

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 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

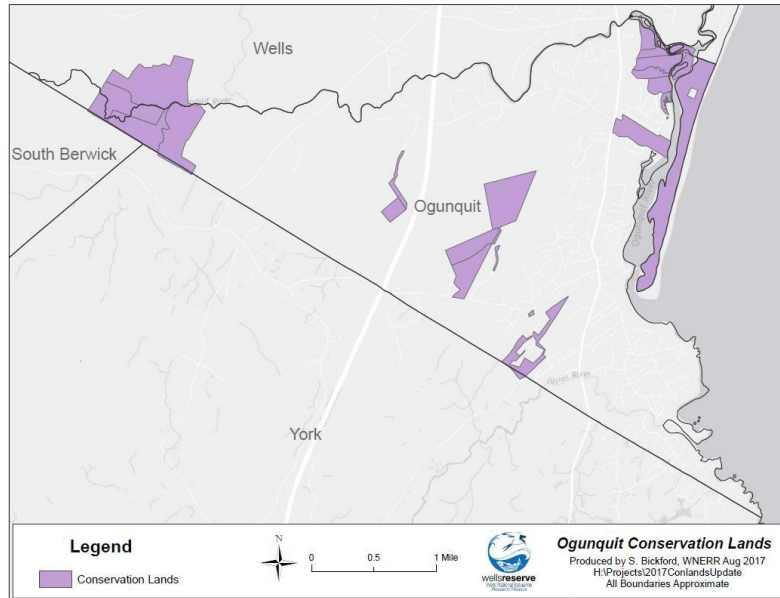
Conservation land in Ogunquit comes in many shapes and sizes. These are parcels that contain legal encumbrances, such as deed restrictions, easements, or other restrictions that prohibit development and any uses aside from those that are low impact and passive. The Town of Ogunquit owns 250 acres of land including the beach (142 acres) and land off Berwick Road. 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 include a possible wildlife-viewing platform in the meadow and an 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.



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.



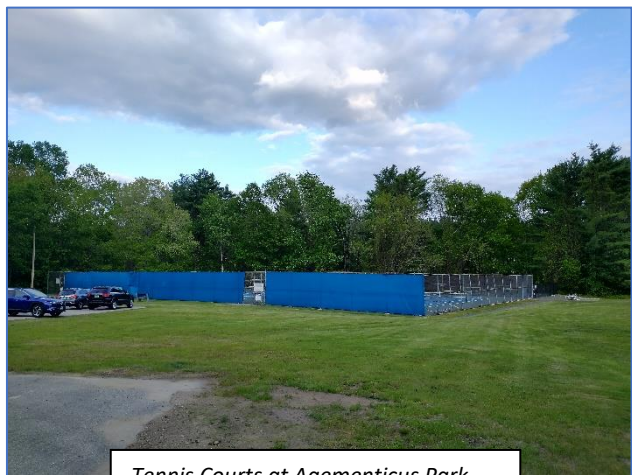
Entrance to the Payeur Preserve

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
Footbridge 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 of Ogunquit Comprehensive Plan

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, basketball court
Marginal Way Footpath	Between Oarweed Cove north to Beach Street	1.5-mile scenic pedestrian walkway
Town Beaches – Main Beach, Footbridge Beach, and North Beach	Town waterfront	Open to the public for water-based activities, including swimming, boogieboarding, surfing, paddleboarding, and kayaking

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
- Water-based activities (Ogunquit Beach)

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 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 has existed in years past.

Town Recreational Events

Each year, the Town of Ogunquit sponsors a plethora of family-friendly 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:

4th of July Celebration Events



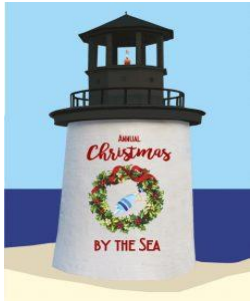
Celebrating Independence Day with fireworks at Ogunquit Beach with great views from Main Beach all the way up to Footbridge Beach and North Beaches.

BonAire



BonAire celebrates all that is Ogunquit - music, art, food, craft, family-friendly, and the LGBTQ+ community. At Agamenticus Field, attendees can see Ogunquit and the ocean from the air aboard a hot air balloon. At Main Beach, activities include live music on the Main Beach stage, an artisan craft fair featuring 90+ vendors, and food trucks. At Perkins Cove, attendees who patronize local retailers and restaurants have an opportunity to win one of twenty free sailboat cruises for the afternoon. A circus performance also takes place at the Ogunquit Village School playground.

Christmas by the Sea



Welcoming the holiday season, now nearly 40 years running. This family event brings concerts, craft shows, local artists, children’s activities, a parade, bonfire and the crowd-pleasing Santa and tree lighting.

Free Movie Night at Levitt Theatre



Kite Day



Music in the Cove



Held on Wednesdays (10 events) and Fridays (12 events) between July and October in Perkins Cove and is sponsored by local businesses.

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.

Ogunquitfest



Across the town, throughout the month, Ogunquitfest offers signature events including a classic car show, huge craft fair, children's activities, Halloween-themed events, High Heel Dash (a benefit for the Frannie Peabody Center) and the Dogtoberfest costume parade.

Plein Air Art Festival



One of Maine's premier cultural happenings. A time honored festival for more than a century, Plein Air showcases the painting and works in tradition of the "artist colony of Ogunquit", including painting demonstrations, historical art talks, and live music. Drawing over 100 painters and artists, the festival stretches from Perkins Cove to the Dorothea Jacobs Grant Common each mid-June.

Pride Month



Ogunquit salutes pride Month and the legacy of the LGBTQ+. Events include a flag raising in Veteran's Park, a community BBQ and a host of events sponsored by businesses, including music, movies, live entertainment, and food.

Sandcastle Contest at Ogunquit Beach



Wonderful family-friendly event includes T-shirts for participants and includes the annual Sand Drawing with Sebastian contest.