

## F. RECREATION

### 1. Introduction

A comprehensive plan should contain an inventory of current recreational facilities and needs in a community and determine what may be needed in the future. Specifically, this section will:

- a. describe current recreational resources in Orland;
- b. assess the current and future adequacy of these resources; and
- c. predict whether the availability of open space areas for public recreation and access will be threatened by future growth and development.

### 2. Key Findings and Issues

Orland has limited recreational facilities in town and relatively few organized youth and adult recreational programs. Parking is a problem at the various boat launching facilities. Orland's wealth of natural resources provides many additional recreational opportunities to residents. The town also participates in Bucksport's recreation program.

The town's protected open space is also limited. The only known preserved open space is owned by the Nature Conservancy along Toddy Pond. It will be difficult for the town to address these deficiencies given the many other demands on the tax base.

### 3. Public Opinion Survey and Community Workshop Results

About 50 percent of respondents felt that recreational programs and facilities were either "adequate" or "more than adequate." Sixty-one percent felt that recreational access to fresh water was not a problem, compared to a 57 percent rate for salt water access. Participants in the January 1998 workshop identified Great Pond Mountain and the lakes, woods and mountains as assets.

### 4. Current Recreational Resources

#### a. Facilities

Orland's recreational facilities are summarized on Table F.1. As seen, these facilities are limited. Public facilities consist of a multipurpose field and playground at the Consolidated School. The privately owned 4-mile Great Pond Mountain Trail is also open to the public.

There are three boat launching sites: at Toddy Pond, the Craig Brook Fish Hatchery, and the Orland River. While the Toddy Pond ramp is adequate at high water levels, it is not adequate when the water is low. The dock at this site needs improvements and the site is crowded. Parking is inadequate at both the Craig Brook and Toddy Pond ramps, especially for boat trailers. The Orland River ramp is in very poor condition and has no dock. Craig's Pond is accessible by foot only.

## **Section F: Recreation**

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There is a picnic area and fresh water beach at the Craig Brook Hatchery. As mentioned above, parking at that facility is inadequate. The Toddy Pond boat ramp is also used unofficially as a swimming area but is inadequate for that purpose due to crowding and the lack of sanitary facilities.

### **b. Recreational Programs and Activities**

The Orland Board of Recreation provides several recreational activities including youth programs for soccer, basketball, farm league baseball, softball, and t-ball, as well as an adult basketball and volleyball program. The Family Snowmobile Club maintains approximately 60 miles of trails used for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in Orland. Orland's freshwater lakes and ponds provide excellent opportunities for swimming, fishing, ice skating and other activities.

The town holds Orland River Day in July. The event serves as a community day offering games and activities for area residents and visitors. Events normally include a river race, a parade and various booths sponsored by local organizations.

The town of Orland is affiliated with the Bucksport Recreation Program. Facilities include a swimming pool, skating rink, and tennis courts. There is also an active Little League program and Orland children are offered discounts for swimming lessons in Bucksport.

## **5. Current and Future Adequacy of Orland's Recreational Resources**

The adequacy of Orland's recreational resources can be evaluated in two ways. First, the town's current facilities and programs can be compared to recommended state standards for communities of comparable size. The town's projected population can be used to determine future adequacy. Second, the subjective impressions of residents and information gathered through the public opinion survey and public meetings may be used. Since every town is different, the state standards should be considered as general guidelines. Table F.2 shows the recommended state standards for towns in the 1,500 to 2,000 population range as well as those between 2,000 and 2,500. Orland meets some of these suggested standards.

Orland may want to explore options for sharing additional facilities with Bucksport. The town may also want to develop a long-range recreation plan so that facilities could be upgraded gradually in a manner that reflects the limited tax dollars available.

The Board of Recreation has already identified some preliminary needs that it would like to address in the future. These include a general purpose recreational building that could be used for senior citizen programs, suppers, dances and related activities. The board would also like to have its own ballfields. The only fields in town now are owned by the school and it is very difficult for the recreation board to schedule use of these fields since they are generally used for school activities. As discussed above, the town's boat launching facilities need parking-related improvements.

**Orland Comprehensive Plan: Inventory and Analysis**

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<b>Table F.1 Recreation Resources: Orland, 1996</b>									
<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Water Body</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Play ground</b>	<b>Fields</b>	<b>Beach</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Parking capacity</b>	<b>Other</b>
Balsam Cove Campground	private restricted	Toddy Pond (boat ramp)	40	1	no	700ft	no	0	camp sites, horseshoes
Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery	federal	Alamoosook Lake (boat ramp)	136	no	no	700ft	no	80	12 picnic tables
Great Hill Trail	private	--	1	no	no	no	4 miles	0	
Shady Oaks	private restricted	--	5	1	no	no	1 mile	0	camp sites, 1/2 basketball court, horseshoes
Orland Elementary School	town	--	1	1	1	no	no	0	no
Public Access	town	Orland River	0.5						
Craig's Pond	federal	Craig's Pond	1						access by foot only
Toddy Pond boat ramp	state	Toddy Pond (boat ramp)	2.4	no	no	no	no	10	no
Whispering Pines	private restricted	Toddy Pond	7	1	1	100ft	no	no	camp sites, horseshoes
<b>Source:</b> State of Maine, Dept. of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, and Orland Comprehensive Planning Committee									

**Section F: Recreation**

<b>Figure F.2 Guidelines for Recreation and Park Services</b>		
<b>Population Criteria</b>	<b>1,500-2,000</b>	<b>2,000-2,500</b>
<b>I. Administration</b>		
A. Recreation & Park Board or Committee	X	X
<b>II. Leadership</b>		
1. Summer Swim Instructor	X	X
2. Summer Recreation Director	X	X
3. Winter Skating Supervisor	X	X
<b>III. Program</b>		
A. Swim Instruction Program	X	X
B. Supervised Playground Program	X	X
C. Senior Citizen Club	X	X
D. Teen Program		X
E. Skiing Instruction Program	X	X
F. Ice Skating	X	X
G. Community-wide Special Events	X	X
H. Arts and Crafts Program	X	X
I. Evening Adult Education. Recreation Program	X	X
J. Organized Dance Group		X
<b>IV. Facilities (to include School Area)</b>		
A. Outdoor Facilities		
1. Community Recreation Area: 12-25 acres w/ ballfields, tennis courts, swimming, ice skating, etc.	X	X
2. Special Facilities		
<b>Figure F.2, continued: Criteria</b>		
<b>Population Criteria</b>	<b>1,500-2,000</b>	<b>2,000-2,500</b>
a. Softball &/or Little League Diamond (.75 per 1,000 pop.)	X	X
b. Basketball Court (.50 per 1,000 pop.)	X	X
c. Tennis Court (.67 per 1,000 pop.)	X	X
d. Multi-purpose Field: football, soccer, field hockey (.5 per 1,000 pop.)	X	X
e. Ice Skating (5,000 s.f. per 1,000 pop.)	X	X

**Orl and Comprehensive Plan: Inventory and Analysis**

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f. Playgrounds (.50 per 1,000 pop.)	X	X
g. Horseshoe Courts	X	X

**Section F: Recreation**

h. Shuffleboard Courts	X	X
i. Picnic Areas w/ tables & grills (2 tables per 1,000 pop.)	X	X
j. Outdoor Education. Area or Nature Center	X	X
<b>B. Indoor Facilities</b>		
1. School Facilities Available for Public Use	X	X
2. Gym or Large Multi-purpose Room (.20 per 1,000 pop.)	X	X
3. Auditorium or Assembly Hall	X	X
4. Public Library	X	X
5. Arts and crafts shop, teen center, senior citizen center, games room		X
<b>V. Finance (funds for operation and maintenance - not capital)</b>		
A. Minimum \$6 per capita for part-time program	X	X
Source: Recreation and Open Space Planning Workbook, Office of Comprehensive Planning, Dept. of Economic and Community Development; May 1991.		

**6. Open Space**

**a. Inventory**

The Nature Conservancy has approximately 3.5 acres conserved on the shore of Toddy Pond. Orland does not have any land registered under the state's open space tax law.

**b. Assessment of Threats to Open Space**

Since Orland has minimal protected open space areas, many areas presently taken for granted could be developed in the future. Even if the outright acquisition of conservation easements isn't possible, some open space areas could be preserved from development through the use of cluster subdivisions should the town decide to pursue this option in the future. Clusters allow for lot layouts that preserve areas of open space by concentrating individual building lots in one portion of a development.

