

Recreation and Arts **DRAFT**

Purpose

The purpose of this section is to inventory the many outdoor recreation activities and arts and cultural resources available to residents of and visitors to Ogunquit. These amenities are key to the quality of life and sense of place that support the well-being and enjoyment of both year-round residents and seasonal tourists. By understanding the location, attributes, and uses of parkland, including community events that take place in these spaces, the town can prioritize future programming, maintenance, and improvements to these facilities.

Community Engagement Results

PLACEHOLDER

Passive Recreational Areas

Outdoor recreation is a core component of the state’s tourism sector, serving as a source of economic development, a bridge to health and wellness, and a key element of local quality of life within communities throughout Maine. A recent study of York and Southern Oxford counties estimated that the outdoor recreation industry contributes nearly \$105.3 million to the regional economy. For the purpose of this document, “passive” recreational areas are those that occur on undisturbed and/or undeveloped land, such as conservation land, preserved open spaces, and trails.

Existing Conservation Lands

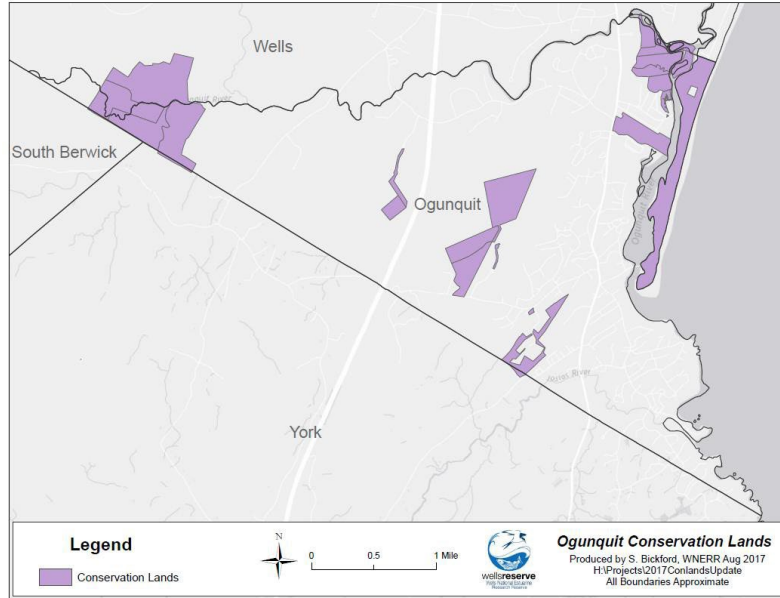
Conservation land in Ogunquit comes in many shapes and sizes. These are parcels that contain legal encumbrances, such as deed restrictions, easements, or other restrictions that prohibit development and any uses aside from those that are low impact and passive. The Town of Ogunquit owns 250 acres of land including the beach (142 acres) and land off Berwick Road. Beach Plum Farm (22 acres) is a local treasure providing not only conservation value but a community garden. The Payeur Preserve provides 55 acres of protection for the Ogunquit River Watershed. Over half of the preserve abuts a 35-acre parcel, off the Berwick Road, that is marked by stone walls surrounding the historic “Joe Maxwell Field,” and includes a double stone-walled cattle path. The land also contains vernal pools and an open wetland meadow that leads into the Leavitt Stream headwaters.



Vernal Pool at Payeur Preserve – photo courtesy of Great Works Land Trust

The remainder of this tract includes 20 forested acres just west of the Maine Turnpike. This parcel contains the headwaters of Quarry Stream, a tributary to the Ogunquit River. Plans for the future include a possible wildlife-viewing platform in the meadow and existing walking path. In addition, the town owns 40 acres north of the Payeur Preserve also referred to as the Bassett land.

Another valued conservation piece is the Hilton-Winn Preserve (38 acres) providing significant conservation and recreational value in the northern part of the town (on both banks of the Ogunquit River). The parcel was purchased by the York Land Trust and is 175 acres in total, extending into York.



Map of Conservation Lands in Ogunquit

Trails

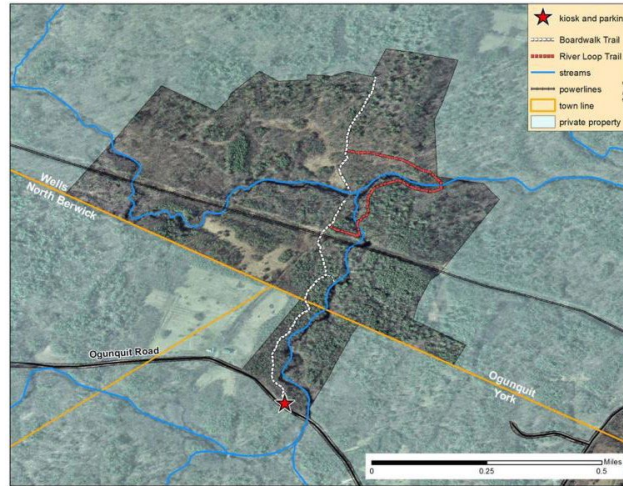
The Marginal Way Trail is perhaps one of Ogunquit’s best-known features. The trail is approximately 1.25 miles long, extending from Perkins Cove to Ogunquit Beach and providing great views of the ocean, gardens and seaside homes. Parking is located at either end of the trail.

The Richard E. Payeur Conservation Area (Berwick Road, Ogunquit) features a loop trail of approximately 1 mile which winds alongside wetland meadows and vernal pools, through forest and includes a double stone wall. The trail is accessed from the Ogunquit Dog Park, next to the Transfer Station off Berwick Road.



Hilton-Winn Preserve Trail Map

Mail: York Land Trust • P.O. Box 1241 • York Harbor • ME 03911 | Office: 484 US Route One • York • ME 03909
 Email: info@yorklandtrust.org | Web: www.yorklandtrust.org | Phone: 207-363-7400



Preserve Rules and Precautions

We are counting on your help to protect the Preserve’s plants, wildlife and water quality. Please observe all of the following guidelines during your visit. We hope you enjoy your visit. If so, please consider supporting our efforts through membership and volunteerism. Thank you.

Open ONLY for day use.
 (No fires or overnight stays.)

Travel only on existing trails by foot, skis or snowshoes.
 (No bicycles or motorized vehicles.)

Respect abutting private property.
 (No trespassing.)

Take only pictures and leave only footprints.
 (Pack in/pack out.)

Take care not to disturb plants and wildlife.
 (No cutting or removal of plants.)

Keep dogs under owner’s control.
 (Please pick up after your pet.)

Hunting is permitted in season.
 (Maine hunting laws apply. Wear blaze orange during season.)

Take precautions against and check frequently for ticks.
 (Ticks are abundant in this area.)

Please report property damage and trail obstructions by calling 207-363-7400. Thank you.

The Hilton Winn Trail, located on the preserve referenced in the previous section, contains boardwalks and trails around the Ogunquit River. Recent additions extending in to Wells and York provide 1.5 miles of hiking in a rural setting.

Members of the Conservation Commission and the Ogunquit Bike/Pedestrian Committee have indicated a desire to develop more trails in Ogunquit and connect them to surrounding networks.

Key Agencies

Great Works Regional Land Trust

The Great Works Regional Land Trust (GWRLT) is a member-supported organization which provides conservation options and community programs for the Southern Maine communities of Eliot, South Berwick, Berwick, North Berwick, Wells and Ogunquit. Since 1986, the organization has preserved over 7,000 acres of natural, historic, agricultural, scenic and recreational resources.

The GWRLT has six preserves in Ogunquit that cover approximately 250 acres of conserved land. All preserves are open to the public and have trail networks which frequently connect to other conserved properties and towns.



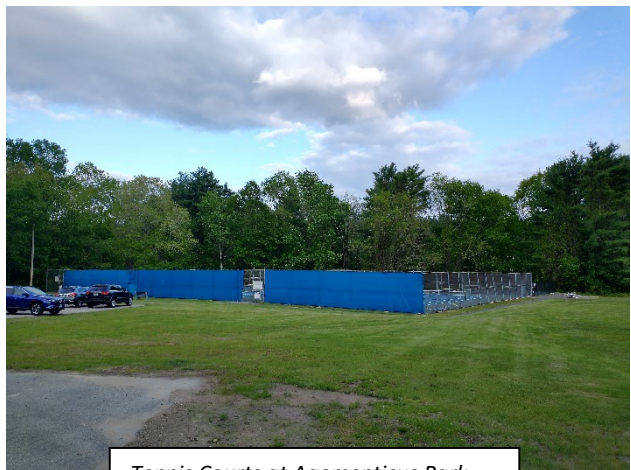
Entrance to the Payeur Preserve

Great Works Regional Land Trust Preserves in Ogunquit		
Preserve	Acres	Assets
Payeur Preserve A	20	Trails
Payeur Preserve B	35	1 mile loop trail, vernal pools, open wetland meadow
Kirkpatrick Woods	20	Trails
Old Boston Preserve - West and East	156.7	Trails
Foobridge Beach	0.26	Trail
Beach Plum Farm Preserve	21	1/2 mile trail, community gardens, scenic views

Source: Great Works Regional Land Trust, GWRLT Preserves

Active Recreational Areas

“Active” recreational areas, in this context, refers to Town-owned and operated parkland on sites designed and laid out for the specific purpose of serving as a recreational amenity, rather than conservation areas or other undeveloped lands that are used for hiking or other low-disturbance activities. The Town owns and maintains a number of small parks and recreational areas spread throughout the community which are shown in the table below:



Tennis Courts at Agementicus Park

Town Park Facilities		
	Location	Amenities
Dorothea Jacobs Grant Common	Adjacent to the Heritage Museum	Park benches
Littlefield Park	Ledge Road and Park Lane	Bicycle racks
Josias River Park	Bournes Lane off Main Street	Park benches
Ogunquit Dog Park	End of Spring Hill Lane off Berwick Road	Fenced in area for dogs, chairs, benches and picnic tables
Agamenticus Park	Agamenticus Road	Tennis courts, ball field
Village School Playground	School Street	Kid’s play equipment, benches
Marginal Way Footpath	Between Oarweed Cove north to Beach Street	1.5 mile scenic pedestrian walkway

Source: Town of Ogunquit

Town-sponsored recreational activities taking place at the above facilities include:

- Pickleball
- Art (including painting/sculpture)
- Bicycling
- Kite flying
- Tennis
- Yoga

Boat Launches & Put-Ins

Two public boat launch sites are located within the town: one, the Footbridge Boat Launch, is located on Ocean Street off of Route 1. The other is at Perkins Cove.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Town Code, the Ogunquit Parks and Recreation Committee consists of seven members appointed by the Select Board. The Committee, which meets monthly, oversees an approximately \$20,000 annual budget and coordinates recreational activities, events, and related programming for the benefit of town residents. The Committee does not have a designated staff person as of this writing, but interest has been expressed in the hiring of a director to serve as staff to the Committee at a future date, as this role is one that had existed in years past.

Town Recreational Events

Each year, the Town of Ogunquit sponsors a plethora of event programming that leverages the community's arts and cultural heritage, including the many artists, performers, and patrons of the arts who make Ogunquit their home. These events draw attendees that include year-round residents, seasonal visitors, and residents of adjacent communities and are funded via the Town Parks and Recreation Committee's annual budget as well as the Chamber of Commerce and other local business sponsors.

Local Events

Music in the Park

Held at Dorothea Jacobs Grant Common each Sunday evening from June through September, this event has up to 200 attendees and as many as 4,000 online attendees at any given time. Genres of music include Jazz, Opera, Reggae, and Big Band.

Music in the Cove

This event, held on Wednesdays (10 events) and Fridays (12 events) between July and October, takes place in Perkins Cove and is sponsored by local businesses.

Christmas by the Sea

Up to 400 individuals attend the annual Christmas by the Sea event, which takes place from 5 – 6:30pm and includes Santa pictures, snacks, and a tree lighting.

Perkins Cove Plein Air Painting

Sandcastle Contest at Ogunquit Beach

With typically 30+ entries, this family-friendly event includes T-shirts for participants.

Sand Drawing with Sebastian

Scary Story Time

Dorothea Grant Commons is the location for this event, which includes a professional storyteller.

Free Movie Night at Levitt Theatre

Town of Ogunquit Comprehensive Plan

BonAire Celebration

Traditionally held at the Dorothea Jacobs Grant Common in mid-June, in recent years, this “celebration of all things Ogunquit” has included multiple sub-events within other nearby venues in and around downtown. The Chamber of Commerce sponsors this event annually.

Real Diamond at Ogunquit Beach

Held every July 4th, this concert features Real Diamond, one of the premier Neil Diamond tribute bands, and is free and open to all.

Ogunquitfest

Ogunquitfest is held every October and includes Trick or Treating, a DJ and Dance contest, and crafts projects for kids.

Ogunquit Art Walk

The Art Walk, created by the Perkins Cove Group on the Parks and Recreation Committee, is held on September 11th each year and includes a memorial component to honor victims of that day. Components of the event include a showcase of local and international artists as well as real-time painting on Perkins Cove Walkways.