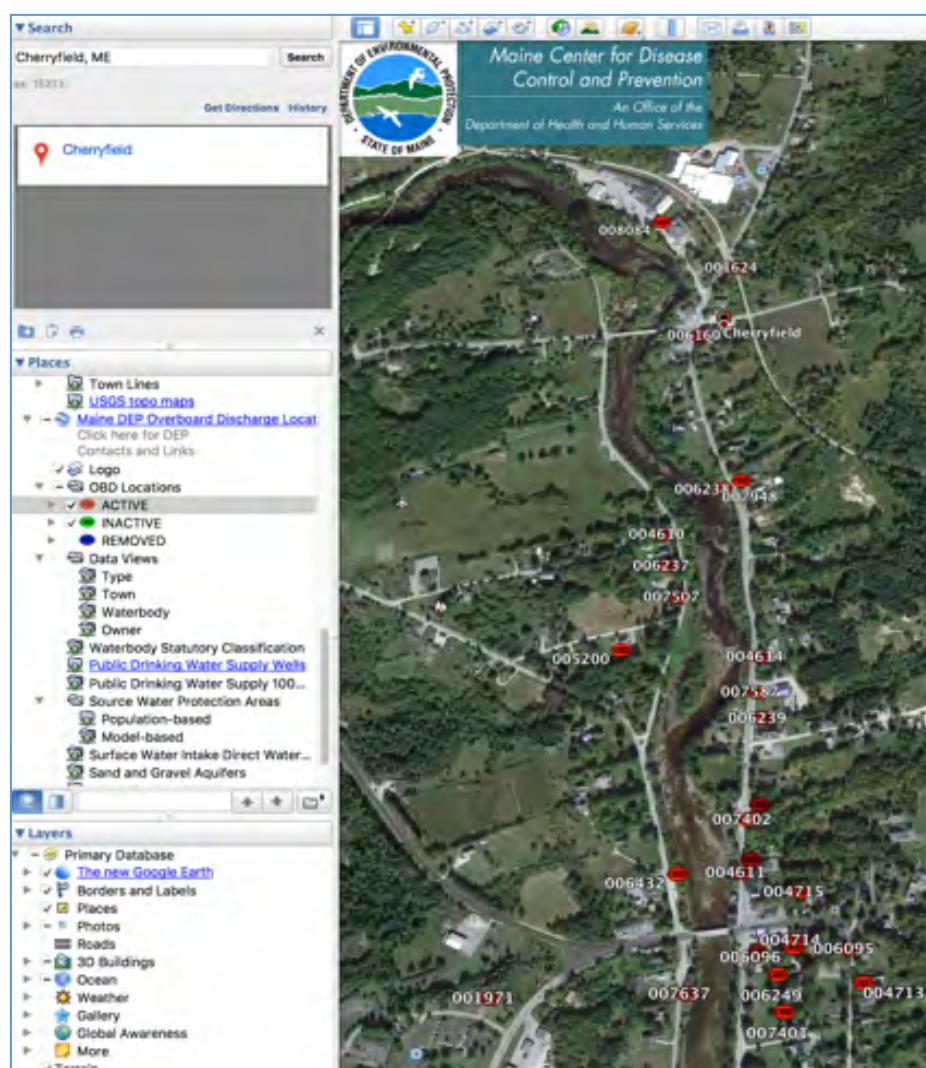
Both point and non-point discharges threaten water quality in the ocean, pond, streams, and wetlands. Contamination can come from several sources, including:

- Failing or substandard subsurface sewage disposal systems
- Runoff of pesticides, herbicides and/or fertilizer from blueberry fields
- Runoff from salting the roads
- Timber harvesting operations

Point source pollution discharges directly from a specific site such as a municipal sewage treatment plant or an industrial outfall pipe. There are several wastewater treatment outfalls in Cherryfield, 4 associated with Jasper Wyman and Sons, 4 associated with Cherryfield Foods Inc., one associated with Narraguagus Estates and another with Realty Resources Management. All are treated wastewater and approved systems according to the Maine DEP. There are no large dumpsites or industrial sources of pollution within the town.

According to Maine DEP there are 27 overboard discharge permits (OBDs) in Cherryfield; all discharge to the Narraguagus River and are treated by sand filters (see image at right from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention – google map viewer. Fourteen OBDs have been removed in the past several years. All OBD systems are required to have site evaluations every ten years or at time of property transfer. When a subsurface alternative is identified at time of transfer, the OBD system must be removed.

Failed subsurface sewage disposal systems are potential pollution sources and should be monitored. Septic systems must be pumped periodically to reduce the opportunity for system failure; a cycle of 3 to 5 years is recommended.



Cherryfield is never likely to have sufficient resources or development density to afford construction of a sewage treatment plant. There are however decentralized wastewater treatment systems that may offer

affordable alternatives.

The Washington County Council of Governments has prepared an online resource manual for municipal officials and developers that provides information on this area of developing innovations in wastewater technology. The site (<http://gro-wa.org/wastewater-resource-manual.htm>) provides background in new technologies, costs, management needs and several local case studies. Topics covered on the site include: Decentralized Wastewater Systems Resource Manual, Technologies and Performance, Management, Case Studies, and Costs.

Non-point source pollution poses the greatest threat to water quality in Cherryfield. The most significant contributing source comes from erosion and sedimentation as well as excessive run-off of nutrients, particularly phosphorus. In excessive quantities phosphorus acts as a fertilizer and causes algae to flourish or “bloom”. Additional contributing factors include animal wastes, fertilizers, pesticides, roadside erosion, dirt roads, road salt, leaking underground storage tanks, and hazardous substances. Other threats include erosion from improper forestry practices or failure of contractors to employ erosion control measures when the earth is disturbed. Growing development in the town, particularly on the coast, threatens water resources when homeowners do not properly maintain septic systems.

## **MARINE WATERS AND RESOURCES**

Cherryfield is located at the head of tide for the Narraguagus River estuary. Maine DEP classifies tidal waters as Class B Saltwater (SB). Quality in these waters should be suitable for recreation in or on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and harvesting of shellfish, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation, navigation, and as the habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life. Discharges of pollutants to Class SB waters are regulated by state DEP wastewater permitting process. Shellfish harvesting is permanently prohibited in the Narraguagus River estuary due to the presence of the wastewater outfalls and 27 overboard discharges (OBDs) located within the village of Cherryfield. While these discharges may receive adequate treatment from, mostly, sand filtration systems, regulations on shellfish consumption do not allow harvesting below such a concentration of OBDs. Migratory sea run fish are described above in the section on fisheries.

### **Marsh Migration and Sea Level Rise**

The Maine Natural Areas Program is mapping areas along the coast that have the potential to support future tidal marsh under varying sea level rise scenarios. This process, called marsh migration, takes place as marsh plants colonize new areas in response to sea level rise. Marsh migration is most likely successful where there are low-lying undeveloped areas next to existing salt marshes. According to Maine Coast Heritage Trust the Narraguagus Estuary is one of 60 sites statewide that ranks in the top tier of sites where marsh migration can take place.

The following two maps, prepared by Maine Coast Heritage Trust, depict the areas along the Narraguagus Estuary the extent of the current marsh and the future marsh, in developed and undeveloped areas, would be located using a 1-meter (3.3 feet) sea level rise scenario. With this information the town can work with landowners and area Land Trusts to protect marshes and limit development in sensitive areas. Note that developed areas are drawn from a statewide analysis of the zone of influence around roads, buildings and other manmade structures. Projects that support marsh migration can include redesigning bridges or culverts to address tidal restrictions. Online maps of marsh migration and sea level rise can be found at [https://www.maine.gov/dacf.mnap/assistance/coastal\\_resiliency.html](https://www.maine.gov/dacf.mnap/assistance/coastal_resiliency.html).



# Narraguagus River Marsh Migration

## Detail Map (1 of 2)

Current Marsh

### Future Marsh Area

Modelled using a 1m sea-level rise scenario

Future Marsh (Undeveloped)

Future Marsh (Developed)

### Upland Buffers

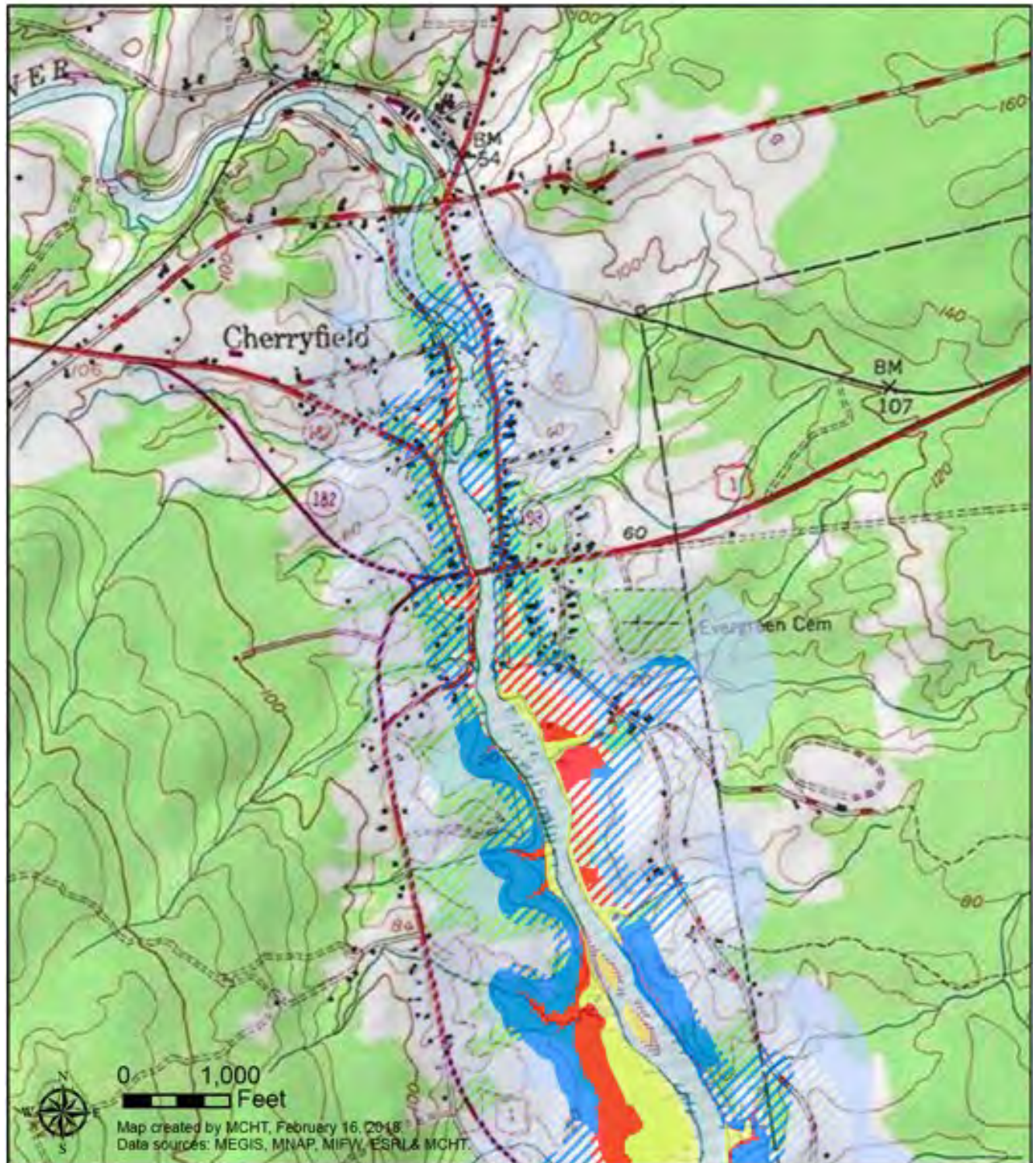
From the upland edge of modelled future marsh

Less than 250' (Undeveloped)

Less than 250' (Developed)

More than 250' (Undeveloped)

More than 250' (Developed)





## Narraguagus River Marsh Migration

### Detail Map (2 of 2)

Current Marsh

#### Future Marsh Area

Modelled using a 1m sea-level rise scenario

Future Marsh (Undeveloped)

Future Marsh (Developed)

#### Upland Buffers

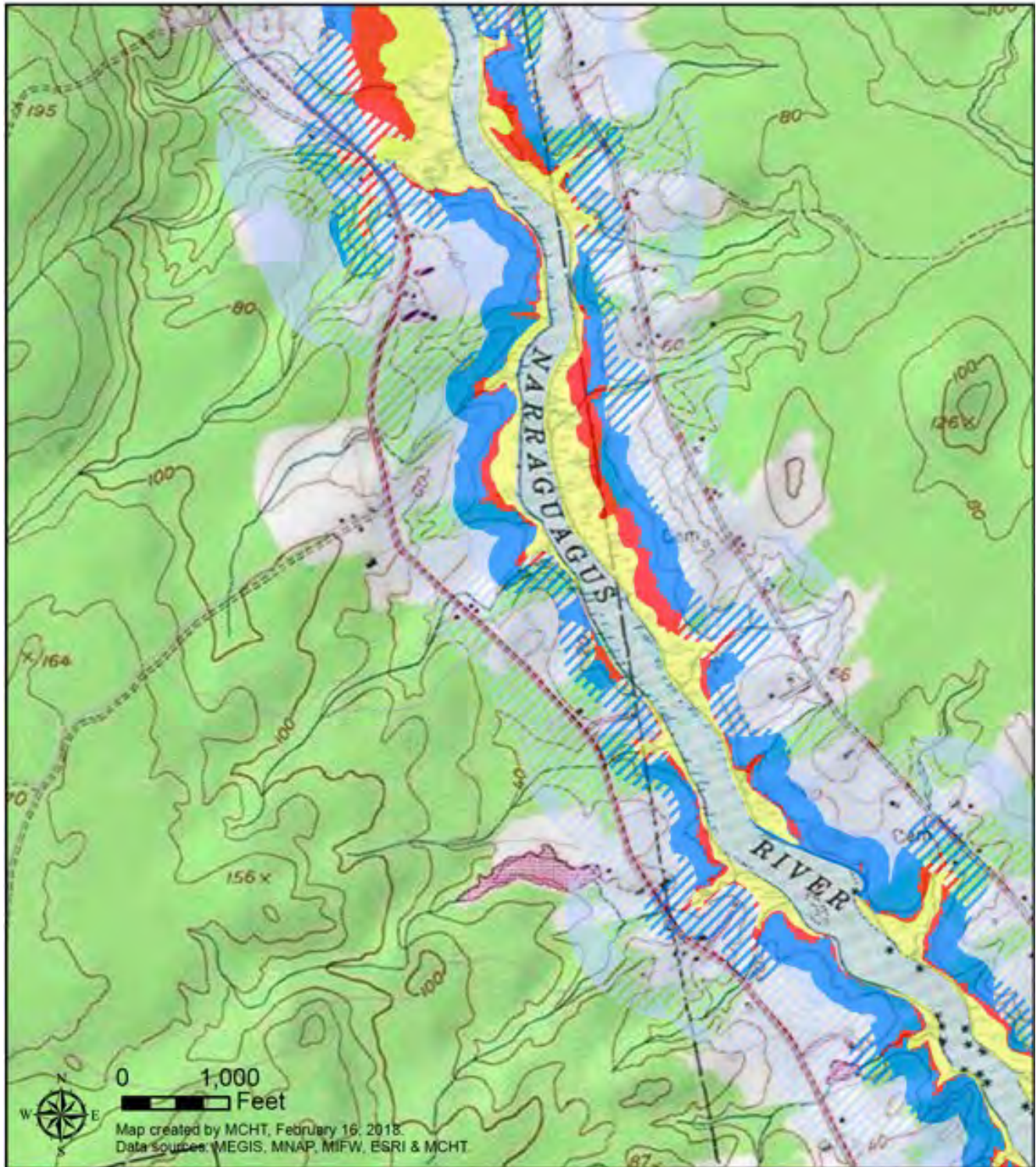
From the upland edge of modelled future marsh

Less than 250' (Undeveloped)

Less than 250' (Developed)

More than 250' (Undeveloped)

More than 250' (Developed)





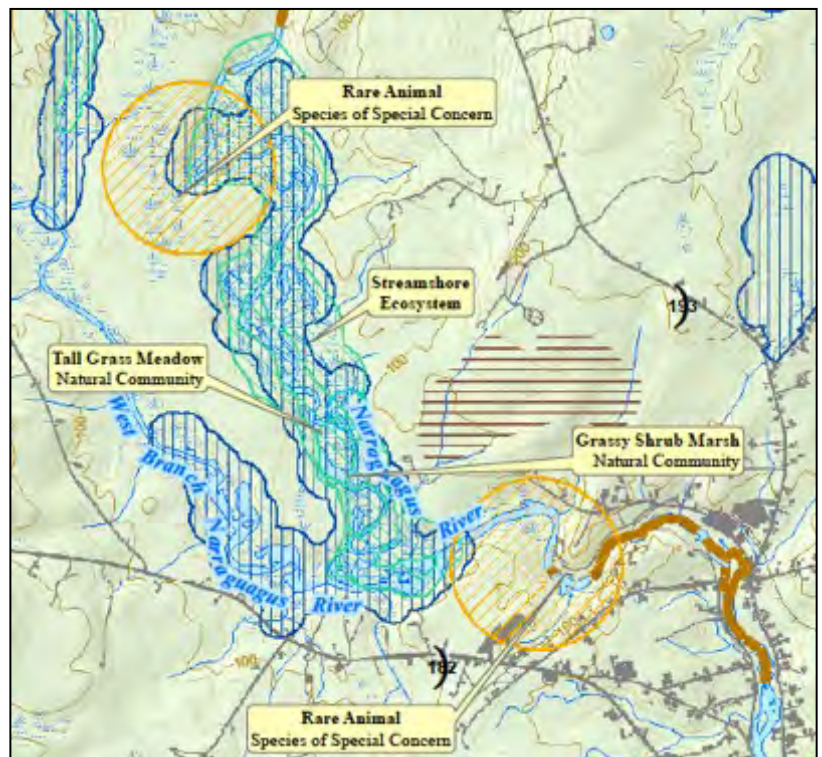
## CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCES

Cherryfield is home to a diverse array of terrestrial and avian wildlife. Inland, forested areas provide habitat for an array of common terrestrial mammals including deer, bobcats, beaver and otters. Conservation of wildlife habitat is important for traditional activities such as hunting and fishing. Development can result in the loss of habitats and diversity; habitat fragmentation and loss of open space; and the loss of travel corridor.

### Maine Natural Areas Program

The availability of high quality habitat for plants, animals, and fish is essential to maintaining abundant and diverse populations for both ecological, economic, and recreational purposes. Cherryfield is home to many plant and animal resources, including several rare species and significant habitats such as Salt-hay Saltmarsh, Grassy Shrub Marsh, Streamshore Ecosystem, Tall Grass Meadow, Estuary Bur-marigold, mountain Laurel, Wood Turtle, Upland Sandpiper, Bald Eagle, Deer Wintering Areas, Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, and Tidal Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat. Beginning with Habitat (BwH), a collaborative program of federal, state, and local agencies and non-government organizations, is a habitat-based approach to conserving wildlife on a landscape scale. The goal of the program is to maintain sufficient habitat to support all native plant and animal species currently breeding in Maine. BwH compiles habitat information from multiple sources, integrates it into one package, and makes it accessible to towns, land trusts, conservation organizations, and others to use proactively.

**Rare or Exemplary Botanical Features** - Rare and exemplary botanical features include the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant species and unique or exemplary natural communities. The Maine Natural Areas Beginning with Habitat (BWH) program documented four rare or exemplary natural communities in Cherryfield: the Early Successional Forest, Grassy Shrub Marsh, Streamshore Ecosystem, and Tall Grass Meadow. All are mapped on the BWH Cherryfield Map 2 – High Value Plant & Animal Habitats (provided to the town of Cherryfield in poster and PDF format). This Program also provides descriptions of the plants and animals associated with these four communities.



Detail of High Value Plant & Animal Habitats (from BWH Map 2)

While several Rare Animals occur in Cherryfield, there is only one Rare Animal, a Species of Special Concern, associated with one of these natural communities. Material provided by the Program does not name the Rare Animal nor is it clear from Map 2 with which of the last three natural communities noted above it is associated (see orange circle in upper left corner of

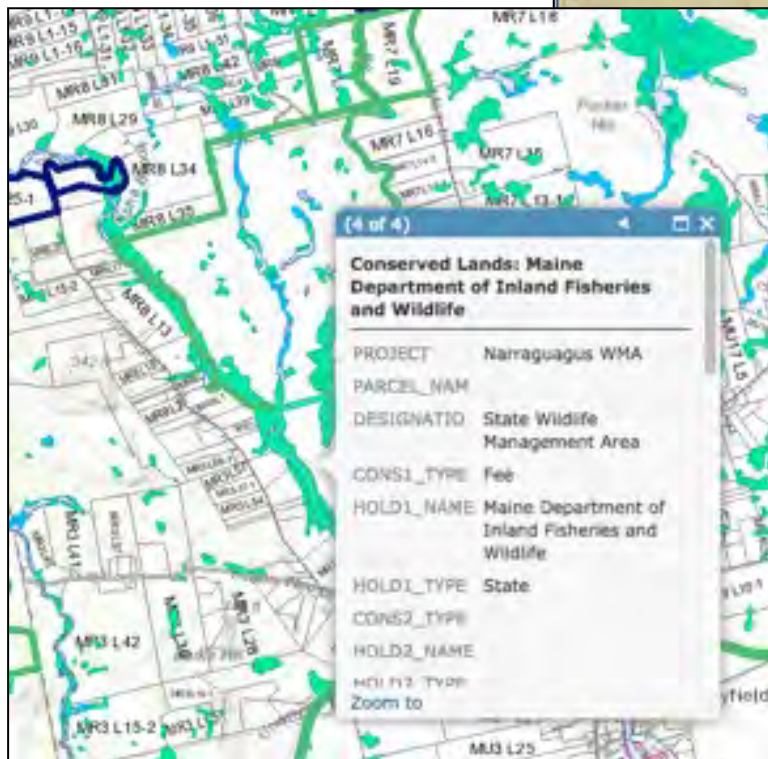
detail from BWH Map 2). Map 2 indicates that specific information can be determined by contacting a Maine IF&W regional biologist. The location of this unnamed Rare Animal is wholly contained within the Narraguagus Wildlife Management Area WMA).

The Narraguagus WMA is mapped but not named on Map 3 - Undeveloped Habitat Blocks & Connectors and Conserved Land. Details about the Narraguagus WMA are available on the online Cherryfield Planners Maps (<http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm>), screen capture of a portion of the information detail shown at right. Please refer to the GIS Mapping chapter on how to obtain more information about this and multiple other mapped features.

### Wildlife Habitats

Conserving diverse habitats and their associated wildlife species helps maintain biological diversity and ensures that wildlife and human populations remain healthy. To feed and reproduce, wildlife relies on a variety of food, cover, water, and space. Development can result in the deterioration of habitats and diversity through habitat fragmentation and loss of open space and travel corridors.

Along the Narraguagus River estuary is the northwesterly part of the **Pleasant Bay Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance**. The Focus Area



Narraguagus Wildlife Management Area from Planners Maps

encompasses the coastline, islands, and tidal estuaries of the greater Narraguagus-Pleasant Bay region and the adjacent Harrington Heath. Both the Narraguagus and the Pleasant Rivers support numerous anadromous fish species, including wild Atlantic salmon. Extensive mudflats lining the river mouths, adjacent coves, and coastal areas are gathering areas for major concentrations of shorebirds along the International Flyway during autumn migration. These mudflats provide important habitat for wading birds and



waterfowl and are home to several rare species, including the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the Estuary Bur-marigold, a Species of Special Concern, and the Salt-Hay Saltmarsh natural community.

Cherryfield also contains, along its western border, the easternmost boundary of the **Tunk Lake Focus Area** of Statewide Ecological Significance. These Focus Areas are depicted on the Regional Map – Building a Regional Landscape provided by the Beginning with Habitat program and are fully described in the publications provided in PDF format the data package.

### **Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Wildlife**

In addition to Essential and Significant Habitat, MDIFW tracks the status, life history, conservation needs, and occurrences for species that are endangered, threatened or otherwise rare and the Maine Natural Areas Program tracks rarer plants. According to MDIFW, Cherryfield has seven areas of “known rare, threatened, or endangered species occurrence and/or the associated habitats based on species sightings”. Rare plant species include Canada Mountain-ricegrass (*Oryzopsis canadensis*) along the banks of the Narraguagus mainstem, Estuary Bur-marigold (*Bidens hyperborean*) along the banks of the Narraguagus estuary, and Mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) along the border with the town of Columbia.

Cherryfield contains habitat areas supporting the Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a Threatened Species; and the Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*), a Species of Special Concern. Wood Turtles are one of the state’s rarest turtles and require an intact, forested riparian zone within 300 feet of the banks of streams and rivers.

The areas of Significant Wildlife Habitat and of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Habitat are all visible in the screen capture on the preceding page and on the High Value Plant and Wildlife Habitats provided on Map 2 of the Beginning with Habitat map set provided to the town by the Beginning with Habitat program. The Planning Board must consult with the State before permitting any building activity near these sites. Land within 1/4 mile of a bald eagle nest site is important habitat for bald eagles. Although these areas are no longer protected as Essential Habitat, bald eagles nest sites remain protected by the Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Act; the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) may regulate some activities around nest sites. Bald eagles remain listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

**Atlantic Salmon** - In December 1999, the State of Maine banned angling for Atlantic salmon statewide. In November 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service officially declared as endangered the Atlantic salmon populations in eight Maine rivers (Dennys, East Machias, Machias, Pleasant, Narraguagus, Ducktrap and Sheepscot rivers and Cove Brook).

Accordingly, it is unlawful to angle, take, or possess any Atlantic salmon from all Maine waters (including coastal waters). Regarding the above-mentioned rivers, any salmon incidentally caught must be released immediately, alive and uninjured. Atlantic salmon must not be removed from the waters. Fishing for Landlocked Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) also known as Sebago Salmon and Quananiche, is permitted throughout Maine under general fishing regulations.

Downeast Salmon Federation is currently working with The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and the Atlantic Salmon Federation to raise funds for a feasibility study (to be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers) regarding options for modification or removal of the ice dam on the Narraguagus River. The ice dam currently impedes diadromous fish passage between salt and fresh water, contributing to the decline of the once highly productive salmon fisheries along with American


shad, alewives, blueback herring, sea-run brook trout, American eel, sea lamprey, and striped bass. The modification or removal of the ice dam is one important step being considered by many partners to restore this river. Because the Narraguagus is such highly productive habitat, federal and state agencies, municipalities, county government, and non-governmental organizations are involved with the mutual goal of seeing wild fish populations thrive once again.

In addition to the habitats mapped by IF&W and mentioned above, other notable wildlife habitats in Cherryfield include large, undeveloped habitat blocks and riparian habitat. Larger undeveloped blocks of forest and wetlands provide habitat for wide-ranging mammals such as bobcat and black bear, as well as for rarely seen forest birds and a myriad of other wildlife species. Riparian areas offer habitat for many plants and animals and can also serve as wildlife travel corridors, as well as playing an important role in protection of water quality, as noted in the plan.

**Essential Wildlife Habitats** - Essential Wildlife Habitats are defined under the Maine Endangered Species Act as a habitat "currently or historically providing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of an Endangered or Threatened Species in Maine and which may require special management considerations". The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) identify these sites. In summary, any project within the Essential Habitat that requires a state or municipal permit, or uses public funding, requires IF&W review. The Essential Habitat includes land within ¼ mile of the identified site. This consultation rarely stops development, but projects may be modified to protect the endangered species.

The screen shot on the following page depicts the High Value Plant and Wildlife Habitats provided on Map 2 of the Beginning with Habitat map set provided to Cherryfield by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. While the digital data on the map cannot be posted to the online Planners Maps, the analysis that follows uses that data along with zoomed-in details of specific features.


### Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Wildlife

 Known rare, threatened, or endangered species occurrence and/or the associated habitats based on species sightings.


Consult with an MDIFW regional biologist to determine the relative importance and conservation needs of the specific location and supporting habitat. For more information regarding individual species visit our website, [http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/endangered\\_species/state\\_list.htm](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/endangered_species/state_list.htm), for species specific fact sheets.

The Federal Endangered Species Act requires actions authorized, funded, or carried out by federal agencies be reviewed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If your project occurs near an occurrence of the Atlantic Salmon, Roseate Tern, Piping Plover, Canada Lynx, New England Cottontail, Fishish's Lousewort, or Small-whorled Pagonia contact the Maine Field Office, USFWS, 1168 Main St., Old Town, ME 04468.

### Rare or Exemplary Plants and Natural Communities


 Rare Plant Locations

Known rare, threatened, or endangered plant occurrences are based on field observations. Consult with a Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) Ecologist to determine conservation needs of particular species. For more information regarding rare plants, the complete list of tracked species and fact sheets for those species can be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrmc/mnap/features/plantlist.htm>

 Rare or Exemplary Natural Community Locations


The MNAP has classified and distinguished 98 different natural community types that collectively cover the state's landscape. These include such habitats as floodplain forests, coastal bogs, alpine summits, and many others. Each type is assigned a rarity rank of 1 (rare) through 5 (common). Mapped rare natural communities or ecosystems, or exemplary examples of common natural communities or ecosystems, are based on field surveys and aerial photo interpretation. Consult with an MNAP Ecologist to determine conservation needs of particular communities or ecosystems.

### Essential Wildlife Habitats


 Roseate Tern Nesting Area or Piping Plover-Least Tern Nesting, Feeding, & Brood-Rearing Area

Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW, [www.state.me.us/ifw](http://www.state.me.us/ifw)) maps areas currently or historically providing habitat essential to the conservation of endangered or threatened species as directed by the Maine Endangered Species Act (12 MRSA, Chapter 925, Subchapter 3, Sections 12804 and 12806) and regulations (MDIFW Rules, Chapter 8.05). Identification of Essential Habitat areas is based on species observations and confirmed habitat use. If a project occurs partly or wholly within an Essential Habitat, it must be evaluated by MDIFW before state and/or municipal permits can be approved or project activities can take place.


### Significant Wildlife Habitats

 Candidate Deer Wintering Area


Forested area possibly used by deer for shelter during periods of deep snow and cold temperatures. Assessing the current value of a deer wintering area requires on-site investigation and verification by IF&W staff. Locations depicted should be considered as approximate only.

 Inland Waterfowl / Wading Bird


Freshwater breeding, migration/staging, and wintering habitats for inland waterfowl or breeding, feeding, loafing, migration, or roosting habitats for inland wading birds.

 Seabird Nesting Island


An island, ledge, or portion thereof in tidal waters with documented, nesting seabirds or suitable nesting habitat for endangered seabirds.

 Shorebird Areas

Coastal staging areas that provide feeding habitat like tidal mud flats or roosting habitat like gravel bars or sand spits for migrating shorebirds

 Tidal Waterfowl / Wading Bird

Breeding, migrating/staging, or wintering areas for coastal waterfowl or breeding, feeding, loafing, migrating, or roosting areas for coastal wading birds. Tidal Waterfowl/Wading Bird habitats include aquatic beds, eelgrass, emergent wetlands, mudflats, seaweed communities, and reefs.


 Significant Vernal Pools


A pool depression used for breeding by amphibians and other indicator species and that portion of the critical terrestrial habitat within 250 ft of the spring or fall high water mark. A vernal pool must have the following characteristics: natural origin, nonpermanent hydroperiod, lack permanently flowing inlet or outlet, and lack predatory fish.


### Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act

Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA, 1988) is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP; <http://www.maine.gov/dep/biwa/docstand/nrpapage.htm>) and is intended to prevent further degradation and loss of natural resources in the state, including the above Significant Wildlife Habitats that have been mapped by MDIFW. MDEP has regulatory authority over most Significant Wildlife Habitat types. The regional MDEP office should be consulted when considering a project in these areas.

### Atlantic Salmon Spawning/Rearing Habitat

 Atlantic Salmon Rearing Habitat

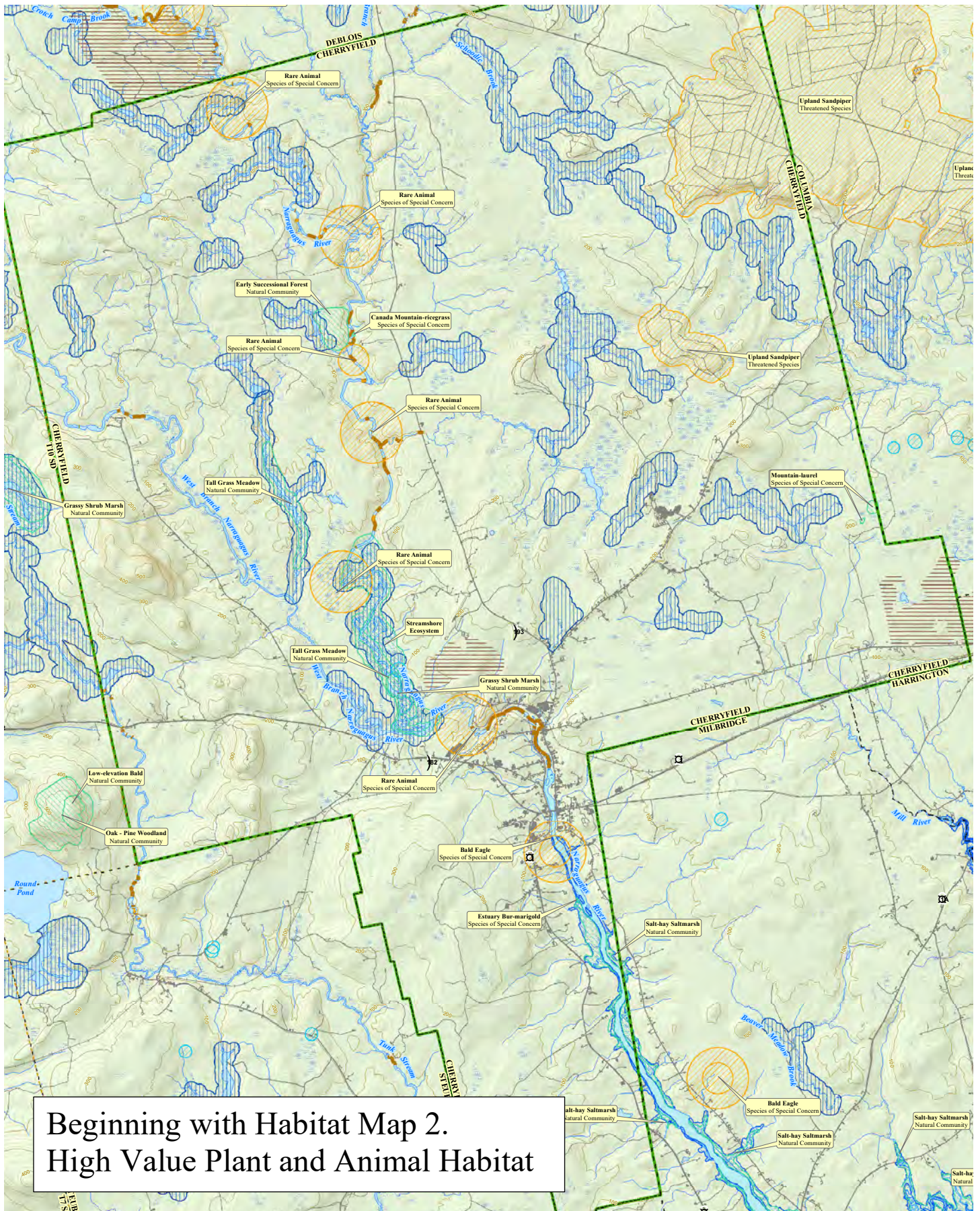
 Atlantic Salmon Spawning Habitat

 Atlantic Salmon Limited Spawning Habitat

Mapped by Atlantic Salmon Commission (ASC) and US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) from field surveys on selected Penobscot and Kennebec River tributaries and the Dennys, Ducktrap, East Machias, Machias, Pleasant, Narraguagus, and Sheepscot Rivers.

**Key to wildlife habitats and communities  
depicted on the High Value Plant and Wildlife  
Habitats Map 2 from BWH**







## NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

There are a variety of laws and legal incentives that protect the natural resources in Cherryfield. Those of greatest significance are summarized below.

### **Pertinent Federal and State Laws:**

- Maine Mandatory Shoreland Zoning - Cherryfield has chosen along with scores of rural towns to have the Maine Forest Service administer and enforce the statewide timber management standards of the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act (38 M.R.S.A., Section 438-B) in the shoreland zone in Cherryfield.
- Subdivision Control Law Title 30-A Section 4401 et seq. defines criteria that planning boards must consider in the review of proposed subdivisions, including factors that relate to environmental concerns.
- Maine Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) – which regulates activities in, on, over or adjacent to natural resources such as lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, fragile mountain areas, and sand dune systems. Standards focus on the possible impacts to the resources and to existing uses.
- Maine Storm Water Management – regulates activities creating impervious or disturbed areas (of size and location) because of their potential impacts to water quality. In effect, this law extends storm water standards to smaller than Site Location Law-sized projects. It requires quantity standards for storm water to be met in some areas, and both quantity and quality standards to be met in others.
- Maine Site Location of Development Law – regulates developments that may have a substantial impact on the environment (i.e., large subdivisions and/or structures, 20-acre plus developments, and metallic mineral mining operations). Standards address a range of environmental impacts.
- Maine Minimum Lot Size Law – regulates subsurface waste disposal through requirements for minimum lot size and minimum frontage on a water body. The minimum lot size requirement for a single-family residence is 20,000 square feet; the shoreland frontage requirement is 100 feet. The requirements for multi-family and other uses are based on the amount of sewage generated.
- Maine Endangered Species Act – regulates the designation and protection of endangered species including disallowing municipal action from superceding protection under the Act.
- The Forest Practices Act - regulates the practice of clear cutting by setting regeneration and clearcut size requirements.
- Standards for Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Shoreland Areas – enforced by the Maine Forest Service, establishes statewide standards for timber harvesting in shoreland areas. In general, lands below the 300 acre drainage point must leave windfirm stands of trees that provide adequate shade; roads must minimize the chance of exposed soil washing into water bodies and wetlands; stream crossings must not disrupt the natural flow of water and must not allow sediment into water bodies.

**Pertinent Local Laws** - At the local level, Cherryfield regulates the minimum shoreland standards, as required by the State Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act. Surface waters in Cherryfield are also protected through the Plumbing Code and local Subdivision Regulations.

**Pertinent Tax Incentive Programs:** A variety of programs provide financial incentives for landowners to keep land undeveloped and managed for long term productivity. They include the following:

**Farm and Open Space Tax Law** - (Title 36, MRSA, Section 1101, et seq.) encourages landowners to conserve farmland and open space by taxing the land at a rate based on its current use, rather than potential fair market value.

Eligible parcels in the farmland program must be at least five contiguous acres, utilized for the production of farming, agriculture or horticulture activities and show gross earnings from agricultural production of at least \$2,000 (which may include the value of commodities produced for consumption by the farm household) during one of the last two years or three of the last five years. The Open Space portion of this program has no minimum lot size requirements and the tract must be preserved or restricted in use to provide a public benefit by conserving scenic resources, enhancing public recreation opportunities, promoting game management or preserving wildlife habitat.

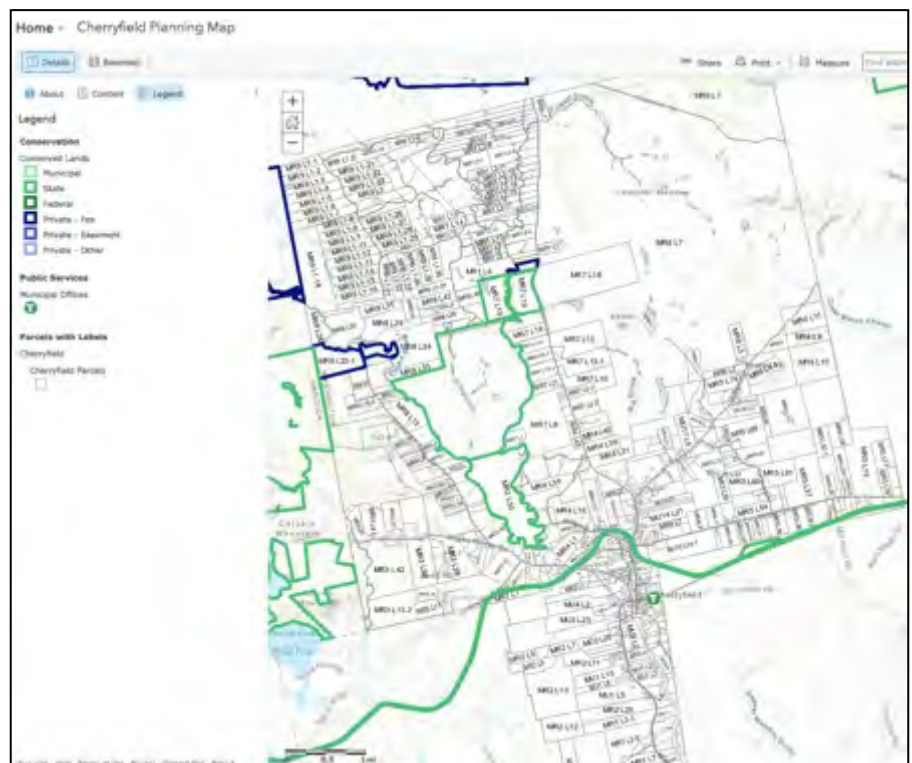
According to Municipal Valuation Return as of April 1, 2016 Cherryfield had 4 parcels constituting 146 acres enrolled in the open space program and no parcels enrolled in the farmland program.

**Tree Growth Tax Law** - (Title 36, MRSA, Section 571, et seq.) provides for the valuation of land classified as forestland on the basis of productivity, rather than fair market value. No parcels were withdrawn from the program in 2016. According to Municipal Valuation Return as of May 28, 2019 Cherryfield had 41 parcels constituting 3,634 acres in tree growth tax status.

These programs enable farmers and other landowners to use their property for its productive use at a property tax rate that reflects farming and open space rather than residential development land valuations. If the property is removed from the program, a penalty is assessed against the property based on the number of years the property was enrolled in the program and/or a percentage of fair market value upon the date of withdrawal.

Current Use Valuation of Certain Working Waterfront Land (Title, Section 1131, et seq.) provides for the valuation of land on the basis of its use as working waterfront.

The Working Waterfront tax law requires that all enrolled properties must abut tidal water or be located within the intertidal zone. While there is no minimum lot size requirement for this program, current use taxation under this program applies only to land. It does not apply to structures such as wharves, piers, or lobster pounds. For the purposes of current use taxation on working waterfront property, “working waterfront” is defined as land providing access to or in support of the conduct of commercial fishing activities. In 2017, Cherryfield did not have any properties enrolled in this program.

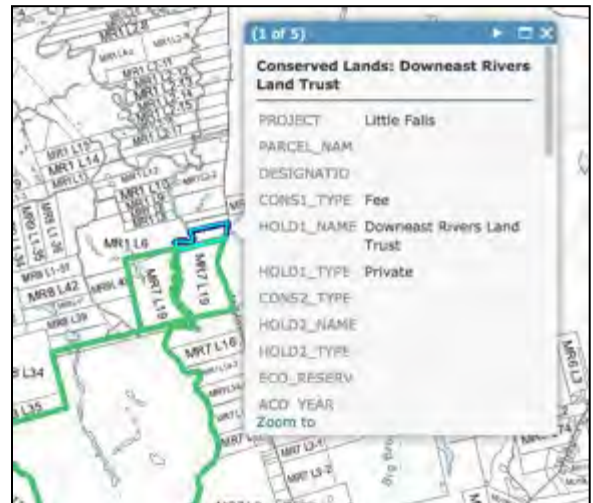


**Types of conserved lands in Cherryfield (from the Planners Maps)**

The Maine Farmland Registration Program is designed to protect the farmers' right to farm their land. Upon registration, a farmer, including blueberry farmers, is guaranteed a 50-foot buffer zone between the productive fields and new incompatible development, such as residential development. The Farmland Registration Program lets new and potential abutters know that a working farm is next door.

## STATE AND PUBLIC RESERVED LANDS

Cherryfield contains several parcels of land in easement and fee ownership conservation. The Downeast Rivers Land Trust holds all except one, owned by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. A screen capture of almost the entire town is shown below taken from the Cherryfield Online Planners maps. The single green line is the Downeast Sunrise Trail owned by Maine DOT and managed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The information tool can be used to identify ownership and, when provided by the town, parcel acreage information along with other attribute information. See Chapter B. GIS Mapping for more information on using the GIS mapping tools.



**Detail of Conserved Lands (Planners Map) showing ownership and conservation type**

## SCENIC RESOURCES

Cherryfield is a rural and scenic community. Important naturally occurring scenic resources include the main stem and west branch of the Narraguagus River, extensive wild blueberry land, abundant flora and fauna, and working forest. Scenic Resources within Cherryfield are not protected by any Town ordinances.

## PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Respondents to the survey showed preference for development that is not harmful to the environment, and that actually leverage the beauty and quality of the natural environment for economic and community development related to outdoor recreation and tourism. Survey responses indicate that more people feel strongly about the need to preserve scenic and historic or cultural sites than do not, with the need to protect water quality being of second most importance.

## POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>NATURAL RESOURCES - WATER, WILDLIFE HABITAT, SOILS, AND OTHER RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Protect the quality of and preserve the natural resources on which Cherryfield's economy and quality of life depend, through preservation of land, infrastructure improvement, education, and citizen stewardship.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Protect drinking water and surface water resources.	Continue to incorporate stormwater runoff performance standards consistent with: a. Maine Stormwater Management Law and Maine Stormwater regulations (Title 38 M.R.S.A. §420-D and 06-096 CMR 500 and 502). b. Maine Department of Environmental Protection's allocations for allowable levels of phosphorus in lake/pond watersheds. c. Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Continue to require all parties to adhere to water quality protection standards for construction and maintenance of public and private roads and public properties.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
	Provide information to property owners about best management practices for protecting water quality, removal of aquatic invasive species; about current use tax programs; and about applicable local, state, or federal regulations for properties near critical or important natural resources.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
	Consideration of implementing a Wellhead Protection Ordinance(s) to protect any current or future public drinking water resources	Select Board, Planning Board	Short Term (within 2-5 years)
	Consideration of the potential need for non-municipal public water supply needs of future development (cluster developments, restaurants, schools, etc)	Select Board, Planning Board	Short Term (within 2-5 years), Ongoing
Minimize pollution discharges through the upgrade of existing septic systems and OBD's.	Work with State and local agencies to correct failing systems near surface or groundwater sources.	Select Board	Short Term (within 2-5 years), Ongoing
Cooperate with neighboring communities to protect shared water resources	Work with Steuben, Columbia and Milbridge to discuss the development of water quality regulations for the protection of the shared aquifer	Planning Board, Select Board	Short Term (within 2-5 years), Ongoing



Conserve important natural resources	Continue requirements that development in or near the site of an Essential Habitat or Significant Habitat, a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist must be contacted for immediate assistance.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Update Shoreland Zoning Regulations, Floodplain maps, and the Subdivision Ordinance as necessary to maintain compliance with minimum State and Federal regulations.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Require that land use and development reviews have consultation with state agencies (not just online maps) regarding critical natural resources.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Require subdivision or non-residential property developers to look for and identify critical natural resources and to protect those resources through appropriate methods.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Participate in inter-local and regional planning, management, and regulatory efforts around shared critical and important natural resources.	Select Board	Ongoing
Safeguard lands identified as prime farmland or capable of supporting commercial forestry.	Consult with the Maine Forest Service district forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices as required by 12 M.R.S.A. §8869.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Require commercial or subdivision developments in critical rural areas, maintain areas with prime farmland soils as open space.	Planning Board, Select Board	Long Term (Within 5-7 years) Ongoing
Support farming and forestry and encourage their economic viability.	Limit non-residential development in critical rural areas to natural resource-based businesses and services, such as nature tourism, outdoor recreation, and farm markets.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Continue to Permit land use activities that support productive agriculture and forestry operations.	Planning Board	Ongoing

## **G. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY**

Cherryfield is a small rural community with an economic base rooted in its natural resources including blueberry production and processing, a once-thriving Atlantic salmon fishery, regional tourism, and exceptional shoreland and scenic beauty. Median incomes in Cherryfield are lower than in the rest of the county and poverty rates among families are higher. The two largest employers, Jasper Wyman and Son and Cherryfield Foods, provide employment to local residents and to the region. There are also a variety of fuel distribution, retail and service businesses, supported by residents, visitors, and second home owners. More employed residents commute to regional service centers than stay in Cherryfield for work.

### **Summary of Key Findings**

Jobs employing both those who live in Cherryfield and those who come into town to work have fallen since from 274 in 2002 to 230 in 2015. The largest employers are in the blueberry industry, fuel provisioning and distribution, building material suppliers, and educational and social services. The top three sectors of employment for Cherryfield are ‘Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations’; ‘Management, business, science and arts occupations’; and ‘sales and office occupations’. Tourism is expected to play a much larger role in the future. Heritage/Historical, Nature and Cultural-based tourism is growing in popularity.

The town of Cherryfield is part of the Jonesport Economic Summary area that includes 14 municipalities. Total Consumer and total taxable retail sales to consumers in the Jonesport ESA over the 2011-2016 time-horizon show a modest upward trend.

Cherryfield’s median household income increased considerably, 104% between 1990 to 2016 with the majority (91%) occurring between 2000 and 2016, surpassing the median household income for Washington County but remaining lower than the State.

In 2016 over 19 percent of Cherryfield families were listed as having incomes below the poverty level. This is only slightly lower than for the entire county but almost all of these families have children under 5 years of age.

### **CHERRYFIELD BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT TODAY**

Cherryfield has an economy that is heavily reliant on the blueberry industry. There are thousands of acres in blueberry production and, in the village, processing facilities operated by the largest companies in the region, Wyman’s of Maine and Cherryfield Foods. A seasonal migrant workforce works on the barrens during the blueberry harvest and the processing facilities employ close to a hundred people year-round. While many residents are employed outside of the town, there are service industries based in Cherryfield providing fuel distribution, hardware and lumber supplies, a regional center for education and charitable activities, and a variety of professional and tourism-based businesses. Cherryfield’s historic downtown is located on the Narraguagus River and is an asset that attracts and assists visitors to explore the town and surrounding region. The contributions of volunteers, local institutions, many small business owners and investment by public and private sources is evident in restored historic structures, many fresh facades, and renovated civic buildings.

In addition to these base factors, a new economy is developing around retirees and individuals who work remotely using the Internet. These individuals are not entirely dependent on local economic conditions for their income. However, their location decisions are based on quality of life factors like affordable real estate, cultural opportunities, low crime and clean natural surroundings, all of which are qualities in which Cherryfield possesses a competitive advantage.

### Local Employers

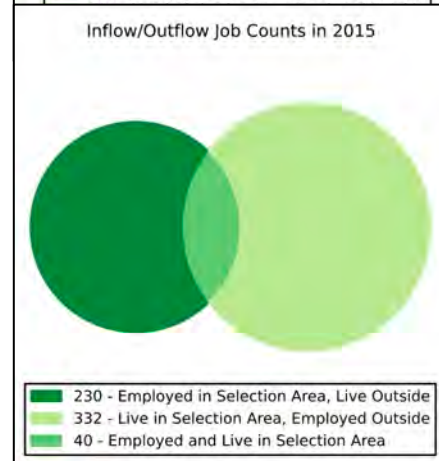
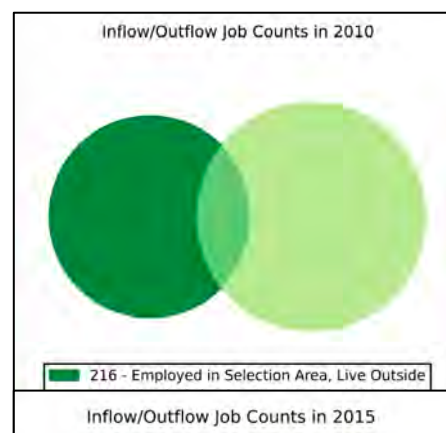
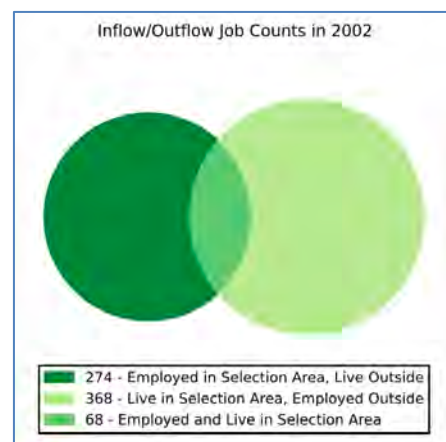
While not an employment center for western Washington County, Cherryfield has a few large employers and several smaller ones (see Table on following page).

Jobs employing both those who live in Cherryfield and those who come into town to work have fallen since from 274 in 2002 to 230 in 2015 though the number of jobs is higher than the number recorded in the 2010 Census (see charts at right from: On The Map (<http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>)).

More people are employed outside of the town (see figures from all three charts at right) with an overall decrease from 368 in 2002 to 332 in 2015.

The largest employers are in the blueberry industry, fuel provisioning and distribution, building material suppliers, and educational and social services.

Local employers are mostly small but diverse in the services they offer. As a seasonal economy, there is ownership turnover and seasonality in the offerings available in retail, restaurant and services. The following table is compiled from data available from the Interactive Employer Locator (<http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/employers2.html>) after review, update and additions by the Cherryfield Comprehensive Plan Committee.



<b>LOCAL EMPLOYERS – TOWN OF CHERRYFIELD</b>		
<b>Employer</b>	<b>Industry/Business Description</b>	<b># of Full Time Employees</b>
Four Main Street	Antiques-Dealers	1-4
Back in the Good Ol Days	Antiques-Dealers	
Tunk Mountain Arts & Crafts	Art Galleries & Dealers	1-4
K & R Automotive	Automobile Repairing & Service	1-4
T & M Small Engine Repair	Automobile Repairing & Service	1-4
Steve Santerre Auto Repair	Automobile Repairing & Service	1-4
Kel's Cuts	Beauty Salons	1-4
Tease	Beauty Salon	1-4
Hammond EBS Building Supplies Inc	Building Materials	10-19
North Street Cafe	Cafes	1-4
Downeast Cheesecakes/Cookie Nook		1-4
Wyman of Maine	Canning (mfrs)	50-99
Maine Sea Coast Mission	Charitable Institutions	1-4
Lamb House	Charitable Institutions	1
Narraguagus Child Development	Child Care Service	1-4
Edge at Maine Seacoast Mission	Child Care Services	10-19
Church of the Open Bible	Churches	1-4
St Michaels Roman Catholic Church	Churches	5-9
1 <sup>st</sup> Cherryfield Congregational Church	Churches	1?
1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist Church	Churches	1?
Pentecostal Church	Churches	1?
Down East Windjammer Cruises	Cruises	1-4
Nobul Electric Inc.	Electric Contractors	1-4
Cherryfield Embroidery	Embroidery	1-4
Folklore Farm	Farm	1-4
Intervale Farm	Farms	1-4
Cherryfield Foods Inc.	Food Products (whls)	30-50
Wymans of Maine	Food Products (whls)	?
Cherryfield Food Inc.	Fruits & Vegetables & Produce-Retail	20-49
Glen Wilbur Family Furniture	Furniture-Dealers-Retail	1-4
RW Matthews & Sons Inc	Gas Station	1-2
Bureau Barks & Lands	Government Offices- State	1-4

<b>LOCAL EMPLOYERS – TOWN OF CHERRYFIELD</b>		
<b>Employer</b>	<b>Industry/Business Description</b>	<b># of Full Time Employees</b>
Cherryfield Transfer Station	Government Offices-City, Village	1-4
Town of Cherryfield	Government Offices-City, Village & Twp	1-4
Transportation Department	Government Offices-State	10-19
CH Mathews AG	Grocers-Stores	5-9
Cherryfield Public Library	Libraries-Public	1-4
Maine Seacoast Mission Society	Missions	10-19
Dead River Co	Heating Fuel (oils, propane) (whls)	20-49
Kelley Oil	Oils-Fuel (whls)	1-4
US Post Office	Post Offices	1-4
Narraguagus Pottery	Pottery	1-4
Pleasant View Manor Fickett	Real Estate Management	5-9
Tim's Roofing & Renovations	Building Construction	1-4
Cherryfield Elementary School	Schools	10-19
Cherryfield School Department	Schools	5-9
Sunset Hill Svc LLC	Services NEC	1-4
Narraguagus Estates	Social Service & Welfare Organizations	1-4
RW Matthews Transportation	Transportation	10-19
American Legion	Veterans' & Military Organizations	1-4
Catherine Hill Winery	Wineries (mfrs)	1-4
The Ark Animal Shelter	Animal Shelter	5-9
Firewood of Maine	Firewood-Fuel	1-4
Stick Picks and Strings	Music Store	1-4
Richmond Thaxter	Building Construction	1-4
Misty Morning Stables	Equestrian Stables	1-4
Fenton Construction	Building Construction	1-4
ME DOT Garage	Government - state	1-4
ME of Bureau of Parks and Land	Government - state	1-4
Source: Interactive Employer Locator ( <a href="http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/employers2.html">http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/employers2.html</a> ) as modified and updated by Cherryfield Comprehensive Plan Update Committee		

## Retail Trade

Taxable sales data, assembled by the Maine Revenue Services, is only available at the Economic Summary Area (ESA) level, i.e. at time of writing the Report on Maine Town Sales since 2007 is “currently unavailable”. The town of Cherryfield is part of the Jonesport Economic Summary area that includes 14 municipalities (see list at right). As Cherryfield is such a small contributor to this large ESA an analysis of trends within this larger ESA is not particularly relevant to economic conditions within the town.

### JONESPORT ESA

Addison  
Beals  
Beddington  
Centerville  
Cherryfield  
Columbia  
Columbia Falls  
Deblois  
Harrington  
Jonesboro  
Jonesport  
Milbridge  
Steuben  
Unionville

To provide a general picture of Total Retail Sales in the Jonesport ESA relative to the ESAs in all of Eastern Maine the following table indicates a generally upward, if modest, trend from 2011 to 2016.

Total Retail Sales includes Consumer Retail Sales plus special types of sales and rentals to businesses where the tax is paid directly by the buyer (such as commercial or industrial oil purchase).

Maine Taxable Sales - Annual Review 2016											
Total Retail Sales (\$1000s)											
Economic Statistical District / Area		Annual Totals						Annualized		Percentage Change	
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011-2016	2011-2016	2015-2016	
EASTERN ME	BAR HARBOR	\$243,911	\$257,288	\$267,739	\$281,724	\$304,615	\$337,160	6.69%	38.23%	10.68%	
	BLUE HILL	\$75,031	\$74,023	\$78,904	\$79,753	\$78,927	\$86,925	2.99%	15.85%	10.13%	
	CALAIS	\$105,276	\$105,214	\$108,500	\$109,046	\$109,255	\$118,540	2.40%	12.60%	8.50%	
	EASTPORT	\$19,894	\$20,733	\$20,939	\$21,616	\$20,730	\$21,751	1.80%	9.33%	4.92%	
	ELLSWORTH	\$413,308	\$415,365	\$431,465	\$448,200	\$471,822	\$505,386	4.10%	22.28%	7.11%	
	JONESPORT	\$43,154	\$43,596	\$44,507	\$46,228	\$46,663	\$52,766	4.10%	22.27%	13.08%	
	MACHIAS	\$50,347	\$48,726	\$49,233	\$50,358	\$50,808	\$56,182	2.22%	11.59%	10.58%	
EASTERN ME Total		\$950,921	\$964,944	\$1,001,288	\$1,036,926	\$1,082,818	\$1,178,710	4.39%	23.95%	8.86%	

Consumer Retail Sales, the total taxable retail sales to consumers, over the same time horizon (2011-2016) also show a modest upward trend.

Maine Taxable Sales - Annual Review 2016										
Consumer Retail Sales (\$1000s)										
Economic Statistical District / Area		Annual Totals						Annualized	Percentage Change	
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011-2016	2011-2016	2015-2016
EASTERN ME	BAR HARBOR	\$233,707	\$246,668	\$259,964	\$274,238	\$297,281	\$330,720	7.19%	41.51%	11.25%
	BLUE HILL	\$67,661	\$67,314	\$72,662	\$73,026	\$73,088	\$81,044	3.68%	19.78%	10.88%
	CALAIS	\$96,648	\$99,529	\$101,835	\$101,752	\$102,649	\$111,900	2.97%	15.78%	9.01%
	EASTPORT	\$19,035	\$20,123	\$20,417	\$21,051	\$20,354	\$21,392	2.36%	12.39%	5.10%
	ELLSWORTH	\$389,826	\$393,716	\$405,956	\$423,728	\$450,740	\$485,200	4.47%	24.47%	7.65%
	JONESPORT	\$38,054	\$38,973	\$40,831	\$41,759	\$42,128	\$48,129	4.81%	26.48%	14.25%
	MACHIAS	\$47,224	\$45,667	\$46,080	\$47,019	\$47,535	\$52,490	2.14%	11.15%	10.42%
EASTERN ME Total		\$892,154	\$911,989	\$947,745	\$982,573	\$1,033,775	\$1,130,875	4.86%	26.76%	9.39%

Source: Maine Revenue Services (<http://www.maine.gov/revenue/research/sales/homepage.html>) 2017

## Tourism and Seasonal Homes

Tourism has always played a role in the economy of Cherryfield and is expected to play a much larger role in the future. Heritage/Historical, Nature and Cultural-based tourism is growing in



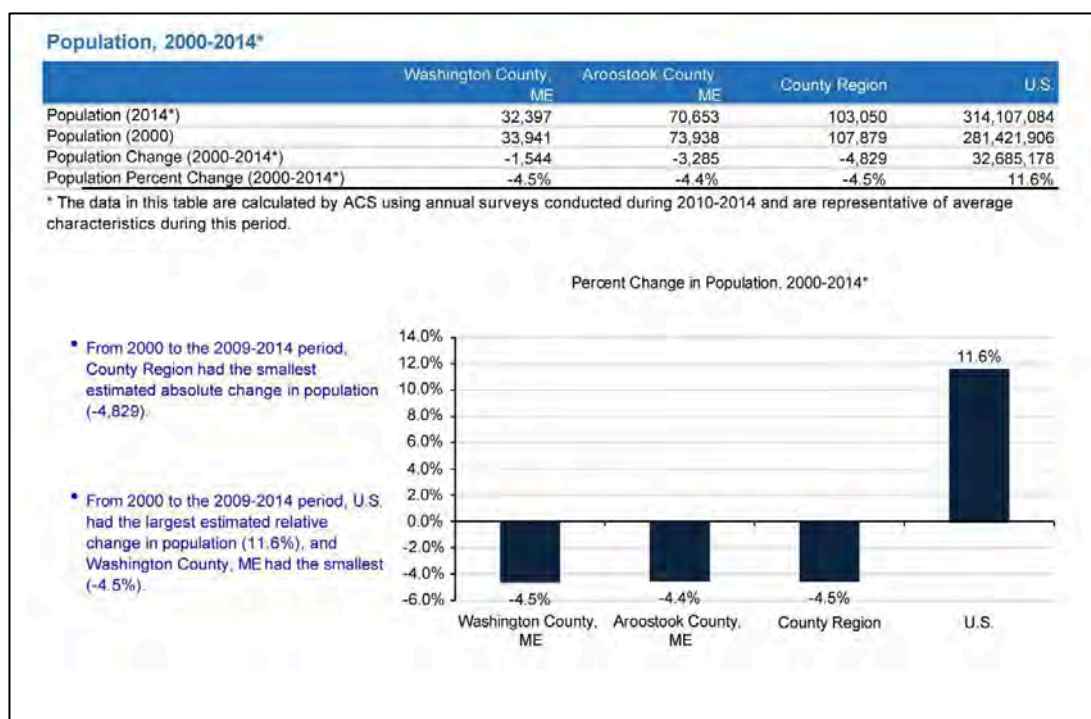
popularity and Cherryfield has all of the ingredients for success in this market including an intact historic downtown and exceptional scenic beauty along the Narraguagus River. Retail stores and restaurants have come and gone over the years and are still challenged by seasonal fluctuations.

Cherryfield also participates in regional efforts to promote tourism. Cherryfield is the easternmost terminus of the Black Woods Scenic Byway and an information stop on the larger regional Bold Coast Scenic Byway. The town continues to collaborate with regional organizations like Downeast & Acadia Regional Tourism and the Washington County Council of Governments to create permanent bicycle tourism routes – the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway – in Washington County by supporting bike-friendly businesses and communities.

## REGIONAL ECONOMY

Traditionally, Washington County has been one of the most depressed counties in New England. Washington County continues as an economically depressed area because of its distance from other sections of the State, and reliance on a seasonal economy (blueberries, wreaths and Christmas trees, fishing and clamming, wood harvesting, etc.).

According to the 2016 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy prepared for the Aroostook-Washington Economic Development District (AWEDD) the biggest challenge facing the AWEDD is workforce related, due to the loss of population as depicted in the chart below.



Source: Aroostook-Washington Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2016-2017.

The 18 to 44-year-old age cohort is the workforce lifeblood and is hovering at 30% of the total population; a level below which economists tell us our local/regional economy is no longer sustainable. When the pool of younger workers drops below this 30% threshold, companies



struggle to find the workers needed to operate their business; eventually causing them to either close or relocate.

The second issue creating a sense of constraint in Northern and Eastern Maine is our energy cost burden. The region's citizens and businesses "survive" in a region with twice the national average cost burden for energy. Since energy is the primary input to life and economic performance our region faces a greater barrier than many regions in the US. The cost burden is driven by an 80% use of heating oil, 16 cents per Kw for electricity and a low household income as a result of a constrained economy.

The AWEDD regional vision is included in the CEDS document:

Our region is a place of abundant natural resources that is reflected in the beauty of our landscape and the potential for economic and social prosperity it offers. We value the individuality and endurance of our people while recognizing the strong sense of community and place that sustains us. We will create economic growth by focusing on sectors that best leverage these assets and by working to develop policies that promote private sector investment; while at the same time, retaining the quality of life that makes the region special.

A full rewrite of the CEDs document is underway in 2017-18 by the Northern Maine Development Commission. Additional information on the Regional Economy is also provided in the Regional Coordination chapter.

### Commuting to Work

Some Cherryfield residents commute to jobs located in surrounding communities. With a mean travel time to work of 23.9 minutes Cherryfield residents are traveling farther than the Washington County average (20.3 minutes; see Table E-3) and their commuting times have remained relatively constant (mean commuting time to work in 2000 was 22.8 minutes).

According to the Census, Cherryfield's workforce commutes primarily by private vehicle (71.1%). The second largest segment (17.7%) commutes by carpools, higher than the average for the county (13.6%). The third largest segment walks to work or works at home.

COMMUTING TO WORK: 2010 and 2012-2016 ACS Estimate	Cherryfield				Washington County			
	2010		2012-2016		2010		2012-2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Workers 16 years and over	453	100.0	570	100	13,408	100.0	12,591	100
Drove alone	338	74.6	405	71.1	9,771	72.9	9,247	73.4
In carpools	45	9.9	101	17.7	1,808	13.5	1,714	13.6
Using public transportation	0	0.0	0	0.0	55	0.4	34	0.3
Walked	18	4.0	28	4.9	738	5.5	717	5.7
Other means	4	0.9	10	1.8	163	1.2	160	5.7
Worked at home	48	10.6	26	4.6	873	6.5	719	5.7
Mean Travel time to work (minutes)	21.4	--	23.9	--	19.0	--	20.3	--
Source: US Census 2010; American Community Survey Estimate 2012-2016								

Some of the major Washington County regional employers are shown below.

<b>REGIONAL EMPLOYERS (GREATER THAN 50 EMPLOYEES)</b>			
<b>Business</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Approx. # or range of Employees</b>
Army National Guard Recruiter	Public Administration	Calais	50-99
Bay Ridge Elementary School	Educational Services	Cutler	50-99
C & D Corp	Wholesale Fruits & Vegetables	Deblois	250-499
Calais Children's Project	Health Care Social Assistance	Calais	100-249
Calais Day Treatment Center	Health Care Social Assistance	Calais	100-249
Calais IGA Foodliner	Retail Trade/Grocers	Calais	100-249
Calais Regional Hospital	Health Care Social Assistance	Calais	250-499
Calais School Dept.	Public School	Calais	50-99
Cherry Point Products Inc.	Wholesale Trade/Seafood	Milbridge	50-99
Child & Family Opportunities	Educational Services	Machias	100-249
Dore's Evergreen	Retail Trade	Perry	100-249
Dorr Lobster Co Inc.	Retail Trade/Lobsters	Milbridge	100-249
DownEast Community Hospital	Health Care Social Assistance	Machias	250-499
Down East Corrections Dept	Public Administration	Machiasport	50-99
Eastern Maine Electric Co-op	Electric Services	Calais	20-49
Hannaford Supermarket	Retail Trade/Grocers	Machias	50-99
Human Services Department	Public Administration	Machias	50-99
Jasper Wyman & Son	Manufacturing/Canning	Cherryfield	50-99
Local Net	Information/Internet Service	Machias	100-249
Machias Savings Bank	Finance and Insurance/Banks	Machias	50-99
Maine Veterans Homes	Health Care and Social Assistance	Machias	50-99
Maine Wild Blueberry	Food Processing	Machias	100-249
Marshall's Health Care	Health Care and Social Assistance	Machias	50-99
Regional Medical Center Lubec	Health Care and Social Assistance	Lubec	100-249
Tradewinds	Retail Trade/Grocers	Calais	100-249
University of Maine Machias	Educational Services	Machias	100-249
UPS Customer Center	Professional Technical Services	Baileyville	50-99
US Naval Communication	Public Administration	Cutler	100-249
Walmart Supercenter	Retail Trade	Calais	100-249
Washington Academy	Educational Services	East Machias	50-99

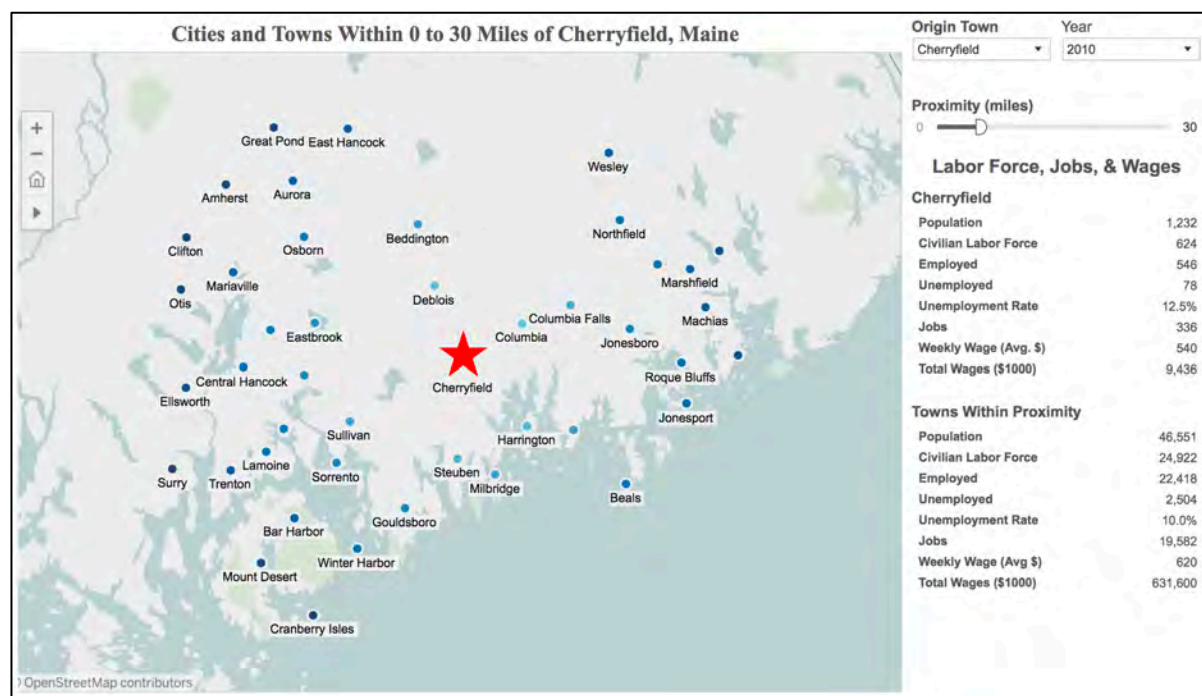
REGIONAL EMPLOYERS (GREATER THAN 50 EMPLOYEES)			
Business	Industry	Location	Approx. #
Woodland Pulp LLC	Manufacturing/Paper	Baileyville	250-499
Worcester Wreath Co	Manufacturing	Harrington	250-499

Source: Interactive Employer Locator (<http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/employers2.html>)

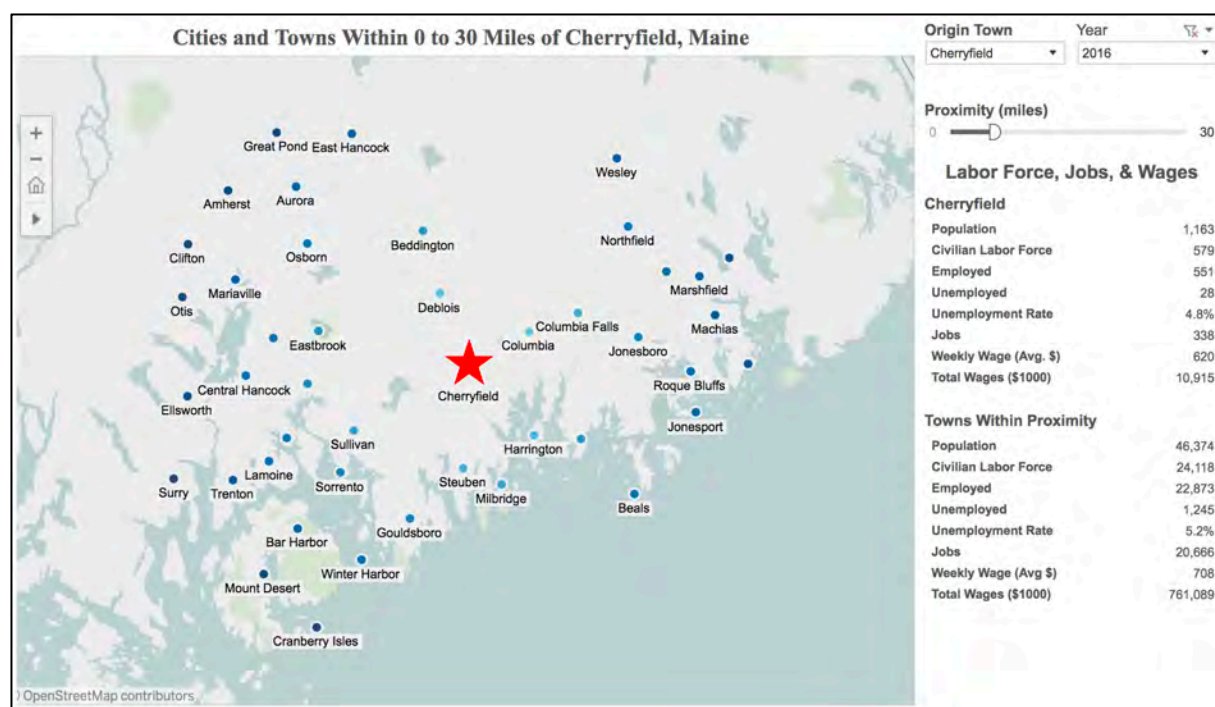
## LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The labor force is defined as all persons who are either employed or are receiving unemployment compensation. The two figures below provide a visual and tabular view of the labor force, including total population, total civilian labor force and the employed and unemployed population and rate, in Cherryfield and towns within a 30-mile radius for 2010 and 2016.

According to the Maine Department of Labor the distribution of the labor force in Cherryfield is similar to the County as a whole except that in 2016 4.8% of the Town's residents were unemployed, while in all towns within a 30-miles radius 5.2% were unemployed. The Department of Labor figure for the Town, however, is considered by many residents to underestimate the unemployment rate. Underestimated rates can in part be explained by the greater reliance on seasonal, agricultural, marine, and craft-based work in rural areas. The seasonal nature of such work is less likely to be reported. In fact, a significant informal economy exists, especially in natural resource-based jobs, in which residents supplement reported incomes with seasonal wages.



Source: Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information  
(<http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/laus4.html>)



Source: Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information  
<http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/laus4.html>

The employed population for Cherryfield and Washington County is described by occupation. The top three sectors of employment for Cherryfield are ‘Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations’; ‘Management, business, science and arts occupations’; and ‘sales and office occupation’.

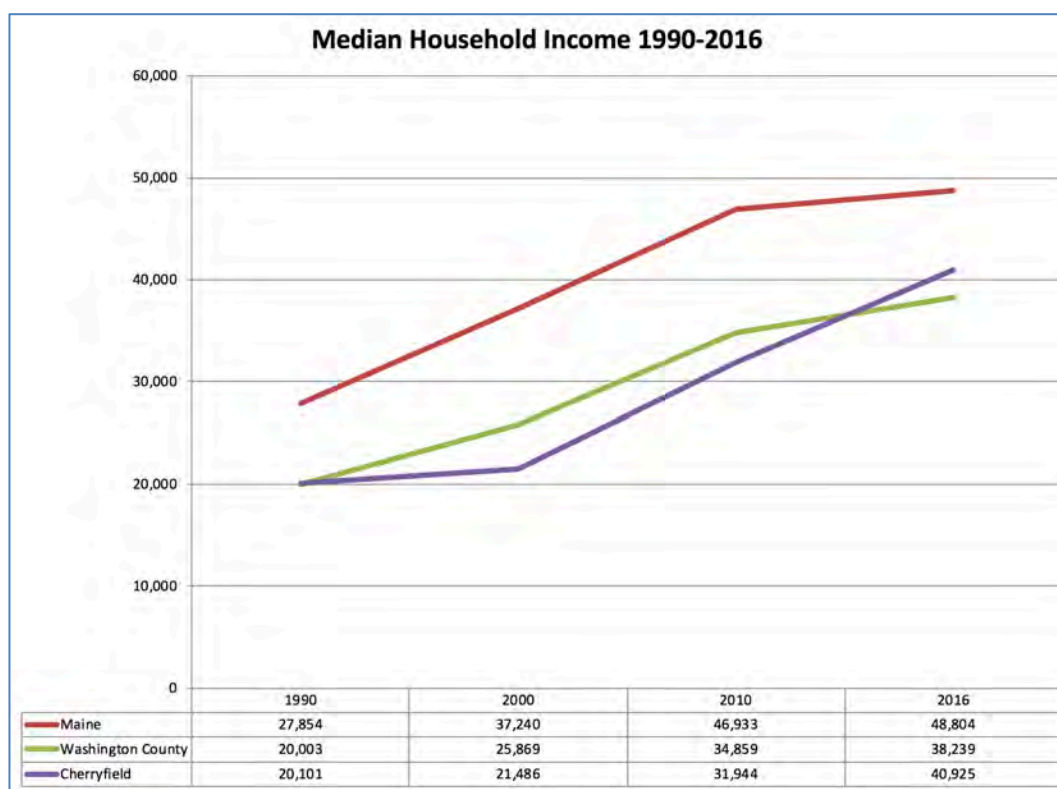
EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION, 2016	Cherryfield			Washington County		
	Number	%	Margin of Error	Number	%	Margin of Error
<b>Employed persons 16 years and over</b>	589	100	101	12,917	100	250
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	128	21.7	50	3,656	28.3	1280
Service occupations	112	19.0	42	2,651	20.5	178
Sales and office occupations	127	21.6	40	2,409	18.6	204
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	141	23.9	40	2,407	18.6	168
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	81	13.8	30	1,794	13.9	131
<b>Class of worker</b>						
Private wage and salary workers	358	60.8	+/-59	8,497	65.8%	+/-255
Government workers	130	22.1	+/-57	2,359	181.3%	+/-167
Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers	101	17.1	+/-34	2,041	15.8%	+/-148
Unpaid family workers	0	0.0	+/-10	20	0.2%	+/-12

Source: American Community Survey 5 year Estimates 2012-2016

The lack of public transportation in rural areas inhibits employment for many residents living on the margin. Residents of service centers like Cherryfield can more readily walk or carpool to work. However, without a car, some residents are not able to get to work, and when unemployed or underemployed in a minimum wage job, some cannot maintain a vehicle particularly for severe winter conditions. Another regional labor force issue for business expansion in Washington County is relatively widespread substance abuse. Even if individuals affected by it overcome difficult personal situations and are motivated to work they often cannot pass drug screening tests to get employment and/or they lack the support network necessary to stay sober and employed. These are regional labor force issues that will require leadership and cooperation among many partners to address.

## INCOME

Cherryfield's median household income increased considerably, 104% between 1990 to 2016 with the majority (91%) occurring between 2000 and 2016, surpassing the median household income for Washington County but remaining lower than the State.



Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates

While median household income in Cherryfield has only recently increased above that for Washington County as a whole, per capita income is also higher, another indication of reduction in household size over the past decade.

HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME 2016	Cherryfield			Washington County		
	#	%	Margin of Error	#	%	Margin of Error
<b>Households</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+/-57</b>	<b>14,065</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+/-285</b>
Less than \$10,000	36	6.3%	+/-19	1,268	9.0%	+/-136
\$10,000 to \$14,999	57	10.0%	+/-32	1,147	8.2%	+/-133
\$15,000 to \$24,999	78	13.7%	+/-32	2,096	14.9%	+/-170
\$25,000 to \$34,999	48	8.4%	+/-18	1,868	13.3%	+/-131
\$35,000 to \$49,999	177	31.0%	+/-49	2,353	16.7%	+/-178
\$50,000 to \$74,999	84	14.7%	+/-30	2,714	19.3%	+/-178
\$75,000 to \$99,999	30	5.3%	+/-21	1,281	9.1%	+/-95
\$100,000 to \$149,999	42	7.4%	+/-21	939	6.7%	+/-101
\$150,000 to \$199,999	10	1.8%	+/-15	209	1.5%	+/-49
\$200,000 or more	9	1.6%	+/-11	190	1.4%	+/-52
Median household income (dollars)	40,925	-	+/-2,128	39,549	-	+/-1,206
Per capita income (dollars)	24,179	-	+/-3,884	23,113	-	+/-1,176

Source: American Community Survey 2012-2016 5 Year Estimates

Sources of income for residents of Cherryfield and Washington County in 2016 are derived primarily (69.4%) from wage and salaried positions, income that includes wages, salary, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments and cash bonuses earned before tax deductions were made. Wage and salary employment is a broad measure of economic well-being but does not indicate whether the jobs are of good quality. The American Community Survey 5-year estimates in 2016 indicate 17.1% of Cherryfield's residents report self-employment income, above the county average of 15.8%. A comparable percentage of residents in Cherryfield collect social security income (almost 42.2%) as do residents of the county (42.3%), reflecting the large retiree population in Cherryfield. About 2% of Cherryfield residents received public assistance, less than the county average of 7.3%. Public assistance income includes payments made by Federal or State welfare agencies to low-income persons who are 65 years or older, blind, or disabled; receive aid to families with dependent children; or general assistance.

INCOME AND BENEFITS IN 2016 (Households often have more than one source of income, as seen here)	Cherryfield			Washington County		
	#	%	Margin of Error	#	%	Margin of Error
<b>Households</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+/-57</b>	<b>14,065</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>+/-285</b>
With earnings	396	69.4	+/-54	9,490	67.5	+/-239
With Social Security Income	241	42.2	+/-45	5,947	42.3	+/-175
With retirement income	127	22.2	+/-36	3,052	21.7%	+/-132
With Supplemental Security income	40	7.0	+/-20	1,396	9.9	+/-151
With cash public assistance income	10	1.8	+/-9	1,022	7.3	+/-150
With Food Stamps/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	125	21.9	+/-30	3,347	23.8	+/-196

Source: American Community Survey 2012-2016 5 Year Estimates

In 2017, the average poverty threshold for a family of four persons was \$25,283 in the contiguous 48 states (U.S. DHHS). In 2016 over 19 percent of Cherryfield families were listed as



having incomes below the poverty level. This is only slightly lower than for the entire county but almost all of these families have children under 5 years of age.

<b>POVERTY STATUS IN 2016</b>	<b>Cherryfield</b>		<b>Washington County</b>	
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>
Below poverty level				
<b>All People</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	<b>+/-6.6</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>+/-1.0</b>
Persons 18 years and over	15.9%	+/-6.3	17.0%	+/-0.9
Persons 65 years and over	10.4%	+/-6.4	11.0%	+/-1.3
<b>Families</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>+/-8.8</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>+/-1.2</b>
With related children under 18 years	19.2%	+/-14.5	20.0%	+/-2.5
With related children under 5 years	18.2%	+/-29.6	27.8%	+/-6.3

Source: American Community Survey 2012-2016 5 Year Estimates

## POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>Economy &amp; Employment</b>			
<b>Goal: Increase economic well-being through entrepreneurship and culturally compatible business opportunities; insure the town has a skilled population ready to enter the work force; enhance and support existing businesses and promote new businesses that are compatible with community values and patterns of development.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Coordinate with regional development corporations and surrounding towns as necessary to support desired economic development, including needed public improvements.	Partner with regional economic development efforts by local organizations such as Sunrise County Economic Council, DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism, and the Washington County Council of Governments.	Selectmen	Ongoing
	Work with local, regional, and state organizations to bring high-speed internet access to Cherryfield.	Selectmen	Short Term (Within 2 years)

<b>Economy &amp; Employment</b>			
<b>Goal: Increase economic well-being through entrepreneurship and culturally compatible business opportunities; insure the town has a skilled population ready to enter the work force; enhance and support existing businesses and promote new businesses that are compatible with community values and patterns of development.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Support the type of economic development activity the community desires, reflecting the community's role in the region.	Enact or amend local ordinances to reflect the desired scale, design, intensity, and location of future economic development.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
	Support economic development and downtown revitalization objectives.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
Assist community members in accessing professional development and educational opportunities.	Insure that academic and vocational educational opportunities address the needs of youth in preparation of their future careers.	Select Board, SAD #37 Directors	Ongoing
	Insure that those eligible for job training are made aware of and assisted in applying for such programs.	Select Board	Ongoing

## H. HOUSING

Housing represents the major investment of most individuals. Housing, and especially its affordability, is very important to the well being of residents. The goal of this section is to:

1. Describe the characteristics and changes of the housing stock in Cherryfield;
2. Identify the relationship between housing characteristics and demand in Cherryfield and the region; and
3. Predict the size, characteristics, and affordability of housing needed to meet the demands of the future population.

### SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The age of the housing stock in Cherryfield is comparable to Washington County with 31% built before 1939. About half of the housing stock in Cherryfield was built before 1980. Cherryfield has a higher proportion of multi-unit structures (18%) than in Washington County (~8%), a reflection of the presence of a 64-unit affordable housing complex in Cherryfield known as Narraguagus Estates.

The majority of people live in owner occupied single-family housing. The percentage of homes owned by those in the workforce is likely to decline further while the percentage of homes owned by retirees will increase. Cherryfield has a higher proportion of mobile homes and trailers (~18%) than in Washington County (12.2%).

The cost of housing in Cherryfield is affordable the majority of residents. Only 8% of households in Cherryfield are **unable** to afford the Median Home Price (\$45K) in Cherryfield, much lower than in the larger Machias LMA Housing Market, of which Cherryfield is a part, where ~29% are unable to afford the Median Home Price (\$91K). Monthly housing costs for many Cherryfield households exceed 30% of monthly income: 39.9% of households paying a mortgage and 27.6% of households paying rent.

### HOUSING UNITS

#### Number of Units

In 2015, Cherryfield had a total of 709 housing units. Between 2000 and 2010 the town saw a 15.4% increase in housing units, similar to the increase seen in neighboring Milbridge and higher than in Washington County and statewide. Since 2010, the growth in the number of housing units has slowed in Cherryfield, the county and statewide. In the nearby service centers of Machias and Milbridge the number of units has remained about the same. There are high margins of error in the American Community Survey 5 Year estimates but it is still indicative of very weak housing markets, minimal construction of new units, and/or demolition of older units. A gradual increase in the number of housing units is anticipated over the next ten years. Of course, changes in land use and the economy will determine the actual growth.

As noted in the Population Chapter, Cherryfield's year-round population has remained level in the last 15 years and average household size is shrinking. Seasonal population is also stable with approximately 176 additional persons staying in Cherryfield mostly during the summer months. Cherryfield's population is forecast to decline from 1172 to 999 by 2034. Recent new

construction consists mainly of additions, decks, and outbuildings, with minimal new home construction.

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS</b>					
	1990	2000	2010	% change 2000-2010	2015 with ACS margins of error
Machias	1043	1125	1114	-1.0%	1111 +/-65
<b>Cherryfield</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>709 +/-68</b>
Milbridge	776	866	1009	16.5%	948 +/-80
Washington County	19,124	21,919	22,926	4.6%	23,014
Maine	587,045	651,901	714,270	9.6%	724,685
Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2011-2015 5-Year Estimates					

<b>RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS – CONSTRUCTION TYPE</b>				
	New Homes (stick built)	Mobile Homes	Commercial and Industrial	Additions, decks, entryways, storage sheds, garages
2014	3	1	1	10
2015	0	4	1	19
2016	3	1	0	11
Source: Cherryfield Town Office				

Maine's housing stock reflects the State's history and climate. Nationwide, Maine ranks first in the proportion (25.2%) of the housing stock that was built prior to 1940. The age of Cherryfield's housing stock is comparable to Washington County with 31% built before 1939. About half of the housing stock in Cherryfield was built before 1980. Many of these units are in substandard condition and in need of repair. Investment from newcomers and residents in renovations is improving the habitability and value of many older structures.

<b>YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT - 2015</b>						
	Cherryfield		Washington County		Maine	
	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error	%	Margin of Error
2010 or later	0.8%	+/-3.0	0.7%	+/-0.2	0.8%	+/-0.1
2000-2009	11.8%	+/-5.2	9.9%	+/-10.8	12.4%	+/-0.2
1980 to 1999	38.6%	+/-11.0	31.1%	+/-1.4	27.8%	+/-0.4
1960 to 1979	13.5%	+/-7.4	23.0%	+/-1.3	21.8%	+/-0.3
1940 to 1959	4.1%	+/-2.9	10.0%	+/-0.8	12.0%	+/-0.2
1939 or earlier	31.0%	+/-7.0	25.2%	+/-1.1	25.2%	+/-0.2
Source: U.S. Census; American Community Survey 2011-2015 5 year Estimates						

Many older homes contain unhealthy materials, such as mold, lead paint, and asbestos. From the 1930s until the 1980s many products containing asbestos were used in house construction. It is fire-retardant, and a thermal and acoustic insulator. However, exposure to asbestos can cause fibrotic lung disease and lung cancer, and harms respiratory function. The mold found in older homes can also affect respiration. Lead paint used in homes before 1980 can deteriorate into lead dust and paint chips, and can cause brain damage when inhaled or swallowed, especially in children under six.

UNHEALTHY HOUSING CAN LEAD TO DISEASE	
Housing Issue	Human Health Issue
Mold, Dust, Animal Dander/Hair	Asthma
Paint Dust, Chips (pre-1978 painted surfaces)	Lead Poisoning
Garbage, Housecleaning procedures	Pests (rats, mice, insects)
Leaking Roof or Basement = Mold, Mildew	Respiratory illness
Unvented basement (geology specific)	Radon Gas
Well Drinking Water (untreated)	Bacterial Disease; Arsenic Exposure; Radon Exposure;
Holes (windows, walls, roof) = Pests	Bacterial Infections; Asthma; Rabies; Reaction to Insect Stings
Unvented gas, wood, or oil appliances	Carbon Monoxide Poisoning; Respiratory Distress
(Source: Al May, Downeast Public Health Coordinator, Maine CDC, 2014)	

### Structure Type

The distribution of housing types is an important indicator of affordability, density, and the character of the community. The number of housing units in structures are presented below. In 2016, one-unit structures represented ~70 percent of Cherryfield housing units while mobile homes and trailers accounted for ~18 percent. This is a higher proportion of mobile homes than in Washington County. Cherryfield has higher proportion of multi-unit structures (~11%) than in Washington County (~8%), a reflection of the presence of a 576-unit affordable housing complex in Cherryfield known as Narraguagus Estates.

HOUSING UNITS IN STRUCTURE										
	Cherryfield				Washington County					
	2000		2010		2000		2010		2016	
	#	%	ACS Est.& Margin of error	ACS Est.& Margin of	#	%	ACS Est.& Margin of	%	ACS Est.& Margin of error	%
One-unit	456	70.8	536 +/- 64	487 +/- 62	14,397	75.3	18,420 +/-388	78.0	18,352 +/- 298	79.9
Multi-unit	93	14.4	57 +/- 51	76 +/- 43	1,473	7.7	1,863 +/-424	8.8	1,877 +/- 385	7.9
Mobile Home trailer	95	14.8	94 +/- 34	130 +/- 39	3,254	17.0	2,643 +/-240	12.7	2818 +/- 209	12.2
Total units	644	100	687 +/-56	702 +/- 61	19,124	100	22,926 +/- 187	100	23,075 +/- 176	100
Source: U.S. Census; 2006-2010 and 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates										

Cherryfield has a higher share of mobile homes and trailers relative to its entire housing stock than are found in Washington County and their number has increased over the last 16 years (note however, the high margins of error in the American Community Survey data between 2010 and 2016). Mobile homes and trailers are located on individual lots, not in mobile home parks. Overall, Cherryfield's mobile homes are in good condition and the pre-1976 mobile homes located in town must meet the requirements of the International Building Code (IBC) and the State Electric Code.



## HOME OCCUPANCY

### Tenure

Home ownership is a good indicator of the overall standard of living in an area. One way to trace home ownership change over time is to compare owners and renters as a proportion of total occupied housing. Cherryfield has a comparable rate (~80%) of owner-occupied housing as occurs throughout the county. The proportions of owner and renter-occupied housing units at the local and county level have remained fairly stable over the past 25 years. Such stability is forecast to continue over the next decade.

HOUSING TENURE											
	Cherryfield					Washington County					
	2000		2010		2016	2000		2010		2016	
	#	%	#	%	ACS Est.& Margin of error	#	%	#	%	ACS Est.& Margin of error	%
Occupied housing units	493	100	570	100	571 +/- 57	13,418	100	14,118	100	14,065 +/-285	100
Owner-occupied housing units unit	369	74.8	365	64	414 +/- 56	10,568	78.8	10,969	77.7	10,693 +/-252	76.0
Renter-occupied housing units	124	25.1	205	36	157 +/- 43	2,850	21.2	3,149	22.3	3,372 +/-242	24.0
Source: 2000 and 2010 US Census; 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimate											

### Vacancy

The Census classifies seasonal or recreational homes as vacant because they are not typically occupied year-round. In 2016, 131 (18.6 percent) of Cherryfield's total housing units were vacant. The trend in sales to non-resident purchasers is often associated with renovations of these dwellings for retirement purposes. The rental vacancy rate for Cherryfield in 2016 was 4.8 percent (+/- 8.1%), compared to 7.8 percent for Washington County. The data suggest an adequate supply of housing for purchase or rent; however, there are very high margins of error to conclude categorically whether there is adequate rental housing available.

HOUSING OCCUPANCY	Cherryfield					Washington County					
	2000		2010		2016	2000		2010		2016	
	#	%	#	%	ACS Est.& Margin of error	#	%	#	%	#	%
All housing units	644	100	743	100	702 +/- 61	19,124	100	21,919	100	23,075 +/-176	100

Occupied housing units	493	76.6	570	76.7	571 +/- 57	13,418	70.2	14,118	64.4	14,065 +/-285	60.9
Vacant housing units	151	23.4	173	23.3	131 +/- 39	5,706	29.8	7,801	35.6	9,010 +/-229	39.0
Source: 2000 and 2010 US Census; American Community Survey 2012-2016 5Year Estimates											

## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

The affordability of housing is of critical importance for any municipality. High costs are burdensome to individuals, to governments, and the economy of the area. Excessively high housing costs force low and moderate-income residents to leave the community, thus reducing labor force size.

Many factors contribute to the challenge of finding affordable housing, including: local and regional employment opportunities, e.g., in-migration to job growth areas; older residents living longer lives at home; more single parent households; and generally smaller household sizes than in previous years. Those Mainers most often affected by a lack of affordable housing include: older citizens facing increasing maintenance and property taxes; young couples unable to afford their own home; single parents trying to provide a decent home; low income workers seeking an affordable place to live within commuting distance; and young adults seeking housing independent of their parents.

The Growth Management Act requires that comprehensive plans show the, “proportional make-up of housing units by affordability to very low income, low income, and moderate income households (municipality and region) - for the most recent year for which information is available (est.).” Gathering this data is not as straightforward as it may seem, as several factors help explain. First, data from the Census on housing values is not defined by the State categories of income levels (very low, low and moderate income), which the State sets for each county. Second, the Census provides only housing values of specified housing units, not the entire owner occupied housing stock of our town. Third, the value of a house based on tax assessment, does not always accurately reflect market value. Fourth, and more important, at any given time, most homes are not for sale, and so their value does not reflect their availability for purchase. Fifth, municipal assessment records do not differentiate between year round homes and camps, cottages and vacation homes that are not presently suited for year round occupancy, and would require major investment to make them year round housing, if environmental conditions would so permit.

Given these data limitations, we show the percentages of households who pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing, which is a measure of unaffordable housing as defined by the State. We show Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) affordability index data for the housing market to which Cherryfield belongs.

### Definitions of Affordability

Affordable housing means decent, safe, and sanitary living accommodations that are affordable to very low, low, and moderate-income people. The State of Maine defines an affordable owner-occupied housing unit as one for which monthly housing costs do not exceed 30% of monthly

income, and an affordable rental unit as one that has a rent not exceeding 30% of the monthly income (including utilities). The kinds of housing that are affordable at these income levels are often small homes on smaller lots and can also include manufactured housing, multi-family housing, government-assisted housing, and group and foster care facilities. The data below indicate that monthly housing costs for many households in Cherryfield exceed 30% of monthly income, 39.9% of households paying a mortgage and 27.6% of those paying rent.

SELECTED MONTHLY HOUSING COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
Cherryfield	#	Margin of Error	%	Households paying > 30% of income on housing
SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME (SMOCAPI)				
Housing units with a mortgage (excluding units where SMOCAPI cannot be computed)	198	+/-43	198	
Less than 20.0 percent	70	+/-32	35.4%	
20.0 to 24.9 percent	40	+/-22	20.2%	
25.0 to 29.9 percent	9	+/-7	4.50%	
30.0 to 34.9 percent	18	+/-15	9.1%	
35.0 percent or more	61	+/-26	30.8%	39.9%
Housing unit without a mortgage (excluding units where SMOCAPI cannot be computed)	227	+/-48	227	
Less than 10.0 percent	78	+/-33	34.4%	
10.0 to 14.9 percent	41	+/-22	18.1%	
15.0 to 19.9%	41	+/-22	18.1%	
20.0 to 24.9 percent	23	+/-12	10.1%	
25.0 to 29.9 percent	10	+/-9	4.4%	
30.0 to 34.9 percent	25	+/-20	11%	
35.0 percent or more	9	+/-8	4%	15.4%
GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME (GRAPI)				
Occupied units paying rent (excluding units where SMOCAPI cannot be computed)	145	+/-41	145	
Less than 15.0 percent	32	+/-16	22.1%	
15.0 to 19.9 percent	13	+/-15	9%	
20.0 to 24.9 percent	16	+/-15	11%	
25.0 to 29.9 percent	44	+/-27	30.3%	
30.0 to 34.9 percent	13	+/-10	9%	
35.0 percent or more	27	+/-22	18.6%	27.6%
Source: US Census; American Community Survey 2011-2015 5-Year Estimates				

Additional data on housing affordability is available from the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) for Cherryfield and at the housing market level. Cherryfield is part of the Machias Labor Market Area (LMA) Housing Market. The Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) reports that the housing affordability index for Cherryfield in the Machias LMA Housing Market for the year 2016 was 3.21 and 1.52 respectively (under 1.00 equals unaffordable; while over 1.00 equals affordable).

<b>Homeownership Affordability Index</b>			Median Home Price <sup>1</sup>	Median Income <sup>2</sup>	Income Needed to Afford Median Home Price	Home Price Affordable to Median Income
<b>Machias, ME LMA Housing Market</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Index</b>				
	2012	1.02	\$106,000	\$31,742	\$31,238	\$107,712
	2013	1.17	\$105,000	\$36,157	\$30,780	\$123,340
	2014	1.59	\$82,000	\$37,457	\$23,539	\$130,488
	2015	1.58	\$88,500	\$39,844	\$25,221	\$139,816
	2016	1.52	\$91,500	\$40,607	\$26,703	\$139,141
Lubec		0.69	\$160,450	\$33,646	\$48,846	\$110,521
Milbridge		0.82	\$139,500	\$33,622	\$41,037	\$114,293
Maine		0.97	\$184,000	\$50,990	\$52,545	\$178,552
Machiasport		1.01	\$145,500	\$42,935	\$42,515	\$146,939
Jonesport		1.42	\$85,000	\$35,087	\$24,725	\$120,623
Machias		1.44	\$79,950	\$36,691	\$25,505	\$115,013
Machias, ME LMA Housing Market		1.52	\$91,500	\$40,607	\$26,703	\$139,141
Addison		1.84	\$93,000	\$48,087	\$26,097	\$171,364
East Machias		1.88	\$80,750	\$44,778	\$23,849	\$151,614
Harrington		2.79	\$50,000	\$41,370	\$14,821	\$139,563
Cherryfield		3.21	\$45,000	\$43,876	\$13,665	\$144,485

Source: Maine State Housing Authority, 2016 Housing Facts for Machias LMA Housing Market

<b>Households Unable to Afford Median Home</b>						
<b>Location</b>	<b>Households Unable to Afford Median Home</b>		<b>Total Households</b>	<b>Median Home Price<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Income Needed to Afford Median Home</b>	
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>			<b>Annual</b>	<b>Hourly</b>
Lubec	68.7%	499	726	\$160,450	\$48,846	\$23.48
Milbridge	56.4%	348	617	\$139,500	\$41,037	\$19.73
Maine	52.5%	296,838	564,989	\$184,000	\$52,545	\$25.26
Machiasport	49.5%	187	377	\$145,500	\$42,515	\$20.44
Machias	36.3%	335	921	\$79,950	\$25,505	\$12.26
Jonesport	34.5%	197	571	\$85,000	\$24,725	\$11.89
Machias, ME LMA Housing Market	32.9%	2,397	7,295	\$91,500	\$26,703	\$12.84
East Machias	25.9%	142	549	\$80,750	\$23,849	\$11.47
Addison	22.4%	116	517	\$93,000	\$26,097	\$12.55
Harrington	18.3%	75	410	\$50,000	\$14,821	\$7.13
Cherryfield	8.2%	46	557	\$45,000	\$13,665	\$6.57

Source: Maine State Housing Authority, 2016 Housing Facts for Machias LMA Housing Market

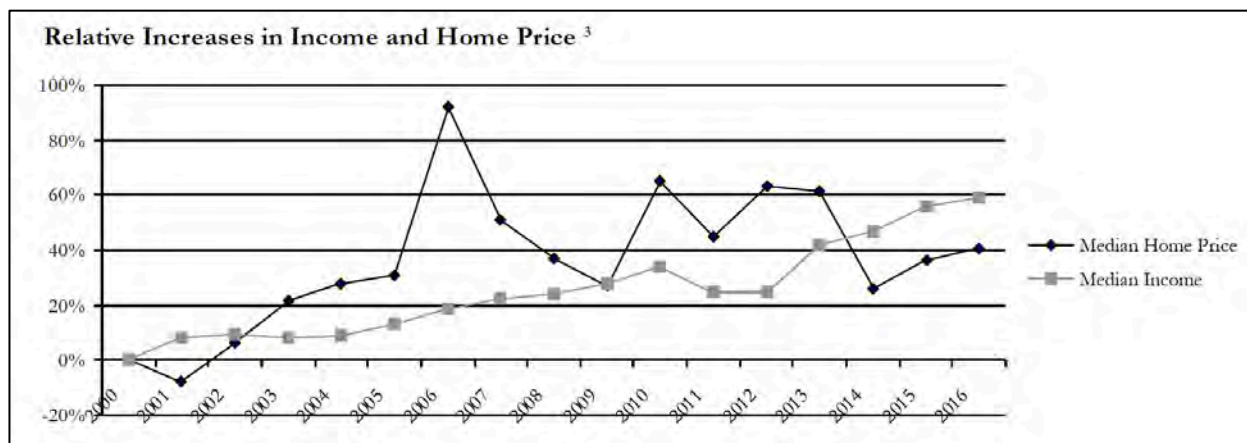
Based on MSHA figures, in 2016 the median income needed to afford the Median Home was \$13,666 in Cherryfield and \$26,703 in the Machias LMA Housing Market. Median income in Cherryfield in 2016 was \$40,925 (2002-2016 American Community Survey 5 year Estimates). MSHA estimates that only 8% of households in Cherryfield are unable to afford the Median Home Price in Cherryfield and ~29% are unable to afford the Median Home in the Machias LMA Housing Market. Market data from MSHA indicates that no unattainable homes sold in Cherryfield in 2016 – see chart on following page.

<b>Unattainable Homes as a Percentage of Homes Sold</b>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Percentage of Unattainable Homes</u>	<u>Affordable Homes Sold</u>	<u>Unattainable Homes Sold</u>
Lubec	64.3%	5	9
Milbridge	57.1%	6	8
Maine	52.8%	9,555	10,689
Machiasport	46.7%	8	7
Jonesport	40.0%	9	6
Machias, ME LMA Housing Market	33.3%	132	66
Addison	25.0%	9	3
Harrington	20.0%	12	3
Machias	18.2%	18	4
East Machias	16.7%	15	3
Cherryfield	0.0%	11	0

Source: Maine State Housing Authority, 2016 Housing Facts for Machias LMA Housing Market

### Housing Selling Prices

Data from MSHA show that the median house price dropped significantly in the Machias LMA Housing Market in the 2 years following the housing bubble of 2007 and the economic depression of 2008. By 2014 median income increased above the median home price and by 2016 MSHA data indicates that about one third of the homes sold were unattainable for households throughout the Machias LMA Housing Market.



Source: Maine State Housing Authority, 2015 Housing Facts for Calais LMA Housing Market

### Renter Occupied Housing Affordability

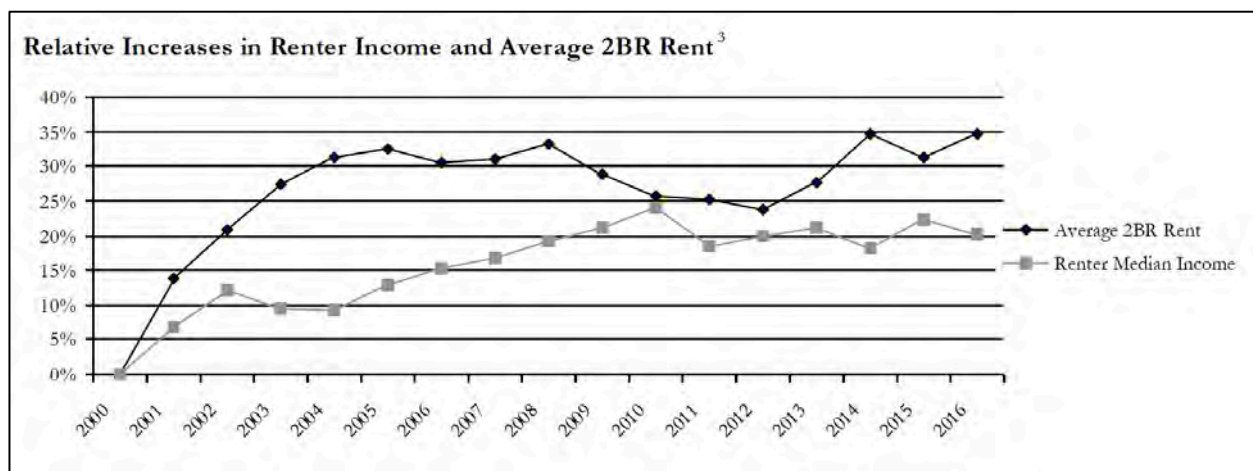
Data from MSHA on renter occupied units describes an unaffordable rental market for those below median income. Only year-round rentals are considered, as seasonal housing rentals are not reported. Rental rates are reported by the tenants and take into account the subsidies many receive in the form of the federal Section 8 housing subsidy to low-income residents. Like the Homeownership Affordability Index, the Rental Affordability Index is the ratio of 2-bedroom Rent Affordable at Median Renter Income to Average 2-Bedroom Rent. An index of less than 1 means the area is generally unaffordable – i.e. a renter household earning area median renter income could not cover the cost of an average 2-bedroom apartment (including utilities) using no more than 30% of gross income.



<b>Rental Affordability Index</b>						
	<u>Year</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Average 2 BR Rent (with utilities)<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>Renter Household Median Income<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Income Needed to Afford Average 2 BR Rent</u>	<u>2 BR Rent Affordable to Median Income</u>
Machias, ME LMA Housing Market	2012	0.66	\$820	\$21,806	\$32,810	\$545
	2013	0.71	\$826	\$23,444	\$33,056	\$586
	2014	0.74	\$801	\$23,611	\$32,021	\$590
	2015	0.77	\$827	\$25,328	\$33,091	\$633
	2016	0.70	\$911	\$25,379	\$36,456	\$634
Machias, ME LMA Housing Market		0.70	\$911	\$25,379	\$36,456	\$634
Maine		0.85	\$872	\$29,588	\$34,873	\$740

Source: Maine State Housing Authority, 2016 Housing Facts for Machias LMA Housing Market

Furthermore, this lack of affordability in the Machias LMA Housing Market has persisted for the for the past 15 years. The chart below depicts the relative increase in renter income and the average 2 bedroom rent with the Y-axis as an index defined as the ratio of the annual value to the year 2000 value. Note that renter household data is not available for Cherryfield but is depicted for the entire Machias LMA Housing Market.



3: The Y axis is an index defined as the ratio of the annual value to the year 2000 value.

Source: Maine State Housing Authority, 2016 Housing Facts for Machias LMA Housing Market

<b>Renter Households Unable to Afford Average 2 Bedroom Rent</b>						
<u>Location</u>	<u>Households Unable to Afford Average 2 BR Rent</u>		<u>Total Renter Households</u>	<u>Average 2 BR Rent (with utilities)<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>Income Needed to Afford Average 2 BR Rent</u>	
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>			<u>Annual</u>	<u>Hourly</u>
Machias, ME LMA Housing Market	65.8%	1,162	1,766	\$911	\$36,456	\$17.53
Maine	57.4%	92,705	161,601	\$872	\$34,873	\$16.77

Source: Maine State Housing Authority, 2016 Housing Facts for Machias LMA Housing Market

The Maine State Housing Authority concludes that nearly two-thirds of the renter households in the Machias LMA Housing Market are unable to afford the average 2-Bedroom rent. In Cherryfield however, the American Community Survey 2011-2015 5-Year Estimates for “gross

rent as a percent of household income” (tabulated in Table F-8 above) indicate that 27.6% of households are paying more than 30% of their monthly income in rent. Given the large margins of error in the ACS the reality is likely somewhere between the MSHA figure of two-thirds and the ACS estimate of 27.6% of households who find their rentals unaffordable.

### **Affordability and the Growth Management Act**

The State of Maine Growth Management Act requires that every municipality “...shall seek to achieve a level of 10% of new residential development, based on a five-year historical average of residential development in the municipality, meeting the definition of affordable housing.” As shown in the table on Building Permits issued at the start of this chapter, during the four-year period from 2013 to 2016, nine housing units were built. Thus, Cherryfield would meet the requirement of the Act if the town sought to provide 1.1 low-income units in this period. Within this period, affordable housing, meeting State guidelines, was built in the form of modular/mobile housing, as 8 such units were put in place.

### **Affordable Housing Remedies**

While meeting the letter of the Growth Management Act has not proved difficult for Cherryfield, there is a desire by residents to maintain and provide for affordable housing, as needed, beyond the State minimums. The State offers traditional recommendations that towns consider to help meet this need. Some of these measures could be adopted by the town though *some (noted in italics) are already in effect* including:

1. *Relaxed zoning ordinances and building code requirements that tend to increase building costs.*  
Cherryfield does not currently have restrictive zoning requirements.
2. *Take steps to allow mobile homes and modular homes in more areas.*  
At present the town does not limit the location of these types of units and half of all new housing units constructed in the past 5 years were mobile or modular units.
3. Provide town sewer, water and roads to new parts of the town thus “opening up” land for new homes.  
Cherryfield is too small of a community to justify the expense of constructing town sewer facilities. Likewise, the housing market is not robust enough to justify opening up new roads to development.

### **Housing Programs**

Cherryfield has two facilities that serves low and moderate-income housing needs. Narraguagus Estates provides income-based rental for those 62 years of age and older. Formerly owned by Fickett Property Management, LLC, it is now owned and operated by Realty Resources Management based in Rockport, ME.

Elderly residents of Cherryfield also seek income based rental opportunities in nearby towns of Addison, Harrington, Jonesboro, Jonesport, and Machias. These are summarized below. Note however that Realty Resources Management in Rockport now owns all of the properties listed as owned by Fickett Property Management LLC.

Property Name and Address	Housing Type			Units	Type of Assistance <sup>1</sup>		Contact Information
	Elderly		Family / All		Income Based Rent	Restricted Rent Unit	
	55 and older	62 and older With Disabilities					
Addison							
River Bend Apts. West Side Road		•	•		•		Propsys (207) 784-0142 or 1-800-539-0142 <a href="http://www.propsysmgmt.com">www.propsysmgmt.com</a>
Cherryfield							
Narraguagus Estates Estates Road		•	•	5-1 br 1-2 br	•		Fickett Property Management, LLC (207) 546-7800 <a href="http://www.fickettproperty.com">www.fickettproperty.com</a>
Columbia Falls							
Pleasant View Manor Pleasant View Circle		•	•		•		Fickett Property Management, LLC (207) 546-7800 <a href="http://www.fickettproperty.com">www.fickettproperty.com</a>
Harrington							
Edgelawn Apts. RFD 1		•	•	-	•		Fickett Property Management (207) 546-7800
Jonesboro							
Jonesboro Heights Rt. 1 Bagley Road		•	•		•		Fickett Property Management, LLC (207) 546-7800 <a href="http://www.fickettproperty.com">www.fickettproperty.com</a>
Jonesport							
Gaelic Square Apts. 10 Gaelic Housing Way		•	•		•		Fickett Property Management, LLC (207) 546-7800 <a href="http://www.fickettproperty.com">www.fickettproperty.com</a>
Machias							
Jerrold's Place Apts. 2 Valley View Road				•	•		Hughes Associates (207) 561-4700 <a href="http://www.hughesrs.com">www.hughesrs.com</a>
Louise Gardner Apts. 91 Court Street		•	•		•		C. S. Management (207) 498-8332

Source: Maine State Housing Authority, 2014

### Housing and an Aging Population

As more fully described in the Population Chapter the town recognizes that it has a large elderly population, many of whom are at less than 60% of median income. Indeed 33.2% of owner occupied housing units, and 42% of renter occupied housing units are composed of people over 65 years of age. People over 65 are more likely than the rest of the population to be retired and on fixed incomes.

AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER IN 2010 FOR CHERRYFIELD					
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
<b>Owner Occupied housing units</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Renter Occupied housing units</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>100</b>
15 to 24 years	6	1.6	15 to 24 years	5	2.4
25 to 34 years	18	4.9	25 to 34 years	23	11.2
35 to 44 years	57	15.6	35 to 44 years	22	10.7
45 to 54 years	77	21.1	45 to 54 years	30	14.6
55 to 64 years	85	23.3	55 to 64 years	39	19.0
65 years and over	122	33.4	65 years and over	86	42.0
Source: U.S. Census					

A compounding problem for low-income seniors living in some of the oldest housing stock in the nation is the cost of inefficient heating systems and poorly insulated homes.

About 85% of Washington County residents heat with number 2 fuel-oil. There is minimal natural gas infrastructure, and not much use of a number of alternative fuels, such as wood pellets, solar, and geothermal heat pumps. More weatherization, retrofits for inefficient boilers, and greener fuels are needed. Some of this is being accomplished through a number of programs. From 2008 to 2012, Washington Hancock Community Agency completed 295 weatherization jobs in Washington County. The number of weatherization projects completed between 2013 and 2017 was 115 in Washington County. The decrease from 2008-2012 is due to the end of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AKA “stimulus funding”) funding.

In addition to inefficient heating and weatherization issues, many seniors live in houses they have inhabited for years, which are not “senior friendly” in terms of architecture and location. Older houses are often two and three stories with bedrooms and bathrooms located up a flight of stairs. More one-floor single-family houses are needed for the elderly and disabled. Most single-family houses in Washington County are not single level. The elderly often have poorer leg strength and balance than the general population, and thus, cannot readily climb stairs. Stair lifts help, but for the wheel chair bound, they require a senior to transfer to another wheelchair or walker on the next level, which can cause falls. One-floor living housing options greatly help seniors' mobility and safety, yet relatively few houses in Washington County are single level.

The elderly, as well as people with disabilities, require more accessibility, which is usually not part of housing design. Accessibility features include entranceway ramps, doorways wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, and specially designed bathrooms and kitchens.

An “in-law” apartment can provide first floor housing and enable a senior to live semi-independently with family, who can provide them with some assistance, and are close-by for medical emergencies. In-law apartments often also have an interior connection to the main house. Cherryfield should review its land use ordinance to ensure in-law apartments are allowed throughout the town.

### **Elder Care: At Home – Long Term Facility - Education**

Many elderly are in need of in-home assistance, but live independently. These services extend the length of quality time that a senior can live at home. Advanced elderly often need assistance with everyday tasks, such as eating and dressing, but cannot afford, or do not want to live in assisted living facilities. In addition, they can be frail and prone to falls, and/or have undiagnosed dementia. Many of this age can no longer drive, and need transportation to shopping and medical facilities. The elderly who do not need 24-hour care, can obtain far less expensive in-home services than through living in an assisted living facility.

For seniors who do require 24-hour care, in-home care costs can be exorbitant. Seniors living at home, but requiring some visiting home care can expect to pay approximately \$22 per hour for a home health aide in Maine, whereas the average cost in the United States is \$19 per hour. (Source: <http://www.payingforseniorcare.com>)

Both the elderly and their families need to better understand age related illnesses and the medical and social services available to seniors. National statistics indicate that 50% of the population over 85 have or will develop dementia. Education is needed in Washington County on the dangers of frail seniors falling, and the many age related illnesses.

Long-term care facilities in Washington County include a range of care levels from shared quarters in facilities with a few apartments and one caretaker to full service nursing homes. The Assisted Living Federation of America defines assisted living as "a senior living option that combines housing, support services and health care, as needed". Assisted living facilities offer full-time food and shelter, transportation, as well as a variety of care levels (I - IV) to assist elderly, and others in need, with personal care. Washington County has 260 beds available for assisted living. None are located in Cherryfield.

There are many seniors in need of some level of assisted living. The average cost of a one-bedroom assisted living apartment in the state of Maine is \$54,000, the fourth highest in the nation, and unaffordable to residents of Washington County without some form of subsidy. (Source: <http://assistedlivingtoday.com/p/assisted-living/>)

Medicare does not cover assisted living unless people reach a certain inability to care for themselves and is transitioning from a hospital to a nursing home for rehabilitation. To be eligible for Medicaid coverage for nursing home care, patients must be unable to care for themselves, and meet income and financial asset limitations to qualify as impoverished. Even with Medicaid, assisted living that is not at a nursing home level is not covered. Thus, there are empty beds in nursing homes in Washington County, and many "fall through the cracks". There are also limitations for hospice care, which can only be covered for persons with six months or less left to live.

To improve the current situation nursing home facilities and other long-term health care providers need to negotiate nursing home coverage with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services since it the administrators of the federal Medicaid program. For complete aging in place, from active independent seniors up to nursing home level, there is no facility in Washington County.

## **POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.



<b>Housing</b>			
<b>Goal: Encourage and promote affordable, decent housing for Cherryfield residents.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Support development of workforce and other affordable housing, including rental and ownership options.	Insure that at least 10% of new residential development from 2019 to 2030 decade be affordable.	Select Board, Planning Board	Long Term (Within 10 years)
	Maintain, enact or amend growth area land use regulations to increase density, decrease lot size, setbacks and road widths, or provide incentives such as density bonuses, to encourage the development of affordable/workforce housing.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Maintain, enact or amend ordinances to allow the addition of at least one accessory apartment per dwelling unit in growth areas, subject to site suitability.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Continue to allow mixed uses and mixed income housing within residential areas of the town.		
	Compile and distribute information on programs, grants, and projects for subsidized housing, energy efficiency improvements, etc.	Select Board, Town Clerk	Ongoing
Support collaborative local and regional housing coalitions in addressing affordable and workforce housing needs.	Participate in regional programs, grants and projects, to insure sufficient, affordable housing options for elderly citizens and veterans.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
Address reported violations of local ordinances and State laws and regulations that affect health, safety or community conditions.	Address any needed modifications to existing land use regulations as necessary.	Select Board, Planning Board, CEO	Ongoing

## I. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The purpose of this section is to:

- Review the extent, capacity, and use of Cherryfield's existing public facilities and systems;
- Assess the adequacy of those systems in handling current demands;
- Predict whether public facility or service system additions and improvements will be needed to accommodate projected demands over the next 10 years;
- Estimate the general costs of providing the needed public facility and service system additions and improvements; and
- Plan, finance, and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services that will accommodate the town's future needs.

### SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Town policy is made and overseen by a Select Board and Planning Board. The Town owns over 150 acres of undeveloped land. The town does not have a public water system or public sewer. Properties in downtown Cherryfield (39 total) along the river are challenged with existing Over Board Discharge systems and not enough land to build septic systems. Cherryfield partners with nearby communities for their emergency services and some other municipal needs. Overall, Town facilities are in good condition and expected to meet anticipated future needs.

### GENERAL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Cherryfield is part of State Senate District 6, State House District 138, and U.S. Congressional District 2. The town has a selectpersons/town meeting form of government where a town manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations. All municipal departments have capital reserve accounts for equipment replacement and building maintenance. The five-member board of selectpersons serves staggered three-year terms and typically meets the last Tuesday of each month, or as needed. The town's fiscal year ends on December 31 and approval for the budget is achieved through the annual town meeting/election that is held on second Monday of March.

### BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Board of Selectpersons appoints long term, short term and project committees as needed.

Appointed Boards (By Board of Selectmen)	Elected Boards
Addressing Committee Board of Appeals Budget Advisory Committee Comprehensive Plan Committee Economic Development Committee Historic Preservation Committee Planning Board	Board of Selectpersons Board of Assessors Cherryfield School Board of Directors

The Board of Appeals hears grievances regarding tax abatements, variance requests and administrative appeals.

The Budget Advisory Committee works with the board of selectpersons and town employees to prepare the annual budget for town meeting.

The Town's Planning Board should consist of five members and two alternates; some of these individuals have served in this capacity for many years. Monthly meetings are held to review site plans for any development proposals. The Planning Board also reviews shoreland zoning and wetland's issues for compliance with state and local regulations.

## **MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS & FACILITIES**

The town office is located adjacent to the downtown district on US 1. This one-story wood frame structure was built in 1999, and is used for the majority of the municipal activities.

The following is a list of the five largest parcels of undeveloped land owned by the town, with acreages given:

1. Narraguagus River Parcel – 61 acres.
2. Schoodic Brook Parcel --- 40 acres. (In process of being given to town)
3. East Branch Narraguagus Parcel – 29 acres.
4. West Side Aqueduct – 18 acres.
5. Mill Road Parcel – 5.2 acres

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

### **Town Office**

The Select Board is responsible for administering the town's routine business and each department head reports directly to the Select Board. Staffing of this facility includes a full-time Town Clerk and a contract certified code enforcement officer and local plumbing inspector, and part-time administrative assistant.

### **Highway Department, Transfer Facility and Solid Waste Management**

Cherryfield has no highway department but provides both winter and summer road maintenance by contracting for these services. A part-time Road Commissioner oversees these activities.

The solid waste transfer facility is operated using its own staffing which consists of two regular part-time employees and part-time help is hired on an as-needed basis. Transfer station employees operate the backhoe and forklift, prepare recycle items for transfer, and direct residents to the correct locations for their disposal needs.

The State of Maine Solid Waste Landfill Remediation and Closure Program, established in 1987, demanded that all unsuitable landfills be closed. Cherryfield was required by the MDEP to close its landfill that is located on SR 193, 4.8 miles north of the village. The town ceased using the landfill on January 1, 1994 and completed landfill closure in fall of 1994; the Transfer Station continues operation at a different location on the same parcel.

The residents take their trash to the transfer station/recycling facility. Cherryfield has a charter waste disposal agreement that extends until 3/31/2018 with the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) facility in Orrington, Maine. This agreement provides for a cash distribution back to the town, based on plant performance including the number of tons that are actually delivered by the town to the facility. Performance standards, including the town's "guaranteed annual tonnage" (GAT) of 500 tons, were established based on the town's historical trash tonnage and anticipated growth. In 2017, PERC reported that Cherryfield sent 454.3 tons of household trash to the PERC facility, not including construction debris. Cherryfield has entered into a contract with a new waste waste-to-fuel recycling facility, Fiberight.

The town's recycling facility is located at the transfer facility and is open Friday and Saturday accepting cardboard, newspaper, plastics, glass, and metal.

Each of Maine's municipalities has to submit an annual report of its solid waste management practices. The state's objective is for each municipality to recycle at least 50 percent of its household waste. If the quota is not attained, a fee is imposed, unless the municipality indicates good faith in attempting to improve its recycling rate. Developing a reasonable progress plan agreeable both to Maine Solid Waste Agency and the municipality does this. In 2011, the statewide recycling rate was 39.6% of the waste stream. In 2001, the Cherryfield region (Cherryfield, Deblois, Beddington and Township 10) had a 41.2% recycling rate according to the State Planning Office. Figures are not available for the town itself. Recycling should be actively promoted in the community.

### **Water Supply**

The town does not have a public water system. Residents and businesses depend upon their own on-site dug or drilled wells and springs for nearly all water needs. These sources have adequately met our needs and are projected to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The utmost care must be taken to prevent pollution of these sources. Throughout Washington County, the natural occurrence of arsenic in bedrock necessitates regular testing of wells for this and other contaminants. Water test kits, how to test, what to test for, or if you want to discuss the result of a test, contact the Department of Health and Human Services staff at (207) 287-2070.

### **Septic Systems, Overboard Discharges, and Sewer Systems**

The town does not have a municipal sewerage system. Disposal is by on-site wastewater systems (septic tanks and leach fields) and overboard discharges (OBD's). Nearly all residents and business depend upon private septic systems. Because of our dependence upon wells and springs for drinking water, it is crucial to install, upgrade where necessary, and maintain adequate septic/sewage disposal systems. By referring to the town's soils suitability maps before installing any system can help prevent the possibility of pollution. The minimum standards for the installation of septic disposal systems established by the State of Maine must be observed. Lots with no public water supply or public sewage disposal systems must meet the State minimum of 20,000 square feet or, approximately one-half acre in size. However, Cherryfield's Building Ordinance requires a minimum lot size of 40,000 sq. ft.

In 2001, A.E. Hodsdon Engineers of Waterville conducted a study of wastewater disposal options for the village section along the Narraguagus River. The study is meant to cover the

fifty-year period from 2000 to 2050. In brief, the study found:

1. Nearly all sewage disposals are by on-site wastewater disposal, with 39 overboard discharges found.
2. Cherryfield Foods and Jasper Wyman & Sons have collection, pumping, storage and spray irrigation facilities for wastewater, discharge permits to the Narraguagus River for non-contact cooling water and OBD's for domestic sewage.
3. Currently, wastewater disposal in Cherryfield does not appear to be significantly affecting water quality in the Narraguagus River.
4. A few old sewer pipes were found along the Narraguagus River but no discharges of raw sewage were found.

The study recommends that the only option that is currently affordable to the town is continuing to replace overboard discharges with subsurface waste disposal on a gradual basis, with assistance from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. However, a preliminary design and cost estimate for a sewage collection system, pumping station and secondary treatment by stabilization lagoons was presented in the study. A copy of this study is available for review at the Town Office.

### **Stormwater Management System**

Cherryfield's stormwater system consists primarily of roadside ditches, catch basins and piping. Sub-surface stormwater drainage pipes are located along Route One. The state owns and maintains the system located along US 1, while the town is responsible for the rest.

### **Police Protection**

Cherryfield does not have its own public safety department. Police protection is provided by the Washington County Sheriffs' Office and the State Police. The County Sheriff's Office provides the dispatching services for emergency services.

Cherryfield's crime rate is lower than many other communities in its vicinity and the statistics show that it is among the safer areas in Maine.

### **Fire Protection**

The fire department consists of one station. The Cherryfield Fire Station is located near downtown on Route 182. The department includes about 29 volunteers with no full-time members. Cherryfield has mutual aid agreements with the surrounding towns of Milbridge, Steuben and Deblois. Cherryfield's hydrant system is old but is in good shape overall. There is hydrant protection on U.S. Route One and in the immediate downtown.

The department's equipment includes two engines (1998 Ford E-One and 1972 Ford Ward La France); two tankers with a combined capacity of 2,200 gallons (1989 GMC Admiral, Chevy.); one rescue vehicle; and one hydraulic rescue tool.

### **Emergency Services**

Cherryfield has its own volunteer ambulance service, with six volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs). The service is available for residents and provides 24-hour coverage. Washington County dispatch provides the dispatching services for our town. A new ambulance



was purchased in 2018.

### **Enhanced 9-1-1**

The Emergency Services Communication Bureau has assisted Cherryfield in the physical addressing of all properties. The physical E9-1-1 addresses were assigned in the Fall of 2002 and the switchover from Rural Route numbers was implemented in 2003. E9-1-1 service automatically displays a caller's address on a computer screen at a call-answering center. Also, the caller's telephone number will be displayed on screen and can automatically be redialed if the line is disconnected.

### **Animal Control**

Cherryfield does/does not have an animal control facility. The Town contracts with an animal control officer on an on-call, stipend basis. The Ark Animal Shelter is located in Cherryfield.

### **Cemeteries**

Cherryfield has a total of six cemeteries, excluding family graveyards. Two of these cemeteries are town-owned, while a private association owns three. The following is a listing of the larger cemeteries, their location and acreage:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Acreage (Approximate)</b>
Pine Grove	Top of Campbell Hill	10
Small Family Cemetery	North Street	4
Morse Family Cemetery	Ridge Road	5
Intervale Cemetery	Butler Lane	4
Main Street Cemetery	Main Street	2
William Willey, Sr. Cemetery	Ridge Road	

The first three listed cemeteries are owned and managed by private associations, the forth-named cemetery is Town-owned. All of these cemeteries are still being used. The only other cemetery still in use is the B Willey Family Cemetery on SR 182 (1/2 acre). See Map 2 for the location of cemeteries. Town cemeteries contain tombstones dating back to the mid 1700s. It is anticipated that enough land remains to meet local needs for the next ten years and beyond.

### **Mail Delivery**

The Cherryfield Post Office (04622) has been located off US 1, next to the town office since 1999. Although many residents have a post office box, part of the mail is delivered through a rural carrier for home delivery.

### **Education**

Cherryfield Elementary School became independent from MSAD 37, which operates the Addison, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington, and Milbridge schools. Most recently, the Cherryfield Elementary had 118 students enrolled in grades K-8. Grades 9-12 are tuitioned to a school of their choice

For more recent student enrollment figures and enrollment over past 10 years, please see the Population Section. The numbers of non-resident attending pupils in MSAD were as follows:

Where Pupils Live	Grades	Number of Pupils
Beddington School Department	K-8	3
Centerville School Department	K-8	3
Deblois School Department	K-8	11
Education in Unorganized Territories	K-8	1
Centerville School Department	9-12	1
Deblois School Department	9-12	5

### **Vocational and Technical Schools**

Washington County Community College (WCCC) The Calais campus is situated on 400 acres of land overlooking the St. Croix River. Washington County Community College is one of seven institutions in the Maine Community College System. Thirty-six of WCCC's 38 catalog programs are located in Calais, training students for employment in several diverse occupations - from construction and mechanical trades to food service and business studies. Several of these programs articulate into degree programs at other colleges and universities. The College has the capacity for 500 full-time students, while the Continuing Education Division serves an additional 400 part-time students at sites throughout Washington County.

University of Maine At Machias (UMM) is a 1,000-student branch of the University of Maine System working in close relationship with the Orono campus to offer Bachelor and Associate degrees in a wide range of subjects. Many of its students are “non-traditional” (older persons returning for their degrees), and programs are offered to high school students nearing their college years. Inter-active TV links the University to all the other branches of the system. Also offered are non-credit classes as part of the Sunrise Senior College. ITV is funded by a grant and administered through the University of Maine in Augusta. The University campus also provides a lifelong learning center including a fitness complex, pool, gym and daycare open to the community.

Hancock County Technical Center offers hands-on, career-oriented education for high school students in a variety of programs. Programs at HCTC are scheduled as half-day, every day, full-year programs that can earn students up to 4.5 credits towards graduation in the career and technical program of their choice.

Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor provides post-secondary technical, career, and transfer education, in over 30 one- and two-year program options, as well as short term and specialized training and retraining courses for business, industry, and community.

Husson University in Bangor offers a larger variety of Undergraduate, Graduate, and Certificate programs.

### **HEALTH CARE**

**Northern Light Maine Coast Memorial Hospital** in Ellsworth is a 64-bed fully accredited

community hospital healthcare center. They offer extended services at two major clinical centers in Gouldsboro and Southwest Harbor and four rehabilitation centers. Services include medical, surgical, obstetrical, orthopedic, and ophthalmic service to the community. Outreach programs like support groups and on-going health classes are also offered.

**Down East Community Hospital**, located in Machias, is a 36-bed nonprofit acute care, general community hospital. The Active Medical Staff consists of 25 practitioners who provide a range of medical, surgical, obstetrical, orthopedic, and ophthalmic service. Additional physicians serve as consultants, regularly providing care in the specialty disciplines of cardiology and oncology. The Hospital also houses a full-time Pharmacy, Physical and Cardiac Rehab Departments, and maintains an active continuing education program. DECH also operates a medical center in Milbridge.

**Harrington Family Health Center** is a community-based health care center that provides comprehensive medical, podiatry, dental, and behavioral health care.

**Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center**, located in Bangor, is a 411-bed facility and one of only three trauma centers in the state. Their 300 physicians provide primary care hospital services, as well as specialty and intensive services. Extreme trauma cases are handled in the community through a working relationship between “Life Flight” out of Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Calais Regional Hospital, and the ambulance service.

**Sunrise County Homecare Services** in Machias provides and coordinate home care services such as visiting nurses; home health aides; physical, occupational and speech therapy; senior companions; homecare telemedicine, medical social work; and homemaker services.

**Downeast Hospice** in Calais is an all-volunteer, non-profit program licensed by the state of Maine, serving residents of Washington County. Support services are provided to the terminally ill and their families, as well as to those people who are experiencing grief.

## **LIBRARY**

The Cherryfield Free Public Library was established in 1837. It has been housed in several different places over the years. It is now in its own building at 35 Main Street. With an inventory of more than 10,000 items, there is something for everyone. There is one full time and one part time librarian. Public access computers are available, and the Wi-Fi is up 24/7 with no password. Programs include pre- school story time, Yoga, and the Halloween book give away. The library contracts with the Cherryfield Elementary School to provide the school with library services, and offers Inter Library Loan, the Downloadable Network (E-books & Audio books) and Video Conferencing abilities. Special events are listed on Facebook and the website [www.cherryfieldlibrary.com](http://www.cherryfieldlibrary.com).

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

The Town funds Cherryfield’s Fourth of July celebration, Cherryfield Days, and the Cherryfield Community Celebration Committee organizes it. The Recreation Committee organizes the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Other events are offered by local groups and non-profits, listed below.

Cherryfield Open Mics are held the second Thursday of the month (circa 2014), typically at the Cherryfield Academy Community Center.

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Post 8 - Annual Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Dinner, Memorial Day Celebration

Arc Animal Shelter – host of many community focused fundraising events throughout the year

Cherryfield Academy Community Center – various public events are hosted here each year

Cherryfield Arts Initiative – free arts for youth

Cherryfield Band – performing in and around Cherryfield seasonally every year

Cherryfield Historical Society – The Society was formed in 1974. The museum is located at 88 River Road, and open Saturday from 1-4 pm during July and August. It is also open by appointment. The contact number is 546-2076. The genealogical research material is housed at the Cherryfield Free Public Library.

Maine Seacoast Mission - Friday coffeehouse, Wednesday soup and games, Sunday Downeast Table of Plenty Community Supper 3:30-5:00PM, EdGE school programs for children, house restoration and repairs

Rotary Club

Veteran's Club

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

## CHURCHES

First Congregational Church and the Lamb House: offering community suppers second Wednesday of the month from May-October.

First Baptist Church

Cherryfield Pentecostal Church

St. Michaels Catholic Church

Church of the Open Bible

## PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES

**Electrical Service:** Emera/Bangor Hydro

**Telephone Service:** Consolidated Communication

Television, Cable, and Radio	Newspapers
WLBZ - Channel 2 (NBC affiliate)	Bangor Daily News (daily)
WABI - Channel 5 (CBS affiliate)	Ellsworth American (weekly)
WVII - Channel 7 (ABC affiliate)	Machias Valley Observer (weekly)
Maine PBS- Channel 13 (PBS affiliate)	Quoddy Tides (twice-monthly)
Spectrum	Coastal Chronical
WQDY (1230 AM & 92.7 FM) Calais	
WALZ (95.3 FM) Machias	
WMED (89.7 FM) (NPR affiliate)	

**Internet Providers:** There are a number of Internet service providers with the local access numbers. Broadband channels are not currently available limiting high speed access within the region.

## **POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>Public Facilities</b>			
<b>Goal: Plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate current and anticipated growth and economic development.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Efficiently meet identified public facility and service needs.	Educate citizens on the importance of recycling.	Select Board, Town Clerk	Ongoing
	Continue to explore opportunities to expand recycling capacity.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Investigate available resources to improve access to high speed Internet.	Select Board	Ongoing
Provide public facilities and services that promote and support growth and development in growth areas.	Identify any capital improvements needed to maintain or upgrade public services to accommodate the community's anticipated growth and changing demographics.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Locate new public facilities comprising at least 75% of new municipal growth-related capital investments in designated growth areas.		
	Continue regional partnerships and explore new options around regional delivery of public services.		



## J. RECREATION

The purpose of this section is to:

1. Describe the extent and capacity of Cherryfield's recreation facilities;
2. Assess their adequacy in handling current and future needs of the community; and
3. Estimate the general costs and partners to help implement the needed additions and/or improvements.

### SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Cherryfield has a number of municipal recreational facilities, and the vast natural resources of our Town and region provide numerous recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Our open space includes farms, wild blueberry barrens, mixed forestlands, wetlands, lakeshores, and river corridors, as described in the natural resources section of this plan. Some of the Town's most important recreational resources rely on riverfront access, which we should seek to maintain and improve. Via the Narraguagus River, Cherryfield is linked to a vast inter-connected system of pristine streams and lakes, and, ultimately, to the Atlantic Ocean. Cherryfield is a gateway community to exceptional recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, paddling and boating, hiking, swimming, wildlife watching, snowmobiling and ATV riding, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and snowshoeing.

Of course, much undeveloped land is not accessible to the public, and as the regional population rises, development pressures on all open space will increase. The goal of this section is to promote and protect the availability of a wide diversity of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities in and around Cherryfield.

### RECREATION PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

The Town of Cherryfield supports little league, tennis/basketball courts, and several annual community events. Although the Recreation Committee is no longer active, local nonprofits, groups, and volunteers offer many programs. The Cherryfield Academy, Veteran's Hall, and Elementary School offer large indoor spaces for public use.

The table below outlines facilities and services in or near Cherryfield and describes the existence and condition of those facilities and services.

Program or Facility	Condition of Existing Cherryfield Facilities	Description of Facility or Conditions
<b>Volunteer Base</b>	Functional but needs more community engagement; Recreation Committee no longer active.	Scholarships for summer programs or after school programs provided by private donations (The Tucker Fund).
<b>Community Events</b>	Strong community engagement. Some efforts have not succeeded in recent years, but others have begun and been well received by the region.	Cherryfield Celebration Days Haunted Hayride (Fire Dept.) Cherryfield Band Friday Coffeehouse (Maine Sea Coast Mission) Wednesday Soup and Games (Maine Sea Coast Mission)

Program or Facility	Condition of Existing Cherryfield Facilities	Description of Facility or Conditions
		American Legion Memorial Day Celebration American Legion Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Dinner Cemetery Tours (Historical Society) Cherryfield Open Mic (at Maine Sea Coast Mission) Cherryfield Academy Holiday Events and Musical Performances Family Movie Night, MSCM Cribbage Night, MSCM
<b>Community Arts, Performance, and Crafts</b>	This aspect of the community is strong and well supported	Cherryfield Arts Initiative; Quilt Shows; Cherryfield Academy Events; Maine Seacoast Mission gatherings with live music; Sewing Group; Holiday showcase; summer music performances by Sticks Picks and Strings, a private business; Milbridge Theatre summer performances
<b>Evening Adult Ed Rec Program</b>	Seasonal and changing but regular offerings, most not directly in Cherryfield	Continuing education, dance, exercise, and sports offered through Narraguagus High School in adjacent Harrington; Contra Dances at Cherryfield Academy
<b>Youth Programs</b>	Well established and attended by diverse regional residents	Scouts for boys and girls; Maine Sea Coast Mission's summer and afterschool programs; Venture Crew with Narraguagus High School outdoor club; Art classes provided by the Cherryfield Arts Initiative; Easter Egg Hunt; Spring Break Mini Golf; Halloween activities; Christmas events; and other offerings at Cherryfield Academy. Numerous kids programs at the Cherryfield Public Library; school history programs with Cherryfield Narraguagus Historical Society
<b>Youth Recreation</b>		Little League (at Cherryfield Elementary School) Cherryfield Elementary School Sports (soccer, cross country, basketball, baseball, softball, cheerleading) Narraguagus High School offers numerous sports, theater, academic, and other after school programs for middle school and older youth.
<b>Neighborhood Playground, basketball court, ball field, tennis courts, swimming, ice skating, etc.</b>	Most facilities are in OK or Fair condition; Tennis courts are in a state of disrepair but the basketball court is still regularly used	Grade school in middle of town with playground, one ball field, one outdoor and one indoor basketball court; Tennis court (also used for roller skating, skateboarding, and young children riding bikes) co-located with basketball courts in residential area in downtown; indoor basketball court as Elementary School; ice skating at Maine Seacoast Mission and on private pond on River Street in winter.
<b>Multi-</b>	Good condition but not located directly in	Bigelow Park and the elementary school in

<b>Program or Facility</b>	<b>Condition of Existing Cherryfield Facilities</b>	<b>Description of Facility or Conditions</b>
<b>purpose field: football, soccer, field hockey</b>	Cherryfield	Harrington for youth recreation, Narraguagus High School in Harrington for various sports
<b>Swim area</b>	Clean and accessible fresh water lakes nearby to west and north, Narraguagus River	Although not right in town, Cherryfield is very near (15-minute drive) to several lakes with public swimming. Many area families have camps on Schoodic Lake, northeast of Cherryfield, which also has some public swimming access.
<b>Horseshoe Courts</b>	Good condition but underutilized, nearby	At Milbridge Town Marina, with barbeque pits, picnic tables, Porta-Potties, and a pebble beach at low tide
<b>Picnic Areas w/tables &amp; grills</b>	Good to Fair condition	Cable Pool Park has a covered picnic area; Stewart Park on Main Street has 1 Picnic table on the river; Veteran's Memorial Park has 1 picnic table on the river
<b>Boat Landings</b>	Cable Pool Park is in good condition. Wilson Hill launch is unused and neglected. Needs upgraded launch, vegetation cleared, and some parking.	Wilson Hill is currently hand launch only as it is steep and in poor condition with limited/no parking. Cable Pool Park is hand or trailer launch.
<b>Public Fishing Area</b>	Good Condition and accessible	Stewart Park with parking, picnic table At various points along the Narraguagus river, no facilities but footpath access only, except one fishing spot on North Street which has limited parking
<b>Hiking Trails</b>	Very Good Condition and Well Maintained	Weald Bethel trails at the Maine Sea Coast Mission; Black Woods along Route 182 and Sprague Falls have numerous nearby hiking trails of varying skill levels.
<b>Biking Trails</b>	Down East Sunrise Trail needs upgrades to be truly bicycle friendly along its entirety. Other off-road riding includes private gravel roads that require landowner permission or are shared use with ATVs and vehicles; On-road cycling routes are in good condition.	Downtown Sunrise Trail (off road, multi-use), US Bike Route 1, East Coast Greenway, Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, private gravel roads with limited public access
<b>Indoor Facilities including Schools Available for Public Use</b>	Good Condition	Elementary School Gym, Cherryfield Academy Building, Veteran's Hall, several Churches, the Maine Seacoast Mission's EdGE building and Community Center at the Chapel
<b>Public Library</b>	Very good condition with modern facilities and equipment	Cherryfield Library operated as a non-profit independently from the Town

## PUBLIC ACCESS TO SURFACE WATER

No major harbor facilities (wharves, docks, piers, mooring areas, etc.) are located within Cherryfield. Fisherman living in Cherryfield use public and private facilities in nearby town like Harrington, Milbridge and Steuben. The two boat launch ramps in Cherryfield are

located on the Narraguagus River. Kayaks, canoes, and inner tubes can be launched at either site. Cable Pool Park's boat launch provides freshwater access to the river and is located above the ice dam. The ramp is 10' wide and paved, with enough parking for at least 5 vehicles; the Park's entrance road is not paved and in need of repair (potholes). The condition of the Wilson Hill boat launch, just below downtown on the Narraguagus River, renders it currently in hand-carry only condition. Ocean access is just a 3+-mile paddle south to Milbridge on the tidal river. The site is not marked with signage, requires vegetation clearing, and designation of parking sites. It is also at the trailhead for Wealth Bethel hiking trails (open to the public and underutilized).

## **OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED USE TRAILS**

Narraguagus Snowmobile and ATV Club located in Cherryfield supports trails affiliated with the Maine Snowmobile Association's Interconnected Trail System, as well as private and public trails. The clubhouse has ample parking for trailers and convenient access to ITS 81, which connects to ITS 82 (the Downeast Sunrise Trail) just 2.5 miles away in the center of town. Many towns, services, and other facilities are accessible from this trail system, which has several trail entrances in Cherryfield. From the Cherryfield clubhouse it is 26 miles to the Airline Diner in Beddington (ITS 81N). Once on ITS 82, Machias is 25 miles East, or Hancock is 33 miles west.

The Downeast Sunrise Trail is a converted rail bed, now an 87-mile multi-use trail extending from Ellsworth to Pembroke. More information may be found at [www.sunrisetrail.org](http://www.sunrisetrail.org). Narraguagus Snowmobile Club is responsible for grooming the Sunrise Trail from Mile Post 47 in Jonesboro to Mile Post 11 in Franklin near Route 182. (The groomer leaves Cherryfield from MP 29 ½ when it goes out to groom).

Many private landowners (logging and wild blueberry organizations) allow ATV and snowmobile use on their gravel roads.

## **WINTER ACTIVITIES**

Aside from snowmobiling, several outdoor recreation activities are easily accessible in Cherryfield. Many people utilize the Sunrise Trail for cross-country skiing. Snowshoeing and skiing are available on many nearby public and private lands, including private gravel roads in the blueberry barrens and the Weald Bethel trails near downtown Cherryfield. Ice fishing and ice-skating are popular at many of the nearby water bodies.

## **WALKING, HIKING, AND BIKING TRAILS**

Cherryfield has several non-motorized trails actively used by residents. The downtown area of Cherryfield is a favorite walking route for many local residents, especially the "River Walk", a loop between the two bridges. A sidewalk can be used on Main Street, both bridges have a pedestrian walkway, and on River Street, walkers use the gravel shoulder and traffic volume is minimal. Weald Bethel Nature Trails, owned by the Maine Sea Coast Mission, contain an old growth forest along the Narraguagus River south of downtown.

A hiking trail to the top of Young Tunk Mountain on Sprague Falls Road leads to beautiful views, although parking is limited. Also on Sprague Falls Road, the Downeast Salmon Federation maintains several trails on their property with river frontage. Just outside of Cherryfield on Route 182 are several varied wilderness trails, including the only multi-day trail loop in the area (between Catherine's Hill and Schoodic Mountain). Nearby Steuben, Harrington and Milbridge also have conserved lands with public trails.

The Downeast Sunrise Trail is also suitable for walking and biking, and provides level terrain and a gravel surface (some areas of the trail surface are too rough for bicycles, and the Sunrise Trail Coalition is exploring options for upgrading these sections.)

## HUNTING AND FISHING

Public lands available for hunting and fishing in Cherryfield include land owned by the State of Maine and the Downeast Salmon Federation, in accordance with federal and state laws and seasons. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries, Narraguagus Wildlife Management Area, and other properties managed by the State in Cherryfield offer exceptional opportunities in remote and scenic areas with abundant wildlife. Hunting and fishing also occurs on private lands in Cherryfield via landowner permission. The Narraguagus River once had a highly productive salmon fishery; Atlantic salmon are still present in small numbers and listed by the state and federal government as endangered. Common fish in the Narraguagus River are American shad, brook trout, alewives, blueback herring, and striped bass. Restoration at the ice dam is being considered to improve passage for salmon and all species. Numerous sections of the Narraguagus River offer public fishing access.

## SCENIC NATURAL AREAS

Cherryfield is known for its natural beauty, thanks not only to the Narraguagus River running through its center, but also for the historical architecture. The town also benefits from the scenic beauty of surrounding areas, and two of the major connections to town are designated scenic byways: the Bold Coast Scenic Byway (Route 1 between Milbridge and Eastport) and the Black Woods Scenic Byway (Rt. 182 from Cherryfield to Franklin). Also of note are the numerous preserved public lands in Cherryfield, many of which are along the Narraguagus River and forested, such as the MDIFW Narraguagus Wildlife Management area and lands owned by Downeast Salmon Federation.

These areas represent the best known and most loved scenic natural areas in Cherryfield:

1. The river corridor through downtown Cherryfield and the downtown Historic District.
2. Wild blueberry barrens, especially in autumn. Along Route 193 and the Ridge Road, the barrens have 3 designated areas of interest on the Downeast Ice Age Trail, however some roads are private and commercial fields require permission to access.
3. Cable Pool Park: Railroad bridge and old growth trees at the site of the historic West Side Aqueduct company.
4. View and ledges at the top of Young Tunk trail (the ridge on Sprague Falls Road) of Cherryfield, Downing Bog, and the Donnell Pond Reserve Land
5. Entrance into Cherryfield along Black Woods Road (State Route 182) and the Donnell Pond and Spring River Lake Public Reserve Land mountains and lakes. The



summit of Tunk Mountain provides expansive vistas toward Mount Desert Island to the south and toward the Airline and beyond to the north.

6. Entrance into Cherryfield along Route 1 with historic farm and hay fields along the river.

## LAND USE OPTIONS TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE

Open, undeveloped space is an important part of the scenic beauty and recreational assets of a community. 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 State's Tree Growth Tax Law program and Farm Land and Open Space Tax Program can serve to protect open space. In Cherryfield in 2017, there were 44 parcels totaling 4,001 acres in tree growth tax status, zero parcels in farmland tax status, and three parcels totaling 54.5 acres in open space tax status. It is important to note that these programs may cause some contention because the programs do not always encourage public access to subsidized private lands, and they remove or greatly reduce the amount of taxes collected by the Town for property taxes on conserved lands.

Cherryfield'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, and though privately owned, permission is usually easily granted from neighbors, family, or friends. If residents restrict the use of their land, large amounts of private land may not be available for public use. This makes the limited amount of public access provided on public and Town-owned lands increasingly important to residents.

## REGIONAL RECREATION

Recreational resources in Washington County have an impact on the local and regional economy. Tourism-related businesses that rely on the recreational opportunities are significant sources of income to towns in the entire region. In Cherryfield, many retail business benefit in part from an influx of visitors to the region, especially during the summer.

Regional recreation facilities accessible to Cherryfield's residents and to visitors include wildlife refuges, parks, golf courses, picnic areas, public access to surface waters, and a diversity of trails. Notable nearby regional recreational resources include:

1. Jasper Beach in Buck's Harbor, Machiasport. [Geological Information](#)
2. Corea Beach, Corea
3. [Roque Bluffs State Park](#): 2300-foot beach, picnic tables, grills, playground.
4. [Donnell Pond Reserve Lands](#): with camping, swimming, hiking, boating and public lands. Of note are Spring River Lake, Tunk Lake, Long Pond, and Donnell Pond, and hiking on Tunk, Catherine, Caribou, Black, Schoodic Mountains. [Boat launches in the state of Maine](#)

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. [McClellan Park](#), Milbridge. A 10.4-acre park with spectacular views of open ocean and islands, rocky beaches, trails, picnic tables and primitive campsites.
7. Regional byways and road trails:
  - [Blackwoods Scenic Byway](#)
  - [Bold Coast Scenic Byway and Bikeway](#)
  - [Maine Ice Age Trail](#)
  - [Maine Sculpture Trail](#)
  - [Downeast Fisheries Trail](#)
  - [Maine Birding Trail](#)
  - [Beer](#) and [Wine](#) Trails
  - [Sunrise Trail](#) and [Maine Interconnected Trail System](#) trails for snowmobiles and ATVs
  - [Bicycle Routes](#)
8. Golf Courses:
  - [Barren View Golf Course](#), Jonesboro
9. Historic Sites:
  - [Roosevelt Campobello International Park](#) in Campobello, N.B. A 2,800-acre park that includes the cottage and the grounds where Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and their family vacationed. The Island also has a tourist information center.
  - [St. Croix Island International Historic](#) Site at Red Beach in Calais. Overlooks St. Croix Island, site of historic French settlement in 1604.
10. Islands:
  - East Plummer Island Preserve and the Mistake Island Preserve in Jonesport, both managed by the Nature Conservancy.
  - [Tibbett Island, Downeast Coastal Conservancy](#). A 23-acre island preserve across a sheltered narrows from Addison's municipal park and boat launch, hosting a diverse collection of vegetation and landscape types, including gravel beaches perfect for landing small watercraft in almost any weather condition. The town of Addison contains 4 boat launches and is close to numerous membership-access islands along the Maine Island Trail system.
  - Machias Seal Island, seabird nesting site with puffin colony, boat tours from Cutler, Jonesport and New Brunswick.
  - [Petit Manan Island](#) (Maine Coastal Islands NWR) seabird nesting site with puffin colony, boat tours from Milbridge, Gouldsboro, and Bar Harbor
11. Lighthouses:
  - [East Quoddy Lighthouse](#) in Campobello, N.B.
  - [West Quoddy Lighthouse](#) in Lubec: 32 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.
12. Water Trails and Significant Coastal Areas

- Narraguagus River, Machias River, Union River, and Pleasant River canoeing and paddling
- [Maine Island Trail](#), coastal boating route with designated islands for access and camping
- Gleason's Cove in Perry: picnic sites, beach, fishing weirs, boat launch.
- [Cutler Coast Public Reserved Land](#), Bold Coast Trails, maintained by the State, contains almost five miles of dramatic cliff-bound ocean shore.
- [Great Wass Island Preserve](#) in Beals: 1540 acres of boreal forest, peat bogs, and coastline managed by the Nature Conservancy.
- [Pigeon Hill Preserve](#), Downeast Coastal Conservancy. Spectacular panoramic ocean views toward Cadillac and over myriad islands highlight this 1.2 mile-trail within the Pigeon Hill Preserve. In fall great expanses of undeveloped forests glow with color around Schoodic and Black Mountains. The summit of Pigeon Hill is the highest point in the coastal region of eastern Washington County.

### 13. Public Lands

- [Narraguagus Wildlife Management Area](#). This area is located between the east and west branches of the Narraguagus River, known locally as the Crotch. It consists of approximately 1,470 acres of forested uplands and is managed for wetland habitat, upland habitat, and public recreation (both consumptive and non-consumptive). The State does permit day use i.e. hiking, hunting, and fishing but no open fires are permitted or overnight camping.
- [Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge](#). Public lands managed for wildlife includes over 60 islands and mainland units in Milbridge, Steuben, Gouldsboro, and Corea with hiking trails
- [Jonesboro Wildlife Management Area](#), 726 acres.
- [Maine Coast Heritage Trust Downeast Region](#) preserve land and hiking trails, including the Frank Woodworth Preserve, A 1.8-mile loop coastal trail in Harrington
- [Frenchman's Bay Conservancy](#) Preserves and Hiking Trails
- [Acadia National Park](#)
- [Downeast Salmon Federation Land Trust](#), includes preserved lands and hiking trails on Sprague Falls Rd, Cherryfield.

## PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Responses to the Community Survey show that people in Cherryfield are relatively satisfied with recreation programs (49%) and continuing educational opportunities (42%). A majority is satisfied with recreation facilities (62%). In the survey overall, where residents rated satisfaction on all the services the Town provides, from roads to plowing and property taxes, recreation programs and adult education were rated the lowest in satisfaction, and third and fourth in dissatisfaction. Many people were unsure about how to answer (25-39%), indicating a lack of awareness of what programs may or may not be available, and that more outreach is required.

Respondents felt strongly about the need to preserve scenic areas, rural character, and protect water quality. Residents want to keep our existing access to nature and the natural beauty of

Cherryfield. The creation of more public parks, trails or boat launches was supported by 62% of survey responders, and 21% were unsure. The creation of more or repairing existing sidewalks was supported by 71% of respondents, which supports the most common suggestion in the written answer section, creation of a “River Walk” in downtown Cherryfield located between the bridges. Such a river walk would help promote a healthy lifestyle and provide greater access to the natural beauty of the river.

## POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>Recreation</b>			
<b>Goal: Maintain and improve access to recreational opportunities</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Maintain and upgrade existing recreational facilities.	Develop a plan to meet current and future recreation needs; explore ways to address the identified needs.	Select Board, Planning Board	Short Term (Within 2-5 years)
	Continue to maintain at least one major point of public access to major water bodies for boating, fishing, and swimming.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Fund needed improvements on Town owned recreational lands such as the Wilson Hill and Cable Pool boat landings and existing community parks.	Select Board	Short Term (Within 2-5 years)
	Work with regional partners to connect and maintain a network of recreational trails.	Select Board	Ongoing
Preserve open space for recreational use.	Continue to require major new residential developments to present recreational and open space areas in their plans.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Work with local conservation organizations to protect important open space or recreational land.	Select Board	Ongoing

<b>Recreation</b>			
<b>Goal: Maintain and improve access to recreational opportunities</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Provide educational materials regarding benefits and protections for landowners allowing public recreational access on their property.	Select Board, Planning Board, Town Clerk	Ongoing



## K. TRANSPORTATION

Communities depend on well-maintained transportation systems. Safe streets, efficient street design, and transportation linkages affect the economic viability of our businesses, the overall safety and convenience of our residents, as well as property values. The goal of this section is to:

1. Describe Cherryfield's roadway and transportation systems in terms of extent, capacity, and use, including pedestrian and transit facilities and services;
2. Assess the adequacy of those systems in handling current use demands;
3. Predict major transportation improvements needed to address identified deficiencies and accommodate the projected demand for transportation systems in Cherryfield and Washington County; and
4. Plan for efficient maintenance and improvement of our transportation facilities, systems, and services in order to accommodate anticipated development.

### SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Cherryfield residents must travel to adjoining communities for most employment and shopping needs, and therefore are affected by the condition of many arterial roads in Washington County. Transportation linkages in town consist primarily of US 1 and State Routes 182 and 193. Average annual daily traffic has decreased in the last 20 years all over Cherryfield. Most roads have also seen decreases between 2012 and 2015 except for level or slightly higher counts on State Road 193.

The Maine DOT 2018-2020 Work Plan entries for Cherryfield include Bridge Replacement of Schoodic Bridge over Schoodic Brook and Bridge wearing surface replacement on Route 1 over the Narraguagus River. MaineDOT could move forward with creating the I-395/Route 9 Connector Project, which would put more traffic onto Route 193 south from Route 9 into Cherryfield.

Route 182 near the elementary school is an important missing-link to a safe pedestrian and biking connection between the school and residents to the south and west. Several areas of safety concern include the intersections with Route 1 and Route 182, Route 1 and Route 193, Route 193 and Willey District Road and North Street.

Overall Cherryfield's roads are in fair to poor condition. Continued proper and affordable maintenance of the road network in Cherryfield is in the best interests of all residents. All new roads, subject to subdivision review, must be constructed to specific standards. MDOT has jurisdiction over most main roads and bridges within Cherryfield, so the Town will continue to communicate and cooperate with the department, and will continue to participate in regional transportation planning efforts.

### ROAD INVENTORY

The majority of roads in Cherryfield originated in the early days as pathways or carriage trails. These roads followed the easiest routes and were not concerned with sight distances, sharp corners, the weight load of trucks, or intersection design. Our roads were improved over the years to accommodate increased traffic, higher speeds and larger vehicles. In the last decade, the

Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) through its Local Roads Assistance Program has attempted to assist municipalities in improving further these areas to meet state and national safety design standards.

Roads are divided into three classifications by function: arterial, collector, and local.

1. Arterials are roadways that serve long distance, high-speed through-traffic between communities, and are maintained by the state. The most important travel routes in the state, U.S. and state highways, are arterials. Interstate highways may function as arterials.
2. Collectors gather and distribute traffic to and from arterials and generally provide access to abutting properties. Collectors serve places with smaller population densities, are often some distance from main travel routes, and often are maintained in part by the state.
3. Local roads are all roads not in the arterial or collector classification. Local roads are maintained by municipalities, provide access to adjacent land areas and usually carry low volumes of traffic.

Cherryfield contains a total of 42.3 miles of roads, including zero miles of arterial, 14.86 miles of collector and 20.91 miles of local public roads. Conditions of all roads in Cherryfield are: 10.3 miles in Poor Condition (24.4%); 4.7 miles in Fair Condition (11.1%); 17.3 miles in Good Condition (40.9%); and 9 miles in Excellent Condition (21.2%).

The Town owns 47% of this mileage (7.9% residents, 35.1% State, 7.5% other). Conditions of Town owned roads are 45.1% in Poor Condition (9miles); 0% in Fair Condition; 30.2% in Good Condition (6miles); and 24.6% in Excellent Condition (24.6 miles).

Cherryfield's Town-owned roads are 47% poor; within the town overall, 24.4% are in poor condition.

A listing of all roads within the Cherryfield with their classification, length, maintenance responsibility and overall condition is included in the Roadway Inventory below. Their geographic location is illustrated on the screen capture of the Cherryfield Planners Map, with E-911 roads selected, located later in this chapter.

<b>Cherryfield Roads Inventory 2018</b>						
<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Road Class</b>	<b>Length (Miles)</b>	<b>Owned by</b>	<b>Maintained by</b>	<b>Surface</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Blueberry Circle	Private	0.21	CFI	CFI	Dirt	Fair
Farm Rd	Private	--	CFI	CFI	Dirt	Fair
Barber Ln	Local	0.31	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Big Rock Ln	Local	0.28	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Bion Ln	Local	0.41	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Butler Rd	Local	0.81	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved/Dirt	Poor
Church St	Local	0.25	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Good
Dam Rd (Cable Pond Rd)	Local	0.48	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Dirt	Poor
Elm St	Local	0.29	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Good
Grant Rd	Local	0.18	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor

Cherryfield Roads Inventory 2018						
Roadway	Road Class	Length (Miles)	Owned by	Maintained by	Surface	Condition
High St	Local	0.1	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Mill Rd	Local	0.28	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Morse Ln	Local	0.16	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Municipal Way	Local	0.08	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Good
New St	Local	0.18	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
North St	Local	0.72	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Good
Paddy Ln	Local	0.17	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Park St	Local	1.04	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Excellent
Ridge Rd	Local	3.62	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Good
River Rd	Local	0.34	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Good
River Rd	Local	0.34	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
School St	Local	0.52	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Smith Ln	Local	0.14	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Good
Spragues Falls Rd	Local	1.52	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Excellent
Spragues Falls Rd	Local	1.52	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Stillwater Rd	Local	0.57	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Good
Tenan Ln	Local	1.275	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Excellent
Tenan Ln	Local	0.225	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Unionville Rd	Local	0.6975	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Excellent
Unionville Rd	Local	0.2325	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Willey District Rd	Local	1.4	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Excellent
Willey District Rd	Local	2.1	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Wilson Hill Rd	Local	0.37	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Wing Siding Rd	Local	0.3	Cherryfield	Cherryfield	Paved	Poor
Estates Rd	Private	0.25	Fickett	Fickett	Paved	Good
Robbins Gardens Ln	Private	0.1	Fickett	Fickett	Paved	Good
Acadia Ln	Private	0.08	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Adfer Ln	Private	0.1	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Alderman Ln	Private	0.14	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Good
Cotton Ln	Private	0.09	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Fair
Curtis Ln	Private	0.07	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Fair
Davis Cir	Private	0.17	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Fair
Dobbins Rd	Private	0.23	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor

<b>Cherryfield Roads Inventory 2018</b>						
<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Road Class</b>	<b>Length (Miles)</b>	<b>Owned by</b>	<b>Maintained by</b>	<b>Surface</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Dogwood Ln	Private	0.06	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Endre Ln	Private	0.05	Resident	Resident	Paved	Poor
Hanson Ln	Private	0.16	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Hill Top Ln	Private	0.23	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Fair
Hunter Ln	Private	0.1	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Lodge West Dr	Private	0.19	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Fair
Mayhew Ln	Private	0.08	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Nettie Ln	Private	0.17	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Old County Rd	Private	0.1	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Parker Hill Rd	Private	0.81	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Fair
Peaked Hill Cir	Private	0.13	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Fair
Spruce Hill Ln	Private	0.08	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Tucker Ln	Private	0.13	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Poor
Weald Bethel Ln	Private	0.19	Resident	Resident	Dirt	Fair
Blacks Woods Rd (SR 182)	Major Collector	3.74	State	State	Paved	Good
Campbell Hill (US Rte. 1)	Major Collector	0.32	State	State	Paved	Good
Cherryfield Stretch (US Rte. 1)	Major Collector	1	State	State	Paved	Excellent
Main St (SR 193)	Major Collector	1.26	State	State/Plowed by Cherryfield	Paved	Good
Milbridge Rd (US Rte. 1)	Major Collector	3.07	State	State	Paved	Excellent
North Main St (SR 193)	Major Collector	5.47	State	State/Plowed by Cherryfield	Paved	Good
Baseline Rd	Private	2.6	Wyman's	Wyman's	Dirt	Fair
Total Miles of Roads in Cherryfield		42.29				

## MAINTENANCE

The town arranges for the services of their own Road Commissioner and local contractors to periodically assess the condition of roads, culverts and bridges. Overall, Cherryfield's roadways are in poor to fair condition with a few locations in particular need of attention including:

- US Route 1 between Cherryfield and Milbridge

The damage that does occur to our roads is largely the result of trucking activity and harsh weather, including rapid changes in weather conditions. Roads are most vulnerable to the weight of trucks and other heavy vehicles during the spring thaw, which is also a time of year when

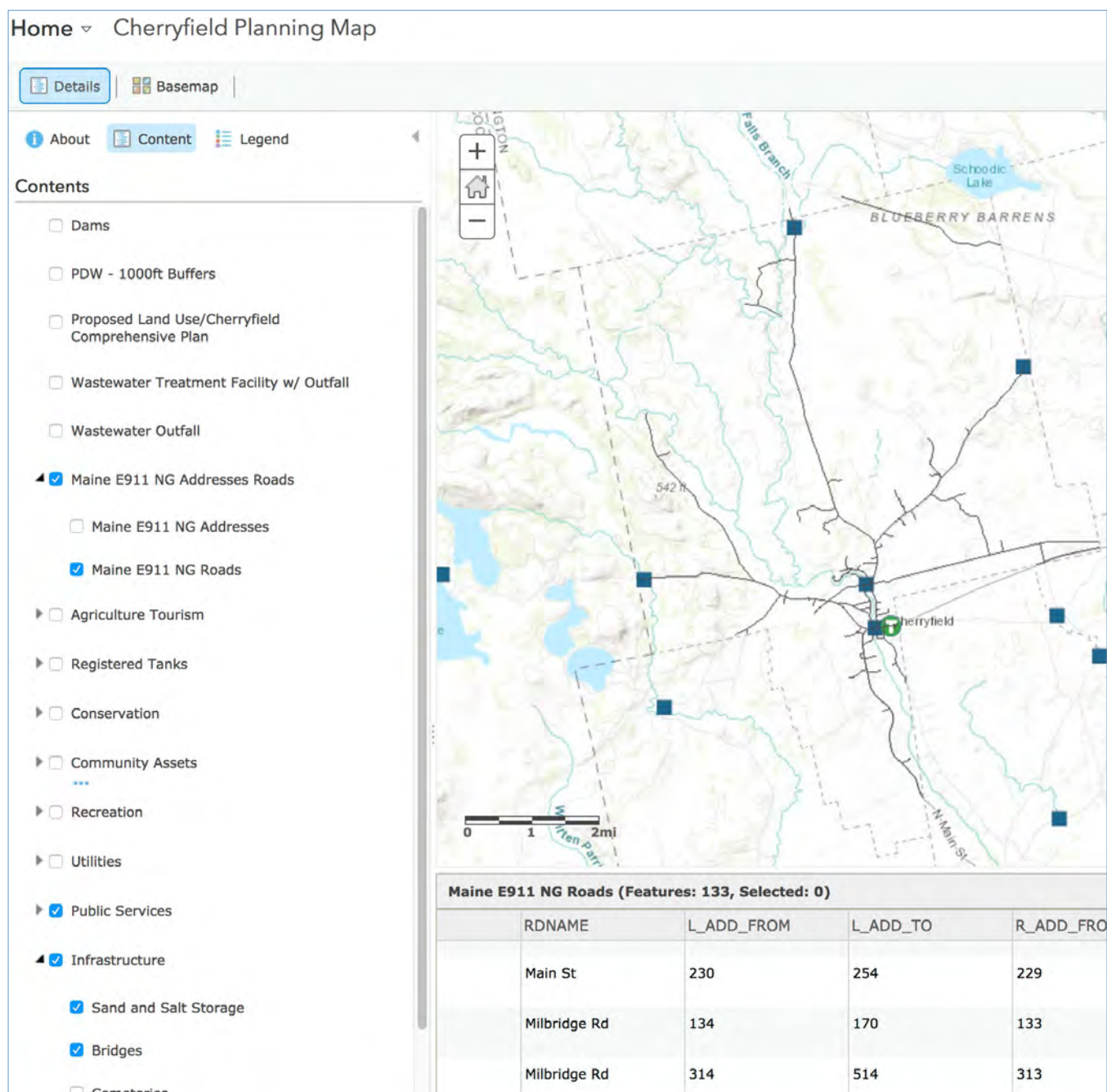
many natural resources based products are transported to market. As road weight limit postings are put in place, the conflict between road maintenance needs and the economic needs of businesses is clear. Most roads were not originally engineered for the weight they now carry. If money were no concern, the best course of action would be to rebuild each of the major service roads. That, however, is not economically feasible. Nevertheless, State Route 9 provides a good example of how effective reconstruction can improve a roadway. Considering the traffic volumes on US 1, a similar reconstruction of this roadway is worth pursuing.

MDOT is responsible for all the non-local roads. MDOT's authority includes permitting driveways and entrances, curb cuts, summer and winter maintenance, and traffic flow and safety decisions such as traffic signals, signs, reconstruction and road widening.

The town contracts by open-bid for snow plowing, salting and sanding in two-year contracts on town roads and State-aid roads. The cost is covered from tax appropriations. In addition, Cherryfield maintains a small carryover account, which can cover unanticipated expenses associated with transportation infrastructure maintenance and repair. Past funding by annual appropriation was for \$10,000 per year.

Maine DOT Local Roads Center provides a "Road Surface Management for Maine Towns" training program, including Road Surface Management System (RSMS) software to identify which road maintenance techniques should be considered for individual roads or streets in a local street network. It is used by many communities to inventory their road network, record road surface condition data, interpret the surface distress information gathered, and "defend" their road maintenance budgets. The system is generic and provides an objective tool that a municipality can "customize" with its own repair techniques and local costs. The Selectmen should investigate its use and adoption in Cherryfield.





A screen shot of the **E-911 Roads Layer** from the online Planners Maps for Cherryfield.

Note that the table associated with the E-911 map layer is open in the screen shot to illustrate part of the information that is available using the online mapping system. For more information on how to make use of the online mapping services see *Chapter C. GIS Mapping*.

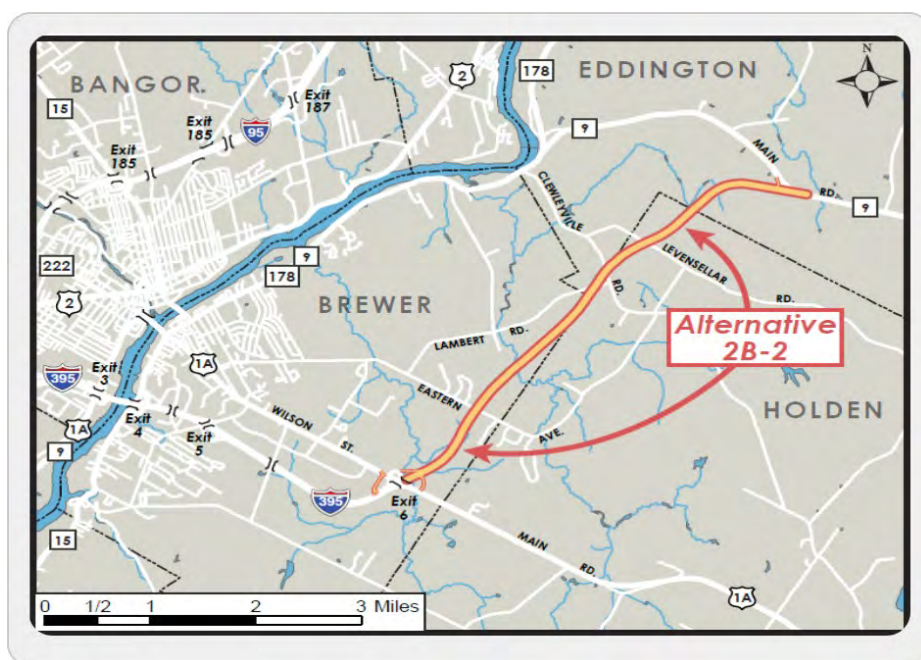
## TRAFFIC VOLUMES AND PATTERNS

MDOT estimates the average annual daily traffic volume (AADT) of most state and state aid roadways. Traffic counts taken every few years help the state calculate changes in traffic volume so that road improvements can be designed and built accordingly to handle those changes. AADT volumes do not reflect seasonal variations in traffic or daily peak traffic volume. Instead, AADT volumes help us understand the overall growth or decline of traffic on a roadway and the pattern of traffic on our road networks.

Transportation linkages in Cherryfield consist primarily of US 1, State Routes (SR) 182 and 193. US 1 connects Cherryfield with Milbridge to the south and Columbia to the east. Both of these towns provide our residents with most of the retail stores that Cherryfield lacks. SR 182, a state designated scenic byway connects us with Hancock County, and is often used to reach Ellsworth. SR 193 connects us to Deblois and SR 9, which is often a preferred route to Bangor.

Efforts to expand Route 395 to Route 9 could greatly increase traffic to Cherryfield along this road. Maine DOT held an informational meeting on July 20, 2016 regarding the I-395/Route 9 Connector Project and described the Federal Highway Administration's decision approving Alternative 2-B as the build alternative (depicted at right;

Route 1 is currently the transportation lifeline of Cherryfield. The condition of that road (which has been discussed for over 30 years), it's inclusion in the Bold Coast Scenic Byway and connection to the Black Woods Scenic Byway, Cherryfield's role as a local destination, and its appeal to visitors to the region, will all affect travel along that road. Officials from Cherryfield should continually work with on-going and ad hoc regional transportation committees to advocate for improvements to Route 1.



Source: <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/projects/I395rt9connector/>.

*Federal funding is not yet secured for this construction.*

AADT counts for 1999 (from the 2003 Comprehensive Plan) and from the two most recent years for which data is available are shown below. According to Maine DOT, three State zones are counted on a three-year cycle, collecting data in one zone per year to cover the entire state within the three-year period. The Coverage Count Program (indicated by a C next to the number in the table) also consists of

the “Special Counts” (indicated by an S next to the number in the table) taken each year to satisfy Departmental needs, local requests, and Federal requirements. Average annual daily traffic has decreased in the last 20 years all over Cherryfield. Most roads have also seen decreases between 2012 and 2015 except for State Road 193, which appears to have experienced level or slightly higher counts.

TRAFFIC VOLUMES				
Roadway	Location Description	AADT in 1999	AADT in 2012	AADT in 2015
US 1	US 1: east of SR 193	4000	2380	2210
US 1	US 1: @ Milbridge Townline (Northern near Harrington village)	-	2300 C	2050 S
US 1	US 1: @ Milbridge Townline (Southern near Milbridge village)	-	1400 C	1340 S
SR 182	SR 182: northwest of US 1	2500	1490 C	1240 S
SR 193	SR 193: north of US 1	3200	1850 C	1900 C
North St	North St at Upper Corner Bridge	730	580 C	670 C
Ridge Rd	Ridge Rd: northeast of SR 193	1370	700 C	790 C
Ridge Rd	Ridge Rd near Columbia town line	500	110 C	110 C
Source: Source: Maine Department of Transportation 2002; 2016				

## ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Access Management is the planned location and design of driveways and entrances to public roads to help reduce accidents and prolong the useful life of an arterial. While arterial highways represent only 12% of the state-maintained highway system, they carry 62% of the statewide traffic volume. Maintaining posted speeds on this system means helping people and products move faster, which enhances productivity, and reduces congestion-related delays and environmental degradation. By preserving the capacity of the system we have now, we reduce the need to build costly new highway capacity such as new travel lanes and bypasses, in the future. While it does not meet the definition of a primary Arterial, Route 1 functions as such in Cherryfield and provides a critical corridor for visitors, commuters, and freight.

MDOT has established standards, including greater sight distance requirements for the permitting of driveways and entrances, for three categories of roadways: retrograde arterials, mobility arterial corridors, and all other state and state-aid roads. Due to the low volume of traffic on our roadways, our town has no roads in the retrograde or mobility corridor categories of roadways, which come under stricter access management standards.

## HIGHWAY CORRIDOR PRIORITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE LEVEL

MaineDOT prioritizes programs and projects according to a two-part methodology that categorizes highway assets according to their Highway Corridor Priority (HCP) and Customer Service Level (CSL). There are 6 Priority levels based on a 2014 inventory of highway assets. These are summarized below.



**Highway Corridor Priority (HCP)**

The first part of the method, the Highway Corridor Priority (HCP), categorizes our highway assets into six levels of priorities.

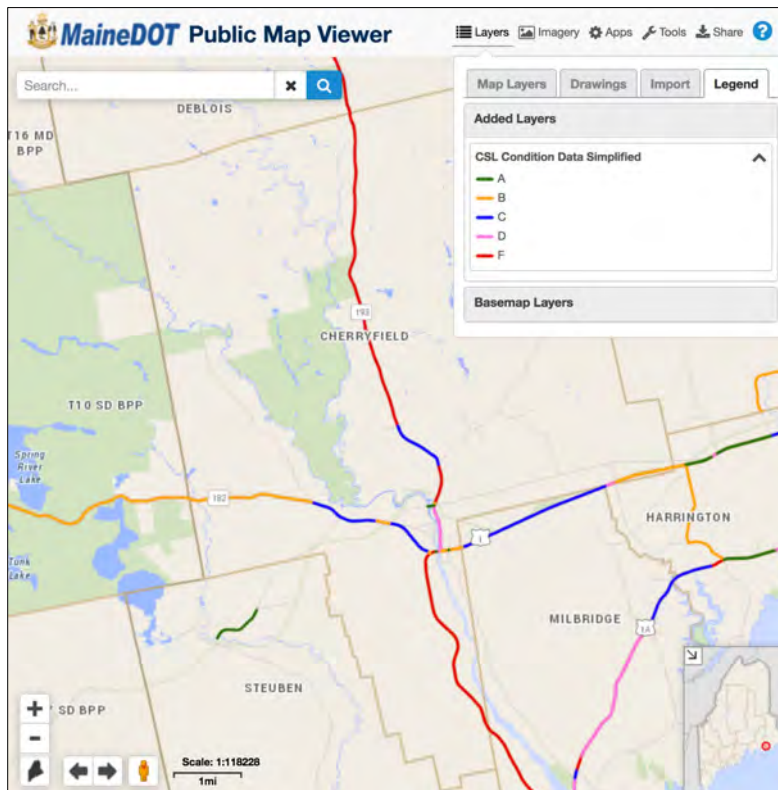
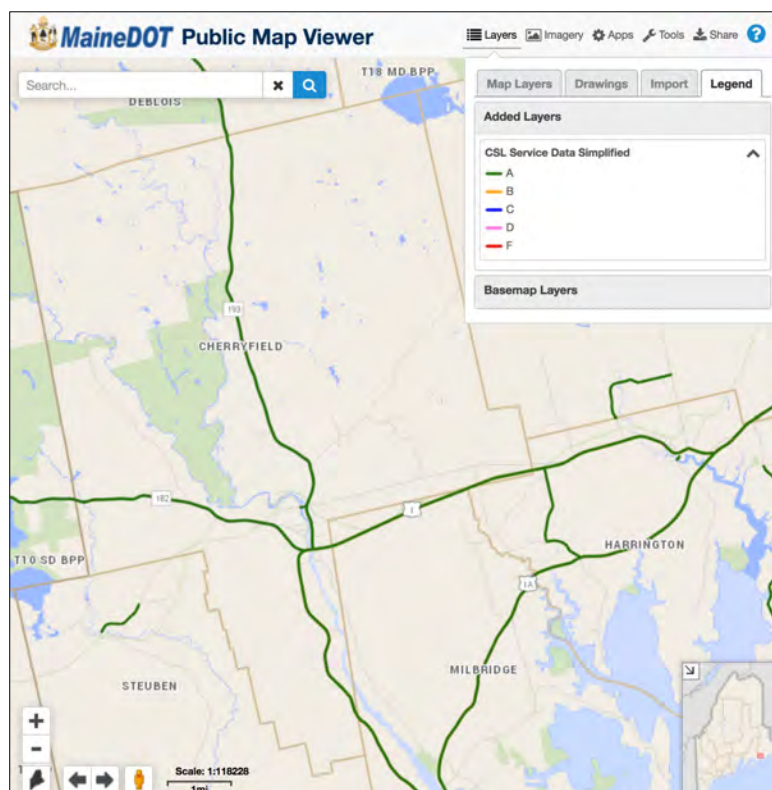
Highway Corridor Priority	Miles	% Miles	% Traffic	Example (click on thumbnail to view image)
Priority 1	1751	7%	42%	The Interstate, Brewer-Calais Rte 9, Newport-Gilead Rte 2, Houlton-Madawaska Rte 1
Priority 2	965	4%	12%	The National Hwy System, Caribou-Ft. Kent Rte 161, Bangor-Greenville Rte 15, Ellsworth-Eastport Rte 1, Lewiston-Bethel Rte 11/26/td>
Priority 3	1884	8%	16%	Manchester-Farmington Rte 17, Saco-Fryburg Rte 5, Lincoln-Vanceboro Rte 6, Sherman-Ft. Kent Rte 11
Priority 4	2077	9%	9%	Major Collectors not included above (including 3 miles of marine highway)
Priority 5	2385	10%	8%	Minor Collectors not included above (including 73 miles of marine highway)
Priority 6	14451	62%	13%	Local Roads & Streets

Maine DOT Map Viewer of the Customer Service Levels for Cherryfield <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/about/assets/search/>.

Cherryfield contains no Priority 1 highways and one Priority 2 highway, US Route 1. The Customer Service Level (CSL) measures the state's highway assets (Priority 1-5) in three areas. The CSL uses customer-focused engineering measures to track highway (1) Safety, (2) Condition and (3) Serviceability, and grades them similar to a report card (A-F). The table below lists the individual measure that make up the overall service level grade.

Customer Service Levels are given ratings on the following scales: Grading System (A=Excellent, B=Good, C=Fair, D=Poor, F=Unacceptable) CSL Indicators (Safety, Condition & Service).

While the roads in Cherryfield have good *service* ratings a very different picture is generated when the map viewer is used to view the road *condition* data.

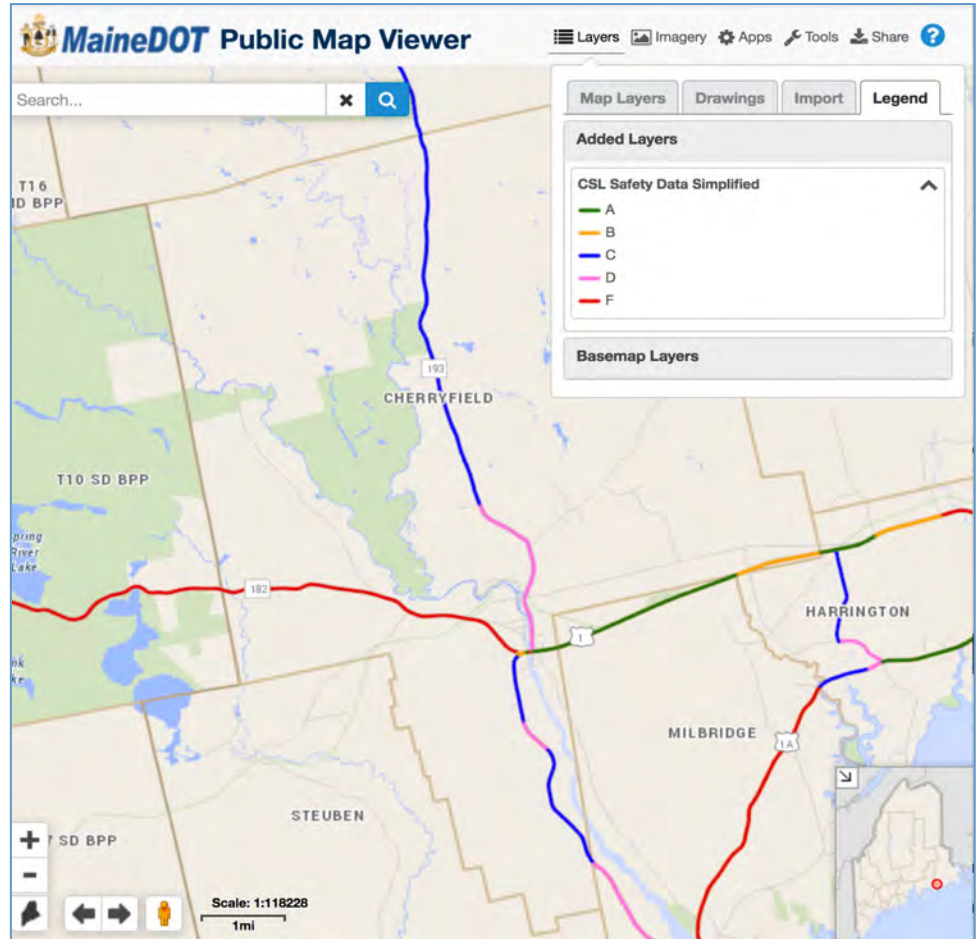


As a result, the public map viewer generates a bleaker picture when selected for the customer service level in terms of *safety*.

The most recent MaineDOT Work Plan covers the period from 2018-2020.

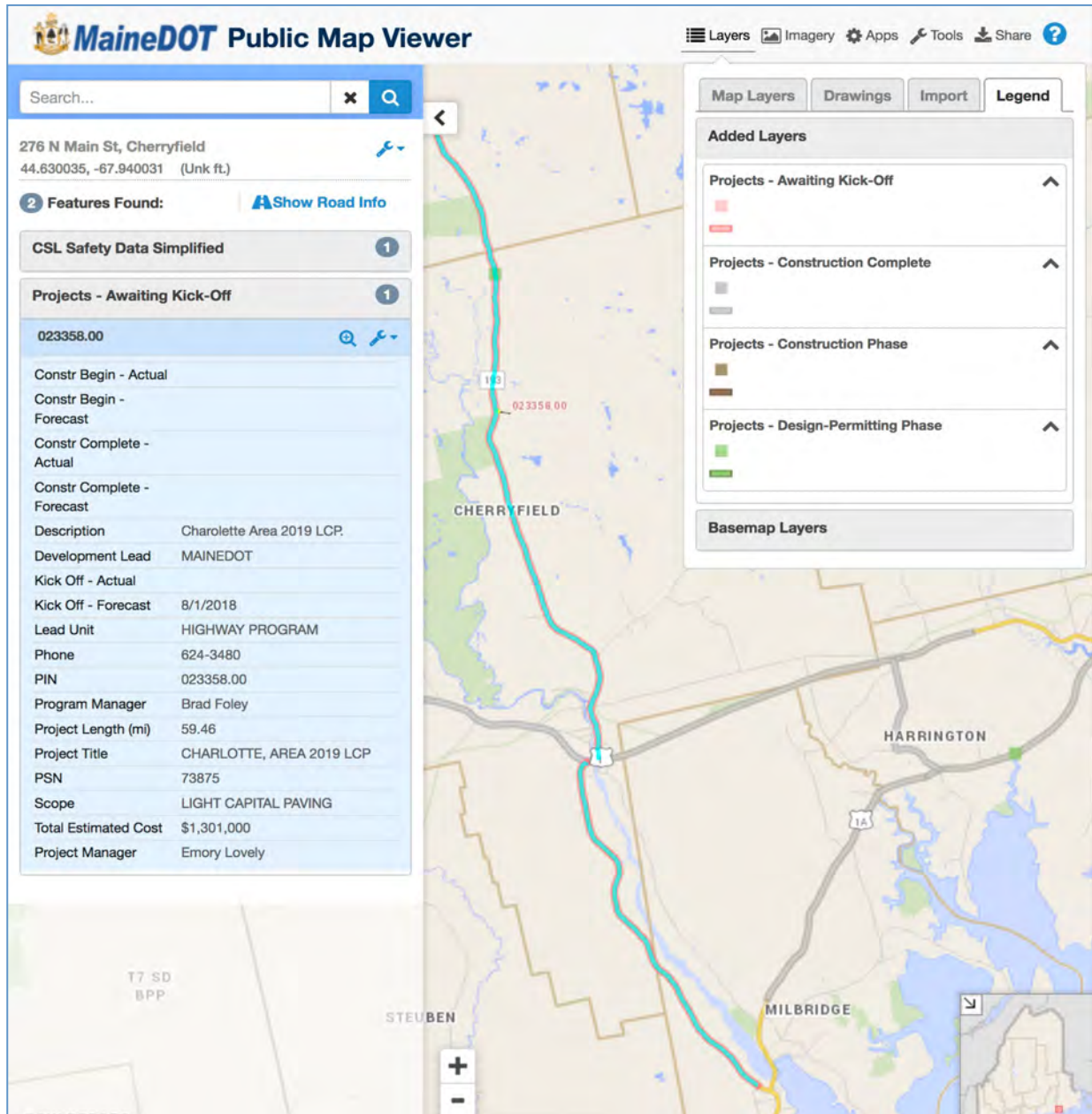
**Work Plan** entries for Cherryfield include, at a total estimated cost of \$1.6 million in Planned Capital and Maintenance Work, including:

- Bridge Replacement of Schoodic Bridge over Schoodic Brook located 0.32 of a mile south of the Deblois town line.
- Bridge wearing surface replacement on Route 1 of Covered Bridge (#2192) over the Narraguagus River located 0.03 of a mile west of Main Street.
- 19 miles of Highway and Light Capital Paving on Route 193.
- Highway Construction or Rehabilitation and Paving on 4.81 miles of Route 1 between Milbridge and Route 182.



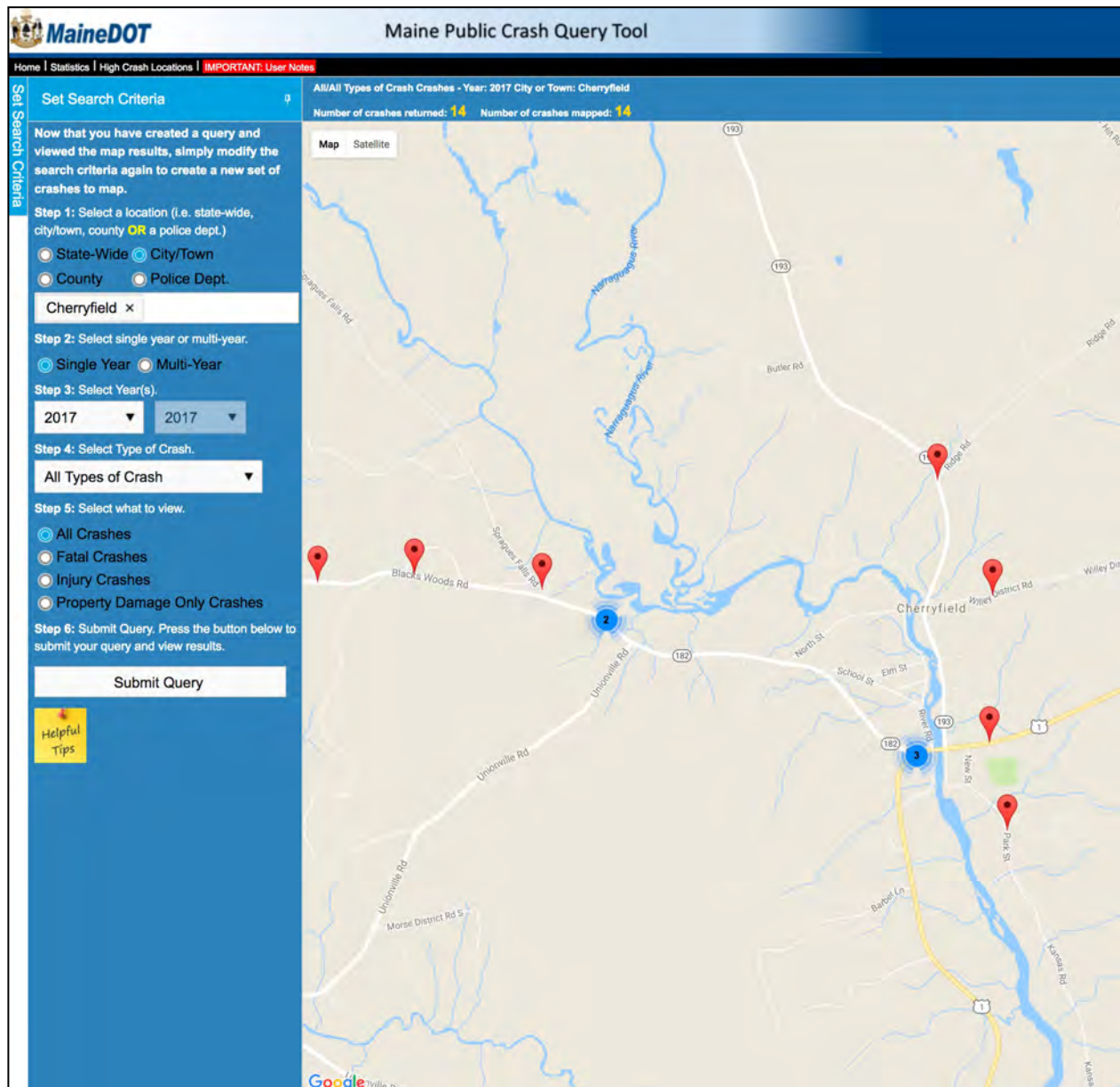


The Maine DOT map viewer (<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/mapviewer/>) can be used to see multiple levels of detail in the capital work plan depicted on a map of the town. For instance, the screen shot below has selected Cherryfield, all projects in their various stages of construction (see legend at right) with detail on the Route 193 paving in the box at the on the left such as costs, scope and forecasted kick-off of construction.



## DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS AND STRETCHES OF ROADS

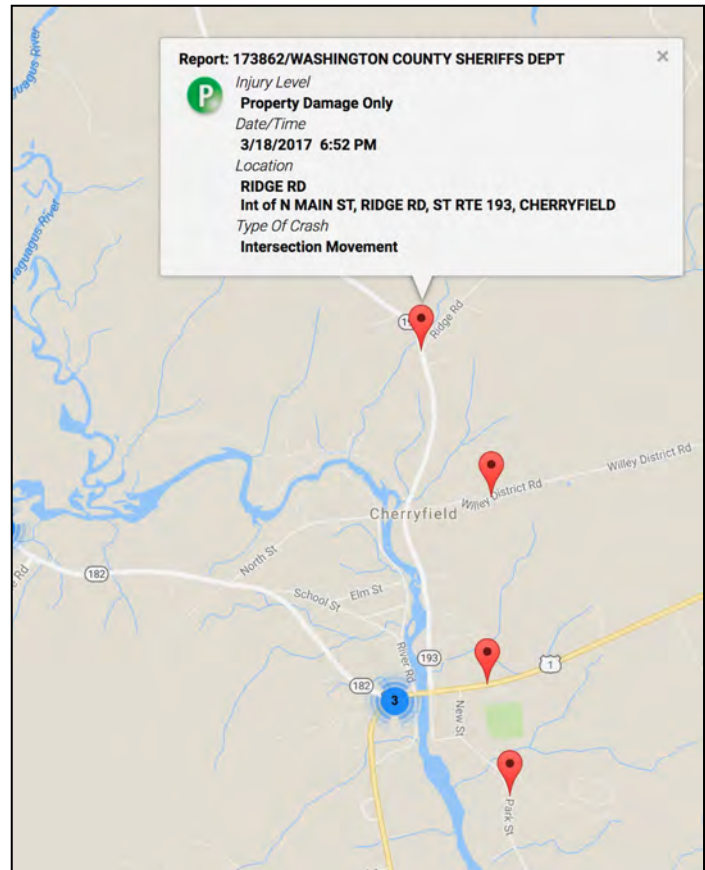
MDOT also provides a web-based map that allows users to query the number and types of crashes within their community in one year or over several years. These can be found at <https://mdotapps.maine.gov/MaineCrashPublic/PublicQueryMap>. A screen capture of all crash types over the period 2012 – 2017 is provided below. Note that the user can click on a cluster of crashes and then click on an individual crash to obtain details about date, injury level, and cause as depicted in the second image on the following page.



The details provided in this database support the conclusions of residents regarding several areas as more dangerous than others. Speeding problems are found particularly on US 1 and Route 193 through Cherryfield village. The chief reason for this is seen as a lack of enforcement of the existing speed limits, low traffic, and wide streets.

The town sees several locations as presenting potential safety problems:

1. The intersection of Route 1 and Route 193. This intersection is cause for concern due to speeding along Route 1, passing on Route 1 within the intersection, and very limited visibility due to the bridge structure in relation to the street and buildings located close to the road.
2. The intersection of Route 1 and Route 182. This intersection is cause for concern due to limited visibility in each direction and a complicated or confusing intersection configuration.
3. The intersection of Route 193 with Willey District Road and North Street. Congestion and lack of parking space directly adjacent to Matthews Store, as well as buildings located close to the street, causes poor visibility.



## TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

One blinking light is located at the 4-way intersection with Route 1, Route 193, and the Kansas Road.

## SHOULDERS

Stretches of US 1 in Cherryfield have paved shoulders on both sides of the road, but most of US 1, SR 182, and SR 193 do not have paved shoulders. Paved shoulders make the road safer, allow an area that is more useful for temporary maintenance of vehicles, provide increased opportunities for faster vehicles to pass slow-moving vehicles, offer safer opportunities for pedestrian travel, and allow easier and safer travel for the increased numbers of bicyclists touring the town. The town recommends that Maine DOT install paved shoulders along Cherryfield's roads during all road reconstruction projects.

## BRIDGES

The town has five bridges, of which the State is responsible for four: one on US 1, two on SR 193 and one on SR 182. The bridge owned by the town is on Ridge Road over Trout Brook. According to Maine DOT the bridges and culverts in town are in satisfactory condition except for the two proposed for replacement and repair in the 2017-2018-2019 Maine DOT Work Plan (details noted above). As noted above the town arranges for the services of their own Road Commissioners and local contractors to periodically assess the condition of roads, culverts and bridges. Note that the location and condition of bridges is provided in the Maine DOT Map Viewer (<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/mapviewer/>) referenced above. When the Bridges layer is turned on and the user selects a particular bridge the left-hand dialog box opens and provides information specific to the selected bridge. Likewise, the online Planners Maps (<http://gro-wa.org/planners-maps.htm>) provide the user with the ability to depict bridges within the town along with other services and infrastructure.

## PARKING FACILITIES

Present parking needs are met by existing on-street parking along roadways in our village area, the municipal lot, and in private lots. At current rates of growth, it is anticipated that current parking facilities will meet town needs for the next ten-year period.

## PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

Presently, there is one sidewalk in Cherryfield connecting the commercial and residential areas along Main Street (State Route 193) between its intersection with Route 1 and that with the Willey District Road. To increase the safety of Cherryfield's children, sidewalks are recommended along River Road and School Street, although traffic in the area is minimal and the speed limit is 25. The connection from the bridge on North Street with River Road can be difficult for pedestrians due to vehicle speed and visibility; a crosswalk and improved sidewalk are recommended in this location. Sidewalks are especially recommended along Route 182 in the vicinity of the school where traffic counts and the speed limit are higher and vehicles more likely to speed on the straight stretch of road.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transit facilities are only available at the regional level. The Washington Hancock Community Agency (WHCA) provides transportation to medical appointments for MaineCare recipients (<https://www.whcacap.org/transportation/transportation-assistance.php>). These services are provided to income eligible persons and are typically children in state custody, welfare clients, Medicaid patients with medical appointments, the elderly and disabled, or people needing transportation to Meals for Me. Most of the longer trips are for medical services: shorter trips are to local doctors, pharmacies, and groceries. Users of this service are mostly families living below poverty level, people with mobility limitations, people with one or no available vehicles, and the elderly. WHCA also coordinates a volunteer driver program.

SunRides Community Transit (<https://www.whcacap.org/transportation/public-bus-schedule.php>) is open to the general public for a fee and is free on a first come first served basis for seniors. Also coordinated by WHCA SunRides Community Transit includes a scheduled van



and door-to-door on demand transportation from Cherryfield to Machias, Ellsworth, and Bangor.

West Transportation provides a scheduled bus service for Washington County offers daily service from Calais to Bangor, round trip. Western Washington County communities receive public bus service and social service 52 weeks a year. The Bangor/Calais route operates daily year-round. Pick up points are at various locations throughout the county. For Cherryfield residents the nearest pick-up point is in neighboring Milbridge at the 44 Degrees North Restaurant.

## **AIRPORTS**

There are no airports or public airfields within town. Primary regional airports include:

1. Bangor International Airport, 62 miles distant from the village center, provides national and international commercial passenger and freight services, as well as civil defense operations. 11,441-foot main runway. Car rental services are available.
2. Deblois Flight Strip, off State Route 193, has a 4,500-foot runway but no beacon or fueling services. Last rated by the state in good condition.
3. Eastport Municipal Airport has a 4000-foot runway and provides limited charter and instructional services. Beacon and fueling services. Last rated by the state in good condition.
4. Hancock County - Bar Harbor Airport in Trenton is the nearest airport with regularly scheduled passenger commercial service. In addition to daily commuter service to Boston, Massachusetts, charter service is offered. Car rental services are available. 5,200-foot main runway. Last rated by the state in excellent condition.
5. Machias Valley Airport has a 2909-foot runway and is used by private plane owners and in an emergency, by air ambulance services. Beacon, but no fueling services. Last rated by the state in fair condition.
6. Princeton Municipal Airport has two runways, the larger of which is 3999 feet, and is used primarily by private businesses and recreational fliers. Beacon, but no fueling services. Last rated by the state in fair condition.

## **RAILROAD FACILITIES AND RAIL SERVICES**

Rail service from Bangor East to Calais was discontinued in 1986. A management plan for the Ellsworth-Ayers Junction portion of this line was adopted in 2006 to renovate and preserve the corridor for rail in the event it becomes feasible. In the interim the corridor is being managed as the Downeast Sunrise Trail, a multimodal trail. The East Coast Greenway is a bicycle and walking trail planned to extend from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine, which may use some rail line right-of-ways. There also are efforts to expand freight rail service in Washington County, particularly in the Calais and Eastport areas with connections to the international rail network through Canada. Passenger rail service in the State has been given a boost recently with the reinstatement of passenger service between Boston and Portland with a recent expansion to Brunswick and plans for extension further up the mid-coast.

## **PORTS**

There are no port facilities in our town. The deep water Port of Eastport is the closest port. It has two piers, three berths, with a low tide depth 40 feet, and over 75,000 square feet of covered storage. The outer berth can accommodate a ship up to 900 feet in length. There is also a



recently reconstructed breakwater in Eastport for use by smaller vessels.

## POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>Transportation</b>			
<b>Goal: Encourage, promote and develop efficient and safe transportation facilities that will accommodate the desired growth and economic development.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Prioritize community needs associated with safe, efficient, and optimal use of transportation systems.	Plan for optimum use, construction, maintenance and repair of roads.	Selectmen	Ongoing
	Follow a multi-year road maintenance plan to forecast future allocation of road maintenance funds.	Road Commissioners, Select Board	Ongoing
	Confer with the MaineDOT on projected traffic impacts of proposed major subdivisions. Statute.	Planning Board	Ongoing
Safely and efficiently preserve or improve the transportation system.	Maintain, enact or amend local ordinances as appropriate to address or avoid conflicts with: a. Policy objectives of the Sensible Transportation Policy Act (23 M.R.S.A. §73); b. State access management regulations pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. §704; and c. State traffic permitting regulations for large developments pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. §704-A.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Participate in regional transportation policy development.	Select Board	Ongoing

<b>Transportation</b>			
<b>Goal: Encourage, promote and develop efficient and safe transportation facilities that will accommodate the desired growth and economic development.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Manage land use in ways that maximize the efficiency of the transportation system and minimize vehicle miles traveled.	Work with the MaineDOT and adjacent towns to maximize efficiency of the state or state-aid highway network.	Select Board	Ongoing
Provide a safe, efficient, and adequate transportation network for all types of users.	Continue to incorporate sidewalks and paved shoulders in the Village to ensure the safety of pedestrians.	Road Commissioners, Select Board, MaineDOT	Ongoing
	Maintain, enact or amend ordinance standards for subdivisions and public and private roads to foster transportation-efficient growth patterns and provide for future street and transit connections.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Develop and refine a sign policy to insure coordinated and appropriate signage in the village area, and to direct visitors to the historic district and sites of interest in Cherryfield.	Planning Board, Historical Society	Long Term (Within 5-7 years)

## L. FISCAL CAPACITY

The goal of this section is to help plan for, finance, and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development, without placing an enormous burden on taxpayers. The majority of the financial information for this section was taken from Town reports.

In order to maintain a consistent mil rate year to year, Town government must operate in a manner that is fiscally responsible. Large fluctuations in the tax rate can cause public concern and discourage economic development. Although the priorities of a community may change from one year to another, stable municipal finances are always a fundamental responsibility of Town government. Cherryfield must manage all yearly expenditures while at the same time planning for the community's long-term objectives. As is the case with any business, the physical assets of Cherryfield must be maintained through capital reserve accounts to protect the community's continued economic health.

## VALUATIONS

State law allows full tax exemptions for certain types of property, such as charitable and benevolent, religious, literary, scientific, and governmental. Partial exemptions also exist for veterans of foreign wars or their widows that have not re-married; individuals who are legally blind and homestead exemptions for the homeowner's primary residence. The state does provide some reimbursement to the municipalities for veteran and homestead exemptions. However, in many communities the number of exempt properties is increasing, which decreases the municipal tax base. Since exemptions are established by statute, the Town has virtually no choice but to grant an applicable exemption. Often the Town has little notice that a property will seek exempt status and then must deal with that effect on the upcoming budget. As the amount of these exemptions increases, it becomes difficult for the community to maintain a constant tax rate. The state places a total valuation on the Town, known as the State Valuation.

Year	Valuation \$\$	Cherryfield' Mill Rate History
2010	-	15.00
2011	-	15.50
2012	-	16.70
2013	84650000	19.30
2014	83450000	19.50
2015	87650000	19.58
2016	87950000	19.50
2017	87950000	19.5
2018	87800000	19.5
Source: Town of Cherryfield		

The Maine Revenue Services Property Tax Division reviews annually all arms-length sales in each community. (An arms-length sale is a sale that occurs between a willing seller and a willing buyer without any extenuating circumstances. Examples of non-arms-length sales could be estate sales, interfamily transfers, foreclosure sales, and auctions.) These sales are compared to the Town's local assessed values to determine the assessment ratio or the percentage of market value that the Town is assessing. The state's valuation is used to determine the amount of revenue- sharing the Town will receive and the portion of the county

tax that the municipality will pay.

The state indicates that a town should be revalued at least once in every 10-year period and that a revaluation is required when the assessment ratio falls below 70 percent of market value.

The Town's primary revenue source is the taxation of real property. These taxes are assessed to local property owners according to the fair market value of their property. This assessment is known as the municipal or Town valuation and is determined by the local tax assessor.

## **MIL RATE**

The mil rate was 15.00 in 2010 and 19.5 in 2018. Since the mil rate is a direct result of a mathematical calculation, fluctuations in this rate will occur from year to year if there is a change in the total valuation or the tax commitment. After the Town's budget has been approved and all applicable state and local revenues are deducted from the approved expenditures, the Town arrives at the dollar amount that will be raised through tax revenues. This amount is called the net commitment or appropriation. The local assessor arrives at a valuation for each taxable property and the taxpayers are assessed their share of the tax burden through a mathematical calculation. The total appropriation is then divided by the total taxable or assessed valuation of the Town to arrive at the minimum tax rate. This rate is usually expressed in dollars per thousand-dollars of valuation, or in decimal form, commonly referred to as the mil rate. The difference between the amount that is actually committed to the collector and the total appropriation is called overlay. Overlay is commonly used to pay any tax abatements that are granted during that tax year. Any overlay that remains at the end of the year is usually placed into the general fund. The overlay cannot exceed 5 percent of the total appropriations.

## **MUNICIPAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

### **Revenue**

The table below shows municipal revenues for the years 2012-2018. The bulk of the revenue comes from property taxes. Other sources include excise taxes, State revenue sharing, State school subsidy, interest and State reimbursements for Tree Growth abatements, Veterans' credits and Open Space/Agricultural abatements. While revenues have been stable, state budget changes have strongly affected the funds the State provides to the Town.

The amount, which the State returns to the Town as school subsidy, is determined in part by the State Mandated Valuation. This figure is determined by the State: it is not the assessed value arrived at by the Town Assessors. The State mandates that the total valuation arrived at by the Assessors must be at least 75 % of the State Mandated Valuation. The State Mandated Valuation for 2017 is \$36,050,000.

Intergovernmental revenues consist of road maintenance funds and tree- growth, veteran, homestead and general assistance reimbursements. Departmental revenues are those dollars that are received through departmental user fees, application fees, etc.

<b>Revenues in Dollars</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Local Property Tax	1106124	1497261	1539336	1526926	1481579	1847091	1466686
Vehicle & Boat Excise	176778	197703	193895	214040	210067	208665	215277
State Revenue Sharing	77968	60181	49624	63063	65794	64935	66699
Highway Block Grant/URIP	27552	34376	19746	18990	19044	19300	19696
Tree Growth Reimbursement	6616	6269	7456	7548	7437	7608	7519
Homestead Reimbursement	19110	34954	26662	30953	51671	59486	70140
Vet Reimbursement	1081	1198	1366	1419	1522	1458	1460
General Assistance Reimbursement	0	1143	0	1362	500	0	0
Source: Town of Cherryfield							

### Expenditures

The table below shows municipal expenditures for the years 2012-2018. The total costs are shown without detail. The State Mandated Evaluation affects expenditures, like revenues. This is because the Town's assessment for Washington County costs is computed as the ratio of the Town's mandated assessment to the total mandated assessment for all towns in the county. Also, the cost of insurance for fire protection is based upon the State Mandated Assessment.

<b>Expenditures in Dollars</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Employee Benefits	17694	18228	19782	21166	23432	24570	25280
Administration	91636	95493	96100	95196	98884	136454	145828
Insurance	27886	22858	23742	26971	27283	27283	27855
Municipal Buildings	18265	0	928	29919	19250	3500	3950
Assessing/Revaluation	8520	8520	8700	8700	8700	7200	7200
Fire Department	26237	75685	77623	79838	94045	86919	48293

<b>Expenditures in Dollars</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Code Officer	3050	500	1423	3004	2883	1901	1505
Animal Control	3600	3600	3600	4233	3667	4008	4333
Ambulance	132353	102162	120232	125134	118943	178243	179280
Road Maintenance	257019	367948	291700	429810	282244	318464	351875
Social Service Donations (3rd party)	23250	23255	26547	28492	27650	28050	25500
Solid Waste	119654	116991	122936	129282	124225	126651	141398
County Tax	118639	127587	127690	135120	136309	145219	152190
Source: Town of Cherryfield							

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The comprehensive plan recognizes planned growth and a diverse mix of land uses within the town as an important aspect of fiscal planning. The primary implementation strategy for the fiscal capacity section is the development of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The purpose of a CIP is to establish a framework for financing needed capital improvements. A CIP guides budgeting and expenditures of tax revenues and identifies needs for which alternative sources of funding such as loans, grants or gifts will be sought.

Capital improvements are investments in the repair, renewal, replacement or purchase of capital items that can include equipment and machinery, buildings, real property, utilities and long-term contracts. Capital improvements differ from operating expenses or consumables that are ordinarily budgeted as operations. Capital improvements are funded through the establishment of financial reserves. They generally have an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more, usually do not recur annually, have a useful life of 3 or more years, and result in fixed assets.

For the purpose of this plan, the total costs have been recognized with an indication of the expected time frame for each item that is desired based on priority ratings.

The capital improvements identified below were assigned a priority based on the listed rating system. Logically, “A” improvements would be implemented prior to “B” and so on. A lower priority item may be funded ahead of schedule if higher priority items have already been funded or are prohibitively expensive, or if other sources of revenue (such as donated funds) become available. In order to fund some capital improvements projects, it may be necessary to begin to identify funding sources and set aside funds in advance of the projected time of funding.

- **A** - Immediate need. A capital improvement rated in this category would typically remedy a danger to public health, safety and welfare.



- **B** - Necessary, to be accomplished within 2 to 5 years. A capital improvement rated in this category would typically correct deficiencies in an existing facility or service.
- **C** - Future improvement or replacement, to be accomplished within 5 to 10 years. A capital improvement rated in this category would be desirable but is of no urgency. Funding would be flexible and there would be no immediate problem.
- **D** - Desirable, but not necessarily feasible within the 10- year time frame of the current plan.

Projects previously in this comprehensive plan and existing reserve accounts are the basis for this capital improvement plan and have been incorporated into the table below.

<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – CHERRYFIELD – 2019-2029</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Costs (\$)</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding Sources</b>
Ambulance	240,000	A	Town	Reserve Account & Loan
Ice Control Dam Repairs	50,000-100,000	A	Town	Reserve & Taxation
Salt/Sand Storage Building	25,000	B	Town	Carried Highway Funds
Life Flight Landing Zone	55,000	B	Town	Taxes & Grants, or Both
Generator for Town Office	10,000	B	Town	Taxes & Grants
Backhoe Replacement for Transfer Station	100,000	C	Town	Lease Purchase, Taxation
Public Works Department	300,000-400,000	D	Town	Loans through Taxation
Fire Truck	250,000	D	Town	Loans through Taxation
<i>Source: Town of Cherryfield</i>				

<b>SUGGESTED ADDITIONS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Costs (\$)</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding Sources</b>
Wilson Hill Boat Launch	To be determined	The launch is deteriorated, difficult to use, is only accessible for hand launching, and has very little parking. The launch is adjacent to Weald Bethel nature trails, and in tandem could contribute to a more comprehensive recreation asset.	Town w/WCCOG assistance	Seek SHIP funds through MaineDOT
Downtown River Walk	To be determined	A commonly expressed theme from residents of Cherryfield calls for creation of a formal river walk along both Main Street and River Road. Entails sidewalk	Town, Planning Board, Citizen	Possibly eligible for Bureau of Public Lands Recreational Trail funding.

<b>SUGGESTED ADDITIONS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Costs (\$)</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding Sources</b>
		improvements on Main, and either a sidewalk or improved shoulders on River Road. The walk can be tied in with interpretive panels that describe various historic and environmental treasures around town, such as at Veteran's Memorial Park.	Downtown Committee (to be established)	<p>Eligibility criterion includes:</p> <p>Development and rehabilitation of trail side and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails AND Construction of new recreational trails.</p> <p>The Historical Society and Sunrise Trail Coalition have discussed creating linkages between the Sunrise Trail and the future Train Museum and Welcome Center at the Train Depot - perhaps as comprehensive project it would be eligible for this funding source.</p> <p>MaineDOT Small Harbor Improvement funds may also apply to some of this project as access to water for recreational fishing is eligible.</p>
<i>Source: Cherryfield Comprehensive Planning Committee</i>				

## **FUTURE TRENDS**

### **School Funding**

The Town pays SAD #37 a tax commitment, which is assessed through the SAD #37 School Board and given to our Assessors.

### **Expense Trends**

Several categories of Town expenditures increased or decreased by a somewhat large amount between 2016 and 2017, and remained higher in 2018, as infrastructure investments and service costs have increased or decreased. Increased expenses between 2016 and 2017 occur in Administration, Ambulance, Road Maintenance, and County Tax. Solid Waste expenses increased between 2017 and 2018. Expenses decreased significantly from 2017 to 2018 in Municipal Buildings, and between 2017 and 2018 in Fire Department.

## **PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

Respondents were generally satisfied with municipal and community services, and with the existing conditions of the community. Major areas of discontent exist around the use of tax dollars to repair and maintain community structures and lands, the lack of school, and drug use.

While many survey respondents indicate trails and roads are well cared for, the need for maintenance and improvements are indicated. Pot holes; a wider, more solid, shoulder for running, biking, walking, and ATVs; sidewalks; and street lights in the village were noted as needs to ensure further safety of residents on foot.

Survey respondents agree that emergency and medical services should be shared with neighboring towns. Results show support for other services consolidation to keep town costs down, including town office, recreation, transportation, road maintenance and construction, business services, and the salt sand shed.

## **POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

All new policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix F. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>Fiscal Capacity and Capital Investment Plan</b>			
<b>Goal: Plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.</b>			
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Finance existing and future facilities and services in a cost-effective manner.	Explore opportunities to work with neighboring communities to plan for and finance shared or adjacent capital investments to increase cost savings and efficiencies.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Explore grants available to assist in the funding of capital investments within the community.	Select Board	Short Term (Within 2-5 years) Ongoing

## M. REGIONAL COORDINATION

The purpose of this section is to:

1. Identify the issues, facilities and services that lend themselves to regional cooperation.
2. Describe the extent to which Cherryfield cooperates within the region including opportunities to do more, particularly in ways that can save the Town revenues and support economic development.

Cherryfield is a rural community situated 29 miles east of Ellsworth, 57 miles east of Bangor, 74 miles southwest of Calais, and 27 miles west of the Washington County seat of Machias. Cherryfield shares a border with the towns of Milbridge to the south, Deblois to the north, Harrington to the east, and Unorganized Territories of Hancock County to the west, which are administered by the Maine Land Use Regulatory Commission. Commercial retail activity is limited in Cherryfield. Retail services and employment are sought primarily from larger regional centers in Ellsworth and Machias.

Comprehensive planning recognizes the importance of regional cooperation. The land uses in one community can impact another community, particularly when that land use is located near municipal boundaries. Milbridge and Harrington have locally adopted Comprehensive Plans that are currently consistent with state law. A Regional Plan for the Hancock County Unorganized Territories was adopted in 2016.

Cherryfield has included analyses of regional issues in the areas of:

- Transportation
- Economic development
- Energy use and production
- Housing
- Public facilities
- Natural resources management
- Healthy communities
- Adaptation to climate change

Cherryfield will continue its efforts to create regional coordination policies with nearby communities.

### SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Cherryfield cooperates with multiple towns in the region and will continue to develop compatible regional coordination policies with nearby communities. Cherryfield should investigate additional opportunities to develop and expand regional planning, coordination, and funding partnerships.

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

#### Roads

As a community with limited services and employment, the main artery in Cherryfield, Route 1 serves as a pass-through for freight and commuters as well as a “Main St.” for the town.

Transportation linkages in Cherryfield consist of US Route 1 that cuts across the center of the town in an east-west direction (even though Route 1 is technically a north-south route). Medium-density historic residential and light commercial development occurs in Cherryfield Village where Route 193

intersects with Route 1. Route 193 connects Cherryfield with Route 9 and provides alternate access to Calais and Bangor. Route 182, the Black Woods Road, intersects Cherryfield just outside its village center, and provides alternate access to Ellsworth. Overall, roadways in Cherryfield are in good condition.

Although the population of Washington County has decreased modestly from 1990 to 2010, MDOT states that the total number of vehicle miles traveled in our County has increased by over 13 percent. Most roads are not congested now, but there is a need to protect them from future degradation and the significant taxpayer expense of adding remedial capacity. The Town should ensure that access management standards are used to keep the Level of Service (LOS) on Route 1 from deteriorating.

It is important that Cherryfield continue to participate in regional transportation planning efforts. Municipalities can cooperate with neighboring communities and regional committees. The 2 largest communities in southwestern Washington County –Machias and Milbridge - have particularly significant transportation linkages that are all dependent on a shared labor force, large retail services (in Machias and Ellsworth), regional education and health services, and nearby public commercial waterfront facilities in Milbridge, Addison and Harrington.

Cherryfield has and will continue to participate in regional Corridor Management Planning initiatives including the Downeast Coastal Corridor, the Coastal Canadian Corridor, and the Black Woods and [Bold Coast](#) Scenic Byways Corridors, as outlined in Chapter K. Transportation. These regional corridor-planning initiatives provide opportunity to encourage residential, commercial and industrial development and promote tourism in locations that support local development goals while retaining efficient transportation mobility. Corridor management plans outline appropriate locations for sound access management techniques such as frontage roads, shared driveways, intersections, turning lanes and signals.

A Route 1 Mobility and Safety Analysis prepared by the Washington County Council of Governments in 2007 identifies three primary strategies for separating freight from commuter and tourist traffic including:

- Improved turning access to facilitate separation of commuter and through-traffic
- Additional Scenic pull-offs to facilitate separation of tourist and freight traffic, and
- The addition of passing lanes

Along the approximately 100-mile corridor between Steuben and downtown Calais, the [Route 1 Mobility and Safety Analysis](#) identified **16 locations where roadway improvements for turning access** are needed. This report recommends that MDOT make necessary roadway improvements for turning access at all 16 identified locations. The study also identified **11 potential sites for scenic pull-outs** to facilitate separation of tourist and freight traffic; and **26 potential locations for passing lanes**. This report recommends development of four additional scenic pull-outs; and at least four passing lanes in each direction. Need for a passing lane was identified on the “Harrington Stretch” of Route 1 in Cherryfield (see maps at <http://www.wccog.net/transportation-planning.htm>).

### Trails

Regionally connected trails include both ATV and snowmobile trails. Volunteers in Cherryfield and nearby clubs help to maintain these trails.



The [Down East Sunrise Trail](#) (DEST) is an 87-mile regional trail, inaugurated in sections starting in 2009 for multiple users including bicyclists, walkers, equestrians, ATV riders, snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. Following the former Calais Branch railway corridor, it forms an east-west corridor to which numerous other snowmobile and ATV trails connect, and it is the longest off-road section of the [East Coast Greenway](#) (which runs from Keywest, Florida to Calais. The Sunrise Trail crosses through downtown Cherryfield from Steuben along the Narraguagus River and then parallels US Route 1 North into Harrington.

Efforts are underway to connect regional trails statewide and promote Maine as a premier outdoor recreation destination. The Down East Sunrise Trail and Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, which directly connect with downtown Cherryfield, are both considered regional trails of importance in these statewide outdoor recreation connections.

### **Public Transportation**

Cherryfield has limited public transportation options. West's Bus Service offers daily round trip service from Calais to Bangor with nearby stops in Columbia and Milbridge. The Washington Hancock Community Agency (WHCA) provides scheduled van and door-to-door on demand transportation for clients referred to them by the State of Maine Department of Human Services - income-eligible clients, children in state custody, welfare clients, Medicaid patients with medical appointments, the elderly and disabled, or people needing transportation to Meals for Me. Less than six percent of the current ridership is unsubsidized fare-paying customers. The average worker cannot use Sun Rides as a commuter service, because:

- a) General-public riders are taken on a space-available basis only, so even a ride scheduled well in advance will be bumped if the transit vehicle is at capacity with contracted clients;
- b) Unsubsidized fares are too high for low-wage workers to use the service on a daily basis; and
- c) Demand-response systems serve some rural communities just one day a week, with fluctuating departure and arrival times.

### **Workforce Transportation**

The sporadic nature of demand-response service eliminates public transit as an option for rural workers with inflexible hours, shift workers, and those with on-call or overtime work responsibilities.

West's Transportation is an incorporated firm that has adopted a public-private partnership model. Ridership on West's Transportation routes is a mix of general public and contracted agency clients. It receives federal transit funding to operate a daily fixed-route schedule of public service between Calais and Bangor and back via US-1 and US-1A, and it also markets its services to social service agencies.

Fixed-route transit service is a much more predictable and reliable transportation mode for rural workers, and many workers would be willing to spend an hour or more of commute time each morning and evening in return for predictable and reliable daily transportation. However, West's current fixed routes and schedules are too limited to accommodate the average 8-to-5 workers, let alone those on shift work or non-standard schedules.

As currently configured, neither WHCA's Sun Rides service nor West Transportation's fixed-route

service adequately meet the needs of the rural workforce in Washington County.

### **Transit Improvements**

Innovative strategies and practices could greatly enhance the current level of service for all transit operations in Washington County, particularly in their capacity to serve working-age adults. The current emphasis on agency-contracted clients can be attributed to a chronically inadequate federal transit funding formula, offset by fairly generous contract reimbursement incentives that help to ensure the availability of rides for social service agency clients.

At present, the “public” best served by the rural public transportation system is a very narrow subset of the total population. This is true all over the United States, not just in Washington County. However, other transit agencies have found ways of increasing their efficiency and ridership that might work in Washington County – if the agencies delivering transit services are willing to undergo changes to their current operations in return for potential increases in ridership and efficiency. Several alternative service ideas from other places are summarized below. They all have some potential to expand access to public transportation and workforce development in Washington County.

- “Fixed-schedule” service – combines the convenience of demand-response service with a published daily schedule, making it more predictable and reliable for general public riders
- Immediate-response “Dial-A-Ride” service (works best as a community-based system in relatively compact population centers, with a strong local volunteer base if volunteer drivers are used)
- Establish transit stops at formal and informal “Park and Ride” lots
- Ride-sharing and vanpooling programs, often using GIS to match drivers to riders; some vanpool programs are “self-organized” by a group of employees living in the same general area
- Innovative use of transit scheduling software
- Child-oriented transit service: hire a transit attendant to escort young children on rides to daycare/school/appointments, thus allowing the parent(s) to work
- Dues-paying, 24-7 non-profit ride service with incentives for pre-scheduling, flexible scheduling, and shared rides; successfully operating in Portland and surrounding communities (eg. <http://www.gomaine.org/>)
- Provide easy-load bike racks on ALL vehicles in the public transit fleet.

### **Airports**

There are no municipal airports in Cherryfield. Primary regional airports include:

1. Deblois Flight Strip, off State Route 193, has a 4,000-foot runway but no beacon or fueling services. Last rated by the state in poor condition.
2. Machias Valley Airport has a 2909-foot runway and is used by private plane owners and in an emergency, by air ambulance services. Beacon, but no fueling services. Last rated by the state in good condition.
3. Hancock County - Bar Harbor Airport in Trenton is the nearest airport with regularly scheduled passenger commercial service. In addition to daily commuter service to Boston, Massachusetts, charter service is offered. Car rental services are available. 5,200-foot main runway.
4. Bangor International Airport provides national and international commercial passenger and freight services, as well as civil defense operations. 11,441-foot main runway. Car rental

services are available.

### **Railroad Facilities and Rail Services**

Abandoned rail lines across Washington County are generally in poor condition as passenger service stopped nearly fifty years ago and freight service stopped in the mid-1980s. The 87-mile Downeast Sunrise Trail is now located on the exempt Calais Branch rail line from Ellsworth to Ayers Junction. Although rail was removed to construct the trail, the Management Plan for the Calais Branch specifies that if rail becomes a feasible use of the corridor, then the Downeast Sunrise Trail will no longer be the primary use of the corridor.

Efforts to expand freight rail service in Washington County are not over, particularly in the Calais and Eastport areas, which have connections to the (formerly) PanAM railroad lines that cross into Canada and back into Maine to reach the western part of the state.

### **Ports**

There are no port facilities in Cherryfield. Boating facilities at the Milbridge Town Marina, located at the mouth of Narraguagus Bay, include a pier and boat ramp. Recreational and commercial fishermen frequently use the Town Marina, and facilities are in good condition, however, its usefulness as a commercial port is minimal.

The deep water Port of Eastport at Estes Head, 71 miles west of Cherryfield, is of critical importance to current and future economic activity in the region. Eastport has the greatest natural depth of water of any port on the east coast of the United States and as the easternmost port in the United States, is significantly closer to Europe. With 100 feet of water on approach channels, 64 feet of water at the pier at low tide and more than sufficient space to turn the largest ships afloat, Eastport is uniquely positioned and naturally endowed to accommodate any size vessel existing or planned.

## **REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

Cherryfield is tied into the regional economy of Washington County (and to some extent, Hancock County). Cherryfield residents obtain goods and services from service center communities like Milbridge, Machias, and, Ellsworth. Residents also rely on these centers for employment. Thus, their wellbeing is tied to fluctuations in the entire region's economy.

As noted in Chapter G. Employment and Economy, the overwhelming majority of Cherryfield residents (from 2002-2015) jobs employing both those who live in Cherryfield and those who come into town to work have fallen since from 274 in 2002 to 230 in 2015. More people are employed outside of the town with an overall decrease from 368 in 2002 to 332 in 2015. The largest employers are in the blueberry industry, in the provision and distribution of fuels, in the supply of building materials, and in educational and social services.

### **Brownfields Assessment and Redevelopment**

A regional driver of economic renewal comes from the Washington County Brownfields Assessment program that has operated since 2009 with a regional advisory committee and USEPA Brownfields Assessment funds through the Washington County Council of Governments (<http://www.wccogbrownfields.com>). Brownfields are defined as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a

hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Since 2009 the Washington County Brownfields Program has conducted site assessments on over 30 properties throughout Washington County. Redevelopment/reuse is complete on 20 of those sites and several more are under active redevelopment. There is a pending inventory of at least another 50 sites. By definition Brownfields assessment is needed on properties with a commercial/industrial history, which are often in the very best locations for redevelopment; they are located in downtown centers, near existing infrastructure, at the junction of arterial highways, in historic structures, and on municipal waterfronts. Redevelopment of abandoned residential, commercial, and industrial properties fosters a sense of vibrancy, promotes diversity, and expands the experience of community. Infill erases signs of emptiness and decay, and allows existing natural areas to continue providing forest products, wildlife habitat, land for sports and recreation, and a continued sense of a rural landscape.

### **Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

To better represent natural economies. Washington and Aroostook Counties are combined as one Economic Development District, called the Aroostook Washington Economic Development District (AWEDD). The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that is required for all EDDs was completed in July of 2013. A new CEDS is being developed for adoption in the spring of 2018. The previous five-year CEDS can be downloaded on the GROWashington-Aroostook web site here: <http://gro-wa.org/region-wide-resources>.

The AWEDD has great potential to leverage its natural resource base and environment, its hardworking people, its proximity to Canada and Europe, and its inherent economic resiliency; and its regional leaders are committed to reversing the economic and social decline of the past three decades.

The biggest challenge facing the AWEDD is workforce related, due to the loss of population. Aroostook and Washington counties have been trending downward in population, median age, median household income and percentage of total population in the workforce for the past four decades. All of these issues are directly related to the continuing out-migration of young working-age people (20-44-year-olds) from the region that results in 1) loss of business due to recruitment issues, 2) less entrepreneurship, and 3) loss of services (healthcare and schools, most directly). Immediate actions need to be taken to retain our young people and lure others to the region; and it must be an initiative that includes and engages all aspects of our communities— business, educational and governmental.

Mobilize Maine, an asset-based strategic planning process, offers an effective process for accomplishing positive change by engaging local and regional business leaders to establish measurable goals that are linked to assets (natural, business and human resources), job creation, and business expansion from within the region. Business, municipal and non-profit leaders have the capacity to lead economic change if it is based on regional assets that are in our control. Using the Mobilize Maine process, the 2013 CEDS for the AWEDD has identified economic sectors that offer the best opportunity and business activities in those sectors that will improve wages and create new jobs to achieve the goals of the strategy. AWEDD's priority industry sectors are:

- Alternative Energy

- Manufacturing
- Diversified Agriculture
- Forest Resources
- Tourism
- Marine Resources

A selection of Opportunities and Challenges that drive the CEDS regional vision are:

Opportunities:

- ☐ Active international border with Canada that offers significant economic opportunity for business expansion and cross-cultural engagement.
- ☐ Expanded shipping opportunities at the Port of Eastport
- ☐ Available tillable cropland, much of it suitable for organic use.
- ☐ Expanding and diversifying value-added wood products
- ☐ Utilization of renewable and alternative energy resources - wind, tidal, biomass and compressed natural gas.
- ☐ Expanding value-added processing of crop and marine resources.
- ☐ Expanded utilization of higher education resources.
- ☐ Light manufacturing at former Cutler Naval Station.

Challenges:

- ☐ Lowering energy costs for business and industry.
- ☐ Broadband availability/access to high speed internet.
- ☐ Mitigating distance to market through more effective/efficient transportation.
- ☐ Limitations on ability to support more businesses/service providers.
- ☐ Lack of business acumen and entrepreneurial training and assistance.

## **REGIONAL ENERGY ISSUES – USE AND PRODUCTION**

Energy use and production issues are intimately related to the economic health of the region. The Findings and Recommendations of the Down East Maine Renewable Energy Working Group<sup>1</sup> (January, 2014) summarized a 6-month exploration of renewable energy issues.

The Renewable Energy Working Group assumed that expanded investment and deployment of renewable energy, if found to be cleaner and more affordable than existing fuels and systems, would benefit Maine residents, who currently rely on fossil fuels for heat and electricity to a much greater extent than the average American or the average New Englander. The report examined investments, challenges, and opportunities – real and anticipated – in relation to renewable power, its sources, networks, mechanical systems, costs, and workforce requirements.

The topics arising most consistently, urgently, and persuasively throughout all these investigations concerned the linked challenges of front-end transition costs, market distortion, and fair policy frameworks. In particular, these issues were recurrent in relation to expanded deployment of renewable energy in Down East Maine:

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<sup>1</sup> Calame, Jon and Woodworth, Asher. January, 2014. Down East Maine Renewable Energy Working Group: Findings and Recommendations Report. Available at: <http://www.gro-wa.org/down-east-maine-renewable-energy-report>

1. status quo is full of liabilities, full of opportunities: existing conditions in Down East Maine's energy sector are problematic due to high reliance on non-renewable fuels (which creates a statewide path dependency), prevalence of fuel poverty, home energy affordability gaps, excess winter morbidity, investment efficiency gaps, and market failures; at the same time, renewable assets are unusually high on a per capita basis, with new employment potential dovetailing with ailing traditional industries.
2. lack of equitable, consistent, and predictable regulation: when there is a perception of imbalance or caprice, investors can lose confidence and startups cannot attract the affordable capital they need.
3. new incentives for new energy markets: feed-in tariffs are viewed as an important tool with which to approach price-parity between incumbents and newcomers in the renewable energy marketplace, providing the funding and stability that support comprehensive development strategies.
4. reliable and affordable access to capital for installation, transition & retrofit: front-end industry investments in alternative energy technologies bring unit prices "multiples above market" in relation to incumbent energy sources, sending a discouraging message about investment in renewables.
5. uniform metrics for impacts & pricing: without apples-to-apples yardsticks for the full cost, success, impact of alternative energy, foggy decision-making precludes long-term policies and investments.
6. prohibitive transaction costs: insufficient information about options coupled with a lack of time and energy to investigate them; absence of trustworthy (neutral) technical guidance
7. low workforce capacity: even if investment were high, Down East Maine currently lacks the technical workforce (and capacity-building potential) to support large-scale energy transition to renewables.

Associated with production of renewable energy is the issue of affordable heat for low-income households. As of 2011, Maine's overall energy consumption was 26<sup>th</sup> in the country (at approximately 311m BTU per capita annually), but the cost of that energy ranked much higher – at 10<sup>th</sup> in country (approximately \$5,508 per capita annually, amounting to 14% of Mainers' personal income on average and a statewide expenditure of \$7.32b for the year).<sup>2</sup>

Since Maine residents have household incomes generally well below the national average, these figures spell out a painful picture: those with less to spend actually spend more per unit of energy. Maine's reliance on heating oil contributes to energy insecurity, exposes consumers to price volatility, wastes resources on long-distance fuel transport, and constitutes a large annual net export of wealth out of the state and, in large part, out of the country.

## REGIONAL HOUSING ISSUES

Housing challenges in Washington County are related to the age of the housing stock as well as the age and income of the population. It is more cost effective and preferred by elders to stay in their

<sup>2</sup> US EIA Maine state profile based on 2011 data.



homes. However, older housing (71% is pre-1979) is often in disrepair; many houses are large with inefficient thermal heating and insulation. Rental housing is not affordable for low-income persons, especially young families who pay a disproportionate percentage of their income for rent. And there are quality issues for all income levels that are also related to the age of the housing stock.

There is a “Catch-22” in relation to subsidized housing. There are an insufficient number of vouchers in relation to need and those that are available can expire due to a common inability to find adequate housing that meets the standard for a voucher given the short (30 day) timeframe allowed to find the rental. In addition, landlords are deciding not to accept vouchers because of the requirements to upgrade the housing (also related to age of housing stock). If housing is found, there is often a mismatch between its location and that of the tenants’ place of employment. Low-income persons do not often have a reliable vehicle for a long commute.

Homelessness is known on an anecdotal basis but existing measures do not adequately document those who “couch-surf”, double up with families in homes built for single-family occupancy, or live in sub-standard structures (such as seasonal camps and mobile campers) Finally, and also related to the age of the housing stock, many homes are unhealthy due to lead paint and mold.

Housing is primarily an issue measured and planned for on a town-by-town basis. However, the needs of certain populations, like seniors and those who may need an institutional setting, are often served at the regional scale. The needs of and programs for elderly housing are discussed at length in Chapter. H Housing. Funding for housing assistance, whether for new construction or rehabilitation, is also provided at a regional scale. For a detailed list of options that could be applied to Cherryfield, visit the sustainable housing page of the GroWashington Aroostook website at: <http://gro-wa.org/sustainable-housing.htm>.

As an example, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Assistance programs are primarily channeled through regional Community Action Program agencies like the Washington Hancock Community Agency (WHCA). The CDBG program requires applicants for housing assistance funds to demonstrate that they have the capacity to administer the program either through municipal staff that are certified/qualified as general/rehab administrator or through a completed procurement process. To reach this threshold, small towns must often work together as a region or seek assistance from agencies like WHCA.

## **REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES**

Cherryfield encompasses the main stem of the tidal and freshwater reaches of the Narraguagus River as well as the entirety of its West Branch above the area known as “the crotch”. Cherryfield also contains the middle watershed of the Narraguagus River and portions of its tributaries, Schoodic Brook and large wetland complexes at the head of several small brooks. There are small portions of the northern edge of the Pleasant Bay Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance and the eastern edge of the Tunk Lake Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance within Cherryfield. Large wetland complexes associated with all of these watersheds support many rare species and natural communities. Upland areas in Cherryfield are a matrix of forestlands and heaths with several large blueberry-producing areas. There are many brooks, streams and wetlands associated with these lakes, as well as a wide diversity of aquatic and terrestrial species mostly described in the Natural Resources Chapter.

Natural resources in Cherryfield and neighboring towns are protected through a variety of federal, state and municipal regulations and through public and private land conservation efforts. Existing regulatory and non-regulatory protection are largely sufficient to protect critical natural resources in Cherryfield.

The richest wildlife diversity in Cherryfield is avian. Of special significance are the Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Estuary Bur-marigold, and the Salt-Hay Saltmarsh natural communities, the Tunk Lake Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance, Canada Mountain-ricegrass (*Oryzopsis canadensis*) along the banks of the Narraguagus mainstem, Estuary Bur-marigold (*Bidens hyperborean*) along the banks of the Narraguagus estuary, and Mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) along the border with the town of Columbia. Deer wintering areas are mapped north of the village area east of the Narraguagus River and along the eastern border of Cherryfield where it abuts the towns of Columbia and Harrington.

These special habitat areas and species are depicted on maps provided by the Beginning with Habitat program and are fully described in the publications provided in PDF format in their data package provided to the Town.

Multiple layers of regulatory and non-regulatory protection are in place for most of the significant habitat in Cherryfield and neighboring communities. In addition to state and federal permitting, activities occurring near identified inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat are governed under the jurisdiction of Cherryfield Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Cherryfield should, in partnership with neighboring communities, consult periodically with biologists from the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to review the status of the regional populations of bald eagles.

## **REGIONAL PUBLIC FACILITIES ISSUES**

Cherryfield has its own volunteer ambulance service, with six volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs). The service is available for residents and provides 24-hour coverage. Washington County dispatch provides the dispatching services.

The Cherryfield Fire Station is located near downtown on Route 182, and includes about 29 volunteers with no full-time members. Cherryfield has mutual aid agreements with the surrounding towns of Milbridge, Steuben and Deblois.

Police protection is provided by the Washington County Sheriffs' Office and the State Police. The County Sheriff's Office provides the dispatching services for emergency services.

Cherryfield has no highway department but provides both winter and summer road maintenance by contracting for these services.

The Town has no public water or sewer system.

The residents take their trash to the transfer station/recycling facility. Cherryfield has a charter waste disposal agreement with the waste-to-fuel recycling facility, Fiberright.

Outdoor recreation opportunities available to the public in Cherryfield include snowmobiling and ATV riding, hunting and fishing, paddling, and nature viewing/photography. Regional recreation facilities accessible to residents throughout the region include the Downeast Sunrise Trail and Narraguagus River.

A range of outpatient health-care services is available to Cherryfield and nearby communities through Eastport Health Care, Inc. with locations in Eastport, Machias and Calais. Services include medical, dental and behavioral healthcare. Cherryfield residents and those in surrounding communities also travel to Machias, Ellsworth and Bangor to access other health care and medical services.

Cherryfield does not have an animal control facility, however, they contract with an animal control officer on an on-call, stipend basis. The Ark Animal Shelter is located in Cherryfield.

The Cherryfield Elementary School operates within MSAD 37, which includes the towns of Addison, Cherryfield, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington, and Milbridge. Cherryfield pays the tuition, which averages around \$10,000 annually per student.

Students from Cherryfield get to choose where they attend school. There are currently 149 students enrolled in the Cherryfield Elementary K-8 School. As of January 2019, Middle School and High School students from Cherryfield attend Machias High (4 students from Cherryfield), Washington Academy (3 students) and Narraguagus High (46 students).

The Cherryfield Free Public Library contracts with the Cherryfield Elementary School to provide the school with library services.

## **REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Washington County Emergency Management operates under the Maine & Federal Emergency Management Agencies—MEMA & FEMA—and is also under the authority of the county commissioners. Emergency Management offers Washington County communities a central source for emergency preparedness information and training. Emergency Management works with each community's local emergency management director to help deliver vital services in case of a large-scale emergency. Although Cherryfield has some basic emergency information available to the public, they rely on the County EMA to assist citizens with immediate or long-range emergency management tactics.

## **REGIONAL LAND USE ISSUES**

Comprehensive planning recognizes the importance of regional cooperation. The land uses in one community can impact another community, particularly when that land use is located near the municipal boundaries. As indicated in the natural resources section of the plan, the Town should attempt to develop compatible resource protection standards with nearby communities.

Cherryfield shares a border with the towns of Milbridge, Deblois, Harrington, and the Unorganized Territories of T10 and T18 and in Hancock County. Proposed land use districts are consistent with the existing pattern of development in neighboring communities as well as the communities' Future

## Land Use Plans.

Cherryfield should continue to regularly coordinate with neighboring communities on a variety of issues, including land use, through participation in the Washington County Council of Governments, Washington Hancock Community Agency, and other regional groups.

## REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

A coordinated effort between Washington, Aroostook, and Hancock Counties is underway to develop and implement solutions to reduce the incidence of preventable chronic disease throughout the region. These efforts are spearheaded by Healthy Acadia and Healthy Aroostook. A primary focus is to increase access to and availability of both local food and opportunities for exercise.

**Desired outcomes** are summarized as follows:

- Reduction in the incidence of preventable chronic disease throughout the region
- Increased access/availability to local food;
- Improved access to recreational assets providing opportunities for healthy exercise;

Additional public health goals for the Healthy Maine Partnership serving the region, include:

- Reduce, prevent and manage substance abuse; increase awareness of its impacts and provide healthy alternatives.
- Improving access to the full continuum of affordable health care services.

Initiatives to achieve these solutions currently underway in Washington County include several focus areas: access to physical activity, access to transportation, access to healthy foods and a wide range of outreach programs provided by Healthy Acadia.

### Active Communities

Regular physical activity is an essential part of improving health and wellbeing. People who are moderately or vigorously active lower their risk of high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke, Type 2 diabetes, colon and breast cancer, and osteoporosis. Regular physical activity can also significantly improve mental health. Exercise can sharpen thinking, learning and judgment skills, reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, and help us sleep better.

Fewer than half of all Americans get the physical activity they need to provide health benefits and 25% of adults are not active at all in their leisure time. In Maine only 23.7% of youth get the recommended level of exercise (60 minutes per day) and only 56% of Maine adults get the recommended levels of physical activity (30 minutes, 5 times per week).

Physical activity does not have to be strenuous and highly time-consuming to be beneficial. As an example, for adults, walking 30 minutes 5 times a week can benefit health and wellbeing. For youth, participating in school sports, engaging in after school activities, or walking to school can provide the recommended exercise to promote health and wellbeing.

### Transportation for Health

Access to Transportation is a significant challenge in rural communities. Lack of transportation can be

an obstacle to reaching needed health and social service appointments as well as employment and other services. Significantly more detail on this issue is provided above in the section on Regional Transportation Issues - Public Transportation.

### Local Food Systems

Washington County is described by USDA as a “[food desert](#)”, a term that comes from the Food Access Research Atlas of the USDA (<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas>). In a food desert “those with low incomes have limited access to supermarkets, supercenters, grocery stores, **or other sources of healthy and affordable food**” (Emphasis added). However, the two Census Tracts (9551, 9559) in Washington County where these criteria are met include only our large depopulated areas and account for only 18% of our population.

Countywide there are indeed many low-income households, also many with inadequate transportation that limits access to fresh food. However, 82% of the population resides in the census tracts NOT deemed a “food desert” and 56% of low-income households reside in the service centers where the existing supermarkets, supercenters and grocery stores are located.

Furthermore, the USDA Food Access Research Atlas does not fully reflect data on “other sources of healthy and affordable food” in Washington County. And Washington County has a great deal of great food. The **Washington County Local Foods Map** posted at <http://www.gro-wa.org/wcfood> depicts over *80 farms, several active farmers markets and buying clubs, producers and retailers of local specialty food, and abundant seafood*. There is an active local food movement in Washington County that is growing within the county and reaching out to the rest of the state to support a regional (Maine and New England) food system.

In the face of this potential plenty we do indeed have significant **food security** issues mostly as a result of the high rates of poverty. Food pantries report that demand outstrips supply, yet also report difficulty in distributing fresh vegetables. Many do not have the experience or knowledge of preparing whole, fresh foods for consumption. In response pantry organizers provide classes on whole food cooking. The 11” by 17” poster of Food Pantry and Community Meal Sites shown at right can be downloaded from the GROWashington Aroostook web site here: <http://www.gro-wa.org/washington-county-food-pantries>.

In addition to increased health, building the local foods infrastructure has powerful economic implications. Not only do local dollars stay in the economy, new dollars arrive and bring jobs and business opportunities, providing the resources needed for equal access for all.

- Healthy Maine Partnership Programming - The programs of Healthy Acadia that reach out to youth and adults span the public health spectrum. They are provided at a regional scale as well as to individual municipalities and schools; they include:
- Tobacco Cessation and Substance Abuse Prevention - tobacco-free and tobacco cessation programs work to reduce exposure of children to second hand smoke, raise awareness of prevention assistance programs, provide tobacco-free policy for public events, and increase the number of retailers adhering to Maine NoButs! Program that limits tobacco sales to minors. Likewise, businesses and law enforcement collaborate on strategies to reduce

underage drinking; schools, parents and businesses support open discussion of risks associated with under-age or binge drinking.

- Farm and Food programs – Farm to School including curriculum outreach, vermiculture, recipe and menu planning for school cafeterias; FoodCorps service leadership; support to the Food Pantry network; greenhouse materials & construction at discounted prices; support in the formation of a regional food council and healthy eating initiatives.
- Nutrition programs – We Can! (Ways to Enhance Children’s Activity & Nutrition) public education; SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) providing nutrition and cooking classes for residents receiving SNAP benefits; 5-2-1-0 Let’s Go to encourage kids and families to eat 5 servings of fruit and vegetables, 2 hours or less of recreational screen time, 1 hour or more of physical activity and 0 sugary drinks.
- Living Well programs – worksite wellness; Keep Me Well health assessment tool; Screen Washington County to increase awareness and actual screening for colon cancer; free Breathe Easy signs to reduce exposure to second hand smoke; Tobacco Free Pledge resources; Healthy Homes information on lead exposure, testing and education on symptoms of high lead blood levels; information on trails in the region.
- Youth programs – Washington County: One Voice youth coalition; Jobs for Maine Graduates profiles; Downeast Teen Leadership Camp for students entering grades 7,8, and 9
- School and Community programs – Coordinated School Health Program, an 8 part program to improve kids health and capacity to learn; Transportation Infrastructure and access to Quality Health Care including collaborating with regional partners to improve transit options and publication of a Transportation Services Guide; Annual October Turkey-A-Thon to raise funds for the Food Pantries.

## REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

Climate change - change in the long-term broad patterns of weather - is happening in Maine. It is well documented<sup>3</sup> by more frequent and stronger storm events, higher tides, hotter summers, greater precipitation, shifting ranges of plant and animal species, expanded ranges of southern pests and disease, rising sea levels and acidification of the waters of the Gulf of Maine.

The short and long-term impacts associated with climate change are significant and far-reaching.

- Storm severity and frequency has and will continue to cause flooding, erosion and property damage.
- Sea levels will rise at an accelerated rate and threaten coastal infrastructure including roads, rail, working waterfronts, water and sewage treatment plants and many downtown centers.
- The temperature and salinity of the Gulf of Maine is reducing the productivity of the entire aquatic food chain with significant declines in zooplankton and stresses on shellfish.

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<sup>3</sup> *Maine’s Climate Future* An Initial Assessment; February, 2009. University of Maine; [People and Nature Adapting to a Changing Climate - Charting Maine’s Course, February, 2010](#) – a Summary of the Report Presented by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources of the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature



- Pest species like Lyme disease-bearing ticks are reaching further north as winters become milder.
- Agricultural production is threatened with both drought and extreme precipitation as well as new pests and pathogens with expanded ranges and survival.
- The forest products industry might benefit from higher growth rates for some species. However a longer mud season and shorter periods of hard freeze will reduce harvest opportunity and large shifts in species composition (from insect, disease, or dieback) could ripple across the forest products industry.
- The public health impacts are also a concern, particularly for the elderly or infirm, as extreme temperatures increase risk of heat stroke and, during coastal flooding, isolation from services or emergency response.
- Natural systems also face loss of wetlands and wildlife are exposed to exotic species and temperature-related stress.

Some changes may bring more tourism to Maine; increase forest productivity (and carbon sequestration), and increased variety and security in food production.

### **Climate Vulnerability Assessment**

Climate vulnerability assessment (CVA) is a collection of tools and analyses used to understand how we are vulnerable or resilient in terms of impacts on people, infrastructure, public health, natural systems, and the economy. It asks what systems, species, populations, entities, facilities and infrastructure are most vulnerable to expected climatic changes, often depending on factors such as exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. Geographic information systems (GIS) mapping tools are a powerful means of:

- a. visualizing our vulnerability,
- b. recognizing the gaps in our understanding of our vulnerability, and
- c. focusing our efforts on gathering necessary information and preparing for risk and change.

In the fall of 2013, the Washington County Council of Governments, working in cooperation with the University of Maine at Machias GIS Service Center presented a series of town- and bay-specific climate vulnerability assessments (CVAs) that anticipate a variety of storm impact scenarios. The GIS Service Center adapted the Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model, a computerized numerical model developed by the National Weather Service (NWS)<sup>4</sup> to estimate storm surge heights resulting from historical, hypothetical, or predicted hurricanes by taking into account atmospheric pressure, size, forward speed, and track data. The SLOSH model is applied to a specific locale's shoreline, incorporating the unique bay and river configurations, water depths, bridges, roads, levees and other physical features.

The bay-specific CVAs were based on SLOSH model output of a hypothetical but entirely plausible hurricane that makes landfall in Penobscot Bay.

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<sup>4</sup> According to the NWS, the surge height predictions from the SLOSH model are accurate to within +/-20% for storms that follow the track and force patterns within the model. National Weather Service Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) Model. 2013. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/surge/slosh.php>

These CVAs included Cherryfield and can be downloaded here: <http://gro-wa.org/washington-county-climate-change-response>. The coastal CVAs are made possible by the recent (2012) acquisition of LiDAR (light detection and ranging) elevation data. The flights and analysis that provide this very high-resolution elevation data are very expensive. As a result, they are only available along the immediate coast of Washington County.

### **Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts**

There is a range of adaptation responses that landowners, businesses, and municipalities can take to limit exposure to our vulnerabilities. These include:

#### **For storm adaptation:**

- Evacuation and shelter planning including in real time
- Establish communications protocol between UMM-GIS Service Center Director and County EMA Director to Ensure real time scenario development in event of actual predicted hurricane in the Gulf of Maine
- Pre-position equipment to areas that may be cut off during a storm
- Map house bound and elderly residents; add to Climate Vulnerability Assessment

#### **For roads, bridges and transportation:**

- Inventory transportation infrastructure
- Participate and update culvert mapping inventory of Washington County Council of Governments
- Keep sand & salt piles above flood levels
- Improve stormwater capacity
- Improve culverts, flow under causeways
- Evaluate substructure of roadways most vulnerable to inundation and upgrade where necessary

#### **For municipal officials:**

- Limit building in flood prone areas using on-line mapping tools provided by Washington County Council of Governments (<http://www.gro-wa.org/planners-maps>)
- Adopt construction codes for coastal properties
- Maintain wetlands and floodplains to absorb flood waters

#### **For Public Health:**

- Plan for heat emergencies
- Distribute education about pest borne illnesses especially Lyme disease;
- Translate health advisories into Spanish and Passamaquoddy
- Assist elders and low income households with air conditioning/cooling

#### **For any and all concerned:**

- Train all personnel on use of on-line scenario mapping tool
- Always document impacts from severe storms ([Damage and Injury Assessment AKA “Form 7”](#) & photos) to ensure County EMA officials can assemble documentation of regional storm impacts to reach Federal Disaster Declaration thresholds

## POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix 6. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>REGIONAL COORDINATION</b>			
<b>Goal: Contribute to the regional connection and health of Washington County by cooperating on the delivery of regional services and endeavoring to achieve economies of scale where feasible.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Cooperate on the delivery of regional services and endeavor to achieve economies of scale where feasible.	Cooperate on the delivery of regional services and endeavor to achieve economies of scale where feasible.	Select Board	
	Seek out cooperative means of reducing regional administrative costs for the school district and delivery of public services.	Select Board, School Board	On-going
Participate in regional organizations that provide technical assistance and information about business support and regional economic development opportunities.	Maintain membership in the Washington County Council of Governments and participation in the Sunrise County Economic Council.	Select Board	On-going
Coordinate Columbia Falls' land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts.	Meet with neighboring communities to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies	Select Board, Planning Board	On-going
Cooperate with neighboring communities and regional/local advocacy groups to protect important natural resources.	Participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect and, where warranted, improve water quality.	Select Board	
	Initiate and/or participate in inter-local and/or regional planning, management, and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical and important natural resources	Select Board	
	Pursue public/private partnerships to protect critical	Select Board	

<b>REGIONAL COORDINATION</b>			
<b>Goal: Contribute to the regional connection and health of Washington County by cooperating on the delivery of regional services and endeavoring to achieve economies of scale where feasible.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	and important natural resources such as through purchase of land or easements from willing sellers.		
	Include agriculture, commercial forestry operations, and land conservation that supports them in regional economic development plans.	Select Board, Planning Board	
	Participate in regional economic development planning efforts.	Select Board	
	Participate in regional affordable and workforce housing efforts.	Select Board	On-going
Coordinate with regional development corporations and surrounding towns as necessary to support desired economic development.	Support local and regional affordable/workforce housing and transportation development.	Select Board	On-going
Cooperate in the development of regional land use and transportation policy.	Continue to support regional transportation goals and needs as identified by the MaineDOT, Washington County Council of Governments, and other regional organizations.	Select Board	On-going
	Coordinate land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts and to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing

## **N. LAND USE**

### **PURPOSE**

It is the purpose of this section to:

1. Identify and understand the uses of land throughout Cherryfield in terms of the amounts and location of land generally devoted to various land use classifications;
2. Identify and understand changes in Cherryfield's land use patterns and how they might reflect future land use patterns; and
3. Identify land areas suitable and unsuitable as the primary locations for the growth and development predicted for the next ten years.

Final decisions on land use are based upon the information found in the inventory and analysis within the preceding sections of this comprehensive plan. Existing land use patterns - historical, recent and current - are reviewed and anticipated into the future. The recommended land use plan is shaped by this analysis and by the inventory and policies from each section of the comprehensive plan.

### **SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS**

Cherryfield contains approximately 44.8 square miles of flat land to rolling hills, with elevations ranging from sea level to 300-400 feet. Approximately 7,000 acres are under cultivation for blueberries. The Narraguagus River Estuary reaches the head of tide between the two bridges that cross the river in the center of the village; the river supports anadromous fish species, including Atlantic salmon, Rainbow smelt, and alewives. Cherryfield shares the shoreline and a portion of Schoodic Lake with the neighboring town of Columbia and Township 18 in the Unorganized Territories.

Cherryfield has 27 overboard discharge permits (OBDs) within the village, with little to no appropriate nearby area to install alternative systems, severely limiting growth within the village center. Cherryfield's population has leveled off to little or no growth in the last 15 years and is projected to decline a population decline by approximately 14.8% decrease between 2014 and 2034.

Jobs employing both those who live in Cherryfield and those who come into town to work have fallen since from 274 in 2002 to 230 in 2015.

In 2015, Cherryfield had a total of 709 housing units. Between 2000 and 2010 the town saw a 15.4% increase in housing units; since 2010, the growth in the number of housing units has slowed.

Tourism is expected to play a much larger role in the future of Cherryfield as Heritage/Historical, Nature- and Culture-based tourism are growing in popularity. The community desires a climate of local employment and an active but small retail center to help encourage the return of young families.

## **PAST DEVELOPMENT TRENDS**

Historically, Cherryfield's development consisted of a marine based economy, including shipbuilding that existed along the rivers and waterfront, and agricultural activities that occurred in the rural back lands. Development in Cherryfield has taken place along the US 1 corridor to accommodate the increasing tourist traffic along Maine's coastline. Seasonal and year round homes have been built in shore land areas. Much of this development occurred in the past 40 years with moderate development in the last decade. 2015 estimates from the American Community Survey show an increase from 2000 of approximately 65 new housing units.

Building permit data indicate a slow addition of stick-built and mobile homes, some commercial activity, and fairly robust housing renovation/addition, though it was stronger in 2012-2014 than in 2016. The majority of recent development is single-family modular structures. Lack of available land and the absence of sewage capacity have caused most development to spread out from the village area along Route 1, Route 182, and Sprague Falls Road.

## **EXISTING LAND USE PATTERNS**

Cherryfield's village area is comprised of numerous historic buildings lining both sides of the Narraguagus River. These structures contain a mixture of residential, public and commercial uses. Some commercial development has moved away from the village area and a few storefronts are vacant at this time. Many individuals have opened home occupations to supplement their incomes or as a small business for retirees. The majority of the village area contains small lots and varied setbacks.

The areas southwest and east of the village, along US 1, are a mixture of commercial, residential and home occupational uses. Mixtures of uses, primarily residential, are located all throughout town. Residential development is also found along the Sprague Falls Road. There are also marshes, residences, blueberry barrens, and farmlands with some businesses located throughout the town.

The State of Maine owns 1,766 acres encompassing the Narraguagus Wildlife Management Area and the Little Falls Research Center.

## **DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE**

Many communities in Washington County are feeling the opposite sensation of development pressure – the continued decline of population (especially youth), employment opportunities, availability of services, and housing quality.

Cherryfield has experienced very limited commercial growth along the US 1 corridor in the last decade, although some home-based businesses have been established throughout the town; this trend is likely to continue over the coming decade. The lack of sewage capacity in the village area severely limits both new development and the retrofitting of existing historic structures, and pushes new development into rural areas. The Town should monitor development along Route 1 and adjust regulations as necessary to prevent roadside commercial sprawl and insure that growth occurs where most favorable for the community as a whole.



This is an ongoing challenge, despite continued efforts to secure funding for alternative treatment studies and development. In 2001 A.E. Hosdon, Consulting Engineers, prepared a study on several Wastewater Disposal Options for the Town of Cherryfield (see Chapter I for more information – study available at the Town Office.)

The community supports limited and compatible growth in the town center, including retrofitting historic structures for added commercial capacity, and supports limited and compatible growth along Route 1. They also support new and redeveloped residential construction.

Ekistics Planning and Design prepared a Village Revitalization Plan in February of 2002 and Sunrise County Economic Council prepared a Cherryfield Market Study and Development Plan in 2001. These studies should be reviewed for relevancy, as recommendations within them may still be pertinent today.

### **ANTICIPATED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT TRENDS**

If the current development trends continue in Cherryfield without the appropriate land use ordinances, there is the possibility that Cherryfield will lose not only the character of the community but also the rich historic heritage that so many in the community admire. In addition, without reinvestment in the village area, continued deterioration of the historic properties is a possibility.

As noted in *Chapter C. Population*, Cherryfield's population grew significantly from 1970 to 2000 and has leveled off to little or no growth in the last 15 years. Maine Office of Policy and Management projections forecast a population decline to 999 individuals representing a 14.8% decrease between 2014 and 2034.

In 2015, Cherryfield had a total of 709 housing units. Between 2000 and 2010, the town saw a 15.4% increase in number of housing units. Since 2010, the growth in the number of housing units has slowed in Cherryfield, the county and statewide. The average household size declined from 2.19 in 2010 to approximately 2.09 in 2015. In Cherryfield, these trends reflect an increasing elderly population, households with fewer children, and older children moving out of the house and away from the region. In 2016, vacant housing (131 units) comprised 18.6 percent of all housing units in Cherryfield. Roughly just under half of these vacant units are used for seasonal, recreational or occasional use.

The rehabilitation of existing homes within the town center, close to local services, is a desirable type of development. Redevelopment of abandoned residential and commercial properties fosters a sense of vibrancy, promotes diversity, and expands the experience of community. Infill erases signs of emptiness and decay, and allows existing natural areas to continue providing forest products, wildlife habitat, land for sports and recreation, and a continued sense of a rural landscape.

Respondents to the 2017 Community Survey expressed a desire to retain the small town, rural, historic feeling of the community and retain the associated quiet, safety, access to nature, and beauty. Respondents feel strongly about the need to preserve scenic and historic or cultural sites

and protect water quality. Families with children, more jobs, and businesses that draw people from nearby towns are all desired in Cherryfield.

The community would like to see more growth in recreation and the arts. They would like the town to appear more inviting as people enter it, and to see older homes maintained better. A riverwalk and other trails systems were suggested for future development, as well as the allowance of tiny houses among existing buildings.

Preferred development areas are renovations within the village center, along Route 1, and on the Willey District Road. The village center is not typically favored for further development outside what already exists for business and homes. Desired types of economic activity noted by survey respondents includes small, local, non-polluting, river-oriented recreation opportunities, tourism, retrofitting of existing properties to house suitable businesses such as any small-scale, locally and independently-run businesses that address real needs without harming the wellbeing of others. It was noted that the Town “should discourage chain stores and fast food businesses.”

## **PRESENT LAND USE REGULATIONS**

Currently the state and Town of Cherryfield have a number of land use regulations for which municipal boards and officials must follow. These are listed below. Regulations change over time and it is the responsibility of municipal officers to keep up with these changes.

Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (Maine *Land Use Laws*, 1992) - Shoreland areas include those areas within 250 feet of the normal high-water line of any great pond, river or saltwater body, within 250 feet of the upland edge of a coastal or freshwater wetland, or within 75 feet of the high-water line of a stream. The purposes of these controls are to maintain public health and safety; to prevent and control water pollution; to protect fish spawning grounds, aquatic life, bird and other wildlife habitat; to protect archaeological and historic resources; to protect commercial fishing and maritime industries; to protect freshwater and coastal wetlands; to control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; to conserve shore covers, and visual as well as actual points of access to inland and coastal waters; to conserve natural beauty and open space; and to anticipate and respond to the impacts of development in shoreland areas.

Currently the local Shoreland Zoning Ordinance contains the following districts:

1. Resource Protection District (RP)
2. Marine Protection District (MP)
3. Limited Residential District (LR)
4. General Development District (GD)
5. Commercial Fisheries District (CF)
6. Stream Protection District (SP)
7. Limited Commercial District (LC)

Building and Land Use Ordinance – Implements the Land Use provisions of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan. Originally adopted in 2007, revised in 2012. Existing Land Use districts include Historic Village, Mixed Use, Future Industrial, and Rural.

Subdivision Regulations – Provides guidance as to procedures and review criteria for subdivisions. Adopted in 2006.

Floodplain Ordinance - Regulates construction activity in the floodplain areas; updated in 2017.

Wind Energy Ordinance – Regulates construction and location of wind towers within Cherryfield.

Maine State Plumbing Code - Installation of plumbing and septic systems must be in accordance with the Maine State Law and the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules and Regulations.

MDOT Access Management (17-229 Maine Administrative Rules Chapter 299, Part A and B) - The Act specifically directs the MDOT and authorized municipalities to promulgate rules to assure safety and proper drainage on all state and state aid highways with a focus on maintaining posted speeds on arterial highways outside urban compact areas. The law also requires that the rules include standards for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of safety hazards along the portions of rural arterials where the 1999 statewide average for driveway related crash rates is exceeded. Those rural arterials are referred to in the rules as "Retrograde Arterials". There are no such retrograde arterials in all of Washington County.

National Electrical Code - All electrical work in Cherryfield must be consistent with applicable portions of the National Electrical Code.

NFPA 101 – National Fire Protection Association regulations pertaining to Life Safety, Ingress, Egress and capacity provisions.

## **AREAS UNSUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Some areas within Cherryfield that are not suitable for development or require special consideration based on the potential environmental impact as the result of various land use activities. Land use activities within these areas require stricter regulation than in other areas or, in some circumstances, prohibition. These areas include:

Floodplains - These are areas located in the flood prone areas of Cherryfield. Flooding is frequent and use should be limited to those activities, which are unharmed by flooding, such as agriculture, forest and some types of recreation. It should be noted that the actual floodplain of a stream would usually be more extensive than the areas shown having floodplain soils.

Water Resources/Wetlands - These are areas that fall under the Shoreland Zoning Laws. Development in these areas would be extremely limited if not impossible.

Wildlife Habitat/Conservation - These are areas that would fall under the provisions of the applicable mandated legislation. Development in these areas, if possible, may require review and approval by the pertinent State Agencies.

Unsuitable Soils - These are areas in Cherryfield that would have limited development because of poor soils. Larger lot sizes would be required in order to meet the requirements of the Maine State Plumbing Laws.

Slope - These are areas within Cherryfield that have a slope greater than 15 percent. They are

depicted on Map 3 – Topography and Flood Zones. These slopes preclude extensive development because of problems with erosion, runoff, and construction limitation such as allowable road grades, suitability for septic sewage disposal, and stability of foundation. Also, note that the Maine Plumbing Code does not permit septic systems on a slope greater than 25 percent.

## **MAINE’S GROWTH MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION**

Maine’s Growth management legislation requires the designation of Growth and Rural Areas in comprehensive plans. The designation of Growth Areas is intended to direct development to areas most suitable for such growth and away from areas where growth and development would be incompatible with the protection of rural resources. Growth Areas are located close to municipal services to minimize the cost to the municipality for their delivery and maintenance. The Growth Management Act requires that any Municipal growth-related capital investments that may occur over the planning period be accommodated within the proposed growth areas; and the Town commits to directing at least 75% of such investments to these areas of town. The Growth Area for Cherryfield would include areas currently owned and managed by the town, like the Elementary School, the Transfer Station, the Town Office, and Emergency Building.

The designation of Rural Areas is intended to protect agricultural, forest, wildlife habitat, scenic areas, and other open space areas from incompatible development and uses and for the enjoyment and sustainable use by the people.

In addition to Growth Areas and Rural Areas, communities may also designate three additional types of land use areas. These include Critical Rural Areas, Critical Waterfront Areas, and Transitional Areas.

## **PROPOSED LAND USE DISTRICTS**

Based on the lack of recent or expected development pressure, the existing land use districts in Cherryfield continue to make sense today. The Districts provide adequate opportunity for anticipated growth while preserving valued natural and cultural areas. The following proposed Land Use Districts reflect the ordinance language for existing land use districts, except for an adjustment to the southern boundary of the Future Industrial Floating District, as shown on the Future Land Use map, and a recommendation that Industrial Performance standards be developed to insure compatibility of any future industrial use with adjacent Districts.

The purpose of the Future Land Use Plan and Future Land Use Map contained within the comprehensive plan is to identify general areas of appropriate location and size to accommodate anticipated growth and future development. The proposed land use plan does not endeavor to identify specific parcels or areas needed to accommodate predicted growth and development. Only detailed site-specific analysis can determine land suitable for development and at what densities. In addition, the comprehensive plan has not assessed the individual landowner’s desires to sell their land for development, to develop it or to leave it undeveloped.

## GROWTH AREAS

1. Mixed Use (MU) – The purpose of the Mixed Use District is to encourage efficient land development patterns and to provide for anticipated growth and development by allowing a range of residential and compatible commercial uses within a concentrated area consistent with the concept of a downtown thereby discouraging sprawl, preserving open spaces and facilitating the delivery of town services.
2. Historic Village (HV) – The purpose of the Historic Village is to protect that part of the Town of Cherryfield identified by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in 1990 as the Cherryfield Historic District, an area of approximately 75 acres lying on both sides of the Narraguagus River and comprised of a collection of 52 contributing and substantially intact residential and commercial buildings that clearly depict the nineteenth century development of a riverside community.
3. Floating Industrial (I) –The purpose of the Floating Industrial district is to provide an area in which it would be considered appropriate to site industrial, manufacturing and commercial activity not compatible with a residential area. A “floating district” means that the actual location of the use within the District boundaries will be determined through a land use review process of any future proposed industrial uses.

Performance standards for noise, lighting, odor, outdoor storage, hours of operation, parking, and other potential adverse impacts from industrial operations should be developed and adopted to ensure compatibility with rural and residential neighbors.

## RURAL AREAS

Rural Areas include those areas in Cherryfield where new development will be limited to support Cherryfield’ important natural resources including its forested land, wetlands, shore lands, scenic areas, and critical habitat. In these areas the Town will use regulatory and non-regulatory means to place appropriate limits on incompatible development and uses.

According to the Department of Conservation, Agriculture, and Forestry, land areas designated as rural must be consistent with the following:

- To the greatest extent practicable, rural areas must include working farms, wood lots, properties enrolled in current-use tax programs related to forestry, farming or open space, areas of prime agricultural soils, critical natural resources, and important natural resources.
- The Future Land Use Plan must identify proposed mechanisms, both regulatory and non-regulatory, to ensure that the level and type of development in rural areas is compatible with the defined rural character and does not encourage strip development along roads.
- Rural areas shall not include land areas where the community actively encourages new residential, institutional, or commercial development.
- Rural areas must be compatible with designations in adjacent communities or provide buffers or transitions to avoid land use conflicts with neighboring communities.
- To protect and preserve the rural character of Cherryfield while permitting low-density

development, rural areas are established outside of the existing and proposed development areas and proposed growth areas. Rural areas are intended to safeguard Cherryfield forest resource from development, to conserve natural resources and open space land, and to encourage agriculture, forestry, and certain types of recreational uses. The Rural Areas consists of those areas in Cherryfield where new residential and home-based business development will be regulated to limit its impact on Cherryfield important natural resources including agricultural land, forested land, wetlands and scenic areas.

Rural areas proposed in Cherryfield are described below and shown on the Future Land Use Map at the end of this section.

1. Rural Residential (RR) - The purpose of the Rural District is to provide protection to rural resources from incompatible development by restricting the nature and extent of development in the Rural District. The minimum lot size is 1 acre. Frontage requirements are 200 feet to maintain the rural character of the town. Commercial development of agricultural and commercial forestry operations will be permitted, as well as limited business use.

Updates to the Land Use Ordinance will encourage Cluster development within this district. All subdivision development proposals within this district will be required to submit a cluster plan, as well as a conventional plan for the Planning Board's consideration. Density bonus provisions within the Land Use Ordinance should encourage the preservation of rural land areas. Subdivision development proposals within this district are encouraged to submit an open space subdivision plan showing dedicated permanent open space and reduced lot sizes for the Planning Board's consideration.

Future access in this area will be consistent with the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) Access Management Standards. Local subdivision review will encourage lot design that concentrates access from 4 or more lots onto a combined road or common driveway rather than several uncoordinated accesses. Subdivision design will continue existing regulatory practice to ensure that access to productive "back land" is retained.

Activities requiring additional permit review will include timber harvesting; and construction that will have an impact on identified critical resources, and that will affect the scenic quality of those using the river corridor.

2. Habitat Protection (HP) - The purpose of this district is to coordinate local land use policy with state management of public lands. The boundaries of the HP District follow those of the Narraguagus Wildlife Management Area and include the land between the two main branches of the Narraguagus River.

The Town of Cherryfield supports the use of conservation easements to protect important watershed and habitat lands on lands located throughout the Rural District. The Town supports area land trusts to protect these resources through conservation easement provisions. However, the Town will not support additional purchase of land by the State without some arrangement for a payment in lieu of taxes (when development is restricted by conservation easement the impact to the tax base is considerably less than when land

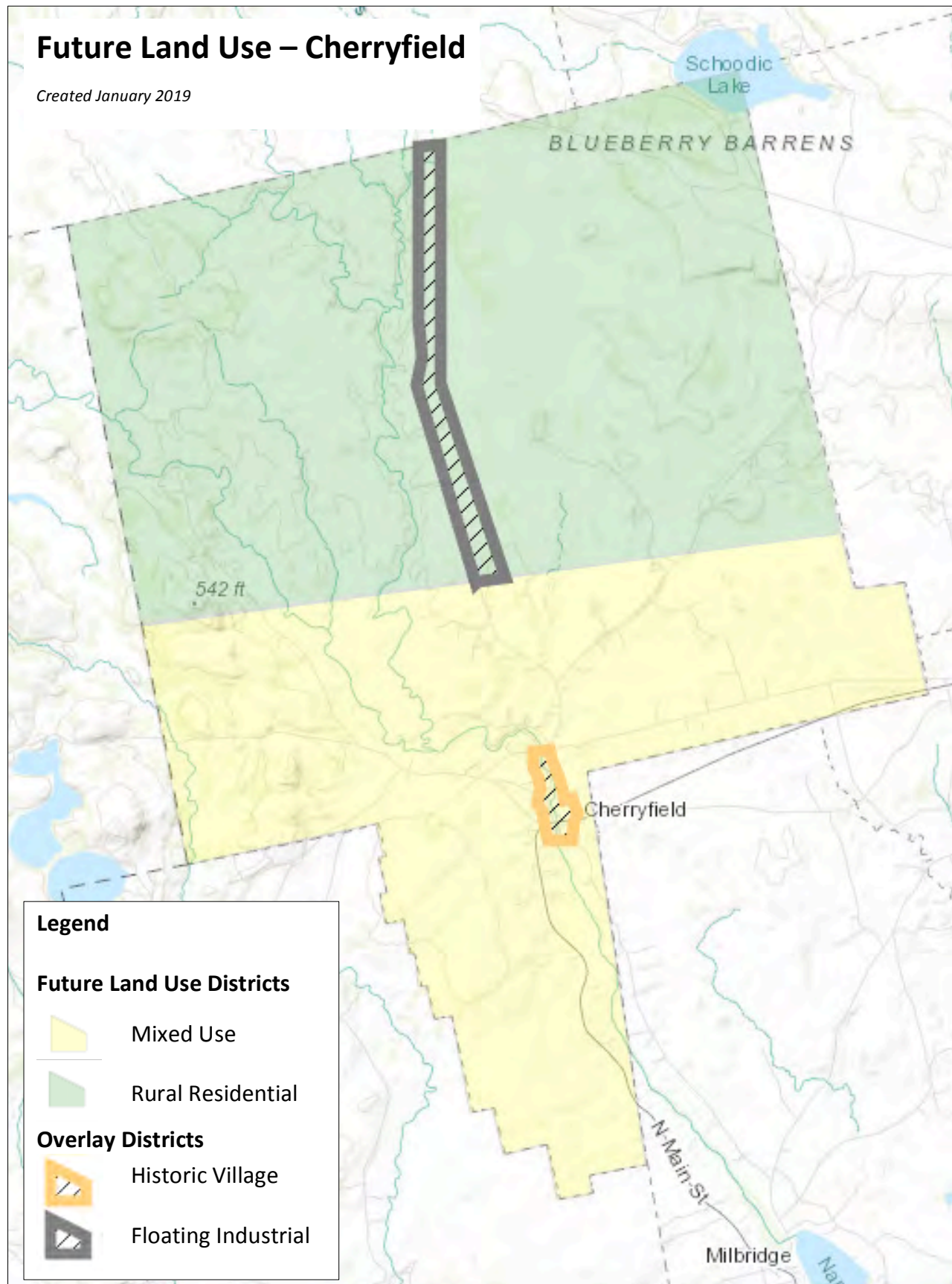


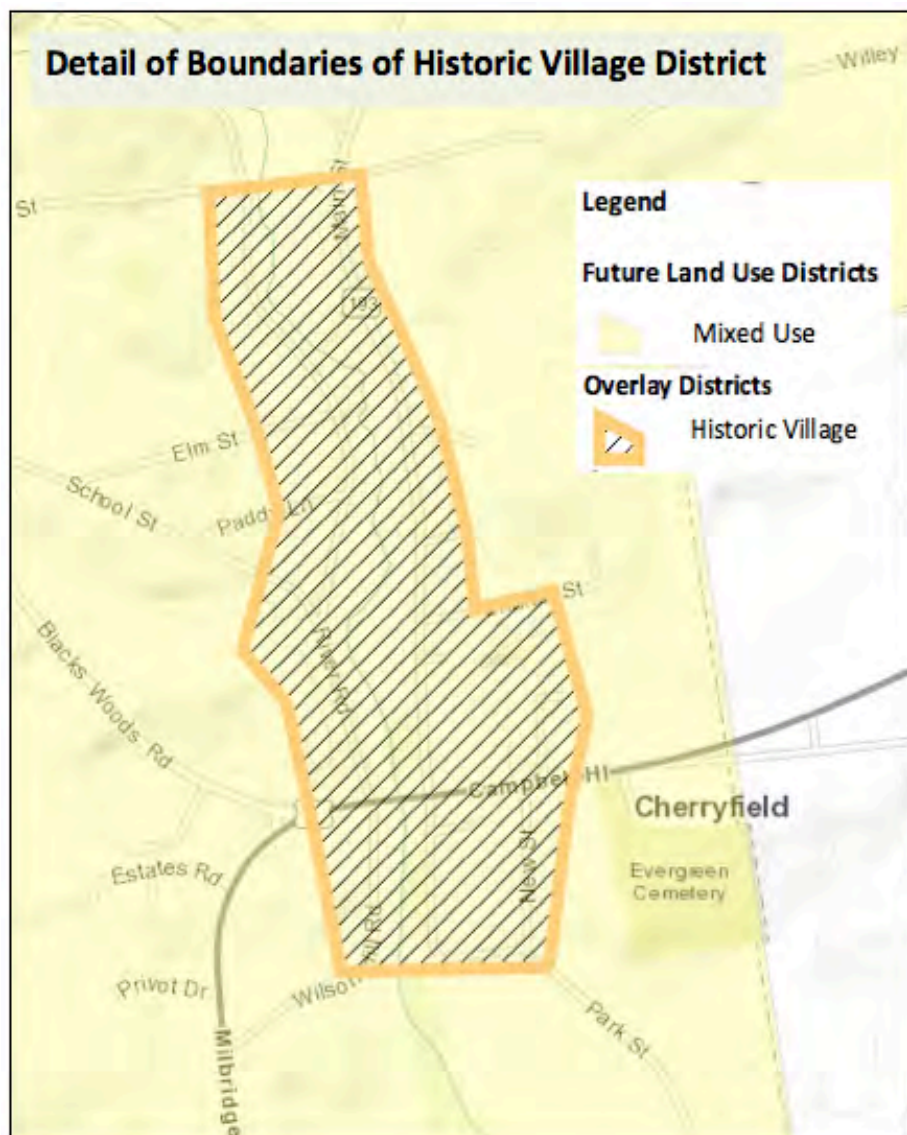
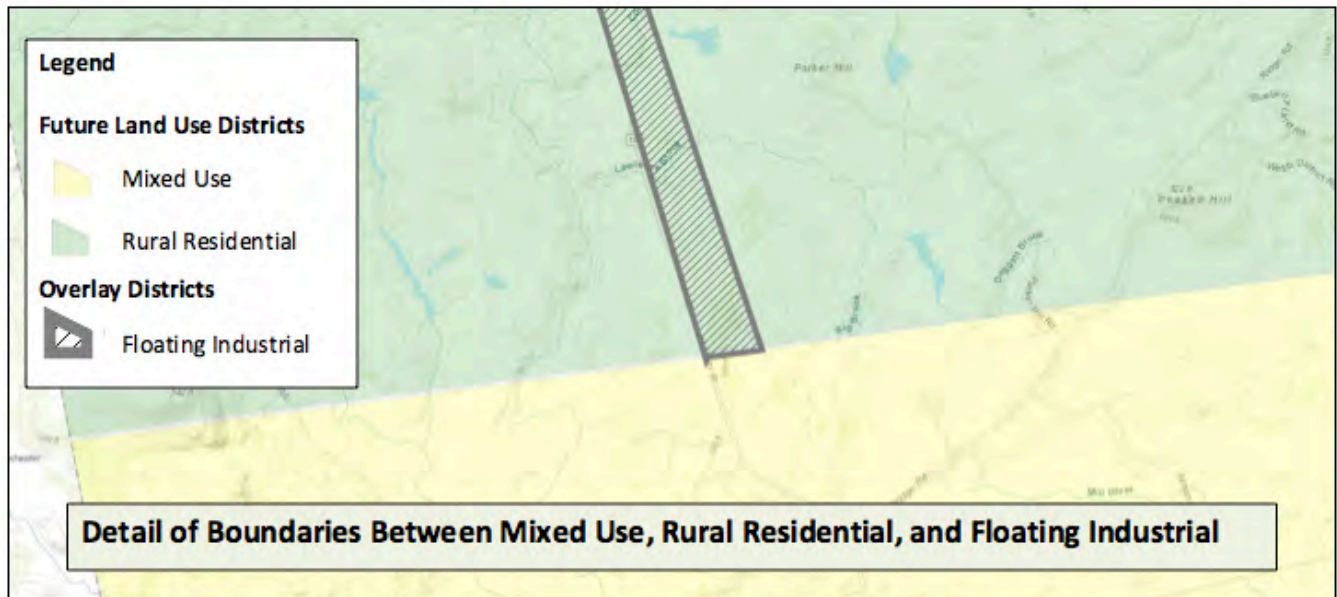
is purchased outright by the State).

### **FUTURE LAND USE MAP**

The Future Land Use Map for Cherryfield is provided on the following page. As with all of the online Cherryfield Planners maps, the Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer or any user can zoom in to get a closer look at the future land use districts relative to other features on the map. The Shoreland Zoning districts in particular are far clearer and more visible when the user zooms into a small, magnified portion of the map. The District names, descriptions, symbols and whether they are Growth or Rural Areas is defined in the following table.

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Legend Reference (Map Symbol)</b>	<b>Growth or Rural Area</b>
Rural Residential (RR)	New development is limited to support important natural resources	<b>Green Solid</b>	<b>Rural</b>
Mixed Use (MU)	Allows a range of residential and compatible commercial uses	<b>Yellow Solid</b>	<b>Growth</b>
Historic Village (HV)	Protects historic structures within the Historic District	<b>Orange Outline</b>	<b>Growth</b>
Floating Industrial (I)	Industrial, manufacturing, commercial use	<b>Gray Outline</b>	<b>Growth</b>





## LAND USE AND ZONING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Preserving and protecting the character of Cherryfield is vital to the continued stability of the local economy and to the well-being of its residents. Growth should be guided so the town can prosper and at the same time retain its beloved character and personality. This can be done by encouraging growth in some areas and discouraging it in others, by clearly designating areas to be devoted to business and industry; other areas where a mixture of uses would contribute to the vitality of the town; and still others areas where various types of housing will be encouraged.

The people of Cherryfield have expressed support to actively encourage growth in general and to encourage a) new commercial and retail development and b) affordable residential development. Support was expressed for compatible growth and development to be encouraged in the town center and near existing development. A complete summary of survey results is provided in Chapter B. Public Opinion Survey and in Appendix F.

To be fair and effective ordinances need specific standards and clear definitions. They must also meet the minimum requirements of state law and be consistent with the recommendations of the comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan provides the legal basis for enacting the ordinances, and their consistency with the plans, goals, and policies will be a major consideration in the event that the ordinances are subject to a legal challenge.

Likewise, the comprehensive plan should not create costly enforcement issues for the town. However, effort must be made by the town to ensure that land-use ordinances are enforced. Cherryfield townspeople recognize that ultimate goals of growth management are to direct the development and use of our land to the extent necessary to protect the public health, safety, wellbeing, natural resources, and property values of our community. The value of any ordinance depends on how well it is enforced. To achieve better enforcement, two issues are important: (1) educating residents about the requirements of local and state regulations, and (2) providing adequate time for the code enforcement officer to ensure compliance. The land use ordinance must provide the code enforcement officer with proper legal language and definitions, and management and elected officials also must support the code enforcement department.

Cherryfield will ensure that and updated or newly developed land use and zoning ordinances will protect and preserve natural resources, property values, public safety including fire protection, health and welfare, provides for affordable housing and housing that is affordable, and ensures the proper development of the town. **Any new or updated ordinance must be developed through a public hearing process and voted into effect by the community.**

The following table describes public issues or concerns and the associated performance standards that will guide revisions to the Land Use and Zoning Ordinance:

Public Issue or Concern:	Performance Standard:
<i>Access Requirements</i>	In keeping with state access management regulations (17-229 Maine Administrative Rules Chapter 299, Part A and B, and as subsequently amended), minimize the creation of strip development within the community, and minimize the creation of road hazards.

<b>Public Issue or Concern:</b>	<b>Performance Standard:</b>
<i>Buffer Provisions</i>	Minimize the negative impacts of inconsistent development and protect water resources, wetlands, and wells
<i>Conversion</i>	Regulate the conversion of existing structures into multi-family dwellings, to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of citizens.
<i>Historic Districts/Scenic Vistas</i>	Use and expand ordinances to protect and preserve these defining community assets.
<i>Home Occupation</i>	Encourage home occupations with the minimum impact on existing neighborhoods.
<i>Industrial Performance Standards</i>	Ensure appropriate industrial development within designated areas of the community.
<i>Manufactured housing</i>	Ensure the safety, health and welfare of mobile home occupants and mobile home owners regardless of the date manufactured
<i>Mobile Home Park</i>	Placement and design of mobile home parks within the designated growth areas in the town.
<i>Off Street Loading</i>	Minimize traffic congestion associated with commercial development.
<i>Oil and Chemical Storage</i>	Regulate the location and containment of combustible material that can migrate to surface and ground waters.
<i>Parking Requirements</i>	Establish and regulate the number of parking spaces to be provided for different types of development.
<i>Pesticide Application</i>	Protect the public from dangers associated with pesticides including notice requirements and limits on timing of applications.
<i>Refuse Disposal</i>	Regulate the disposal of solid and liquid wastes in relation to resources that can transport them or be contaminated by them.
<i>Road Construction</i>	Develop in conjunction with the State Department of Transportation regarding road construction in new developments.
<i>Sedimentation and Erosion</i>	Minimize the volume of surface water runoff during and after development.
<i>Signs</i>	Regulate placement of signs, sign size, and sign type.
<i>Soils</i>	Ensure development is located on appropriate soils.
<i>Storage Materials</i>	Orderly storage of material in residential areas to promote and preserve the character of the neighborhoods
<i>Topsoil and Vegetation Removal</i>	Prevent soil erosion and destruction of topsoil during construction.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Planning Board and Board of Selectmen will review annually the land use, shore land zoning, subdivision, mobile home park, and floodplain management ordinances to determine any required changes and to ensure the ordinances and regulations are consistent with the Plan. In the review, they will determine whether changes in the minimum requirements of state or federal laws would require local amendment of the land use regulations. In order to educate residents on local land use ordinances, a list of all local ordinances and when they are applicable should be developed and made available to the public. **The town is required to notify and involve all citizens in the development and amendment of local ordinances.**

## ENFORCEMENT

The value of any ordinance is dependent on how well it is enforced. In order to achieve better

enforcement, two issues are of importance: (1) the education of residents as to the requirements of local and state regulations, and (2) providing for adequate hours for the code enforcement officer to ensure that compliance is taking place. The key to adequate and successful enforcement is providing the code enforcement officer with the proper legal language and definitions within the land use ordinance. The success of any ordinance depends on the ability of the code enforcement officer to enforce the ordinance and support of the code enforcement department by management and elected officials.

## **POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

All new Policies and implementation strategies for Cherryfield are presented in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies. They include policies and strategies that reflect changes in conditions on the ground, local priorities and State and Federal policy since the previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A complete list of the policy recommendations from the previous Comprehensive Plan is included in Appendix F. 2004 Policies and Implementation Strategies. A full copy of the previous plan is on file in the Town Hall.

<b>LAND USE</b>			
<b>Goal: preserve and protect the character of the town that is vital to the continued stability of the local economy; Princeton will continue to be a great place to live, work, recreate, and vacation.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Support the locations, types, scales, and intensities of land uses the community desires as stated in its vision.	Continue to develop and update land use regulations necessary to ensure their consistency with state and federal laws and the local needs.	Planning Board	Ongoing
Track new development in the community by type and location.	Planning Board	Ongoing	Track new development in the community by type and location.



<b>LAND USE</b>			
<b>Goal: preserve and protect the character of the town that is vital to the continued stability of the local economy; Princeton will continue to be a great place to live, work, recreate, and vacation.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Maintain, enact or amend local ordinances as appropriate to: a. Clearly define the desired scale, intensity, and location of future development; b. Establish or maintain fair and efficient permitting procedures, and explore streamlining permitting procedures in growth areas; and c. Clearly define protective measures for critical natural resources and, where applicable, important natural resources. d. Clearly define protective measures for any proposed critical rural areas and/or critical waterfront areas, if proposed.		
Coordinate land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts.	Meet with neighboring communities and WCCOG to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies.	Select Board	Ongoing
Protect critical rural and critical waterfront areas from the impacts of development.	Provide the code enforcement officer with the tools, training, and support necessary to enforce land use regulations, and ensure that the Code Enforcement Officer is certified in accordance with 30-A M.R.S.A. §4451.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Discourage development in its sensitive rural areas through its public investment decisions.	Select Board	Ongoing

## O. POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

As required by Chapter 208, Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule, this chapter provides a separate section that prioritizes how implementation strategies will be carried out and identifies the responsible parties and anticipated timeline for each strategy in the plan.

<b>HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Preserve historic and archeological resources for future generations to enjoy and share through restoration and protection of structures and sites and through education that instills a sense of pride in community heritage.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Protect and preserve known archaeological and historic sites and promote awareness of the history and heritage of Cherryfield.	Support and encourage awareness of historic structures and artifacts, especially in the Historic District, including the consideration of listing of additional sites on the National Register of Historic Places.	Historical Society	Ongoing
	Map the two Town-owned cemeteries (Old Town Cemetery & Intervale Cemetery).  Establish a management plan, including maintenance, repair and future sales of available lots; repair historically significant headstones.	Select Board and Historical Society	Ongoing
	Submit an application for the Old Town Cemetery for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	Select Board and Historical Society	Short Term (Within 2-5 years)
Ensure that important archeological and historic resources are not destroyed.	Professionally survey and document, as funding allows, any potential areas of historical and archaeological significance, especially along the edge of the blueberry barrens and Narraguagus River valley; monitor any important sites or artifacts to ensure their protection and preservation.	Select Board and Planning Board	Long Term (Within 5-7 years)
	Preserve important Town records through appropriate modern preservation techniques.	Historical Society	Short Term (Within 2-5 years) Ongoing

<b>HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Preserve historic and archeological resources for future generations to enjoy and share through restoration and protection of structures and sites and through education that instills a sense of pride in community heritage.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Continue land use standards that require subdivision or non-residential developments to protect known or discovered historic and archeological resources.	Planning Board	Ongoing

<b>Natural Resources – Water, Wildlife Habitat, Soils, and other Natural Resources</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Protect the quality of and preserve the natural resources on which Cherryfield’s economy and quality of life depend, through preservation of land, infrastructure improvement, education, and citizen stewardship.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Protect drinking water and surface water resources.	Continue to incorporate stormwater runoff performance standards consistent with: a. Maine Stormwater Management Law and Maine Stormwater regulations (Title 38 M.R.S.A. §420-D and 06-096 CMR 500 and 502). b. Maine Department of Environmental Protection's allocations for allowable levels of phosphorus in lake/pond watersheds. c. Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Continue to require all parties to adhere to water quality protection standards for construction and maintenance of public and private roads and public properties.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
	Provide information to property owners about best management practices for protecting water quality, removal of aquatic invasive species; about current use tax programs; and about applicable local, state, or federal regulations for properties near critical or important natural resources.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing

	Consideration of implementing a Wellhead Protection Ordinance(s) to protect any current or future public drinking water resources	Select Board, Planning Board	Short Term (within 2-5 years)
	Consideration of the potential need for non-municipal public water supply needs of future development (cluster developments, restaurants, schools, etc)	Select Board, Planning Board	Short Term (within 2-5 years), Ongoing
Minimize pollution discharges through the upgrade of existing septic systems and OBD's.	Work with State and local agencies to correct failing systems near surface or groundwater sources.	Select Board	Short Term (within 2-5 years), Ongoing
Cooperate with neighboring communities to protect shared water resources	Work with Steuben, Columbia and Milbridge to discuss the development of water quality regulations for the protection of the shared aquifer	Planning Board, Select Board	Short Term (within 2-5 years), Ongoing
Conserve important natural resources	Continue requirements that development in or near the site of an Essential Habitat or Significant Habitat, a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist must be contacted for immediate assistance.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Update Shoreland Zoning Regulations, Floodplain maps, and the Subdivision Ordinance as necessary to maintain compliance with minimum State and Federal regulations.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Require that land use and development reviews consider pertinent Beginning With Habitat maps and information regarding critical natural resources.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Require subdivision or non-residential property developers to look for and identify critical natural resources and to protect those resources through appropriate methods.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Participate in inter-local and regional planning, management, and regulatory efforts around shared critical and important natural resources.	Select Board	Ongoing

Safeguard lands identified as prime farmland or capable of supporting commercial forestry.	Consult with the Maine Forest Service district forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices as required by 12 M.R.S.A. §8869.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Require commercial or subdivision developments in critical rural areas, maintain areas with prime farmland soils as open space.	Planning Board, Select Board	Long Term (Within 5-7 years) Ongoing
Support farming and forestry and encourage their economic viability.	Limit non-residential development in critical rural areas to natural resource-based businesses and services, such as nature tourism, outdoor recreation, and farm markets.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Continue to Permit land use activities that support productive agriculture and forestry operations.	Planning Board	Ongoing

### ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

**Goal:** Increase economic well-being through entrepreneurship and culturally compatible business opportunities; insure the town has a skilled population ready to enter the work force; enhance and support existing businesses and promote new businesses that are compatible with community values and patterns of development.

Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Coordinate with regional development corporations and surrounding towns as necessary to support desired economic development, including needed public improvements.	Partner with regional economic development efforts by local organizations such as Sunrise County Economic Council, DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism, and the Washington County Council of Governments.	Selectmen	Ongoing
	Work with local, regional, and state organizations to bring high-speed internet access to Cherryfield.	Selectmen	Short Term (Within 2 years)

<b>ECONOMY &amp; EMPLOYMENT</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Increase economic well-being through entrepreneurship and culturally compatible business opportunities; insure the town has a skilled population ready to enter the work force; enhance and support existing businesses and promote new businesses that are compatible with community values and patterns of development.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Support the type of economic development activity the community desires, reflecting the community's role in the region.	Enact or amend local ordinances to reflect the desired scale, design, intensity, and location of future economic development.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
	Support economic development and downtown revitalization objectives.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
Assist community members in accessing professional development and educational opportunities.	Insure that academic and vocational educational opportunities address the needs of youth in preparation of their future careers.	Select Board, Cherryfield School Board	Ongoing
	Insure that those eligible for job training are made aware of and assisted in applying for such programs.	Select Board	Ongoing

<b>HOUSING</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Encourage and promote affordable, decent housing for Cherryfield residents.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Support development of workforce and other affordable housing, including rental and ownership options.	Insure that at least 10% of new residential development from 2019 to 2030 decade be affordable.	Select Board, Planning Board	Long Term (Within 10 years)
	Maintain, enact or amend growth area land use regulations to increase density, decrease lot size, setbacks and road widths, or provide incentives such as density bonuses, to encourage the development of affordable/workforce housing.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Maintain, enact or amend ordinances to allow the addition of at least one accessory apartment per dwelling unit in growth areas, subject to site suitability.	Planning Board	Ongoing



<b>HOUSING</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Encourage and promote affordable, decent housing for Cherryfield residents.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Continue to allow mixed uses and mixed income housing within residential areas of the town.		
	Compile and distribute information on programs, grants, and projects for subsidized housing, energy efficiency improvements, etc.	Select Board, Town Clerk	Ongoing
Support collaborative local and regional housing coalitions in addressing affordable and workforce housing needs.	Participate in regional programs, grants and projects, to insure sufficient, affordable housing options for elderly citizens and veterans.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing
Address reported violations of local ordinances and State laws and regulations that affect health, safety or community conditions.	Address any needed modifications to existing land use regulations as necessary.	Select Board, Planning Board, CEO	Ongoing

<b>PUBLIC FACILITIES</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate current and anticipated growth and economic development.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Efficiently meet identified public facility and service needs.	Educate citizens on the importance of recycling.	Select Board, Town Clerk	Ongoing
	Continue to explore opportunities to expand recycling capacity.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Investigate available resources to improve access to high speed Internet.	Select Board	Ongoing
Provide public facilities and services that promote and support growth and development in growth areas.	Identify any capital improvements needed to maintain or upgrade public services to accommodate the community's anticipated growth and changing demographics.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Locate new public facilities comprising at least 75% of new municipal growth-related capital investments in designated growth areas.		
	Continue regional partnerships and explore new options around regional delivery of public services.		

<b>RECREATION</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Promote, protect, and improve the availability of outdoor recreation resources.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Maintain and upgrade existing recreational facilities.	Develop a plan to meet current and future recreation needs; explore ways to address the identified needs.	Select Board, Planning Board	Short Term (Within 2-5 years)
	Continue to maintain at least one major point of public access to major water bodies for boating, fishing, and swimming.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Fund needed improvements on Town owned recreational lands such as the Wilson Hill and Cable Pool boat landings and existing community parks.	Select Board	Short Term (Within 2-5 years)
	Work with regional partners to connect and maintain a network of recreational trails.	Select Board	Ongoing
Preserve open space for recreational use.	Continue to require major new residential developments to present recreational and open space areas in their plans.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Work with local conservation organizations to protect important open space or recreational land.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Provide educational materials regarding benefits and protections for landowners allowing public recreational access on their property.	Select Board, Planning Board, Town Clerk	Ongoing

<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Encourage, promote and develop efficient and safe transportation facilities that will accommodate the desired growth and economic development.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Prioritize community needs associated with safe, efficient, and optimal use of transportation systems.	Plan for optimum use, construction, maintenance and repair of roads.	Selectmen	Ongoing
	Follow a multi-year road maintenance plan to forecast future allocation of road maintenance funds.	Road Commissioners, Select Board	Ongoing

<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Encourage, promote and develop efficient and safe transportation facilities that will accommodate the desired growth and economic development.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Confer with the MaineDOT on projected traffic impacts of proposed major subdivisions. Statute.	Planning Board	Ongoing
Safely and efficiently preserve or improve the transportation system.	Maintain, enact or amend local ordinances as appropriate to address or avoid conflicts with: a. Policy objectives of the Sensible Transportation Policy Act (23 M.R.S.A. §73); b. State access management regulations pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. §704; and c. State traffic permitting regulations for large developments pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. §704-A.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Participate in regional transportation policy development.	Select Board	Ongoing
Manage land use in ways that maximize the efficiency of the transportation system and minimize vehicle miles traveled.	Work with the MaineDOT and adjacent towns to maximize efficiency of the state or state-aid highway network.	Select Board	Ongoing
Provide a safe, efficient, and adequate transportation network for all types of users.	Continue to incorporate sidewalks and paved shoulders in the Village to ensure the safety of pedestrians.	Road Commissioners, Select Board, MaineDOT	Ongoing
	Maintain, enact or amend ordinance standards for subdivisions and public and private roads to foster transportation-efficient growth patterns and provide for future street and transit connections.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Develop and refine a sign policy to insure coordinated and appropriate signage in the village area, and to direct visitors to the historic district and sites of interest in Cherryfield.	Planning Board, Historical Society	Long Term (Within 5-7 years)

<b>FISCAL CAPACITY AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.			
<b>Policies</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Finance existing and future facilities and services in a cost-effective manner.	Explore opportunities to work with neighboring communities to plan for and finance shared or adjacent capital investments to increase cost savings and efficiencies.	Select Board	Ongoing
	Explore grants available to assist in the funding of capital investments within the community.	Select Board	Short Term (Within 2-5 years) Ongoing

<b>REGIONAL COORDINATION</b>				
<b>Goal:</b> Contribute to the regional connection and health of Washington County by cooperating on the delivery of regional services and endeavoring to achieve economies of scale where feasible.				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	
Cooperate on the delivery of regional services and endeavor to achieve economies of scale where feasible.	Cooperate on the delivery of regional services and endeavor to achieve economies of scale where feasible.	Select Board		
	Seek out cooperative means of reducing regional administrative costs for the school district and delivery of public services.	Select Board, School Board	On-going	
Participate in regional organizations that provide technical assistance and information about business support and regional economic development opportunities.	Maintain membership in the Washington County Council of Governments and participation in the Sunrise County Economic Council.	Select Board	On-going	
Coordinate Cherryfield's land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts.	Meet with neighboring communities to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies	Select Board, Planning Board	On-going	
Cooperate with neighboring communities and regional/local advocacy groups to protect	Participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect and, where warranted, improve water	Select Board	On-going	

<b>REGIONAL COORDINATION</b>			
<b>Goal:</b> Contribute to the regional connection and health of Washington County by cooperating on the delivery of regional services and endeavoring to achieve economies of scale where feasible.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
important natural resources.	quality.		
	Initiate and/or participate in inter-local and/or regional planning, management, and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical and important natural resources	Select Board	
	Pursue public/private partnerships to protect critical and important natural resources such as through purchase of land or easements from willing sellers.	Select Board	
	Include agriculture, commercial forestry operations, and land conservation that supports them in regional economic development plans.	Select Board, Planning Board	
	Participate in regional economic development planning efforts.	Select Board	
	Participate in regional affordable and workforce housing efforts.	Select Board	On-going
Coordinate with regional development corporations and surrounding towns as necessary to support desired economic development.	Support local and regional affordable/workforce housing and transportation development.	Select Board	On-going
Cooperate in the development of regional land use and transportation policy.	Continue to support regional transportation goals and needs as identified by the MaineDOT, Washington County Council of Governments, and other regional organizations.	Select Board	On-going
	Coordinate land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts and to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies.	Select Board, Planning Board	Ongoing

<b>LAND USE</b>			
<b>Goal: Preserve and protect the Town’s character as vital to the continued stability of the local economy; Cherryfield will continue to be a great place to live, work, recreate, and vacation.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Support the locations, types, scales, and intensities of land uses the community desires as stated in its vision.	Continue to develop and update land use regulations necessary to ensure their consistency with state and federal laws and the local needs.	Planning Board	Ongoing
	Maintain, enact or amend local ordinances as appropriate to: a. Clearly define the desired scale, intensity, and location of future development; b. Establish or maintain fair and efficient permitting procedures, and explore streamlining permitting procedures in growth areas; and c. Clearly define protective measures for critical natural resources and, where applicable, important natural resources. d. Clearly define protective measures for any proposed critical rural areas and/or critical waterfront areas, if proposed.		
	Track new development in the community by type and location.	Planning Board	Ongoing
Coordinate land use strategies with other local and regional land use planning efforts.	Meet with neighboring communities and WCCOG to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies.	Select Board	Ongoing
Protect critical rural and critical waterfront areas from the impacts of development.	Provide the code enforcement officer with the tools, training, and support necessary to enforce land use regulations, and ensure that the Code Enforcement Officer is certified in accordance with 30-A M.R.S.A. §4451.	Select Board	Ongoing



<b>LAND USE</b>			
<b>Goal: Preserve and protect the Town's character as vital to the continued stability of the local economy; Cherryfield will continue to be a great place to live, work, recreate, and vacation.</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Discourage development in its sensitive rural areas through its public investment decisions.	Select Board	Ongoing

# Appendices

## *Cherryfield Comprehensive Plan 2019*

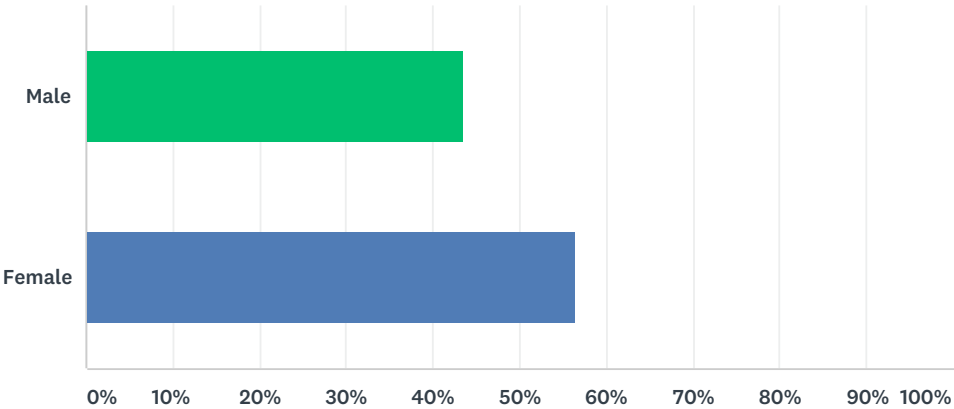


## APPENDIX 1. PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

## APPENDIX A. PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

Q1 I am

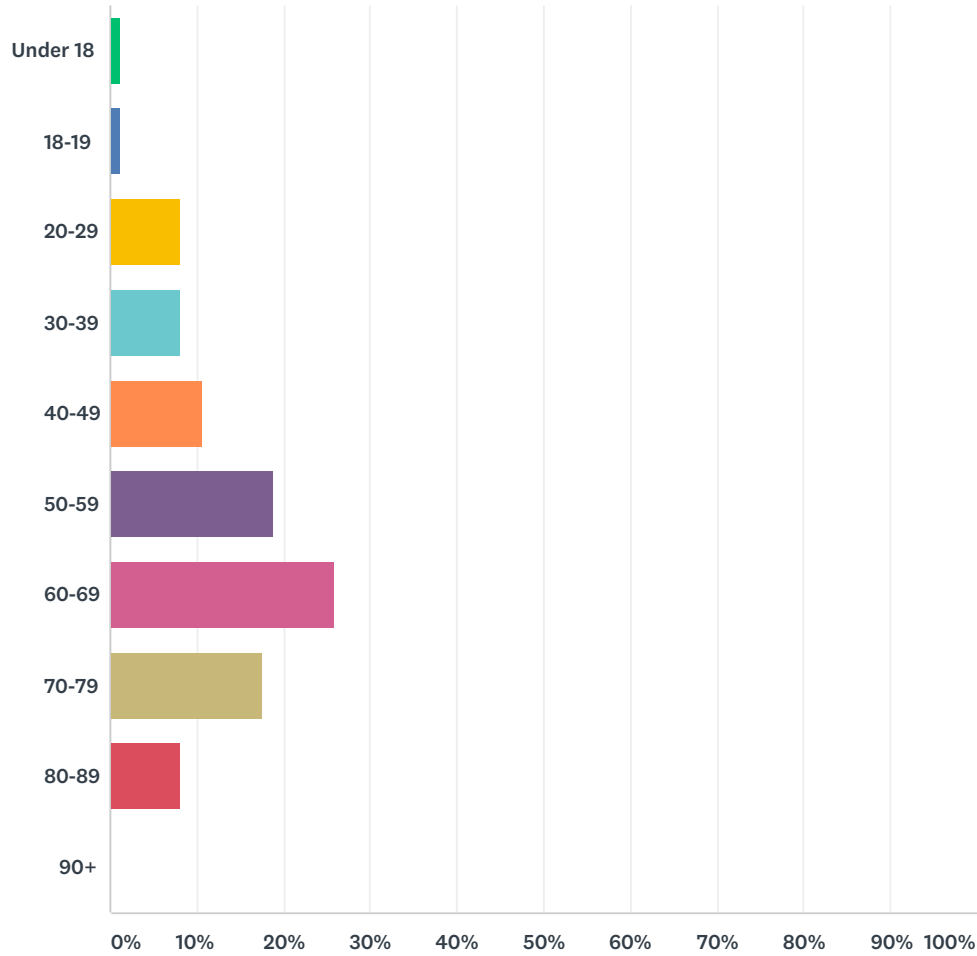
Answered: 85    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Male		43.53%	37
Female		56.47%	48
TOTAL			85

## Q2 My age is:

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0

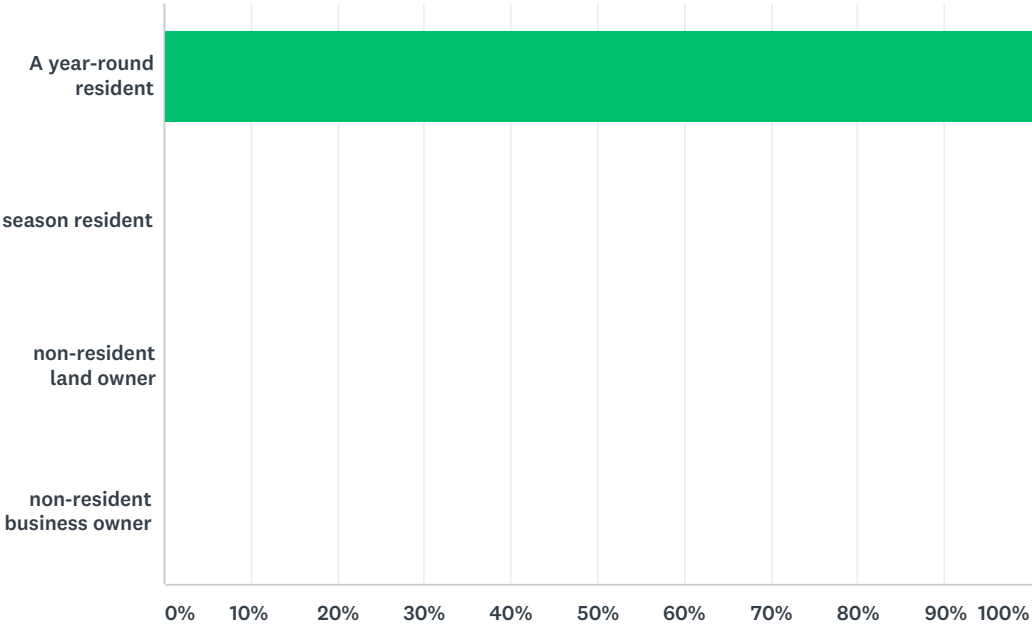


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	1.18%	1
18-19	1.18%	1
20-29	8.24%	7
30-39	8.24%	7
40-49	10.59%	9
50-59	18.82%	16
60-69	25.88%	22
70-79	17.65%	15
80-89	8.24%	7
90+	0.00%	0
TOTAL		85



Q3 I am:

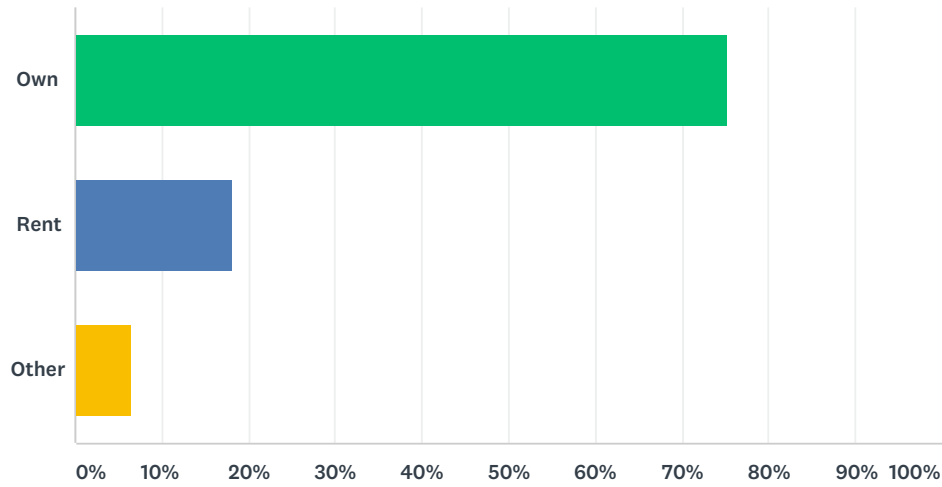
Answered: 85    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A year-round resident	100.00%	85
season resident	0.00%	0
non-resident land owner	0.00%	0
non-resident business owner	0.00%	0
TOTAL		85

## Q4 Do you Own or Rent your place of residence?

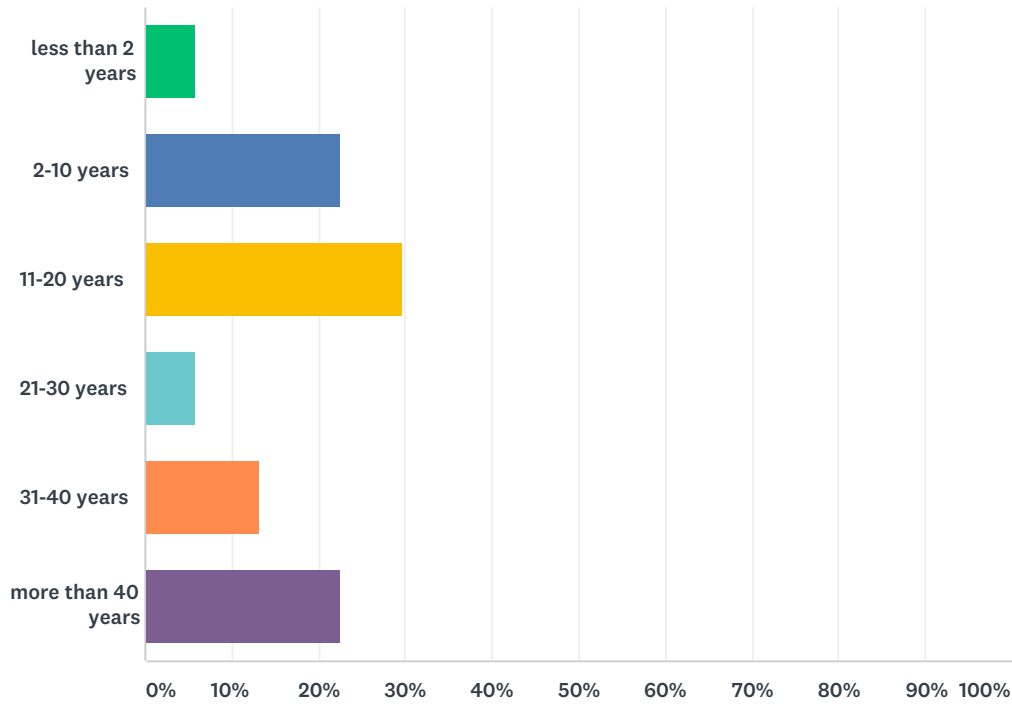
Answered: 77 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Own	75.32%	58
Rent	18.18%	14
Other	6.49%	5
TOTAL		77

## Q5 For year-round residents, I have lived in Cherryfield for

Answered: 84 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
less than 2 years	5.95%	5
2-10 years	22.62%	19
11-20 years	29.76%	25
21-30 years	5.95%	5
31-40 years	13.10%	11
more than 40 years	22.62%	19
TOTAL		84

Q6 For seasonal residents, I have owned/rented property in Cherryfield for:

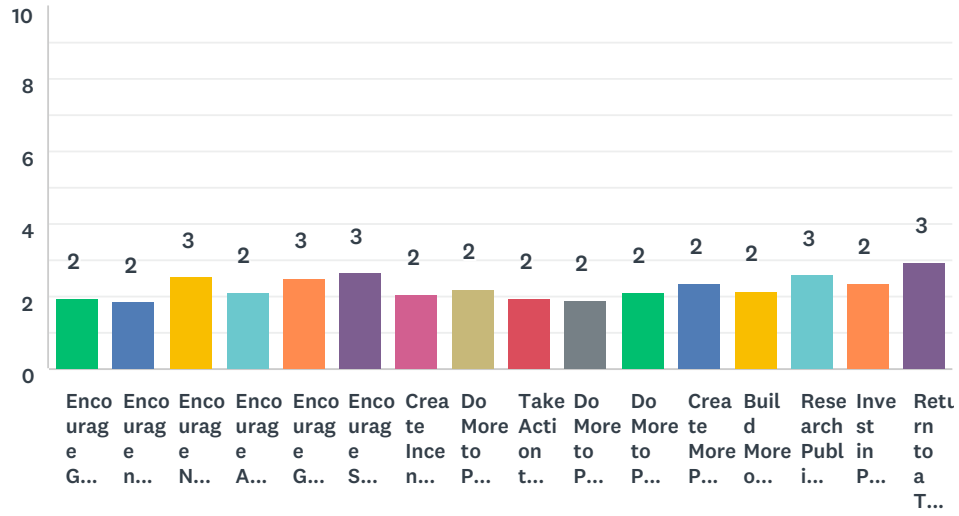
Answered: 0 Skipped: 85

 No matching responses.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
less than 2 years	0.00%	0
2 - 10 years	0.00%	0
more than 10 years	0.00%	0
TOTAL		0

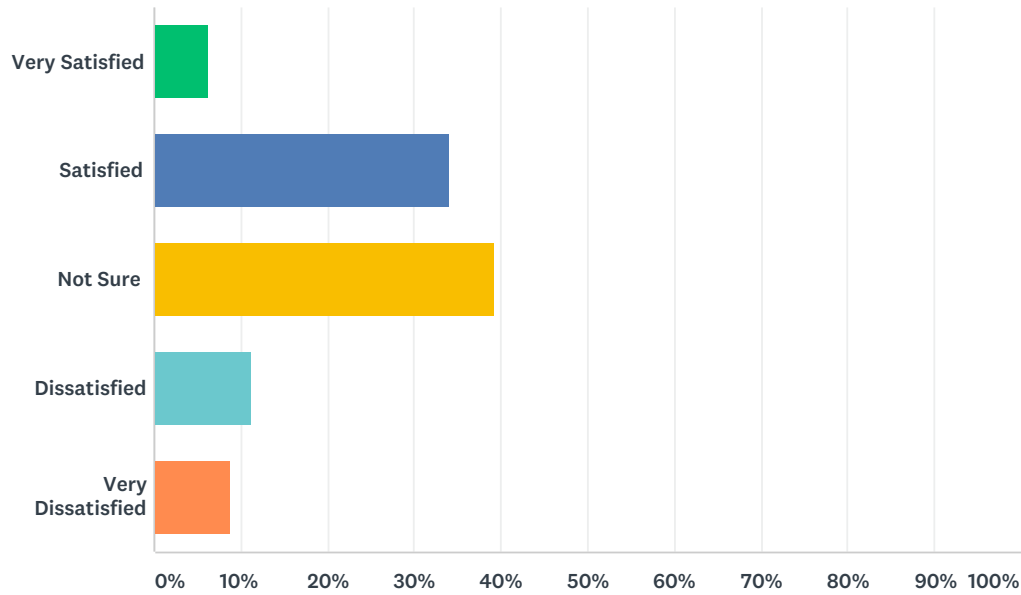
## Q7 Should the town...

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



## Q8 Are you satisfied with the current Land Use Ordinance?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 6

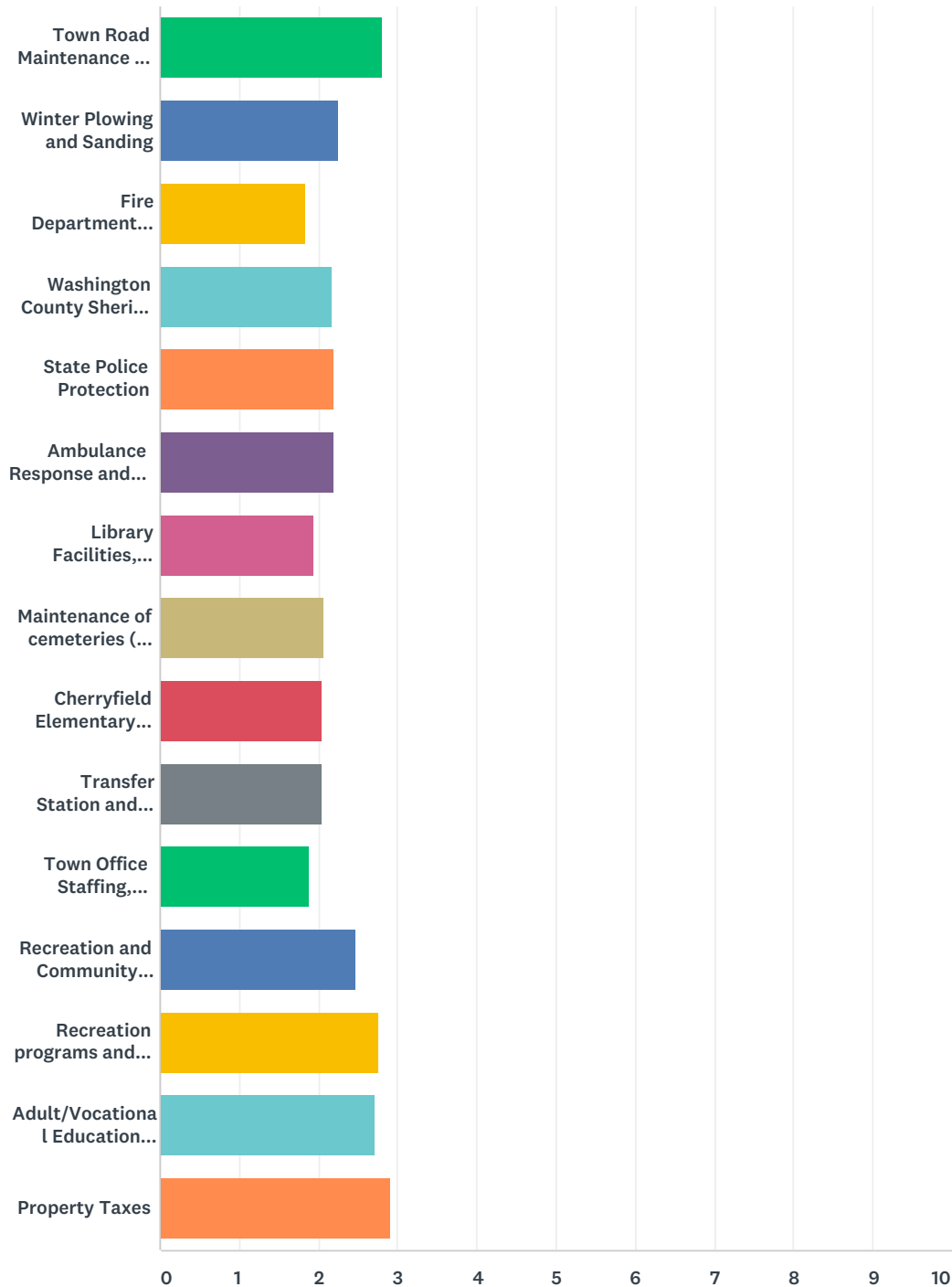


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	6.33%	5
Satisfied	34.18%	27
Not Sure	39.24%	31
Dissatisfied	11.39%	9
Very Dissatisfied	8.86%	7
TOTAL		79



## Q9 How do you feel about the following Public services, Facilities, or Programs?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



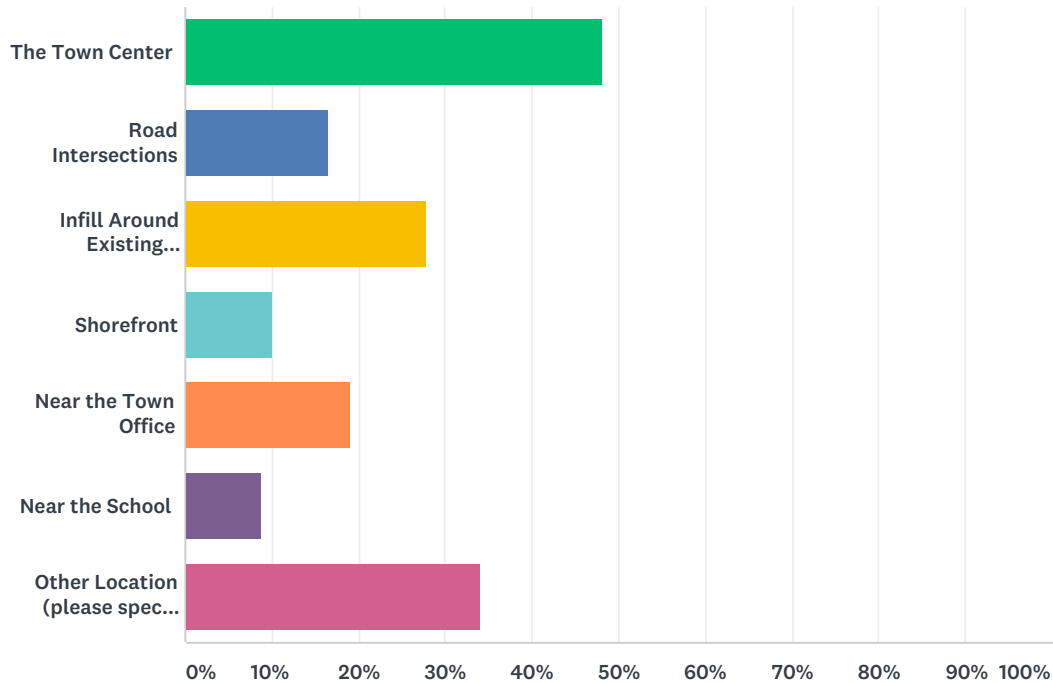
	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NOT SURE	DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Town Road Maintenance and repair	9.64%	46.99%	6.02%	28.92%	8.43%	83	2.80
	8	39	5	24	7		

## Cherryfield Comprehensive Plan - Community Input Survey

Winter Plowing and Sanding	17.07% 14	62.20% 51	3.66% 3	12.20% 10	4.88% 4	82	2.26
Fire Department Response and Equipment	32.94% 28	52.94% 45	12.94% 11	0.00% 0	1.18% 1	85	1.84
Washington County Sheriff Department Protection	21.43% 18	51.19% 43	20.24% 17	3.57% 3	3.57% 3	84	2.17
State Police Protection	25.00% 21	44.05% 37	20.24% 17	7.14% 6	3.57% 3	84	2.20
Ambulance Response and Services	22.35% 19	49.41% 42	20.00% 17	3.53% 3	4.71% 4	85	2.19
Library Facilities, Services, and Equipment	37.35% 31	43.37% 36	9.64% 8	6.02% 5	3.61% 3	83	1.95
Maintenance of cemeteries (Old Town and Intervale)	21.43% 18	57.14% 48	15.48% 13	3.57% 3	2.38% 2	84	2.08
Cherryfield Elementary School Operation	39.29% 33	34.52% 29	16.67% 14	2.38% 2	7.14% 6	84	2.04
Transfer Station and Recycling Facilities	25.00% 21	55.95% 47	8.33% 7	9.52% 8	1.19% 1	84	2.06
Town Office Staffing, Facilities, and Services	34.52% 29	51.19% 43	7.14% 6	5.95% 5	1.19% 1	84	1.88
Recreation and Community Facilities	12.35% 10	49.38% 40	19.75% 16	16.05% 13	2.47% 2	81	2.47
Recreation programs and activities	8.43% 7	40.96% 34	25.30% 21	16.87% 14	8.43% 7	83	2.76
Adult/Vocational Education Programs	10.84% 9	31.33% 26	38.55% 32	13.25% 11	6.02% 5	83	2.72
Property Taxes	1.23% 1	50.62% 41	20.99% 17	11.11% 9	16.05% 13	81	2.90

## Q10 Where specifically should growth and development in Cherryfield occur?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The Town Center	48.10%	38
Road Intersections	16.46%	13
Infill Around Existing Development	27.85%	22
Shorefront	10.13%	8
Near the Town Office	18.99%	15
Near the School	8.86%	7
Other Location (please specify below)	34.18%	27
Total Respondents: 79		

**Q11 If you responded Strongly to any question above, please comment here in more detail.**

Answered: 45   Skipped: 40

## Q12 What are the things about Cherryfield that you would not want to change?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 28

**Q13 What are the things about Cherryfield that you would want to see changed?**

Answered: 65   Skipped: 20



**Q14 What kind of new businesses or activities would you like to see in Cherryfield?**

Answered: 65   Skipped: 20

**Q15 Do you have any public safety concerns with ATVs, snowmobiles, pedestrians, or bicyclists in town?**

Answered: 70   Skipped: 15

**Q16 Do you have any suggestions for improving the Land Use Ordinance, especially what is allowed or not allowed in each district or zone (historical, mixed use, rural, future industrial)?**

Answered: 50   Skipped: 35

**Q17 Describe how you would like the town of Cherryfield to be in 10 years.**

Answered: 70   Skipped: 15

## APPENDIX 2. STATE POLICIES

The State policies that are found in the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act (30-A MRSA §4311 et seq.) are reproduced in this Appendix. The Act requires that a municipality will specify what approaches they will take to address them.

The Town of Cherryfield has tailored these policies to the specific circumstances of Cherryfield as they are raised in each of the major substantive areas (chapters) of this Comprehensive Plan. The Town's policies can be found in Chapter O. Policies and Implementation Strategies, in the body of the Capital Improvement Plan in Chapter L. Fiscal Capacity, and in the Land Use Plan that is mapped and described in Chapter M. Land Use.

### A. STATE POLICIES

1. To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community, while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services, and preventing development sprawl.
2. To plan for, finance, and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development;
3. To promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being;
4. To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens;
5. To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the State's water resources, including lakes, aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers, and coastal areas;
6. To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas, and unique natural areas;
7. To protect the State's marine resources industry, ports, and harbors from incompatible development, and to promote access to the shore for commercial fishermen and the public;
8. To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development that threatens those resources;
9. To preserve the State's historic and archeological resources and;
10. To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters.

### B. STATE COASTAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. To promote the maintenance, development, and revitalization of the State's ports and harbors for fishing, transportation, and recreation;
2. To manage the marine environment and its related resources to preserve and improve the ecological integrity and diversity of marine communities and habitats, to expand our understanding of the productivity of the Gulf of Maine and coastal waters, and to enhance the economic value of the State's renewable marine resources;
3. To support shoreline development that gives preference to water-dependent uses over other uses, that promotes public access to the shoreline, and that considers the cumulative effects of development on coastal resources;
4. To discourage growth and new development in coastal areas where, because of coastal storms, flooding, landslides, or sea-level rise, it is hazardous to human health and safety;
5. To encourage and support cooperative state and municipal management of coastal resources;
6. To protect and manage critical habitats and natural areas of state and national significance, and to maintain the scenic beauty and character of the coast, even in areas where development occurs;
7. To expand the opportunities for outdoor recreation, and to encourage appropriate coastal tourist activities and development;
8. To restore and maintain the quality of our fresh, marine, and estuarine waters to allow for the broadest possible diversity of public and private uses; and
9. To restore and maintain coastal air quality to protect the health of citizens and visitors, and to protect enjoyment of the natural beauty and maritime character of the Maine coast.



## APPENDIX 3. EVALUATION MEASURES

This appendix establishes evaluation measures that describe how the Town will periodically (at least every five years) evaluate the following:

- A. The degree to which future land use plan strategies have been implemented;
- B. Percent of municipal growth-related capital investments in growth areas;
- C. Location and amount of new development in relation to the community's designated growth areas, rural areas, mixed-use areas, and critical resource areas; and
- D. Amount of critical resource areas protected through acquisition, easements, or other measures.

### Implementation of Future Land Use Plan

Chapter M. Land Use of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan establishes a municipal policy directing the Selectmen and Planning Board to “Review and revise existing land use regulations, consistent with the goals and guidelines of this Comprehensive Plan.”

In addition, the Comprehensive Plan directs the Planning Board and Selectmen to “track new development in town by type and location and periodically (at least every five years) evaluate implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and attendant land ordinances to ensure that community goals are being met.”

To ensure that these objectives are met, it is recommended that the Selectmen hold, within six months of adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, a joint meeting with the Planning Board, the Code Enforcement Officer, and staff from the Washington County Council of Governments to develop a specific time table for implementation of the land use policies and implementation strategies established in *Chapter N* of the Comprehensive Plan.

### Growth Related Capital Investment

*Chapter L. Fiscal Capacity* establishes a municipal policy of financing public facilities and services in a cost effective manner, and an implementation strategy directing to the Selectmen to direct a minimum of 75% of new municipal growth-related capital investments into designated growth areas in the Future Land Use Plan.

To ensure that these objectives are met, in years when the Town makes growth-related capital investment(s) the Selectmen should indicate in their annual report the percent of each growth related capital investment made in designated growth areas.

### Location and Amount of New Development

The Land Use Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan directs the Planning Board and Selectmen to “track new development in town by type and location” and “periodically (at least every five years) evaluate implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and attendant land ordinances to ensure that community goals are being met.”

To ensure that this objective is met, the Selectmen should direct the Chair of the Planning Board to submit with his/her annual report a table indicating the type and location of new development for which permits have been issued in the previous year.

### **Protection of Critical Resources**

The location(s) of critical natural resources are indicated in *Chapter F. Natural Resources*. Many of these resources are already protected to a large degree by shoreland zoning and/or through conservation. To monitor the amount of critical resource areas protected through acquisition, easements, or other measures, the Town Assessor should maintain a record of parcels enrolled in Tree Growth, Farmland or Open Space protection programs. In addition the Town Assessor should maintain a record of those parcels protected by conservation easement or managed by land trusts, the Town or federal and state agencies for conservation purposes.

## APPENDIX 4. MAINE'S GROWTH MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

Maine's growth management legislation requires that municipalities designate two types of land use districts in their Comprehensive Plan: *growth areas* and *rural areas*. State requirements for the designation of land use areas are described below, along with descriptions of each proposed land use district in Cherryfield.

The Growth Management Act requires that any municipal growth-related capital investments (*"Investment by the municipality in the following projects, even if privately-owned, using municipal, county, state, federal, or other public funds, in the form of a purchase, lease, grant, loan, loan guarantee, credit, tax credit, or other financial assistance."* See Chapter 208 Review Rule) that may occur over the planning period be accommodated within the proposed growth areas; and the Town commits to directing at least 75% of such investments to these areas of town.

In addition to Growth Areas and Rural Areas, communities may also designate three additional types of land use areas. These include Critical Rural Areas, Critical Waterfront Areas, and Transitional Areas.

"Critical rural areas" are defined as "a rural area that is specifically identified and designated by a community's comprehensive plan as deserving maximum protection from development to preserve natural resources and related economic activities that may include, but are not limited to, significant farmland, forest land or mineral resources; high-value wildlife or fisheries habitat; scenic areas; public water supplies; scarce or especially vulnerable natural resources; and open lands functionally necessary to support a vibrant rural economy."

"Critical waterfront areas" are defined as "shorefront area[s] characterized by functionally water-dependent uses, as defined in MRSA 38 §436-A(6), and specifically identified and designated by a community's comprehensive plan as deserving maximum protection from incompatible development."

"Transitional areas" are defined as areas "suitable for a share of projected residential, commercial, or industrial development but that [are] neither intended to accept the amount or density of development appropriate for a growth area nor intended to provide the level of protection for rural resources afforded in a rural area or critical rural area."

### **Growth Areas - Defined and in Cherryfield**

The approximate extent of each land use district is depicted in *Chapter M. Land Use*. In any municipality, the purpose of the Land Use Plan and map is to identify appropriate locations to accommodate anticipated growth and future development. The Proposed Land Use Plan is drawn in "broad brush" and does not identify specific parcels. Only detailed site-specific analysis can determine land suitable for development and at what densities. In addition, the comprehensive plan has not assessed the individual landowner's desires to sell their land for development, to develop it or to leave it undeveloped.

Growth Areas are intended to direct development to areas most suitable for such growth and are therefore located close to municipal services to minimize the cost to the municipality for their delivery and maintenance. According to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF), land areas designated for growth must be consistent with the following provisions:

- (1) The Future Land Use Plan must designate as growth area those lands into which the community intends to direct a minimum of 75% of its dollars for municipal growth-related capital investments made during the planning period.
- (2) Built-out or developed areas that may not have capacity for further growth but require maintenance, replacement, or additional capital investment to support existing or infill development must also be designated as growth areas.
- (3) Growth areas must be limited to land areas that are physically suitable for development or redevelopment. Growth areas may include incidental land areas that are physically unsuitable for development or redevelopment, including critical natural resources, however, the plan addresses how these areas will be protected to the greatest extent practicable or, at a minimum, as prescribed by law.
- (4) To the greatest extent practicable growth areas should be located adjacent to existing densely-populated area.
- (5) Growth areas, to the greatest extent practicable, must be limited to an amount of land area and a configuration to encourage compact, efficient development patterns (including mixed uses) and discourage development sprawl and strip development.
- (6) Growth areas along arterials and mobility corridors must be configured to avoid strip development and promote nodes or clusters of development.

### **RURAL AREAS - Defined and in Cherryfield**

Rural Areas include those areas in Cherryfield where new development will be limited to support Cherryfield's important natural resources including its forested land, wetlands, shore lands, scenic areas, and critical habitat. In these areas the Town will use regulatory and non-regulatory means to place appropriate limits on incompatible development and uses.

According to the DACF, land areas designated as rural must be consistent with the following:

- To the greatest extent practicable, rural areas must include working farms, wood lots, properties enrolled in current-use tax programs related to forestry, farming or open space, areas of prime agricultural soils, critical natural resources, and important natural resources.
- The Future Land Use Plan must identify proposed mechanisms, both regulatory and non-regulatory, to ensure that the level and type of development in rural areas is compatible with the defined rural character and does not encourage strip development along roads.
- Rural areas shall not include land areas where the community actively encourages

- new residential, institutional, or commercial development.
- Rural areas must be compatible with designations in adjacent communities or provide buffers or transitions to avoid land use conflicts with neighboring communities.
  - To protect and preserve the rural character of Cherryfield while permitting low-density development, rural areas are established outside of the existing and proposed development areas and proposed growth areas. Rural areas are intended to safeguard forest resource from development, to conserve natural resources and open space land, and to encourage agriculture, forestry, and certain types of recreational uses. The Rural Areas consists of those areas where new residential and home based business development will be regulated to limit its impact on important natural resources including agricultural land, forested land, wetlands and scenic areas.

## APPENDIX 5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ELDERCARE STRATEGIES

**GROWashington-Aroostook** is a regional planning process focused on job creation, modern infrastructure, and healthy, affordable communities in Aroostook and Washington counties. Supported by a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from a unique partnership between 3 federal agencies (Housing and Urban Development - HUD, Department of Transportation - DOT, Environmental Protection Agency - EPA)

The sustainable housing component of GROWashington-Aroostook includes work-plan tasks with the desired outcome of addressing housing needs within the region, especially those related to increasing availability of affordable housing for low and moderately low income households; and to increase the median household income and stem population loss.

The Sustainable Housing Work Team's efforts to address housing challenges in Washington County are focused on:

- Documenting the gap between housing needs in Washington County and the funds available to address them - only 2% of the documented housing needs can be addressed with available funds;
- Describing the existing programs to address housing issues and evaluating those that have the greatest leverage to address problems given a dire lack of funds; and
- Developing policy and best practices recommendations to address the catastrophic gap between need and public funds with emphasis on public-private partnerships

Over the course of three public meetings the Sustainable Housing Work Team assembled a summary of existing programs that address housing issues in Washington County. This summary document organizes existing, proposed and best practices in terms of their value and reach. The programs are grouped according to whether they are Housing and Coordination Programs, Repair/Retrofit Programs, and Programs for Low Income Residents and the combined high cost of housing and transportation (and home heating).

Program	Value and Reach
<b><i>Housing and Coordination Programs</i></b>	
	•
Healthy Homes Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brings all repair programs together</li> <li>• Coordinated, comprehensive, and holistic approach to preventing disease and injuries resulting from housing-related hazards and deficiencies</li> </ul> <p>Key focus areas are lead poisoning prevention (lead dust, chips, and soil); asthma prevention (moisture, dust and dust mites, insect and/or animal droppings, mold); indoor air quality (carbon monoxide poisoning); and well water systems (arsenic, lead, copper, uranium, radon)</p>
Mighty Women - Social Capital team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring development of homeless shelter</li> <li>• Attempting to measure homeless population</li> </ul>
Next Step's Shelter	Nationally the cause of homelessness for 63% of women is domestic violence; Next Step partners with Washington Hancock Community Agency to provide transitional housing to enable a long term housing solution
Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing	Prevented homelessness through case management and stabilizing client(s) with housing & financial assistance over a 6-month period. Money is not currently available.



Home to Stay (Maine State Housing Authority)	Targeted to individuals and families that meet certain homeless eligibility status. An initiative to transform the current shelter system to a rapid response system that provides housing stability services to persons who are experiencing homelessness. Housing relocation and stabilization services will assist individuals or families to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability by supporting and promoting their participation in housing placement, increasing income, providing credit and budget counseling and resource coordination. Next Step Domestic Violence Project currently applying to participate.
Rental Assistance (MSHA)	<p>Section 8 Vouchers/Moderate Rehab Program provides subsidy to reduce monthly housing costs up to 30% of household income. Funding is limited and applicants are placed on a waiting list.</p> <p>The Section 8 Rental Voucher Program increases affordable housing choices for very low-income households by allowing families to choose privately owned rental housing. The public housing authority (PHA) pays the landlord the difference between 30 percent of household income and the PHA-determined payment standard-about 80 to 100 percent of the fair market rent (FMR). The rent must be reasonable. The household may choose a unit with a higher rent than the FMR and pay the landlord the difference or choose a lower cost unit and keep the difference.</p>
Habitat for Humanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designates a residence for rehabilitation based on criteria about the family;</li> <li>• Property owner puts in 'sweat' time on the rehabilitation process in exchange for the donated work by volunteers</li> </ul> <p>Work on limited number of properties</p>
At Home Downeast - Aging in Place (WHCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available to all income levels;</li> <li>• Age eligibility criterion;</li> <li>• Member based, volunteer supported</li> <li>• Program looks different in every community but has similar guiding principles</li> <li>• Part of health care system by providing medicines (or ensuring they are taken), nurse visits, ensuring appointments are kept, some transportation; referral service</li> <li>• Addresses isolation as it is strongly supported by volunteers and the community</li> <li>• Aging in Place is recommended nationally in Housing America's Future: New Directions for National Policy, Bipartisan Policy Center, Economic Policy Program – Housing Commission, Feb 2013 (post to <a href="http://www.gro-wa.org">www.gro-wa.org</a>)</li> <li>• Includes home safety assessments – carpets, stairs, handrails, but not yet water or air.</li> <li>• Staff: Program Manager, Office Assistant, Steering Committee (community volunteers, typically 65-70 years old), younger volunteers (manual work, assist with technology)</li> <li>• Membership is by fee with sliding scale; often paid for by the adult children of members. Funding also from donations and grants</li> </ul>
<b>Repair/Retrofit Programs</b>	
Tank and Pipe Replacement	<p>Replaces oil tanks that are leaking, rusty, or un-stable at no cost to the homeowner.</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client must have a current LIHEAP fuel application.</li> <li>• Client must own and live in the home.</li> </ul> <p>Single family, owner occupied homes or mobile homes only</p>
Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Maine Sea Coast Mission)	Home Repair. Volunteer groups in summer (250 volunteers with 14 mission groups in 2012) join with the local community action program and others that provide weatherization and other home repairs to complete major projects. Projects range from painting and basic carpentry to major repairs such as a roof replacement.

Home Repair Network Funding source: CDBG Housing development and repair; decreasing \$\$	May be used for a variety of home rehab needs, such as heating and electrical repairs, lead paint mitigation, roof and structural repairs, repair or replacement of substandard or failed septic systems, and other health and safety improvements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client must be at or below 80% median income based on the funding source.</li> <li>• Home must be an existing and habitable structure.</li> <li>• Client must own and live in the home.</li> <li>• Single-family homes only.</li> <li>• Single-wide or double-wide trailers must be built after 1978 located on owned or leased land. In the case of lease land, the lease must be provided for assistance.</li> <li>• Property cannot have restrictions or encumbrances that would restrict the marketable nature of the owner's interest.</li> <li>• All tax liens must be cleared before a loan or grant can be approved.</li> </ul> Property owner must be unable to provide/obtain financing for improvements.
Lead Hazard Control	Provides up to \$16,000 to eligible homeowners and up to \$10,000 per unit to eligible landlords of lower-income tenants for lead safety improvements. Making homes lead safe may involve paint removal or stabilization, and window and door replacement. Requirements: Eligible clients or 2/3 of tenants must be at or below 80% median income and the home must be built before 1978. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner occupied homes must have a child under the age of six living in the home.</li> </ul> Rental units two+ bedrooms; tenant must be income eligible or the unit must be vacant.
Weatherization (funding now at pre-2008 levels)	Provides assessment of air leakage, the heating system, moisture problems, and health and safety issues. Weatherization improvements may include insulation, air sealing, moisture controls, and health and safety measures. Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client must have a current LIHEAP fuel application and live in the home.</li> <li>• Priority is given to households with senior citizens (over 60), children under two years of age or a person with a disability that makes them hypothermia- vulnerable.</li> </ul> Priority is also given to households with the highest fuel consumption.
YouthWorks	House painting +
Private donations	
Voluntourism	
<b>Programs for Low Income Residents Associated with Combined high cost of Housing and Transportation (and home heating)</b>	
Helping Hands Garage <a href="http://www.whcaca.org/vehicle-purchase/">http://www.whcaca.org/vehicle-purchase/</a>	Helps income-eligible people and others obtain vehicles. Program purchases used, often high mileage vehicles; find and repairs any problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customers can contact us to request a type of vehicle they are looking for and we work to obtain it for them from our sources</li> <li>• Minimal markup on vehicles; Reasonable interest rate loans; Easy payment terms</li> </ul> Affordable courses on: Budgeting, Insurance, Vehicle Maintenance, and Child Safety Seat Use
Family Futures Downeast	Teaches living skills
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Helps pay home heating costs based on % of federal poverty levels; guidelines change each year so clients need to reapply each year. LIHEAP pays a portion of home heating costs, but not all. When LIHEAP benefits run out Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) funds may be available for emergencies. To qualify: household must be below 1/8 tank of oil or about to be disconnected. Can provide up to \$400 of emergency heating assistance in life threatening situations only once/year and current, approved LIHEAP clients.

Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP)	Repair or replace dangerous, malfunctioning, or inoperable heating appliances or systems that pose a threat to the health and safety. Households with no heat are the highest priority. <i>Requirements:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client must have a current LIHEAP fuel application on file and live in the home.</li> <li>• Proof of home ownership required, i.e. a copy of the deed or a copy of property taxes.</li> </ul> A licensed heating technician must inspect the heating system at the owner's expense and a letter of condemnation or a written description of necessary repairs must be submitted to WHCA.
The Heating and Warmth (THAW) fund	Funds raised from the community (tax-deductible contributions) assist people who may be just outside the LIHEAP program eligibility requirements or who have exhausted all other options to heat their homes; no income eligibility requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ For (LIHEAP) ineligible purposes, such as furnace repairs, utility bills and service reconnections.</li> <li>☐ A typical THAW fund recipient gets a 100-gallon emergency delivery of heating fuel.</li> <li>☐ \$500 will help a family through an emergency heating crisis.</li> </ul>
Fuel Assistance (ME Sea Coast Mission)	Emergency fuel assistance. Links homeowners to the housing repair ministry for weatherization of their houses and trailers to reduce future fuel costs
Senior Companions (ME SeaCoast Mission and UMaine Coop Extension)	Serves older adults, adults with disabilities or terminal illnesses, offers respite for caregivers. Assists adult clients in basic, essential ways: companionship/friendship, simple chores, providing transportation, and adding richness to their lives; also coordinates with Food Pantries.
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency meals for free and sells meals at \$4/meal;</li> <li>• Provide several hundred Amish heaters to low income families;</li> <li>• Homeowners have fears that if they improve their house then their taxes will go up;</li> <li>• Many wont apply for benefits because they fear loss of their homes; EAAA spends a lot of time debunking these misperceptions</li> </ul> Clients are looking for a safe, affordable handy person to do manual labor (raking, shoveling)

*(Developing data analysis, program review and policy recommendations can be downloaded from the GROWashington-Aroostook website (<http://gro-wa.org/sustainable-housing.htm#.UiZY27x4l0k>) and are incorporated into the discussion above and ensuing housing policies.)*

### **PROGRAMS FOR AN AGING POPULATION** *(following section taken from A Regional Plan for Sustainable Housing in Washington County, East, J. and T. Hill, 2014)*

#### At Home Downeast (WHCA)

Aging in Place is a national non-profit program, implemented in 60 locations around the United States. In Washington and Hancock Counties, it is offered through the Washington Hancock Community Agency. It has been implemented in Hancock County, but not yet in Washington County. It is a member based, volunteer supported program, offering a number of in-home services for seniors, to help enable them to live in their homes longer. It is modeled on the village concept, in that people living in their own homes in close proximity to each other, band together to form a self-directed community organization to meet the needs of seniors.

The program addresses senior isolation, by bringing services to seniors, and has a strong base of community and volunteer support. This program is tailored to each community, but has similar guiding principles.

The program is funded by membership fees, often paid by adult children of elderly in the program. Donations and grants also fund the program.

Eligibility Requirements: The program has an age requirement, but is available to all income levels, with membership by fee on a sliding scale.

Services offered by this program include:

- Household and yard chores, with the manual work often done by volunteers;
- Assistance with technology;
- Some transportation;
- Assurance that appointments are kept;
- Nurse visits every few days; and
- Home safety assessments, relative to carpets, stairs, and handrails.

Sources:

1. WHCA website: <http://www.whcacap.org/at-home-downeast/hammock/about.php>;
2. GROWashington/Aroostook Sustainable Housing Work Team minutes: <http://gro-wa.org/sustainable-housing-agendas-and-minutes>

#### Eastern Area Agency on Aging

The Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging includes a set of non-profit programs operating in different areas of Maine, funded in part, by Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and in part by donations. The Eastern Area Agency on Aging (EAAA) is the program servicing Washington County, as well as Hancock, Penobscot, and Piscataquis Counties. In operation since 1974, EAAA has a professional staff offering programs that provide general volunteer assistance to seniors including:

- emergency meals for free and meals for sale at \$4/meal;
- several other kinds of nutrition services;
- several hundred Amish heaters to low income families;
- safe, affordable handy people to do manual labor (raking, shoveling);
- information assistance and free legal services for the elderly; and
- support and education to individuals caring for family members, especially regarding dementia.

EAAA also partners with other organizations to provide additional services, including:

- Senior Care Coordination;
- Step by Step Fall Prevention Program;
- Legal Services for the Elderly; and
- EZ FIX, a minor home repair program for seniors.

In addition to emergency meals, EAAA offers the “Nutrition Program” (formerly known as “Meals for Me”), which serves hot lunches to persons 60 and over at 45 Community Cafes (some at senior living facilities) in the Counties it serves. EAAA’s “Meals on Wheels” program, also delivers hot lunches to homebound seniors who are unable to cook a meal themselves.

Sources:

1. EAAA website: <http://www.eaaa.org/>;
2. Volunteer Maine website: <http://volunteer.truist.com/me/org/219249.html>;

3. GROWashington/Aroostook minutes;
4. Dir. of “Nutrition Program” in Machias.

### Senior Companions (Maine Sea Coast Mission and U. Maine Coop. Extension)

This program serves frail older adults, adults with disabilities, those with terminal illnesses, and caregivers in need of respite. Active individuals, aged 60 and older, are provided with a stipend to assist seniors in need. They provide homebound adults with companionship, and assist with simple chores and transportation. This program also coordinates with food pantries, where volunteers provide meals for persons in need.

The following goals have been defined for this program:

- To provide cost effective alternatives to institutionalization by encouraging the independence of Maine’s older adult population;
- To promote a high quality of life for Senior Companions and their clients;
- To provide a formal structure within which Senior Companions come together to attain a common understanding of the services they provide;
- To recognize and reward the efforts of Senior Companion volunteers; and
- To help Maine people to improve their lives through an educational process that uses research-based knowledge focused on community issues and needs.

Sources:

1. Senior Companions website: [http://www.seacoastmission.org/senior\\_companions.html](http://www.seacoastmission.org/senior_companions.html);
2. GROWashington/Aroostook Sustainable Housing Work Team minutes: <http://gro-wa.org/sustainable-housing-agendas-and-minutes>

### Catholic Charities Housing Services; a.k.a. Homemaker Services

This Catholic Charities program, also known as Homemaker Services, is a state-wide program that connects support services to those in need. It enables seniors and people with disabilities, to stay longer in their homes, especially those on limited incomes. Services are professionally supervised, and are provided by a team of para-professionals, who help with a variety of tasks.

Services include:

- Emergency help and food,
- Counseling,
- Child care,
- Housekeeping,
- Grocery shopping,
- Laundry,
- Transportation, and
- Incidental help with personal hygiene and dressing.

This program services individuals, families, and children in need, regardless of faith or ability to pay.

Sources:

1. Website for Maine Aging and Disability Services: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads/aging/long-term/homemaker.shtml>;
2. GROWashington/Aroostook Sustainable Housing Work Team minutes: <http://gro-wa.org/sustainable-housing-agendas-and-minutes>

Support and Services at Home (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services)

This federal program is aimed at supporting elderly people who want to stay in their homes, rather than moving to nursing homes or other long-term care facilities. It has been implemented successfully in Vermont, which can serve as a model for implementation in other areas.

Medicaid (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services)

Medicaid is a federal entitlement program that provides medical services to eligible low income persons. In Maine, Medicaid is known as “Maine Care”. The Maine Department of Health and Human Services administers this federal health insurance program at the state level. This program relates to housing by subsidizing “cost of care” for people living in a medical facility, who meet the eligibility requirements. Medical facilities include: nursing homes, residential care facilities, cost reimbursed boarding homes, or adult family care homes. Some people who are eligible to live in a nursing home may get services in their own home instead.

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Unless clients’ income is set aside for a living-at-home spouse, they must use most of their income to pay for care.
- Income caps: countable income of \$958 per month for one elderly or disabled person, or \$1,293 for two, as of 2013.
- To receive benefits while living in a nursing home, there are minimum thresholds for medical and dementia conditions.

## Services Include:

- Adult Day Health,
- Care Coordination Services,
- Environmental Modifications,
- Financial Management Services,
- Homemaker Services,
- Home Health Services,
- Personal Support Services,
- Personal Emergency Response System Services,
- Transportation Services,
- Respite Services, and
- Skills Training.

For residents living in a nursing home, another benefit package provides additional services, including: cost of the room, food, routine supplies and equipment, and nursing care. For residents living in other residential care facilities, a benefits package includes a number of medical services, plus hospice.

Sources:

1. Federal website: <http://www.medicaid.gov/>;
2. Maine website: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mainecare.shtml>

Medicare (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services)

Medicare is health insurance for people 65 or older, and people under age 65 with certain disabilities. This program helps to pay for medical services, hospitalization, hospice, prescription drugs, and home health care. Thus, for elderly, it can either help pay for nursing home residency, or for medical services at home. There are several parts to Medicare plans. Part A affects living in long-term care facilities. Most people 65 or older are automatically eligible for Part A, with no monthly payment.

Eligibility requirements for Part A include:

- Nursing home stay must be for an illness diagnosed during a hospital stay or for the main cause of a hospital stay.
- Hospice facility benefits are only available for terminally ill persons with less than six months to live.

Medicare Advantage Plans, Part C, are an alternative to traditional Medicare, in that they are public / private partnerships approved by Medicare, but run by private companies. (Sources: <https://www.medicare.gov/>; <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/>)



**APPENDIX 6. 2004 POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

Appendix 6. outlines the Policies and Implementation strategies from the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, including who was identified as the responsible party to coordinate and oversee each one, and anticipated timeline for each strategy to have been completed.

<b>Population</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The town will gather all available population estimates, census data and other information concerning the number and characteristics of the Town's population. These will be maintained in appropriate files that shall be available in the Town hall for use by the Town Officers and by residents.		Planning Board	Immediate (1-2 years)	Available information is available online to the public.
The town will update the population information files every five years.		Planning Board	Long-term (5-10 years)	See above comment

<b>Historic and Archeological Resources</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Historic awareness of historic structures and artifacts should be promoted, especially in the Historic District, including the consideration of listing of additional sites on the National Register of Historic Places for Cherryfield:		Historical Society	1-2 years	Promoted by private property owners, not Town. Town should support and encourage.

<b>Historic and Archeological Resources</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
A Town Cemetery Committee should be activated to supervise the mapping of the two Town-owned cemeteries (Old Town Cemetery & Intervale Cemetery).	A management plan should be established to include sale of available lots, a maintenance and repair plan to repair historically significant headstones and proper procedures for burials.	Select Board and Planning Board	2-5 years	Ask Bobby Grant if this happened. Military graves are mapped, there is a list at the Legion.
Potential areas and artifacts of historical and archaeological significance, especially along the edge of the blueberry barrens and Narraguagus River valley, will be professionally surveyed and documented as funding allows, and historical and archaeological sites and artifacts will be monitored to ensure their protection and preservation.		Select Board and Planning Board	2-5 years	IF a survey is conducted, the priorities will be...
	The Old Town Cemetery is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Nomination Form prepared by the Historical Society should be submitted.	Select Board and Planning Board	2-5 years	Ask Kathy Upton if this has been done.

<b>Historic and Archeological Resources</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The town's future land use ordinance and Subdivision Regulations will make reference to areas mapped by MHPC as likely to include archeological resources. Maps of these areas provided by MHPC are available at the town office.	The regulations will require developers submitting applications to the planning board to build in these areas to conduct appropriate site investigations to determine whether there are significant resources, and if any are found, to protect them as part of the local permitting process.	Planning Board	Immediate	Completed, in LUO
The town's future land use ordinance and Subdivision Regulations will make reference to known historic sites.	The regulations will require developers submitting applications to the planning board to include a plan showing the preservation of known or suspected historic or naturally significant areas.	Planning Board	Immediate	Completed, in LUO
Town records should be preserved through microfiche and paper preservation.		Historical Society	5 years	Ask Kathy Upton about modern preservation techniques and needs

<b>Natural Resources</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Comments</b>
In order to protect the existing fish, waterfowl/wading bird habitats and deer wintering areas within the town, protection provisions will be included in the Land Use Ordinance.	The Land Use Ordinance will require that when landowners, project planners, municipalities or state agencies propose a development in or near the site of an Essential Habitat or Significant Habitat, a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist must be contacted for immediate assistance. Early consultation will help resolve avoidable conflicts and prevent unnecessary delays and economic pitfalls that might otherwise arise during final project reviews.	Planning Board	Immediate (within 2 years)	This is in the LUO, it has been updated several times.
On a regional level, the town will develop compatible water quality standards for the protection of the shared aquifer.	The planning boards of Steuben, Columbia and Milbridge will be contacted to discuss the regional protection of the shared aquifer by development of regional water regulations.	Planning Board	Immediate (within 2 years)	Ask MCHT if Town is engaged. Look at the aquifer map...
	Once these standards are established, they may be incorporated into the local land use ordinance and shoreland zoning regulations. Once adopted, the planning boards will monitor their effectiveness.	Planning Board	Immediate (within 2 years)	Nothing is included in the current LUO.

<b>Natural Resources</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The Shoreland Zoning Regulations and the Subdivision Ordinance will be updated when necessary in order to maintain compliance with minimum State and Federal regulations and reflect the local needs of the community.		Planning Board	Ongoing	Continue this
The town has participated in and reviewed the Narraguagus River Watershed Non Point Source Pollution Management Plan. The town will cooperate to the extent funds allow in the implementation strategy contained therein for both remediation of current NPS sites and prevention of future NPS contributing pollutants to the Narraguagus River Watershed.		Planning Board	Immediate	Ask MCHT about this management plan.

<b>Natural Resources</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The town will cooperate with Columbia, the ME-DEP and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, to inventory the Schoodic lake watershed and develop a Watershed Management Plan based on the fisheries and water quality data found.		Planning Board, or subcommittee established by selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	Ask MCHT about this management plan.

<b>Economy</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Regional Activities: The Selectmen will directly, or through appointment of others, participate in regional activities such as the Sunrise County Economic Development Council and the Washington County Council of Governments.		Selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	

<b>Economy</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Education: The School Committee will work with the Regional School Superintendent and staff to insure that the educational opportunities available to its children, both academic and vocational, address the needs of those children. It is important that the education, which our taxes pay for, results in the best possible preparation of our children for their future careers.		Selectmen; SAD #37 Directors	Long-term	
Program Awareness: The Town will develop programs to insure that those eligible for public assistance, unemployment assistance, job training, aid to the elderly and/or handicapped are made aware of and assisted in applying for such programs.		Selectmen	Ongoing	
Regional Activities: Continue to belong to and fund Delta Economic Development Corporation.	Support its activities to attract new business to Cherryfield.	Selectmen	Ongoing	



<b>Economy</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Land Use Ordinance: Cherryfield's land use ordinance will contain appropriate land use regulations that will attract, enhance and support existing and future development, while minimizing negative impacts of non-compatible uses.	The land use plan will identify appropriate areas for commercial and industrial development; this action will reduce the likelihood of future strip development, resistance to new projects or incompatible uses. Home occupation performance standards will be included in the future land use ordinance to ensure compatibility with residential neighborhoods and adjacent properties. Day care facilities will be allowed throughout the town to assist in creating affordable childcare.	Planning Board, Selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	
Regional Activities: Work with Economic Development groups to bring high speed internet access to Cherryfield.		Selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	
Downtown Revitalization Committee: The Town will appoint a committee to assist with implementation of Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization objectives in this section and the Capital Improvement Plan.		Selectmen	Immediate	

<b>Housing</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The Selectmen will insure that the CEO works to correct all known failed or inadequate subsurface sewage disposal systems.		Selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	
The town will welcome and encourage participation in programs, grants (CDBG housing assistance and rehabilitation programs) and projects for the construction of subsidized housing whether within the town or the region, grants to homeowners for improvements to energy efficiency, habitability, etc.	The town will compile information on these programs and grants for the use of residents.	Selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	
The town welcomes and encourages participation in programs, grants or projects, within the town or region to insure sufficient, affordable housing options for elderly citizens.	Focus on a veterans facility could provide an initiative that serves this need as well as a forum for regional cooperation.	Selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	

<b>Housing</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The Selectmen will insure that the code enforcement officer (CEO) work to address reported violations of local ordinances and State laws and regulations that affect health, safety or community conditions such as the automobile graveyard provisions, removal of unsafe or deteriorated buildings, replacement of driveway culverts, etc.	The CEO will work with the planning board to address any need for modification to the existing land use regulations that may be appropriate.	Selectmen, Planning Board, CEO	Ongoing	
Through the future land use ordinance, the town will continue to encourage affordable housing opportunities by allowing a mixture of appropriate housing types, including accessory apartments.	In this effort, the town will encourage senior citizen housing opportunities and the land use ordinance will provide residential areas that allow single and multi-family dwellings, as well as manufactured housing.	Selectmen	Ongoing	
	The town will continue to allow mixed uses and mixed income housing within the residential areas of the town.	Selectmen	Ongoing	
The Planning Board will investigate the need for a Building Code and report its findings to the Selectmen.		Selectmen	Long-term	

<b>Recreation</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>

<b>Recreation</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
To encourage recreational opportunities and increase public access to surface water, the selectmen will fund improvements on town owned land, including landing facilities, as directed by the condition of recreational facilities in Table 1 of this chapter and as described in the Capital Improvement Plan.		Selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	
To encourage the preservation of open space the future land use ordinance will include provisions that will require major new residential developments reviewed by the code enforcement office and the planning board to present recreational and open space areas in their plans.		Selectmen	Ongoing	
The town will support the maintenance of existing trails as well as the creation of new ones, where warranted, for snowmobile and other uses.		Selectmen	Ongoing	

<b>Transportation</b>
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The town will plan for optimum use, repair construction, and maintenance of roads.		Selectmen	Ongoing	
road commissioners will develop a multi-year road maintenance plan for the town, based in part on a recurring evaluation of roadways, culverts and bridges, which will be the basis for future allocation of road maintenance funds.		Road Commissioners	Long-term	
The planning board will contact MDOT to learn of projected traffic impact of proposed major subdivisions, reviewed by the planning board under the State Subdivision Statute.		Planning Board	Ongoing	
To address several areas of conflict between the town and adjoining landowners the town will consult and make available its existing inventory of rights-of-ways and conduct necessary legal research to resolve ownership disagreements.		Selectmen	Immediate (within 2 years)	
The town will consider a local roads ordinance that harmonizes access of driveways and entrances with state access management regulations.	Such an ordinance would require that private subdivision roads be brought up to acceptable standards, including width and culvert design, before acceptance by the Town.	Selectmen	Long-term	

<b>Transportation</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The town will participate actively in RTAC-Region 2 and Route 1 Corridor Committee meetings and policy development within each of these organizations.		Selectmen	Ongoing	
The town will ensure village revitalization efforts do not close future options for allowing freight or passenger rail service to be developed in Cherryfield.		Road Commissioners	Long-term	
The town will seek funds to build sidewalks and paved shoulders in the Village to ensure the safety of pedestrians.		Road Commissioners	Long-term	
The town has had input into the goals and implementation strategies of the Corridor Management Plan for the Scenic Byway on State Road 182. The town supports these goals and strategies and will participate in the Corridor Management Committee to see that SR182 is improved for efficient movement of traffic as well as protection of scenic, natural resource and historic assets.	This will include pursuing grants, or supporting grants pursued by others, that provide safety improvements, interpretive signage and enhancements to recreational opportunities along the entire corridor.	Selectmen	Ongoing	

<b>Transportation</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The town will develop and refine a sign policy directing that they be developed in a manner that is tasteful and appropriate to their subject, namely to direct visitors to the historic district and specific historic sites in Cherryfield.	They will include directing visitors from intersections outside of town and once they are in the village itself.	Selectmen	Ongoing	

<b>Public Facilities</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The town will continue to educate its citizen on the importance of recycling through the use of fliers, informational meetings and school programs.	Literature on the town's recycling program will be made readily available to residents at the town office.	Selectmen	Ongoing	



<b>Public Facilities</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The town manager and selectpersons will seek CDBG Public Facilities Infrastructure Grants to expand the recycle building at the Transfer Station, construct the Village Sewage Treatment system, for Downtown revitalization, and for housing rehabilitation.		Town Manager, Selectmen	Ongoing	
The town will address future funding needs for replacement items through the Capital Improvement Plan as indicated in the fiscal capacity section.		Town Manager, Selectmen	Long-term	
The town will investigate the availability and funding sources through the Capital Improvement Plan for improving access to high speed Internet access within the region.		Town Manager, Selectmen	Long-term	

<b>Land Use</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>

<b>Land Use</b>				
<b>Goal: (none specified)</b>				
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The Planning Board will continue to develop necessary land use regulations as deemed appropriate by the will of the voters.		Planning Board	Ongoing	
The Planning Board will develop a Land Use Ordinance consistent with the goals and guidelines of this Comprehensive Plan to be voted on by the residents at an annual town meeting.		Planning Board	Immediate (within 2 years)	
The Planning Board will update the existing ordinances to ensure their consistency with state and federal laws and the local needs.		Planning Board	Long-term	
Cherryfield will discourage development in its sensitive rural areas through its public investment decisions.	Public facilities will be constructed in growth areas with no extension of paved surfaces beyond the current extent within the town's ownership.	Selectmen	Immediate	
	In addition, to discourage conversion of existing seasonal camps into year round residences the town will not extend winter maintenance (plowing) beyond its current extent.	Selectmen	Immediate	